SIG SPRING

INSIDE **Politicians**

dump some Abramoff donations

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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 36

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Friday is first day for mail-out ballots

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Friday is the first day area voters can request a mail-out ballot for the 2006 March primaries, as the Howard County **Elections Administration** prepares for a slew of election deadlines over the next two months.

According to Saundra Bloom, election administrator for the county, voters must meet a special criteria to be eligible to receive a mail-out ballot for the upcoming primaries.

"They must be over 65 years old, be disabled or anticipate being out of the county during early voting," said Bloom. "It's designed for college students and people like that. In that case, the ballot must be mailed out of

2006 Primary Election Dates

- Jan. 6 First day to apply for a mail-out bal-
- Feb. 6 Last day to register to vote in the March primaries.
- Feb. 21 First day of early voting.
- Feb. 28 Applications for mail-out ballots must be received.
- March 3 Last day of early voting.
- March 7 Primary election day.

the county.

"The voter must provide information on the mailout ballot application, including their name, their residence and the type and date of the election. They also need to specify whether they plan to vote in the Republican or Democratic primary. They can call and request an application, and we See ELECTIONS, Page 3A

can accept them by fax if all the criteria are met."

Bloom said applications must also include an explanation of why a mail-out ballot is being requested, as well as an address to mail the ballot if the voter will be out of the county.

"The application has to

SWEET!



KRT photo/Michael Goulding, Orange County Register

University of Texas coach Mack Brown celebrates at the end of the game as No. 2 Texas beat No. 1 USC 41-38 Wednesday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. See Page 1B.

Court: Government can move Padilla to Florida

His detention has been subject of multiple court rulings and criticism by civil rights groups

By GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration won a temporary victory when the Supreme Court agreed that Jose Padilla, who was held for 3-1/2 years as an "enemy combatant," can be transferred to civilian authorities in Miami.

justices' The decision Wednesday overruled a lower block the transfer in a rebuke of the White House.

Padilla, a former Chicago gang member who was arrested after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, will be released from military custody to face charges in a civilian criminal court.

The Supreme Court said it would decide later whether to consider a broader appeal by

court, which had attempted to Padilla challenging President Bush's authority to order the indefinite detention of suspected terrorists. The case has been set for review at a private meeting of the justices on Jan. 13.

That's fine. It's great," said Donna Newman, one of al months and denied tradition-Padilla's lawyers. "Both things are good. I don't think it's a bad day for us."

Padilla's detention as an

subject of multiple court rulings and criticism by civil rights groups.

He was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and put in military custody, where he was held without charges for several legal rights, such as access to an attorney.

The Supreme Court had been asked to use Padilla's case to enemy combatant has been the define the scope of a president's

power over American citizens taken into custody on U.S. soil. The justices had been expected to agree to hear his appeal, but shortly before word was to come, the government brought criminal charges against him in Florida and then argued that the appeal was moot.

The criminal charges do not involve allegations that had

See PADILLA, Page 3A

Chili cookoff raises funds for children

By VALERIE ULLMAN AVERY

Special to the Herald

Michelle Pearson is confronted daily with the needs of the children in her care.

As a qualified mental health professional and a children's case manager for West Texas Centers for MHMR she spends each day working with children who have a mental illness and their families.

"They have the normal stresses that other kids have and they have the added stress of dealing with mental illness," she said "Their mental illness is the extra piece they have to tackle in their everyday lives."

West Texas Centers for MHMR serves more than 2,200 people each month with men-

See COOKOFF, Page 3A



This year's Festival of Lights drew almost 20,000 visitors from 38 states and nine countries according to organizer Pat Simmons.

Thousands view Festival of Lights

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The annual Festival of Lights has once again written itself in the history books, having Christmas visitors from all over the United States — and the world.

The festival, which featured nearly onemillion twinkling

tremendous year, and we've gotten so much help from the volunteers."

"It's been a

-Pat Simmons

holiday lights, drew visitors from far and wide, according to Pat Simmons, coordinator for the annual holiday event.

"We had 19,307 visitors this year, which is up tremendously from last year," said Simmons, who along with an army of volunteers turned Comanche Trail Park and the historic spring into a winter wonderland once again this year.

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Opinion Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Sports

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.

TEXAS TO GET WHEATIES

AUSTIN (AP) — The national champion Texas Longhorns are going to get their Wheaties.

General Mills has announced that it will produce a commemorative Wheaties box to mark the Longhorns' 41-38 win over Southern California in Wednesday night's Rose Bowl. The cereal box will feature Texas coach Mack Brown and a Texas Longhorns helmet on the front. The Longhorns box is scheduled to appear on Texas grocery shelves in two weeks and nationwide starting next month. General Mills said Texas is the first national college football champion to be featured on a Wheaties box since Nebraska in 1997.

LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Big Spring program will get under way next month with the first class set to be held Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the chamber board

Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month program, held every second Thursday of the month, February through December except for June and July. The program. takes participants on tours which integrate them with all aspects of Howard County life: Industry, government, medical, agriculture, education and more.

Cost is \$300. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 25. Call 263-7641 for more information.

JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of newly laid-off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits fell to the lowest level in more than five years last week, providing strong evidence that the labor market is shaking off the effects of a string of devastating hurricanes.

The Labor Department reported today that applications for unemployment benefits dropped by 35,000 to 291,000, the smallest number since Sept. 23, 2000, when the economy was in the concluding months of the longest economic expansion in history. The decline of 35,000 claims was much better than Wall Street had been expecting.

Obituaries

Dois Monroe Ray



Dois Monroe Ray, 85, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, , Jan. 6, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle &1 Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Templeij officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral

He was born Sept. 10, 1920, in Coleman County and married Mary Wilma Riddle Dec. 7, 1939. She preceded him in death in 1988; he was preceded also by a son, Gary Alton Ray, 1941 and a grandson, Daron Leon Ray, 2004.

Mr. Ray served in the United States Army during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He farmed for more than 55 years in Howard County, retiring in 1998. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed attending local sporting events.

Dois served as a deacon for many years at Prairie View Baptist Church in the Fairview Community and most recently as deacon at Baptist Temple Church in

Survivors include his wife, Bess Wagner Ray of 14 years; three sons and daughters-in-law, Dois O. and Lyn Nell Ray of Luther, Dwayne and Sara Ray of Dallas and Paul and Carolyn Ray of Carrollton; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jeanette and M.A. Snell of Lampasas and Dona and Duane Rogers of Euless; one sister, Velma Reid; and one brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Johnie Ray Jr. all of Coahoma; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Hud Haas, Brent Nichols, Ron Brown, Brandon Rogers, Carter Ray and Collin Ray. The family suggests memorials be made to the

American Diabetes Association, Midland Office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

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

Paid obituary

Leroy Aldridge



Leroy Aldridge, 77, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 2, 2006, at Parkview Nursing Center. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Elder Frank Nelson of Power House Church of God in Christ officiating. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 23, 1928, in Memphis, Texas to Alice and Evera Aldridge and married Jessie Joy Norwood Dec. 22, 1946, in Paris, Texas. She preceded

him in death Nov. 5, 1984. He was a member and Elder of the Power House Church of God in Christ. He was a carpenter, mechanic and worked in housekeeping at the Big Spring State Hospital. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded

in death by two sisters and one brother.

He is survived by 10 children, Mary Gibson and ma Kinnard of San Antonio, Leroy Aldridge Jr. of Houston, Martha Word of Seattle, Wash., Keith Aldridge and Eli Aldridge of Missouri, Delores Aldridge of Dallas and Alice Summers, Robert Aldridge and Billy Aldridge, all of Big Spring; one sister, Mildred James of Riverside, Calif.; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

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

Eula Sartin

Eula Sartin, 95, of Stanton died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, in a Stanton nursing home. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Police blotter

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

 LEONARDO TALAVERA JR., 46, of 404 W. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.

 STACI LYNN FRALEY, 39, of 1425 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.

JIMMY WAYNE BLEDSOE, 52, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of

• MICHAEL DEWAYNE GRIFFEN, 32, of Lubbock, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of failure to iden-

THEFT was reported:

- in the 2600 block of Fairchild. - in the 300 block of Ninth Street.

- in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

 in the 200 block of FM 700. - in the 300 block of Gregg Street.

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

was reported in the 1400 block of Park. FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 1100 block of

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS was reported in the 1500

block of Oriole.

ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported:

Salem Road exit. Around Town

and \$1 for children.

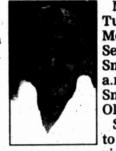
 RAILROAD MUSEUM at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• 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.

• 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

• 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.

Maria Y. Garcia



Maria Y. Garcia, 88, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil Services are 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born July 31, 1917, in Picoso to Rafael and Dolores Montez and married Nieves Garcia, March 2, 1934, in

Cameron. They moved to Big Spring in 1981. He preceded her in death on June 12, 1999. She was a homemaker and a member of Iglesia Bautista La Fe.

She was preceded in death by one son, Martin Garcia and two sisters.

She is survived by seven daughters, Angelita Marroquin of Brownfield, Maria Sanchez, Jovita Jimenez, and Delia Ybarra, all of Big Spring, Dolores Gonzales and Teresa Segura, both of Round Rock and Christina Guerra of Seagraves; four sons, Rosendo Garcia of Big Spring, Abram Garcia of Woodrow, Reynaldo Garcia of Denver City and Nieves Garcia Jr. of Manor; 61 grandchildren; 162 great-grandchildren; 64 great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Domingo Montez of San Antonio; and several nieces and

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

Sue Nix

Sue Nix, 83, of Stanton died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006, at the Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit at Midland Memorial Hospital. Graveside services are 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at Ackerly Memorial Park in Ackerly with Gaylan Lamb, minister of Ackerly Church of Christ, officiating. Viewing will be held at Gilbreath Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 11, 1922, in Velma, Okla., married Fred L. Nix May 1, 1941, in Ackerly and moved to

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred L. Nix; brothers, Jim, Jake, Joe, Jack, Virgil and Frank Foster and one sister, Mary Jane Foster.

Survivors include her only son, Troy V. Nix of Stanton; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Matt and Rowena Foster of Duncan, Okla., and Toby and Peggy Foster of Broken Arrow, Okla.; and nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas St., Midland 79701.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Melva Hodnett



Melva Hodnett, 79, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral Services are 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Dec. 25, 1926, in Howard County to M.J. and Lula Leona Chapman. She married Grady Hodnett, June 21, 1946, and he preceded her in death Aug. 24, 1982. She was a lifetime

resident of Howard County, a homemaker, and a member of First United Methodist Church.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was pre-

ceded in death by five sisters. She is survived by two daughters, Vicki Bumbulis and Kayla Pedigo, both of Big Spring; three sons,

Kirby Hodnett of Lubbock and Terry Hodnett and Donald Hodnett, both of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the fol-

Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of theft of ser-

county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of pos-

the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of

Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke proba-

Wednesday by DPS on a charge of possession of mari-

MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported near the

Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road near the

ALBERT CARRILLO, 24, was transferred to the

ROMERO VILLAREAL JR., was transferred to

SANDY RALPH DAVES, 23, was arrested

DALE LYMAN PAYNE III, 27, was arrested

STACI LYNN FRALEY, 39, was arrested

- in the 2500 block of Ent.

lowing activity:

- in the 600 block of Circle.

vices and insufficient funds check.

session of a controlled substance.

juana - two ounces or less.

purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Bulletin board

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

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

Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

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

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

 Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are

SATURDAY

· Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third. · Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

is welcome to attend.

 Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room. Cost is \$6.25 per person. RSVP to 264-5164 or 213-5293.

• 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

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Northwest winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. Friday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. L tht and

variable winds becoming southwest 10 to 15 oh in the afternoon. Friday night...Clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Southwest winds around 10 mph. Saturday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the mid

70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the

upper 30s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 15-21-32-35-44. Bonus Ball:

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$44 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 6-18-20-22-32

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-5-3

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

 MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of East Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Utah.

One person was transported to SMMC. TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road near the

Salem Road exit. Two people were transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

SPRING I www.BigSpringHerald.com

Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

432-263-7331 (Main Switchboard) 432-264-7205 (Fax)

Missed Your Paper: 432-263-7335 (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-7p.m.

Sun. 8a.m.-noon) Susanne Reed Publisher/Adv. Manager... Ext. 250 Managing Editor... Ext. 230 John A. Moseley Circulation Manager... Ext. 244 **Duane McCollum** Production Manager... Ext. 256 Tony Hernandez

Business Office Manager... Ext. 255 Dianne Marquez The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The

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(Patrick Farrell/Mlami Herald/KRT) Washington lobbylst Jack Abramoff, center, shows up at Miami Federal Court in Miami, Fla., to plead guilty to conspiracy and wire

Politicians dump some Abramoff donations

fraud charges.

WASHINGTON (AP) — As politicians scrambled to ditch campaign contributions from disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich cautioned Republicans they risk losing control of congressional majorities if they try to put all the blame on lobbyists.

"You can't have a corrupt lobbyist unless you have a corrupt member (of Congress) or a corrupt staff. This was a team effort," Gingrich told a Rotary Club lunch in Washington Wednesday. He called for systematic changes to reduce the enormous financial advantages that incumbents have in congressional elections.

As head of a conservative movement based on ethics concerns and promises to curb federal growth, Gingrich led the GOP in 1994 to its first House majority

in 42 years. But he decided to resign 1998 when Republicans lost seats a year after Gingrich himself was fined \$300,000 for violating House rules barring the use of tax-exempt foundations for

political purposes. He said the GOP leaders, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., need to resist "lobbyist mere bashing" and push campaign finance along changes, with smaller and more effective gov-

ernment. "If they intend to retain a majority,

then ... they need to take the lead in saying to the country we need to clean this mess up," Gingrich told reporters. "But any effort to push this under the rug, to say this is just one bad apple: That's baloney."

So far the primary response by politicians has been to separate themselves from campaign contributions they took from Abramoff or Indian tribes he represented — either by returning them or donating them to charity.

In just the two days since Abramoff pleaded guilty Tuesday in Washington to three federal felonies, more than 40 elected federal officials have given up Abramoff donations, joining a dozen who did so last year.

This week's list was headed by Republicans President Bush, Frist, Hastert, House Majority Leader Roy Blunt of Missouri and former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas,

who faces legal problems of his own. But some Democrats joined in, including Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York.

Sharon transferred to intensive care unit

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was in serious condition today after all-night surgery to stop "massive bleeding" from a life-threatening stroke. Doctors said he was transferred to intensive care with stable vital

Sharon's official powers were transferred to his deputy, Ehud Olmert, who chaired a special Cabinet session Thursday.

A brain scan after surgery showed bleeding in Sharon's brain had been stopped, said Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the director of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

"At this point, all the vital signs are ... stable. The prime minister is still in serious condition," he said.

Attack near Shiite shrine in Iraq kills 49

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) - A suicide bomber set off explosives near one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines today, killing almost 50 people, officials said.

The blast near the Imam Hussein shrine in central Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, killed 49 people and injured 52, said Karbala police Col. Razaq al-Taie.

The site was a scene of chaos afterward with men ferrying the wounded in push carts and pools of blood on the ground. The bomber appeared to have set off the explosion only about 30 yards from the shrine in a busy shopping area.

The bomber detonated about 17 pounds of explosives and several hand grenades, Al-Taie said.

Al-Khazraji blamed the attack on "takfiris and Saddamists." The takfiri ideol-

ogy is followed by extremist Sunni Muslims bent on killing anyone considered to be an infidel, even fellow Muslims who disagree with their doctrine. Al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a takfiri.

California husband, wife leave sons home alone

MANTECA, Calif. (AP) — A married couple who got a dog sitter for their puppies but left the man's young children home alone while they vacationed in Las Vegas were arrested, police said.

Jacob Calero, 39, and Michelle De La Vega, 32, were taken into custody Wednesday as they arrived home on a flight to Oakland. They had left town Friday to celebrate the new year, authorities said.

The couple apparently told 9-year-old Joshua to look after his 5-year-old-brother, Jason, who is autistic. The children spent one night alone before police found them.

The grandmother, Libbey Holden, said she called police because she had suspected the couple left the children at home in San Ramon, about 35 miles east of San Francisco.

"I had big concerns," Holden said. "These kids are helpless."

Lynn Swann to run for governor

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Former Steelers star Lynn Swann, who declared his candidacy for Pennsylvania governor, says he is confident he will win the state GOP committee's endorsement.

However, if the committee endorses one of his three competitors next month, Swann said Wednesday he may contest the party's candidate in the May 16 primary.

"If I need a primary to win, then I would have to take a serious look at being in the primary," he said.

Swann, 53, declared his candidacy in the city where he made his name in professional football.

COOKOFF

Continued from Page 1A

tal illness and mental retardation in 23 rural West Texas counties. As the mental health authority for Texas, the agency keeps close tabs on people who choose to and who can continue to live in the community with their illness.

"Our goal is to care for people with mental illness in their homes," said Shelley Smith, LMSW, West Texas Centers CEO. "We provide the support

 medications, counsel- ed presents and new they may need to live a it was a really big deal." normal life."

But the government only pays for so much, she said.

People with mental illness, particularly chil-. Children in Need Fund. dren with mental illness and severe emotional disturbance need so much more that state and federal dollars can't match.

"A lot of our kids are from low-income families nity," said Smith. which adds yet another

ing, job assistance and clothes. I took one child housing assistance — that Christmas shopping and

> Pearson is able to work with these families in meeting some of these extra needs because of West Texas Center's The fund is accessed for children and their families to help pay for goods and services to help that child and family stay in their home in the commu-

"When there is someissue for them to deal thing special, that we with," Pearson said. "Just really feel is beneficial to this Christmas, a lot need-the child's mental health

and works to help them stay at home with their family rather than move into a more restrictive level of care, we will use this fund to pay for the item or service," she said. "It is totally funded by donations and we are very cautious about how it is spent."

School supplies, a summer camp membership and new clothing are just a few of the items, West Texas Centers has purchased with the program.

we are able to get some of these funds for a child, it helps the parents with

their stability and dealing noon with a tasting for with their kid's mental illness which helps strengthen their home life," Pearson said. "You are helping the situation as a whole.'

Fund-raising for the campaign is year-round, said Landon Sturdivant, West Texas Centers associate CEO. This weekend, the

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 will host the Fourth Annual Chili the Eagles' building, 703 W. Third.

Judging will follow at call 432 263-6862.

the public.

Cost is \$10 per chili team, and \$5 for people entering the area to sample the chili. Proceeds from the tasting and entry fees benefits the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children I Need Fund.

"During the past three years the Big Spring Fraternal Order of Eagles has held this benefit and has raised \$13,000 for this worthy Cook-off. The kettles turn Sturdivant said. "Last "I have found that when on Saturday at 8 a.m. at year we were able to raise

a record \$5.000. For more information.

"There really isn't any

time to start planning

right now," said Simmons

with a laugh. "We're still

trying to finish up this

year's things."

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

"Last year the number of visitors was down quite a bit because of the weather," said Simmons. "The year before that we had more than 18,000 visitors, so it's grown quite a bit. I was a little disappointed we missed our

PADILLA

Continued from Page 1A

been made by the admin-

that Padilla was part of an

al-Qaida-backed plot to

blow up apartment build-

ings. Instead, a grand

jury charged Padilla with

being part of a North

American terrorism cell

that raised funds and

recruited fighters to wage

violent jihad outside the

istration since 2002 -

was still a tremendous year.'

If the sheer mass of visitors who took in the sights sounds seems amazing, how far they traveled is simply the icing on the cake.

"We had people from 38 states and nine countries visit," said Simmons proudly. "We had visitors

A panel of the 4th U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals

in Richmond, Va., refused

last month to allow the

transfer of Padilla from

military custody in South

Carolina to civilian cus-

The court criticized the

administration's use of

one set of facts before the

courts to justify Padilla's

military detention with-

out charges and another

to persuade a grand jury

in Miami to indict him on

United States.

20,000 visitor goal, but it from Canada, England, Germany, Iraq and the Ukraine, just to name a few. We also had visitors from all over the U.S., including Washington, New York, Florida' and California.'

And while the holiday season is over, Simmons said there's still plenty of work for her and her volunteers to do to close out

In the appeals court

Michael Luttig warned

the administration that it

was risking its credibility

with the courts by chang-

be interpreted as an effort

to avoid judicial scrutiny.

Clement, the administra-

tion's Supreme Court

lawyer, had told the jus-

tices that the appeals

court denial of the trans-

Solicitor General Paul

ing tactics in what could

the

charges.

decision.

terrorism-related

Judge

the event.

"We're in the process of tearing down everything now," right said Simmons. "It's hard to say how long it will take because it all depends on how many people we have helping. However, the city crews have been helping out a lot and the adopt-a-spot people will be taking their lights down

fer was "an unwarranted

attack on the exercise of

The 4th Circuit had

backed the administra-

tion last year, with a

broad ruling that said the

president could hold citi-

zens indefinitely without

charges as part of the war

Luttig, who was named

to the bench by Bush's

father, said last month

that the administration's

actions left the impres-

sion that Padilla had been

on terrorism.

executive discretion."

soon.

"I just want to thank everyone who helped make this happen. It's been a tremendous year, and we've gotten so much help from the volunteers. Thank you all, so much."

As far as next year is concerned, Simmons said there will be plenty of time to plan between now and Christmas.

held in military custody

"by mistake," and that

such government tactics

have been left, we fear, at

what may ultimately

prove to be a substantial

cost to the government's

credibility before the

Padilla's lawyers had

asked the court to delay

his transfer until the jus-

tices decided whether to

impressions

could prove costly.

courts," he wrote.

review his appeal.

"These

MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

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Maria Y. Garcia, 88, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myer s & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Melva Hodnett, 79, died Wednesday Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Leroy Aldridge, 77 died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1A

be signed," said Bloom. "That way when the ballot comes back, we can compare the signature on the request to the signature on the mail-out ballot.

Bloom said the county processed more than 500 mail-out ballots, including ballots for military personnel, last year, and another 53 ballots during the constitutional amendelection ment November.

"We're anticipating approximately 100 to 150 mail-out ballots during the upcoming primaries,'

said Bloom.

The Feb. 6 deadline to register to vote in the March primaries which are slated for March 7 — is also looming on the horizon.

"The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the election day," said Bloom. "This year the deadline actually falls on a Sunday, so the state is giving everyone the following working day, which is a Monday, to get voter registration

cards in." Bloom said registering to vote is easy and can be completed without ever having to leave home.

they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're reg-

istered, all they have to do is come by the office," said Bloom. "They can fill out the voter registration card and their card should be mailed to them in time for the primaries.

"For those who can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process."

Bloom said the registration cards require a Texas driver's license or identification card number, or the last four digits of the prospective voter's Social Security number.

"If the person registering doesn't have any of that information, there's a box on the card that they can check and still complete the process," said Bloom. "However, their name will be flagged in the computer, and when they go to the polls to vote, they will be asked to present identification."

Bloom said anyone who isn't sure about their registration status should contact her office, and if a replacement card is needed, one can be provided free of charge.

The first day of early voting is slated for Feb. 21 at the Howard County Courthouse. Early voting will continue through March 3.

For more information, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

Contact Staff Writer Tho.nas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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LIMBAUGH

"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.

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan **News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Support our youth at area stock shows

re're about to start a triple-header in Crossroad area junior livestock shows. With Glasscock County, **Howard County and Martin County** all scheduling stock shows this month, it's a busy time for area extension agents, ag instructors and others — not to mention several hundred of our youth.

These stock shows are community events that give our youth an opportunity to show their knowledge. In raising the animals and working with instructors and fellow students, they learn teamwork, responsibility, animal science and other skills that will help them through life.

Here's a brief outline of what's coming up: The Glasscock County begins today and runs through Saturday at the Glasscock County Community Center.

After a week's rest, the other two are scheduled. The Howard County Junior Livestock Show is Jan. 18 through 21 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

The Martin County Livestock Show starts a day after the Howard County show, on the 19th, and also continues through the 21st.

We encourage you to make plans to get over to Garden City this weekend and support these youth. The rabbit show is at 6 tonight; the goat show is at 8 a.m. Friday followed by the swine show at 10 a.m.; the sheep show is at 8 a.m. Saturday, then the steer show at 10 a.m. and the pig scramble at 11 a.m. If you've never seen the pig scramble, it's a treat. The whole thing wraps up with the premium sale at 1 p.m.

Plan on attending one or more of these stock shows and supporting our youth specifically and agriculture in general.

Your Views

TO THE EDITOR. First of all, financial cuts to child support enforcement and health care to children are immoral. Children are the future of this nation and by undercutting these services you are seriously harming this nation. They are inno-

have no voice. Secondly, most wellpaying jobs in this nation require a college degree. How can anyone pull themselves up and

cent bystanders who

out of poverty when you are cutting tuition help for people?

Lastly, by cutting funding to these programs and passing tax cuts to the wealthy you are cutting out the middle class and widening the gap between the rich and poor.

You campaigned that you are a Christian. I fail to see any Christian values in the passage of this vote.

> KAREN PIKE **BIG SPRING**

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Grant us Lord, the ability to use the wisdom you have given us.

Dems may get what they wish for

s pundits offered their traditional year-end appraisals of 2005, the near-uniform opinion was that President Bush set lofty domestic policy goals but fell woefully short of fulfilling them. Democrats would be wise not to be prematurely sanguine about this

assessment. We're reminded that upon his re-election in November 2004, the president promised that in his second term, he'd spend the political capital he had earned with the election. He assured us that his second term would be ambitious, including

commitments to tackle Social Security and try to make "permanent" his tax cuts. True to his word, and despite his

laser focus on the War on Terror, he went after Social Security with a vengeance. For a man the left insists can't walk and chew gum at the same time, the president deserves enormous credit for his courage in taking on the perennially unpopular issue of entitlement reform while allegedly consumed by a monomania over Iraq.

Similarly, he has tried earnestly to reduce the tax burden on income producers and estates, notwithstanding the predictable demagoguery that issued from the

But with the first year of his second term having expired, we are no closer to achieving either goal. That he has so far failed in both should not be a source of pride for Democrats but a badge of dishon-

Their own presidential role model, Bill Clinton, and his vice president, Al Gore, were adamant

about the looming problems with Social Security. There was much talk of lock boxes and other schemes to "protect" this hallowed institution. And let there be no mistake — both gentlemen, along with their entire political party, considered Social Security to be in "crisis."

Yet, when President Bush dared to take action to reform Social Security, instead of merely talking about the issue, Democrats obstructed at every turn and even denied there was a serious problem, much less a crisis. Let them continue to gloat about their obstruction, but let history reflect their dangerous deferral of a problem that threatens our long-term fiscal solvency, a matter they profess to be close to their hearts.

But there is another reason the Democrats ought not to be so smug about their efforts to reduce the president's policy focus to the War on Terror. We are at war and will be for the foreseeable future, well beyond 2008.

Barring unanticipated events, the major issue of the 2008 presidential election will be the war, and Democrats will go into the campaign season with a substantial handicap on that front. And they've earned it, in spades.

Voters were already skeptical of the Democratic Party on national security issues. But in the last few years, that skepticism may have ripened into full-blown distrust. And if not, it should have.

At the root of the public's lack of confidence in Democrats over national security is the party's ambivalence about the prosecution of the war and its absence of moral certitude about the nature of our enemy.

To this day, Democrats can't tell you whether it's a good thing we attacked Iraq. They were against the war in Iraq before they were

for it only to be against it again, and now they're probably just waiting to see how things turn out to decide, ultimately, whether they should be for or against it.

They grudgingly acknowledge that Saddam was a bad guy but shift immediately into complaining about the intelligence problems that led us into war. When not obsessing over that, they emphasize the allegedly terrible things America has done, from accusations of torture, to rendition, to "spying" on its own citizens, to "occupying" an unwelcoming Iraqi people, to killing innocent Iraqis. If you didn't know better, you'd think they were talking about Al Qaeda.

When Sen. Richard Durbin compares America's treatment of terrorist detainees to Nazi and Communist captors, when Sen. John Kerry reprises his slander of U.S. troops as storming innocent Iraqi homes, when Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid has to remind us five times in one interview that Democrats believe terrorists are indeed evil, when untold Democrats deny that Iraq is an integral venue in the War on Terror, objective observers have a duty to question the Democrats' seriousness about national security issues.

Democratic leaders have gloated over frustrating the president's domestic agenda and said that the all of the eggs in the presidential basket are tied up in Iraq. They say his entire legacy hinges on the War on Terror and, specifically, Iraq. If they're not careful, come 2008, they'll get what they wished

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. COPYRIGHT 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Bush: They don't tell him anything

theory is that they don't tell him anything, that's why the president keeps sounding like he doesn't know what he's talking about. There he was at Brooke Army

Medical Center over the weekend, once again getting it wrong: "I can say that if somebody from al-Qaida's calling you, we'd like to know why. In the meantime, this program is conscious of people's civil liberties, as am I. This is a limited program ... I repeat, limited. And it's limited to calls from outside the United States, to calls within the United States.

So then the White House had to go back and explain that, well, no, actually, the National Security Agency's domestic spying program is not limited to calls from outside the United States, or to calls from people known or even suspected of being with al-Qaida. Turns out thousands of Americans and resident foreigners have been or are being monitored and recorded by the NSA. It's more like information-mining, which is what, you may recall, the administration said it would not do. But now Bush has to investigate The New York Times because Bush has been breaking the law, you see?

I really don't think he'd sound like an idiot if they kept him informed. He would, however, still sound like a kid trying to get out of trouble by tattling on something Billy did: "My personal opinion is it was a shameful act for someone to disclose this very important program (the NSA surveillance program) in a time of war. The fact that we're discussing this program is helping the enemy.'

There he goes again. He is being deceitful and insincere. Bush and Co. have broken the law, and furthermore, it was completely

unnecessary to do so. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is not a hindrance to tracking down

al-Qaida — every objection to its requirements is easily refuted. So Bush breaks a

law he didn't remotely need to and then denounces anyone who discusses this as helping the enemy. Come on. It's so stupid. The choice is not between a police state

and another al-Qaida attack. (Speaking of disingenuous, if you wanted to make this country safer from terrorist attack, you'd do a lot better to trade in the NSA spy program for some sensible precautions at chemical plants, or making the Department of Homeland Security into something resembling an effective

agency.) I love the way we always start secret spy programs with great vows that the information shall be guarded and the innocent protected — and it turns out one of the first to make use to the NSA program for his own purposes was that parfait, gentil soul of discretion John Bolton, the Godzilla diplomat. Came out during his confirmation hearings: Bolton no one's idea of a judicious, reticent man — called on the NSA 10 times to identify sources he wanted the names of, presumably in connection with NSA's shamelessly undercover spying on the United Nations just before the Iraq War started.

Now, look at how this stuff spreads. We're only talking about the NSA, a top-security spy agency, super-secret — surely it can hang onto information without having it leak all over hell and gone, right? Wrong. Also in the

business of spying on American citizens are the Pentagon, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. the Department of Homeland Security and dozens of private contractors.

Do you remember a parlor game that was popular a few years ago called "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon"? The game was to name any actor and then see who could connect him to the actor Kevin Bacon in the least number of moves. For example, Elvis Presley: Presley once appeared in a film with Ed Asner, Ed Asner later appeared in a film with Kevin Bacon, therefore Presley has a Bacon score of two.

How long do you think it would take to connect you to Osama bin Laden?

Another reason to be deeply worried about a huge domestic spying operation is that it will inevitably be manned by nincompoops. Just take, for example, this lovely 2003 memo from an FBI agent railing at what he perceived as the dreadful restraints by John Ashcroft's Justice Department: "While radical militant librarians kicks us around, true terrorists benefit from (Justice's) failure to let us the tools given to us."

Yep, time after time, it's those radical militant librarians impeding those pitiful, helpless agents at the FBI.

Speaking of helpless FBI agents, in a recent column I misattributed the FBI's fine program of spying on vegans and People for the **Ethical Treatment of Animals to** the NSA. I'm sure both agencies would appreciate a correction.

P.S. — You can always suggest to the radical militant librarians that instead of saying, "Shhhh!" they yell, "Shut up!"

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year: This o Exped In c has fal into t **SUVs** They their thoug looked of gas carrie it. The pull

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TORS

'06 Expedition is agile for its size and thirst

Might as well start off the new year with a vehicle that represents what went wrong with last year: a big sport-utility. This one is the 2006 Ford

Expedition. In case your memory has faltered only five days into the new year, big SUVs are the villains. They consume more than their share of petroleum, though when last we looked, not a single gallon of gas sold in this world carried anyone's name on

They make it difficult to pull out of a parking space because you can't see around them. Even some owners are upset because they ride and handle like trucks, which is understandable considering they are trucks.

No one warned consumers that SUVs were a tad unruly before those owners jumped the midsize sedan ship in the name of four-wheel-drive fashion.

When gas prices spiked last year to more than \$3 a gallon, consumers and environmentalists called for an end to these monsters until they could deliver at least 30 to 40 m.p.g. just like all the "normal" cars on the road such as your "high Cadillac, mileage" Lincoln, Lexus, Infiniti and Jaguar.

To more fully appreciate the concerns over big SUVs, we tested one marking an anniversary. Ten years ago, Ford introduced Expedition because consumers demanded them.

Unfortunately, the Expedition that arrived for testing was delivered in a snowstorm, which delayed our resentment toward it as long as it could get through the deploys ground.

Funny how environmentalists in their highmileage, front-wheel-drive small cars neglected to make any untoward gestures at the big SUV passing while they were slipsliding away.

And have to compliment Ford for its 4WD system. Turn the dial on the dash. There's also a 4WD automatic setting that allows you to run in 2WD until wheel slippage is detected and then it switches to 4WD. No need to use 4WD low because it didn't snow that much.

Expedition is equipped with a 5.4-liter, 300-horsepower V-8, the only engine choice. The big V-8 does a more than adequate job in getting you moving from the light and into the passing lane with some spirit. And thanks to its 365 foot-pounds of torque, it doesn't have to take a deep breath to tow

- R.K., Wilmette, Ill.

or haul heavy loads.

But, and here's where energy-conscious have a point, it is rated at only 14 m.p.g. city and 17 m.p.g. highway. Have to admit that in foul weather, we never considered what the next gallon of fuel would cost.

When the roads were dry, on the other hand, the eyes tended to look at the huge numbers outside the refueling stations.

One common big SUV complaint, the one about trucklike ride, didn't prove true. Ford has adjusted the suspension so we enjoyed almost sedanlike ride without being bounced and brutalized in the cabin. Bumps and abrasions in the road weren't jarring and jostling.

However, this thing rides on a 119-inch wheelbase and is 205.8 inches long overall to hold three rows of seats as well as a massive amount of luggage. So you'll lean in that seet when making a turn or taking a corner. You won't need much prodding to back off the accelerator when having to direct the steering wheel to the left or right.

Yet Ford has taken pains to account for the vehicle's AdvanceTrac stability control with roll-stability control is an option at \$595. The system was borrowed from Volvo, which offered it first in the XC90 SUV. It uses gyroscopic sensors to detect possible tilt and employ the standard four-wheel anti-lock brakes and/or reduce engine power to keep the vehicle roof-rack side up. But when the motorist disregards speed or hits a curb at the wrong angle to trip the machine, a safety canopy air-bag curtain with rollover sensors and stays snow with all four wheels deployed to protect occu-

What Ford couldn't do in a vehicle this size, however, is make it agile enough to slip into or out of parking stalls with ease. Whether at the mall or the grocery store, you have to look for a spot to park where you won't be hemmed in and unable to open your doors.

Expedition also comes in too many flavors: XLS, XLT, XLT Sport, Eddie Bauer, Limited and King Ranch, the version we tested. Hopefully, it will offer fewer when the new Expedition comes out for 2007. King Ranch adds such gingerbread as aluminum wheels with King Ranch logos; floor mats with those logos; step bars though some would call them running boards (regardless, they are a necessity unless you top 6 feet tall); power folding and heated mirrors with built-in turn signals so



No shortage of room for people or their possessions in the new 2006 Ford Expedition.

those behind can better see your intention to turn; leather seats; and power third-row seats (standard King Ranch and

Limited). Power control gives the third-row seats character. Push the buttons along the side wall in the cargo hold to lower either or both the left or right side of the bench seat. Push the buttons again to raise them. The large cargo hold becomes massive with the third-row seats folded flat.

Plan your loading carefully and you can press the buttons to angle up the seat backs and slide the packages toward you so you don't have to stretch so far inside.

But there still is stretching to do. The hatch lid has a handle on the outside for easy opening. But the lid rises high for loading and unloading and to close it you have to reach far inside to grab a pull

Getting into the thirdrow seat was made easy by the optional pair of second-row captain's chairs (\$795) rather than a three-passenger bench seat. The captain's chairs provided a wide aisle to the third, which was a surprise, with ample head, leg and arm room for adults. It actually has more leg room than in the slightly cramped second

A most pleasant option for the second- and thirdrows is a DVD system with a pull-down screen and headphones. Anyone who traveled to grandma's without such a sys-

tem over the Christmas holidays will never know the ability of DVD technology to keep the rug rats at peace unless they buy one - at a hefty

\$1.500. Other noteworthy features include power plugs in the dash and rear cargo wall, a huge center console storage compartment under the armrest that has not only coin, tissue box and pen holder, but also room for a laptop and a host of DVDs.

Large and small stowage compartments dot the cabin, though the glove box is so tiny a pair of gloves will barely fit.

Other nice touches are a reverse-sensing system (\$255) that bleeps a warning when objects are behind; a power moonroof (\$860); power adjustable pedals (standard in King Ranch); and power rear quarter windows (\$125) that bring fresh air to third-row passengers. Unlike some minivans, however, both windows open or close together,

not separately. The '06 Expedition King Ranch 4x4 starts at \$45,240, and includes air conditioning; power windows, door locks and driver's seat; and AM/FM stereo radio with CD and

cassette player. The price tag is one reason some who want the security of four- or allwheel-drive are switching to smaller SUVs or crossovers. Low mileage and so-so handling are others.

Expedition sales are down about 24 percent from a year ago.



2006 Ford Expedition King Ranch 4x4

PRICE AS TESTED: \$49,240 WHEELBASE: 119 inches

LENGTH: 205.8 inches

ENGINE: 5.4-liter, 300-h.p. V-8 TRANSMISSION: 4speed automatic

MILEAGE: City: 14 m.p.g.; Hwy: 17 m.p.g. THE STICKER:

\$45,240 — Base

\$255 — Reverse-sensing system

\$795 — Second-row captain's chairs

\$860 — Power moonroof

\$595 — AdvanceTrac with roll-stability control \$595 — Safety canopy with rollover sensors

\$125 - Power rear quarter windows

\$1,500 — Rear-seat DVD entertainment system Add \$820 for freight **PLUSES**

 No shortage of room for people or their possessions and sit-up-high seating so you can see what's coming down the road.

- Four-wheel-drive for any season or any reason Available goodies such as power folding third-

row seat, power adjustable pedals, roll-stability control and safety canopy. Good ride considering the size.

MINUSES

Mileage.

 Effects of size on handling as well as on slipping into and out of a parking space.

Q&A

Q. Do you have a list of upcoming hybrid vehicles, specifically the Volvo XC90?

- M.V., Racine, Wis. A. Volvo said plans to offer a hybrid version of the XC90 SUV are still a few years off because it has to decide whether the XC90 or a smaller vehicle would get the hybrid treatment.

Q. Read your column about the Buick Lucerne offering portholes. You referred to the portholes dating to '70s and 80s models, but portholes were introduced on the 1949 Buick Roadmaster and were functional to ventilate the engine compartment.

A. Yes, portholes were first offered in 1949, and yes, engine ventilation, not decoration, was the reason they appeared. But the review simply said Buick used portholes, known as Ventiports, in the '70s and '80s to help distinguish a Buick from an Oldsmobile in the days of lookalike cars.

Send questions about cars and trucks to Jim Mateja, Chicago Tribune, 616 Atrium Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061-1523, or send e-mail, including name and home town, to jmateja@tribune.com.



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A delicious, healthy breakfast puts a spin on your day — all day.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

on't save the best 'til last - have it first, for breakfast! Why consider a knockout combo of pears, cranberries and hazelnuts just for dessert, when the same delicious trio can rev up your day with a healthy head start?

■ Nutrient-dense fresh pears are a great addition to breakfast because of their fiber/vitamin C/potassium content. They're low-calorie, plus they have no sodium, cholesterol or saturated fat.

 Dried, fresh or frozen, or in juice form, cranberries are a true nutritional powerhouse to get your engine running. Cranberries provide antioxidants as well as a bacteriablocking property that helps prevent urinary even gum disease.

■ Hazelnuts are a high quality source of protein, providing the energy needed to tackle a busy day, and there's more they're a heart-healthy source of monounsaturated fat, vitamin E, magnesium and many other nutrients.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

Pears, cranberries and hazelnuts can be "extras" as well as stars on the breakfast stage:

- Layer yogurt with cranberries and hazelnuts.
- Sprinkle dried cranberries or sliced pears on your breakfast cereal.
- Top your oatmeal with toasted hazelnuts and sliced pears.
- Blend cranberry juice and peeled, chopped pears into a smoothie.
- Bake fresh cranberries, pears and hazelnuts into muffins and quick breads. For more ideas and recipes, visit www.hazelnutcouncil.org, www.usapears.org and www.uscranberries.com.

Cranberry Glazed **Cinnamon Rolls**

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened, divided

1 1/2 cups hazelnuts, toasted, skin removed, chopped, divided 1 1/4 cups sugar, divided

1/2 cup cranberry juice cocktail 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided

1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed

pears, peeled, cored, diced 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 350°F. Heat 1/4 cup butter or margarine in 13- x 9- x 2-inch pan in oven until melted. Remove from oven. Stir in 1 cup hazelnuts, 1 cup sugar, cranberry juice and I teaspoon cinnamon until

Mix remaining 1/4 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in small bowl; set aside.

blended; set aside.

Roll bread dough into 12- x 10-inch rectangle on lightly floured surface. Spread remaining 2 tablespoons butter or margarine over dough, leaving 1/2-inch edge. Arrange pears and cranberries on buttered dough. Sprinkle cinnamon-sugar mixture and remaining 1/2 cup hazelnuts over fruit.

Start at long edge of dough and roll into 12-inch long cylinder; pinch dough to seal. Cut into 12, 1-inch slices and place on mixture in pan. Cover with damp cloth and proof in warm place until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes until golden brown and roll sounds hollow when tapped. Immediately invert onto heat-proof plate.

Makes 12 cinnamon rolls

Nutritional Analysis per Serving: Calories 380 (37% Calories from Fat), 6g Protein, 57g Carbohydrate, 4g Fiber, 16g Fat, 4g Sat. Fat, 15mg Cholesterol, 270mg Sodium

Tangy Lemon Breakfast Fruit Strata

1 1/3 cups 1% milk

3 eggs 2/3 cup low-fat sour cream

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

teaspoon ground cinuamon

1/2 teaspoon salt 4 slices white bread, crust removed, torn into small

pieces, divided cup sweetened dried cranberries pear, peeled, cored, cut into

1/4-inch-thin slices 3/4 cup hazelnuts, toasted, skin removed, chopped tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk first 9 ingredients in medium bowl until

smooth; set aside. Place 3/4 of bread pieces in greased 8-inch square pan. Layer cranberries, remaining bread pieces and pears in pan. Pour milk-mixture over pears.

Mix hazelnuts, sugar and cinnamon in small bowl. Sprinkle over mixture in pan.

Bake 45 to 55 minutes until golden and knife inserted into center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting. Makes 16 (2-inch) squares

Nutritional Analysis per Serving: Calories 120 (42% Calories from Fat). 3g Protein. 14g Carbohydrate, lg Fiber, 6g Fat, 1.5g Sat. Fat, 40mg Cholesterol, 115mg Sodium

Hazelnut Harvest Waffle With Cranberry Pear Sauce

2 cups cranberries, fresh or frozen

1 cup orange juice 2/3 cup sugar

2 pears, peeled, cored, cut into

1-inch cubes teaspoon bourbon or vanilla

cup low fat whipped topping 3/4 cup canned, solid-pack pumpkin

3/4 cup whole milk

eggs

tablespoon vegetable oil

1 2/3 cups pancake mix removed, chopped (plus additional to garnish,

Bring cranberries, orange juice and sugar to slow boil over medium-high heat in medium saucepan. Cook 7 minutes. Add pears and continue to slow boil 6 to 8 minutes until berries burst, pears are softened and mixture is reduced to 2 cups. Remove

Stir bourbon or vanilla into whipped topping until blended; cover and refrigerate.

Whisk pumpkin, milk, eggs and oil in small bowl until blended. Stir in pancake mix, hazelnuts and allspice until blended. If mixture is too thick, add additional milk.

Spread 1 1/3 cups batter over preheated waffle iron. Cook as directed on mix package. Place 1/4 cup cranberrypear sauce and dollop whipped topping over each waffle square. Garnish with ground cinnamon and chopped hazelnuts, if desired. Serve immediately.

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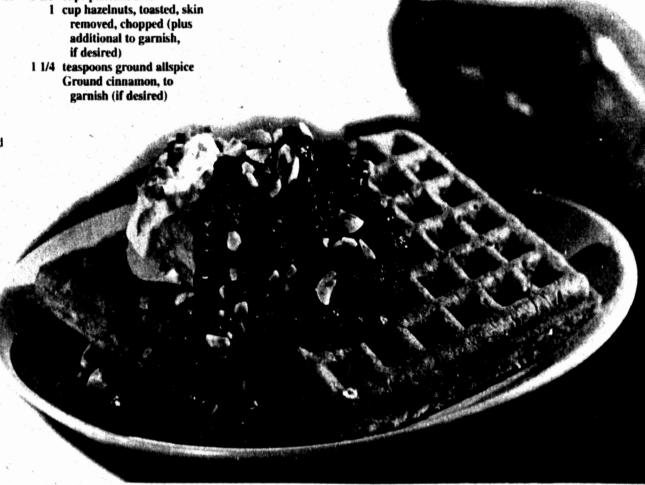
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Makes 4 (2-waffle squares each) servings **Nutritional Analysis Per Serving: Calories** 750 (35% Calories from Fat), 16g Protein. 111g Carbohydrate, 11g Fiber, 30g Fat, 4.5g Sat. Fat, 120mg Cholesterol, 710mg Sodium



place Jan. 12 in igh school cafete-

The public is invited attend and tickets ay be purchased in

advance from Kay Cook at the ATC by calling 264-3662 or from Gene or Lana Piercefield at 816-1184.

The cost is \$10.

Edwards close to

becoming new head

coach of K.C. Chiefs

NEW YORK (AP) -

Herman Edwards is

close to becoming the

Kansas City and the Jets discussed a com-

pensation package for

Edwards, a person close to the situation

said. Another person

familiar with the

negotiations said the

talks were almost

The Jets maintained

the Chiefs haven't offi-

cially contacted them.

Edwards' agent, Gary

O'Hagan, said he has-

n't spoken with either

Edwards, who guid-

ed the Jets to three playoff berths in five

years, has two years

left on his contract.

He is one of the low-

est-paid coaches in the league at \$2 million a

Cadillac, Merriman

voted best rookles

NEW YORK (AP) -

Carnell Williams won

the The Associated

Press NFL Offensive

Rookie of the Year

The Tampa Bay run-

ning back nicknamed

"Cadillac" rushed for

1,178 yards and six

touchdowns, and was

the catalyst in the

Buccaneers' turn-

around from also-ran

to NFC South champi-

San Diego line-

Merriman was the

Defensive Rookie of

the Year after record-

ing a team-high 10

Vikings plead not

MINNETONKA.

Minnesota Vikings

Daunte Culpepper,

Bryant McKinnie and

Fred Smoot have pleaded not guilty to

charges related to the

team's bawdy boating

Culpepper,

McKinnie, Smoot and

Williams face three

misdemeanor charges each related to the

party Oct. 6 on Lake Minnetonka. They

were charged with indecent conduct, disorderly conduct and

ewd or lascivious

Rangers finalize

trade to get Eaton

RLINGTON, Texas

angers completed pelr six-player trade Ith the San Diego

- The Texas

(AP)

guilty in "boat

party" incident

Shawne

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sacks.

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teammate

next Chiefs coach.

Page 1B Thursday, January 5, 2006

In'Vince'able

• Young snaps USC's 34game winning streak with late TD run at Rose Bowl

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — All season long, Texas put its championship hopes in Vince Young's hands — and he never failed to deliver.

With the national title down to a final play fourth down and 5 yards to go — it was up to Young again, and the Longilorns loved their chances.

Texas' dynamic quarterback scrambled untouched for an 8-yard touchdown with 19 seconds left and the No. 2 Longhorns stunned No. 1 Southern California 41-38 in the Rose Bowl on Wednesday night.

"We never, ever, really thought we'd lose the Mack Brown said.

He did it all - and made sure Texas was second no more to USC and its Heisman Trophy twins, Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart.

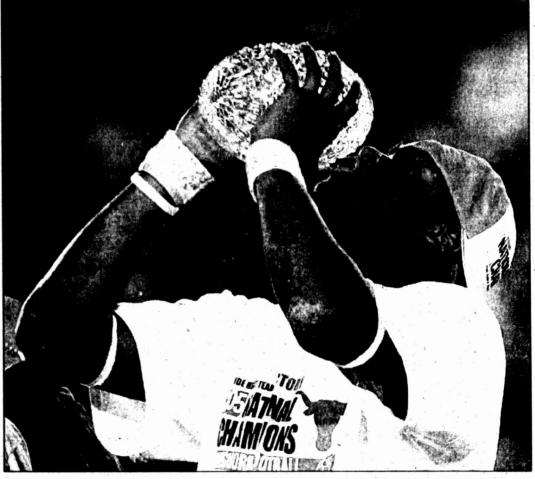
"Do whatever it takes," Young said.

It was the ultimate revenge for Young, the bitterly disappointed runner-up to Bush for the Heisman last month.

At the Heisman presentation, Young had a blank stare and reluctantly clapped after he lost in a landslide to Bush. After winning the biggest team prize of all, he beamed with a satisfied smile, hugging anyone he could find.

Young ran for 200

ballgame," Texas coach See CHAMPS, Page 2B



Texas quarterback Vince Young kisses the trophy after their victory as No. 2 Texas beat No. 1 USC 41-38, Wednesday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Brown gets win in 'big game' for Longhorns

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer PASADENA, Calif.

(AP) — For all the critics who poked fun at Mack Brown by calling him "Coach February, it's time to show a bit more respect.

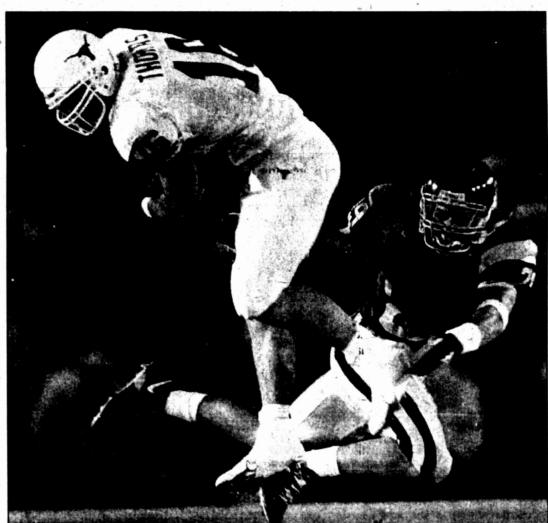
Calling him "National Champion" will do just

After years of frustration and near-misses with teams from Tulane to North Carolina to Texas, the Longhorns coach finally shed the reputation of a coach who can't win the big one.

With a thrilling 41-38 Rose Bowl victory Wednesday night over 1 Southern California on the legs and right arm of quarterback Vince Young, the 54-year-old Brown won his first national championship and Texas' first outright title since 1969.

"It's not about me," Brown said. "That's why it didn't bother me then, and that's why I'm not mad at them now. They'll just be quiet for a while.

See BROWN, Page 2B



KRT photo/Ron Jenkins, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Texas' David Thomas (16) eludes USC's Scott Ware (29) as No. 2 Texas beat No. 1 USC, 41-38, Wednesday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Austin erupts in joy after Horns take down Trojans

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer AUSTIN - Euphoric Texas students and fans spilled onto the streets of Austin and made their way to a campus celebration to revel in the Longhorns' national title come-from-behind

Rose Bowl victory late Wednesday night.

Seconds after Texas beat Southern California 41-38, the university lit the UT tower orange, the traditional signal of victory on the campus.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to Austin," said 21-year-old See FANS, Page 2B

junior Robert Schneider. "This is the best that ever happened to me."

A fan dressed up as the Longhorn mascot Bevo ran down Guadalupe Street, the main drag along campus. Police closed the street to make

Horns end season at top of AP final poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — All season long, the No. 1 ranking belonged to Southern California - before Texas swiped it away at the end.

The Longhorns finished first, a unanimous choice, in The Associated Press Top 25 for the first time since 1969 after beating the Trojans 41-38 in the Bowl Rose

Wednesday night. Not only did Texas end USC's 34-game winning streak, Longhorns snapped USC's record string of 33 consecutive polls as No. 1.

Texas opened the season No. 2 behind USC and coach Mack Brown and his players never grumbled about being stuck behind the twotime defending national champions.

The Longhorns were fine with waiting for a chance to prove they were the best on the field — and they did.

Vince Young ran and

See POLL, Page 2B

Hawks keep hopes of No. 1 ranking intact after victory

 Howard takes down host in finale of Polk College Classic

By TROY HYDE Sports Editor

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. Defense was the name of the game Wednesday night for the secondranked Howard men's basketball team. And the Hawks passed another tough test and remained unbeaten after taking

down Polk Community College, 53-46, in the final game of the Polk College New Years Classic.

Freshman point guard Benny Valentine won his third straight tournament MVP award after leading the Hawks in the finale with 23 points and four

steals. Sophomore Dezmon Harris added 10 points, while sophomore Louis Rodgers and freshman Benson Akpan each pulled down 11 rebounds. Sophomore Charles Burgess, who was one rebound shy of a tripledouble in the opener Monday, was also voted to

the all-tournament team. Howard improved to 16-0 with the win and will most likely be the topranked team in the nation after No. 1 Chipola College lost to Daytona Community College, 96-91, in a tournament Dec. 16.



KRT photo/Stave weslich, Knight-Ridder Tribe Maryland Terrapin forward James Gist (15) has the ball stolen by Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Rashad Mintz (11) during first half actio, Wednesday in College Pa Md. Mintz played at Howard College lant year.

ted on berryopping with azelservings

Calories otein.

Sodium

CHAMPS

Continued from Page 1B

more and made a pitchout

- relays showed he was

down, but it wasn't called

— for a score. He capped

a performance that Texas

fans will remember forev-

er by scoring his third TD

and running for a 2-point

Longhorns ended the

Trojans' 34-game winning

streak and denied them

an unprecedented third

straight national champi-

Young said as he received

the MVP crystal. "Don't

you think that's beauti-

ful? It's coming home all

the way to Austin,

The Longhorns were a

unanimous No. 1 in the

final Associated Press

Top 25 and won the Bowl

Championship Series title

about, 41-38 in the final

game," said Leinart, the

Trojans quarterback and

Heisman winner a year

ago. "You couldn't ask for

anything better. This was

a great football game. We

gave our hearts, they

gave their hearts, and

The Longhorns (13-0)

won their 20th in a row.

USC (12-1) lost for the

first time since a triple-

California on Sept. 27,

2003. Its 34-game winning

streak is tied for sixth all-

defeat to

overtime

they came out on top."

"This is what it's all

with this victory.

him,

so beautiful,'

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Behind

onship.

Texas."

"It's

They'll be writing and

saying different things." For years, Brown has played runner-up to the likes of Florida State's Bobby Bowden Oklahoma's Bob Stoops. At North Carolina, he built the Tar Heels into Atlantic Coast Conference power, but couldn't get past FSU.

At Texas, Brown built a reputation as a master recruiter in February but couldn't beat Stoops' Sooners and therefore couldn't win the Big 12. He finally beat Oklahoma this season after five straight losses and won his first career conference championship.

The win even elevated Brown near the status of Texas icon Darrell Royal, the 81-year-old patriarch of the program who won national titles in 1963 and '69 and shared a third in 1970.

One of the first things Brown wanted to do after the game was call Royal, an ardent Brown supporter who watched the game from a stadium luxury

"He's wanted us to win for a long time," Brown said.

Brown's national championship game matched him against a Trojans team that drew comparisons with the best in history. He beat Pete Carroll, the USC coach whose hip and freewheeling West Coast style captivated college football and made Brown's folksy approach

For a month, Brown's instincts as a runner.

second-ranked team heard the praise heaped on USC and quietly notched it away in their memory.

"We didn't get no respect from none of the media," Young said. "We really did work hard for it. We wanted to show the world we did deserve to play in this game and we deserved to go out there and get a victory. That's what we did."

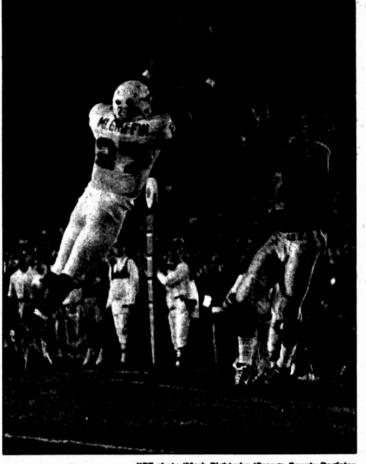
While Young was the Longhorns' dynamic leader on the field all season, Texas won the national title with a team built to repeat in 2006 if the quarterback returns for his senior season. Fourteen starters return next season, including most of an offense that averaged 51 points in

"I think he's one of the great players ever to play college football," Brown said. "If he comes back next year, which we think he will, he'll have a great shot to win the Heisman."

Brown's leap from Big 12 runner-up to national title hinged on his relationship with Young, who was the top-high school recruit in the country when he signed with Texas in 2002.

Brown and the kid from the tough streets of Houston's Fourth Ward bonded like the coach had rarely done with his play-

The coach was smart enough to resist the urge to bench Young after a shutout loss to Oklahoma in 2004. Instead, he pushed Young to improve as a thrower while also learning to trust his



Texas' Michael Griffin (27) picks off a Matt Leinart pass at the endzone which was intended for USC's Steve Smith (2) of the Trojans. No. 2 Texas beat No. 1 USC, 41-38, Wednesday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

FANS

Continued from Page 1B

way for thousands of flagwaving and hand-slapping fans.

Fans shouted chants of "Who's Reggie Bush?" and "Vince Young for President," references to USC's Heisman Trophy winning running back and Texas' quarterback.

"I knew that we could do it, even when no one else thought we could, because that's just how we 'do it in Texas," 21year-old student Erik merchandising.

Johnson said.

Police were out in numbers, but had no problems in the immediate aftermath of the game.

'We're going to let them have their fun," Austin Darrell police Lt. Boydston. "But we're prepared for the worst.'

Students also made a run to the University Coop, a book and supplies store, to buy T-shirts. The Co-op had 12,000 championship T-shirts on hand, which would have been

destroyed if Texas lost, said Kris Salazar, the store's vice president of

beyond the big two.

Garnett and Szczerbiak

are the only ones averag-

right there with them in

"That's a good sign,"

Szczerbiak said. "He's a

very high-strung guy.

He's got to channel that

in the right way. He can't

Dirk Nowitzki had 23

points, and Marquis

Daniels chipped in 16

points for the sluggish

Mavericks, who were

held to a season-low in

scoring and shot only 37.2

percent (29-for-78) from

the floor. They lost for

just the fourth time in

The effort was exactly

what Minnesota has been

missing, still stinging

from a two-game trip to

their last 17 games.

get down on himself."

starying

this one.

time in Division I-A, behind Oklahoma's 47game run from 1953-57. "Well, we couldn't stop. them when we had to," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "The quarterback ran all over the place. This is their night. It's

for coring

wonderful doing what we've been doing. We didn't get it done." After the MVP trophy presentation. Young draped his arms around two teammates' shoulders and the three sang "We

Are The Champions." Later, he ran into Leinart and Bush as the USC players walked past the Texas locker room and greeted each with a

hug. Brown took Bush aside near the entrance to the locker room and told him, "I thought it was a classy game. Nobody could stop

anybody." When the game was over, Texas players streamed onto the field with the Longhorns' first outright national title

since 1969. Young stood on the sideline in a sea of falling confetti, arm raised toward the crowd, and senior tackle William Winston unfurled a big, white Longhorns flag.

While the Longhorns' band blared "The Eyes of Texas" in front of a sea of

burnt orange, the USC players looked startled. Some put their hands to their heads, while others dejectedly took off their yards, passed for 267 helmets.

Said Leinart: "I still think we're a better football team. They just made the plays in the end."

Leinart did his part in his final college game while Bush was less than his best. Leinart passed for 365 yards, and his 22yard TD strike to Dwayne Jarrett put USC ahead 38-26 with 6:42 left.

Earlier, Bush soared into the end zone on a 26vard run, part of his 82 yards rushing. He also had 95 yards on six catches — and a boneheaded lateral that swung momentum Texas' way in the first half.

"It's been a great run. We've done some special things," Bush said. "I don't think we should be ashamed about anything."

In a game that produced more than 1,100 yards, a defensive stand was key for Texas.

On fourth-and-2 from USC's 45-vard line with 2:09 left, Carroll gambled. He decided to try to seal the game with his vaunted offense, dubbed by many the best ever in college football, and keep the ball out of Young's hands.

But when LenDale White, who had three touchdowns, came up inches short, All-America defensive tackle Rod Wright and other Texas defenders jumped in the air and charged off the field as Young trotted on.

"If you make that first down, you're squatting on the football to win the game," Carroll said. "We just missed it. By what -2 inches?"

Young stood in the pocket and passed the Longhorns to a first-and-10 at the 13. After a 5-yard scramble, he misfired on two passes to set up fourth-and-5 at the 8.

The Trojans brought pressure, as they did all night, but Young slid away from it and looked for a receiver. Instead, he found a lane and raced to the right pylon.

"I went through all my progressions, so I just took off with it," Young said.

The Longhorns players rejoiced. One pounded the turf as he lay face down while the shocked Trojans futilely looked toward officials, hoping they'd say Young stepped out of bounds.

USC had one last chance, and it wasn't a good one. On the last play of the game from just midfield. beyond Leinart's pass sailed high over Jarrett's head around the 25.

With two of the most storied programs in college football, the Rose Bowl was dripping with pageantry and tradition.

T-Wolves roll past Mavericks in Minnesota



Minnesota Timberwolves' Eddle Griffin (41) blocks a shot by Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) during first quarter action at the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minn., Wednesday. The Wolves won 91-78

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer,

MINNEAPOLIS - The Minnesota Timberwolves need Marko Jaric to stop ing better than 11 points being so self-critical and per game, but Jaric was tently.

He relaxed for once, and they reaped the benefits against the **Dallas** Mavericks.

Jaric scored 22 points to struggling spark Minnesota to a 91-78 vicover **Dallas** tory Wednesday night.

"I was telling myself, 'Marko, this team needs a point guard out there," said the mercurial Jaric. who came in a trade with the Los Angeles Clippers this summer and has performed sporadically since.

The Timberwolves, who won for only the third time in their last 11 games, were paced by Kevin Garnett's 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

Wally Szczerbiak contributed his usual 20 points, but Jaric and defensive stalwart Trenton Hassell (14 points) were the catalysts for a team that has been

Florida that featured a 30point loss to the Orlando

Magic and a 27-point defeat to the Miami Heat. It was rewarding against a team like Dallas, which has the NBA's third-best record at 23-9.

POLI

Continu€ from Page 1B

passed or 467 yards and scramb d 8 yards for the winning score with 19 seconds left for Texas (13-

"It's incredible," Texas tackle Justine Blalock said. "It's been a long time coming for the state of Texas."

The Longhorns received

all 65 first-place votes. USC was second, ahead of Joe Paterno and Penn State, which had its highest final ranking since finishing No. 2 in 1994.

Ohio State was fourth. and West Virginia finished fifth.

LSU, Virginia Tech, Alabama, Notre Dame and Georgia rounded out the top 10.

It's been more than a decade since Notre Dame finished a season ranked this high. Behind coach Charlie Weis the Irish have their best ranking in the final poll since 1993, when they finished No. 2 behind Florida State.

The last time the Crimson Tide were a top-10 team at the end of the season was 1999.

No. 11 TCU (11-1) just missed the Top 10, but still grabbed its best final ranking since 1959, when the Horned Frogs were seventh.

Urban Meyer ended his first season at Florida with the Gators ranked 12th, tied with Oregon for that spot.

Wisconsin 15th in coach first time since 1984.

Barry Alvarez's final season.

Southeastern The Conference had five teams in the top 15.

UCLA was No. 16, followed by Miami, Boston College, Louisville and Texas Tech.

The final five were Clemson, Oklahoma which finally got back in the rankings after falling out in September Florida State, Nebraska and California.

The Cornhuskers haven't been ranked since the end of the 2003 season. Nebraska beat Michigan

won a wild Alamo Bowl. 32-28, to knock the Wolverines from the rankings.

Michigan didn't make Auburn was 14th and the final AP poll for the



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ment property, water available. \$1,200,00/a. 12+/-a Nolan Co., 2/1+ home, barn, horse barn w/runs, roping arena & more. \$159,000.00.

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Legals

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE **ENTRY INTO FIELDS**

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Section 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 16, 2006. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any treatment. chemical 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 800-687-1212. #4828 January 5 & 12, 2006

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aries moon gives a burst of forceful energy to projects. Additionally, the sun and Jupiter collectively sug-

gest that you don't have to look for opportunities because success relies on takfull ing advantage of the ones you are already

living.

HOLIDAY **MATHIS**

Tonight is an auspicious date night. but it's even luckier if you go out with a socalled entourage!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Detachment seems counter-intuitive to getting what you want. How can the key to getting what you want be not caring whether or not you get it? It just is. Hold your intention and desire, but let the outcome be what it will.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some believe that true love is synonymous with happiness — a rather naive point of view to you. The stars show you loving someone so much you'll put up with a little unhappiness in order to give that person your all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Golfing-great Lee Trevino said, "The older I get, the better I used to be." Your environment this afternoon triggers a feeling of nostalgia, and it wells up inside you, grand and golden.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). At work, you can keep things the way they are, but you have to change in order to do it. New personnel have different talents than the people who used to do the job. If you're willing to adjust, others will accommodate you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Loved ones say exactly what is running through your subconscious but you would rather not deal with. They also have Take in all you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your financial problem is really a relationship problem

- namely, you don't know the right people yet. Expand your network. Write about the fantasy person who could help you with your problem. You might just conjure him up!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You arrive at genius solutions when you want to. You're thinking, "When do I NOT want solutions?" But you must admit, some problems have convenient uses in your life. You might be unconsciously keeping one alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Feelings of longing are appropriate for a time, but soon you're moving on to something more active. After all, love doesn't come (SET ITAL) to (END ITAL) you, it comes out of you. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-**

Dec. 21). You could accidentally ask the exact wrong person to help you with a job. But Mercury favors your offbeat approach - the most wrong decision could be the most right thing that happens all week. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Inside you are secrets that you're willing to let out only for a moment through your artistic talent. You'll have creative moments that are so inspired that you're hardly in control. The muse speaks through you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The most important thing to remember while working is not to agonize! Not for a second! It's impossible to get into a flow when you're feeling anxious. Calm down first. You're right on schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What is normal to you is so very abnormal to others. Stars show you with the urge to explain vourself. But perhaps it's better not to. You're not the one being closedminded.

SAGITTARIUS

vear - the best answers sing out to you, and you need only to listen. Your conviction is renewed, and deciding what is next is easy. It's as though the sun comes out to increase the contrast and the gray areas have disappeared. This month brings a leader to your life. This person teaches you how to be more resourceful and how to handle heavy responsibility with grace. It's important to soak up all you can because in March, you'll be leading others in much the same way. There is no way to complete successfully tasks alone. Bring your best ideas to the table at work in June, and you'll be promoted. Proving vourself is still required. but if you stay focused, it won't be a problem. There are personal dramas galore throughout June. Try not to get wrapped up in them. Less-advantaged people need your help in July. This could require you to rally friends and together, colleagues which will be fun and also have perks for your personal life. Gentle progress with loved ones is featured through the summer. Try not to push. People are who they are and will only change when ready.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: iFootloosei singer/songwriter Kenny Loggins (Jan. 7, 1948) is a soulful Capricorn who recently reconnected with his old friend Jim Messina to tour once again as "Loggins and Messina." Capricorn is the sign of respect, and Capricorns are always luckiest when paying respects to their early mentors and people who helped them become who they are. The reunion tour will bring a financial windfall.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or words of encouragement. ASTROLOGICAL HIGH- you may send her a post-LIGHTS: You know card in the mail. To find

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My wife, "Nicole," had an affair with a co-worker last year. When I found out, I was devastated, and I still have emotional problems because of it. We have four children, so we worked it out the best we could.

Nicole continued to work at the same place with this same co-worker for a short time after I found out, and it was killing me every time she went to her office. A few months ago, she finally found another job.

Recently, Nicole's old boss called and asked if she could fill in temporarily. Nicole asked me if this would be a problem. I never demand things of her, but I did express my feelings that I hoped she could move on and let that past go. Frankly, I don't understand how she could even want to go back into that situation if she really wishes to hold our marriage together. It's like this affair will

never go away. I don't want her around this man ever again. Do you think Nicole wants to revisit a fantasy? Am I being unreasonable to ask her not to do this, or is she taking our relationship for granted? - Depressed Hubby

Dear Hubby: Nicole probably thinks she can avoid temptation while helping her old boss, but she would be foolish to put herself in that position. More importantly, knowing how nervous it makes you, she should not give it the slightest consideration. Nicole owes it to you to do what-



MARCY SUGAR

ever is necessary to regain your trust.

Make it clear that if she decides to return to that office, you will make an appointment with a marriage counselor, because your relationship obviously needs more work.

Dear Annie: My sisterin-law lives a few blocks away and is very well-off. She throws large birthday parties for her four sons and invites tons of people. She hounds us to attend and makes a big deal if we don't.

My issue is this: She never sends a gift or card to any of our four children on their birthdays. When we throw a party, she always has an excuse not to show up.

I am tired of going to her parties when she is so thoughtless and selfish. My husband doesn't want to start anything, so he asks me to ignore her behavior and attend the parties. I've had five years of this, and that's enough. Even my children notice the disparity.

What would be a good way to approach her behavior without hurting

nephews? Frustrated In-Law

Dear Frustrated: You can't make your sister-inlaw a more considerate aunt. Please continue to send cards and gifts to your nephews, whether or not you attend the parties. And don't let her browbeat you into showing up. If you keep repeating, "So sorry, we have plans," she'll eventually accept it. The key is to remain sweet and kind, no matter how angry she becomes. She'll look like a raving lunatic, and you'll be the picture of sainthood.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Depressed and Embarrassed," who suffered from mental illness and was on disability. People didn't believe anything was wrong. I am a suicidal depres-

sive and suffer from Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Four years ago, I had a major breakdown and decided then that I would no longer continue to hide. Most people do not understand mental illness, so I explain my condition to almost anyone who asks. Not everyone is receptive. but I owe it to every person with the illness to broaden the public's understanding of the affliction.

If "Depressed" is embarrassed about her condition, it suggests she has not yet come to terms with it. — Depressed But Honest in North Carolina

Dear Honest: You may be right, but whether or not to discuss a personal issue is up to the individual. Additional pressure to talk about it won't help.

BIG SPI Thursda

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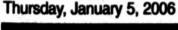
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	12	:AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y		Show	Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien		Update/Israel		Shark Attack: Predators	Game Head Blind Date	Inside the NBA (CC)	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	ESPN Holly.		Law & Order: SVU	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I MUST BE GETTING OLD, GINA. MY PARENTS GOT UP BEFORE I DID THIS MORNING."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, will you open up this radio to show PJ there aren't any little people inside?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE





BC







WIZARD OF ID





AGNES WHATIS ACERTIFIABLE, MIND BLOWING, CROWD-STOPPING AWEINSPIRING NATURAL WONDER! THAT





HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST







SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2006. There are 360 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1896, the Austrian newspaper Wiener Presse reported the discov-ery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays. On this date:

In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond,

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1925, Nellie T. Ross ceeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming, becoming the first female governor in U.S. history. In 1933, the 30th president

of the United States, Calvin

Coolidge, died Northampton, Mass., at age

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal. In 1970, Joseph Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency

of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home. UMWA President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings.

In 1981, British police charged truck driver Peter Sutcliffe with murder; he was later convicted of killing 13 women as the "Yorkshire Ripper."

Five years ago: In a bliz-zard of last-minute executive orders, President Clinton curtailed road building and logging on federal forest land.

One year ago: President Bush opened a new drive for caps on medical malpractice awards, contending the limits would lower health care

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 78. Actor Robert

Duvall is 75°. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 74. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 68. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 64. Actressdirector Diane Keaton is 60. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 57. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 56. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 40. **Actress Heather Paige Kent** is 37. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 37. Actress January Jones is 28.

Thought for Today: "Wisdom is divided into two parts: (a) having a great deal to say, and (b) not saying it." - Anonymous.

• 2005 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Made broadcloth
- 5 Capital in the Himalayas 10 John Candy
- comedy series 14 Ladd of film
- 15 Pale hues
- 16 "America"
- pronoun 17 Spicy cookie 19 Newsweek
- cover number little bit
- 20 helps"
- 21 Tokyo serving 22 Irish stew ingredient
- 23 Dude ranch, e.g. 25 Satirization 27 Lord's servant
- **29** Poise, e.g. 32 Klutzy types
- 39 That woman's
- 41 Items involved in this puzzle's
- 42 Score on an
- 43 Cub Scout
- group 45 Mythological
- river 46 Perfect places
- for "outer"
- **54** Gave (to)
- 58 Potpourri
- 62 T-shirt size
- 64 Overall
- perspective 66 Area

67 More wintry 68 Left in the

- wine cellar **69** Catherine
- -Jones 70 Fandango, for one
- 71 Former Atl. crossers

DOWN

- 1 Reno transaction
- 2 Pimiento
- surrounder 3 Wind-direction
- signalers

Moffo

8 Vampire

vanquisher

- 4 Occupy the attention of
- **5** Env. enclosure 6 Cat's "Back off!"
- 7 Paguin and
- 35 Far from genteel
- **40** 61, to Cicero
- theme
- aced hole
- 44 Dined at a diner
- 48 Word form
- 50 Long-winged seabird
- containers
- 60 Cupid alias
- 63 Did a dismount

SAY CHEESE by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

37 "I can't

38 Concoct,

music

deny that"

as a plot

41 Assign roles

49 Soft mineral

53 Get online

55 Pharmacy

inventory

51 Up one's offer

45 Some Mozart

47 Lipton alternative

at an auction

via password

52 All My Children

9 Poplar tree 10 Phonograph

- needle 11 Mean-spirited
- remark 12 Locker-room group
- 13 Predicate part
- 18 Brontë
- character
- 24 10/31 option
- 26 Fortnight's 14 28 Starlet's goal
- 30 Counting-rhyme starter
- 31 Cretaceous
- predator, briefly
- 32 Shoppe preceder
- on signs 33 Hewn

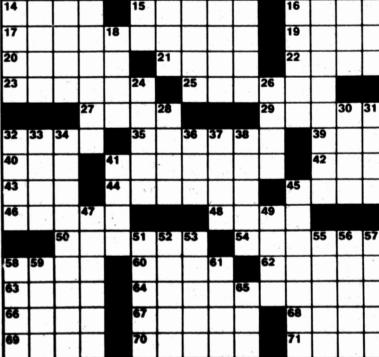
34 Contractual

details

36 '20s car

- 56 Marsh bird **57** Actions
 - 58 Mardi Gras music 59 Baby-wipes
 - additive
 - **61** Blueprint detail **65** Indignation

1/5/06



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Knight Ridder Newspapers

n recent years, testing has played a more prominent role in the success of teams in

Several NASCAR teams — particularly the large multi-car organizations — have sent their teams to series and non-series tracks around the country gathering vital data to help all of their teams perform better.

With NASCAR's decision to restrict testing at tracks used in the Nextel Cup and Busch series to just a handful of dates in 2006, track time will become a precious com-

For instance, when the first batch of Cup teams that report to Daytona International Speedway on Monday complete their threeday test, they will be unable to test at the track at any other point during the season.

The Cup series has six tests scheduled this season — at Daytona, Fla.; Las Vegas; Charlotte, N.C.; Richmond, Va., and Homestead, Fla. The Busch Series has four - Daytona, Las Vegas, Charlotte and

In 2005, teams were limited to five twoday tests and four one-day tests, with rookies getting seven two-day tests and five one-day tests. Any tests at tracks not used in the series did not count against the limit, a policy that will remain unchanged.

The biggest impact could land on the shoulders of the series' rookies.

Drivers, owners and crew chiefs have lauded additional testing as an important part of a new driver's development. The added track time now will have to come at tracks not used in the Cup or Busch series, or from participation in other series.

"I think (the new policy) is definitely a disadvantage to a rookie. Any of the guys that are running for rookie of the year that haven't run more than seven races I feel should get more opportunities to test," said Hendrick Motorsports owner Rick Hendrick.

"You want to bring fresh blood in and sponsors want to do well. It's not really fair to see a young guy whose first year in the Cup series be limited to those six tests."

Hendrick has had his share of rookie drivers recently in the Nextel Cup series.

New restrictions limit the amount of time drivers get to test at tracks on the **Nextel Cup circuit**



Dale Earnhardt Inc.'s Steve Hmiel, Tony Eury Jr., Martin Truex Jr. and Tony Eury Sr. look on as Dale Earnhardt Jr. runs a test lap at Atlanta Motor Speedway in October 2005. This season, NASCAR will limit the dates teams will have to test at tracks on the Nextel Cup circuit.

Testing schedule Daytona International Speedway

Dates	Event
Jan. 9-11	Nextel Cup Series testing — odd numbers in car owner points
Jan. 13-15	NASCAR Truck Series — all
teams Jan. 16-18	Nextel Cup Series testing —
	even owners' points
Jan. 20-22	Busch Series testing — all teams
Las	Vegas Motor Speedway

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 Nextel Cup Series testing Feb. 6-8 Busch Series testing - all teams All other test dates will be announced at a

Kyle Busch, who drives Hendrick's No. 5 Chevrolets, won rookie of the year honors in 2005. Brian Vickers, who drives Hendrick's No. 25 Chevys, was a rookie in 2004 and Jimmie Johnson, driver of Hendrick's No. 48, debuted his first full season in 2002.

"It's definitely going to make a difference but at the same time when you see a guy with the talent that Kyle Busch has or Carl Edwards, your gut will tell you (if he'll succeed)," Hendrick said.

"After you've been doing this as long as Jack (Roush) and I have been doing it, it doesn't take long to see that (a) guy has really

Additional testing could come in handy, particularly with several members of the 2006 Cup rookie class.

Reed Sorenson has just two Cup starts, Brent Sherman none, David Stremme four

and Clint Bowyer one. Two-time Busch Series champion Martin

Truex Jr. has the most Cup experience of the group with nine starts over the past two seasons. Joe Gibbs Racing newcomers Denny Hamlin and J.J. Yeley have seven and six starts, respectively.

"The thing that I've encouraged NASCAR to do — and the thing I hope they do — is provide adequate testing for rookies so that (the driver) doesn't create a problem that was avoidable through just a little more experience," said team owner Jack Roush.

Roush added a rookie must be "able to realize his potential for his sponsor, (because) lacking that, rookies won't be able to get a

Detractors of the new testing policy are not limited to rookies, however. Some track officials have problems with the plan to pre-

select all the testing venues. "NASCAR's new testing policy for the Cup series may be beneficial for teams, but for the speedways it is a lost promotional opportunity," said Texas Motor Speedway

president Eddie Gossage. "Since they are not allowed to test here now, we've lost a crifical opportunity for vital pre-race media coverage in a major media market that could very likely hurt our ticket sales and NASCAR's TV ratings.



STREETER LECKA FOR NASCAR

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Chevrolet won the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup manufacturer title. What brand will lead the way in the coming season?

Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Cup team has made the best moves in gearing up for the 2006 season? Number of votes: 10,112

Team	No of votes	Percent
Petty Enterprises	5,550	55%
Dale Earnhardt Inc.	1,663	16%
Another team	892	9%
Penske Racing South	580	6%
Bill Davis Racing	520	5%
Joe Gibbs Racing	430	4%
Richard Childress Rac	ing 376	4%
Chip Ganassi Racing	101	1%

STOP 'N' GO

KHI names new crew chief to No. 33 team

Kevin Harvick Inc. has named Chris Rice crew chief of its No. 33 NASCAR Truck Series team and two-time Truck Series champion Ron Hornaday for the 2006 season.

Rice previously worked as crew chief for Busch Series driver Stacy Compton at ST Motorsports.

Before 2005, Rice was crew chief at Bill Davis Racing and worked with Elliott Sadler on a Late Model team from 1993 to 1996. Winning at his hometown track, Rice led Sadler and the team to the 1995 South Boston Speedway Track Championship.

Hornaday finished fourth in points in 2005 with the KHI team and earned his second career Truck Series most popular driver award.

"I've known Chris for a number of years," said Hornaday. "He is the last piece to the puzzle to make this race team complete. We are going to go out and run this 2006 season like we did last year, racing as hard as we can for every spot week after week. Chris has the knowledge to lead this team to a championship run."

- ThatsRacin.com

New Truck series team looks forward to 2006

Rick and Cathy Woodard, along with Eddie Sharp, announced the formation of a new partnership, Woodard & Sharp Racing, with plans to compete full time in the NASCAR Truck Series

The partners have purchased a 25,000-squarefoot shop in Denver, N.C., from which the team will field Dodge Ram trucks for Rookie of the Year candidate Boston Reid in all 25 Truck Series events in 2006. Patrick Donahue, a 14-year NASCAR veteran, will fill the role of crew chief.

The Woodards and Sharp met last year when both were involved in the Automobile Racing Club of America series. Rick and Cathy Woodard were co-owners of the No. 13 Boca Bay Racing entry in 2005. Sharp, a 20-year racing veteran, heads up Dodge's ARCA driver development pro-

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Sharp, who will also serve as the team's general manager. 'The Woodards and I are taking our time and doing this the right way. We're building a solid team of quality people, and people will see we're in this for the long haul."

While Woodard & Sharp Racing is a new entity, the team is further demonstrating its commitment by surrounding itself with NASCAR veterans. In addition to the experience Sharp brings, the organization has entered into a technological partnership with Ray Evernham and Evernham Motorsports, who will serve as the team's engine supplier.

Donahue was part of Hendrick Motorsports' championship seasons with Evernham and driver Jeff Gordon in 1995, 1997 and 1998. He later worked with the Gordon/Evernham NASCAR Busch Series team and at Evernham Motorsports. Most recently, Donahue was the crew chief at Robby Gordon Motorsports.

- ThatsRacin.com

Making a resolution to toast great achievements in 2006

earend stories can be clichés, but when you reach this point on the calendar it really is hard not to stop for a minute and take stock.

Next week, I'll arrive in Daytona Beach, Fla., for NASCAR testing. A couple of weeks there, and then a week of the Lowe's Motor Speedway media tour in Charlotte, N.C., will barely leave time to get the laundry done and the car packed to return for Daytona Speedweeks.

This will be my 10th season covering NASCAR for the Charlotte Observer, and for some reason that's had me thinking, too.

While every season takes on its own characteristics, it's easy to fall into a routine and mistake it for rhythm. Every week at the track, I see what happens when good teams let that happen. Good teams don't mean to lose that tiny edge

that makes them better than most, but they do. And it's unbelievably hard to get it back.

So I've been trying to decide if there's anything besides a few new wind shirts and a bunch of empty notebooks needed to start off a new year. What I keep coming back to is the Allstate 400 that Tony Stewart won at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on his way to the 2005 Nextel Cup championship.

After Stewart had celebrated with pretty much everybody in Indiana that Sunday afternoon, he got to the media center and it was only a matter of time before somebody asked whether he still wanted to win the Indianapolis 500 now that he'd won a stock-car race at the track he'd always dreamed of racing and winning on.

As it turns out, Stewart said his father, Nelson, had already brought up Maybe it had been 20 minutes since

he made a lifelong dream come true. Perhaps it was 30. However long, it wasn't long enough.

Why do we feel compelled to look for the holes in the resumes of people in

It's not just the media, or parents like Nelson Stewart who have shared their child's dreams of winning at some ultimate level. It's all of us, fans of all sports who seem determined to dwell on what a person hasn't done rather than celebrate what has been accomplished.

Dan Marino never won a championship. Until April, Roy Williams hadn't either. Mark Martin still hasn't, not in NASCAR's top series. But my heavens, look at what they have done.

ball team this season. But if the Blue

Duke has a marvelous men's basket-

Krzyzewski and his team failures? I am not saying I plan to be all sunshine and daffodils in writing about NASCAR in 2006. The truth is the truth,

beats them, does that make Mike

Devils run into a team in the NCAA

tournament that hits 20 3-pointers and

and that's what you write. People fall short of expectations and that's news. Jeff Gordon won four races, including the Daytona 500, in 2005, but it was a bigger deal in the grand scheme of things that he missed the Chase for the

Nextel Cup. Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his team had an awful year, and they don't need anyone to tell them that. Their ability to bounce back and improve will be among this year's big stories. But I'm resolved to take a new perspective to the track this year, an acknowledgement of just what a remark-

able thing it is for anybody to experience the joy of winning a Nextel Cup race - or a World Series game or a PGA tournament.

I keep a chart of birth dates of all who have won Cup races, and have divided that into birth years. Eight men born in 1926 went on to win at least one race in NASCAR's top series. Since 1932, that number has never been higher than five, and since 1941 it has been no higher than four.

Here's the perspective part. In recent years about 2 million male children have been born in this country annually. If it's a good year, maybe four of them wind up winning a race in the Cup series. Those are the incredible odds Carl Edwards, Kasey Kahne and Kyle Busch beat in 2005.

Going back to Indianapolis in August, I asked Stewart if winning at the Brickyard was everything he'd dreamed it would be.

When you have something like this so big happen in your life, you really just don't want that day to end," he said.

Here's to more days like that for all of us in 2006.

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