**VOLUME 102, NUMBER 66** 

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

# State parks ask comptroller to free \$4.8 million

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

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With approximately 39 employees already laid off since Texas Parks and Wildlife instituted

its 2006 budget, more could be on the way if the state comptroller doesn't allow the organization to use a portion of the funds it collects this year, according to Big Spring State Park Manager Alton.

Alton said 39 positions within the organization into the community." that were formerly occupied have

been nixed, totaling more than 70 positions overall that have been cut from parks across the state.

"We eliminated more than 70 jobs state wide," said Alton. "That's a lot of jobs. If we don't get that \$4.8 million, we're going to have to go a lot deeper than those 70-plus employees that got pink slips. There's just no way we'll make it through the

end of the budget cycle, which is Aug. 31, without it. These are good working people and valued employees that are getting pink slips."

"Your state parks are an asset to the local economies. They get people to come into town, and in turn, the dollars they spend in

> The \$4.8 million Alton is referring to is a projected surplus TP&W is expected to collect during 2006, money that can be funneled back into the state agency only with the OK of Carole Keeton Strayhorn, comptroller of

the park trickle down

"The state comptroller says we may have an extra \$4.8 million to

See PARKS, Page 3A

the state of Texas.

## FRIENDS FROM HOBBS, N.M.



Joe Conclenne, left, past president of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, talks with Derek Morrissey, an ambassador with the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce, Thursday at a special reception for the Goodwill Tour of the Hobbs chamber at the Big Spring chamber offices. About 12 individuals representing the Hobbs' chamber visited Big Spring, bringing door prizes and plaques establishing goodwill, friendship and a spirit of cooperation between the two cities. They were greeted by about 20 individuals from Big Spring, including chamber officers, board members and

AUSTIN (AP) - The state treasury has \$4.3 billion more than lawmakers have budgeted to spend over the next two years, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn told state leaders Wednesday.

About \$1.9 billion is earmarked for education and tax reform. The rest of it is "free money" that lawmakers can use as they fit, Deputy Comptroller Billy Hamilton said.

State programs that were not fully funded in the current state budget are hoping for their share of the budget surplus. A pharmacy school that has been built but has no operating funds and nursing homes top a list of priorities issued by Gov. Rick Perry.

Of the surplus, \$473 million can be spent anytime by the Legislative Budget Board. Other expenditures must be approved

What they said

"We've had an uptick in the economy." — Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

"This comptroller can't count." —Gov. Rick Perry spokesperson Kathy Walt.

"They should give it back to the people from whom they took it." -Michael Quinn Sullivan, Texas Public Policy Foundation.

legislative session. The surplus is the makers wrote the 2004-05

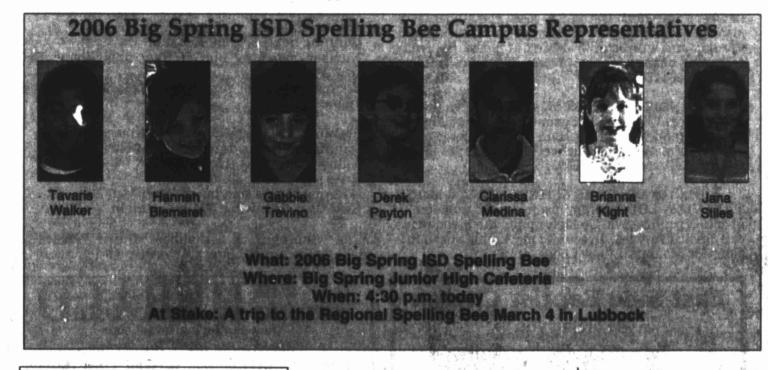
by lawmakers during a largest in Texas in several years. In contrast, lawbudget in the face of a \$10 consecutive months of billion revenue shortfall. Current projections indicate that the surplus will grow even larger over the biennium as the result of larger-than-expected tax revenue from consumer spending and higher oil

and gas prices. "We've had an uptick in the economy," Strayhorn, who is running against Perry as an independent candidate for governor. She noted 28

increased sales tax revenue.

Some of the money, \$1.2 billion, is extra tax revenue that came in during the last budget cycle. The \$1.9 billion reserved for school funding reform was stashed away by lawmakers to use in the upcoming school funding debate. Another \$800 million was unspent in hun-

See SURPLUS, Page 3A



## Seven to compete for spelling crown

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Seven Big Spring Independent School District students will compete in the annual district-wide Spelling Bee this afternoon.

The annual bee will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria, according to Junior High School Librarian Robin Ritchey, coordinator of See BEE, Page 3A

the event.

This marks the third year the district bee will be sponsored by the local school district, Ritchey said.

Moderating the event will be Elissa Medina-Bancroft, high school English teacher. District trustee Tony Kennedy, accountant Carol Policky and Cindy

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To reach us:

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

#### CANDIDATE FORUM SET

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a candidate forum Monday at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria, 624 E. Sixth.

The chamber is encouraging everyone to come out and meet each of the candi-

Each candidate will be allowed to speak for five minutes. This will not be a question and answer forum. The audience will be able to meet one on one with the candidates following the forum. Forum MC will be Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes, the chamber's Governmental Affairs vice

#### SNIFFED HIM OUT

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) -Police didn't have to do much to sniff out

this theft suspect."
Felix Cabrera, 34, of Tampa, was charged with stealing a tractor-trailer carrying more than \$1.9 million in perfume and cologne. Cabrera took the vehicle from a Fort Pierce truck stop after the driver left the keys in the ignition, according to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. The Items were being driven from New York to Fort Lauderdale.

Authorities spotted the truck on the turn-

pike near Boynton Beach about 10 a.m. Wednesday. He was charged with grand theft and resisting arrest.

#### **VETERAN OF THE MONTH**

Sgt. Micheal Tarpley has been named the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for February.

The public is invited to take part in honoring the Purple Heart recipient at 6 p.m. Friday in the museum's Briefing Room at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Refreshments and sandwiches will be served,

The Vietnam veteran will share his memories of serving from December 1967 to April 1968 in the 101st Airborne.

To honor their service, the museum profiles one veteran each month. For more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

## **Obituaries**

#### **Ronald Conway Pavlovsky**



Services for Ronald Conway Pavlovsky, 47, of Wolfforth will be at 3 pm Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, at Bacon Heights Baptist Church in Wolfforth with the Rev. Dr. Jerry Joplin officiat-

Military graveside services will follow at the Wolfforth Cemetery, under the direction of Wilsons' Funeral Directors of Wolfforth

He died Saturday Feb. 4, 2006, at 8:00 p.m. after a lengthy illness.

He was born May 5, 1958, in Fort Worth to the late Rannel and Kyleen (Ledford) Pavlovsky.

He married Pamela Pearce Feb. 12, 1998 in Lubbock. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. He enjoyed camping, fishing and jokes. He was involved in marathons and was a supporter of animal rights. He was a member of Bacon Heights Baptist Church.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Pavlovsky of Wolfforth; three sons, Jeffery Spears of Wolfforth and Chris and Preston Pavlovsky; four daughters, Suzzette Jordan of Oklahoma, Morgan Spears and Tiffany Pavlovsky, both of Wolfforth and Candice Renfrow; two sisters, Tammy Kennedy and family of Coahoma and Carla Foster and husband, Todd and family of Big Spring; one brother, Donnie Pavlovsky

and wife, Lori and family of Snyder; his aunt and uncle, Larissa and Roger Allen and family of Fort Worth; and three grandchildren. Viewing will be today from 9 a.m, until 5 p.m. and the family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Friday at the funeral home.

#### Lota C. Schooler

Lota C. Schooler, 73, of O'Donnell, passed from this life Feb. 6, 2006, in Lubbock. She was born Sept. 16, 1932, in Merkel to the late Rex Evan and Verna Marie (Tate) Butchee.

Lota married Billy Theral Schooler July 30, 1958, in Abilene. She graduated from McMurry University in Abilene with a bachelor of science degree and a master of education degree.

Lota was a teacher for O'Donnell Independent School Didstrict from 1956 until retirement in 1989. Lota was involved in The 1946 Study Club, where she held many positions through the years, and a former Texas State Teachers Assocation member for many years.

She was a very dedicated member of the First United Methodist Church in O'Donnell, where she was a former member of the United Methodist Women.

Her two brothers, Bennie J. and Max E. Butchee preceded Lota in death.

Those left to survive her include her husband, Bill Schooler of O'Donnell; one daughter, Sharon Anne Wells and husband, John of O'Donnell; one son, Billy MacKevan Schooler and wife, Connie of Big Spring; five grandchildren, Jennifer M. Stinson, Patrick N. Wells, Karen R. Wells, Leela K. Schooler and Emmalee R. Schooler; one great-grandchild, Kelsey R. Stinson; an aunt, Grace Stockton of Lubbock; and numerous

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2006, at First United Methodist Church in O'Donnell with

Toni Bayley officiating.

The family will receive friends today from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at White Funeral Home in O'Donnell.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, 3411 73rd, Lubbock 79423 or to the First United Methodist Church of O'Donnell, 612 Fifth. O'Donnell 79351.

Arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home in Tahoka.

#### **Bobbie McCracken**

Bobbie McCracken, 53, of Amarillo, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2006, in Amarillo. Graveside services are 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2006, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born Aug. 18, 1952, in Howard County. He grew up in Big Spring, living most of his life here, and moved to Amarillo 15 years ago. He attended seminary in Arlington. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his stepmother, June McCracken of Big Spring; and a number of cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ethel

McNew McCracken and Byron McCracken; and one sister, Polly Clem. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

#### Rex A. Shive

Rex A. Shive, 75, of Coahoma died Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## **Support Groups**

#### THURSDAY

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

#### FRIDAY

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

#### **SATURDAY**

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

· Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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## Police blotter

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

· JIMMY FRANKLIN MASSINGILL JR., 38, of 3704 Calvin, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• SALVADOR GUTIERREZ PEREZ, 34, of 1503 Scurry, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• DOMINGO ROBLEDO, 19, of Lubbock, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• EPIFANIO HINOJOSA, 21, of Stanton, was arrested Thursday on six local warrants and a charge of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone. • BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in

the 1800 block of 15th Street.

• ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 100 block of Algerita.

 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY **WEAPON** was reported:

- in the 1500 block of Austin.

- in the 1800 block of 15th Street.

# Sheriff's report

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

• JOSHUA KENT BECK, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

· JOHN RANDALL O'HARROW, 52, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated, unauthorized us of a motor vehicle and driving while license invalid. • WEHNONAH RENEE HARMES, 34, was arrested

Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of ser-

JESSIE BALTAZAR JR., 28, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of violation of a protective order.

# Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity: • MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of

Wasson. Service was refused. MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Dallas.

One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of

Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of East

Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Calvin. One person was transported to SMMC.

• GAS LEAK was reported in the 1400 block of

## Take Note

- VALENTINE'S DAY FASHION SHOW at the Big Spring Mall begins at 2 p.m. Saturday. Prizes and discounts will be offered at this free event. Sponsored by Uptown Salon and Day Spa, this features the merchants of the mall. Call 267-1544 for more information.
- BSHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS THE 2006 WINTER REVUE "WE LOVE THE 80s" at 7 p.m. today in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. For more information, call the theatre department at 264-3641, ext.
- BAKE SALE AT SCENIC MOUNTAIN MED-**ICAL CENTER** from 7 a.m. until noon Friday.
- BSHS SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM SILENT **AUCTION** beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday in the high school library to raise funds for State UIL competition in Pharr San Juan March 2-5. Also, the students are also sponsoring A Mile of Pennies to raise funds for the trip and will be at Wal-Mart at 9 a.m. Saturday, collecting change for the project. For more information, call 264-3641, ext. 151.
- · A CANDIDATE FORUM sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is 6 p.m. Monday in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria. For more information, call Michael Downes at 264-3600 or Debbye ValVerde at 263-7641.
- A BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED AT MOUN-TAIN VIEW LODGE from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Feb. 17 at 2009 Virginia Ave. To sign up for the blood drive, call Jessica Paredez, director of marketing and admissions for Mountain View Lodge, at 263-1271.

## **East Side Baptist Church**

is giving you Two Chances To Hear

The Robby Wright Family





1108 E. 6th Big Spring, TX 267-1915 Saturday, February 11th @ 7:00 PM **lay, February 12th @ 9:45 & 10:45** 

# **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-

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

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

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

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

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

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

 Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

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

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

**SATURDAY** 

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

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

#### **SUNDAY**

**MONDAY** 

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

## but seed to Weather to cook and

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the upper 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 15 to 20 mph. Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 20. Sunday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the

upper 50s. Sunday night...Clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-11-25-26-34. Bonus Ball: 7. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$64 million.

Winning ticket sold in: Houston. Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball:

35,683. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$4 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-12-15-18-21. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$32,015. Winning tickets sold in: Houston. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-6-1

# www.BigSpringHerald.com

Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring 432-263-7331

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

432-264-7205 (Fax) Susanne Reed John A. Moseley **Duane McCollum** Tony Hernandez

(Main Switchboard)

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6-6811 \$93.42 year-2.50 month-

**BIG SPRING HERALD** Thursday, February 9, 2006

Convicted torture killer of 19-year-old girl put to death

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Apologetic convicted killer Robert Neville Jr., who tortured his 19-year-old victim before fatally shooting her, went to his death quickly. Neville, 31, slipped into unconsciousness a few sec-

onds after lethal drugs were pumped into his arms and was pronounced dead seven minutes later Wednesday night, making him the third Texas inmate executed this year.

Neville was on parole for burglary when he and a friend eight years ago abducted Amy Robinson, a mentally impaired woman from Arlington, tortured her with shots from a pellet gun, then fatally shot her with a .22-caliber rifle.

Neville and his companion, Michael Wayne Hall, told reporters two weeks later after they were arrested how they laughed as they watched her die.

There was no laughter in the death chamber as an obviously nervous Neville trembled, his shirt shaking with the racing of his heartbeat, in the seconds before he was given an opportunity to make a final state-

Education board to debate English immersion

AUSTIN (AP) — Some members of the State Board of Education want Texas schools to have the option of English immersion instruction instead of bilingual programs to teach public school students to read, write and speak English.

Today, the board will debate the merits of traditional bilingual education versus immersion, a method to teach students a new language by giving all instruction in that particular language.

Immersion proponents believe that students will absorb English when given constant exposure. Critics say immersion students can't learn basic skills when they are being taught in a language they don't under-

stand. State law requires schools to provide bilingual classes if at least 20 students are enrolled who speak a language other than English. Bilingual instruction is defined in Texas law as teaching students basic skills in their native language, while helping them to master English.

#### Willie Nelson introduces California to own brand of diesel fuel

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Country singer Willie Nelson introduced California Wednesday to "BioWillie," his brand of clean-burning fuel made from soybeans.

BioWillie went on sale at an alternative fuel station in San Diego where the 72-year-old Texan drew a crowd as he filled his tour bus from a pump emblazoned with a picture of himself strumming a guitar.

"It is the future," Nelson said. "Through biodiesel, we can reduce dependency on foreign oil and adopt an energy source that's clean renewable and helps family farmers find new uses for their products.'

Biodiesel is America's fastest growing alternative fuel, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. U.S. sales of biodiesel tripled last year to 75 million gallons, but account for less than 1 percent of the diesel fuel sold nationwide, said Jenna Higgins, a spokeswoman or the National Biodiesel Board, which is hosting a conference on biodiesel in San Diego.

More than 600 filling stations sell biodiesel to the

Suspect in fatal immigrant smuggling crash dies in jail

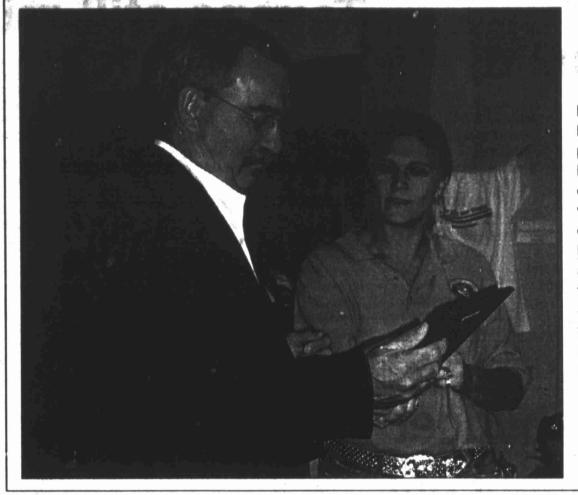
CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The suspected driver in a January crash that killed six illegal immigrants was found dead in jail from an apparent suicide, officials

Santos Guajardo, 25, hanged himself Wednesday at the Nueces County Jail shortly after guards conducted a security check, Interim Sheriff Rebecca Stutts said.

Guajardo was charged last week with transporting illegal immigrants and was scheduled for a federal court hearing Thursday morning.

Officials said Guajardo was driving a pickup truck full of suspected illegal immigrants Jan. 26 when he crashed into an 18-wheeler, killing six people and injuring seven. The victims whom officials were able to identify were from Mexico and Honduras.intersection was missing.

The wrecked happened about 10 miles north of a Border Patrol checkpoint in Falfurrias.



**Mayor Russ** McEwen accepts a plaque honoring **Big Spring and** establishing goodwill, friendship and cooperation between Big Spring and Hobbs, N.M., from Patty Collins, chairman-elect of the Hobbs, N.M., Chamber of Commerce.

#### BEE

Continued from Page 1A

Hillman, the gifted and talented coordinator for the school district, will serve as judges.

Contestants will face a zero-tolerance policy for mis-spelled words one strike, and they're out. But the rules change slightly when the bee gets to its final two competitors.

"If one (of the two) misses a word, the other one has to spell that word correctly, then another word, before he or she is declared the winner," Ritchey said. The winner of the district bee will

represent Big Spring at the regional level next month in Lubbock, Ritchey said.

This year's contestants, and their alternates, are:

 Big Spring Junior High — Jana Stiles, champion; Janiene Berry, alternate.

•Goliad Middle School — Derek Payton, champion; C.W. Kinney, alternate.

 Bauer Magnet School — Hannah Biemeret, champion; Anthony Cisneros, alternate.

 Washington Elementary — **Tavaris** Walker, champion; Danisha McGee, alternate.

 Marcy Elementary — Clarissa champion; Medina, Abigail Portocarrero, alternate.

• Moss Elementary — Gabbie Trevino, champion; Kelsey Guinn, alternate.

 Kentwood Elementary — Brianna Kight, champion; Chance Atkinson, alternate.

## **PARKS**

Continued from Page 1A

spend this year," said Alton. "That's if we maintain the current trend according to the amount of revenue we have coming in. That's people visiting the parks, buying ice and firewood. It may seem like these things don't generate much revenue, but on a statewide scale it adds up.

"Just because the parks make a certain amount of money statewide, we don't necessarily get to spend what we make. So we're asking the comptroller to authorize this amount."

**Even if Strayhorn gives** the go-ahead for the spending, Alton said it could amount to nothing if the weather doesn't cooperate.

"If the weather turns bad, we may not make our estimate," said Alton. "That means we may not get the \$4.8 million. So it's not a for-sure thing.

Alton said this year's financial woes didn't come as a surprise for the state agency, which has

endured severe budgetary cuts over the last few years.

"Our region covers the Panhandle, out east toward Wichita Falls, Possum Kingdom Lake, Brownwood and Abilene," said Alton. "It also all the way south to San Angelo and back to Big Spring. So we have a good hunk of territory. When we saw the budget cuts coming, we knew we were going to be in a financial pickle at the beginning of our budget year.

we planned ahead and did some winterization, which a lot of the parks in Region 6 did as well. In December, January and February we closed the park two days a week, on Mondays and Tuesdays. When the park's closed, you're heating less buildings and it can drop your costs somewhat."

As park officials all over the state brace themselves for another year of shoestring operations. Alton said area residents can help by simply keeping state facilities in mind when they plan their trips and vacations.

"When you're planning

your vacations and trips, consider a state park,' said Alton. "My family loves the park in Monahans park, which is like the kids' giant sand box. Balmorhea and the Fort Davis area is just incredible. Put those destinations in your travel plans because that's going to help."

And while state parks may look like a luxury at first glance Alton said they have a much deeper impact on the communities they reside in.

State parks aren't just for leisure," said Alton. "Your state parks are an asset to the local economies. They get people to come into town, and in turn, the dollars they spend in the park trickle down into the community. They're going to shop here and eat at the restaurants. Not everyone that comes to the park is going to camp, so those are people that are going to be staying in our motels.

"The amount of money people spend birding is incredible. In the Unites States, the amount of money people spend on birding has surpassed what they spend on golf. And just think of how popular golf is. Even European visitors are coming to see the birds in Texas, and we have some amazing birds right here in Big Spring.'

For more information on the Big Spring State Park, contact Alton at 263-4931.

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

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Bobbie McCracken, died Monday. Graveside Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

## **SURPLUS**

Continued from Page 1A

dreds of state agency accounts when accountants closed the books on the last fiscal year, Aug.

Perry's office attacked Strayhorn for the surplus and said she should have known about the additional money months ago. "This comptroller can't

woman Kathy Walt. The Strayhorn campaign called the statement

count," said Perry spokes-

"a blatant lie." Legislators wrote the state's 2006-07 spending plan last year based on the amount of money Strayhorn told them the state would take in during the period. Strayhorn reviewed the budget in June and certified that the state would have enough money to pay for it. Wednesday's estimate represents the calculations she used to certify the state budget.

Conservatives have to use the surplus for property tax relief. "They should give it

back to the people from whom they took it," said Michael Quinn Sullivan, vice president of the Austin think-tank Texas Public Policy Foundation. The surplus would be enough to reduce property taxes by about 17 per-

The Texas Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that Texas' reliance on property taxes to fund its \$32 billion education system is illegal. The court mandated a freeze on school spending if lawmakers do

not devise a new funding system by June 1. Perry is expected to call lawmakers into session to called for the Legislature tackle the issue this spring.

The surplus "reaffirms to us the need for the Legislature to use that surplus to buy down property taxes, an easy solution to the situation that we find ourselves in with the June 1 deadline looming," Sullivan said.

Funding for many state programs were left out of the budget by lawmakers, who are restricted by the state constitution from incurring debt. Among them, adequate cost reimbursements for nursing home patient care, operating costs for a Texas Tech medical school being

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built in El Paso and the school in pharmacy Kingsville. Lawmakers also failed to fund textbooks that were due in classrooms this school year. Perry ordered the **Texas Education Agency** to buy the books anyway, but the agency has not yet been reimbursed almost \$300 million for the books.

Strayhorn also suggested that some of the money should be used to replenish the state's Rainy Day Fund, which was largely depleted by budget-writing lawmakers.

One policy analyst cau-

tioned that lawmakers should not use one-time surplus money for recurring costs, such as the pharmacy school or tax cuts.

"This money definitely helps deal with the immediate short-term needs, but a revenue system that can handle our long-term educational and health care needs, that's what legislators should be focusing on," said Eva DeLuna Castro, a policy analyst for the Austinbased Center for Public **Policy Priorities.** 



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Gerald (Jerry) Middleton As Your Congressman for the Texas Congressional 85th District.

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Education: High school with some college Business background: Efficiency expert, machinist,

tool & die maker, Bookkeeper, purchasing gent, inventory controller, heavy equipment operator, welder, luthier & farming.

E-Mail electjerry@aol.com

Thu

# Editorial

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed

John A. Moseley Managing Editor Bill McClellan News Editor

## **OUR VIEWS**

# Defense budget well thought out

he new defense strategy, along with hext year's defense budget, marks a clear and persuasively argued break with the assumptions that shaped defense spending in the second half of the 20th century. It could have profound consequences for national security in coming years. ...

Critics worry that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's model of defense ignores a continuing conventional military threat in Korea and unwisely weakens traditional alliances by reducing old Cold War garrisons in Europe and the Far East. ...

Some press reports make much of the record size of the proposed 2007 defense budget, but it has about the same purchasing power as the 1991 budget during Gulf War I. It takes a smaller percentage of the nation's income than any defense budget from 1950-2000.

Compared to the 1991 budget, it proposes to spend far less on manpower and about an equal amount on research, development, testing and procurement ...

The new budget is only a proposal, and it is sure to be rearranged by Congress before it becomes a reality. But it reflects a well-thought-out rationale for the nation's armed forces. It faces real current threats as well as possible future ones and is a reasonable allocation of the nation's resources.

The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C.

## Your Views

To the Editor.

I would personally like to commend the fans and people of Big Spring for their show of support and active participation Monday night at the Howard College-South Plains College basketball games. The turnout at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum was exceptional.

Our contest was played in an outstanding venue for junior college basketball. An environment as such with great spirit and enthusiasm from the crowd makes for an exciting night of entertainment.

Once again congratulations to the fans for the backing of your team and the WJCAC.

We hope to see you in Levelland on campus of South Plains College for round two.

STEVE GREEN SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE HEAD BASKETBALL COACH, LEVELLAND

## 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
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

#### LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
  Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street
   Address for verification numbers.
- address for verification purposes.

   We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
   We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per
- 30-day period per author.

   Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone
- number or address will not be considered.

   Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor @bigspringherald.com

## Texans still misunderstood

ne of Leon Hale's recent columns is about the myth of Texas and how people from outside our fine state still believe that "there's nothing in Texas but cowboys, Indians, oil wells, horses, steers, football players and bald prairies."

He went on to proclaim, that even some Texans don't believe West Texas has any trees.

He writes, "But don't tell me there's no timber in West Texas. I grew up wandering beneath it, and climbing it, and swinging on its limbs.

"It grows not in broad forests but

along the banks of rivers and creeks and branches, and some West Texas stream-bank cottonwoods, sycamores, elms and other hardwoods will rival in size the big ones you find in East Texas."

Hale is a columnist for the Houston Chronicle, has been for years and years. He used to teach some classes at Sam Houston State University back in the early 1970s, which is where I met him. Anyway, I have to agree with Leon. I have met many a U.S. citizen who came to Texas expecting to find cattle drives down Main Street and everyone totin' Colt revolvers.

I have a friend from Canada who, back when I first met her through the Internet, had similar misconceptions about Texas and Texans. I'm pretty sure she conjured up visions of hitchin' posts in front of saloons accessed through swinging doors.

She laughed when I'd say we were "fixin" supper ("Is it broke?) and I'd tell her that she was equally in error to say that she was "making chicken," cause only God could do that. Poor girl didn't even know what chicken fried steak was.

She had never been to Texas.

She's a curious sort and loves to travel and so my wife and I invited her down for a week. I told her, "Of course you know this is Texas and more importantly West Texas. Furthermore, we live out in the country – not in town – and out here, we don't have running water. We draw bathwater from the well every Saturday so we can

be clean for church on Sunday. Sometimes we'll take a bath at midweek, too, but not often."

This sent her into a tizzy. She wouldn't dream of not having a daily bath — preferably a shower

daily bath — preferably a shower. I told her I didn't see how that was possible, but maybe I could rig up something to run water through a watering can that would be like a shower, if she didn't mind it being kind'a cold cause it would be straight out of the well.

would be straight out of the well. She made up her mind right then to stay in a motel.

Of course when she did finally come to visit, she found out that we do have running water and it was permissible to take a bath or a shower daily. It's been a joke of ours ever since.

She also discovered another
Texas trait... we sometimes love to
tell tall tales.

Hale is right, some people still have a real misunderstanding about our great state. And sometimes we help them along with that, just for fun.

Bill McClellan is news editor for the Herald. He can be reached at 263-7331 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

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263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

# U.N. dishonors Cuban patriot

hink of him as one of those Cuban or Venezuelan exiles who spend most of their time working to free their homelands from totalitarian regimes.

Had he been alive today, there is no doubt that he would have been trying to regain his freedom from Fidel Castro's Communist dictatorship or Hugo Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution.

When he noted that "a nation is not governed like you command a military camp," you would think he was referring to some of today's anti-democratic Latin American leaders.

But he was criticizing the Spanish rule of Cuba and Latin America and he wrote those words more than a century ago.

His name was Jose Marti — Cuba's greatest patriot, poet and writer — a man who gave his life fighting for democracy and freedom.

And yet last week, the United Nation's dishonored his name by giving the Jose Marti International Prize to Chavez — a man recently compared to Adolf Hitler by U.S. Defense Secretary

Donald Rumsfeld.

And who handed the Venezuelan president the Marti prize on behalf of UNESCO?

behalf of UNESCO?
Fidel Castro — the world's longest reigning dictator.

Just when we thought U.N. officials could go no father to display their leftist inclinations, out they come with another demonstration of their anti-American sentiments.

The Marti award, designed in 1994 to honor an individual or institution that has contributed to the unity of Latin American nations, gave Castro and Chavez another opportunity to take cheap shots at the United States.

In a 2 1/2-hour speech at Havana's Revolution Plaza, Chavez warned that Americans should be concerned about Latin America's growing number of leftist leaders. "They are right to be worried, because they know what's happening here," Chavez said after accepting his prize. "They will forever try to preserve the U.S. empire by all means, while we will do everything possible to shred it."

To honor this demagogue in the

To honor this demagogue in the name of Marti is an insult to the intelligence of anyone who knows the true nature of the late Cuban patriot, who died in 1895 during Cuba's war of independence with Spain.

There is no doubt that Marti, who spent the last and most productive 15 years of his life as an exile in New York City, would have been an exile again today.

It was from the
United States that he
launched his crusade
for Cuba's independence and — as a correspondent for various Latin American
publications — helped

publications — helped foster the ideals of democracy in the Americas.

He was killed shortly after returning to fight in Cuba at the

returning to fight in Cuba at the age of 42. Seven years later, as a result of Marti's stirring writings, speeches and actions, Cubans celebrated their first independence day on May 20, 1902.

Most Cubans, whether for or

Most Cubans, whether for or against Castro, think of Marti the way most Americans think of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. His energy, his ability to organize the masses and his insistence on a Cuba free of control by a foreign power still make him a hero among Cubans in Miami and Havana, where homes and public buildings are adorned with pictures of the man with the broad forehead, thick mustache and sincere smile.

On both sides of the Florida
Straits, Cuban children are taught
to emulate Marti — a man strong
enough to be willing to die for his
country, yet sensitive enough to

write beautiful love poems.
Generations of Cubans have con-

sulted Marti's writings as others would Marx or the Bible.
Sentences from his huge body of work, collected in 73 volumes, have been extracted to defend almost any point of view.

He has been quoted out of context as either strongly anti-American or as favoring a Latin America in the image of the United States. The truth probably lies somewhere in between.

He was a firm believer in individual initiative, private property and honest profit. He admired American accomplishments, but he also saw a society in which too much emphasis was placed on material wealth and selfish interests.

But in Castro's Cuba, Marti is depicted as the ultimate anti-imperialist. Children are taught that he is the "intellectual author" of the Cuban Revolution, that Castro and Chavez are following Marti's footsteps.

Teachers quote Marti's word to describe this country — "monster" — totally out of context. They tell students that Marti was describing imperialism and evil, instead of something gigantic and powerful.

Then, they censure his warnings about the dangers of socialism and his writings on totalitarian regimes because they would damage the image of Castro and Chavez.

"One revolution is still necessary, the one that will not end with the rule of its leader," Marti wrote. Of course, that quote that is censured in Cuba.

But apparently, even the United Nations has embraced the distorted view of Marti.

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

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chocolate fun for everyone! 1 bag Dove Brand Dark

1 cup heavy cream

**Chocolate Hearts** 

1 bag Milky Way Brand

Minis for Valentine's Day

Assorted fresh and dried

(if desired) roll balls in remaining

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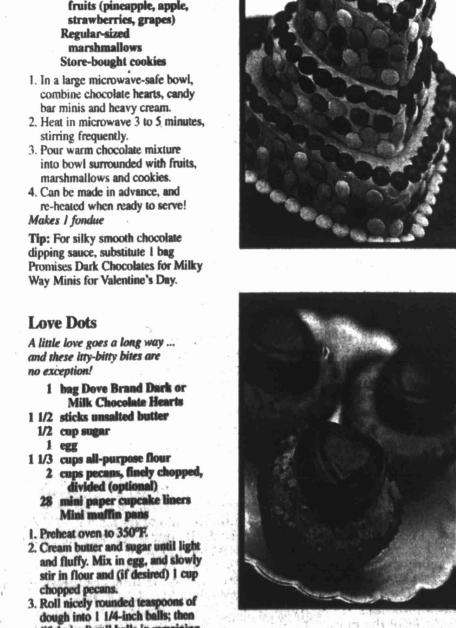
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4. Line mini muffin pans with liners, Place 1 ball into each cup, and bake until golden (about 12 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean).

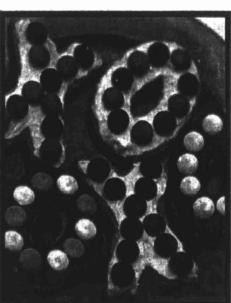
5. Remove from oven, and place 1 chocolate heart firmly on top of each ball.

6. Return to oven 3 minutes, remove, and let cool completely.

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE versatile candy-covered chocolates.

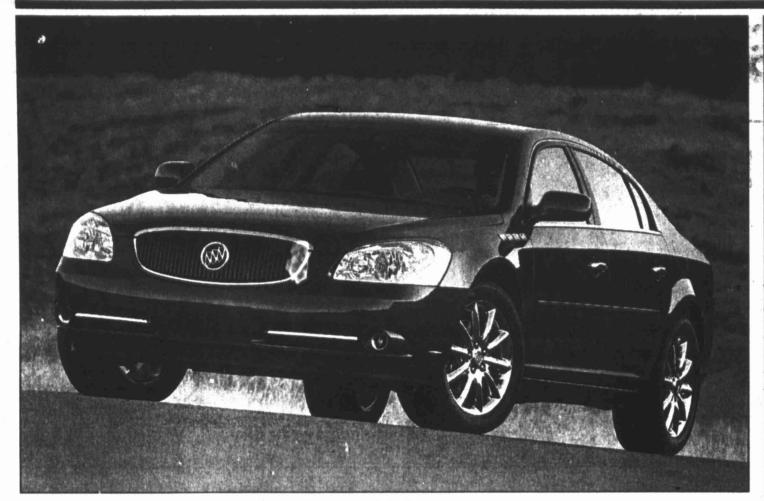
This sweet cake makes it easy to have a heart-to-heart-to-heart with those you love!

- and flour 9 x 13-inch pan.
- 2. Prepare both cake mixes according to package directions. Pour batters into prepared baking pan, and bake 45 to 55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
- 3. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack, and let cool completely. \*Por easy cutting, make cake a day before, or place cooled cake in freezer for an hour before cutting. Arrange all three sizes of printed heart templates on cake, and cut
- 4. Using red food coloring, tint 1 can vanilla frosting light pink. Spoon 1/2 cup remaining vanilla frosting into rescalable plastic



Hand out X's and O's every day of the week with these extra special Valentine's Day cookies!

- 1 bag M&M'S Brand Milk **Chocolate Candies for**
- Valentine's Day 1 bag peanut butter or sugar cookie mix (approximately
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour Red and white tube frosting Waxed-paper sheets Printable templates (at www.brightideas.com/ valentines/pop\_1380.shtml) or alphabet cookie cutters in
  - 1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
  - 2. Prepare cookie mix according to package instructions. Stir in flour and mix until blended.
  - 3. Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness between two waxed paper sheets. Using printed templates or cookie cutters, cut out "X"s and "O"s. Transfer cutouts to cookie
- 4. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, remove from oven, and let cool
- 5. Frost cookies' tops with red or white frosting, and then decorate with M&M'S. Makes 36 cookies



2006 Buick Lucerne

# Lucerne out to attract younger crowd

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press

Buick's newest sedan. the 2006 Lucerne, will appear all year at major golf courses as the courtesy car for Tiger Woods. That's no accident.

After a poor 2005 when Buick's U.S. sales failed to reach 300,000 for the first time in decades, company officials are hoping to rebuild the brand's image as a maker of premium vehicles. They also want to attract a wider range of buyers, including folks who are younger than Buick's 60plus age demographic.

Introduced for 2006 as a replacement for Buick's long-running Avenue and LeSabre sedans, the Lucerne is noteworthy for its quiet interior, modern, luxurycar outer styling and for offering a refined and strongly powered Northstar V8 engine.

This marks the first time since the Buick Roadmaster in 1996 that a V8 has been available in a Buick. Northstar engines have largely been exclusive to Cadillac. (Both Buick and Cadillac are owned by General Motors Corp.)

Starting manufacturer's suspension noise didn't is no longer offered. suggested retail price, including delivery charge, for a base, 2006 Lucerne CX with V6 and automatic transmission is \$25,990. A Lucerne with a V8 starts at \$29,990.

The Lucerne, which is classified as a large car by the Environmental Protection Agency, is expected to compete against the mid-size ES 330 from the Lexus luxury car brand. The ES starts at \$32,995 for a 2006 model and comes only with a V6.

But shoppers also might compare the Lucerne with premium large sedans such as the 2006 Toyota Avalon, which has a starting MSRP, including destination charge, of \$27,205, and the 2006 Chrysler 300, which starts at \$24,200.

The front-wheel-drive Lucerne is available in three trim levels — CX, pany officials said. CXL and CXS.

It's one of the few cars that can come with six seats, if buyers don't mind a front bench.

The interior quiet was the first thing I noticed in the test Lucerne, a midrange CXL with V8 and five seats. There was nary any wind noise on the highway, and road and

intrude, either. In fact, I scarcely heard the engine at startup and at idle.

Buick officials credit their detailed "Quiet Tuning" effort that, among other things, added a special wheel housing lining and more aerodynamic, lower-profile windshield wipers.

Other highlights: The upscale, textured fabric on the Lucerne's softly cushioned ceiling as well as excellent fit and finish throughout.

Mated to a four-speed automatic transmission, the Northstar V8 provides strong power in smooth fashion without an overly raucous exhaust note.

This 4.6-liter, double overhead cam engine produces 275 horsepower, or 78 more than the Lucerne's base, 197 horsepower, 3.8-liter V6, com-

Torque from the V8 is a strong 290 foot-pounds at 4,400 rpm, up from the V6's 227 foot-pounds at 3,800 rpm.

This 3800 V6, which dates back decades at GM, also is in the smaller 2006 LaCrosse sedan.

But the supercharged version of this 3.8-liter V6 that used to be in Buicks

While I loved the V8's smooth, solid performance that let me merge easily into traffic and accelerate away from problem situations, I winced at the fuel econo-

According to the test car's onboard information center, I averaged less than 15 miles a gallon in trips around town. I did better with careful driving on the highway.

Officially, the Lucerne's mileage rating is between 17 and 28 mpg, depending on the engine.

Driving the Lucerne is a bit like driving an older car, with floaty sensations over some rises and dips on the roads in the test vehicle.

Overall, this hig sedan, which uses the platform of the Cadillac DTS, keeps road bumps away from passengers. I often didn't even feel vibrations coming through.

Interior room is spacious, front and back, and I enjoyed the sizable rear door windows that go down all the way.

Seats cushions are mostly flat, and the 17 cubic feet of trunk space tops that of the ES 330, Avalon and the Chrysler 300.

#### TYPE: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-or six-passenger, premium, full-size sedan. ENGINE: 4.6-liter, double overhead cam, Northstar V8. MILEAGE: 17 mpg (city), 25 mpg (highway). LENGTH: 203.2 inches.

2006 Buick

Lucerne

BASE PRICE: \$25,265 for CX; \$27,265 for CXL with V6: \$29,265 for CXL with V8. AS TESTED: \$30,640.

WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches. CURB WEIGHT: 3,969 pounds. **BUILT AT: Hamtramck, Mich.** OPTIONS: Chrome aluminum wheels \$650. **DESTINATION CHARGE: \$725.** 

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**DORA ROBERTS COMMUNITY CENTER** 

100 WHIPKEY DRIVE - BIG SPRING

## Auto O&A

**Knight-Ridder Services** 

Q. My wife brought our Land Rover Discovery with 58,000 miles to a CarMax store, where they offered her \$11,000 for it, noting that the vehicle was in good shape. But they had a vehicle identical to ours on the lot with 59,000 miles, a no-haggle price of \$21,000 and a note that the book price was \$22,500. I was offended by the lowball offer. What are your thoughts?

-P.A., St. Charles, Ill. A. CarMax offers to buy consumers' cars, but not at retail value or what customers would expect to pay for them on the used-car lot.

Our thoughts? That you think you should have been offered the retail value of the car, not what was likely the wholesale price. That figure allows the dealer to spend a few bucks to prepare the car for resale and make a profit.

Does it stand to make a hefty profit? Seems so, providing it can sell the vehicle without investing a lot in repairs.

If you were offered retail value, what would the dealership have to charge to sell it? More than the going retail, which means it probably wouldn't sell the car. And

if everyone came to the store to sell used vehicles at retail, how long would you expect the store to remain open?

Q. I want to offer a marketing suggestion for you and General Motors to consider. I drive almost every day and am very observant as far as the logo identification on each vehicle. The Japanese are best at winning the "Road Vehicle Advertising Expo." Their logos are large and readable for every driver around them, a wonderfully successful advertis-

ing campaign that GM ignores. GM could initiate a logo program to install new, large, readable logos on all its vehicles. And it could mail out new logos to current owners to install on their vehicles and pay them \$10 to \$25 to do so. Your thoughts?

-A.B., Elgin, Ill.

A. General Motors has added a new logo to its vehicles, but rather than a large chunk of chrome. it opted for a small "GM" badge at the bottom of a quarter-panel to identify it as a family product.



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1501 W. 11th **Clinic Location** 267-1611 Mon.-Frl. 9:00 am-5:30 pm

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Blg Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season and they will be held each Saturday from Feb. 18 through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring

The league is for girls and women ages four and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more informa-tion, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

#### HC to host regional cheer competition

The Western Junior College Athletic Conference Regional Cheer Competition will be hosted by Howard College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.
The Howard College
cheerleaders will per-

form in the co-ed cate-gory against Midland College. There will also be an all-girl category. The competi-tion is free to the pub-

For more information, contact Linda Berry at 264-5024.

#### B.S. Country Club sets golf scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has announced a four-person golf scramble will take place Feb. 25-26. The entry fee is \$75 per player plus golf cart, but private carts are welcome. The scramble will have a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days. The entry fee includes BBQ on the course both days and practice rounds are available Friday.

For more information, contact the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

#### Little League umpires needed for upcoming season

Anyone intereste in umpiring little league baseball games can contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 432-816-9984 or Randy Phillips at 432-264-6600 (day) or 432-263-5314 (night).

#### New MNF lineup set for ESPN's first year

NEW YORK (AP) Al Michaels appears headed to NBC after ESPN hired former quarterback Theismann Washington Kornheiser and Mike Tirico as its Monday night broadcast crew Michaels had been with ABC since 1976 and had been the play-by-play voice of rank Gifford. NBC takes over Sunday night games next season from partner for the las

# Howard powers way past Abilene Christian

By TROY HYDE

**Sports Editor** 

ABILENE The Howard College baseball team moved to 3-0 on the young season Wednesday, scoring double-digit runs against Abilene Christian in an 18-7 victory in Abilene.

"The score didn't really indicate how well we played," said Howard head coach Britt Smith. "We didn't take very good at bats in the early stages of the game."



The Hawks jumped out to a 6-0 lead early in the game. They scored three runs in the second, two in the third and one in the fourth.

ACU scored its first run

in the fifth inning. Howard scored four runs in the sixth inning to go up 10-1, but ACU scored three runs in its half of the sixth to avoid the runrule defeat. Howard led 11-7 after seven innings before scoring eight runs in the final two innings to win going away.

"We started to adjust and tried to put them away in the middle of the game, but they came back and were able to get some runs to avoid the runrule," said Smith. "We definitely took better atbats in the later innings."

Scottie Sophomore Moore pitched 5.2 innings and got the win on the mound. He gave up four runs, while striking out six and walking five, which included one hit by a pitch.

"Scottie pitched well, but we probably left.him in too long and that is why he gave up those last three runs," said Smith. "It was his first outing of the year and he nearly

was comfortable, but started to tire in the sixth."

Freshman Lance Brown threw the final 3.2 innings and recorded his first save of the year. He gave up four walks and a three-run homer in the

seventh. Freshman Bordeau and sophomores Darby Brown and Jeff Storms all had three hits at the plate to lead Howard. Bordeau scored

gave us 100 pitches. He See HAWKS, Page 2B

# Former BSHS star visits ATC, speaks with Lady Steers

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor Former Big Spring and Olympic star volleyball player Rose Magers-Powell spoke to several Lady Steer athletes at the **Athletic Training Center** 

Wednesday afternoon.

Magers-Powell touched several different things during her inspirational speech, but the main thing she wanted to get across to young female student-athletes is that there are opportunities out there and you have to be accountable for the actions you take.

"I just want female athletes to know that there are opportunities out there," said Magers-Powell. "It is not something that happens overnight, but if you take the right steps eventually you can get there."

The first part of the speech touched on nutrition. She told the students to eat well and get plenty of rest during days leading up to big matches or

"You can control what you put into your body and how much rest you get," said Magers-Powell, who was on the all-state volleyball team at Big Spring three times in four years and led the Lady Steers to a third place state finish in 1978. "If you don't eat or rest right then it will show up on the court."

She stressed drinking plenty of water and don't start eating right just the night before a match, but several nights leading up to the match.

"Water helps you get through matches so you have to drink plenty of water," said Magers-Powell. "The body takes time to break the food down into energy so that is why you can't wait until the night before."

Magers-Powell's next the classroom.

"My mother was my first coach and that was the first thing she talked with me about," said Magers-Powell "She wanted to make sure my grades were all right."

Magers-Powell also touched a bit on her col-



Former Big Spring volleyball standout Rose Magers-Powell speaks to several Lady Steer athletes at the Athletic Training Center Wednesday. Magers-Powell played Division I volleyball at Houston and LSU, participated in the 1984 Olympics and is now the head volleyball coach at Martin Methodist College in Tennessee.

segment involved grades lege days at the won't be so difficult her time with students by are always up to par in and talked about what student-athletes had to do to get to the next level in athletics.

"You have a great opportunity and it starts right here," said Magers-Powell. "You must start developing your skills for later right now. If you pay attention to detail now it

and making sure students University of Houston later." giving the Lady Steer ath-

Self-promotion is a bigtime way to get noticed by coaches at the next level, said Magers-Powell. She said it is often times up to the students to get information to prospective coaches and really stressed to the kids about

the recruiting process.

letes a chance to ask questions and then preached the students about not quitting.

"I wanted to quit several times down the road during my career," said Magers-Powell. "Believe me, I have been there

Magers-Powell finished See MAGERS, Page 2B

## **'Banged** up' Hawks host NMMI

 Harris to miss at least two games with sprained ankle

By TROY HYDE

**Sports Editor** The top-ranked Howard men's basketball team will have to play New **Mexico Military Institute** tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum with the services of starting guard Dezmon Harris, who severely sprained his ankle in the Hawks' win against Clarendon Monday and is expected to miss at least two games.

"We are just handling it day-by-day right now, but it looks like he could miss two games and maybe more," Howard assistant coach Jason Sautter. "He didn't

break it though."
Howard defeated NMMI
in Roswell, N.M., 84-32, earlier this season. The Hawks used a 29-0 run in the first half to take a 54-12 halftime lead. Howard hit 11 3-pointers and had four players reach double figures, including Harris, who scored 13 points.

Sophomores Louis Rodgers (shoulder) and



ly during the top-ranked Hawks' win

## Forsan JV boys finish season with home win

 Lady Buffaloes fall behind early, lose to Wink in season finale

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald FORSAN — The Forsan Buffalo JV team closed out their season Tuesday night with an easy win over the Wink Wildcats, 49-26

It didn't seem so easy in the first quarter as the

Buffs found themselves down, 11-7, going into the second period.

But a 9-

0 run to open the period gave Forsan a lead it would not surrender and the Buffs closed out the half outscoring Wink 13-2 in the second and leading, 20-13.

The third frame was a bit closer as the Wildcats sent Forsan to the line eight times, never letting them have a clean shot at the basket. The Buffs hit five of eight from the line and went into the fourth up 29-18.

The Buffs owned the final period holding Wink to just eight points and going on a 10-0 run to end the contest and take the

49-26 win. Sophomore Grantham led the Buffs with a double-double, scoring 18 points and collecting 11 rebounds.

Also scoring in double Jeremy figures was Robbins who finished with 11 points and four boards.

Nathan Ackerson and Jace Sandridge each scored eight points and

pulled down seven and eight boards, respectively.

The win moved the Buffs to an 18-1 record

on the year.

In JV girls action the Lady Buffs season came to an end as they struggled to stay up with Wink, falling 62-34.

The Lady Cats took control from the beginning with a 24-10 opening period. Forsan played closer the rest of they way, but could not gain any ground as Wink proved to be too much.

Sandi Golleher led the ladies with 14 points while Faith Belew netted

The ladies finished the year with a 3-18 record.

## Focus on outspoken **U.S.** skiier in Turin

By CONNOR ENNIS

**AP Sports Writer** 

TURIN, Italy - Bode Miller reached up with a finger to scratch his temple, setting off a flurry of shutter clicks.

On a day when the outspoken skier was flanked by five of his U.S. Alpine teammates at a news conthat little ference, moment illustrated just how much focus is on Miller heading into the **Turin Olympics.** 

"It's to be expected," Ted Ligety said. "If you're the best, you deserve the most attention for what you're doing."

Miller didn't say anything Tuesday that he hasn't said before:

He believes athletes are punished for speaking their minds; one of the reasons he won't be staying at the athletes' village at the Olympics is he doesn't think it's a "healthy living environment"; and he's got mixed feelings regarding the U.S. Ski and Snowboard team's motto of "Best in the World!"

But he was undoubtedly himself, something that has won him plenty of admirers - and more than his share of criticism over the past year.

His comments disparaging anti-doping regulations created a stir earlier this season, but he became the focus of controversy after a "60 Minutes" interview in which he said "if you ever tried to ski when you're wasted, it's not

And last month, he suggested in an interview with Rolling Stone that **Barry Bonds and Lance** Armstrong took performance-enhancing drugs. Miller later said the interview was "pretty warped" and took the quotes out of context.

"I don't want to sound arrogant, but none of this bothers me very much,' Miller said. "I'm not caught by surprise. I would be lying if I said I had massive regrets about the things I've said."

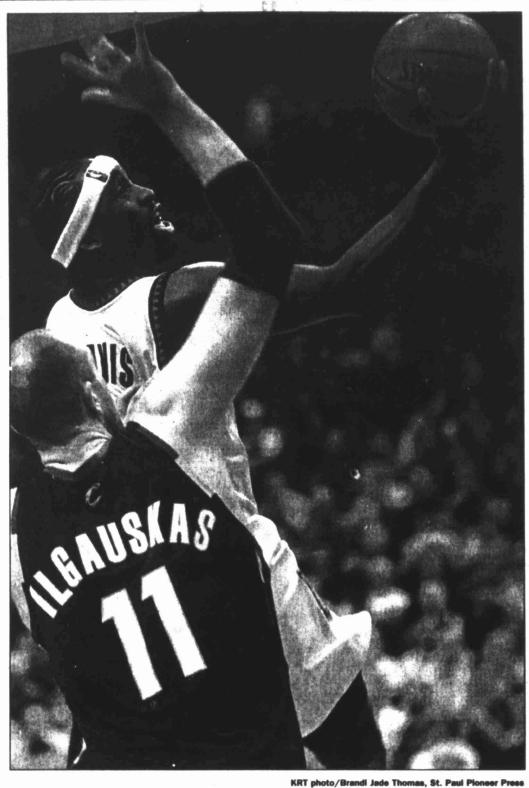
Regrets or not, the comments have certainly brought plenty of attention Miller's way. He shared the dais at the news conference with Ligety, Daron Rahlves, Marco Sullivan, Scott Macartney and Steve Nyman. When the assembled media was allowed to ask questions, however, none were asked of the other skiers — except for one question which was directed to both Rahlves and Miller.

At one point, the moderator broke in to ask several questions of the other team members before questioning was opened up again and all queries were again directed at Miller, who left before reporters had a chance to speak to him in smaller groups.

"Glad you guys are willing to mix up the questions," Miller joked at one point.

Miller's Alpine teammates say they don't mind that he's become the public face.

"As far as the media stuff is concerned, he's gotten a lot of play, a lot of (magazine) covers," said Rahlves, a medal contender in downhill, super-G and giant slalom. "That's good for our sport. To me, it's not really a big issue of me getting all the press.



Minnesota Timberwolves' Ricky Davis scores against Cleveland Cavaliers' Zydrunas liguaskas (11) during the second quarter at the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minn., Wednesday. Davis scored 33 points in the game, but Minnesota lost to the Cavaliers,

# Ranked Aggies run past Horns

By JIM VERTUNO

**AP Sports Writer** 

fun. Blowing out a chief ning streak. rival on their nome court is a blast.

Morenike Atunrase scored 15 points and No. 24 Texas A&M used a 28-0 the first half to blow past

rival Texas 73-53 Wednesday night, snap-

A'Quonesia added 14 points for Texas A&M (18-5, 7-3), which won for just the third time in Austin in series run over 10 minutes in history and the first time since 1995.

"I'm just going to have a good time," said Aggie Being ping the Longhorns' 31- coach Gary Blair. "My ranked in the Top 25 is game, Big 12 home win- kids played great ... I'm happy for Aggies every-Franklin where.

> A&M came in ranked for the first time since winning the Conference Southwest tournament in March

#### **HAWKS**

Continued from Page 1B

four runs, Brown had four RBIs and walked twice and Storms scored three times and had two doubles.

Sophomore Daman Aaron went two-for-four and scored twice, while sophomore Dusty Dallas added two hits, two RBIs and a run.

get their fourth win today they as take on Texarkana at 1 p.m. in Tyler. The team plays Vernon in Tyler Friday and takes on Tyler Saturday.

The Hawks will look to

## **HOWARD**

Continued from Page 1B

Charles Burgess (chest) are both "dinged up" but both will play tonight. Both players played through their injuries Monday night. Burgess finished with a triple-double and Rodgers scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Former voice of the Hawks and KBST and KBYG employee Bob Bell will be honored at halftime. Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen will officially name the day "Bob Bell Day."

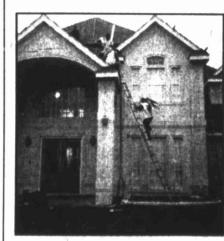
The game is also "Goliad Intermediate"

night as all students from Goliad Intermediate School get free admission to the game.

Tonight's game will tipoff at 7:30 p.m. The Hawks look to go 8-0 in Western Junior the College Athletic Conference and extend their school-record winning streak to 24 games.

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# **Duncan-less** Spurs get win over Toronto

Parker had 32 points and a season-high 13 assists, Michael Finley scored six of his 23 points in overtime, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Toronto Raptors 125-118 Wednesday night for their seventh straight win.

Tim Duncan missed his first game of the season because of flu-like symptoms, but Parker played one of best games of his career - coming within one assist and six points of tying career highs. Sean Marks had a

career-high 16 points for the Spurs, who have won seven straight on the road. Chris Bosh had 30

points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors.

Lakers 89, Rockets 78 HOUSTON (AP) - Kobe Bryant scored 32 points and dished out a seasonhigh nine assists to help Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak.

Brian Cook added 27 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who play their next eight games at the Staples Center. Cook

TORONTO (AP) - Tony scored a season-high 28 in the Lakers' 102-87 loss at Dallas on Tuesday night.

Rafer Alston scored 16 and Yao Ming added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets, who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Bryant was 13-for-29 from the floor and outplayed fellow All-Star Tracy McGrady, who had 11 points on 5-for-18 shooting.

> Cavaliers 97, **Timberwolves 91**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -LeBron James scored 12 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter to lift Cleveland over.

In a matchup of two of the most successful players to make the jump from high school to the NBA, James and Kevin Garnett needed plenty of help from their teammates in this one.

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James got off to a slow start and was just 11-of-34 from the field, but he made the big shots when Cleveland needed them most.

Ricky Davis scored 33 points to lead Minnesota.

## **MAGERS**

Continued from Page 1B

before, too. Your coaches and teachers are here to help guide you and push you, but ultimately you have to be accountable for what you do."

Magers-Powell currently coaches at Martin Methodist College in Tennessee and has been with the NAIA school for 14 years. She graduated from Big Spring in 1998 after three all-state seasons on the volleyball court.

She attended University of Houston for three years and played her final year of collegiate volleyball at LSU. She made the all-American team all four seasons and led her team to a third place finish at the national tournament during her senior year.

Her career then moved on to the Olympic level as she made the Olympic National team in 1982 and participated in the 1984 Olympics before playing professionally in Japan from 1985 to 1994.

Former Big Spring volleyball standout LaKenya Wrightsil is currently on Magers-Powell's roster at Martin Methodist and earned all-American honors as a sophomore this past year. She is also a scholar athlete and was named Player of the Week in the team's conference in three consecutive weeks.

"She has done very well for me and I am going to try to get her on the Olympic National team this summer," Magers-Powell, who also runs the Rocket City Volleyball Club Huntsville, Tenn.. "She has that kind of talent."



HERALD

9, 2006

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following positions: Carpenters, Rod Busters, Concrete Finishers, Laborers Please apply at MW Builders project offices, 3601 El Paso Ave.

Scaled Wages E.O.E. **Drug Test Required** 

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERY Big Spring Area Routes** Midland Reporter-Telegram The Midland

Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. General knowledge of the Big Spring

area, good organization for

customer tracking, a reliable

vehicle and a dependable

commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call 432-687-9002

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for CNA position. 2pm-10pm Shift. Please apply at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

NEEDED. RECEPTIONIST Professional individual with 10-key, medical insurance experience. Salary D.O.E. Apply at Texas Workforce Network.

TAKING APPLICATIONS for the following positions: Backhoe operators, Bucket truck operators, CDL Class A or B Dump truck drivers, General Laborers, GOOD DRIVERS LI-CENSE REQUIRED or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

TRUCK DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a agricultural-chemical national company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift. and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:

Helena Chemical Company 100.S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

We Still Have Several New 2005's

Our Loss = Your Gain

Left!

Available

Savings

MSRP -

Rebate -

Sale

**Price** 

TBD -

MSRP -

Rebate -

**Price** 

1 - 05 Ford Sport Trac

1 - 05 Ford Freestar

1 - 05 Ford Freestyle

1 - 05 Mercury Montego

3 - 05 Ford 500

+TTL

\*Ford Credit

Rebate -

Pkg. Discount -

Brock Discount - \$2,195

**Brock Discount - \$4,500** 

SALE!! SALE!

Help Wanted

Health Services, WIC Program Clerk II Position. Seeking a person with clerical experience to work in the Big Spring WIC Clinic. Will be responsible for assisting in eligibility screening, physical assessment of clients, data entry of client information. issuing program benefits, preparing monthly reports, teaching group classes and outreach activities. Must enjoy working with the public. Bilingual/Biliterate (English/Spanish) required. For Complete Job Description and state application please access the State of Texas Web

https://hhsjobs.hsc.state.tx.us. Posting Reference Job #20331. State applications must be completed and received by 02/17/06. FAX 866-245-3646 or apply online.

**TRUCK DRIVERS** 

\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS Drivers earn up to \$50 thousand per year plus a \$500 sing-on bonus, Benefits include: Medical, Life and Dental Insurance and paid vacation. Applicants should have 3 years driving experience. Oilfield driving experience hauling sand, dry cement, or other equipment operating experience helpful. Class A CDL, good driving record, DOT drug & alcohol test-Call required. ing 432-563-0722 M-F from 8am-5pm to schedule inter-

WAITRESSES NEEDED Split Shift Must be 18

Monday-Saturday Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill 2401 Gregg

WANTED QUALIFIED High Speed Mechanic at Natural Gas Processing Plant, North East of Big Spring. Fax resume to (432)399-4290 or e-mail buncej@crcom.net

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

#### Items for Sale

BEAUTIFUL GRANDFATHER clock for sale. (432)267-3013.

**HUGE SAVINGS** on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

NEW BALANCE Elliptical & Bow Flex. Sell both for \$1200. (432)267-7449 (432)557-5604.

\$30,390

\$3,500

\$1,000

\$46,295

\$1,000

\$45,295

\$5,000

#### Items for Sale

ORLANDO/ DISNEY Area. 7/6 THE DEPARTMENT of State night stay. Paid \$600.00 Will sell for \$199. Good for one year. Call 915-233-2010. Lost and Found FOUND LHASA Apso on Midway Road. Call (432)263-4528.

LOST BROWN Chihuahua, wearing green collar, in the Oasis Edition. Call (432)268-3603. Miscellaneous

WHITE Westinghouse double electric oven. \$200.00 Call (432)263-0087.

A MATTRESS, Queen set, PILLOWTOP, New in plastic, factory warranty. \$199.00. Call (806)549-3110.

**AAH! NO Motion King Memory** Foam mattress and foundation, New in plastic with warranty. \$799.00 Must Sell. Call (806)549-3110.

**BARGAIN! KING PILLOWTOP** Mattress and box. Warranty, Still in package, \$299.00. Call (806)549-3110.

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

ORLANDO/ DISNEY area. 7/6 nights stay. Paid \$600. Sell \$199. Good for one year. Call (915)233-2010.

SALE: 12'X16' Metal insulated portable building on skids, with bathroom and 2 windows. \$8500.00 or Best Offer! Call (432)756-2888.

#### On the Farm

4850 MFWD - JD Tractor with only 5000 actual HRS. In good condition with duels, weights, quick hitch and good tires. Call (432)399-4804.

ROUND BALES of Hay Lawrence, Saint Grazer. Texas. Call (432)268-3084 or 268-3083.

#### Pets

TO GIVE away to good home. Gray & white cat, neutered, all shots. tags. (432)816-7163.

Real Estate for Rent

#### **Knollwood Heights Apartments** 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.

(432) 264-1735 Now Leasing!

Brand New 1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts

\$385 - \$520 monthly New Appliances & Full Size Washer & Dryer in Apartments

On Site Maintenance Swimming Pool Fitness Room 2 Playgrounds **HUD Accepted** 

1607 JENNINGS. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$300, month, \$150, deposit. 448 Armstrong. Large 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. HUD approved. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1408 DONLEY. Extra Clean, Furnished 1 bedroom 1 bath Apartment. Water & Gas Paid. \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. (432)263-4922.

1413 SYCAMORE: 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. New paint & carpet. \$14,00.00 Cash or Owner Finance with \$2,000.00 Down. Call (325)695-6100 after 6:00 p.m.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

3005 CACTUS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Unfurnished. Call Mary, (432)213-0828. 9:00-7:00 p.m.

407-1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigeratar. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

4207 PARKWAY, 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

602 GEORGE- Close to College. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Washer & done Innection. Freshly \$650.00 Month deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)287-2296.

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerater furnished. Washer & dryer con-nections, CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD, Call (432)267-2296.

Real Estate for Rent **BUILDING** for **LEASE** for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month +deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

> **HEIGHTS APARTMENTS** 1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

SUNSET RIDGE APTS Family Friendly Free Cable TV Playground! No Water Bill Paragon Security 24 Hour Laundry On-Site Mgr & Maint 2 Bdrm \$345 1 Bdrm \$255 (432)263-2292

#### Real Estate for Sale

3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath On 1 Acre in Forsan ISD ocated At 4900 Wasson Rd. Sold With Owners Approval Feb. 18th.

Por More Info Or To View Call: 264-9900 or 263-8200 David Lefever-Auctioneer Lic. #13261

1150 SQ. ft. brick home, 2 bedroom, one bath, 2 car garage. Total electric, on two acres, with large barn, three water wells. 8-1/2 miles northwest of Spring. (432)816-6042.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

4109 DIXON. 4/2, refrig. air/gas heat, storm windows, large back yard with steel fence, work/storage bldg. Much \$39,000.00. Call more. 1-979-324-2072 or 267-3074.

"AS IS" 609 Holbert. \$285.00 per month for 180 months. Call 1-800-804-7110.

FOR SALE, Deeded lot. Covered roof on. 1990 29' Wilderness travel trailer. West of Cherry Creek bridge. \$14,500. (325)282-2095 Call (325)721-530.

NEAR ELBOW School, 2 bedroom 2 bath with 3 car garage on 10 secluded acres. Shade trees, good water well plus 2 irrigation wells. A barn and two storage buildings. \$89,000 firm. Call (432)213-1800 after 5pm.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION Owner** Anxious. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Wonderful closets, pretty cabinets with marble counter tops. Priced Reduced \$180's. Call Joe Hughes @ Home Realtors (432)263-1284 Cell 270-7877 Home 353-4751.

OWNER FINANCE. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll 866-894-4591. Free 325-650-5900.

OWNER FINANCING. Attractive 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath w/Shop. Ready to Move In. Great Starter Home. Can be yours with Minimum Down and Low Monthly Payments. Call (432)599-1003.

**WESTBROOK BRICK** home on 2 lots. 3/2, large living with formal dining, newer carpet, 50x24 workshop/ garage, storage building with metal privacy fence. Call (432)267-3074.

Vehicles

Several New 2005 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings Bob Brock Ford

TOYOTA Tacoma pickup. 5-speed, A/C, cruise, bedliner. 91K miles. \$9775. Call (432)965-3486 or (432)321-2725.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options

Such As ALL BILLS PAID MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP

#### Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** The Aquarius vibes hurl us toward tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, and there's not a moment to look back. For those who are feeling a little overwhelmed by the shiny newness of the Aquarian world, the Cancer moon offers comfort - she's a caretaker, a mother, a soft blanket and a word of sup-

you're sure to find her. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Eliminate ambiguity in a relationship. Show that you're willing to change if it will keep love alive. Compromises are a symbol of your commitment. People of quality will, at the very least, meet you halfway.

port. If you stay home,

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Surprising events wake you up like a bucket of water to the face - wow! Why did you never notice this before? Perhaps you've been sleepwalking. Now that you're aware, new options open up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your desire is central to your mind and heart today. You are in a position to move forward in that special relationship. Be present to someone asking for your time, and give it gladly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Here comes a challenge ... but this is only a test to show how much you have grown up. You're a good problem solver and can understand the benefit of taking the high road.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're extremely obliging, handling everything you should, but somehow, it doesn't give you that warm and satisfying sense of contribution. At some point, you stop and wonder, 'Whose idea was this anyway?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're like a child watching a sing-along kiddie program with the bouncing ball directing your words and timing. Pretty soon, you'll learn this song, and you won't need any help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Bring greater awareness to your personal life - not necessarily greater reason. Your rational mind is a servant to your amazing intuition. So if what you're doing doesn't make sense, that alone is not a reason to

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in a fine moneymaking cycle, and you spend it admirably as well. In matters of both art and commerce, maintain your integrity by refusing to con-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A dream compels you. If it weren't so lovely, you would feel like a lowly slave to its ruthless demands. You focus on the delicious possibility, so nothing you do feels like

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone you trust tells you what you may not want to hear. Often others can see us more clearly then we see ourselves. Remember, you are loved beyond meas-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Check your rearview mirror, but don't get stuck there. Keep moving, and focus on what's available on this road. You'll notice things that need to be handled ... like a rumbling hunger. Life is waiting for you to drive up and order.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A choice is mainly limited to yes or no. In your case, yes is written in the stars. But it is your heart that can speak best here. Even if no words are spoken, a wink will suffice.

#### Legals

**CITY OF FORSAN FINAL PUBLIC** HEARING NOTICE TCDP CONTRACT NO. 724291

The City of Forsan will conduct a public hearing to review the per-formance and to obtain citizens comments on its completed Texas Community Development Program - Community Development Fund TCDP Contract No. 724291 Water Facilities Improvements Project.
The public hearing will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, February 13, 2006 at Forsan City Hall located at 106 East Martin Street, Forsan, Texas, Individuals who require aux iliary aids and persons with disabili-ties that wish to attend the meeting should contact City Hall at (432)457-2355 least 72 hours prior to the meeting so arrangements

# lsk Our Sales Team About the \$\$ Savings On These New 2005's Blue Oval Certified

**BOB BROCK** 

Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

267-7424

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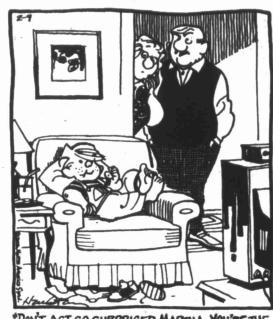
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ompleted Texas pment Program . 724291 Water ments Project. will be held at ay, February 13, y Hall located at Street, Forsan, who require auxend the me City Half at 172 hours prior

### THURSDAY

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_		Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlente	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Dianey	(2B)	Sports -	Science Fig.
6		News (CC)		Plei de Otono	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormenta	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	Top Gear		CSt: Crime	NBA All-Star	Live	Phil of Future	Women's	College	Movie:
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1 7		Mary Plan		Contra Viento	70s Show	Survivor:	El Cuerpo del	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	West Tex Jml	Top Gear	Mores: The	CSI: Crime	NBA	Movie	Movie: 102	Basketball	Ohio State at	Terror (CC)
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-		(CC)	(CC)		70s Show	Trace (CC)	•		•	• 1	Announced	(CC)	Cahill, United	Videogames	NBA	Hustler	Sister, Sister	Georgetown	at Pittaburgh	
10		News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show		Noticias	News	:10 Movie:	The Hour of		Top Gear	States Marshal	CSI: Crime	Basketball:	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	College	SportsCenter	Movie:
1	The second name of the second na		Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show-	Titulares y Mas	Tonight Show	Ace Ventura:	Healing		(CC)		Scene Invstgtn.	Chicago Bulls	In Living Color	That's-Raven	Basketball:	(CC)	Crocodile 2:
111			Jimmy Kimmel		TBA;	Letterman	Laura		When Nature	Del Sanchez	Charlie Rose	Top Gear	• ,	CSI: Crime	at Sacramento	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	Pacific at Cal	NFL Live	Death Roll
-	:30	Jimmy Kimmel			Malcolm-Mid.	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	Calls (CC)	Jimmy Philips	(CC)	(CC)	Movie: The	Scene Invstgtn.	Kings (CC)	Jamie Foxx	Kim Possible	State Fullerton	Gamenight	(CC)
12	:AM		Extra (CC)	Amigas y	Becker (CC)	Late Late		Conan O'Brien	,		Sign Off	Top Gear	Comancheros	Real TV (CC)	Inside the NBA				-	The Twilight
14	:30	News (CC)	Paid Program	Rivales (SS)	King of the Hill	Show	Pagado	Seinfeld (CC)	A Night at the	John Hagee	•			Blind Date	(CC)	•	That's-Raven	Games (CC)	(CC)	Zone (CC)

#### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



'DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED, MARTHA, YOU'RETHE ONE WHO TOLD HIM TO MAKE HIMSELF AT HOME.

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"But you didn't tell me to be good. You just said 'behave'."

**HAGAR** 



I SUPFER FROM BAD HEADACHES, A SORE BACK AND SONETIMES MY WHOLE BODY ACHES!





## $\mathbf{BC}$



#### WIZARD OF ID



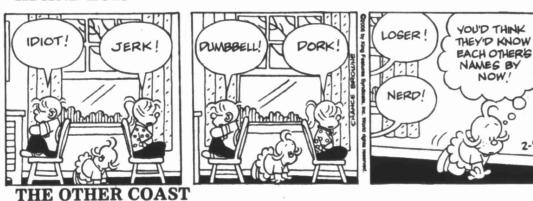








#### HI AND LOIS





#### **SNUFFY SMITH**







## This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2006. There are 325 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in

History: On Feb. 9, 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an American victory over Japanese forces.

On this date: In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City

County, Va. In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of elec-

In 1861, the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America elected Jefferson Davis president and Alexander H. Stephens vice president.

In 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

In 1942, daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, W.Va., Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists. In 1964, The Beatles made their first live American

television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" on CBS. In 1971, the Apollo 14 spacecraft returned to Earth

after man's third landing on the moon. In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov died at age 69, less than 15 months after

succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was succeeded by Konstantin 1993 U. Chernenko In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret died in London at

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathryn Grayson is 84. Television journalist Roger Mudd is 78. Actress Janet Suzman is 67. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 65. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 64. Actor Joe Pesci is 63. Singer

Barbara Lewis is 63. Author

9 Actress

12 Eat away

13 Stupefied

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29 Convenience

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**27** RFD

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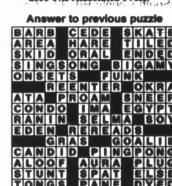
22 Beatles #1 song

23 Liberty Bell flaw

Alice Walker is 62. Actress Mia Farrow is 61. Singer Joe Ely is 59. Actress Judith Light is 57. Rhythm-andblues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & Damp; the Gang) is 55. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 51. Country singer Travis Tritt is 43. Actress Julie Warner is 41. Country singer Danni Leigh is 36. Actress Ziyi Zhang ("Memoirs of a Geisha") is 27. Actor David Gallagher is 21. Actress Marina Malota is 18. Actress Camille Winbush ("The Bernie Mac Show") is

Thought for Today: "What we call progress is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance." -Havelock Ellis, English psychologist (1859-1939).

#### 2006 The Associated Press.



#### **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS** 1 Swiftly

- 6 Approach for a loan 11 Gave grub to
- 14 Kick back 15 Bouquet
- 16 Paleontology period
- 17 Squander slowly 19 Frasier

character

- 20 At sixes and \_\_\_ (confused) 21 What parasols
- provide 23 The Price Is Right network
- 26 Sleep cycle, for short 27 Put gas into 28 Fix
- 30 Birdlike monster of myth
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- 34 Boxer La Motta 38 John Irving
- novel, with The 41 Acute 42 Viking Ships
- Museum city 43 Knucklehead 44 Jersey and Guernsey
- 46 Time of the mammoths 47 Hit-or-miss
- 50 Starz! rival Yonder yacht 52 Nairobi's
- nation 53 Convention

#### APPLE CORPS by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

39 Sanctified

45 Basic food

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47 Roller Derby

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50 Patriotic Patrick

49 Lunch hour

53 Thrilled

54 Harbor

55 Villain's

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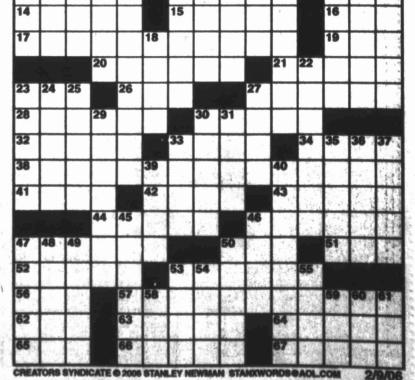
#### **56** Gobbled up **57** Perfect

- happiness **62** Keg insert 63 Solitary soul
- 64 Sesame Street
- character 65 Hockey-stick
- wood **66** Contest form **67** Whistle blasts

## **DOWN**

- 1 Canine sound 2 For every 3 Joe Frazier foe
- 4 Felix, Garfield et al.
- 5 Word on some paint cans
- 7 Armenia
- 8 Wrecker jobs
- 6 Sheik's wives
- adjoiner

- 35 Other handle
- 37 Lauder of
  - makeup
- 30 Transports vanquisher **58** Electrolyte via truck 31 To boot particle
- \_-Caps 33 Two aspirins, (cineplex
- candy) 36 Retirement plan 60 Hobby-shop
  - buy 61 "Sure thing!"



"The Budweiser Shootout is a pretty cool event to be part of. It's fun to mix it up with the big cats."

> - NASCAR driver Joe Nemechek, on participating in the Budweiser Shootout.



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



Racing at 170.778 mph, Carl Edwards' Ford Fusion posted the fastest lap during the testing session at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

By JIM PEDLEY Knight Ridder Newspapers

ecause it is held at a non-restrictor-plate track, the Nextel Cup test session at Las Vegas Motor Speedway is often referred to as the first "real" test of the season.

This year's three-day Las Vegas session, which concluded last week, could probably be referred to as the first "real important" test of the season.

The addition of the extra adjective is because major changes have been made to two of the three makes of car used in the Cup se-

And while brand No. 3 has not, as of now, changed badges or major parts from a year ago, it, too, is facing crucial questions about its viability on the track. Ford, this year, is introducing the Fusion to

replace the Taurus brand. The Fusion is significantly different from

its predecessor. Kevin Kennedy, the public-affairs manager for Ford Racing Technology, said modifications have been made in just about every area where change is allowed by NASCAR

Kennedy said balance is targeted in the new Fusion.

Early reports out of Las Vegas indicate the target may have been hit.



really good on it, and I'm real happy with it so far," driver Greg Biffle said after the round of tests on Jan. 31 After the final day of

The balance seems

testing, Carl Edwards' Fusion had the fastest lap.

The Fords, once again, will be powered by the Yates-Roush engines that had Taurus drivers frothing in joy a year

The Monte Carlo badge will again be affixed to the Chevrolets in the Cup series, but this season's version of the car will be very



different from last year's. A new nose and tail will draw the most attention on the 2006 Monte Carlo. But, Chevy driver Jimmie Johnson said, a

lot more has changed than just those two things. "We actually have as

many changes to our car as Ford has for theirs," Johnson said. "We just

don't have a new name on it. All 13 templates (which differentiate the different makes of cars) that sit on the car have been adjusted

Tony Stewart won the Cup championship last year in a Monte Carlo. That prompts the question, why change?



Elliott Sadler, right, looks over car data with his crew during Nextel Cup testing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

The answer, according to General Motors Racing director Mark Kent, is because the 2005 version had some weaknesses.

What we wanted to do is continue our dominance on super speedways," Kent said. "We had to develop a body that did not compromise that, but also gave the teams the opportunity to add down force as required to help our performance on some of the shorter tracks like the mile-and-one-half tracks that

So far, so good in meeting that goal. At the 1.5-mile Vegas track, the Chevy of Jeff Green had the third-fastest lap of the week

There has been talk that GM would like NASCAR to give it permission to work on a new engine.

Johnson likes that idea.

"We're happy with the changes we're getting this year," he said, "but I still think that if we're allowed to have an equal (engine) block and an equal engine combination as some of the other makes, we'll really be able to show what our teams are capable of.'

Dodge introduced its Charger last year. It was supposed to replace the Intrepid.

Some teams were so disappointed in the Charger that late in the season last year, they opted to run the old Intrepids in races.

Still unsure of the Charger, some teams brought both Intrepids and Chargers to Vegas last week.

We're trying to decide the different between the Intrepid and the Charger," said Kurt Busch, who will be driving a Dodge for

Penske South Racing this year. He said the Chargers start out faster than what he calls the old car, but fall off quicker. The old cars, he said, maintain their speed

Busch's Dodge was fourth fastest over the

#### TOP SPEEDS

A chart of the fastest laps recorded during Nextel Cup testing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

#### **OVERALL LEADERS**

Car No.	Speed (in mph)
99	170.778
9	170.374
66	170.068
2	169.694
38	169.428
	99 9 66 2

#### **FEB. 1 AFTERNOON SESSION**

Car No.	Speed (in mph)
2	169.694
07	168,940
01	167.957
9	167.869
16	167.843
	2 07 01 9

FEB. 1 MORNING SESSION

Driver	Car No.	Speed (in mph)
Carl Edwards	99	170.778
Kasey Kahne	9	170.374
Kurt Busch	2	169.353
Ryan Newman	12	169.099
Matt Kenseth	17	169.056

#### **JAN. 31 AFTERNOON SESSION**

Driver	Car No.	Speed (in mph)
Jeff Green	66	169.263
Jeff Burton	31	168.666
Casey Mears	42	168.439
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	8	168.403
Kasey Kahne	9	167.957

#### JAN. 31 MORNING SESSION

Driver	Car No.	Speed (in mph)
Jamie McMurray	26	169.316
Jamie McMurray	26	168.924
Kurt Busch	2	168.903
Mark Martin	6	168.518
Matt Kenseth	17	168.513

#### TAN 20 AFTERNOON SESSION

Driver	Car No.	Speed (in mph)
Elliott Sadler	38	168.429
Clint Bowyer	7	167.796
Mark Martin	6	167.749
Jeff Green	66	167.738
Jeff Burton	31	167.431

#### JAN. 30 MORNING SESSION

Driver	Car No.	Speed (in mph)
Jeff Green	66	170.068
Elliott Sadler	38	169.428
Mark Martin	6	169.369
Mark Martin	6	169.311
Jeff Burton	31	169.083

## THIS WEEK'S RACE

#### **BUDWEISER SHOOTOUT**

Where: Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile highly banked paved tri-oval located in Daytona Beach, Fla.

When: Saturday at 8:30 p.m. (all times ET). TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network. Purse: \$1,119,920 (winner receives at least

Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson. Also this week: The Automobile Racing Club of America series opener is Saturday at

Daytona prior to the Shootout and will feature several drivers who also will compete in NASCAR this season, including Busch Series rookies Burney Lamar and Danny O'Quinn and Truck Series rookie Erin Crocker. Qualifying for the Daytona 500 is Sunday,

with only the top two positions locked in to the starting lineup based on qualifying speeds. The remainder of the results will be used to set the lineups for the Feb. 16 150-mile qualifying

Worth mentioning: Four drivers will be participating in their first Budweiser Shootout: Kyle Busch, Carl Edwards, Denny Hamlin and Scott Riggs.

Five times in the 27-year history of the Shootout the winner has gone on to victory in the Daytona 500: Bobby Allison (1982), Bill Elliott (1987) Dale Jarrett (1996 and 2000) and Jeff Gordon (1997).



Jimmie Johnson crosses the finish line to win the 2005 Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway.

#### POLL POSITION

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION How many Nextel Cup races

do you expect to watch, either on the tube or in person, in 2006?

> Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.com

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION Who is your preseason pick

for Nextel Cup champion?

Number of votes: 10,441

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Someone else	2,925	28%
Jeff Gordon	2,655	25%
Tony Stewart	1,505	15%
Mark Martin	989	9%
Greg Biffle	841	8%
Carl Edwards	826	8%
Jimmie Johnson	700	7%

## STOP 'N' GO

#### SHOOTOUT RULES

Eligible drivers for the Budweiser Shootout must have won at least one Bud Pole award the previous season or have been a past Shootout winner who finished in the top 50 of the previous season's series points.

The Shootout is run in two segments. The first segment is 20 laps after which a 10-minute intermission is held. During the intermission teams may change tires or perform any other action that would be part of a normal pit stop. The second segment is 50 laps that must end

in a green-white-checkered finish. Caution laps will count toward the total in both segments so the second segment may extend beyond the scheduled 70-lap total.

In the event of a red flag, crews will be permitted to work on the cars; however, all work must be performed on pit road or in the garage area. When the race is resumed, all cars must immediately be ready to return to competition.

All restarts will be double-file restarts. All lapped cars will restart at the rear of the field. The starting positions will be drawn at ran-

## Robert Yates makes big changes with his teams, not just tweaks

hen a Nextel Cup team is at the track, increments of change are almost exclusively small. A round, perhaps two, on jack bolts or

a pound of air pressure in or out of the tires. A slight tug or push on a piece of sheet metal. When the difference

between success and failure is measured in tenths of a second, precision is critical. That mind-set, however, also can make it more difficult to know when it's time to look at

Big changes are scary because they often involve messy personnel decisions or expensive changes in equipment and processes that cannot be simply put back the way they were. That makes for a perilous path from something that has produced success toward something you hope will provide it in the future.

"We had so much success for a long time that we felt like we might have been missing it aero-wise more," Dale Jarrett said of his Robert

> Yates Racing team in 2005. 'We kept trying to make up for what we were losing handling by doing some things aero-wise.

"That really wasn't where we were having our problems. We could run fast laps, but we couldn't drive the cars when we got in traffic in race conditions. Now with everybody bunched right together,

you better have something that you can drive because if you don't, you're either going to get knocked out of the way or they're going to pass you."

Some things haven't changed with the organization. It will still be Jarrett and Elliott Sadler driving the Fords when Cup cars hit the track at Daytona International Speedway this week. Jarrett will still be in the No. 88 and Sadler will drive the No. 38. Their cars, however, will be Fusions

instead of the Taurus. Both also will have new crew chiefs, with Richard "Slugger" Labbe on Jarrett's team and Tommy Baldwin Jr. working with

Sadler. Both drivers also will begin with renewed optimism following a year in which neither made the Chase for the Nextel Cup.

"Last year seems like 10 years ago," said Sadler, 30, who didn't win a race in 2005 and finished 13th in points after having made the Chase in 2004. "I'm not really thinking about it because so many things have changed this winter."

Jarrett is a three-time Daytona 500 winner and won the pole for that race a year ago. He also won the most recent restrictor-plate race at Talladega, Ala., in

Jarrett's Ford was the last to win the Daytona 500, in 2000.



**NASCAR** drivers Dale Jarrett and Elliott Sadler listen to team owner Robert Yates speak to the media at the Robert Yates Racing team shop in Mooresville, N.C., during the NASCAR Nextel Media Tour In January.

"You like to think every time you go to that race you have that opportunity at least," he said. "But we've had kind of a dry spell as far as running well here."

Jarrett, 49, finished 15th in points last year and knows if he's going to improve on that, some changes need to pay off.

There are a lot of unknowns with our race team right now," Jarrett said. "If you look at it on paper we have improved our team immensely in a lot of areas. ... I would say that the potential is there for both of our teams to be in the top 10 and make the Chase, but it's a matter of us going out and making that

Sadler said he's looking forward to working with Baldwin, who was crew chief for Ward Burton's Dodge that won the 2002 Daytona 500.

"He doesn't mind telling you what's on his mind and kind of the plan that he wants to do," Sadler said. "I'm the same way, so, we've kind of hit it off pretty

"I love his ideas and I love his enthusiasm. He feels like he has a lot to prove and I feel like I've got a lot to prove, and we're very determined to make the Chase this year, and whatever it takes."