

BIG SPRING

# HERALD



**INSIDE**  
Area hoops teams are in action this weekend, beginning tonight  
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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 12

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

## Simer files to keep post

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioner Gary Simer filed with the local Democratic Party to run for re-election this week, setting up a November showdown with Republican candidate Roy D. Beauchamp.

According to Wayne Burns, Democratic Party chairman, Simer filed Tuesday afternoon, bringing the number of contested races in Howard County to three.

The race for county judge has drawn three candidates — Republican incumbent Ben Lockhart, Big Spring City Councilman Woody Jumper, a Democrat, and Ron L. "Smurf" Sawyers, who has filed his treasury report with the county clerk's office but has yet to file with a political party.

If Sawyers files for can-

### Who's filed?

**District Judge**  
R-Robert H. Moore III (i)  
D-None

**District Clerk**  
R-Colleen Barton (i)  
D-None

**County Judge**  
R-Ben Lockhart (i)  
D-Woody Jumper

**County Clerk**  
R-None  
D-None

**County Treasurer**  
R-Teresa Thomas (i)  
D-None

**County Commissioner Pct. 2**  
R-Jerry Kilgore (i), Kathy Lusk  
D-None

**County Commissioner Pct. 4**  
R-Roy D. Beauchamp  
D-Gary Simer (i)

**Peace Justice, Pct. 1 Pl. 2**  
R-Kathryn Wiseman (i)  
D-None

**Peace Justice, Pct. 2**  
R-Quail Dobbs (i)  
D-None

**Texas House, District 85**  
R-Jim Landtroop, Plainview  
D-None

didacy with the

See **FILINGS**, Page 3A

## SEARCHING FOR A SUSPECT



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
**A Department of Public Safety search helicopter from Midland circles the brushland north of Scenic Mountain Medical Center Wednesday afternoon as local law enforcement officials search for a suspect involved in a vehicle theft. According to police officials, the vehicle was stolen in the 400 block of Runnels after the owner left it running while he went into a business. The vehicle was returned undamaged to the owner shortly after the suspect abandoned it. No arrest was made.**

## Coahoma to clean house

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Coahoma residents are preparing for the biggest clean-up effort this city has ever seen.

Upward to 100 volunteers and work crews manning all sorts of heavy machinery are expected to fan out across Coahoma Saturday morning for the town's first-ever Trash-Off.

Aside from trash collection and large-item pickup, cleanup crews also have marked four dilapidated buildings for demolition Saturday morning, Coahoma Mayor Bill Read said. Houses on South First, Central and Pace streets and a shed on Hoover Road will be flattened as part of the cleanup effort Saturday, he said.

Personnel and heavy equipment

on loan from the city and private businesses will assist in the demolition efforts and cart debris to the bonfire site off of First Street for burning, Read said.

**"We had a big cleanup back in the 1960s ... but this will be the biggest effort ever."**

—Mayor Bill Read

But demolition will not be the only order of business Saturday. Work crews will fan out across town to pick up trash and collect large items for transport to dump sites, Read said that individuals wishing to have large items such as appliances or tree limbs carted off need to contact City Hall at 394-

4384. "We'd like people to put their large items out on the curb ... and somebody will pick it up," Read said.

The Trash-Off will combine the efforts of business, civic and school personnel.

Workers are expected to meet immediately south of the Volunteer Fire Department station on First Street to receive their marching orders for the day.

Read, a long-time Coahoma resident, said he was pleased with community response to the Trash-Off.

"We had a big cleanup back in the 1960s ... but this will be the biggest effort ever," he said.

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

## Stars are shining this holiday season at Western National

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Local officials with Western National Bank and Adult Protective Services say the stars are definitely shining this holiday season, as the duo's "Be a Star" project gets off to a promising start.

Part of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Adult Protective Services began its "Be a Star" project last week, collecting Christmas gifts for the area's elderly and disabled.

Kasey Richey, an employee with "Be a Star" sponsor Western National Bank, said the program's progress is encouraging.

"We've had quite a few people come in and get stars since the program began," said Richey. "We don't always see a lot of traffic when we participate in programs like this, but this year things have been going quite well."

### AT A GLANCE

**What:** "Be a Star" program.

**Where:** Western National Bank, 607 Scurry.

**For:** Collects Christmas gifts for the elderly and disabled served by Adult Protective Services.

Robin Ruiz, community initiatives specialist for APS, said participating in the program is quick and easy, and could be the difference between a happy holiday and another blue Christmas.

"All you have to do is go to Western National Bank and pick out a star," said Ruiz. "The stars will have the client's first name and requested gift. Each gift that is purchased for the elderly or disabled clients need to be returned to the bank, which is located at 607 S. Scurry."

See **STARS**, Page 3A

## Icy weather races across Texas

By ANABELLE GARAY

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Drivers navigated slippery roads and air travelers saw their plans fall in limbo as the first winter blast swept through much of Texas, bringing sleet and freezing rain.

Travelers and motorists were urged to use caution and monitor radio and

television for changing weather conditions Wednesday.

Freezing precipitation was expected to taper off in several Texas regions today. However, light accumulation was expected on the already wet roads.

"It won't get any worse, but we'll still have some residual ice," said David

Schumacher, a forecaster at the National Weather Service's Austin-San Antonio office. "It's going to stay pretty dangerous."

Air travelers and motorists seeking refuge from the slick roads filled up hotel rooms around Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport by Wednesday night.

DFW airport canceled

between 400 and 500 flights, or about half of its departures through Thursday morning. Bad weather at some East Coast airports compounded the problem as flights bound for Dallas were unable to depart, airport spokesman Ken Capps said.

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**TONIGHT** 15°-18°  
**TOMORROW** 44°-46°  
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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.

### BSISD BOARD TO MEET

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will hear a report on how local schools performed under state accountability guidelines in 2005 when they meet at 5:15 p.m. today in the high school board room.

The Academic Excellence Indicator System Report covers virtually all areas of district operations, from student test scores to graduation rates to financial and tax data.

Also tonight, trustees will consider signing a contract giving Crossroads Housing the first option to buy the old Runnels Junior High School property and view budget amendments.

### VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Most 21-year-olds concern themselves with finding a job. Harold Davis had to worry about finding shelter from machine gun fire.

Davis, a longtime trustee for the Howard County Junior College District, was honored as the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month during ceremonies Wednesday night.

See Page 5A

### 17 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

THIS CHRISTMAS PARTY HAS SOME AWKWARD SILENCES.



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## Obituaries

## Walter L. Osborne

Walter L. Osborne, 88, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005, in a local nursing home. Funeral services are 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Sept. 15, 1917, in Gloversville, N.Y., and married Opal K. Chapman Sept. 8, 1946, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Dec. 30, 1999. He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and worked for Cosden Oil and Chemical for 31 years, retiring in 1982. He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his son, Roy Lee Osborne of Corinth; two grandsons; two sisters, Wilda Brothers and Teenie Waite, both of Gloversville, N.Y.; and a number of nephews and nieces.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## Hannah Brumley

Hannah Brumley, 62, of Colorado City died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005, at the Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City. Graveside services are 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Doug Shelley, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born Feb. 1, 1943, in Marion, Ohio, to Helen and Frederick Haberman. She married Edward Brumley March 5, 1983 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death June 13, 1994. She had worked as a clerk for Smylers West Store in Colorado City since 1990. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by one daughter, Jennie Nix of McAlister, Okla.; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one brother, Frederick Haberman Jr. of California.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

## Robert D. Miller

Robert D. Miller, 39, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Alice Churchwell

Alice Churchwell, 71, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2005, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Bobby Joe Hill

Bobby Joe Hill, 78, of Martin County died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

## Take note

• **AN OLD FASHIONED COOKIE EXCHANGE** is set to start at 2 p.m. Sunday at Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1200 E. Fourth. Bring four dozen cookies to exchange for four dozen different cookies. For more information, call 263-2253.

• **DRIVE THRU NATIVITY** is set for 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

• **THE ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES**, sponsored by the Big Spring Symphony Association and Guild, is canceled for the 2005 holiday season. Organizers are making preparations for the 2006 event. For more information, contact the guild at 264-7223.

• **MARCY ELEMENTARY GIFT SHOP** is open from 2:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. today through Friday.

• **NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR** for the Big Spring Area chamber of Commerce until Dec. 15. Contact the Chamber at 263-7641 for an application.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **BENEFIT FOR GARY DANIELS** is set for Saturday beginning at noon at the Ice House, 1612 E. Third St. Daniels has been diagnosed with cancer and proceeds are to help with medical expenses. The benefit features barbecue plates for \$6, live music, a chance to win a 12-gauge pump shotgun, an auction and a 50/50 drawing. For more information, call Danya

## Police blotter

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

• **RONALD LOUIS JONES**, 50, of 704 Pine, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of interfering with an emergency phone call.

• **NICK HERNANDEZ**, 27, of 710 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of Class C assault - family violence.

• **RACHEL FAY NUNEZ**, 35, of 3208 W. Ninth Street, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants.

• **SANDY SHEIKH**, 23, of 900 S. Aylesford, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Runnels.

• **FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C - FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 1500 block of Avion.

- in the 500 block of Westover Road.

## Sneriff's report

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

• **STARLA MARIE MENDOZA**, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on capias warrants for bondsman off bond for ride not secured by a safety belt, violation of a promise to appear and failure to identify - giving false information.

• **DAVID PEREZ**, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on two counts of forgery of a financial instrument.

• **DEWAYNE CULPEPPER**, 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid, failure to yield the right-of-way at an intersection and violation of a promise to appear.

• **STEVE ALAN HANNABASS**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended - enhanced.

• **DOMINGO ROBLEDI**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

• **KENNETH WAYNE MARTIN**, 49, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of no safety belt and violation of license restriction - breath analysis.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of FM 700. Service was refused.

James at 816-6141 or Tom Cox at 393-5888.

• **NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON CUTTING** at 2 p.m. Dec. 13 at 108 N.E. Eighth St. to celebrate the new building project.

• **LASAGNA DINNER AT KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SPONSORED BY THE PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION** is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 13. Cost is \$3 per plate, followed at 7 p.m. by the Kentwood third graders performing "A Sombrero for Santa." At 7:30 p.m. the PTO will be sponsoring "The Gingerbread Shop." Christmas gifts in the economical price range of 15 cents to \$7 will be available for students and parents to purchase.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH 10TH ANNUAL TOY GIVE-AWAY** begins at 10 a.m. Dec. 16 in the church sanctuary, 1209 Wright St. Gifts distributed on a first-come, first served basis. Open to parents and grandparents raising young children, and parents are urged to find childcare during the selection of the gifts. For more information, call the church at 267-5321.

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

## Weather

Tonight—Mostly clear. Lows around 15. Light and variable winds.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Not as cold. Lows in the upper 20s. South winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-12-18-26-27. Bonus Ball: 4. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$30 million.

•••  
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 11-28-30-33-37

•••  
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-3-0

## Bulletin board

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. 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.

• Drive Thru Nativity from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

• 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.

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

## SATURDAY

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

• Drive Thru Nativity from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

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

## SUNDAY

• Drive Thru Nativity from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

## MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## TUESDAY

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

## Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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FILINGS

Continued from Page 1A

Democratic Party as he's expected to, he will face off against Jumper in March. The race for County Commissioner Precinct 2 has drawn two Republican candidates, incumbent Jerry Kilgore and challenger Kathy Lusk. The two will meet in the March primaries to

decide who will represent the party in November. As of yet, no Democratic challenger has stepped forward in the race. Several incumbent officials have filed for re-election and are currently unopposed, including District Clerk Colleen Barton; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 2 Kathryn Wiseman; County Treasurer Teresa Thomas; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Quail Dobbs; and District Judge Robert H. Moore III — all

Republicans. The District 85 seat on the Texas House of Representatives will also be on the ballot in 2006, with incumbent Pete Laney (D-Hale Center) having announced earlier this month he will not seek re-election. Jim Landtroop (R-Plainview) announced his candidacy for the office Wednesday. The District 85 seat covers 16 counties in West Texas, including Reagan, Irion,

Sterling, Glasscock, Howard, Borden, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Crosby, Kent, Stonewall, Fisher, Jones, Hale and Floyd counties. The filing deadline is 6 p.m. Jan. 2. For more information, contact Howard County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom at 264-2273. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

STARS

Continued from Page 1A

"The elderly and disabled people APS serves are our neighbors and part of our communities. Each one is special and unique. This is everyone's chance to contribute to a project that makes

everyone feel like a star." Ruiz said most of the gifts being requested are under \$10 and are things most people would take for granted. "We've had several asking for flashlights," said Ruiz. "There's also a very big demand for blankets, clothes and slippers. They don't cost a lot of money, but it's money these peo-

ple living on a fixed income simply don't have." Ruiz said disabled and elderly people often fall through the cracks of the state and federal systems despite the fact they are two of the fastest growing segments of our society. "A lot of people don't realize it, but the elderly and disabled population is

the fastest growing in the state," said Ruiz. "According to the last census, people 65 and older make up 12.4 percent of the population. People between the ages of 21 and 64 with disabilities make up 19.6 percent of the population, and both of these demographics are the fastest growing in the nation.

"Those same numbers are always higher for West Texas. In Howard County, 14.6 percent of the population is 65 or older, and 23.3 percent are between 21 and 64 years old with disabilities. So Big Spring and the surrounding areas have a very real stake in a program like this." For more information

on the program, contact Ruiz at 432-684-3201. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

WEATHER

Continued from Page 1A

Departing planes were being de-iced while the airport's seven runways were open and being treated for ice and snow. The airport planned to keep its concession stands open overnight to provide food and drinks for stranded travelers, Capps said. Texas Department of Transportation maintenance personnel spent Wednesday spreading sand and deicing substances on roadways. TxDOT planned to continue monitoring weather and roadway conditions

until the threat of freezing precipitation cleared. Rush-hour traffic moved slowly in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a handful of road closures and hundreds of accidents across the region. The Fort Worth Police Department responded to 121 minor accidents and 59 major accidents by Wednesday afternoon. There were no fatalities. The Central Texas cities of Austin, Georgetown and San Marcos seemed among the worst hit by the winter blast. Precipitation accumulated on roadways in Bastrop, San Marcos and LaGrange proved to be treacherous, with Hays

County reporting 15 rollovers by Thursday night, Schumacher said. While conditions were mostly dry in Western Texas, the area turned bitterly cold. Wind chill readings were forecast to continue ranging from the single digits and low double digits in the South Plains and in the Panhandle today. In the Texas Panhandle, Kevin Crooks had catch

his breath after walking out into the cold snap to tend to his cattle, which are scattered over 10,000 acres northeast of Tulia. He took breaks throughout the morning, sitting in his truck to warm up. Crooks spent the day trying to put out additional hay and feed to make sure his cattle had enough energy to withstand the frigid temperatures. "A lot of the cattle were

kind of hunkered down behind the wind break," Crooks said. "Cause they're cold, too." Motorists can call TxDOT's toll-free highway condition line at 800-452-9292 or go online to http://www.dot.state.tx.us for roadway information. For non-emergency roadside assistance, motorists can call the Texas Department of Public Safety at 800-525-5555.

Missing East Texas couple arrested in Mexico

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — An East Texas couple sought in the investigation of the disappearance of the woman's 22-month-old son have been taken into custody in Mexico and returned to the United States. Nacogdoches County Sheriff Thomas Kerss said Amber McEntire and Darrell Yates III were found in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Warrants had been issued for the two in a child abuse investigation. McEntire's son, Harold Cheyenne Harris, has been missing since Oct. 20. The remains of a child were found Nov. 5 in a wooded area near a house rented by McEntire. Final autopsy results are pending, but Kerss said the remains are believed to be those of the boy. McEntire and Yates were turned over to Cameron County authorities in Brownsville Wednesday.

Car salesman missing after test drive

TEXARKANA (AP) — Police are searching for a Texarkana car salesman who did not return from a test drive with a customer. Tommy Ables, 52, was last seen Tuesday afternoon at the Car Store used-car dealership. He and the customer left in a 2001 BMW 740iL. "Something has gone wrong and we're worried about his safety," Texarkana police Sgt. Shawn Fitzgerald told the Texarkana Gazette for its Wednesday editions. The customer who left with Ables gave his name to the dealership as Demetrius Smith, but Fitzgerald said he believes the name is fictitious. The customer was driving a vehicle when he arrived at the dealership. Dealership employees said that car apparently left shortly after Ables. A co-worker reported Ables missing when he did not return from the test drive. Perry Steitler, owner of the dealership, said the business is offering \$10,000 for Ables' return or information that leads to a conviction of suspects. Texarkana police ask anyone with information to contact the department.

Schiavo husband launches PAC

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Michael Schiavo, whose wife was at the center of a bitter right-to-die case, is hoping to retaliate against former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and other politicians who tried to keep his brain-damaged wife alive. Schiavo announced Wednesday he is forming a political action committee to support or oppose candidates depending on where they stood on the divisive case that ended when Terri Schiavo died of dehydration March 31, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed. "I have taken my sadness, anger and worry and channeled them into a personal resolution: I will do everything in my power to keep another unsuspecting American family from re-living our private national nightmare," Michael Schiavo said in a news release. Terri Schiavo suffered a brain injury in 1990 that left her in what some doctors called a "persistent vegetative state." Her parents sought to keep her feeding tube in place while her husband pushed to have it removed, citing her wishes. Congress, Gov. Jeb Bush and his brother, President Bush, all tried to have the feeding tube reinserted. Schiavo died on March 31. So far DeLay, R-Texas, is the only politician listed as a target on the TerriPAC Web site.

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Hannah Brumley, 62 died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Trinity Memorial Park. Alice Churchwell, 71, Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Robert D. Miller, 39, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Drive-Through Nativity is real weekend must

Another of Big Spring's traditions of the Christmas season will be unveiled Friday night when the Community of Hope First Church of the Nazarene Drive-Through Nativity opens for a 19th consecutive year.

The nativity will hold nightly performances from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday on the church's grounds at 1400 Lancaster. Admission is free, but any donations visitors would like to make are greatly appreciated by the church and its congregation.

More than 3,000 people are expected to tour the nativity during its weekend run.

Featuring live characters and animals, the nativity portrays 17 scenes from the life of Jesus, from his birth through his death and resurrection.

Visitors will be handed a compact disc or audio tape which will provide the narration to each scene. Tapes are also available in Spanish.

About 150 people have been involved in this year's project, and the church's pastor, the Rev. Byron Brown, says the nativity is staffed by two shifts.

The story behind the nativity, as well as how the performers present that story, is what brings so many people to the church grounds each Christmas season, Brown explained.

"The fact that it has live characters ... seems to bring the story a sense of reality," he said. "And then there's the sheer size of it. It's one of the largest, if not the largest, nativity in Texas. Each night it literally takes hundreds of people to pull this off."

Anyone needing additional information can contact the church by calling 267-7015.

As we have noted before, Big Spring celebrates the Christmas season in a manner that can be matched by few communities anywhere, and the Drive-Through Nativity is an integral part of the Yuletide's festivities.

The season got under way last weekend with the Community Christmas Parade and the First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree. The Drive-Through Nativity takes center stage this weekend prior to the start of next week's debut of the Festival of Lights.

So, we encourage everyone to make the Drive-Through Nativity a part of their weekend plan. You won't be sorry. We're sure of that.

## How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We see more possibilities, Lord, when we walk with You.  
Amen

## Thin ties to likely GOP candidates

Simon says: Are neckties really getting skinny again? Can I get my old ones out of the basement?

If we can ban people from bringing nail clippers aboard airplanes, we can ban people from bringing cell phones into movie theaters.

When is the last time you had a really good cassoulet?

**Paperback Pick of the Month:** "The Battle of Salamis" by Barry Strauss. (It's about a sea battle between the Greeks and the Persians in 450 B.C., not warring luncheon meats.)

Arnold Schwarzenegger's reversal of popularity is not so surprising. He got to the California governor's chair only via a screwball election in 2003 that pitted him against one of the most unpopular men in the state (Gray Davis) and one of its most inept campaigners (Cruz Bustamante.)

Had Sen. Dianne Feinstein chosen to run for governor that year, not only would Schwarzenegger almost certainly have lost, but he probably would never have chosen to run.

Thing I Never Knew (and Probably Could Have Done Without Learning): An acronym is an acronym only when you can pronounce it as a word, such as OPEC, scuba, NATO. If it doesn't form a word, and is read as let-



ROGER SIMON

ters, it is not an acronym, but a pronounced abbreviation: YMCA, ABC, NFL.

Purchasing a new laptop makes buying a pig in a poke look easy.

Unhappy with the ruinous redesign of TV Guide? Then try Zap2it.com. You can configure it for just the channels you watch and print it out each day.

You think the Democrats are in confusion? Try to name the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. Go ahead and try.

On the other hand, there was this exchange between Chris Wallace and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on "Fox News Sunday" a while back:

Wallace: "By the way, and we only have a couple of seconds left, do you like the ring of that, sir, President McCain?"

McCain: "Except for the fact that I make my kids hum 'Hail to the Chief' every morning, I don't think about it."

Which reminds us of the old joke Ted Kennedy likes to tell: "I don't think about the presidency anymore. Of course, I don't think about it any less."

Ounce for ounce, gasoline is still cheaper than the soda you get from vending machines.

Just in case you were wondering: The lowest Gallup approval rating for a president was Harry Truman's 23 percent, recorded in 1952 during the Korean War.

How come old Doodlesbury cartoons are so much funnier than new Doodlesbury cartoons?

Just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, a pirate ship attacked the cruise liner Seabourne Spirit off the coast of Somalia on Saturday. No word yet as to whether the pirates had parrots on their shoulders and said, "Argghhh."

Is there anything as beautiful as a Japanese maple at this time of year?

Which is the richest country in the world? Wrong, it's the British Virgin Islands, followed by Luxembourg, Norway and the United States. How about the most taxed? Wrong, again. It's Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Sweden and France. The United States comes in at No. 21. So quit yer gripin'. (Info provided by the nifty website nationmaster.com.)

Green tea, white tea, black tea, oolong, jasmine, pu-erh, yellow, organic ... just bring me Lipton.

There is more to big-store discount shopping than just price. At my local Costco, I once bought a fax machine and 5 pounds of veal. Talk about one-stop shopping. And they have terrific birthday cakes. (True, the fax machine was made in Asia, but the veal and birthday cakes are all-American.)

Why can't anybody make a quiet vacuum cleaner?

Oh, yes, I congratulate "The West Wing" on its live (though scripted) debate episode. It was almost as dull as a real presidential debate.

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## Tookie's tales a campaign of lies

Lies so pervade the campaign waged to "save" convicted killer Stanley Tookie Williams that Williams and company don't even bother to cover their tracks when they say things they know aren't true.

So in an interview Monday with MSNBC's fatuous Rita Cosby, as Williams' Dec. 13 execution date looms and supporters are pressing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to grant him clemency, the death row inmate claimed that he was convicted by an "all-white jury." That's not true, and Williams knows it.

In fact, Williams' own clemency lawyers have stipulated that the jury that convicted him in the 1979 murders of Albert Owens, Yen-I Yang, Tsai-Shai Yang and Yee Chen Lin during two armed robberies was not all-white. In the clemency petition, Williams' latest set of lawyers argued that prosecutor Robert Martin had kicked all African Americans off the jury. When prosecutors produced a death certificate that showed that juror William McLurkin was black, the lawyers noted in a reply that it doesn't matter if McLurkin was black or part-black, because he "looked Filipino."

Hello. That's not white. Williams' own Web site (www.tookie.com) features a fact sheet that, while asserting that no African Americans were on the jury, stipulates a Filipino and Latino served on the jury.

Why did Williams say something that he knew wasn't true? I just figure he knew he could get away with it. In the MSNBC transcript of the Cosby interview, Williams, a co-founder of the Crips gang in South Central Los Angeles when a teenager, said, "I never ordered,

nor have I initiated, any killings on my part, period."

The not-guilty-of-murder quote flies in the face of the clemency petition's "atonement" claim. To wit: Williams "has accepted responsibility, repented and done whatever he could, from where he is, to atone."

No: Williams has done whatever he could to seem to apologize, while dodging any consequences of admitting his crimes. Let me add a few things you may not know: The not-all-white jury convicted Williams after his alibi defense crumbled. Also, jurors had learned of Williams' plans for an armed escape from jail. The jury foreman testified that when the guilty verdict was announced, Williams mouthed this threat to the panel: "I'm going to get each and every one of you mother-." Over the years as he appealed his conviction, his appellate lawyers claimed that Williams did not receive adequate counsel because his trial lawyer did not use a diminished capacity defense, as Williams was brain-damaged — due to drug abuse, mental illness and head injuries.

An appellate judge weighed in, "A mental-state defense would have contradicted (the alibi) defense by conceding petitioner's presence at the scenes of the murders." Despite numerous appeals, various courts — including the liberal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals — continued to uphold his conviction.

His lawyers now laud Williams because he "refuses to make a false confession, knowing it could benefit him penally, (which) shows the strength of his character." What then of his character on the brain-damage dodge — an odd defense for a man whom supporters hail as a jailhouse philosopher and co-author of children's books?

Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo told me he sees Williams' legacy as one of "death

and violence" — with more than 300 gang-related homicides in Los Angeles alone each year. "No matter how he tries to distance himself from violent gangs, he helped create them," Delgadillo noted.

Crediting Williams for denouncing gangs is sort of like praising tobacco companies for their anti-smoking campaigns. Should Schwarzenegger grant clemency? Delgadillo said, "I think the justice system has done its job, and a jury of his peers found him guilty." (In plain talk: no clemency.)

Williams' lawyers also say the clemency petition only asks for life without parole. That is technically true — and entirely misleading, considering Williams' many claims to MSNBC's Cosby that he is "innocent," and that "being able to live, it would allow me to prove my innocence." That can only mean one thing: That after the execution is stayed, Williams will spend years filing more appeals. He won't be satisfied with a life behind bars. He wants out.

Back in 2000, when Swiss legislator Mario Fehr nominated Williams for the Nobel Peace Prize, Fehr told me over the phone that Williams "might not even have killed those four people. I don't know what he did 20 years ago." Fehr, you see, wanted to send the message to young people, "that no matter what mistakes you have made in your life, you can change for the better."

The Tookie-phil is so filled with their own uplifting message that they are participating in a campaign to free a convicted killer. They can't really care that Williams gunned down four innocent people — not when they are willing to embrace his lies, and abet a cold-blooded killer's bid to go free.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@schronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

## Veteran of the Month looks back on his role in securing Iwo Jima

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Most 21-year-olds concern themselves with finding a job. Harold Davis had to worry about finding shelter from machine gun fire.

Davis, a longtime trustee for the Howard County Junior College District, was honored as the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month during ceremonies Wednesday night.

Sixty years ago, Davis was a 21-year-old freshly minted Marine Corps lieutenant whose first combat action was to help secure a tiny, three-by-five-mile island in the Pacific that was called Iwo Jima.

"We all thought, 'Why in the world do we need to take that little island?'" Davis recalled.

The reason was simple. American B-29 bombers were attacking the Japanese mainland, but the distance the bombers traveled was too great for fighter escort. Therefore, U.S. forces needed to secure an air base closer to Japan, and Iwo Jima fit the bill.

Davis said officials estimated that it would take three days to seize control of the island, and for weeks leading up to the landing, air and sea forces bombarded the island to soften up

Japanese resistance.

"What we didn't know is that four years before then, the Japanese had started digging tunnels all over the island," he said. "All that bombardment didn't bother them a bit."

**"A lot of people think we shouldn't have dropped those bombs, but I'm not one of them," Davis said. "I feel sorry for the people who died ... but we had to end that war."**

So, instead of a three-day skirmish against spirited opposition, Iwo Jima became a three-month struggle against more than 20,000 die-hard troops in what would become one of the bloodiest battles in Marine history.

Enemy troops would constantly pop up from their hiding places, fire off a few rounds, then disappear again into the maze of tunnels they had dug, Davis said.

"We couldn't see them, but they could see us," he said.

"And they were firing on us all the time with everything they had."

Loose volcanic ash that covered the island made digging protective foxholes an impossibility. Rocky, uneven terrain made movement an iffy proposition at best. And near-constant rain made conditions even more miserable.

Looking back on the battle, Davis expressed amazement that he survived.

"I got through that when maybe I shouldn't have," he said.

Many of his colleagues didn't. More than 28,000 Marines and Navy personnel were killed or wounded in the battle for Iwo Jima.

"That's a lot for a little island five miles long and three miles wide," he said.

After Iwo Jima was secured, Davis and the rest of the Marine 4th Division was sent to Hawaii to begin preparations for the assault on the Japanese mainland — an attack made unnecessary by the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that forced Japan's surrender.

"A lot of people think we shouldn't have dropped those bombs, but I'm not one of them," Davis said. "I feel sorry for the people who died ... but we had to end that war."



Harold Davis, with wife Janelle, recounts his experiences at the battle of Iwo Jima during a ceremony honoring him as the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month Thursday night.

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

## Air marshals kill passenger at airport

MIAMI (AP) — Shortly after boarding an Orlando-bound plane, passengers say, they saw a man bolt from his seat and run down the aisle, with his screaming wife and man in a Hawaiian shirt behind.

"My husband! My husband!" one passenger said she heard the wife cry.

The chase ended later Wednesday in a Miami International Airport jetway, when authorities say Rigoberto Alpizar appeared to reach for his bag. He was shot to death by the man in the Hawaiian shirt and a second pursuer, both undercover air marshals.

Before he ran off the plane he "uttered threatening words that included a sentence to the effect that he had a bomb," said James E. Bauer, agent in charge of the Federal Air Marshal Service field office in Miami.

No bomb was found, and federal officials later concluded there was no link to terrorism. Witnesses said his wife, Anne, frantically tried to explain he was bipolar, a mental illness also known as manic-depression, and was off his medication.

"She said it was her fault that he was bipolar," said Mike Deshears, a Flight 924 passenger who works for a vacation club in Orlando. "He was sick and she had convinced him to get on the plane."

It was the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks that an air marshal discharged a firearm at a passenger or suspect, Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Doyle said.

Dave Adams, a spokesman for the air marshals, confirmed Thursday there were two marshals on the flight and said both fired at Alpizar.



KRT photo/Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel

Copy of a photo of Rigoberto Alpizar and his wife, Anne Buechner. Alpizar was killed by a federal air marshal in Miami, Fla., Wednesday.

"They felt their life was threatened," he told ABC's "Good Morning America." "This was a textbook scenario and they acted instinctively based on the training."

The Bush administration hired thousands of additional air marshals after Sept. 11, when the nation had only 33. The exact number now is classified. Marshals fly undercover, and which planes they're on is a closely guarded secret.

Officials declined to say how many times Alpizar was shot, but passengers reported hearing between four to six shots.

Authorities did not confirm he suffered from a mental illness.

"The man sitting next to me got on the floor," said passenger Olga Echeverrie, of Guatemala. "I threw myself on the floor to pray for God's mercy on us."

Alpizar, who worked in the paint department of a home supply store, was returning from a missionary trip in Ecuador, according to a neighbor who was watching his ranch-style house in the Orlando suburb of Maitland.

"We're all still in shock," said his sister-in-law, Kelley Buechner, in a telephone interview from her home in Milwaukee. "We're just speechless."

Investigators closed the concourse at the airport for half an hour and spread passengers' bags on the tarmac. Dogs sniffed them for explosives, and bomb squad members blew up at least two bags. No bombs were found.

The remaining passengers were kept on the plane for an hour, then police told them to leave with their hands behind their backs, said Lucy Argote, 15, of Codazi, Colombia. They had to leave their possessions behind.

Argote said Alpizar got up from his seat and ran toward the plane's door, with his wife yelling in Spanish.

"Officers told him to stop and he said no," the teen said. "He was running like a crazy man."

Another passenger, Mary Gardner, said she also heard his wife call after him as he ran down the aisle.

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## V-10 engine is the star of the 2006 Viper SRT10 Coupe

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

For Dodge Viper fans, the 2003 introduction of an all-new Viper model was a good news, bad news situation.

The good news was that the Viper was more sophisticated and substantially improved over the model it replaced.

The bad news was that it came only as a convertible — the coupe model was discontinued.

There's nothing wrong at all with the Viper roadster, but some fans prefer a coupe for its year-round capability, the structural integrity that a hard top adds, and — arguably the most important aspect — the Viper just looks great as a coupe.

Plus, says Dan Knott, Dodge's director of street and racing technology, "Many Viper owners go racing, and a coupe is required under some racing-series rules."

Dodge never denied that a coupe model of the new Viper was coming, but it has taken until now for it to arrive.

The 2006 Viper SRT10 Coupe is just now appearing at dealerships.

Under the skin, it's pretty much the regular Viper: a massive 8.3-liter, 510-horsepower V-10 engine, with a six-speed manual transmission.

Weight is 3,450 pounds, just a little more than the convertible.

Retained from the last Viper Coupe model is the "double bubble" roof — a roof that is raised slightly over each of the two seats to make room for a helmet-wearing driver and passenger.

This means that without helmets, there's plenty of headroom.

Inside, the Viper Coupe is pretty much the same as the convertible with logical but no-frills instruments and controls but a pair of very supportive sports bucket seats.

Outside, the Viper Coupe shares the hood, front fenders and doors with the convertible, but the entire rear is different.

The engine cranks at the press of a big red button — a Viper tradition — and the burble of the V-10 is slightly more muffled in the hardtop than in the convertible.

Otherwise, not much difference: The Viper convertible chassis is already so rigid that there's little body flex or cowl shake on all but the roughest rail-road-track crossings.

Likely the added structural integrity of the Viper Coupe won't be noticed until the odometer has racked up quite a few miles — convertibles tend to loosen up over time, and coupes don't so much.

Once under way, this Viper — and any Viper built in the last 15 years — is a rocket ship.

The enormous tires, P275/35ZR-18s in front, P345/30ZR-19s out back, are superb, but unlikely to win any long-distance tread-retention accolades.

The huge Brembo brakes are excellent, and just refuse to fade.

This 8.3-liter V-10 engine, though, is the star.

In the current edition of Motor Trend, the editors put the new Viper Coupe on a dynamometer to see if the engine was really pumping out the advertised 510 horsepower.

It wasn't.

The output was closer to 530 horsepower.

Of course, the Viper Coupe won't win any awards from the Sierra Club, as the EPA-rated fuel mileage is 12 mpg city, 20 mpg highway, premium fuel only.



The 2006 Dodge Viper SR10 Coupe, with a base price \$83,995, gives fans a choice over the 2003 convertible.

Courtesy photos

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### Coahoma sets second annual Polar Express

Coahoma Elementary's second annual Polar Express Drive Thru is set for 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Dec. 15.

The drive thru consists of 10 lighted, animated stops with students acting out scenes from the book. The line starts forming at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma High School parking lot.

The first attraction will be the high school band playing Christmas music. Hot chocolate and cookies will be for sale. There will also be a chance for children to have their picture taken with Santa Claus.

All proceeds will go to the playground. For more information, call Coahoma Elementary School at 394-4323.

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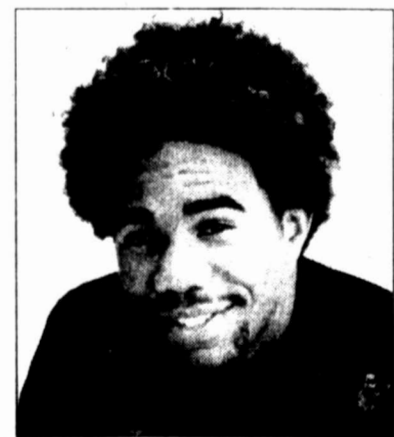
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# Sports

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

Page 1B  
Thursday, December 8, 2005

## BRIEF

**Howard College** basketball team moved up to No. 2 in the nation this week after defeating Ferris State College last week. Howard is 11-0 on the season and has taken first place in both tournaments its played in. The Hawks host a two-day classic at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum starting Friday and then won't play again until Jan. 2 when they travel to Florida for a tournament. Chipola College remained No. 1 this week.

### Big Spring sets volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic for girls aged third through eighth grade has been set up for Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The clinic will take place at the B.S. Junior High and it will be instructed by J.E. Thomas, who is the Midland College assistant coach. The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for third through fifth graders and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for sixth through eighth graders. For more information, contact Della Partee at 267-4038.

### Lady Steer Booster meeting announced

The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday, Dec. 12, in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m. All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Carol Policky at 267-3800.

### Young among three finalists for Heisman

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Heisman Trophy competition is a three-man race — just as it's been all season. Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart of Southern California will be back in New York on Saturday, along with Texas quarterback Vince Young, when the Heisman Trophy is awarded to the nation's best college football player. The Downtown Athletic Club invited only those three players to the presentation ceremony.

### LB Hawk wins Lombardi award

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk won the Rotary Lombardi Award as the nation's top college lineman or linebacker, becoming the fifth Buckeyes player to receive the honor. The other three finalists were Louisville defensive end Elvis Dumervil, Penn State linebacker Ryan Reynolds and Virginia Tech defensive tackle

## Rangers trade all-star Soriano for Wilkerson

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano was traded by the Texas Rangers to the Washington Nationals on Wednesday night for Brad Wilkerson, Termel Sledge and a minor league pitcher.

The deal was pending physicals, according to a baseball official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the swap had not been finalized.

With a rare combination of power and speed, Soriano has been one of the most productive infielders in the majors the past four years. He hit .268 with 36 homers, 104 RBIs and 30 stolen bases last season, when he earned \$7.5 million.

Eligible for arbitration, he almost certainly will get a substantial raise next year, and he can become a free agent after the 2006 season. He is a .283 career hitter with 162 home runs.

Soriano gives the Nationals the dynamic offensive player they desperately need. Washington finished last in the majors in batting average (.252), slugging percentage (.386), runs (3.94 per game) and homers (117), along with an NL-low 45 stolen bases.

What was unclear is where Soriano will play in Washington. It appears the Nationals would want him to move to the outfield after losing two outfielders in the

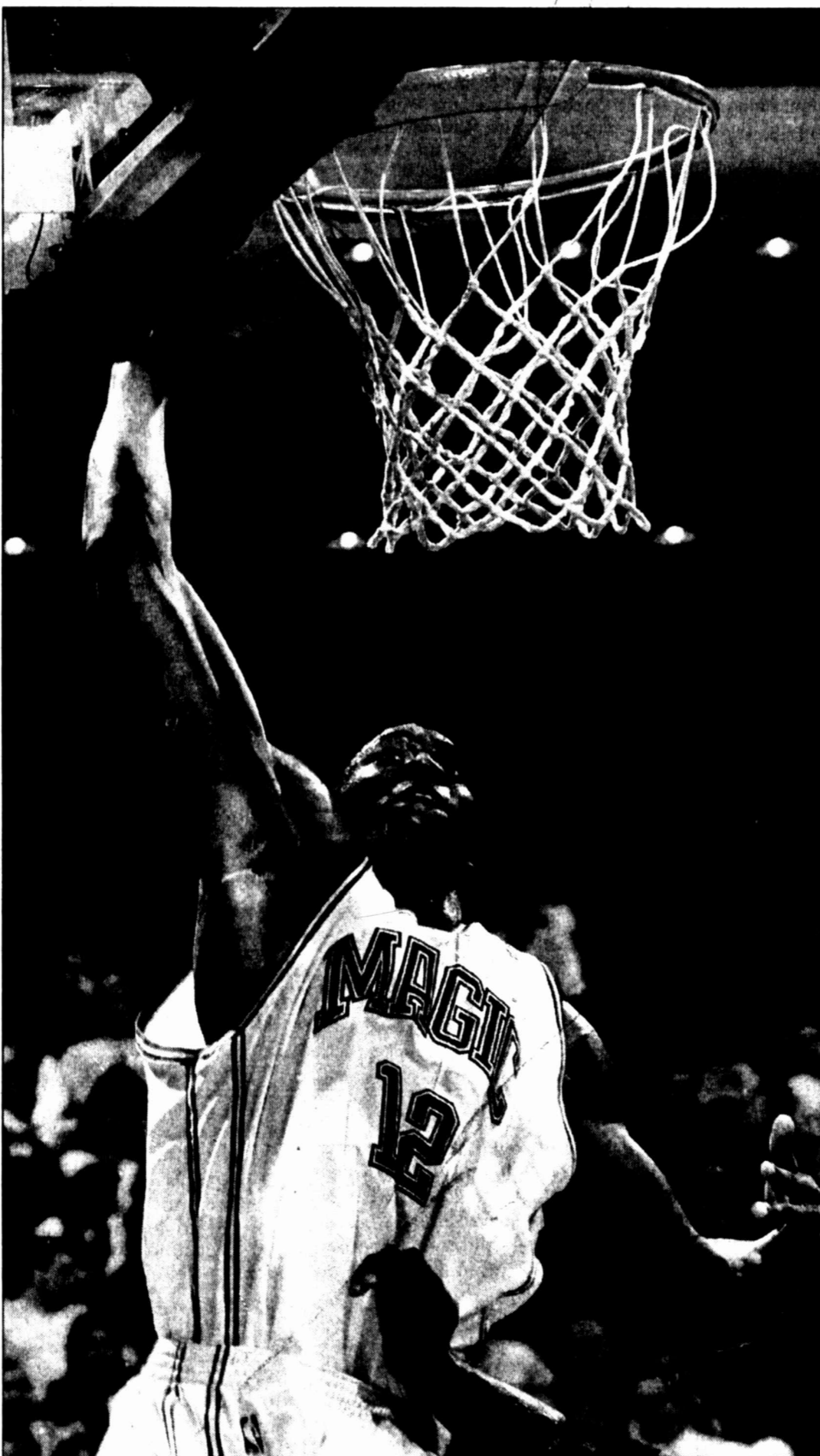
deal. Plus, they already have a past All-Star at second base in Jose Vidro, though he was hampered by leg problems last season.

Soriano has been reluctant in the past to switch positions. When he was acquired by Texas in the February 2004 trade that sent AL MVP Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees, Soriano remained at second base and Michael Young moved to shortstop, where he became an All-

Star. Wilkerson was a sand-wich pick in the 1998 draft, picked 33rd overall by Montreal.

Forced to bat leadoff because the Nationals decided no one else could do it, Wilkerson struggled last season with a variety of injuries and wound up batting .248 with 11 homers, 57 RBIs — and 147 strikeouts. That came after he had career highs with 32 homers and 39

See **SORIANO**, Page 2B



The Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard puts in a one-handed dunk against the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls defeated the Magic; 102-93, at the TD Waterhouse Centre in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday.

## Duncan leads S.A. to win over Miami

By **ABE LEVY**  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Tim Duncan scored 28 points and Manu Ginobili added 27, and the San Antonio Spurs dominated in the paint to beat the Miami Heat 98-84 Wednesday night.

Dwyane Wade scored 31 points but got little help from the rest of the Heat, who shot 36 percent from the field and had no answer for Duncan. Shaquille O'Neal, who sprained his ankle Nov. 3 in the Heat's home opener against Indiana, remained on the team's inactive list.

The Spurs scored 54 points in the paint compared to 22 for the Heat. Tony Parker had a season-high 11 assists and scored 14 points as the Spurs shot 47 percent.

San Antonio led by three points after the first quarter, but Gary Payton hit two quick jumpers to begin the second and Antoine Walker's layup gave the Heat their first lead of game with 9:19 to go. The Heat tied the score twice before the Spurs went on a 20-5 run, including nine points by Ginobili in the final 2:11 of the half.

The Spurs went to the locker room with a 47-30 lead.

James Posey began the third with two 3-pointers for the Heat. But Michael Doleac's ejection with 5:25 in the quarter for a flagrant foul on Parker halted Miami's momentum. Parker hit both free throws to give San Antonio a 20-point lead, its largest of the game.

The Heat cut it to 12 at the end of the quarter, and Wade hit two free

### • NBA Roundup

throws to cut the lead to eight with 3:29 left. But the Heat couldn't get any closer than seven.

Ginobili hit key free throws down the stretch and drove the lane to match scores by the Heat, whose league-leading shot blocker, Alonzo Mourning, had no blocks.

### Bulls 102, Magic 93

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Jannero Pargo scored a season-high 23 points and Luol Deng had 22 to help Chicago beat Orlando to snap a two-game losing streak.

Filling in for injured teammate Kirk Hinrich, who sustained a concussion when he took an elbow to the face from Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki Monday night, Pargo was 9-of-13, including 5-of-8 on 3-point attempts.

Dwight Howard had 17 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, who have lost five straight.

Steve Francis returned after missing three games because of a bruised chest and scored 16 points, but also had six of Orlando's 23 turnovers before fouling out with 1:36 left.

### L.A. Lakers 102, Raptors 91

**TORONTO (AP)** — Lamar Odom scored 19 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 102-91 Wednesday night despite Kobe Bryant's lowest-scoring game of the season.

Bryant sat out the fourth quarter and finished with 11 points for the Lakers, who put the

See **NBA**, Page 2B

## Wrightsil earns all-American honors

Special to the Herald

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Martin Methodist College's Fabianna Lima and Lakenya Wrightsil were among the names of Honorable Mention selections for the 2005 American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) NAIA women's volleyball All-America teams, announced Tuesday.

Lima led the RedHawks in kills during the regular season and TranSouth Athletic Conference Tournament with 591 and an average of 5.37 per

game. Wrightsil, who graduated from Big Spring High School, followed closely with 551 kills and an average of 4.96 a game.

The pair was also one-two in defense as Lima collected 242 digs and Wrightsil had 225.

Both helped lead MMC to their first-ever TSAC regular season and tournament championships.

They concluded the season with their best finish in history as the NAIA Region XI runner-up and a record of 24-9.

Lima and Wrightsil

were also first-team selections on the TranSouth Athletic Conference and Region XI teams, with Lima being named the 2005 TSAC Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Two other TranSouth players made the lists, as Freed-Hardeman's Karina Souza was selected as an Honorable Mention and Rennata Pedreira was named to the Third-Team. The Tachikara/NAIA Player of the Year honor went to Verania Willis of California Baptist University.

## Big Spring JH girls basketball teams take three of four from arch rival

By **TROY HYDE**  
Sports Editor

Three out of the four Big Spring junior high girls basketball teams defeated Andrews

Monday. The eighth-grade black team was the only team to lose as they fell to the Lady Mustangs, 30-16.

Linzee Yarbar led all

scorers with four points, while Lauren Porras added five.

The eighth-grade gold team won a close one with Andrews, 20-19, and was

led by Iesha Simpson's eight points and Marina Trevino's four rebounds.

In another close game, the seventh-grade black team defeated Andrew, 20-

18. Valerie Ross scored eight points and Jillian Valle added six.

The seventh-grade gold

See **BSJH**, Page 2B

### High School Basketball Tournaments

**15th Annual Stanton Hooptown Classic**  
Thursday  
Grady vs. Reagan County, 10:30 a.m.  
Coahoma vs. Presidio, 3 p.m.  
Stanton vs. Rankin, 7:30 p.m.  
(The tournament will continue Friday and run through Saturday)

**Big Spring**  
• The Steers and Lady Steers will participate in the Monahans tournament beginning today. The tournament continues Friday and runs through Saturday.

**Forsan**  
• The Bulls and Lady Bulls playing in the Water Valley Tournament, which starts today and runs through Saturday.

**Sands**  
• The boys and girls basketball teams from Sands will play in the Loop Tournament this weekend, starting today.

## NBA

Continued from Page 1B

game out of reach by outscoring Toronto 31-18 in the third quarter.

Luke Walton added a season-high 13 points and six rebounds for the Lakers, who have won three straight.

Los Angeles won at Milwaukee on Tuesday night and didn't get to its hotel until 3 a.m. But the Lakers outrebounded Toronto 48-33 and shot 54 percent, compared to 41 for Toronto.

Chris Bosh had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who fell to 3-17.

## Bucks 88, 76ers 85

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andrew Bogut's go-ahead putback with 10.7 seconds left capped a frantic fourth-quarter rally and helped Milwaukee beat Philadelphia for the third time this season.

Michael Redd scored 24 points, and Maurice Williams sank two clutch free throws in the final minute and scored 16 for the Bucks, who blew an 18-point first-half lead before completing an impressive comeback of their own.

Allen Iverson scored 23 points and Dalembert had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

## Suns 118, Warriors 110

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Steve Nash had 28 points and 14 assists, and Shawn Marion added 27 points and 14 rebounds as Phoenix beat Golden State for its eighth straight win.

Raja Bell scored 19 points for the Suns, who extended the NBA's longest current winning streak and snapped Golden State's five-game streak with a late rally after blowing an eight-point lead with 5 minutes left.

Baron Davis scored 28 points before fouling out for the Warriors, who couldn't keep up despite 18 points from Derek Fisher, who played in a three-guard starting lineup. Mike Dunleavy added a season-high 21 points and nine rebounds, but committed two fouls and made a key turnover in the final minutes.

## Celtics 101, Hornets 87

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul Pierce scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Ricky Davis added 26 points, and Boston never trailed in a victory over New Orleans.

Mark Blount tied a season high with 19 points off the bench and fellow reserve Al Jefferson had 16 points, his highest output of the season.

David West led New Orleans with 29 points and Chris Paul added 16 points and 10 rebounds. New Orleans trailed by at least six points for the final three quarters and lost its third in a row.

## Jazz 95, Hawks 83

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Andre Kirilenko scored 14 points and matched his career high with 10 assists, and Utah ended a four-game home losing streak by beating woeful Atlanta.

Matt Harpring added a season-high 30 points and reserve Milt Palacio had 10 points and nine assists for the Jazz, who had a 37-29 rebounding advantage and forced 21 turnovers.

Utah hasn't lost five straight at home since 1982 and had the right team in town to prevent that from changing. At 2-16, the Hawks are off to the worst start in team history — even worse than their 3-15 record

after 18 games a year ago.

Atlanta has lost seven straight, going 0-3 on a swing through Phoenix, Denver and Utah. Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 19 points and Salim Stoudamire added 15.

## Clippers 84, Knicks 79

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elton Brand had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Cuttino Mobley scored eight of his 24 points in the final 2 minutes, and Los Angeles erased an 11-point half-time deficit to beat New York.

Eddy Curry had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who have lost all seven games they have played against the Clippers at Staples Center, after winning their final five visits to the L.A. Sports Arena.

Sam Cassell scored 16 points for Los Angeles. Corey Maggette, the Clippers' second-leading scorer, was sidelined by a sprained left foot.

## Timberwolves 84, Trail Blazers 74

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Minnesota erased a 14-point second-half deficit to beat Portland.

Wally Szczerbiak scored 19 points and made a key 3-pointer late in the game as the Timberwolves won their fourth straight, sweeping a four-game road trip.

Zach Randolph had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have lost six straight, including Tuesday night's 130-85 loss in Phoenix.

## Nets 97, Bobcats 84

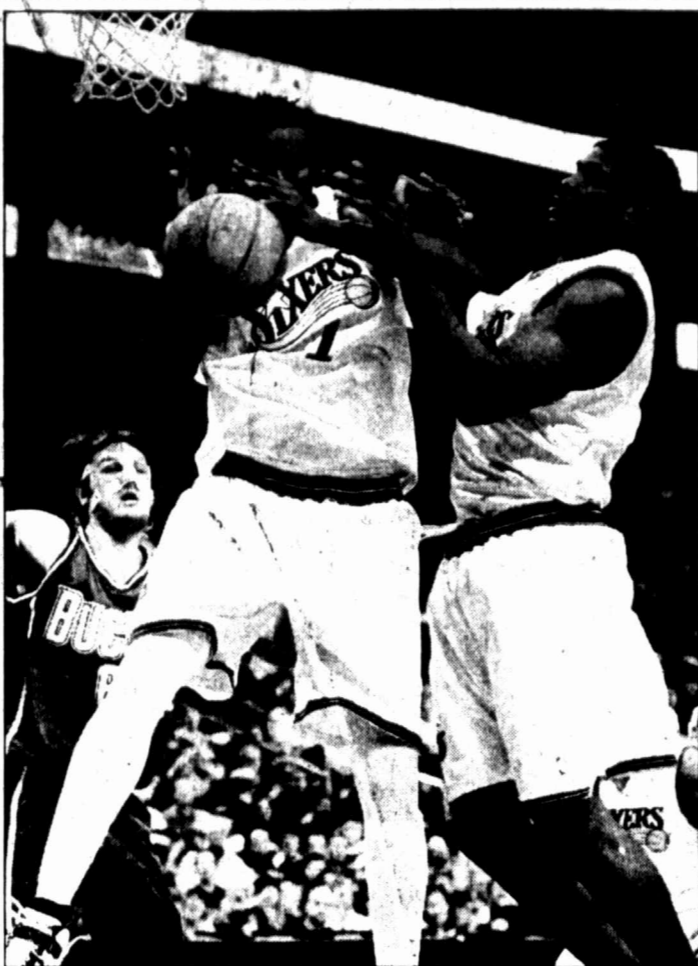
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Vince Carter overcame a sore ankle and knee to score 23 points and lead New Jersey over Charlotte.

The win was the 4,000th in franchise history for the Nets and improved them to 5-0 against the Bobcats. Charlotte, meanwhile, has dropped five straight.

Carter was hurt Saturday night, but if anything was bothering him against the Bobcats, he didn't let it show. He shot 10-for-21 and had seven rebounds in 38 minutes.

Richard Jefferson finished with 21 points for the Nets. Nenad Krstic had 17 and Jason Kidd finished with 11 points and 11 assists.

Brevin Knight led Charlotte with 23 points.



KRT photo/Barbara L. Johnston, Philadelphia Inquirer  
Samuel Dalembert (1) and Chris Webber of the Philadelphia 76ers go up for the rebound against the Milwaukee Bucks. The Bucks defeated the Sixers, 88-85, at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia, Penn., Wednesday.

## ESPN, ABC gets with NASCAR race chase

By JENNA FRYER

AP Motorsports Writer  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — When no one else wanted NASCAR on its networks, ESPN was thrilled to air everything it could as an eager partner in the grass-roots effort to build stock car racing into a major sport.

But the sport outgrew ESPN, shutting the network out in 2001 after decades of coverage when NASCAR inked its first major television deal.

Six years later, the two will be reunited under a \$1.48 billion contract announced Wednesday that will divide NASCAR's 36-race schedule over five networks — including ESPN.

"To NASCAR, its drivers and fans we say, 'Welcome home,'" said George Bodenheimer, president of ABC/ESPN.

NASCAR agreed to eight-year deals with Fox,

ABC/ESPN and TNT, and awarded the annual all-star race to the Speed Channel in a complex deal that spreads the sport all over the television dial.

Although the actual races will have scheduling continuity, the remainder of the weekend programming — qualifying, practices and the Busch Series — will be on various channels in deals that run through the 2014 season.

Under the new deal, Fox gets the Daytona 500 and the 12 races that follow, TNT gets a six-event stretch over the summer, and ABC/ESPN closes out the schedule with 17 races — including all 10 Chase for the championship events.

The deal marks a return to the sport for ABC/ESPN and the furthering of a long-term relationship for TNT.

## BSJH

Continued from Page 1B

team defeated Andrews by five, 19-11.

The BSJH seventh- and eighth-grade black teams

will be playing in the Lamesa Tournament starting Thursday. The tournament will also be played Saturday. All four junior high teams return home Monday to take on Lamesa.

## Astros deny salary arbitration to Rocket

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer  
DALLAS (AP) — Roger Clemens isn't sure whether he will pitch again or retire again. The Houston Astros are moving on without waiting for him to decide.

Six weeks after playing in their first World Series, the Astros declined Wednesday to offer salary arbitration to the 43-year-old pitcher who spent the past two seasons carrying his hometown team to unprecedented heights.

"This is probably one of the more difficult, gut-wrenching decisions we've made as an organization," general manager Tim Lincecum said. "There's going to come a time when he's not going to play anymore. We don't know when that's going to be. I don't think he knows when that's going to be."

The move means Clemens can't re-sign with the National League champions before May 1. It also makes the seven-time Cy Young Award winner available to the other 29 teams, including the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, two of his former clubs.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman wouldn't rule anything out, but wasn't ready to discuss any possible interest.

"We all know who Roger Clemens is, and how special a player he is," Cashman said at the winter meetings. "I guess all that's for another time."

Clemens was the most notable of 121 free agents refused arbitration by Wednesday night's deadline.

Among other intriguing names were catcher Bengie Molina, infielder Nomar Garciaparra, pitcher Jarrod Washburn, reliever Octavio Dotel, outfielder Reggie Sanders, catcher Mike Piazza and two-time AL MVP Frank Thomas, injured most of his last two seasons with the White Sox.

Meanwhile, 26 free agents were offered arbitration and have until Dec. 19 to accept. They can negotiate with their former teams through Jan. 8.

That group includes outfielders Johnny Damon of the Red Sox, Jacques Jones of Minnesota and Bernie Williams of the Yankees. Astros catcher Brad Ausmus and St. Louis right-hander Matt Morris, still the target of several teams looking for a starter.

The Astros didn't want to risk going to salary arbitration while they awaited Clemens' decision.

"We expected this because we talked a great deal about this," said Clemens' agent, Randy Hendricks. "It's no surprise."

Clemens made \$18 million last season when he led the majors with a career-best 1.87 ERA and went 13-8. He finished third in the NL Cy Young Award voting behind 20-game winners Chris Carpenter and Dontrelle Willis.

Hampered by an injured leg and back late in the season, Clemens was forced out of his start in Game 1 of the World Series against Chicago after only two innings. Clemens didn't get another chance to pitch because the Astros got swept.

"The health is not an issue. It's the willingness of Roger to play, and we just don't know that," Purpura said. "To tie up resources for that long of a period of time would really hurt our ability to move forward."

Clemens still intends to pitch for the United States in March during the inaugural World Baseball Classic, even if only in a limited role.

"I expect that will be a form of a litmus test to see how he feels about playing, mentally and physically," said Hendricks.

Clemens planned to retire after the 2003 season, and it seemed certain that his start for the Yankees in Game 4 of the World Series against Florida would be his last. But his buddy Andy Pettitte then went to their hometown Astros, and Clemens followed him and won another Cy Young in 2004, when Houston won a playoff series for the first time.

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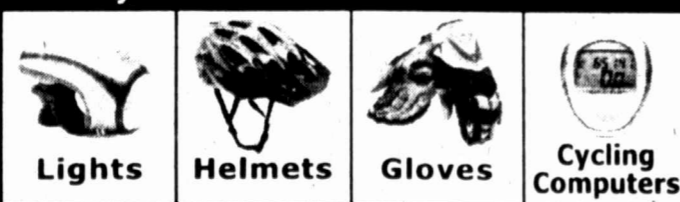
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More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.  
Call Lupe  
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
At the swap meet of life, we must trade what we have for what we want. If you're not holding what you want, you probably haven't traded the right thing in order to get it. The things you're not willing to give up will be more apparent under the current Mars/Jupiter opposition. Tomorrow, Mars goes direct, and you could change your mind.  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Steady increments bring you to your promised land, which by the way is a totally different place from someone else's promised land. Remember Tao Te Ching: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Possibilities are always there. It's a physical law. When you feel caged in at work or in a relationship, raise your sights, and see the possibilities instead of the borders, rules and boundaries.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Yours is a solitary path today but not a lonely one. In fact, while deep in conversation with yourself, you may make future plans to spend

more time just you and your thoughts.  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Around midday, you'll experience the kind of bizarre twist that sitcoms rely on. Cue up the laugh track inside your head, and enjoy the way the action plays out.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Normally, you would not insist that your way be the way everyone uses, but that's what you do now. You're only helping others save money and time. Hopefully they get it.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loved ones check up on you. Try not to mistake their questions and comments for criticism. In their nosy, overbearing way, they are attempting to love you.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Community concerns wind up being your concern sooner or later, so get involved now. In general, opportunities to take on more responsibility bring big luck.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). New influences are sorely needed. Jaded friends have too many opinions. You're better off listening to motivational speakers on CDs than calling for a gripe session with a pal.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Psychological practice is even more helpful than getting a real practice in. Mentally prepare yourself for competition. Contractual obligations are part of what drives the day. Cross t's, and dot i's.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Being too judgmental is a danger. Try not to analyze every piece of information your imagination produces. A surprise coincidental meeting is likely to occur. You look fabulous and won't be caught off guard.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're excitedly anticipating the wrap-up of a project, but do not expect that this ending will change too much about your life. The end of one chapter brings the beginning of another.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Deep business is featured. Important decisions are best made before 3 p.m. A central relationship may be going through a transformation, but don't worry. Your connection gets stronger as it grows.  
**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "You never seem to have anything to say about a Libra and Cancer combination (I am a Cancer born on June 27, 1981, and my long-term boyfriend is a Libra born on Sept. 26, 1983). I have a friend who is studying astrology, and she says that Cancers and Libras are a bad combination. Is this true?"  
You actually make a charming pair. Do you cohabitate? If so, your home together is filled with art and beauty, but is so comfortable that friends stop by often and sometimes you wonder when they'll leave. You are both what's called "cardinal" signs. In astrology, the modality "cardinal" means you tend to be initiators. You have ideas, start projects and stick out your hand first when meeting new people. Because you are both like this, as a couple, try to find people to fulfill and finish what you start, or your lives become cluttered with the evidence of many beginnings that remain unrealized — i.e. golf clubs you never use, mountain bikes you never ride and art supplies that sit in the corner. Your social network is an important key to staying together. Quality people with similar values to your own make the sweet times sweeter and rocky times smoother.  
**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Sagittarian Aaron Carter is the younger brother of Backstreet Boy Nick Carter and a pop star in his own right. I predict that competition in his musical genre, along with his changing musical tastes, will cause this fire sign to recreate his look and sound. The transformation attracts a more sophisticated fan base.  
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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Real Estate for Rent

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461-Tom.  
**4207 MUIR.** Clean 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, CH/A, fenced yard. Stove, refrigerator furnished. \$400.00 month \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.  
**4219 HAMILTON.** 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.  
**4223 HAMILTON.** Three bedroom, one bath. \$450. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.  
**802 1/2 Nolan-** 1 bedroom. \$400.00 All Bills. 2528 Fairchild 2 or 3 bedroom. \$350/\$450. 3/2 Trailer- 5600 South Service Road. Call (432)264-9907.  
**805 ROSEMONT.** 3/2, fenced backyard, carport, \$425/month, \$250/deposit + 1 year lease. Call (432)268-5956 or 268-9180.  
**BUILDING FOR LEASE** for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.  
**FOR LEASE** 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month. \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.  
**HEIGHTS APARTMENTS** 1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771  
**KENTWOOD HOME,** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. Large back yard, garage, \$600.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. 2509 Cindy Lane. Call Home Realty (432)263-1284.  
**ONE BEDROOM** apartment for rent. All bills paid. New stove & refrigerator. Satellite included. Call (432)517-0278.  
**SUNSET RIDGE APT.** Cable TV Free! Playground No Water Bill Paragon Security 24 Hour Laundry On-Site Mgr. & Maint Family Friendly 2 BR \$285 1 BR \$185 Call Rhonda (432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

**TOWNHOUSE.** Beautiful View. Corner Lot. Prime Location. 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, Central Vacuum, 6 ft. wood fenced yard for pets, double garage. Call (432)264-0627.  
**Vehicles**  
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Shortbed. Metallic Blue, CD player, dual climate zone, chrome nerf bars. 50K miles. Sharp!! \$13,500.00  
2001 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Shortbed. Black, CD player, 18" chrome aluminum wheels. Must See!! \$9,950.00  
1997 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Extended Cab. All power, CD player. Clean!! \$8,500.00  
**700 Auto Sales**  
2900 East FM 700 (East of Big Spring Mall) Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)267-3955 or 268-3251  
**3 New 2004 Ford Freestar Vans 12,000 Off MSRP**  
**Bob Brock Ford**  
500 W. 4th 267-7424  
**Legals**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Glasscock County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on December 12, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the district courtroom at Garden City, Texas to receive public input concerning a tax abatement agreement with Renewable Generation Flying Cloud L.L.C. Air-traffic, joint venture. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.  
W.E. Bednar  
Glasscock County Judge  
December 1, 2005.  
#4808 December 8, 2005

Real Estate for Sale

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.  
**BY OWNER** 1508 Sunset Ave., 2 bedroom, 2 bath, carport and storage shed. \$25,000.00. Call (432)816-9018.  
**BY OWNER** 1906 Morrison. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, CH/A, utility room, storage building, tile brick fence, circle drive. \$70,000.00. Call (432)466-2066.  
**BY OWNER:** 2008 Merryly Drive, Kentwood. Very nice 3 bdr. 2 bth, CH/A, fireplace, storm windows, new carpet, freshly painted inside, fenced backyard, storage building, carport and lots of extras. \$78,000. Call (432)264-0002.  
**OLD FASHIONED** charm with a Roomy Interior. Move in before X-mas with an Owner Finance option! 2 Extra large bedrooms, 2 baths - \$30,000's. Call Janet @ Home Realtor (432)263-1284 or 213-5454.  
**OWNER FINANCE.** 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

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**\$299** Such As ALL BILLS PAID  
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Real Estate for Rent

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Efficiency Apts. \$175\* w/ No Lease  
One Bedroom \$225\* w/ No Lease  
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... Available at  
**SOUTH PLAINS APTS**  
432-714-4840  
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1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. (432) 264-1735  
**Now Leasing!**  
Brand New 1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts \$385 - \$520 monthly  
New Appliances & Full Size Washer & Dryer in Apartments  
On Site Maintenance  
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• Fitness Room  
• 2 Playgrounds  
HUD Accepted

Coronado Hills Apartments

801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx. 79720 (432)267-6500  
1 Bedroom Apartments Move-in 50% off 1st months rent  
**1314 MT. VERNON.** 3 Bedroom, Office, Screened porch, Central heat. No pets! References Required. \$425. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

1409 MT. VERNON.

Newly remodeled. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard with washer & dryer connections. \$515. month, \$395. deposit. Call 432-263-8005, 816-1330.

FOR RENT large 1 bedroom,

1503 Scurry A. All bills paid. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1504-B WOOD.

Large 2 bedroom Duplex. Newly remodeled. \$450. month, \$200. deposit. All bills paid. Call (432)264-6611.

1610 STATE.

Two bedroom, one bath, detached 2 car garage, fenced yard, washer/dryer connections. \$350. month. \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

Items for Sale

**HOLIDAY CLEARANCE SALE**  
Save 25% thru Dec. 24th. Shop by Dec. 6th. save an additional 5%. Hurry in While Supplies Last!  
Traci Ryan Independent Beauty Consultant (432)264-1124.

**HYDRO SLIDE** wake board. Thntrum. \$120.00. Used one time. Like new! Rawson Koenig white tool box. For a full size pick-up. \$120.00. Call (432)263-0478 after 5:00 pm.

**ONE OF** a kind 14x32 office, ready for delivery. Financing available (432)563-3108.

**SMALL FREEZER,** refrigerator, 2 double fryers, black 18cf fridge w/ice maker, cash register and much more. Call (432)213-2486 for details.

Jobs Wanted

**SPA REPAIRMAN-** Will work on any brand of spa. Call: (432)563-1807.

Lost and Found

**FOUND DACHSHUND** at Ritz Theater. Call to identify (432)263-4528.

Miscellaneous

**BIG! "RED"** Barn ready for delivery, financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

**CAKES:** Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceaneras. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

**FREE PALLETS.** Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL** HP and Compaq Brand New Computer Systems with Warranty and Local Face-to-Face Support. Starting as Low as \$399! Buy from Big Spring (432)466-0800.

**OVERSTOCKED 10X16** storage, ready for delivery. Financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

**SEA CONTAINERS** have arrived, end of the year shipment. We have 20ft and 40ft containers available now. Local company call (432)267-6006.

Pets

**TO GIVE** Away! One year old male Blue Heeler & two year old male red Dashound. Please call (432)391-4232.

Help Wanted

**TUBING TESTER** wanted. CDL required, clean driving record and must pass drug test. Great Benefits - Great Pay with Guarantee. Call Gail (432)267-1657, (432)557-5555.

**WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY** Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person. Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

CAREER OPPOTUNITY

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II** To the Hospital Superintendent.

Job duties include managing the daily workflow of the Superintendent's office. Performs complex administrative support work, organizing information, and electronic filing of information. Expertise in Microsoft Office Tools required.

Experience in providing administrative support required. Associates degree or technical training in office science preferred. Earn \$2,261 to \$3,146 per month (DOE)

Our benefit package includes: Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Holidays, Insurance and Retirement. Contact Job Center (432)268-7341

Items for Sale

**FRESH SHELLED** Pecans this year. Can pick up at Buffalo Country Fina. Call (432)267-1180 after 5:00p.m

**GOLF CLUBS** for Sale. New Men's Right Hand. Call (432)965-3486 or 631-2725.

**SLIGHTLY BLEMISHED,** 12x24 storage, free delivery and financing available. Call (432)563-3108.

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

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas News (CC) Ent. Tonight	KMID (3) Midland News Wheel-Fortune	UNI (4) Spanish Plat de Oloro	KPEJ (5) Odessa My Wife-Kids Raymond	KOSA (7) Odessa News Ent. Tonight	KTLE (8) Tulsa La Tormenta	KWES (9) Midland News Be a Millionaire	WTBS (11) Atlanta Raymond	KMLM (12) Odessa Joe McGee John Hagee	KOCV (13) Odessa News-Later	DISC (20) Discovery I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	AMC (21) Classics	SPICE (22) Spike TV CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	TNT (23) Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	BET (24) Black Ent. Live BET Style	DISN (27) Disney That's Raven That's Raven	ESPN2 (28) Sports 2005 College Football	ESPN (29) Sports 2005 College Football	SCIFI (64) Science Fic. The Triangle (CC)	
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Plat de Oloro	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Later	I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Black Ent. Live BET Style	That's Raven That's Raven	2005 College Football	2005 College Football	The Triangle (CC)	
7:30 PM	Movie: Head of	Movie: Head of	Contra Viento y Marea	The O.C. (CC)	Survivor: Guatemala - Maya	El Cuerpo del Deseo	Joey (CC) Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	The This Old House Hour	I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	Movie: Above the Law	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	NBA Basketball	Movie	Kim Possible (CC)	Awards Show (CC)	Awards Show (CC)	Awards Show (CC)	
8:30 PM			La Esposa Virgen	Reunion (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Corazon Part Decisiones	The Apprentice (CC)	Movie: Sororoged	Light of the Southwest	Arnieques Roadshow	Living With Tigers (CC)	Movie: Chain Reaction	MXC MXC	Washington Wizards at	Phil of Future	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: Thirteen	
9:30 PM	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Decisiones	ER (CC)			People: Planos	Into the Lion's Den	Movie: Chain Reaction	TNA IMPACT! (CC)	Indiana Pacers NBA	The Ultimate Hustler	Buzz-Magpie Sister, Sister	Massachusetts at Connecticut	Georgetown at Illinois (CC)		
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Tularas y Mas	News Tonight Show	10 Movie: Stripes (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Chain Reaction	Wildcat Police Videos	Basketball: Rockets at	In Living Color in Living Color	That's Raven That's Raven	Quilts Frankly With Smith	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Frailty (CC)	
11:30 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Cowboys Post Malcolm-Mid.	Late Show	Laura Al Rop Vivo	Late Night	10 Movie: Stripes (CC)	Del Sanchez Jimmy Philips	Sign Off	I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	15 Movie: Young Guns	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	ing	James Fox James Fox	Phil of Future Kim Possible	Rodeo: Wrangler	NFL Live Outside-Lines		
12:30 AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Becker (CC)	Show The Insider	María Celeste Pagado	25 Movie:		Update/Israel John Hagee		Living With Tigers (CC)		Game Head Blind Date	Side the NBA (CC)	BET After Dark Proud Family	National Finals - Seventh	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: The Lost Boys		

**DENNIS THE MENACE**

12-8

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**

12-8

**HAGAR**

12-8

"HAVE YOU GUYS GOT ROOM FOR MY UNDERWEAR AN' STUFF? I NEED ROOM FOR ALL OF THE CHRISTMAS TOYS I'M EXPECTIN'."

"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

**BLONDIE**

12-8

**BC**

12-8

**ZOT**

12-8

**This Date In History**

Today is Thursday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2005. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Twenty-five years ago, on Dec. 8, 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

On this date:

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1863, President Lincoln announced his plan for the Reconstruction of the South.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1941, the United States entered World War II as

**WIZARD OF ID**

12-8

**AGNES**

12-8

Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1978, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir died in Jerusalem at age 80.

In 1987, the "intefadeh" (Arabic for uprising) by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

In 1993, President Clinton signed into U.S. law the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect at the start of 1994.

One year ago: "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, 38, an influential heavy metal guitarist, was fatally shot with three other people during a performance in Columbus, Ohio; the gunman was then shot dead by a police officer.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Richard Fleischer is 89. Actor-director Maximilian Schell is 75. Actor David Carradine is 69. Actor James MacArthur is 68. Flutist James Galway is 66. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 63. Actor John Rubinstein is 59.

**HI AND LOIS**

12-8

**THE OTHER COAST**

12-8

**Newsday Crossword** PHANTOM CLUB by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**SNUFFY SMITH**

12-8

**BEEBLE BAILEY**

12-8

- ACROSS**
- 1 Neared maturity
  - 5 Chest muscles
  - 9 Door-frame pieces
  - 14 Para-professional, for one
  - 15 Personal energy field
  - 16 Like in nature (to)
  - 17 Stage-beard securer
  - 19 "Filthy" funds
  - 20 Registered, as an invention
  - 21 Quenched
  - 22 Flounder's flipper
  - 23 Zodiac predator
  - 24 Carnival dance
  - 28 Traits that may clash
  - 30 Throw out
  - 34 Teen
  - 36 Zeta follower
  - 37 Stench
  - 38 Linger in a person's mind
  - 41 "She Lovely" (Stevie Wonder song)
  - 42 Much of "Deck the Halls"
  - 43 Puts forth, as effort
  - 44 Croupier's collection
  - 45 Uttered untruths
  - 47 High point
  - 48 Joey
  - 49 Latin greeting
  - 51 Curiosity-piquing ad
  - 55 Vail outerwear
  - 60 Dog-tired
- DOWN**
- 1 Sound of shock
  - 2 Philbin's cohort
  - 3 Mark manuscripts
  - 4 Used to be
  - 5 Singer LaBelle
  - 6 Oregon city
  - 7 Gunk
  - 8 Casablanca pianist
  - 9 Light dessert
  - 10 Pastel shade
  - 11 Slimy mud
  - 12 Unembellished
  - 13 Coasting toy
  - 18 Buggy passenger
  - 21 Seed source
  - 23 Auction units
  - 24 Master, in Madras
  - 25 Take down
  - 26 Saddle horse
  - 27 Bats gently
  - 29 Gaggie members
  - 30 Talented tyro
  - 31 Regard lovingly
  - 32 Varieties
  - 33 Romantic rendezvous
  - 35 Melbourne money
  - 39 Tooth partner
  - 40 With the exclusion of
  - 46 US territory from 1861-89
  - 48 Prison-related
  - 50 Sun shade
  - 51 Boom-box insert
  - 52 Contemporary of Bessie and Billie
  - 53 "Sorry to say..."
  - 54 Shoe salesman's query
  - 55 Closed up
  - 56 Not much
  - 57 Director Ephron
  - 58 Mary-Kate, to Ashley
  - 59 Hindrance to progress
  - 61 Fill-up fluid

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# Chasing 2006

## Forecasting the drivers who have a legitimate shot at winning next year's Nextel Cup championship

By DAVID POOLE  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**Y**es, there are still some days left on the 2005 calendar. But now that the tuxedos and evening gowns are back in the Nextel Cup drivers' closets after last week's festivities in New York City, in NASCAR reality it's already 2006.

Teams are already hard at work getting ready for testing at Daytona that starts in less than a month. Some teams have already been to places like Kentucky Speedway getting a jump on next year.

Most crews will get a couple of days off around Christmas, but the work toward being where Tony Stewart was this year never really stops.

In a couple of weeks, we'll look back on the top stories of 2005. But right now, let's look forward. How many drivers, right now, could you make a case for having a chance to win next year's championship?

Our answer is nine, maybe 10.

That's all we honestly believe have a legitimate chance, as things shape up right now, of being good enough early in the season to make the Chase for the Nextel Cup and then be solid enough over 10 races to win it all.

Here's a breakdown of how, in our view, next year's contenders look:

### THE REAL DEALS

Tony Stewart, Jimmie Johnson and Greg Biffle

As far as we're concerned, only this trio looks so solid that we consider them mortal locks to be in the Chase and to be in the championship hunt. True, Jeff Gordon would likely have been on such a list coming into 2005. Nobody said this is science. But given how solid these three teams looked in 2005 it's hard to imagine they can't run well enough to make next year's Chase.

If you insist on finding a flaw with each team, you can do that.

Stewart will have two rookie teammates in J.J. Yeley and Denny Hamlin in 2006.

If they're wrecking cars and making the Joe Gibbs Racing team work overtime to



**After qualifying for the Chase for the Nextel Cup in his first full season of Cup racing, expect Carl Edwards to do it again in '06.**

build new ones, that could have a trickle-down effect on the No. 20 team.

Johnson has now been close to winning four championships without winning one. Until he does, that monkey on his back will keep growing. And if he and crew chief Chad Knaus aren't clicking the way they once did, that's a legitimate cause for concern.

Biffle has only his breakout 2005 season to put him in this group. But the No. 16 Fords were so good on so many tracks. Now if Roush Racing struggles to get a handle on the new Ford Fusion early, Biffle might not fire out of the gate as he did in '05.

### THE SEEMINGLY SOLIDS

Carl Edwards, Ryan Newman, Matt Kenseth and Mark Martin

We'd be surprised if any of these guys don't make the Chase, but given the way the sport works we'd also be surprised if all four do. One of them, at least, figures to have the kind of mysteriously bad year that kept Gordon out of the 2005 Chase.

Martin said he gave everything he had in 2005, but he's not the kind of guy who'll come in half-stepping as he returns for one more year. Edwards, of course, has to avoid the kind of sophomore setback that Kasey Kahne experi-

enced in 2005. All Newman and Kenseth have to do to win a championship in 2006 is get just a little bit better. Of course, that little bit is the hardest bit to find.

### THE REJUVENATED

Jeff Gordon, Kurt Busch and Jamie McMurray

We said nine, maybe 10. McMurray is the maybe.

He's coming to Roush Racing, and although it's hard to expect that team to put all five of its cars in the Chase for a second straight year, the fact that it happened in 2005 at least makes McMurray a theoretical championship contender.

Gordon has a new crew chief, Steve Letarte, who helped the No. 24 team pick up some momentum late in 2005. Gordon also has himself, a four-time champion. It will be his will to get back on top that determines whether that will ultimately happen.

Busch will have a lot of work to do early in 2005 to win back the fans who'll only remember the "incident" in Arizona that took him out of the No. 97 Roush Racing Ford two races early. Make no mistake, however, Busch is talented and the No. 2 Dodge team at Penske is solid. If he and Newman get on the same page, both of them could step it up a notch in 2006.

### BUT WHAT ABOUT...

Yes, that list of 10 leaves out Kyle Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kasey Kahne, Casey Mears, Brian Vickers, Jeremy Mayfield, Kevin Harvick, Elliott Sadler, Dale Jarrett and an entire crop of talented rookies.

Any one of those drivers could make the Chase, and at least one or two of them most likely will. But is any of them ready to win a championship in 2006?

We'll know in a year.

Tony Stewart, Jimmie Johnson and Greg Biffle appear to be "mortal locks" to make the Chase next season.

AUTOSTOCK



## NASCAR's annual banquet isn't about racing; it's all business

I've finally figured out why I've never been able to figure out the NASCAR Nextel Cup awards ceremony.

My problem is that I think it's absurd that Bob Nardelli and Tim Donahue made longer speeches Friday night in the Waldorf-Astoria's Grand Ballroom than Tony Stewart and Greg Zipadelli did.

If you have no idea who Nardelli and Donahue are, you're as lost as I am. Nardelli is chairman, president and chief executive officer of The Home Depot. Donahue is chairman of Sprint Nextel.

I'm not saying that neither of these gentlemen shouldn't have had face time along with Stewart, the 2005 Nextel Cup champion, and Zipadelli, his crew chief. Nardelli's company sponsors Stewart's No. 20 Chevrolets. Donahue's outfit

wrote the \$6.1 million check Stewart got for all of his accomplishments this season.

You see, I think the ceremony should be about racing. And that's where I am wrong.

Oh, I'm sorry Mr. Nardelli. I thought you were finally finished. Sorry to interrupt.

As I've said after each of the nine banquets I've attended, there's no racing reason why this deal should be held in Manhattan. Forget about racing cars, if you're going to own a car in this town you need a Nardelli or a Donahue around to pay to park it.

But the banquet isn't here because of racing. It's here because of business, and New York does business about as well as any place there is.

What that means is that the NASCAR Nextel Cup awards ceremony isn't really

a racing celebration. It's an excuse for CEOs to bring their wives to New York for a holiday shopping weekend on the company jet, followed by a great, big fancy-dress business dinner.

Therefore, it makes perfect sense for the two business honchos to speak longer than the two racing heroes. I understand that now. I don't like it, but I understand it.

Oh, sorry Mr. Donahue. Please continue. I thought you were finally finished.

The evening's best moments came from the guys who ignored that evil contraption. Take, for instance, Carl Edwards. In his first Cup banquet, Edwards' speech was easily the night's best. He was relaxed, genuine and hit all the right points eloquently.

Mark Martin was good, too. "It doesn't matter how many trophies you stack up in the corner somewhere," said Martin, who's still fired up about being called a "pessimist" on TV by Kenny Wallace nearly two months ago.



Rusty Wallace speaks at the NASCAR Nextel Cup awards ceremony.

"What really fills up your life is the relationships you make along the way. My glass is not half-full, it's all the way to the top."

Retiring driver Rusty Wallace's contributions were noted repeatedly and, at times, eloquently. And it was classic Rusty to hear him talk about being cheered by everyone in his "Last Call"

season when he'd heard so many boos throughout his career. "It seems like you've got to retire or be dead to get a hand these days," he said.

I can no more imagine what the cost of Friday night's soiree was than I can imagine NASCAR actually paying the bill for it.

Longtime racing reporter Chris Economaki said he had lunch at the Waldorf on Friday, ringing up a \$50 tab for a club sandwich, one glass of wine, an \$8.50 glass of bottled water and tip.

Friday's dinner of salad, braised ribs, potatoes, green beans and a lovely dessert sampler was considerably more lavish than a club sandwich. Multiply by maybe 2,000 people, then add in the silverware and the etched stemware and the decorations and the stage set and the confetti cannons.

Mr. Donahue, sir, you keep right on talking. And when you finish, the gentleman at the door over there has the bill. Pleasure doing business with you.

### Hamlin makes it big

Denny Hamlin, who ran seven Cup races for Joe Gibbs Racing in 2005 and will drive the No. 11 Chevrolet as a rookie next year, returned to his high school recently and got the royal treatment. "By the end of the day I must have had six or seven teachers taking me around," Hamlin said. "One of them said, 'You're the most successful person to come from this school.' I thought, 'Man, that's sad.'"

— David Poole

### POLL POSITION

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**  
Of the NASCAR drivers who failed to make the 2005 Chase, who is most likely to make the 10-team, 10-race playoff next season?

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

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION**  
Before the Class of 2005 is dismissed, what's the final grade on the just-completed NASCAR Nextel Cup season?

Number of votes: 7,799

Response	No. of votes	Percent
C	2,605	33%
B	2,334	30%
Better find the guidance counselor	1,219	16%
D	963	12%
A	678	9%

### STOP 'N' GO

#### Blaney will drive the No. 22 Dodge in 2006

Dave Blaney will return to Bill Davis Racing in 2006, replacing Scott Wimmer as driver of the No. 22 Dodge.

Blaney raced in the NACSR Busch Series for Davis in 1998-99 before moving to the Nextel Cup for two more years. Blaney drove for Doug Bawel for two seasons before joining Richard Childress Racing in 2004 on a part-time basis. Blaney ran the entire 2005 season for RCR but will be replaced by Clint Bowyer.

"In the last couple of years, we just haven't seen the performance we know the No. 22 CAT Racing team is capable of, so change was not a choice — it was a necessity," Davis said in a statement. "Dave is not only a talented and consistent driver, but he is someone I respect and have always enjoyed working with in the past. This will be my first time working with Kevin Hamlin, but I have long admired his work and accomplishments in this sport."

"I have always understood Dave's need to pursue other avenues in this business, but it also was understood there were never any bridges burned between us."

Blaney drove in six Cup races for Davis in 2004 before Childress made Blaney a full-time offer. Blaney finished 26th in the Nextel Cup points standings with two top-10 finishes.

"I have been very fortunate to have driven for and with some of the best in this business," Blaney said. "I enjoyed racing for the Davis'. Bill and Gail have not only been business partners, but they've been good friends to me. I've spent the majority of my NASCAR career as a BDR driver, so it's always nice to be able to return to your roots."

Blaney has a best finish of third (at Darlington in 2003) in 199 Cup starts, with one pole. He came to NASCAR from open-wheel cars, winning the World of Outlaws title in 1995 and the USAC Silver Crown championship in 1984.

"I've known Dave for a long time, and we've always worked well together in the past. So when this opportunity presented itself I couldn't pass it up," Hamlin said. "In just the short time I have spent over at BDR, Bill is making some big changes, and there is definitely great potential for what lies ahead. I'm excited to get to be a part of it and look forward to what is yet to come."

— That'sRacin.com Report



Blaney



Gordon



McMurray