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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

VOLUME 101, NUMBER 276

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2005

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



**INSIDE**  
Big Spring's  
game with  
Andrews  
has playoff  
implications

Page 1B

## Hispanic heritage

### Big Spring VA Medical Center to host speakers for public activity Friday

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

The West Texas VA Health Care System will cap a month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with a special program at the hospital Friday.

The program will be held from 11 a.m. until noon. Weather permitting, it will be held at the tennis courts at the west end of the complex. Otherwise, the program will be held in Room 219 in the hospital.

Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator, said the program will feature two native West Texans as guest speakers.

Introductory speaker will be U.S. Army Sgt. First Class (retired) John D. Sanchez. Sanchez, a Lamesa native, joined the Army at 18. He spent the majority of his 21-year career serving in the armored cavalry, and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

#### AT A GLANCE

**What:** Hispanic Heritage Month program.

**Where:** West Texas VA Health Care System tennis courts.

**When:** 11 a.m. Friday.

After retiring from the Army in 1991, he took a position as personal assistant to the McGuire Sisters, the noted singing trio, in Las Vegas. Currently, he is an account executive with Baskow & Associates, a destination management company based in Las Vegas.

Friday's featured speaker will be U.S. Army Lt. Col. Andres Contreras, a Snyder native.

Since receiving his commission in 1984, Col. Contreras has served in numerous postings around the world, including being a tank company

See HERITAGE, Page 5A

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Herald photo  
Father James Liggett, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, blesses Goodfette, held by owner Anita Gulette, Wednesday during the annual Blessing of the Animals. Many types of four-footed creatures and their owners participated in the annual service held at the church in observance of St. Francis' Day.

## Relief effort tallies \$72,000

### Committee to oversee funds

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The local response to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, dubbed "Operation: Big Heart," has exceeded many organizers' expectations — to the tune of \$72,000.

With such an outpouring of support, however, comes the question of how to best utilize it.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce recently set up a committee, made up largely of many of the men and women who have coordinated the local effort, to oversee the trust fund in which the money currently resides.

"The Chamber has set up a committee to oversee the Charitable Trust No. 1 Katrina Relief Fund," said Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the local chamber of commerce.

Committee members are Chamber President Joe Concienne, Gary Fuqua, Leigh Corson, Debbie Green, Brian Jensen, Terry Hansen, Sandra Waggoner, Kent Sharp and ValVerde.

"The committee has established guidelines to put the contributions to good use and help the currently 63 Katrina evacuees who have made Big Spring their new home," she added. "Total to date that has been collected is \$72,000 from area residents, businesses, churches and private donors."

ValVerde said the funds will be used to fill in the cracks left by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"FEMA will pay for shelter and housing, emergency and medical needs. The committee's purpose is to see that this money is used to help the evacuees with items that are needed that are important for everyday living," ValVerde said.

Concienne said the

See RELIEF, Page 5A

## Britons cycle into Big Spring



Herald photo/Steve Reagan  
From left, Pepe Balderrama, Will Norris, Tom Lawrence and James White are bicycling across the United States to raise money for Couch Potato Productions, their London-based theater company.

### Men raising funds for London theater group

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

It's one thing to say you'd go to any length for your art. It's quite another to put those words into action.

To raise money for their fledgling London theater company, four Britishers — Will Norris, Pepe Balderrama, Tom Lawrence and James White — are taking a bicycle ride this autumn.

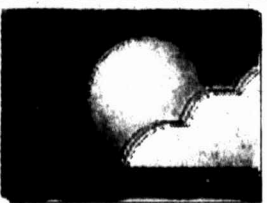
The catch is that it's no ordinary bike ride. The four men are taking turns piloting a tandem bicycle from the bright lights of Broadway in New York to Hollywood, all in order to raise money for London-based Couch Potato Productions, which stages several productions each year throughout England and Scotland.

The midpoint in their journey found the foursome in Big Spring early this morning. As they waited for a break in the weather, they talked about why they're undertaking such a challenge.

See BRITONS, Page 5A

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TONIGHT 54°-56°  
TOMORROW 71°-73°  
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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.

### INSIDE TODAY

— Two Big Spring High School graduates are among the 10 young women nominated for homecoming queen at Abilene Christian University. Page 5A.

— Howard County 4-H held its annual banquet this week. Page 5A

— Big Spring Independent School District Director of Curriculum Darrell Ryan passes out some cudus. Page 5A.

— The manual version of the hybrid Honda Insight tops the latest fuel economy list, with 60 miles per gallon in the city and 66 mpg on the highway. Page 6A.

### TAILGATE PARTY

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will be hosting its 4th Annual Tailgate Party Friday at the Steer home game from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in parking lot of Memorial Stadium, west side, north end. Members will be selling beef or chicken kabobs, which will include a cookie and a drink for \$5 in advance and \$6 at the event. Tickets are available from any of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club members or at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce from Debbye ValVerde, Rotarian member.

Proceeds from this event will help purchase teaching aids for the special needs students of Big Spring ISD.

### SQUIRRELY STORY

SEATTLE (AP) — Debby Cantlon didn't hesitate when someone asked if she could take in an orphaned newborn squirrel and nurse it back to health.

Neither did Mademoiselle Giselle, her pregnant pooch. The black and white Papillon with long-haired butterfly ears dragged the squirrel's cage to her bedside — twice — before giving birth to pups last month. Cantlon was concerned at first, but ultimately decided to let the squirrel out. Mademoiselle Giselle even encouraged the little rodent to join her litter.

Since then, cameras have captured images of the squirrel bonding alongside its canine brothers and sisters.

## Obituaries

### Steve Marie Haynes



Steve Marie or "Stevie," as she was known to friends, age 78, of Big Spring, formerly of New Braunfels passed away peacefully at the Luling Warm Springs Rehabilitation facility in Luling Monday, Oct. 3, 2005.

Stevie had spent much of her life helping others. Before being a National Red Cross Disaster Reservist for 16 years, she had been a volunteer for the Red Cross. After retiring from the Red Cross in 1988, she became a volunteer for Hospice New Braunfels and then taught many of their classes.

In 1992, she and her husband, Jack moved to Big Spring where he had grown up. Shortly after their move she got back into volunteering at a local hospice facility, the V.A. Medical Center and the county hospital, Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

She was happiest when she was busy volunteering and helping others.

She is preceded in death by the love of her life, her soul mate, Jack M. Haynes, who died in 1995, her mother, Estella Hassler in 1988 and her father John W. Hassler in 1961.

She is survived by her daughter, Sheridan McCrory and her husband, Ron of New Braunfels; Jack's son, Parker Haynes and wife, Tia, of Carson, N.M.; and a lifetime of friends who will long remember and miss her for her bubbly personality and inspirational will to always help others.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Oct. 14, 2005, at 4 p.m. at the pavillion on Scenic Mountain in the Big Spring State Park.

Arrangements are by Zoeller Funeral Home in New Braunfels.

*Paid obituary*

### B.F. McGettes Jr.

B.F. McGettes Jr., 83, of Coahoma died at 2:44 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2005, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Allie B. Cook

Allie B. Cook, 88, of Henderson, formerly of Garden City, died Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005, at his residence. Graveside funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005, at the Garden City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Light and variable winds.

Friday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Light and variable winds.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

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

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

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

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-28-31-34-38. Bonus Ball: 43.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$6 million.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-6-16-20-37.

Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

...

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

## Take note

• **GREATER BIG SPRING ROTARY CLUB TAILGATE PARTY** from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday in the parking lot of Memorial Stadium. Advance tickets for a beef or chicken kabobs, a cookie and a soda are \$5 in advance and \$6 before the game. All proceeds to benefit special needs students. Contact Debbye ValVerde at the chamber of commerce, 263-7641.

• **PARENTS OF SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADERS AT FORSAN** have scheduled a fund-raiser Oct. 31 to cover expenses of school dances with more than 20 items available to win. These items include gift certificates, home furnishings, a gold bracelet, candles, car maintenance and others. Tickets will be on sale at the Friday night football game, or contact Marie Wilson at 213-3825 or Chris Gallaway at 816-3291.

• **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 BARBECUE** begins at noon Saturday. Carry-out is available until 1 p.m. Plates are \$7. The post is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084.

• **HOWARD COUNTY MUZZLELOADERS RENDEZVOUS** is set for today through Sunday on Old Gall Road in Vealmore. For more information, call 264-0024.

## Police blotter

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

- **STEVEN DWAYNE RICH**, 27, of Colorado City, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **JACOB ANDREW FERRO**, 25, of 104 Lockhart, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **SHIRLEY ANNA PITTLE**, 23, of 2106 S. Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **JEFFERY CLARK FORSHEE JR.**, 46, of 1519 Kentucky Way, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JABENIA SHANNELL SUMMERS**, 29, of 608 S. Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of Class C assault.
- **DOROTHY THOMAS SUBLET**, 47, of 3710 Connally, was arrested Wednesday on two Howard County warrants and a Midland County Sheriff's Office warrant.
- **HOLLY JEAN LUDINGTON**, 26, of 3225 Auburn, was arrested Wednesday on a local capias warrant and a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **TURNER LEE CALLOWAY**, 41, of 807 E. 14th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for disorderly conduct.
- **CAVIN EARL JACKSON**, 22, of Arlington, was arrested Thursday on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Jones.
- **INJURY TO A CHILD** was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2500 block of Langley.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1500 block of FM 700.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported:
  - in the 2500 block of Fairchild.
  - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
  - in the 2500 block of Langley.
  - in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **HEATHER DAWN MCNEW**, 29, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of fraudulent possession of a controlled substance.
- **GEORGE CHAPMAN COKER**, 54, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **ANDY YBARRA**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **BECKY ALCANTAR**, 38, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with a governmental record.
- **TRAVIS ALLEN MELTON**, 46, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of speeding - 80 mph in a 55 mph zone and no driver's license.
- **TONY DRUE WYRICK**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to University Medical Center in Lubbock.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Veteran Boulevard. One person was transported to Midland Memorial.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 200 block of Becker Road. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 700 block of West Interstate Highway 20. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of Donley. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of Cindy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Auto Painting

Dupont Urethane Paint Specials

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## 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 263-5650 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.
- Big Spring High School Harley Davidson Pep Rally at 3 p.m. at Blankenship Field. Public invited.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Tailgate Party from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the parking lot of Memorial Stadium. Contact Debbye ValVerde at the chamber of commerce, 263-7641.
- 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

- American Legion Post No. 506 barbecue begins at noon. 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

### MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- 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.
- 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 northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

### TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at 1st and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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# MUZZLELOADERS FALL RENDEZVOUS



The Howard County Muzzleloaders Fall Rendezvous begins today and runs through Sunday on property owned by Pat Porter some four miles east of Vealmoor on Farm Road 1785. Set up and take down days are today and Sunday with most activities taking place Friday and Saturday. The public is invited to interact and visit with the group's members, which shoot muzzleloaders, throw tomahawks and knives, start their fires with flint and steel and dress as their ancestors did.

## Groups announce ads opposing same-sex marriage amendment

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Gay and lesbian rights groups unveiled a series of television ads on Wednesday using same-sex couples to speak against a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

The ads, which began airing in the Houston area this week, show local gay and lesbian couples talking about their relationships and their need to have recognized marriages to protect their families in times of illness or death. Some ads also feature the parents of a gay man who is married.

Proposition 2 would amend the Texas Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. It's already banned by state law in Texas and more than a dozen other states.

Supporters of the amendment say it would safeguard that law from judicial challenges by defining marriage as between one man and one woman. There are an estimated 43,000 same-sex couples in Texas.

"This amendment is wrong and it gives you no right to tell me who I love, who I want to marry," said Charlotte Simmons, a case worker with the Texas Department of

Health and Human Services who appeared in some of the ads with her partner, Anita.

Dave Fleischer of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the ads were unusual in featuring gay couples. Ads in other states with similar campaigns avoided direct use of the words "gay" or "marriage."

"We're going in a different direction here," Fleischer said. "If we're honest with voters, that's how we'll earn their votes."

Kelly Shackelford, chief counsel for the Liberty Legal Institute, which supports the ban, said he thinks the ads will bring much needed attention to next month's election. He believes if there is a large voter turnout, the proposition will be approved.

"We disagree with the ads. We think that marriage is very clearly between a man and a woman," he said. "But we think most Texans know what's true and an ad will not dislodge their understanding about what marriage is."

Shackelford said his organization does not have the funding for ads of its own and instead is relying on a grassroots effort to let people know about the election.

"We think the vast majority of people in Texas are with us but that doesn't help if they don't show up," he said. "I hope these ads are a wake-up call this election is around the corner."

Fleischer said the ad campaign, which cost about \$200,000, would run in Houston this week. There were no immediate plans to run the ads in other Texas cities.

Fleischer said the ads were being run by all the local major network affiliates in Houston, except for ABC. He said he was told the ABC affiliate was not running ads from groups either for or against the proposition.

Rita Kirk, a professor of corporate communications and public affairs at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said while similar ads in other states by gay and lesbian rights groups have also been direct in portraying the issue of gay marriage, they usually tend to take a more highbrow and intellectual approach, asking if this is against the law then why is a constitutional amendment needed.

The ads could make a difference in a low-turnout election like November's likely will be, Kirk said.

## San Angelo police open investigation into old death

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Police acting on a tip have opened a murder investigation into the death 25 years ago of an 11-month-old boy. The death was attributed to natural causes.

"The technology of 1980 probably wouldn't have uncovered this as a murder," San Angelo police detective Sgt. Phil Fox said in a story in Thursday's San Angelo Standard-Times. "The technology of today, even though (the case) is 25 years old, could."

Fox said he feels "kind of 50-50" on whether the investigation will uncover evidence of murder. There is no statute of limitations on a murder charge.

Robert Welch was declared dead on arrival to Shannon Hospital on Jan. 27, 1980. A Tom Green County official ruled the boy died from pneumonia, Fox said.

Police, who opened the murder investigation earlier this month, are preparing to exhume the body, Fox said.

"It is a high priority to us right now to find the suspect and interview the suspect," he said.

Fox would not give any details about the suspect except to say the person lives outside San Angelo. He would not say what kind of tip led to the investigation, or what may have happened to the baby.

The boy's parents, listed in the death notice as "Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Welch," are not listed in area phone directories.

## One of 'Takeover Bandits' sentenced

DALLAS (AP) — One of the so-called "Takeover Bandits" has been sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to attempted capital murder and aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon in connection with a bank robbery and carjackings that began in Richardson last fall.

Guadalupe Mercado Fajardo, 32, received two concurrent life prison terms Tuesday. He already was sentenced to 40 years in federal prison on federal charges of bank robbery, carjacking and using weapons during the crime.

The bank robbery ended with a dramatic escape in a hail of bullets and involved a carjacking that led to a high-speed chase across Collin and Dallas counties.

In the wild chase, Richardson police video shows a patrol car's approach to the suspects' sport utility vehicle and flying glass from the suspects' automatic gunfire shattering the car's windows.

## Arrest made in shooting of three North Texas teenagers

DUNCANVILLE (AP) — An 18-year-old was arrested Wednesday in the wounding of three students following a high school football game in a Dallas suburb, authorities said.

Lebon Baron Specks Jr. was charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Police said Specks fired shots into a church parking lot Friday after a nearby game between Duncanville and Cedar Hill, wounding three Duncanville High School teenagers.

The injuries weren't life-threatening. Police said Specks was arrested Tuesday on an unrelated warrant of failure to identify.

On Tuesday, Richardson police arrested three Dallas men on charges of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old following a different high school game that same night.

# Job losses from the Gulf Coast hurricanes jump to 438,000

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people who have lost their jobs because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita jumped to 438,000 last week as the economic shockwaves from the nation's costliest natural disaster continued to be felt six weeks after Katrina careened across the Gulf Coast.

The Labor Department reported that an additional 75,000 hurricane-related claims were filed last week out of a nationwide total of 389,000 new claims for unemployment benefits.

Government analysts said that Katrina, which hit near New Orleans on Aug. 29, was still accounting for more layoffs than Rita, which came ashore near the Texas-Louisiana border on Sept. 24.

In other economic news, the Commerce Department reported Thursday that the nation's trade deficit rose 1.8 percent in August to \$59.03 billion, an increase that was driven by higher oil prices.

The rise of 75,000 in hurricane-related unemployment benefit claims was up slightly from 74,000 such claims two weeks ago, the first week that claims from Rita showed up. The highest

week for claims attributed to the hurricanes was the week ending Sept. 17, when claims from Katrina totaled 108,000.

Analysts said it is likely that hurricane-related claims have peaked but they said it was likely that they will remain a significant portion of total jobless claims for several more weeks, reflecting the widespread destruction which wiped out thousands of businesses along the Gulf Coast.

The government reported last Friday that the nation's jobless rate was pushed to 5.1 percent in September from a four-year low of 4.9 percent in August. Business payrolls fell for the first time in two years, a decline that was also attributed to the hurricanes.

The 389,000 new claims for jobless benefits that were filed last week represented a drop of 2,000 from the 391,000 claims

filed two weeks ago. Analysts have been encouraged that the level of jobless claims in the rest of the country has remained steady, indicating that the overall economy has been able to weather so far the shocks from the hurricane and the resulting surge in energy prices as Gulf Coast production facilities were shut down.

The weekly jobless claims report showed that the biggest increase for the week ending Oct. 1 occurred in Texas, a rise of 17,931 that was attributed to the hurricanes. The layoffs occurred in construction, public administration and manufacturing.

Louisiana had the second largest increase in layoffs, a total of 8,580, a rise that was also attributed to the hurricanes. The breakdown for individual states lags behind the national data by one week.

The worsening of the

country's trade deficit was driven by a record-high bill for petroleum imports. Analysts predicted further bad news in the months ahead, reflecting the surge in energy costs that occurred after Katrina and Rita shut down refineries and oil and natural gas platforms along the Gulf Coast. Crude oil prices briefly spiked above \$70 per barrel right after Katrina hit.

Underscoring that point, the Labor Department said in a separate report that the price of imported goods rose by 2.3 percent in September. The gain, the biggest in 15 years, was driven by a 7.3 percent surge in petroleum prices. The cost of foreign oil is now at record levels, pushed up by big increases over the past four months.

The August trade deficit of \$59.03 billion was up from a revised imbalance of \$57.96 billion in July.

U.S. exports in August rose by 1.7 percent to a

record level of \$108.18 billion. Imports were also at a record, rising by 1.8 percent to \$167.21 billion.

The value of imported crude oil rose to a record of \$17.16 billion in August, up from \$15.30 billion in July. The average per barrel price of imported crude oil rose to an all-time high of \$52.65 in August with further increases forecast given the surge in oil prices since August.

America's deficit with China increased to \$18.47 billion in August, up 4.6 percent from the July level. The deficit with

Japan narrowed slightly to \$6.59 billion in August, compared to \$6.63 billion in July.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan fell to \$6.59 billion from \$6.63 billion in July while the deficit with the 25-nation European Union increased to \$11.29 billion and the deficit with Canada widened to \$6.65 billion.

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B. F. McGettes, Jr., 83, 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  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Remember, it's time to register parade entries

The Christmas season is fast approaching and will officially begin in Howard County on Saturday, Dec. 3, when Santa Claus arrives to take part in the 20th annual *Big Spring Herald* Community Christmas Parade.

Registration forms are already coming in from individuals, businesses and church, civic and school groups who are planning their entries in keeping with this year's theme — "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

The parade, which first wound its way down Gregg Street in 1986, will again be a lighted parade. But entries will be judged in slightly different categories this year. First-place plaques will be awarded to winners in four categories — Individual or family entries; those from churches, civic groups or schools; commercial entries; and those from industries. Second- and third-place finishers will receive certificates.

And as was the case last year, the entry judged "Best of Show" will receive a \$100 cash prize. The Mayor's Trophy for best use of lighting will earn one entrant \$75 and the Grand Marshall's Award for best costuming will receive \$50.

In addition, for the first time ever, the *Herald* will present a trophy to the best mounted entry from a sheriff's posse or riding club.

The parade is again set to begin at 5:30 p.m. that Saturday and we here at the *Herald* want to encourage everyone to come out and help us in getting the Christmas season off to a rousing start.

While it may seem there's plenty of time to make decisions about the Christmas season, it's important to remember that a parade this size takes time to plan and coordinate.

That's why we're reminding our readers about the need to get those entries submitted.

Entry forms are available at the *Herald's* offices located at 710 Scurry, and you can also download them from our Website at [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com).

So, if you are involved in any of the many organizations or businesses that annually take part in the Christmas Parade, get your entries filled in as soon as possible and let us know what you're planning to do.

Entry forms should be mailed to the *Herald* at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1431. For additional information concerning the parade, contact parade coordinator Elizabeth Flores at 263-7331, ext. 246.

As always, we're asking the community to help us make this the best Christmas parade Big Spring has ever had.

So come on and join us.

## 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](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or News Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- 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](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, our problems surrender to persistent prayers.  
Amen

## The farce of wooing Latino voters

Republicans keep saying they are courting Hispanic voters and, although they offer no evidence, we in the news media keep repeating it — as if it were true.

You see it in almost every news report about Latinos nowadays. They tell us that the Hispanic voting block is highly prized and Republicans have "ardently" increased their efforts to woo a chunk of it.

But how? Where? When?

Did I miss something? What have Republicans really done to deserve the Latino vote? The answer is nada!

Their efforts to appeal to Latinos amount to nothing more than rhetoric.

On the key issues of interest to Latinos — immigration, political representation, affirmative action, bilingual education, racial profiling, census methodology, voting rights, the minimum wage, support for small businesses and many others — Republicans always fall on the opposing side of the Hispanic community.

And now we can add Supreme Court appointments to that list. While one of every eight Americans is Hispanic, Latinos are again being told they are not yet worthy of having representation in the nine-justice High Court.

President Bush's two missed opportunities to nominate a Latino are just another clear demonstration that the GOP plan to sway Latino voters is a farce — a lot of talk and no action.

By making White House counsel Harriet Miers his second Supreme Court nominee, Bush not only missed a historic opportunity to

name the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice; he slapped the face of many Latinos whose expectations he had raised.

After all, this is a president who had acknowledged, on several occasions, that there was a need for diversity on the High Court, that this panel of justices had to be representative of all the American people.

This is a president who gave Latinos hope and then stepped on it.

He bypassed highly qualified Latino judges and attorneys — including Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, a leading contender for the nomination — in order to name another woman to replace retiring justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Mind you, it's not like the court would have been left without any women. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is still there. But apparently, the president's definition of diversity is very narrow.

And if he really wanted to name a woman, he could have killed two birds with one stone by appointing a Latina like Judge Consuelo Callahan of the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals.

"Given the size of the Hispanic community in the United States, the under-representation of Hispanics in the judiciary and the abundance of Hispanics qualified for appointment, it is difficult to comprehend the president's decision other than in the harsh light of political factors trumping all other considerations," said Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-Texas, in a statement released by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

While Bush won more than 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, up from the 35 percent he received four years earlier, he did it mostly with rhetoric — by speaking a few words in Spanish, pretending to have close ties with Mexico, and even giving the impression that he was consider-

ing some sort of amnesty to Mexican illegal immigrants.

But now there is an administration with a track record of doing practically nada on the key Hispanic issues, an administration that is more often swayed by the anti-immigrant, extremist faction of the Republican Party than by the promise of "compassionate conservatism" that got many Latinos to vote for Bush.

Granted, he named Gonzales to be the nation's first Hispanic attorney general. But that's a temporary and much less influential position than that of Supreme Court justice, a post from which a Latino could affect the lives of future generations.

Bush apologists in the Hispanic community, like Florida Sen. Mel Martinez, the president's former housing secretary, are already saying that the next justice Bush appoints must be a Hispanic — knowing that the president is unlikely to get a third appointment. You wonder why he wasn't saying this before Bush named Miers.

Meanwhile, now we have Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman going around the country hosting meetings with Latinos. The meetings are called "conversations with the community." But we know talk is cheap.

When Mehlman speaks to Latinos, he vows that Republicans are "committed to inclusion," and that GOP policies are empowering Latinos.

But how? Where? When? Did I miss something?

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](http://www.creators.com).

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MIGUEL PEREZ

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**HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

OFFICE — 264-2200.  
**BEN LOCKHART**, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

**EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.

**JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

**BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

**GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

## Condi candidacy talk an insult

Imagine Condi Rice were a white man. Would anyone in his or her right mind be suggesting that she run for president?

It is tokenism taken to the worst extreme — an insult to women and to African Americans, to John McCain and Rudy Giuliani and George Allen and Bill Frist and the other real Republican candidates already campaigning for the nomination — that the architect of the greatest foreign policy failure since Vietnam would even be mentioned as a possibility for president.

Here is a woman who has never run for anything, never taken a position on a domestic policy issue, never raised money for a campaign, let alone the hundreds of million needed to top a ticket, being seriously promoted for the most powerful position in the world.

Why bother with governor or senator when you can start at the top? But don't blame Condi. Blame those who are using her. Don't question her motives. Question theirs.

The effort to draft Condi is being spearheaded by professional Clinton-hater Dick Morris, which is all you need to know. He and I have books coming out on the same day next week. Mine makes the case for Hillary Clinton. His tries to destroy her in the guise of

a supposed comparison with Condi, while at the same time arguing that only Condi can beat her. Give this much to Dick: He knows what the Republicans are up against.

I'm all for a woman president. It's about time. I think women who agree with Hillary on the issues have a special obligation to support her, regardless of whether they "like" her, or approve of her marriage or her decision to stay in it.

But sisterhood only goes so far. It shouldn't extend to nominating an unqualified candidate because of her body parts, or supporting her because of her potential appeal in urban areas.

If Hillary weren't a senator, she'd have no business running for president. If her name were Harry Rodham, this wouldn't even be a contest. Male or female, Hillary will be the most qualified Democrat in the race.

Condi, by contrast, has no experience dealing with voters, legislators, bills and budgets. If Condi wants to come home to California and face the voters, we're here. The Republicans could use a strong candidate for governor.

But this isn't really about Condi, any more than the New York Senate race is about Jeanine Pirro. The talk on the street is that Pirro has been promised a judgeship for playing the sacrificial lamb. For her sake, I hope so. She gave up an opportunity to run for a statewide office she had a chance to win to run for a Senate seat she can only lose. In answer to questions about Condi's failed Iraq policy, she was quoted as saying she would leave future troop

deployments to the experts. This from a Senate candidate? Ouch.

The Republican presidential nominating process is controlled by the conservative wing of the party. The conventional wisdom is that even John McCain and Rudy Giuliani are too moderate to be nominated. Remember what happened to McCain in 2000. Given that, who would put their money on an African-American woman with no electoral history and no positions on any hot-button issues, not to mention no known personal life. Dick Morris is many things, but a fool he isn't.

Condi Rice has no more chance of being the GOP nominee for president than Jeanine Pirro does of being New York's next senator. Two decent women are being sacrificed in a cynical effort to try to inflict damage on Hillary.

The Republicans who are promoting them are not champions of women, but users of them. Democrats may still be wondering whom their nominee will be, and waiting for the starting bell, but the Republicans, beginning with Morris, have already figured it out and begun the fight. They're not waiting. They never do. That's how they win.

No one knows Hillary's strengths better than Morris. That's why he's starting early.

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

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SUSAN ESTRICH

# We're living in a blessed community

**W**e live in a blessed community. Very few towns the size of Big Spring can boast of having a symphony. We have not only a symphony but also a community symphonic chorus. This is a fact of which we can be extremely proud.

We are also blessed to have such a wonderful music director and conductor as Dr. Keith Graumann, who is a prime promoter of presenting performances for students. What an opportunity and privilege for our community children.

On Sept. 30, students in grades 2 through 5 were transported to the city auditorium to listen to the piano talent of Davide Cabassi, a piano finalist of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition. The students were awed by his performance.

At a special time during the program the children were given the opportunity to ask questions of this renowned artist.

"When did you begin playing the piano?" one student asked. "When I was five years old," Mr. Cabassi replied.

Another student inquired, "Didn't you want to go outside and play with your friends?"

The students were full of questions but rejoiced when Mr. Cabassi asked them if they would like to hear more music.

Following the performance, Dr. Graumann commented that this was the most attentive and well-behaved audience of children that he had ever seen and he gave them an

## Parent's Corner

applause. I must agree with Dr. Graumann. I have never seen more polite behavior than demonstrated by our kids in Big Spring. Our teachers have taught our children proper etiquette for performances, such as no talking while the person or group is performing or to wait until a performance has completed before entering the concert hall or walking up or down the aisles.

Many students never have this valuable training and act extremely rude to guest performers and have no idea their behavior is bad. I compliment our teachers for the training they have given our children.

I also compliment Howard Steward, BSISD transportation director, and his bus drivers. They not only transported the students, but did so in an extremely orderly fashion.

As I reflect on the entire morning, I am so thrilled with the student and adults of Big Spring. As parents, you can be proud of your children and the quality of training they are receiving.

As teachers and administrators, we can be proud of you, the parents, for the support you give to our schools and the quality of the children of our community. Big Spring is a wonderful place to live.

*Darrell Ryan is director of curriculum for Big Spring Independent School District. He may be contacted at 264-3600.*



DARRELL RYAN



## Abilene Christian University Homecoming Court

Back row: Meg Goggin, Jessica Masters and Kelci Young. Front row: April Ward, Gentry Rush, Jamie Pineda, Camile Jackson, Evan Lindsay, Abra Barker and Alex Lewis.

Courtesy photo

## Two BSHS grads nominated for Abilene Christian University homecoming queen

### Special to the Herald

Two Big Spring High School graduates are among the 10 young women nominated for homecoming queen at Abilene Christian University.

They are seniors Jamie Pineda, a psychology major and April Ward, an integrated marketing communication major.

Other members of this year's court, all seniors, are:

— Abra Barker, a integrated marketing communications major from Flower Mound.

— Meg Goggin, a history major from Forth Worth.

— Camile Jackson, a family studies major from Abilene.

— Alex Lewis, a human communication major

from Lake Jackson.

— Evan Lindsay, a secondary education (science) from Houston.

— Jessica Masters, an English major from Tallahassee, Fla.

— Gentry Rush, a marketing major from Lewisville.

— Kelci Young, an integrated marketing communication major from Franklin, Tenn.

The Homecoming Court

will be presented at Chapel and homecoming opening ceremonies at 11 a.m. in Moody Coliseum Friday and during Homecoming Chapel at 10:45 a.m. Saturday.

The Homecoming Queen will be announced during half-time of ACU's football game Saturday against A&M Commerce. The game begins at 2 p.m. at Shotwell Stadium.

## HOWARD COUNTY 4-H AWARDS



Teryn Bibb, far left, front row, and Harrison Chevalier, second from left, second row, were named Gold Star Award winners at the annual Howard County 4-H Awards Banquet Tuesday at La Posada Restaurant. Shown are, front row, left to right, Bibb, Kelsey Jones (Silver Star Award), All Knight (Outstanding New Member and Bronze Star Award) and Shelby Jones (Outstanding Girl Member); second row, from left, Judson Chevalier (first place, intermediate division), Harrison Chevalier, Terrell Bibb (Outstanding Boy Member), Trey Thorton and Nathan Gomez (first place, senior division rabbits).

Courtesy photo

## BRITONS

Continued from Page 1A

This isn't the first time the group has laid on the miles in support of their company. Last year, they walked from the northern tip of Scotland to the southern end of England, a trip of just over 1,300 kilometers (807 miles).

This year, they decided to really see the sights.

"Instead of just asking for handouts, we've decided to do these physical sort of challenges," Norris said. "This year, we got the idea of riding a bicycle across America. We felt it would be nice to go from the theaters of Broadway to the film world of Hollywood."

They are hoping to raise 25 pounds (approximately \$43) per mile. Reaching that goal, Balderrama said, would put their company on firm financial footing for the upcoming theater season.

Since leaving Broadway on Sept. 25, the group has

averaged more than 100 miles each day in their 3,100-mile trek, overcoming occasional bad weather and all-too-frequent flat tires along the way.

White said a typical day finds the men up at 5 a.m. and on the road by 7 a.m.

By and large, people they have met along the way have been nothing but supportive — but there have been minor hiccups, they admitted.

"We're making a documentary of our trip... and I was standing on the roof of the support vehicle as we were following the guys on the bicycle," Balderrama said. "But a sheriff (in Georgia) told me it would be a very bad idea to stand on top of a moving car, so we had to abandon that idea."

"It's very tiring, no question," Norris said. "You add in the heat and certain road conditions, and every day is a long day."

The men plan to head toward Carlsbad, N.M., as soon as this morning's rains stop. If all goes to

plan, they will reach Los Angeles on Oct. 20.

For more information on the foursome's trip across the country, the company's Internet address is [www.couchpotatoproductions.co.uk](http://www.couchpotatoproductions.co.uk).

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

## HERITAGE

Continued from Page 1A

commander during Desert Storm.

He was then selected as associate professor of military science at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He has also served in the Pentagon as executive officer to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Science and Technology.

For more information on the program, contact the hospital at 264-4824.

## RELIEF

Continued from Page 1A

level of support the people of Big Spring have shown Operation: Big Heart has simply been amazing.

"Big Spring does have a 'Big Heart,'" said Concienne, who is chairman of the committee. "When Big Spring is asked to step up, it takes very big steps. Many contributed anywhere from \$1 to \$1,000 or more, and we thank everyone who not only gave from the heart but volunteered long hours to make this happen. And it is still happening."

For more information on Operation: Big Heart, call 714-7641, or contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## United Way Dine out Day is Friday

Greg's Grill, located inside the Big Spring Mall, will be 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, the Dine Out Day restaurant will be Gale's Sweet Shoppe. Then, on Oct. 28, the Dine Out Day restaurant will be La Posada.

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County serves 15 local agencies. For more information about United Way, call 267-5201.

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# Impala exciting again!

By STEVEN COLE SMITH  
The Orlando Sentinel

Chevrolet calls it the company's "quiet hero," and that's accurate. But "cash cow" might be another apt description for the Chevrolet Impala, which sold close to 300,000 copies last year, making it the best-selling American-branded car, beat out in 2004 only by the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord. Chevy has sold 1.2 million Impalas since the current model was introduced in 1999.

It has been a long time, though, since Impala fans have been able to call their car "exciting." Yes, there has been an Impala SS, but with a supercharged 3.8-liter V-6. Its horsepower was only 240, just 40 more than the car's standard 3.8-liter nonsupercharged engine.

For 2006, Chevrolet says we're getting an "all new" Impala. Sure, the nose and tail look different, but the overall style hasn't changed much. But looks don't tell the story: Only about 25 percent of the 2006 Impala is carried over from 2005.

The most notable improvement brings "exciting" back to the Impala glossary: a 303-horsepower version of

Chevy's 5.3-liter V-8 for the SS model, the first Impala V-8 since 1996. And yes, devotees of that particular rear-wheel-drive Caprice-based Impala SS might complain that this front-wheel-drive '06 model isn't in the same league, but Chevrolet tells us the new Impala is the fastest model ever — and that includes the high-powered models from the 1960s.

Interestingly, that last Impala SS from 1996 was essentially a V-8-powered Caprice police car, with some attractive cosmetic trim. Because Chevrolet builds an Impala police car with a 3.8-liter V-6, you might think that Chevy would build a V-8-powered 2006 Impala, but the company won't. "We couldn't make a business case for it," says a Chevrolet executive. The V-6 Impala police car will continue.

The V-8 is one of three engines offered in the '06 Impala. The base model has a new 3.5-liter, 211-horsepower V-6, replacing a 180-horsepower 3.4-liter V-6 that was standard in 2005. Chevy's new midlevel engine is a 3.9-liter V-6 with 242 horsepower, replacing last year's 200-



The 2006 Chevrolet Impala

horse, 3.8-liter V-6; it even has two more horsepower than that supercharged 3.8-liter in the 2005 Impala SS. Incidentally, this engine lineup is identical for the 2006 Monte Carlo, which follows the Impala by about three months and is built on the same platform.

Both V-6s and the V-8 share the familiar four-speed automatic, with beefed-up internals for the V-8. Yes, a five-speed automatic was considered, but budget concerns and the general reliability of the four-speed earned it the job.

Impala's 3.5-liter V-6 — EPA-rated at 21 mpg in the city, 31 mpg on the highway and E85-capable (meaning it can run on fuel that is 85 percent ethanol) — is good

enough that we wonder if the 3.9-liter is needed.

The V-8 has "displacement on demand" — meaning the car's computer shuts off four cylinders when they aren't needed, thus saving fuel — and that action is moderately seamless. Helpfully, a display on the dash lets you know how many cylinders are working, and when. Fuel mileage is improved up to 8 percent with DOD, Chevy says: EPA for the V-8 is 18 mpg city, 28 highway.

Inside, Impala's redesigned interior is quite nice, even on the base LS model. The LT is the next step up, and the only one offered with the 3.5 or 3.9 engines. The LTZ has only the 3.9. The SS, which Chevy figures

will account for about 10 percent of Impala sales, has that all-aluminum 5.3 plus a slightly stiffer suspension and bigger 18-inch tires and wheels. The SS has the stiffest suspension of the Impala quartet, but it is considerably less stiff than its V-8-powered cousin, the Pontiac Grand Prix GXP.

As before, six adults can fit in the Impala, but five would be happier. A flip-down center console makes the front bench seat seem like a pair of buckets. The neatest interior update: Rear seat-bottom cushions tilt forward, minivanlike, and the seat-backs fold flat. That space opens to the 18.6-cubic-foot trunk.

An OnStar communications system is standard on all Impalas. Several

stereo systems are offered; but none have cassette players. They do, however, have accessory plug-ins for your iPod.

Antilock brakes are packaged with traction control, and that package is optional on the LS and LT, standard on the other models. Brakes are four-wheel disc.

Feature for feature, the 2006 Impala is less expensive than the 2005 model, with the LS starting at \$21,990 with shipping. The SS starts at \$27,790, and, with every option, tops out at \$31,415.

The Impala will continue to be a quiet hero for Chevrolet, but with the V-8, it's a little less quiet.

Distributed by Knight  
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## Martha Stewart, KB Home to collaborate on home design

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of Martha Stewart who snapped up her towels and sheets will soon be able to live in a house designed by the domestic maven.

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc. and KB Home, one of the nation's largest home builders, announced Wednesday that they are teaming up to build a line of new houses that are inspired by the domestic queen's three homes in New York and Maine.

The first jointly designed community — to be named KB Home Twin Lakes: Homes Created with Martha Stewart — will feature about 650 homes in Cary, N.C., the biggest suburb of Raleigh, the companies said in a news release. Model homes, which will come in eight different variations, are scheduled to be completed in early 2006.

Bruce Karatz, KB Home's chairman and CEO, said his company and Stewart also plan to build similar developments in Houston and Atlanta.

The deal, whose financial terms were not disclosed, allows both Stewart and KB to expand into new areas.

"This will not only extend our brand but broaden our scope," said Stewart, in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

"My homes are wonderfully constructed, beautifully designed and useful for the modern day home owner," she

said.

Stewart is also aiming to use the partnership to further market her collection of home furnishings and other products. The model homes will be furnished with her furniture collection and other products, and customers will be able to buy flooring, faucets, light fixtures, cabinetry and countertops.

For KB, the deal allows the home builder to expand into the higher-end market. The average size for a typical KB home is about 2,000 square feet, according to Karatz. In comparison, the Stewart-inspired dwellings will range from 1,500 square feet to 4,100 square feet and will be priced from the low-\$200,000 to mid-\$400,000 range. KB builds homes that carry an average selling price of \$280,000, Karatz said.

While resembling Stewart's homes in Seal Harbor, Maine, Katonah, N.Y., and East Hampton, N.Y., these dwellings also will carry such design features that she deems important — large columns that define the rooms, large laundry rooms, and breakfast nooks.

The pact with KB is the latest in an avalanche of new projects that the New York-based multi-media company is pursuing to put the spotlight back on Stewart, who was released from prison in March for lying about a stock sale. Stewart stars in two TV shows and a new radio show.

## Hybrids, diesel cars dominate list of most fuel efficient vehicles for 2006

WASHINGTON (AP) — The manual version of the hybrid Honda Insight tops the latest government auto fuel economy list, with 60 miles per gallon in the city and 66 mpg on the highway.

The competitor hybrid Toyota Prius was second with 60 mpg in the city and 51 on the highway, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy said Wednesday.

Ford Motor Co., with its hybrid SUVs, was the only American carmaker to crack the top-10 list for 2006 vehicles.

Honda, Toyota and Volkswagen make eight of the top 10 cars, mostly hybrid electric-gas or diesel-powered. Ford Escape hybrid SUVs, two-wheel and four-wheel drive, round out the list.

The only gas-only vehicle to make the top 10 is the manual Toyota Corolla.

By classes of vehicles, the most fuel efficient SUV is the Ford Escape, with 36 mpg in the city and 31 on the highway. The most fuel efficient pickup is the Ford Ranger, 24 mpg in the city and 29 on the highway.

Among station wagons, the manual Pontiac Vibe and Toyota Corolla Matrix are tops, each with 30 mpg in the city and 36 on the highway. The most fuel efficient minivan is the Honda Odyssey, 20 mpg in the city and 28 on the highway.

Cargo and passenger vans are led by Chevrolet and GMC, each with 15 mpg in the city and 20 on the highway.

The automatic version of the Dodge Ram pickup, which gets 9 mpg in the city and 12 mpg on the highway, was the least fuel efficient vehicle in this year's survey. Luxury cars, including models from Bentley and Ferrari, completed the list of the 10 least fuel-efficient vehicles.

The Dodge Durango, getting 12 mpg in the city and 15 mpg on the highway, had the worst fuel economy among SUVs.

The government compiles the annual list based on information from manufacturers. The fuel economy estimates are determined by averaging numbers from a specific set of tests.

The list excludes some

of the largest vehicles, such as the Hummer H2 and the Ford Excursion, because the law exempts vehicles that weigh more than 8,500 pounds from fuel economy standards.

EPA Administrator Steve Johnson said the list is designed to help consumers choose more wisely. "This year's fleet offers a wider variety of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles for car buyers to select from," he said.

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the Bush administration is working to get more fuel-efficient vehicles on the road through consumer education and with tax credits for hybrids.

Environmentalists said

the government's list shows the administration and carmakers aren't doing enough to help consumers deal with high gasoline prices.

"The biggest single step to saving money at the gas pump, curbing global warming, and cutting America's oil dependence is to make our cars, SUVs and other trucks go farther on a gallon of gas," said Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming program.

"Automakers shouldn't try to fool consumers by pretending their vehicles get good fuel economy," he said. "They should put gas-saving technology into their cars so that they actually get good fuel economy."

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### IN BRIEF

#### Quarterback club sets meetings

The Big Spring football booster club (quarterback club) will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at the ATC through the football season.

For more information, contact Gene Piercefield at 816-1134.

#### C.G.A. announces year's final tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced its final tournament of the year — the Grand Tournament — will take place Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Participants must be registered by 9:45 a.m. and nonmembers are welcome. There will also be food and refreshments after the tourney.

For more information, call Willie Mendoza at 267-7977.

#### Hunter Education Class announced

The date for the next hunter education course will be Saturday and Sunday beginning at 8 a.m. in the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Building.

The cost is \$10 and each student will need his/her social security number and a parent or guardian if under 17.

For more information or to register, contact Steve Poltevin at 264-7033.

#### Softball tournament announced in B.S.

There will be a La Raza Unida softball tournament Friday and Saturday at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The entry fee will be \$110 per team.

There will be a team trophy, player trophies and T-Shirts awarded for first place, while second and third place will get a team trophy and T-Shirts.

For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 263-6351.

#### Investigators look into Vikings' party

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Investigators are looking into a party attended by several Minnesota Vikings players that allegedly involved drunkenness, nudity and visible sexual activity on a pair of charter cruises last week.

A police report was filed Sunday, but no charges have been filed at this time.

Stephen Doyle, an attorney representing the boats' owners, has said cornerback Fred Smoot paid for one of the cruises last Thursday on Lake Minnetonka. He said about 90 people were on the boats, which returned to shore more than two hours earlier than scheduled when crew members complained about lewd behavior.

## Bearkats seek win, control of District 8 race

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

The Bearkats blew out Robert Lee last week to begin District 8-Six-man action and will try to do the same this week against the other playoff favorite from the district in Water Valley.

"This will be the biggest team we have played yet as they have about four or five kids which weigh anywhere from 180-200 pounds," said Garden City head coach Ken Hoskins. "They will use

that size to run the football and try to control the clock."

Water Valley's running game is led by freshman running back Johnathan Garcia. The quarterback is junior Garrett Wood and the two top receivers are juniors Shiloh Smith and Lane Hutchins.

"Garrett is a pretty good thrower and scrambler

and when they do throw they like to go deep to their receivers."

The Water Valley defense will match up man on man at the line of scrimmage and the defensive line is physical.

Hoskins also said they go 12 deep and they will play all of them as this is the first team to come close to having as much depth as the Bearkats.

The Bearkats proved last week they aren't a one-man show on offense as junior Jared Bradford scored seven touchdowns.

Junior quarterback Alex Halfmann, who garners the most attention from opposing defenses,

MULTER threw for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns. The defense last week was led by seniors Cory Multer and Cade Doss and juniors Colton Schwartz and Blaine Walker.

"We are just going to

continue to do what we have been doing on offense," said Hoskins. "We will use different sets and work several kids into the game."

"The guys need to keep being aggressive on defense. We will give different looks, but the kids need to attack their offense."

Both teams come into the game very confident. Garden City has won five straight games since

See BEARKATS, Page 2B



Big Spring senior Andy Lasater, left, bumps a Lake View wide receiver within five yards from the line of scrimmage Friday in San Angelo during the Steers' District 4-4A win over the Chiefs. The Steers host arch rival Andrews Friday at Memorial Stadium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

## Steers, Mustangs rivalry has bigger motivation in 2005

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

The Big Spring-Andrews football rivalry never needs much motivation to be intense, but both teams will be battling for more than just a win Friday at Memorial Stadium. The winner could find themselves in the driver's seat for a berth in the Class 4A playoffs.

"I am expecting Andrews will come ready to play," said first year Big Spring head coach Tim Holt, who will get to see first-hand Friday what this rivalry is about. "The winner of this game has a good chance to get into the playoffs."

"We are nine days away from the playoffs and I am sure Andrews is thinking the same thing." Big Spring plays in Lubbock against Estacado a week from Friday. Two straight wins could end a two-year playoff drought for the Steers.

First thing is first, however, as Big Spring prepares for its arch rival. The Steers have not beaten Andrews since 2000. They lost last year at the Mustang Bowl, 24-13.

"It should be a great ballgame," said Holt. "They will have a few trick plays up their

sleeves I am sure. We just have to be ready for them."

The two teams have taken two different paths on their way to this game. Andrews is still winless and has been blown out of most games they have played. Big Spring is just 1-5, but has lost three games by three points or less and lost to Odessa High 28-21. Andrews also played Odessa High and lost 35-19.

The Mustangs began District 4-4A play last week against Plainview and lost 61-25. Big Spring got its first win of the year with a blowout victory over Lake View. The Steers won the game 38-6 and scored a touchdown on their first four possessions.

"Andrews runs a spread offense and likes to throw more than run," said Holt. "They have been hurt by inconsistency and graduation, but when these two teams meet you can throw the records out the window."

Holt said one key to the game will be to be prepared for unusual situations from Andrews.

"They may run fast counts at the line or go no huddle and they might even run some trick

See STEERS, Page 2B

## Class A powerhouse, seventh-ranked Roscoe invades Forsan

By JEFF LANE  
Special to the Herald

The Forsan Buffaloes enter week seven of the 2005 season still looking to notch their first win in District 10-A.

They will have to do it against the seventh-ranked Roscoe Plowboys, who come THOMPSON into this week's matchup with a perfect 6-0 record.

The Buffs will be considered a heavy underdog facing not only a team which is averaging close to 500 yards total offense per game, but a team they haven't fared well against in recent years.

Head coach Tommy Thompson believes that can be used to his advantage.

"Motivation for us this week is to try and stop the best team in the district," Thompson said. "An upset of Roscoe

would be a huge boost for our team and a huge statement by our seniors about all the hard work they have put in this season."

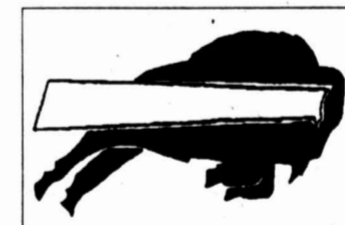
Offensively Thompson said the Buffs have done a good job so far this year, averaging nearly 28 points a game. The heart of the offense has been his offensive line.

"Our offensive line has made some huge plays for us this year," said Thompson. "They have gone up against some teams that have had tremendous size advantages and have always played solid."

They will have to continue that kind of play this week as they face a team which is allowing less than 12 points per game this year.

Thompson said the Plowboys run a 4-3 defensive front with a mix of man and cover 2 in the secondary.

"Offensively our game plan is to drive down the field and use the clock to our advantage," the coach



said. "By executing and controlling the ball, we move the chains and keep them on the sidelines, limiting their ability to score."

On the defensive side of the ball Thompson has been preaching to his kids this week about the importance of containment and making stops.

"Roscoe is a potent offensive team," said Thompson. "They have so many threats that sometimes they are going to get a mismatch in the passing game. They also have backs that are hard to bring down. We will have to be very aggressive."

Thompson also said Roscoe will run a spread offense and Forsan's defensive unit will have

See FORSAN, Page 2B

### Area Football Standings

District 4-4A	League	Overall
Frenship	1-0	6-0
Plainview	1-0	6-0
<b>Big Spring</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>1-5</b>
Lake View	0-1	1-5
Lubbock Estacado	0-1	0-6
Andrews	0-1	0-6
District 4-2A	League	Overall
Colorado City	1-0	4-2
Hawley	1-0	4-2
Anson	1-0	3-3
<b>Coahoma</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>1-5</b>
Stamford	0-1	1-5
Stanton	0-1	0-6
District 10-1A	League	Overall
Bronte	3-0	6-1
Sterling City	3-0	3-4
Roscoe	2-0	6-0
Winters	1-1	3-3
Roby	0-3	2-5
<b>Forsan</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>1-6</b>
Hermleigh	0-2	0-6
District 8-Six-man	League	Overall
<b>Garden City</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>5-1</b>
Water Valley	1-0	4-2
Blackwell	1-0	2-2
Robert Lee	0-1	3-3
Veribest	0-1	3-4
Paint Rock	0-1	0-4
District 5-Six-man	League	Overall
Wellman-Union	1-0	3-3
<b>Grady</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>Sands</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>1-5</b>
Loop	0-1	2-4
Dawson	0-1	0-6
Klondike	0-1	0-6

# Cardinals take down Pettitte in St. Louis

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals caught a break before the game even began.

Reggie Sanders and Chris Carpenter certainly took advantage of it.

Houston's Andy Pettitte struggled in Game 1 of the NL championship series after being struck on the knee with a liner in batting practice. Sanders — rapidly becoming baseball's newest Mr. October — took Pettitte deep with a two-run homer, while Carpenter grounded the Astros with eight strong innings in a 5-3 victory Wednesday night.

St. Louis will go for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series Thursday. Roy Oswalt, Houston's 20-game winner, goes against Mark Mulder of the Cardinals.

Oswalt better be careful in batting practice.

While taking a leisurely jog around the bases before the opener, Pettitte was struck on the inside of the right knee with a sharp liner. The Astros insisted the left-hander was fine, but he sure didn't look like a pitcher who was 17-9 with the NL's second-lowest ERA (2.39) during the regular season.

Afterward, Houston came clean.

"It swelled up on him and that was probably a little factor in the game," manager Phil Garner said. "He was trying to pitch through it."

Pettitte finished batting practice, then ducked into the clubhouse for treatment.

"It was a freak accident," he said. "I tried to jump over it, but it hit my knee."

With Pettitte hurting, the Cardinals extended the pattern of home-field dominance that held throughout last year's NLCS against the Astros. The home team won every game, giving St. Louis a seven-game victory and a trip to the World Series.

In the league's first championship rematch since 1992, the Cardinals again got the upper hand on their division rival, a team they finished 11 games ahead of in the NL Central. They have to get by the Astros again for a chance at World Series redemption after their four-game sweep by the Boston Red Sox in 2004.

Sanders is sure doing his part. A flop in five previous postseasons, he resembles Reggie Jackson this time around. The 37-year-old outfielder had a homer and 10 RBIs in a three-game, opening-round sweep of the San Diego Padres, including a record six RBIs in the opener.

"Everything is about timing," Sanders said. "I'm just out there doing my thing."

His 445-foot homer came in the first on a 1-2 fastball pitch that Pettitte left over the plate. Sanders knew it was gone before he dropped his bat, and Houston left fielder Lance Berkman barely moved as the ball soared above his head, just missing the scoreboard.

The crowd serenaded Sanders with chants of "Reggie! Reggie! Reggie!" They kept it up when he made a brilliant catch off a drive by Mike Lamb to end the sixth.



St. Louis Cardinals' Reggie Sanders, right, hits a two-run home run in the first inning of game against the Houston Astros Wednesday at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. The Cardinals won the game 5-3 and lead the series 1-0.

# Controversy takes center stage in White Sox's win

By MIKE FITZPATRICK  
AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A.J. Pierzynski paused, then whirled around and took off for first base.

Better run it out, just in case.

Well, just in case turned into "HOLY SMOKES!" and the White Sox capitalized for what is sure to go down as one of the most disputed victories in postseason history.

Given a second chance when plate umpire Doug Eddings called strike three — but not the third out — Chicago beat the Los Angeles Angels 2-1 on Wednesday night on Joe Crede's two-out double in the ninth inning to even the series.

At a game apiece. Moments earlier, third-string catcher Josh Paul and his Los Angeles teammates ran off the field, certain they were headed to extra innings.

Pierzynski had other ideas.

"The third strike is in the dirt, you run," he said.

In a sequence as bizarre as any imaginable on a baseball field, Pierzynski swung at and missed a low pitch from Angels reliever Kelvin Escobar, appearing to end the bottom of the ninth inning with the score tied at 1.

The ball was gloved by Paul — replays appeared to show he caught it cleanly just before it would have hit the dirt. And behind

him, Eddings clearly raised his right arm and closed his fist, signaling strike three.

"When he rings him up with a fist, he's out," Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said.

Being a catcher — Scioscia was one, too — Pierzynski knew to play it all the way through. After taking a step toward the dugout, he whipped around and hustled to first.

"I thought for sure the ball hit the ground. I watched the replay 50 times and I still don't know," Pierzynski said. "I didn't hear him say out, Josh didn't tag me."

In fact, Eddings was silent.

"I did not say, 'No catch,'" said Eddings, a major league umpire since 1999 who is working his third postseason assignment. "I'm watching Josh Paul, seeing what he's going to do."

After the game, Eddings watched several replays and stood by his call.

"We saw it on a couple different angles, the ball changes directions," Eddings said. "I had questions. I didn't have him catching the ball."

Positive the inning was over, Paul rolled the ball out to the mound with the Angels already coming off the field, so Pierzynski was easily safe.

Then everybody stopped, including the umpires.

When they let Pierzynski stay at first, Scioscia came out of the dugout to argue.

The umpires huddled

and upheld the call after a delay of about four minutes. Last year's postseason was marked by umpires consulting and drawing praise for getting important calls correct — even if it meant overturning the original ruling.

When it looked as if play was about to begin again, Scioscia came out again and Eddings conferred with third-base umpire Ed Rapuano.

Again the call stood, and the White Sox took advantage.

"I didn't do anything," Pierzynski said. "I struck out."

Sure, but that's not what fans will remember for years to come.

After Pierzynski's heads-up play, pinch runner Pablo Ozuna quickly stole second, and Crede lined an 0-2 pitch into the left-field corner for a game-winning double.

Mark Buehrle pitched a five-hitter for the first complete game of this postseason.

"Do we feel lucky? No," Pierzynski said. "Did they feel lucky when they won last night?"

Probably not, but they certainly felt robbed this time. Scioscia and several Angels lingered in the dugout, staring in disbelief at what they had seen.

This series shifts to Anaheim for Game 3 Friday. The travel-weary Angels were planning to finally get some sleep — but that might be difficult after losing this way.

# STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

plays," said Holt. "We have got to put pressure on their front four, take what they give us and score points when the opportunity arises on offense."

The Mustangs are led by Fernando Guevera, RODRIGUEZ who will play both sides of the ball at running back and safety. The offense will be directed by quarterback Nathan Payne and his best receivers are Roger Bueno and Reno Cruz. "We must stop Guevera



on the run and contain the receivers on deep routes," said Holt. "They don't like to throw much, but when they do they like to go deep. Payne is most effective with short passes so we must also stop the run after the catch."

The Steers were led last week by quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who scored four touchdowns in the game. They are also led offensively by Kyle Piercefield, Alex Castillo and Lance Tissue and defensively by Matt Rodriguez, Gus Waddy and Zac Chesworth.

Matt Hilario and Caleb Choate will also be factors in the game.

The game will kick off at 7:30 p.m.

# BEARKATS

Continued from Page 1B

getting upset the first week of the season. The ninth-ranked Bearkats scored a touchdown every time it got the ball last week (10-for-10) and cruised past Robert Lee. Water Valley is 4-2 this

year and is coming off a 45-0 mercy-rule win against Veribest.

"The winner of this game should be in the driver's seat for the district title," said Hoskins. "It should be a good game and a good crowd. I encourage all of our fans to make the trip to cheer on the Bearkats."

# FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

to remain mentally focused and tough as many of them play both ways.

"It will be a challenge to stay fresh legged this week as we have several players missing," Thompson said. "We have a big task ahead of us, but if we keep our assignments and tackle well we

will be in good shape."

Thompson isn't trying to kid himself or anyone else, he knows they are going to have to play with the underdog mentality.

"No one outside of ourselves believe we can beat Roscoe," he said. "But we are playing to win the football game no matter what the odds. We will not accept defeat, nor will we quit."

The game will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Buffalo Stadium in Forsan.

# Friday Night's Area Football Lineup

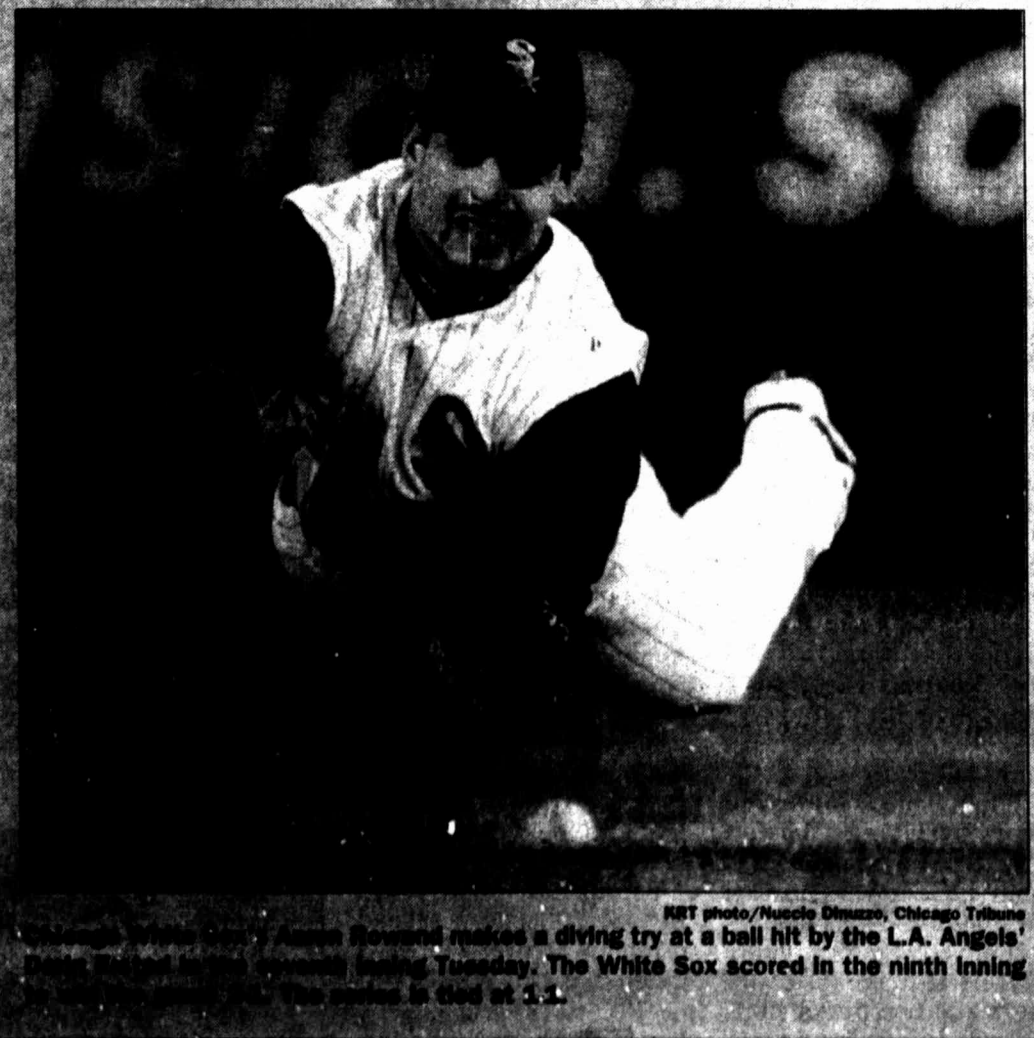
**District 4-4A**  
Andrews @ Big Spring  
Plainview @ No. 5 Frenship  
Lubbock Estacado @ Lake View

**District 4-2A**  
Coahoma @ Anson  
Stamford @ Stanton  
Hawley @ Colorado City

**District 10-1A**  
No. 7 Roscoe @ Forsan  
Bronte @ Winters  
Hermleigh @ Roby  
Sterling City — open

**District 8-Six-man**  
Garden City @ Water Valley  
Paint Rock @ Robert Lee  
Blackwell @ Veribest

**District 5-Six-man**  
Grady @ Wellman-Union  
Sands @ Dawson  
Klondike @ Loop



Chicago White Sox's A.J. Pierzynski makes a diving try at a ball hit by the L.A. Angels' Mike Lamb Tuesday. The White Sox scored in the ninth inning to tie the series at 1-1.

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**3 FAMILY** Garage Sale: 105 Merrick Rd. (Sand Springs), Saturday & Sunday 8:00-7. Too much to list.

**3 FAMILY** Sale: Saturday only 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. No early sales. Stove, TV's, furniture, lots of stuff. 2711 Larry Dr..

**BACKYARD SALE:** 606 Highland Drive, Saturday 8:00-2:00. Motorcycle, party supplies, Halloween decorations, household items, electronics, name brand clothes, Beanie babies, CD's and videos.

**GARAGE SALE:** 4119 Muir, Friday & Saturday 7:00-?. Speaker box, name brand clothing for all ages, home deco., picture frames and lots more. Cheap.

### Garage Sales

**DOS COMPUTER,** monitor, printer for word processing, spreadsheets, certificates, Print Shop, other programs, supplies, \$50.00. Recumbent exercise bike, \$40.00, bench with resistance cords \$25.00, slant board \$10.00. Pendulum wall clock \$40.00. Cash only. (432)267-7264.

**GARAGE SALE:** One Day Only Saturday 8:00am-2:00pm, 6508 Midway Rd.. 2 Couches, dining table, rocker, wicker furniture, bookcases, filing cabinets, antiques, collectibles, lots of other goodies.

**HUGE GARAGE** Sale, 1606 E. FM 700, Unit W16. Saturday, 8:00-? Furniture, linens, 4X men's clothes, coats, chest freezer.

**MOVING SALE,** Saturday, 8:00-? 313 Davis Rd (off Gail Hwy). Waterbed, china cabinet, lots of miscellaneous. Something for Everyone!

**YARD SALE:** 1002 E. 16th St. (Rear), Friday & Saturday, 9:00-? Nice Ladies clothes - cheap and lots more.

### Garage Sales

**RELAY FOR LIFE** Garage Sale, Saturday, 8:30-? Family Medical Center Parking Lot, 2301 S. Gregg St. (next to Wendy's). Homemade Burritos, beautiful handmade stepping stones, clothes, household items, lots of misc. All proceeds benefits Relay for Life!!

**TWO FAMILY** Sale, Saturday, 8:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. 906 South Scurry. Furniture, clothes, linens, knick-knacks, small appliances. Something for Everyone!

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**HIRING WELDER** (must be able to fabricate) 2 Years plus experience Salary D.O.E. E.O.E. Apply in person Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving 1401 S. Grandview Odessa, Texas 79761

### Help Wanted

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### Help Wanted


**CHILD CAREGIVER/ VAN DRIVER.** Full or part time. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. No phone calls please.

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Please apply in person at Mountain View Lodge, 2009 Virginia Ave.

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**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**DRIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!** Excellent benefits include health, dental, life, LTD, 401k and quarterly bonuses. Class A CDL, HAZMAT required. Apply in person @ Eddins-Walcher 208 Old Lubbock Hwy., Snyder or call (325)207-6053.

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**IMMEDIATE OPENING** for Part-time Van Driver/Cook Position. Must pass a background check. Apply at 1901 Simler at Spring City Senior Center.

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**SEEKING HIGH-ENERGY** individual to work in the commercial embroidery division of **embroideryco.com**. Sewing knowledge helpful, but not required. Must be honest, dependable and open to being trained and coached. This individual will be learning all aspects of this division, including the operation of computerized equipment and designs on computer. Qualifying applicants will be subject to background checks and drug testing. Contact Carolyn Duncan or Evelyn Petrosky at **embroideryco.com**, 1005 E. 11th Place, Big Spring, Phone (432)263-4647.

**SHELL STAR STOP** looking for new team members. Full and part time cashiers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

**SINGLE HAND** Welders wanted. Welding test, drug screen & travel required. Per diem & mileage paid. \$18.00 to \$23.00 a hour. Office (432)264-0590. Employee should not be afraid to get dirty

**THE MARTIN County Hospital District** is seeking a Director of Nursing. Candidates must have 10 years experience in nursing, 5 years experience in management, experience in Critical Access and Trauma Care. Certification required TNCC and PALS. B.S.N. preferred but not required. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or (432)756-3345, ext. 225.

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Instructional

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**\$200.00 REWARD** for black female pug. Last seen at 1800 North Birdwell. Call (432)263-6292, 270-4438, 270-4499 or 466-3918. Please help me find my dog.

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**1308 BIRDWELL.** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, carpet, garage, stove & refrigerator, fenced yard No Pets!!! \$325.00 month \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)263-7850 leave message.

**FOR RENT** large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry B. All bills paid. \$425. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

**1607 Jennings.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$300.00 monthly, \$150.00 deposit. **2523 Dow.** 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$425.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

**2 BEDROOM** house. Stove & Refrigerator furnished. Call (432)267-6179.

**2401 CHEYENNE.** Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living areas. Central air and heat. Nice neighborhood. \$500. Month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

**703 AYLSFORD.** 3 Bedroom 1 bath. HUD approved. \$400.00 Month \$300.00 Deposit. Call (432)213-3864.

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**1201 SYCAMORE** 5 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living areas. Will Owner Finance. \$8,500.00. Call (432)816-1361.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** Mercury squares Neptune to lay bare the discrepancies between spirituality and religion. There are always those confused souls who don't represent their group so well, it turns out. Make a special effort to walk your talk, and make sure others do the same. Spiritual curiosity starts an interesting conversation — one that will never be finished.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). If there's one thing you're not about now it's dogma. Let someone else enforce the rules and call out the "you musts," "you can'ts" and "you shouldn'ts." It's enough to be responsible for your own actions.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your version of the story is a remarkable one. But it's not the only one. As soon as you realize this, a hopelessly unclear situation comes into sharp focus, and you know what you must do.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You're easily intoxicated by other charismatic people. But you don't need to have a love affair with someone to be transformed by them. In fact, you will benefit far more from keeping things on a friendly level.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your struggle to be creative is rewarded with moments of elation. They're short moments but long enough to keep you pushing forward. A Virgo or a Scorpio could be a tremendous help.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Misguided efforts are efforts nonetheless. You appreciate any gesture that is intended to make you smile or to make your life easier. That is why you are most beloved.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In every relationship, there is a selfish and an unselfish partner, and you can be either one at different times. This is the natural push-pull of things. So when it's your turn to be selfish, take it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your psychic feelings are right on the money. Get out of that bad deal now while few will try to stop you. If you wait, you'll be cringing every time the telephone rings.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Lighten your load. Use carefree (but effective) people as your guides. You'll see progress just as soon as you eliminate the elements (whether physical or emotional) that you no longer need.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know what you stand for, what's right and what you can no longer tolerate. It does no good to give lip service though. Let your actions tell the story instead of your mouth.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're prepared for a few bumps on the road to progress, but nothing prepares you for the internal struggle you face when you're on the cusp of success. Push through!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A relationship you take for granted brings you enormous comfort, which you've come to expect. In fact, your baseline of comfort is now much higher than it's ever been before. Give props to your special someone.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be chosen to receive a privilege. While your luck is hot, you may as well zero in on someone you like a great deal and try to get something going.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I have a problem getting into relationships. Maybe it's because I'm afraid that my parents will disapprove of my choice of men, or maybe I haven't found or met someone who will fit my mother's description of a good man — you know, someone who's good-looking, has a decent job, etc. I'm not hard to please but I have a tendency to enjoy conversations over the Internet and get infatuated. When they start to take interest in meeting me, I hesitate and refuse to take it further. Is there something wrong with me? I was born Nov. 30, 1981."

There's not a thing wrong with you, and that could be the problem. Your life with your parents is so comfortable, meeting almost all of your needs except, of course, the need for independence and for a meaningful relationship with someone who is not your family. Your Capricorn moon and Venus in Capricorn indicate you have traditional values and a deep respect for your parents and their opinions. One solution I can think of might seem extremely old-fashioned, but it could break your love rut nonetheless. How about asking your parents to set you up with someone they find appropriate?

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Internationally acclaimed fashion designer Ralph Lauren prides himself on constantly developing something new. Lauren has a deep Libra sense of vision as well as a profound understanding of all his surroundings. He will use this year to soak up and discover as much as he can so that he can embark on a new creative adventure, perhaps in music or in film.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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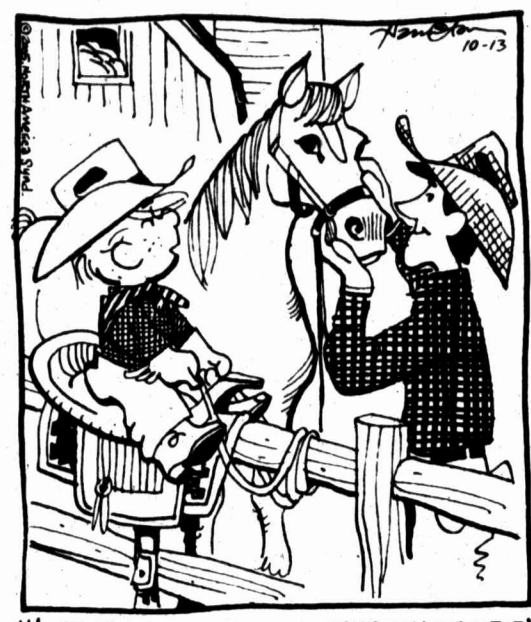
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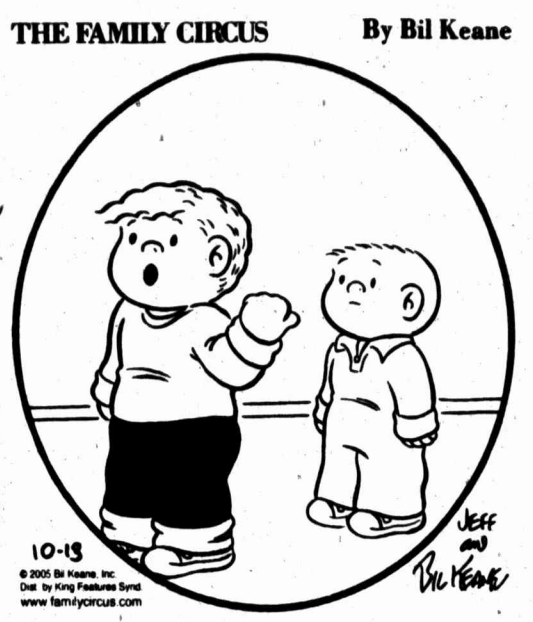
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6	News (CC) Ent. Tonight	News Wheat-Fortune	Plat de Otono	My Wile-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond John Hagee	Odessa	News-Laher	Discovery (CC)	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Law & Order (CC) (DVB)	Live BET Style	That's Raven That's Raven	With Smith Madden Nation	ESPN Sports	Sci-Fi Science Fic.
7	News (CC) Alas (CC)	Alas (CC)	Contra Viento y Marea	MLB Baseball National	Survivor: Gus- tamala - Maya	El Cuerpo del Deseo	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC) The Apprentice	Odessa	The This Old House Hour	SOS: Coast Guard Rescue	Movie: The French	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Law & Order (CC) (DVB)	Movie	Hallowentown	2005 World Series of Poker	College Football:	Movie: Revelation
8	Night Stalker (CC)	Night Stalker (CC)	La Esposa Virgen	League Championship	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Los Pleiteados	Movie: Screen 3 (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Odessa	Artiques Roadshow	Firehouse USA: Boston	Connection (CC)	Movie: The Warriors	Law & Order (CC) (DVB)	Movie	Zack & Cody	Boxing: 1971 Ali vs. Bin	North Carolina State (CC)	Dungeons & Dragons:
9	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	Series Game 2 - Teams TBA	Trace (CC)	Decisiones	ER (CC)		Odessa	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Connection II	The Ultimate Fighter	Movie: All (CC)	The Ultimate Hustler	Zack & Cody	Boxing: 1975 Muhammad Ali	SportsCenter	Wrath of the Dragon God
10	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Tiburones y Mas	News Tonight Show	40 Movie: The Hour of Healing	Odessa	Sign Off	SOS: Coast Guard Rescue	45 Movie: The Godfather	Real TV Blind Date	Movie: All	In Living Color In Living Color	That's Raven That's Raven	Muhammad Ali vs. Ron Lyle	Baseball NFL Live	Movie: The Fog (CC)
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Malcolm-Mid.	Letteman Late Late	Laura Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien	Sir of Echoes (CC)	Odessa	Update/Israel Faye Hardin	Firehouse USA: Boston	Part II (CC)	Real TV Blind Date	Movie: All	Movie: All	That's Raven That's Raven	ESPN Holly- Lizzie McGuire	Season SportsCenter	Twilight Zone
12	AM News (CC)	AM News (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	King of the Hill	The Insider				Odessa										

**DENNIS THE MENACE**



"MIND IF I JUST RIDE THE FENCE INSTEAD?"

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



"PJ talks in scribbles."

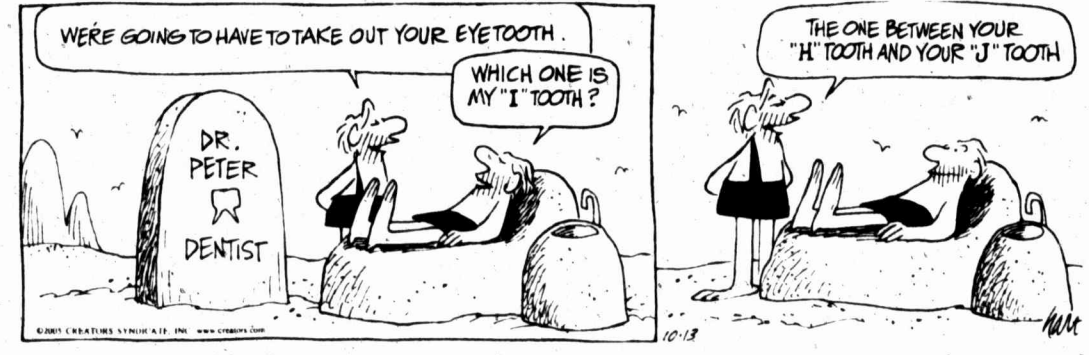
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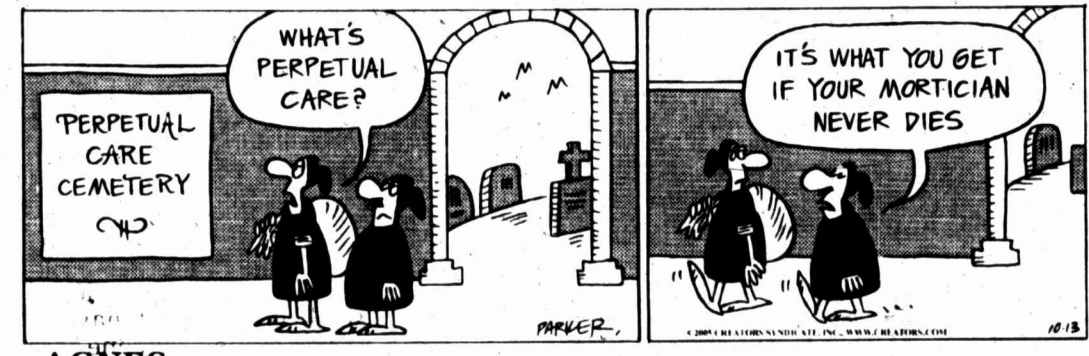
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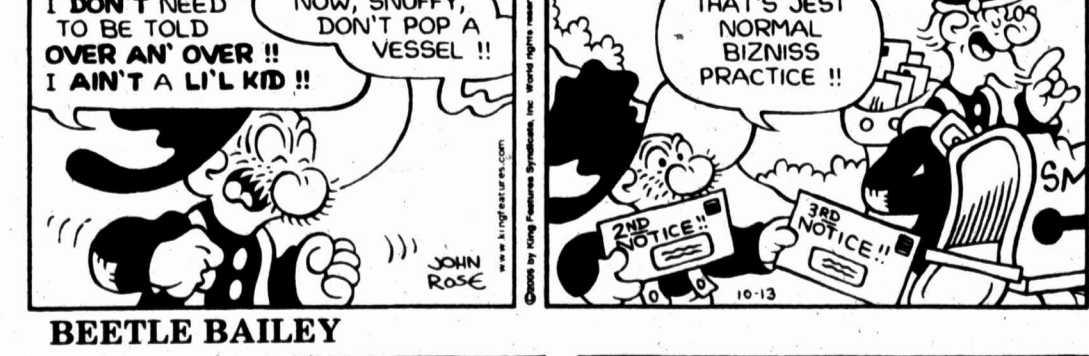
**HI AND LOIS**



**THE OTHER COAST**



**SNUFFY SMITH**



**BEEBLE BAILEY**



**This Date In History**

Today is Thursday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2005. There are 79 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Oct. 13, 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

**On this date:**  
In A.D. 54, Roman emperor Claudius I died, after being poisoned by his wife, Agrippina.

In 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

In 1845, Texas ratified a state constitution.

In 1943, Italy declared war on Germany, its one-time Axis partner.

In 1944, American troops entered Aachen, Germany.

In 1960, Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy participated in the third televised debate of their presidential

campaign.

In 1962, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" by Edward Albee opened on Broadway.

In 1974, longtime television host Ed Sullivan died in New York City at age 72.

In 1981, voters in Egypt participated in a referendum to elect Vice President Hosni Mubarak the new president, one week after the assassination of Anwar Sadat.

One year ago: President Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry held their third and final debate, trading blows on taxes, gun control, abortion and jobs, striving to cement impressions in voters' minds in the run-up to Election Day.

**Today's Birthdays:**  
Comedian Nipsey Russell is 81. Lady Thatcher, former British prime minister, is 80. Playwright Frank D. Gilroy is 80. Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 67. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 64. Actress Pamela Tiffin is 63. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 61. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 59. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 58. Actor John Lone is 53. Model Beverly Johnson is 53. Singer Marie

Osmond is 46. Rock singer Joey Badaad (Anthrax) is 45. Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah is 43. Actress Kelly Preston is 43. Country singer John Wiggins is 43. Actress Tisha Campbell-Martin is 37. Olympic silver-medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 36. Country singer Rhett Akins is 36. Rock musician Jan Van Slichem Junior (K's Choice) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singers Brian and Brandon Casey (Jagged Edge) are 30. Singer Ashanti is 25.

Thought for Today: "Nobody holds a good opinion of a man who has a low opinion of himself." — Anthony Trollope, English author (1815-1882).

**Answer to previous puzzle**

NORA	RUES	CPAS
EMIR	ANNE	HIPPO
RACE	MICA	ACRID
DREAM	BOAT	STONE
LONG	TUNES	
KEATS	SELLER	
EIGHTH	SAO	EDAM
PRaised	POTSOLE	
TERN	ROB	MEANER
KAREEM	STAGE	
PESTS	LAST	
AVOWS	FANCY	FREE
GENIE	ETNA	RIPE
ENACT	TEAM	EVIL
TRES	ADDS	TECS

**Newsday Crossword**

**HARD STUFF** by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Goalie's wear
  - 5 Music-video cable station
  - 9 Necklace fastener
  - 14 Condo division
  - 15 October birthstone
  - 16 Puts a spell on
  - 17 Hard-hit baseball
  - 19 Florida Keys, e.g.
  - 20 Take the tiller
  - 21 Move to a MASH, maybe
  - 23 Superlative suffix
  - 24 Winter-hat parts
  - 27 \_\_\_ May Clampett
  - 29 Hard puzzle
  - 34 Bill picturing Cleveland
  - 38 Jeansmaker Strauss
  - 39 Bring in
  - 40 Bench-clearer
  - 43 Go sprawling
  - 44 Iranian money
  - 45 Not permanent, as ink
  - 47 Hard form of lava
  - 51 Fuss over, with "on"
  - 52 Cold dessert
  - 57 Politico London
  - 60 Blowgun missile
  - 62 Tractor maker
  - 63 Porcupine's spine
  - 65 Hard still product
  - 68 Excessive

- DOWN**
- 1 Vital beat
  - 2 Baker or Loos
  - 3 Roadside eatery
  - 4 Mill product
  - 5 FYI part
  - 6 News org.
  - 7 Bullpen stat
  - 8 TV nightly news hour
  - 9 Gum base
  - 10 Guitarist Paul
  - 11 Wheel holder
  - 12 Takes a gander at
  - 13 "Hey, you!"
  - 18 Olive \_\_\_ (military uniform)
  - 22 Cockpit fig.
  - 25 British buggy
  - 26 Of sound mind
  - 28 1945 summit site
  - 30 Do-nothing
  - 31 Belgrade native
  - 32 Diabolical
  - 33 Auspicious, as time
  - 34 Garr or Hatcher
  - 35 Reagan Secretary of State
  - 36 Algerian port
  - 37 Lacking guidance
  - 41 Love god
  - 42 Unit-pricing word
  - 46 Depot postings, informally
  - 48 Lots and lots
  - 49 Actress Hagen
  - 50 Sunday delivery
  - 53 Get-well spot, for short
  - 54 Hosiery hue
  - 55 Baseball great Banks
  - 56 Many mall rats
  - 57 Bluish green
  - 58 Fontanne's partner
  - 59 Generic pooch
  - 61 Forum garb
  - 64 Abner's radio partner
  - 66 Moth-eaten
  - 67 Teachers' org.

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# That's Racin'

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EZRA SHAW FOR NASCAR

## Jimmie Johnson hopes to become the first driver to win four straight Cup races at Lowe's Motor Speedway

BY DAVID POOLE  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If there's one thing Jimmie Johnson doesn't need these days, it's another reason for everyone to make him and his No. 48 team a focus of attention.

Three weeks ago, after Johnson won the MBNA 400 at Dover, several teams had people hang around to watch the car go through postrace inspection.

They suspected that Johnson's crew chief, Chad Knaus, was up to something that made the car's rear end stick up, giving it more downforce. And they were right — but the shock absorbers on Johnson's car were deemed legal in the inspection. A week later, NASCAR issued new rules aimed at doing away with many of the very things that made the shocks on the car that day different.

The next weekend, at Talladega, Johnson got into the rear of Elliott Sadler's car on the 20th lap of the UAW-Ford 500, starting an eight-car wreck that was especially damaging for Chase for the Nextel Cup contender Mark Martin.

Johnson initially blamed Dale Earnhardt Jr. for hitting him to start the wreck, but after seeing replays Johnson took responsibility for the crash.

Johnson then finished sixth in Sunday's Banquet 400 at Kansas Speedway but still dropped from fifth to sixth in the standings, 92 points behind leader Tony Stewart.

Now, he comes to Lowe's Motor Speedway, the 1.5-mile track near Charlotte, N.C., where he's won the past three and four of the past five Nextel Cup points races.

All eyes will once again be on the 30-year-old California native in Saturday night's UAW-GM 500 as he tries to become the first driver ever to win four straight Cup races at LMS. Only Johnson and Fred



DORSEY PATRICK/DORSEY PATRICK PHOTOGRAPHY  
Jimmie Johnson celebrates his victory in the 2005 Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway. Johnson has won four of the past five Nextel Cup races at the North Carolina track.

Lorenzen have won three in a row — Lorenzen did that in 1964-65.

"I've been waiting for our success to slow down at Charlotte," Johnson said. "I thought it would be that way in the spring. We got off to a slow start but by the end of the night we made the right adjustments and ended up winning the race."

Johnson led 10 of the first 115 laps in the 400-lap Coca-Cola 600 on May 29. But with 44 laps remaining he was 20th and trapped on the tail end of the lead lap for a restart. He and Knaus had been struggling to find the handling after the sun went down on the newly ground Lowe's Motor Speedway surface, and it wasn't until they were almost out of time until they found it.

Johnson clawed his way back toward the

front end, coming off Turn 4 on the final lap, went to the outside of Bobby Labonte to challenge for the lead and the victory. As the cars crossed the finish line, Johnson was .027-seconds ahead — a distance of maybe 3 or 4 feet.

Johnson has won four times in the past three seasons at LMS. The only race he didn't win in that span was the fall race in 2003, in which he finished third behind Tony Stewart and Ryan Newman.

Johnson made his Nextel Cup debut at Charlotte in October 2001 and finished 39th. Since then, his worst Cup finish here is seventh.

Johnson didn't test his Cup car at Lowe's Motor Speedway last month, but he did test a Busch Series car he'll run in Friday night's race. He felt good about that test and about the controversial work that's been done on the surface of the track that had, in May's Coca-Cola 600, a Nextel Cup-record 22 cautions.

"It's still Charlotte," Johnson said, which would figure to be a good thing for him. "When the sun is out, the track is slick and it's tough to get a hold of. As night comes, the track gets faster and the grip level increases."

Johnson was glad to see that parts of the track's surface that hadn't been ground in May have been smoothed since, especially the low line in the exit of Turn 2.

"Before, we had the old surface in certain areas and the new surface in other areas," he said. "You had a huge change in grip level as you went through the corner and I think that caused a lot of problems."

"In the Busch test, it seemed as if the grip level was equal around the entire corner, which made things a little better. I don't expect it to be as tough as it was in the spring."

### THIS WEEK'S RACE

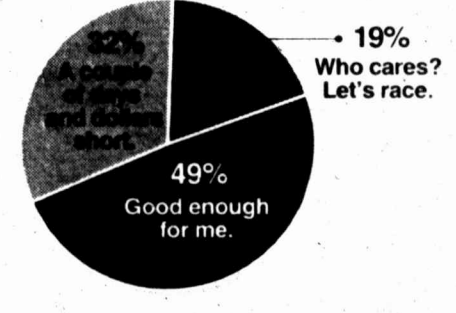
**AW-GM QUALITY 500**  
Where: Lowe's Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile paved banked quad-oval located in Concord, N.C.  
When: Saturday at 7:05 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 7:10 p.m. Thursday.  
TV: NBC  
Radio: Performance Racing Network  
Purse: \$4,960,384.  
Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.  
Worth mentioning: Jimmie Johnson has scored three straight victories at Lowe's Motor Speedway.  
Tony Stewart has been running at the finish in all 13 of his races at Charlotte, the longest current streak among active drivers.

### POLL POSITION

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**  
NASCAR CEO Brian France has suggested the Confederate battle flag is a symbol that is holding NASCAR back and one he hopes to distance the sport from. Do you think NASCAR should take action to prohibit the flag's display at the races?  
Cast your vote at: [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Jimmie Johnson has apologized for igniting the Lap 20 "Big One" at Talladega. What do you think of his actions?  
Number of votes: 9,361



### STOP 'N' GO

- WHO'S HOT**
- Tony Stewart has led the most laps in 10 of the 30 races this season, more than any other driver. He also has earned 125 lap leader bonus points, also more than any other driver.
  - Ryan Newman, Matt Kenseth and Stewart have each earned top-five finishes in three of the four races in the Chase for the Nextel Cup.
  - Brian Vickers has finished in the top 15 in four straight races.
  - Carl Edwards has earned three straight top 10s, the longest current streak among all drivers.
- WHO'S NOT**
- Kurt Busch ranked first in points after 30 races one year ago. This year he is 10th.
  - Dale Earnhardt Jr. has finished 20th or lower in five of his past six races.
  - Scott Riggs has finished 24th or lower in his past seven races.
- Jim Utter

### BY THE NUMBERS

**NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS**  
The top-40 drivers as of Oct. 9:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	5684	21. Jeff Burton	3106
2. Ryan Newman	5609	22. Ricky Rudd	2998
3. Greg Biffle	5596	23. Michael Waltrip	2969
4. Rusty Wallace	5594	24. Casey Mears	2863
5. Jimmie Johnson	5592	25. Bobby Labonte	2848
6. Carl Edwards	5589	26. Sterling Marlin	2743
7. Mark Martin	5571	27. Jeff Green	2736
8. Matt Kenseth	5568	28. Mike Bliss	2726
9. Jeremy Mayfield	5527	29. Kyle Petty	2663
10. Kurt Busch	5460	30. Ken Schrader	2662
11. Kevin Harvick	3417	31. Dave Blaney	2632
12. Jamie McMurray	3416	32. Scott Riggs	2587
13. Elliott Sadler	3415	33. Scott Wimmer	2527
14. Jeff Gordon	3336	34. Travis Kvapil	2483
15. Joe Nemechek	3325	35. Mike Wallace	2122
16. Dale Jarrett	3319	36. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1862
17. Brian Vickers	3317	37. Robby Gordon	1750
18. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3173	38. Jason Leffler	1538
19. Kyle Busch	3164	39. Kevin Lepage	1201
20. Kasey Kahne	3108	40. Terry Labonte	1001

### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Oct. 8:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	4206	11. David Stremme	3228
2. Clint Bowyer	4157	12. J.J. Yeley	3143
3. Reed Sorenson	3925	13. Ashton Lewis	3141
4. Carl Edwards	3820	14. Johnny Sauter	3121
5. Denny Hamlin	3623	15. Stacy Compton	2869
6. Kerry Wallace	3574	16. Jon Wood	2858
7. Paul Menard	3385	17. Justin Labonte	2736
8. David Green	3311	18. Randy LaJoie	2704
9. Greg Biffle	3300	19. Kevin Harvick	2653
10. Jason Keller	3256	20. Tony Raines	2315

### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Sept. 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Derrin Setzer	2877	6. Jimmy Spencer	2593
2. Ted Muggrave	2872	7. Bobby Hamilton	2577
3. Ron Hornaday	2877	8. David Starr	2507
4. Mike Skinner	2827	9. David Reutimann	2493
5. Todd Bodine	2593	10. Matt Crafton	2483

NEXT RACE: Oct. 22, Kroger 200, Martinsville, Va.

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

- 1. Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** He's got a little points cushion, but with six races to go it's certainly no comfy pillow. Last week: 1.
- 2. Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** If Stewart has a misstep on one of the 1.5-mile tracks left in the Chase, Biffle will pounce. Last week: 3.
- 3. Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Had nothing go right all weekend at Kansas. He's got to hope Charlotte's different. Last week: 2.
- 4. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** He's 150 points closer to first place than he was with six races remaining last season. Last week: 4.
- 5. Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** Dale Jarrett at Talladega, Mark Martin at Kansas — Is Wallace the next veteran to win a race? Last week: 5.
- 6. Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Said his team "made a winner out of a old man" at Kansas. No, he's always been one. Last week: 8.
- 7. Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** Missourian had so many "cousins" at Kansas he could barely walk through the garage. Last week: 7.
- 8. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Take away a couple of flat tires at Dover and he'd be a lot closer to the points lead. Last week: 6.
- 9. Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** This team just simply hasn't made much happen, good or bad, in the Chase so far. Last week: 9.
- 10. Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Faces nearly the same deficit Jimmie Johnson fell just short of making up last year. Last week: 10.

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

## As a hall of fame suitor, Kansas City has charm

From the press box at Kansas Speedway on Sunday, there were three things a visitor from Charlotte, N.C., absolutely could not miss.

First, painted on the infield grass at the 1.5-mile track were the words "Bring the Hall!" The dots over the "i" and under the exclamation point included the initials "KC."

Off in the near distance, on a bluff beyond the backstretch, looms the Chateau Avalon, a 62-room luxury hotel featuring rooms and suites themed with various decors ranging from Egyptian to tropical to the Old West. It's a recent addition to the Village West development that has exploded around this track, which continues with a shopping mall nearing completion and a \$300 million water-themed amusement park on the way.

Just to the right of the Chateau Avalon stands another bluff, overlooking a confluence of interstates

along with major regional and local highways that make this track one of the easiest in Nextel Cup to get into or out of even when the grandstands are full.

Trees cover the top of that bluff right now, but that could change quickly if the eager officials in the respective governments of Wyandotte County and the state of Kansas get the nod to start building a NASCAR hall of fame on that knoll.

Discussion about the NASCAR hall has quieted since the five cities vying to host it made their pitches in August to a committee that will advise on site selection.

Rest assured, however, that there's serious number crunching going on behind the scenes.

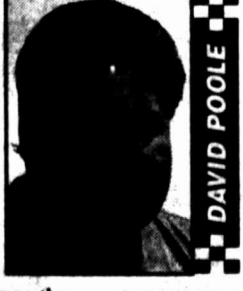
Attendance projections, financial promises and — most importantly — profit forecasts are the nuts and bolts

behind the decision on where this museum will go.

On Saturday, as he caught his breath after dropping bombs about caps on multitar teams and plans to push the "car of tomorrow" on a schedule that Cup team owners will strongly resist, NASCAR chairman Brian France said again that his sport's official hall of fame will go the place where it makes the most business sense.

Nothing has changed in the past two months to change my belief that Kansas is, at least, an absolutely viable candidate to be where NASCAR puts its museum, and, at best, the odds-on favorite to get that nod.

It'd be easy to write that Kansas makes no sense as the home for a



DAVID POOLE

place to commemorate the history of a sport born and bred in another part of the country. It would be foolhardy to dismiss this place just because the original moonshine-running good ol' boys didn't start racing here.

Kansas City is, for starters, an outstanding sports town — vastly superior, for instance, to Atlanta and, yes, significantly more so than Charlotte. It's also a lovely place, a city with hundreds of fountains and well-maintained public spaces, vibrant neighborhoods for shopping and nightlife, and a healthy sense of history and architecture.

It is, in short, an area that does an outstanding job of presenting itself to visitors.

Don't doubt that NASCAR could soon give it a chance to do that to even more visitors coming to see a hall of fame sitting on what's now just a tree-topped bluff overlooking the backstretch.

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