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BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 66

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

INSIDE

Former Big Spring standout speaks to Lady Steers

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State parks ask comptroller to free \$4.8 million

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

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 Ron Alton.

Alton said 39 positions within the organization 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 park trickle down into the community."

Alton
State Park Manager
Ron

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 state of Texas.

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

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FRIENDS FROM HOBBS, N.M.



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Joe Concienna, 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 Ambassadors.

State facing \$4.3 billion surplus

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 see 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.

by lawmakers during a legislative session. The surplus is the largest in Texas in several years. In contrast, lawmakers wrote the 2004-05

budget in the face of a \$10 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," said Strayhorn, who is running against Perry as an independent candidate for governor. She noted 28

consecutive months of 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

2006 Big Spring ISD Spelling Bee Campus Representatives

Tavaris Walker	Hannah Blomeret	Gabbie Trevino	Derek Payton	Clarissa Medina	Brianna Kight	Jana Stiles

What: 2006 Big Spring ISD Spelling Bee
Where: Big Spring Junior High Cafeteria
When: 4:30 p.m. today
At Stake: A trip to the Regional Spelling Bee March 4 in Lubbock

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

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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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 candidates.

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 president.

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 turnpike 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.

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 seconds 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 statement.

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 understand.

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 for the National Biodiesel Board, which is hosting a conference on biodiesel in San Diego.

More than 600 filling stations sell biodiesel to the public.

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 said.

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.

SURPLUS

Continued from Page 1A

dreds of state agency accounts when accountants closed the books on the last fiscal year, Aug. 31.

Perry's office attacked Strayhorn for the surplus and said she should have known about the additional money months ago.

"This comptroller can't count," said Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt.

The Strayhorn campaign called the statement "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 called for the Legislature 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 percent.

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 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

built in El Paso and the pharmacy school in 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 Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities.



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.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

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 bees 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 Medina, champion; 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 United 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@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Bobbie McCracken, 53, died Monday. Graveside Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Put Some Representation In Your District.



Elect

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

There are many issues that are facing all of us, coming up in the near future.

My main goal if I am elected is to bring the voice of the people of the 85th district to Austin. Small Business Owner Jerry's for the last 8 years. Married to Joyce, two boys, Robert & Carl. NRA "A" rating for the 2006 Election Cycle.

Education: High school with some college
Business background: Efficiency expert, machinist, tool & die maker.
Bookkeeper, purchasing agent, inventory controller, heavy equipment operator, welder, luthier & farming.

E-Mail electjerry@aol.com

Paid political ad by citizens to elect Gerald Middleton Congressman for the 85th District.

Coronado Hills Apartments
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with deliciously easy handmade treats
for Valentine's Day

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

This Valentine's Day, show how much you love and care with handmade treats. Put a smile on someone's face (maybe your elderly neighbor's), warm a heart (your sweetie's) or make your friends and family feel a little happier with delicious chocolate confections you've made in your kitchen. They look and taste wonderful, and they're also easy to make — when you use velvety milk or dark chocolate hearts and colorful, versatile candy-covered chocolates.

Give X's and O's (easy-to-make cookies) to everyone on your Valentine's list. Make miniature "love dot" cupcakes even more special with rich, silky and indulgent chocolate hearts. Whip up everything from heart-shaped "poke-a-dot" cakes to a fun and easy fondue — just plunge, dip, soak or plop everything from strawberries to marshmallows in the luscious, melted chocolate. They're all delicious ways to melt hearts this Valentine's Day.

For more recipes for hand made Valentine's treats and family activities visit www.brightideas.com.

I'm Fondue of You

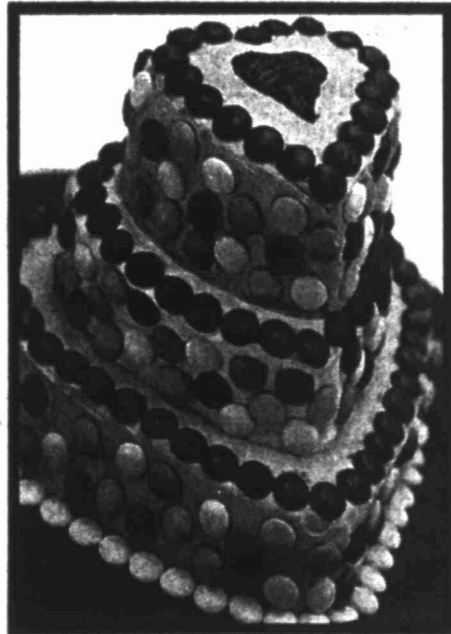
Plunge. Dip. Soak. Plop.
Everyone has their own fondue style ... which means chocolate fun for everyone!

- 1 bag Dove Brand Dark Chocolate Hearts
- 1 bag Milky Way Brand Minis for Valentine's Day
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Assorted fresh and dried fruits (pineapple, apple, strawberries, grapes)
- Regular-sized marshmallows
- Store-bought cookies

1. In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine chocolate hearts, candy bar minis and heavy cream.
2. Heat in microwave 3 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently.
3. Pour warm chocolate mixture into bowl surrounded with fruits, marshmallows and cookies.
4. Can be made in advance, and re-heated when ready to serve!

Makes 1 fondue

Tip: For silky smooth chocolate dipping sauce, substitute 1 bag Promises Dark Chocolates for Milky Way Minis for Valentine's Day.



Love Dots

A little love goes a long way ... and these try-bitty bites are no exception!

- 1 bag Dove Brand Dark or Milk Chocolate Hearts
- 1/2 sticks unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups pecans, finely chopped, divided (optional)
- 28 mini paper cupcake liners
- Mini muffin pans

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
 2. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in egg, and slowly stir in flour and (if desired) 1 cup chopped pecans.
 3. Roll nicely rounded teaspoons of dough into 1 1/4-inch balls; then (if desired) roll balls in remaining pecans.
 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.
- Makes 28 mini muffins



Poke-a-Dot Heart Cake

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

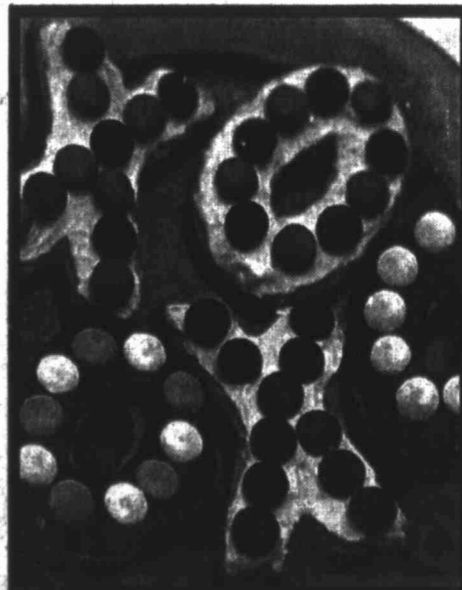
- 1 bag M&M'S Brand Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day
- 2 16-ounce boxes pound cake mix*
- 2 16-ounce cans vanilla frosting, divided
- Red food coloring
- 1 9 x 13-inch pan
- Resealable plastic bag
- Printable template (at www.brightideas.com/valentines/pop_1371.shtml)

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 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. *For 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 out 1 cake of each size.
4. Using red food coloring, tint 1 can vanilla frosting light pink. Spoon 1/2 cup remaining vanilla frosting into resealable plastic bag; set aside.

5. Cover largest and smallest heart cakes with pink frosting; set aside. Cover remaining heart cake with vanilla frosting. Place cakes in freezer 15 minutes before assembling.
6. Place largest heart cake on serving platter. Top in center with remaining heart cakes. Arrange red M&M'S on outer edges of each cake.
7. Snip a corner of resealable plastic bag, and randomly pipe dots of frosting all over cakes. Then, place an M&M on top of dot.

Makes 1 cake

Tip: If tops of cakes are slightly rounded, trim so they are flat!



X's and O's

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 1 pound, 1.5 ounces)
- 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 "X's" and "O's"

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 sheet.
4. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, remove from oven, and let cool completely.
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 60-plus age demographic.

Introduced for 2006 as a replacement for Buick's long-running Park Avenue and LeSabre sedans, the Lucerne is noteworthy for its quiet interior, modern, luxury-car 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 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, 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 mid-range CXL with V8 and five seats. There was nary any wind noise on the highway, and road and

suspension noise didn't 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, company officials said.

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

is no longer offered.

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 economy.

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 big 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.

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.

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.

WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches.

CURB WEIGHT: 3,969 pounds.

BUILT AT: Hamtramck, Mich.

OPTIONS: Chrome aluminum wheels \$650.

DESTINATION CHARGE: \$725.

SINGER School Machines

WITH SEW and SERGE STITCHES
NEW IN FACTORY SEALED CARTONS

UNSOLD ORDERS

Our company placed factory orders in anticipation of large sales. Some of these machines remain in our warehouse. They cannot be held over, but will be liquidated to the public.

SIMPLIFIED OPERATION

These new 2006 Singer Sew & Serge sewing machines feature simplified operation. They have all built in stitches including: straight sewing, zig-zag, buttonholes, elastic stitch, invisible blind-hem, monogram, satin stitch, embroidery, double seams, applique, sew on buttons, top stitching, and special quilting features; plus built in serging stitch. Rolled edge option available. Electronic control. Now you can buy one machine that has both regular stitches and a serging stitch. AN OPTIONAL CUTTER IS AVAILABLE TO TRIM THE FABRIC EDGE.

SEWS ALL FABRICS

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AUTO Q&A

Knight-Ridder Services

Q. My wife brought our 2002 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 low-ball 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 advertising

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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Sports

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

Page 1B
Thursday, February 9, 2006

IN BRIEF

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Girls Softball 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 Mall.

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 information, 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 perform in the co-ed category against Midland College. There will also be an all-girl category. The competition is free to the public.

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 interested 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 Joe Theismann. Washington Post columnist Tony 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 "Monday Night Football" since 1996, when he replaced Frank Gifford.

NBC takes over Sunday night games next season from ESPN. John Madden, Michaels' broadcast partner for the last four seasons, agreed in June to a six-year contract with NBC.

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 run-rule 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 run-rule," said Smith. "We

definitely took better at bats in the later innings."

Sophomore Scottie 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 pitcher.

"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 gave us 100 pitches. He

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

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 on 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 games.

"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 segment involved grades and making sure students are always up to par in 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.

lege days at the University of Houston 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

won't be so difficult later."

Self-promotion is a big-time 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.

Magers-Powell finished

her time with students by giving the Lady Steer athletes 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

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," said 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



Howard College sophomore Dezmon Harris scores two points in the lane Monday during the top-ranked Hawks' win against Clarendon College. Harris injured his ankle in the game and is expected to miss at least two games.

See HOWARD, Page 2B

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 Blake Grantham led the Buffs with a double-double, scoring 18 points and collecting 11 rebounds.

Also scoring in double figures was Jeremy 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

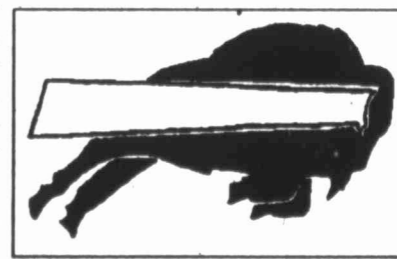
on the year.

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 Below netted 11.

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



Focus on outspoken U.S. skier 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 conference, that little 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 easy."

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."

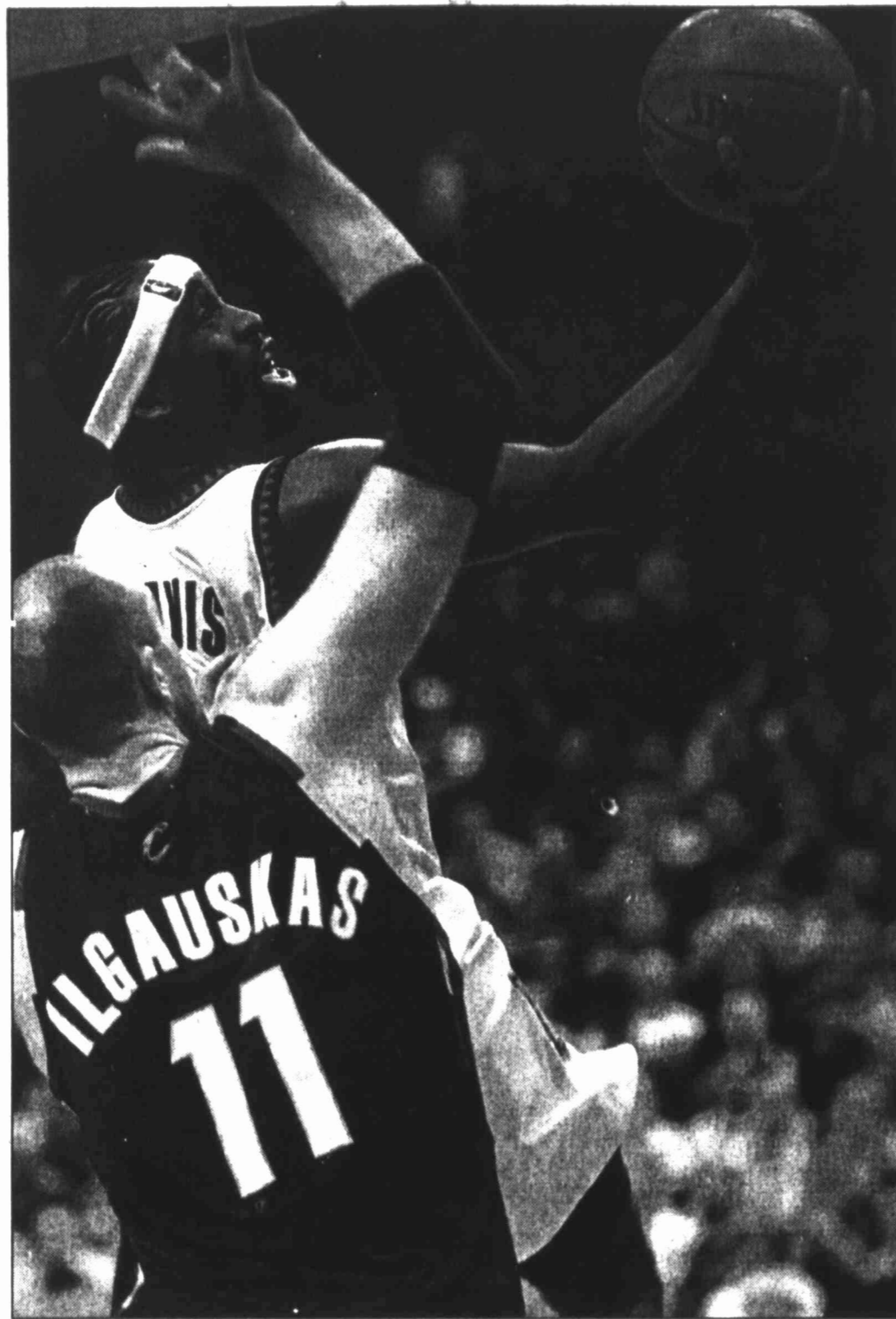
Regrets or not, the comments have certainly brought plenty of attention Miller's way. He shared the dais at the news conference with Ligety, Daron Rahlves, Marco Sullivan, Scott Macartney and Steve Nyman. When the assembled media was allowed to ask questions, however, none were asked of the other skiers — 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 Ilgauskas (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, 97-91.

Duncan-less Spurs get win over Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Tony 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 his 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 season-high 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

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.

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.

Ranked Aggies run past Horns

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Being ranked in the Top 25 is fun. Blowing out a chief rival on their home court is a blast.

Morenike Atunrase scored 15 points and No. 24 Texas A&M used a 28-0 run over 10 minutes in the first half to blow past

rival Texas, 73-53 Wednesday night, snapping the Longhorns' 31-game, Big 12 home winning streak.

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

"I'm just going to have a good time," said Aggie coach Gary Blair. "My kids played great ... I'm happy for Aggies everywhere."

A&M came in ranked for the first time since winning the old Southwest Conference tournament in March 1996.

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.

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

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 half-time. 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 the Western Junior College Athletic Conference and extend their school-record winning streak to 24 games.

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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 the 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," said Magers-Powell, who also runs the Rocket City Volleyball Club in Huntsville, Tenn. "She has that kind of talent."

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THURSDAY

	WFAA(2)	KMID(3)	UNI(4)	KPEJ(5)	KOSA(7)	KYLE(8)	KWES(9)	WTBS(11)	KMLM(12)	KOCV(13)	DISC(20)	AMC(21)	SPIKE(22)	TNT(23)	BET(25)	DISN(27)	ESPN2(28)	ESPN(29)	SCI FI(30)
6	News (CC) Ent. Tonight	News Wheel-Fortune	Plaf de Otono	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Yomenita	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hayes	News-Letters Top Gear	Top Gear (CC)	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	NBA All-Star Special 2	Live BET Style	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Women's College	College Basketball	Movie: Shrekhead
7	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Conte Viento y Marea	70s Show 70s Show	Survivor: Panama - Exile	El Cuerpo del Despao	Will & Grace Four Kings	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Serial Biblical Israel	West Yea. Jini TX Monthly Talk	Top Gear (CC)	Movie: The Comancheros	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	NBA Basketball	Movie: 102 Dalmatians	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: Yankee (CC)
8	Crime (CC) Crime (CC)	Crime (CC) Crime (CC)	Aborada	The O.C. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Corazon Part Dejacion	Name Is Earl The Office	Movie: Dumb & Dumber	Light of the Southwest	The This Old House Hour	Top Gear (CC)	Movie: The Comancheros	MXC MXC	Miami Heat at Dallas	-	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: Frankenfish
9	PrimeTime (CC)	PrimeTime (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Decisiones	ER (CC) (CC)	(CC)	(CC)	To Be Announced	Top Gear (CC)	:15 Movie: Cahill, United	MXC Videogames	Mavericks NBA	The Ultimate Hustler	The Emperor's Sister, Sister	St. John's at Georgetown	West Virginia at Michigan	Movie: (CC)
10	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Tlularay y Mas	News Tonight Show	:10 Movie: Ace Ventura:	The Hour of Healing	Top Gear (CC)	Top Gear (CC)	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Sacramento Kings (CC)	In Living Color That's-Raven	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: Crocodile 2:
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Derbez	TBA:	Letterman Late Late	Laura Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Jimmy Philips	When Nature Calls (CC)	Del Sanchez Jimmy Philips	Charlie Rose (CC)	Top Gear (CC)	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	CS: Crime Scene Investig.	Jamie Foxx Kin Possible	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Pacific at Cal State Fullerton	NFL Live Gameright (CC)	NFL Live Gameright (CC)	Death Toll (CC)
12	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Amigas y Rivales (SB)	Becker (CC) King of the Hill	Late Late Show	María Celeste Pagado	Conan O'Brien Seinfeld (CC)	12:10 Movie: A Night at the	Update/Serial John Hayes	Sign Off	Top Gear (CC)	Movie: The Comancheros	Real TV (CC) Blind Date	Inside the NBA (CC)	BET After Dark: That's-Raven	Winter X- Games (CC)	Winter X- Games (CC)	Winter X- Games (CC)	The Twilight Zone (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE

"DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED, MARTHA, YOU'RE THE 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 SUFFER FROM BAD HEADACHES, A SORE BACK AND SOMETIMES MY WHOLE BODY ACHES!

WHAT CAUSES THAT, DR. ZOOK?

YOU'RE TOO COMPETITIVE

BC

WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE A PROPER TIP FOR A MAITRE D'?

ANSWER MAN

IT SHOULD BE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE DISTANCE FROM YOUR TABLE TO THE BOILER ROOM.

ANSWER MAN

BLONDIE

HELLO! IS THIS BESEL PLUMBING? MY HOT WATER HEATER IS LEAKING LIKE CRAZY!!

I TRIED TO FIX IT MYSELF BUT...

IS THIS DAGWOOD BUMSTEAD?

UH...NO...HE MOVED OUT OF HERE A LONG TIME AGO. I'M LIVING HERE NOW AND MY NAME IS...MAGOO

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME, BUMSTEAD. I HAVE CALLER ID, YOU KNOW

WIZARD OF ID

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CRYSTAL BALL?

I'VE GONE LIQUID CRYSTAL

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 electoral votes.

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

Alice Walker is 62. Actress Mia Farrow is 61. Singer Joe Ely is 59. Actress Judith Light is 57. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & 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 16.

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

BARB	CEDE	SKATE
AREA	HARE	TILED
SKID	ORAL	ENDED
SINGS	ONG	ITGAMY
ONSETS	PUNK	
REENTER	OKRA	
ATA	PROAM	SNERR
CONDO	IMA	EGYPT
RANIN	SELMA	SOY
EDEN	REREADS	
	GRAS	GOALIE
CANDID	PINGPONG	
ALLOP	AURA	PLUG
STUNT	SPAT	ELVED
TONGS	PANE	DYED

AGNES

WHERE ARE YOUR PAMPHLETS?

I WAS UNPAMPHLETED BY AN ANGRY MOB.

UNPAMPHLETED?

THEIR LEADER ACCUSED ME OF THE OVERPAMPHLETIZATION OF AMERICA.

DID HE SAY ANYTHING ELSE?

"GO... AND PAMPHLE. NO MORE."

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

32 Jim Bowie's last stand

33 Over hill and

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

51 Yonder yacht

52 Nairobi's nation

53 Convention activity

DOWN

9 Actress Thurman

10 Settles a debt

11 Not domesticated

12 Eat away

13 Stupefied

18 At all

22 Beatles #1 song

23 Liberty Bell flaw

24 Prove false

25 Card symbol

27 RFD component

29 Convenience vanquisher

30 Transports via truck

31 To boot

33 Two aspirins, say

35 Other handle

36 Retirement plan

37 Lauder of makeup

39 Sanctified

40 Bullet bounce

45 Basic food

46 Skeptical rejoinder

47 Roller Derby footwear

48 Petunia part

49 Lunch hour end, often

50 Patriotic Patrick

53 Thrilled

54 Harbor structure

55 Villain's vanquisher

58 Electrolyte particle

59 ___Caps (cineplex candy)

60 Hobby-shop buy

61 "Sure thing!"

HI AND LOIS

IDIOT!

JERK!

PUMBBELL!

DORK!

LOSER!

NERD!

YOU'D THINK THEY'D KNOW EACH OTHER'S NAMES BY NOW!

THE OTHER COAST

WHAT KIND OF SNOW GLOBE IS THIS? THERE'S NO SNOW.

GIFTS

GLOBAL WARMING.

SNUFFY SMITH

PAW, WHICH HAIRDO DO YA THINK I SHOULD GIT?

WELL, THAT'S A NO-BRAINER, MAW !!

TH' MIDDLE ONE !!

BEEBLE BAILEY

LT. FUZZ WON'T LET ME BRING ANY FOOD INTO THE OFFICE, SIR

AND MY STOMACH IS JUST VOICING ITS DISAPPROVAL

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

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