

# BIG SPRING HERALD

**INSIDE**  
Coahoma  
crushes  
Coleman in  
bi-district  
playoff  
matchup  
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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 71

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

## City to receive reimbursement from TXU

*Highway Department to landscape I-20/U.S. 87 intersection; disc golf course coming to Moss Creek Lake*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring will receive about a half-million dollars over four years as the result of a settlement reached with TXU Electric.

The settlement, approved on emergency reading Tuesday night by the Big Spring City Council, will allow TXU to reimburse Big Spring and other member cities for excessive charges accrued by the company over the past few years.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the company originally agreed to pay two installments of \$8 million to customer cities, then augmented that deal with two more annual payments of \$9 million.

To date, Big Spring has received about \$171,000 as its share of the settlement. Walker estimated that total payments to the city would reach \$500,000 by the time the settlement is paid in full.

Also Tuesday, the council



Darden

approved an agreement between the city and Texas Department of Transportation that will result in landscaping and erosion control work being performed in the area around the Interstate 20-U.S. Highway 87 intersection.

Public Works Director Todd Darden told council members that this project will be

TXDOT's major landscaping project for the coming fiscal year.

"The Abilene district (of TXDOT) gets a little more than \$100,000 annually for landscaping projects, and this will cost about \$140,000," Darden said. "So that means that they will spend all their landscaping money in Big Spring this year."

In other business Tuesday, council members approved:

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

## Sales tax rebates up

Big Spring takes in 34.21 percent more than a year ago

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**  
News Editor

Sales tax rebates for February were up statewide and throughout the Crossroads area, including Big Spring, according to the State Comptroller's Office.

Big Spring received \$594,991.45 for the month, an impressive 34.21 percent increase when compared to the \$443,315.09 the city received in February 2005. For the year, the Howard County seat has received almost \$1 million — \$913,840.10 — up 23.96 percent compared to a year ago.

Coahoma witnessed a See **REBATES**, Page 3A

21.02 percent hike in sales tax rebates, comparing the \$6,914.06 received this month to the \$5,712.81 taken in for February 2005. So far in 2006, Coahoma has received \$8,762.97, up 27.04 percent.

Forsan's sales tax rebates took a dip this month, coming in at \$5,497.76, compared to \$6,027.68 for February 2005. That's a decrease of 8.79 percent. For the short year thus far, Forsan has received \$10,101.93, a figure off last year's pace by 22.65 percent.



KRT-Dallas Morning News photo/Juan Garcia

Senior Border Patrol Agent Ramiro Cordero stands in front of a bullet proof glass pane that was broken by gun shot and rocks directed at agents. The glass is used by agents to watch people crossing from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico into El Paso illegally.

## Healthy?

New test measures risk of dying for those older than 50

CHICAGO (AP) — There's a new test for baby boomers and their parents, and it's one where you definitely want a low score.

The 12-question test measures risk of dying within four years, and the more points you get, the greater your risk.

Created for people older than 50 by researchers at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the quiz is designed "to try to help doctors and families get a firmer sense for what the future may hold," to help plan health care accordingly, says lead author Dr. Sei Lee.

Take the test on Page 3A

"We know that patients and families want more prognostic information from doctors," said Lee, who helped develop the test. "It's a very natural human question of, 'What's going to happen to me?'"

The report appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The test measures risk factors linked with mortality, and males get 2

See **TEST**, Page 3A

## Danger escalates for border agents

By **DAVID MCLEMORE**  
The Dallas Morning News

EL PASO — The bare-bones steel pipe and metal roof structure overlooking the Rio Grande resembles a worn-out bus stop. But to the Border Patrol agents who use it, it's become a monument to the rising tide of violence aimed their way.

The number of times rifle fire has struck the shelter's bullet-proof glass can be counted in the nine star-shaped patterns that spread out like a spider's web. Several smaller, neater scars mark the spots where rocks and chunks of concrete were heaved at Border Patrol agents.

Just a few yards away, an agent's windshield was shot out. And on Jan. 13, another agent trying to

**"By parking agents right at the border, we're certainly not stopping illegal immigration. But we are definitely making sitting targets of our agents."**

—T.J. Bonner, president, National Border Patrol Council

stop an illegal entry was hit near the left eye by a large rock thrown with stunning accuracy from the Mexican bank. It took 25 stitches

to repair the wound.

Violent assaults on agents are up 108 percent along the southwest border, national Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar said last week.

In the first month of the year, there have been 193 assaults on agents, compared with 778 for all of last year, Aguilar said.

The assaults — a direct result of increased efforts by federal, state and local law enforcement officers to curtail drug trafficking and human smuggling — are also part of an explosion of violence along the border spawned by Mexican drug cartels and human smugglers fighting for turf and the lucrative corridors into the United States.

"We're making criminal enter

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## Hutchison presses for permanent sales tax deduction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison used a legislative maneuver Tuesday to try to make permanent a federal deduction for state sales taxes paid by Texans and residents of a handful of other states.

Hutchison, R-Texas, won approval of a nonbinding measure telling House and Senate negotiators on their similar tax bills to make the sales tax deduction permanent. Her measure was approved 75-25. If the negotia-

tors agree to make the deduction permanent, it would apply to states that don't collect income taxes, which are deductible from federal taxes.

Such states often raise revenue through sales taxes.

"All Americans should be treated equally when it comes to deducting their state taxes, whether they pay

state income taxes or sales taxes," Hutchison said in a statement.

President Bush signed a bill in 2004 creating the deduction. But it expires after the 2005 tax season.

Hutchison said a family of four that itemizes and uses the sales tax deduction can save about \$408 a year in taxes. Some groups, however, say the sales tax deduction benefits only residents who have the assets to itemize and puts a heavier tax bur-

den on lower income residents.

The House and Senate have approved a two-year extension of the deduction that allows residents of states that do not collect state income taxes to write off sales taxes they paid.

A similar provision is not in the House version of the tax bill so they will have to negotiate whether to make the sales tax deduction permanent in conference committee.



## Obituaries

### Pauline A. Compton Wood

Pauline A. Compton Wood, 93, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Christopher Arenivas

Christopher Arenivas, 19, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Malcome Patterson

Malcome Patterson, 95, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take note

• **FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** is 10 a.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

• **A BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED AT MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday 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.

• **CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH FAIR** featuring Dora the Exploer at Howard College is 10 a.m. until noon Saturday in the Horace Garrett building. Door prizes, balloons, goodie bags, games popcorn and a toothbrush exchange are planned. Call 264-5065 for more information.

• **AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY** begins at noon Saturday. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Dine in or carry out available. \$7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER** is set for Monday, starting at 9 a.m. This is sponsored by the SMMC volunteers. Call 263-1211 for more information.

• **YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET** is 7 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Call 432-213-4819 for more information.

• **VALENTINE'S DAY CAKES** available from the Relay For Life Yellow Dog Dare Devils team. Delivery available. Eight-inch cakes are \$5 and 5-inch cakes are \$3.50. Call Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

• **PLANNING MEETING FOR THE WEST TEXAS PRODUCER'S AND FARMERS MARKET** is set for 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AND SEMINAR "CASHING IN ON BUSINESS,"** sponsored by the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is 11:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. Feb. 28 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$10, available at the chamber until Feb. 24. Call 263-7641 for more information.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

• **FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION** is Aug. 5. Names, addresses and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15 to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432 267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432 267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325 574-2150, or e-mail hiraney@crcom.net.

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

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

## Police blotter

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

- **JANET SWINNEY**, 43, of 1516 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid, disobeying a police officer's orders and no liability insurance.
- **JOE FLORES**, 27, of 407 S. Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **NICHOLAS EAGAN**, 44, of 606 W. 16th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
  - in the 700 block of Colgate.
- **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 900 block of Aylesford.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **NATALIE GOOD**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **KORI SHEA JOHNSON**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **DAVID RENTERIA**, 39, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of a protective order.
- **BILLY EDWARD PATTERSON**, 51, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **EDUARDO ARTURO FARIAS**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Courtney Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1300 block of Harding.

## Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$145 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$120 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday. The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 27, 36, 43, 49 and 54. The Mega Ball number was 33.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 13-21-27-32-36. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$17,040. Winning tickets sold in: Brownsville and Dallas. Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-7-0

## 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.

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

**MONDAY**  
• Encourager's Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday each month. The next meeting is Feb. 20. For more information, call 398-5522.

**TUESDAY**  
• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

## Bulletin board

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

**TODAY**  
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.  
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.  
• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

**THURSDAY**  
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.  
• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.  
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.  
• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVF office at 501 Runnels.  
• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.  
• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.  
• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

**FRIDAY**  
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.  
• 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 seniors are invited.

**SATURDAY**  
• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.  
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.  
• Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

**MONDAY**  
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.  
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.  
• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.  
• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.  
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows around 50. South winds around 15 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 35 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Much colder. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 20 to 25 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Much colder. Highs in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or light freezing rain or snow. Highs in the mid 30s.

Saturday night...Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or light freezing rain or snow. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Not as cool. Highs in the lower 50s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Presidents day...Partly cloudy. Highs around 60.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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TEST

Continued from Page 1A

points just for being male.

Diabetes, smoking, and getting pooped trying to walk several blocks each also get two points, and points accrue with each four-year increment after age 60.

Zero to 5 points says your risk of dying in four years is less than 4 percent. With 14 points, your risk rises to 64 percent.

The test doesn't ask what you eat, but it does ask if you can push a living room chair across the floor.

Roughly 81 percent accurate, the test can give older people a reasonable idea of their survival chances, the researchers say.

Of course, it isn't foolproof. Other experts note it ignores family history and it's much less meaningful for those at the young end of the spectrum.

The researchers even warn not to try it at home, saying a doctor can help you put things into perspective.

"Even if somebody looks at their numbers and finds they have a 60 percent risk of death, there could be other mitigating factors," said co-author and VA researcher Dr. Kenneth Covinsky.

There are things you can do to improve your chances, he said, such as quitting smoking or taking up exercise.

The test is based on data involving 11,701 Americans over 50 who took part in a national health survey in 1998. Funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging, the researchers analyzed participants' outcomes during a four-year follow-up. They based their death-risk survey on the health characteristics that seemed to predict death within four years.

Dr. Donald Jurivich, geriatrics chief at the University of Illinois at Chicago, took the test and got a nice low score.

Jurivich is 52. He said he'd feel better about his score if both his parents hadn't died prematurely.

He praised the survey for measuring people's ability to function — such as being able to move a piece of furniture or keep track of expenses — signs that can be more telling than other health factors.

Dr. George Lange, a 57-year-old internist at Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee, faulted the test for not measuring blood pressure or cholesterol. Lange got a healthy low score on the test, too, but he's overweight. He was surprised he didn't get points for that.

In fact, that's one of the most puzzling aspects of the test. People with a body-mass index of less than 25 — which includes normal weight people — get a point while those who are overweight aren't penalized.

Covinsky, one of the test designers, said that BMI measurement includes underweight people — those who have lost weight because of illness, a particularly disturbing sign for the elderly.

Lee noted there are more points for diabetes and for difficulty walking several blocks — both associated with excess weight.

The researchers think their mortality predictor might be a useful tool in the "pay for performance" trend that is part of the nation's health care system. Medicare and other insurers are increasingly basing reimbursement rates on how patients fare, said Covinsky.

"One health plan can look better just by cherry-picking health care patients" and accepting only the most robust patients, Covinsky said. This test could give a more accurate assessment of health plans, so that "you can actually see which ones are taking sicker patients and compare that" when measuring performance.

What's your risk of death in next 4 years?

If you're over 50, this test developed by researchers at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center attempts to calculate your risk of death within four years.

1. Age: 60-64 years old 1 point; 65-69 2 points; 70-74 3 points; 75-79 4 points; 80-84 5 points; 85 and older 7 points.

2. Male or Female: Male 2 points.

3. Body-Mass Index: Less than 25 (normal weight or less) 1 point. (Calculate by multiplying height in inches times height in inches; then divide weight in pounds by that total; then multiply the total by 703.)

4. Diabetes: 2 points.

5. Cancer (excluding minor skin cancers): 2 points.

6. Chronic lung disease that limits activities or requires oxygen use at home: 2 points.

7. Congestive heart failure: 2 points.

8. Cigarette smoking in the past week: 2 points.

9. Difficulty bathing/showering because of a health or memory problem: 2 points.

10. Difficulty managing money, paying bills, keeping track of expenses because of a health or memory problem: 2 points.

11. Difficulty walking several blocks because of a health problem: 2 points.

12. Difficulty pushing or pulling large objects like a living room chair because of a health problem: 1 point.

Score: 0 to 5 points less than a 4 percent risk of dying; 6-9 points 15 percent risk; 10-13 points 42 percent risk; 14 or more points 64 percent risk.

Note: Researchers say the 1-point penalty for having a body-mass index under 25 (normal weight or less) is based on findings that being underweight is a health risk for elderly people.

COUNCIL

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• Construction of a disc golf course at Moss Lake. The course, to be built on the southeast side of the lake area, will not interfere with the RV park or any other activities ongoing at the lake, Darden

said. "Anything we can do to bring activities to the lake is good," Darden said.

• The 2005-06 report and audit from Moore Development for Big Spring Inc.

• Three resolutions extending time to hold property deemed to the city in lieu of tax foreclo-

REBATES

Continued from Page 1A

Abilene brought home \$3,540,745.29 this month, up 11.21 percent compared to the \$3,183,663.58 that came in for February 2005. Abilene has received \$5,815,384.00 this year, up 11.46 percent.

Andrews, which increased its sales tax in November, witnessed an expected hike of 139.24 percent, comparing February 2006 rebates of \$244,661.88 to February 2005 rebates of \$102,264.58. For the year, Andrews has received \$401,100.38, up 136.51 percent.

Brownfield took in \$113,943.56 this month, a 21.25 percent increase when compared to the \$93,973.21 taken in for February 2005. Through two months of 2006, Brownfield has received \$184,820.20, up 23.76 percent.

Colorado City witnessed a slight increase of 2.78 percent, comparing sales tax rebates received this month — \$57,380.43 — to rebates received in February of last year — \$55,825.68. For the year, the Mitchell County seat has received \$94,850.30, up 10.18 percent.

Fort Stockton received \$175,169.65 this month, up 25.66 percent compared to the \$139,391.83 received in February 2005. For the year, the home of the world's largest roadrunner, Paisano Pete, has taken in \$305,602.44, up 24.46 percent.

Kermit, in Winkler County, took in \$48,556.75

this month, up 54.09 percent when compared to the \$24,591.15 it received a year ago. For 2006, Kermit has received \$36,274.50, an increase of 55.49 percent.

Lamesa realized \$120,100.70 this month, up 16.11 percent compared to the \$103,435.28 the Dawson County seat experienced in February 2005. This year, Lamesa has received \$185,293.15, up 12.23 percent.

Lubbock, the largest "dry" city in the United States, collected \$5,016,454.71 in sales tax rebates this month, a 9.83 percent increase when compared to the \$4,567,173.94 gathered in February 2005. For the year, Lubbock received \$8,225,112.82, up 10.18 percent.

Midland took in \$3,275,796.89, a 22.49 percent increase when compared to the \$2,674,326.62 received in February 2005. For the year, Midland has received \$5,454,452.26, up 22.89 percent.

Monahans received \$120,254.35 this month, up 18.44 percent compared to the \$101,524.54 in rebates collected for February 2005. For the year, the Ward County seat has received \$210,746.12, up 29.09 percent.

Odessa accumulated \$2,115,793.64 this month, an increase of 15.36 percent compared to \$1,834,012.40, gathered for February last year. For 2006, Odessa has pulled in \$3,262,068.29.

Pecos received \$96,282.47 in rebates, up 5.41 percent compared to the \$91,334.56 received a year ago. Over the past two months, the city has taken in \$165,619.85, an increase of 6.80 percent.

Rebates received by San Angelo totaled \$1,892,822.55, an increase of 11.62 percent compared to the \$1,695,687.33 received in February 2005. For the year, San Angelo has received \$3,125,605.27, up 10.7 percent.

Snyder took in \$205,184.19 this month, up 19.27 percent compared to the \$172,026.04 taken in for February 2005. For 2006, the Scurry County seat has received \$344,442.84, up 19.99 percent.

Stanton brought in \$41,572.18, an increase of 44.39 percent when compared to the \$28,790.81 taken in last year. For 2006, Stanton has received \$57,124.91, up 24.21 percent.

Sweetwater received \$283,402.49 this month, up 11.53 percent compared to the \$254,093.83 taken in for February 2005. This year, the Nolan County seat has received \$463,592.87, up 13.16 percent.

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Health And Well-Being Restoring Continence and Confidence

Dr. Rudy Haddad Board Certified in Urology Fellow American College of Surgeons



"At first, I leaked just a few drops of urine when lifting or coughing. But it has gotten so much worse. Now, I never leave home without wearing a maxi pad and carrying another in my purse. I'm afraid I'll have an accident."

Fortunately, there also are solutions available designed to be more permanent.

An estimated 17 million American women share a common healthcare concern: the uncontrolled flow of urine from their bodies, a condition known as urinary incontinence. For some women, the condition is brought on with coughing, sneezing or exercise. For others, it is a strong urge to urinate and an inability to make it to the bathroom in time. For all of these women, the effects can be devastating.

One such solution is the female "sling" system for stress urinary incontinence. Doctors treat incontinence by surgically placing a narrow strip of material—called a sling—under the urethra to give it a point of support.

"Stress urinary incontinence limits lifestyles and relationships because of the embarrassment that accompanies odor and wetness," explains Dr. Rudy Haddad of Haddad Urology clinic. "Typically the symptoms worsen over time, and so lifestyles and relationships are further compromised as the condition progresses."

"The sling procedure is a minimally invasive, highly effective procedure," says Dr. Haddad. "It generally takes less than 20 minutes and commonly is performed on an outpatient basis."

Stress urinary incontinence occurs when there is uncontrolled urine leakage during a physical activity like lifting, sneezing or coughing. It typically is the result of hypermobility, a shifting of the urethra and bladder neck from their normal positions, and intrinsic sphincter deficiency, a condition in which the urethral sphincter is unable to close tightly enough to hold urine in the bladder.

Most patients are continent immediately following the procedure and can resume normal, non-strenuous activities within a few days.

Any single condition or a combination of conditions can lead to stress incontinence. Pregnancy and childbirth, aging, medical conditions, infections and medications and obesity are common causes.

Clinical studies support the enthusiasm that patients and physicians alike have for sling systems. One manufacturer, American Medical Systems of Minnetonka, Minn., reports a study in which more than 95 percent of patients remained completely dry and did not need any protection following the procedure with its Monarc™ Subfascial Hammock.

Currently, there are no medications available to treat stress incontinence. For some women, behavioral therapy (monitoring fluid intake), Kegel exercises, protective undergarments and bulking injections offer temporary solutions.

"The potential to give someone back their lifestyle before incontinence set in is great with sling systems," says Dr. Haddad. "It is life changing for so many patients, and yet such a straightforward procedure."

As with any surgical procedure, inherent risks are present. Although rare, some of the most severe risks with transobturator sling procedures include infection, erosion and vessel or urethra perforation. Some of the most common risks include urinary track infections, urge symptoms and urinary retention. Sling procedures should not be performed on pregnant patients.

Serving The People of Big Spring And Howard County Since 1980

Find out more about Urinary Continence Solutions. Contact Dr. Rudy Haddad at 1501 W 11th Place, Suite 103 432-714-4600

AGENTS

Continued from Page 1A

prizes look to different means to conduct their business," said Doug Mosier, spokesman for the El Paso Sector. "We see it as a desperation move."

The largest number of assaults last year occurred in the San Diego and Tucson sectors. But agents in Texas have seen significant increases.

In the El Paso Sector, which covers 125,000 square miles of border, including New Mexico and the two westernmost counties in Texas, agents reported 43 violent attacks in 2005, an increase of 105 percent from 2004. And in the Rio Grande Sector, agents have reported 41 assaults just in January 2006 — 16 more than in all of 2004.

Assaults range from firearm use to fistfights to vehicular ramming. In 2004, agents were shot at nine times and were rammed nine times by smuggler vehicles. Those numbers jumped to 32 shootings and 29 vehicular assaults in 2005.

Rock throwing, however, remains the favorite weapon.

"It can be two people or more than 20 throwing rocks," said El Paso Senior Patrol Agent Ramiro Cordero. "They may be acting out of anger, or it may be a diversion to draw in agents so they can move people or drugs farther down the border. When the rocks are flying, you just have to find the right cover."

said. "Anything we can do to bring activities to the lake is good," Darden said.

• The 2005-06 report and audit from Moore Development for Big Spring Inc.

• Three resolutions extending time to hold property deemed to the city in lieu of tax foreclo-

sure. • A resolution officially calling for the general election on May 13, plus one establishing early voting dates and polling places.

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



## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

State senate  
has a lot  
of work to do

Gov. David Dewhurst's list of homework assignments for the Senate's 31 members to complete before the next session is generally on target, including some eyebrow-raisers and thought-provokers:

**Matter of timing:** Of the 109 interim charges, the one sure to attract the most high-pressure response from lobbyists is the assignment to review Texas' business-tax structure and recommend a broad-based replacement. As with all the assignments, this one's due in December.

**A business-tax overhaul** is an overdue goal, but one we expected would be achieved in a special session this spring to beat a Supreme Court deadline for revamping finance of schools. We hope the interim assignment on taxes isn't a sign that senators will settle for minimal reforms before their own report is finished.

**Hemorrhage:** Two committees are asked to find ways to curtail the bleed-off of state dollars to cover Medicaid costs by looking at best practices nationally and exploring greater use of health-savings accounts. Good proprietorship.

**Food for thought:** Would it make sense to outsource to Mexico confinement of nonviolent state prisoners from Mexico? Good question; lawmakers will answer it. Same goes for an idea to tax international wire transfers of cash from Texas. And why not have a statewide nutritional and physical activity plan to address obesity and chronic diseases? Diabetes runs rampant in Texas.

**Earth friendly:** Senators again will tackle better water management; this time, we hope, a Senate-crafted bill can clear the shoals in the House. We also like the goal of nurturing clean coal, biomass and next-generation nuclear easy-on-the-lungs methods of addressing tomorrow's energy needs.

**What's up here?** Let's hope that an assignment to study "entities that actively lobby the Legislature" for funds isn't targeting educators who clamor for more state support.

**Missed opportunity:** Mr. Dewhurst, a leading advocate of open government, was key to the Senate's passage last year of a bill requiring a record vote on all measures passed by the Legislature. The bill died in the House. An interim study might have helped overcome resistance in the Capitol, but no such assignment was made. Many Texans nevertheless will look for the Senate to take a leadership role on this right-to-know issue in 2007.

The Dallas Morning News

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Tough people  
of Cross Plains

As I approached Cross Plains on Highway 206 I started noticing the black, charred ground.

Partially burned fence posts hung from loose strands of barbed wire. It was like this for a couple of miles before I reached the city limits.

When I got to town, the scene was horrible. Mounds of ashes were the only remains of blocks of houses. I went to see my friend David Estes at Texas Heritage Bank. He told me two people had died, 116 houses had been destroyed and 39 more damaged. That's about 25 percent of the housing in and near town. The home of Robert E. Howard, the author of Conan and other fantasy works, was not damaged, although fire burned the lawn.

The fire started around noon on Tuesday, Dec. 27, about three miles west of Cross Plains. The temperature was 80 degrees and the wind was blowing toward the east at 30 miles an hour. By 3 o'clock the blaze turned north and headed into town. Thirty-one fire departments fought the blaze and stayed around until Friday, putting out flare-ups on trees and bales of hay.

As soon as news of the fire spread, donations of food, clothing, furniture and money poured in from Texas and states as far away as Minnesota and North Carolina. The First Baptist Church became a command center. The First Methodist Church was the only public structure completely destroyed. Flames got

close to the school, but it was spared.

The cleanup continues. City and county workers are clearing the lots at no charge to the residents. The people affected by the fire are amazing. David and Bethany Parker and their children, Amber and Taylor, are excited about the new home they're designing. The Parkers were out of town when the fire burned their house. Bethany saved all her photos to disc and had them with her in her laptop. Before she went digital, she had duplicates made of her pictures and sent them to family members, who are now making copies and sending them back to the Parkers.

Kathy Chesshir put her family photos in the back seat of her car as flames approached her home. She punched in the garage door opener and the door opened. When she drove out and punched it again to close it, there was no electricity and the door remained open. Kathy says she doesn't have to worry now about which of her possessions to keep or pass on to family members. She says she feels a sense of freedom from stuff, most of which doesn't mean anything.

Cross Plains residents are helping each other cope with what has happened. Kathy is helping fire victims make inventories of their losses. Bethany says just about everybody in town was affected by the fire, but the town will be better because everybody is pulling together like never before.

As I left Cross Plains and headed west on highway 36, I passed about five miles of black, burned fields. The smell of smoke and ashes was still in the air.

TUMBLEWEED  
SMITHNew feminism  
has us poles apart

Betty Friedan was the original desperate housewife, bored batty. She wanted to use her mind, her talents! And so she did: She changed the world.

Now that world needs changing again.

"The Feminine Mystique," Friedan's 1963 best seller, nailed what she called "the problem that has no name": Women were supposed to be happy shutting up and serving men. But they weren't.

They read Friedan's book and demanded new laws, new respect, even new words, like "Ms." They won and, on Feb. 4, Friedan died.

She should have left behind a world where little girls and boys grow up equal. Instead, she left behind a world where little girls are buying thong undies.

Their big sisters are getting boob jobs and taking "Strippercize." Coeds are baring their breasts on "Girls Gone Wild."

Incredibly, all this raunch is excused as an expression of women's liberation. As in, "I'm so liberated, I'm not ashamed of my body." And, "My stilettos are empowering." And, "I feel strong when I'm pole dancing!" (A skill any housefrau can now learn at night school.)

Forty years into the feminist revolution and we are living in a frat boy fantasy. Gross.

What we need is a new "Feminine Mystique," one that can nail the new problem that has no name: porn culture and why women feel compelled to embrace it. Luckily, that book has just been written — "Female Chauvinist Pigs," by New York Magazine writer Ariel Levy.

"How is resurrecting every stereotype of female sexuality good for women?" writes the furious Levy. "Why is laboring to look like Pamela Anderson empowering?" Since when did flashing for "Girls Gone Wild" become "a rite of passage?" Levy spent about three years

interviewing everyone from the female TV exec who green-lighted a stripper documentary to the actual college girls accommodating the camera crews on spring break, and she kept getting the same response: Chill out! We're just celebrating female sexuality.

LENORE  
SKENAZY

What rankles her is the fact that this new celebration looks remarkably like the old exploitation, except that now the women insist they are "in" on it — even women she respects. "Like, my best friend from college is into strip clubs," marveled Levy in a phone interview.

The problem is not that strippers and porn stars are becoming mainstream. It's that so many other women — and girls — are trying to emulate them. These role models are sex workers: women with silicone implants who fake their lust. How liberated is that?

It's not. There's a big difference between embracing one's sexuality and embracing Penthouse's version of the same. Posing topless or dressing like a hooker isn't "liberated." It's what it was back in Friedan's day — sleazy — but with a fresh dollop of self-delusion.

In a truly liberated world, women don't have to strip to feel powerful, because stripped women, like stripped men, aren't. They're just pathetic. In the name of Friedan and Levy, let's not fool ourselves anymore.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at *The New York Daily News* (Lskenazy@nydailynews.com). To find out more about her, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Learn to  
listen well

By DOUG WORGUL

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Perhaps the most affirming thing one person can do for another is to listen well.

Easier said than done. Speaking one's mind is an easy two-step process: 1. Open mouth. 2. Empty contents of brain.

Listening is harder. The external and internal distractions are many. Televisions, computers, headsets and cell phones are everywhere. Our mental to-do lists need attending. Fears and anxieties whisper in our ears. Deadlines scream. And that last song we heard on the car radio just will not go away.

But listening well actually reduces mental and environmental noise. By tuning in when someone talks to you, you reduce static.

"Remember that your listening is a great gift," says Lorrie Eagles, a communications consultant and leadership coach. "In our extremely action- and results-oriented society, really listening and giving the person your time and attention is all too rare and very special."

When someone wants to talk to you, stop what you're doing. Put down the newspaper. Take off your headphones. Turn off the TV. Pay attention to the other person. Make eye contact. Look at the person speaking to you.

Turn your body toward the person — this communicates interest in the other person and a willingness to listen patiently. When your body is turned away, it communicates impatience and a desire to escape the conversation.

If you are seated, lean slightly toward the person without encroaching on his personal space. This also communicates interest. Leaning away from the other person communicates disinterest.

Remember the Golden Rule: Listen to others as you would have them listen to you. The person speaking to you needs something. It may be relatively insignificant — What did you think of the game last night? Or something more serious — I'm worried about my marriage. The speaker may need validation, emotional support, an objective opinion, or perhaps only to share the joys or frustrations of an experience. These are fundamentally human needs. Sooner or later you'll need them, too.

Ask interested questions, Eagles says. "When there is an actual pause in the conversation, a directly relevant question demonstrates interest and encourages the person to say more."

Don't interrupt. It's rude, and it communicates that you think what you have to say is more important than what they have to say.

Be patient. Not everyone is succinct. Think about what the person is saying, not about what you plan to say next.

When you respond, make your responses shorter rather than longer. Longer responses may make the other person feel as if you're hijacking the conversation. It also suggests that instead of listening you were preparing your long response.

Despite the old saying that "communication is a two-way street" try to listen twice as much as you speak. There's another old saying — "We were born with two ears and one mouth." You do the math.

Sources: Jo Condrill, author of "Take Charge of Your Life: Dare to Pursue Your Dreams" and "101 Ways to Improve Your Communication Skills Instantly," at www.top7business.com; John Baldoni, author of "How Great Leaders Get Great Results" and "Great Communication Secrets of Great Leaders," at www.johnbaldoni.com.

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# CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Andrela Medlin, above right, received a singing telegram Tuesday from Big Spring State Hospital volunteers Jackie Henry, left, Ming Whitten-Taylor and Joe Whitten, a Valentine's Day surprise from her husband, John. The BSSH volunteers have the singing telegram fundraiser each year.



Joyce and Lloyd Eastman, seated lower right photo, are served by Salvation Army youth Zechariah Akin, left and Russ Keeney at the annual Sweetheart Dinner the Salvation Army youth present each year. The San Angelo couple, grandparents of Russ, traveled to Big Spring to attend the event, which is a fund-raiser for the youth programs at the corps. The youth serve the meal prepared by Capt. Russ Keeney. Three different dinner packages were available, including one that provides the Valentine couple a private room decorated specifically for them, as well as sparkling grape juice, a heart-shaped box of chocolate and take-home wine glasses.

Salvation Army Sweetheart Dinner diners Tuesday included more than adults, as Marcy Elementary fourth grader Michael Akin brought his girlfriend Molly Walker, above right photo, to enjoy the dinner.



## Library News

The first shipment of audio books has been received and we have designated an area for New Books on cassette or CD. They are located in the original New Book section.

All are unabridged and we are buying more books on CD. We aren't abandoning the books on cassette. However, the technology is such that it can be hard to find a cassette player nowadays.

The selection of audio books is a little bit different mix than what we usually order. Please let staff know if we are selecting books that "float your boat."

Among the selection are two biographies of the Founding Fathers of the United States: "His Excellency, George Washington," by Joseph J. Ellis (AUCD B WAS G) and Ben Franklin's "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin" (AUCD B FRA B). Each of these have received excellent reviews.

Ranging from the Revolutionary times to contemporary war are David McCullough's "1776" (AUCD 973.3 MCC D); "The History of the Civil War," by Bruce Catton (AUCD 973.7 CAT B) and "Jarhead," by Anthony Swofford (AUCD 956.704 SWO A).

The movie "Jarhead" was adapted from Swofford's book.

New audio fiction on cassettes that we received are "Treasure Island," by Robert Louis Stevenson; Sandra Brown's "Seduction by Design," and "The Cat Who Said Cheese," by Lillian Jackson Brown.

Fiction on CD: Jane Stanton Hitchcock's "Social Crimes;" "The Sunflower," by Richard Paul Evans; "Their Eyes Were Watching God," by Zora Neal Hurston; and Jan Karon's "Light From Heaven."

Mysteries are: Diane Motto Davidson's "Catering to Nobody;" Patricia Cornwell's "Predator;" Robert B. Parker's "Death in Paradise" and "The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell," by Lillian Jackson Braun.

Books on CD with a tie-in to movies are Annie Proulx's short story "Brokeback Mountain;" "Just Like Heaven," by Marc Levy and "Must Love Dogs," by Claire Cook.

Curious as to what is really in your non-prescription pain reliever?

Come by the reference section and look at a new reference book titled "PDR for Nonprescription Drugs, Dietary Supplements and Herbs" (REF 615.704 THHO P).

It is published by a very reputable publisher of medical books, Thompson PDR. It is an excellent reference aid for persons who are concerned with what medicines they put into their bodies.

A few Large Print books have come in. Sue Grafton keeps on working on the Alphabet cases. She is up to "S is for Silence" (LP M GRA S).

Kinsey Milhone is asked to find out what happened to Violet Sullivan to make her disappear 34 years ago in Serena Station.

Her 7-year old daughter has never gotten over her mother leaving without saying goodbye. It is also available in regular print in the Mystery section.

Dean Koontz's "Forever Odd" (LP MYS KOO D) is also available in Large Print. Odd Thomas is a link between the world of the living and the dead.

Usually relations are cordial, but when Odd applies his talent to finding his childhood friend, an encounter with an evil enemy will send him into a world of terror and mayhem.

"Carolina Isle," by Jude Deveraux and "Memory in Death," by J.D. Robb (who is also Nora Roberts) are both available in Large Print.

Here is an interesting diet book based on the premise "What Would Jesus Eat?" by Don Colbert (613.202 COL D).

Colbert examines the food that was available and discusses the dietary laws from the Old Testament and explains them. Essentially, Jesus' diet is grain based, protein is from fish and fruit would "dessert." It is a quite interesting book.

KBYG is donating books that are discussed on the air.

"Why Ireland Never Invaded America," by Conor Cunneen (653.401 CUN C) is a business book. He has taken strategic business concepts and incorporated them into an invaluable book that's hard to put down.

His character, Finbarr Kozlowski, uses well-known businesses like McDonald's and Harley Davidson to illustrate to the reader the pitfalls and turnarounds of some of the world's most successful companies.

The value of Cunneen's book is found as Finbarr transfers the lessons of these giants into applicable action plans to use in our own smaller companies. This book will provide you with ideas to improve and/or identify a successful vision and strategy for your business. This review is from Amazon.com.

The library will be closed Saturday, Feb. 18 and Monday, Feb. 20 for President's Day. We will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 9 a.m.

The Howard County Library is regularly open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday.

The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is [www.howard-county.lib.tx.us](http://www.howard-county.lib.tx.us).

The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

# Drew Mouton

## Republican For State Representative District 85



**Uncommon Leadership & Experience**  
Throughout his 28 years in West Texas, Drew has proven his commitment to our West Texas communities.

- | Board of Directors Past & Present                   | Other Community Involvement Past & Present  |
|---|---|
| Community Foundation (Current President)            | Trustee - First United Methodist Church Trust Fund                                  |
| Main Street Project (Past President)                | Chairman Free Enterprise program for 700 Area High School juniors & seniors         |
| YMCA (Past Vice President)                          | Chairman Civil Service Commission   |
| Chamber of Commerce (Past Executive Vice President) | Member - Zoning Board Of Adjustments  |
| Area Certified Development Corp.                    | Volunteer Speaker - Next Generation program to encourage students to stay in school |
| Rotary Club (Past President)                        | Volunteer - Rotary Literacy Program   |
| County Industrial Development Corp.                 | Volunteer - Shattered Dreams Program for area students                              |
| Little League Baseball                              | Coach - Little League Baseball & Girls Softball (10 years)                          |
| Junior Achievement                                  | Guest Speaker - Fellowship of Christian Athletes                                    |
| United Way (Past Chairman & President)              | Volunteer - Hunter Education Course for area youth                                  |
| Malone & Hogan Hospital                             |   |

**"I will appreciate your vote in the March 7 primary."**  
Paid political ad paid for by Mouton for State Representative, P.O. Box 1030, Big Spring, TX 79721, Katie Grimes, Treasurer.



## Will starting school late give kids an edge?

By KATHERINE CROMER  
BROCK

KRT

BEDFORD, Texas — When Griffin Hunt was 2 years old, his mother was already worried that sending him to kindergarten when he turned 5 would be a mistake.

Griffin, who turns 5 in August, would be among the youngest students in his class.

"Boys are not ready," Jennifer Hunt said. She and her husband have opted to hold Griffin out of school for a year.

"Girls are much better at sitting down and listening and doing their work at a table," she said.

Watching Griffin, who likes to move around, touch things and pick them up, Hunt believes they have made the right decision for the long-term education of her son. They are seeking a "structured pre-kindergarten" program for him to attend next year.

"We don't want him to start out having a negative experience," she said. "We don't want to set him up to fail."

It's a decision many parents of 5-year-olds will be wrestling with in the next few months as they decide where to send their children next fall.

About 9 percent of 5-year-olds nationwide are "academically redshirted," or held out of kindergarten for a year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

To be eligible for kindergarten, Texas children, for example, must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current school year.

The redshirts will enter school at age 6, sometimes 18 months older than their classmates.

Academic redshirting is a result of higher expectations of kindergartners, some educators say, and makes sense for students with summer or early fall birthdays, or for ones, usually boys, too immature to handle kindergarten.

While some parents and teachers praise the idea, education researchers fear that holding students back can hinder them socially as they reach their early teens. They also say kindergarten teachers must educate all children, regardless of their level of readiness.

"A group of 5-year-olds are always going to include children who are a little behind their peers, and some who are a little ahead," said Alan Simpson, spokesman for the nonprofit National Association for the Education of Young Children, an association of early childhood educators. "Through natural development, they will catch up with each other."

The term "redshirting" originally described the practice of holding back a freshman college athlete for a year. The belief was that muscles would be more developed, and with an additional year of training, the student would see more success on the field.

Academic redshirting is the same idea, but at a younger age. The extra year gives children's brains a chance to become more developed, theoretically leading to future success in the classroom.

The practice may be in response to higher expectations for young students. Kindergarten used



Lynn Buffington leads the lower school at St. Vincent's Cathedral School in Bedford.

to be a program to transition children from family to school, said Lynn Buffington, lower-school director at St. Vincent's Cathedral School in Bedford, Texas, and a career early childhood educator. But the demand that schools produce high test-scores has prompted a more strenuous kindergarten curriculum including reading, phonics and basic math concepts.

In a national survey in 2000, kindergarten teachers said 48 percent of their students were unprepared, according to research by Lilian G. Katz, co-director of the Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Half of the students lacked academic skills and were unable to follow directions or work independently.

Academic redshirting has become common for students with birthdays in the latter half of the year, and particularly for Anglo boys. It's found more often in wealthier communities, according to Katz, and in private schools.

But the practice is growing in public schools.

Hunt's reason for redshirting her son is common. In fact, other parents who have delayed their children have echoed her fears.

Many educators support the parents' decision.

A child's readiness for school, Buffington said, is often based on a number of intangibles, like the ability to cooperate with classmates or follow directions. Their motor skills may not be as refined as their peers'. Sometimes, it depends on personality.

"If everything is just right, a kindergartner soars," Buffington said. "But innately, parents can sense whether that child is not ready to go on."

Brigitte Gimenez teaches in St. Vincent's new Bridge program, which caters to redshirted children. She previously taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

"There's nothing magic about the number 5," she said. "All children are gifted. Some just open their packages later than others."

Buffington said redshirting is always beneficial for children who may be unprepared for the next step.

"You can't make a mistake doing that," she said. "You can make a mistake pushing."

No reliable studies have been done on the long-term effects of redshirting. It's difficult to determine how children who

were redshirted would have performed if they had entered kindergarten instead.

Based on anecdotal evidence, however, researchers have begun to question the benefits, which Katz believes are short-lived. She has watched her 13-year-old twin grandsons, who were redshirted, struggle socially.

The boys are the oldest in their class. The children who are their age but in the next grade look down on them, she said.

"As kids get older they compare themselves to others of the same age," Katz said. "They seemed to do well academically, but now they are complaining."

According to Katz's research, redshirted students had more behavior problems than their peers. Some may have had special needs or learning disabilities that were not diagnosed; instead they were dismissed as immaturity.

Simpson, of the early childhood educators' group, offers his advice: "Be careful."

He said some parents mistake their child's normal anxiety about kindergarten — and perhaps their own anxiety — for a lack of school readiness.

"Children develop at naturally different rates," he said. "Our kindergarten teachers and our school districts need to be prepared with a curriculum that's appropriate for all of those children."

Five-year-old Preston Williams sat at a table decorating a flattened coffee filter with bright blocks of red, yellow and blue marker. A student in St. Vincent's Bridge program, he was learning about primary colors. The second part of the assignment was to paint the colors with water and watch what happens when they blur. He mixed red and blue to make purple.

A few moments later, he started mixing the red and yellow. "Oh, cool, it's turning orange! Sweet!"

The eight students in the Bridge class — four boys and four girls — can make those discoveries at their own pace, without the pressure they may feel in kindergarten.

When parents redshirt their children, some choose to home-school them. Others keep them in preschool. St. Vincent's began the Bridge program in August to provide extra attention to redshirted students.



Preston Williams, 5, left, and Corbin Marcus, 6, attend class in the Bridge program at St. Vincent's Cathedral School in Bedford.

### Academic Redshirting

Parents thinking of delaying their child's entry into kindergarten should consider the following:

- Don't delay just because the child will be younger or has a summer birthday.
- Check kindergarten readiness tests or screenings to get an idea of how the child may do.
- Find out what the school expects of kindergartners. Is the class size larger than 25?
- Talk to the child's preschool teacher about readiness.
- If not kindergarten, what else would the child do?
- Ask the future kindergarten teacher what can be done at home to help the child prepare.
- Approach the transition with confidence. Don't convey your own anxiety to the child.
- Emphasize making friends and doing interesting things in kindergarten. Don't exaggerate how much fun it will be.

SOURCE: Lilian G. Katz, co-director of the Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative

They attend school for a full day. They have the same amount of art, music, computer and Spanish as the school's kindergartners. They have physical education every day. They go to recess with other pre-kindergarten students, because they will go to kindergarten with them.

"Mostly, we give them time," Gimenez said. "At the end of the year, I want to see them confident enough to go across the hall and be ready to start."

Gimenez opened the class's "sign-in" book, in which the Bridge children print their names each morning. On the first day of school in August, one student's signature was unrecognizable. He couldn't properly hold a pencil, Gimenez said. By January, the student's name was clearer, but when compared to the work of the kindergarten class hanging in the hallway, he was clearly behind others in his age group.

"They're working hard to do well," Gimenez said. "This is what they need." A large part of Bridge is social skills. For the first semester, the students had "community" supplies in a pile that they shared. When they returned from the holiday break, Gimenez had placed a nametag at each child's seat.

At each place sat a cup of individual school supplies. The children are

now expected to keep their spaces clean, and not lose any of their supplies.

Kelly Croak of Grapevine, Texas, said her daughter Bailey is progressing in the program. When Croak's son went through kindergarten three years ago, she was shocked at the high expectations. Bailey has a June birthday, and Croak decided she simply wasn't ready. She'll enter kindergarten at Grapevine Elementary School in the fall.

"A lot of it had to do with looking into middle school and high school," Croak said. "I wanted her to be older to make better decisions. There can be such a gap between ages in a grade. I wanted her to be on the

higher end of the grade rather than on the lower end."

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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Big voice, small town values

Although Martina McBride is a country music superstar with more than 15 million records sold, she still adheres to the basic down-home wisdom and values she learned from her parents. Plus, sharing the hometown news and cheesy lima bean casserole.

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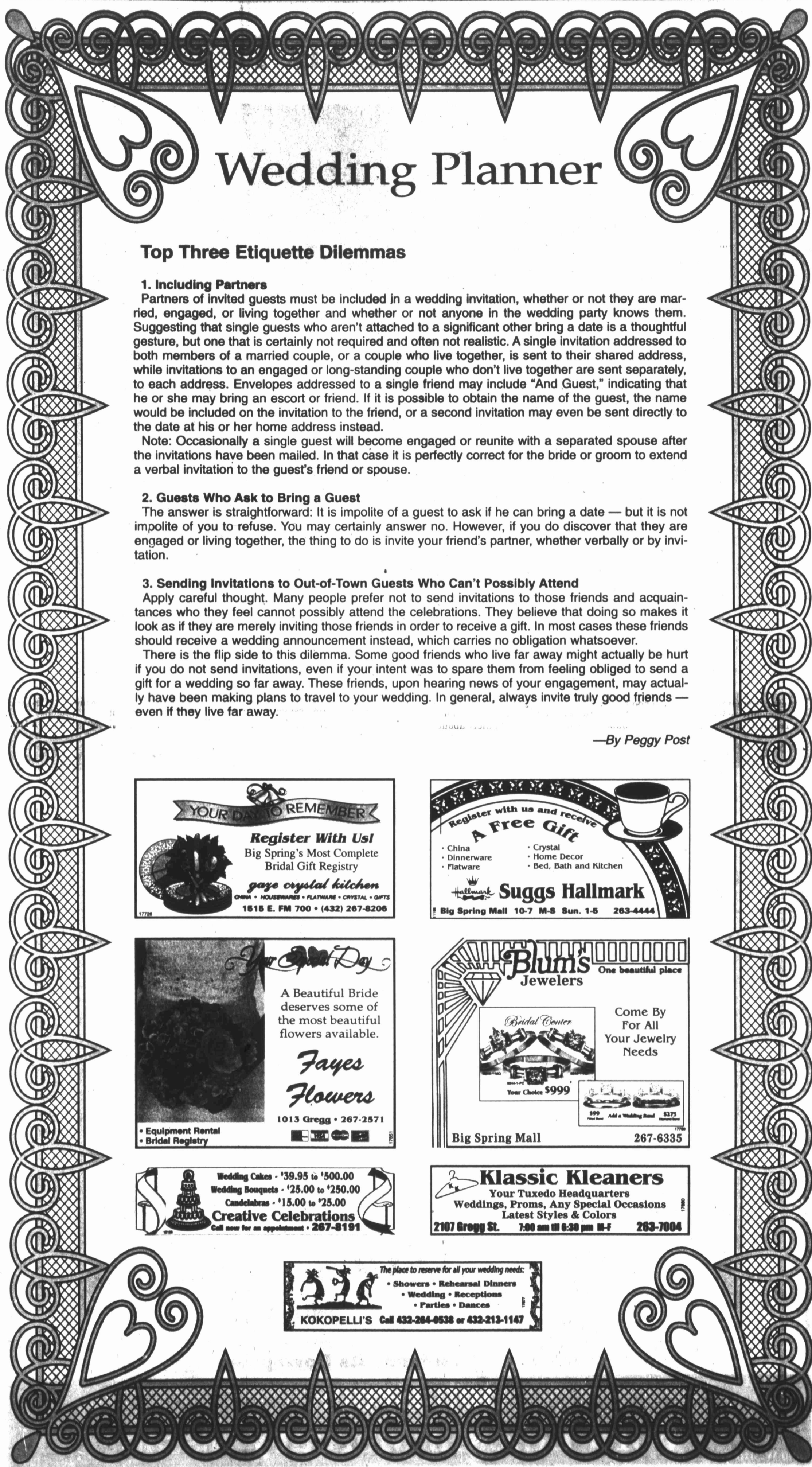
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# Wedding Planner

## Top Three Etiquette Dilemmas

### 1. Including Partners

Partners of invited guests must be included in a wedding invitation, whether or not they are married, engaged, or living together and whether or not anyone in the wedding party knows them. Suggesting that single guests who aren't attached to a significant other bring a date is a thoughtful gesture, but one that is certainly not required and often not realistic. A single invitation addressed to both members of a married couple, or a couple who live together, is sent to their shared address, while invitations to an engaged or long-standing couple who don't live together are sent separately, to each address. Envelopes addressed to a single friend may include "And Guest," indicating that he or she may bring an escort or friend. If it is possible to obtain the name of the guest, the name would be included on the invitation to the friend, or a second invitation may even be sent directly to the date at his or her home address instead.

Note: Occasionally a single guest will become engaged or reunite with a separated spouse after the invitations have been mailed. In that case it is perfectly correct for the bride or groom to extend a verbal invitation to the guest's friend or spouse.

### 2. Guests Who Ask to Bring a Guest

The answer is straightforward: It is impolite of a guest to ask if he can bring a date — but it is not impolite of you to refuse. You may certainly answer no. However, if you do discover that they are engaged or living together, the thing to do is invite your friend's partner, whether verbally or by invitation.

### 3. Sending Invitations to Out-of-Town Guests Who Can't Possibly Attend

Apply careful thought. Many people prefer not to send invitations to those friends and acquaintances who they feel cannot possibly attend the celebrations. They believe that doing so makes it look as if they are merely inviting those friends in order to receive a gift. In most cases these friends should receive a wedding announcement instead, which carries no obligation whatsoever.

There is the flip side to this dilemma. Some good friends who live far away might actually be hurt if you do not send invitations, even if your intent was to spare them from feeling obliged to send a gift for a wedding so far away. These friends, upon hearing news of your engagement, may actually have been making plans to travel to your wedding. In general, always invite truly good friends — even if they live far away.

—By Peggy Post

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# STOCK SHOW YOUTH HONOREES



Dusty Walker, left, and Kayla Medrano are pictured with Elmer Crumrine, the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Board Member. The Garden City High School seniors each received a \$1,000 college scholarship. Courtesy photos

## San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Rural youth banquet honors outstanding Texas young people

**Special to the Herald**

Two outstanding senior 4-H members from Glasscock County, Dusty Walker and Kayla Medrano, both seniors at Garden City High School, were among the 40 youth honored at the San

Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, in association with the San Antonio Kiwanis Club, during the 51st annual Rural Youth Banquet.

The 40 4-H and FFA members were chosen by their organizations for their continuing contributions to agriculture and agricultural related fields, and for

their involvement in leadership and community service activities through their respective organization.

Walker, the son of Bart and Charlene Belew, was one of the outstanding youth who received a Youth Leadership Award. The second recipient of the award, Medrano, is the daughter of

Alex Medrano and Terri Hayes.

The Rural Youth Award is a prestigious honor and each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship to assist them with their college education.

The San Antonio Kiwanis Club and the Stock Show are avid supporters of higher education.

# FEBRUARY RED TAG SALE

(All Prices Have Been Reduced)

\*\*\* FORD, LINCOLN & MERCURY PROGRAM CAR & VANS \*\*\*

- 2005 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/Leather, All Power, Only 9,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
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- 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Cloud 9 White Clearcoat, Automatic, Air, Speed Control, All Power, Tilt, 20,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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\*\*\*\*\* CARS \*\*\*\*\*

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- 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier - White, Automatic, All Power, One Owner w/22,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**
- 2003 Toyota Avalon XL - Seafoam Green, All Power, One Owner w/43,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2002 Ford Focus SVT Hatchback - Black, Leather, 6 Speed, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2002 Ford Taurus SE - Red w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/22,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2001 Ford Crown Victoria L.S. - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/40,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix 4-DR. - Silver, V-6, All Power. **Was \$8,995** **NOW \$7,995**
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\*\*\*\*\* TRUCKS \*\*\*\*\*

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- 2004 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4X4 - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/33,000 Miles. **Was \$25,995** **NOW \$24,995**
- 2004 Ford F250 Supercab XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Cloth, V-10, All Power, Local One Owner, w/58,000 Miles. **Was \$25,995** **NOW \$21,995**
- 2003 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab Silverado - Blue, Cloth, All Power, Extra Clean. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/Silver, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner, w/46,000 Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
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- 2001 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/70,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Tan, V-8, Cloth, All Power. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT V-10 - Red, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, w/79,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 1999 Chevrolet Classic C1500 Ext. Cab L.S. - Pewter, 350 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/56,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$11,995**
- 1998 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Tan, 5 Speed, 4 Cyl., Air, 45,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**

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- 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/12,000 Miles. **Was \$26,995** **NOW \$25,995**
- 2005 Ford Escape XLT - Light Green, All Power, Local One Owner w/14,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Ford Expedition - Tan, Leather, DVD, Power 3rd Row Seat, w/46,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
- 2004 Expedition XLT 4X4 - Red/Tan, All Power, Leather, w/62,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - Black, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$18,995**

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- 2003 Ford Explorer XLS - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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- 2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, Fully Loaded, One Owner w/58,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**

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### IN BRIEF

**Lady Steer Booster meeting announced**  
The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m. All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Carol Pollock at 466-3800.

### 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.

### Little League umpers needed, signup days announced

Little League signups for the upcoming season will take place Feb. 18-25 at the Big Spring Mall.

The signups will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Anyone interested in umpiring little league baseball games or for more information on the little league signups, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 432-816-9984 or 432-263-1792 or Randy Phillips at 432-264-6600 (day) or 432-263-5314 (night).

### Ligety gives U.S. another gold medal

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Ted Ligety gave the United States the Olympic gold medal that Bode Miller couldn't deliver, putting together the two fastest slalom runs of the day to win the men's combined and break the Americans' bad luck in Alpine skiing.

The 21-year-old from Park City, Utah, had a combined time of 3 minutes, 9.35 seconds, for the downhill and two slalom runs.

Miller was disqualified for straddling a gate in the first slalom run, just when he seemed to have built a commanding lead for his elusive first Olympic gold medal.

Russian Evgeni Plushenko performed what he called a "perfect" short program in dominating the event, essentially turning the remainder of the men's figure skating contest into a battle for silver and bronze.

Plushenko's 90.66 points gave him more than a 10-point lead over three-time U.S. champion Johnny Weir.

## Movin' On

### • Coahoma crushes Coleman in bi-district round of girl's playoffs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
SWEETWATER — Laci Sterling has been sick with a stomach virus all week. She hasn't eaten or drank much of anything since Friday.

All that mattered little Tuesday as the Coahoma freshman helped guide the Bulldogettes to a bi-district playoff victory in Sweetwater.

Sterling scored a team-high 16 points — 12 in the second half — as Coahoma ran away with the win against Coleman, 53-32.

"We were really good defensively tonight," said first-year head coach Chris Sumrall. "Coleman struggled from outside and we wanted to keep the ball out of the post and we were able to do that."

"I am proud of all the girls for this win, but I am especially happy for Laci just because of the circumstances."

Sterling was rushed to the hospital after the game. She won't have much time to recover for Round 2 of the postseason as the Bulldogettes take on Kermit Thursday in Seminole. Tipoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

"We've got to handle pressure defense better and our chances of win-

ning increases a lot if we do that," said Sumrall.

The Bulldogettes were never really challenged by Coleman. Coahoma led by five after one quarter and held Coleman to single digits in the final three periods — including a four-point second quarter — and won going away. They led 29-15 at halftime.

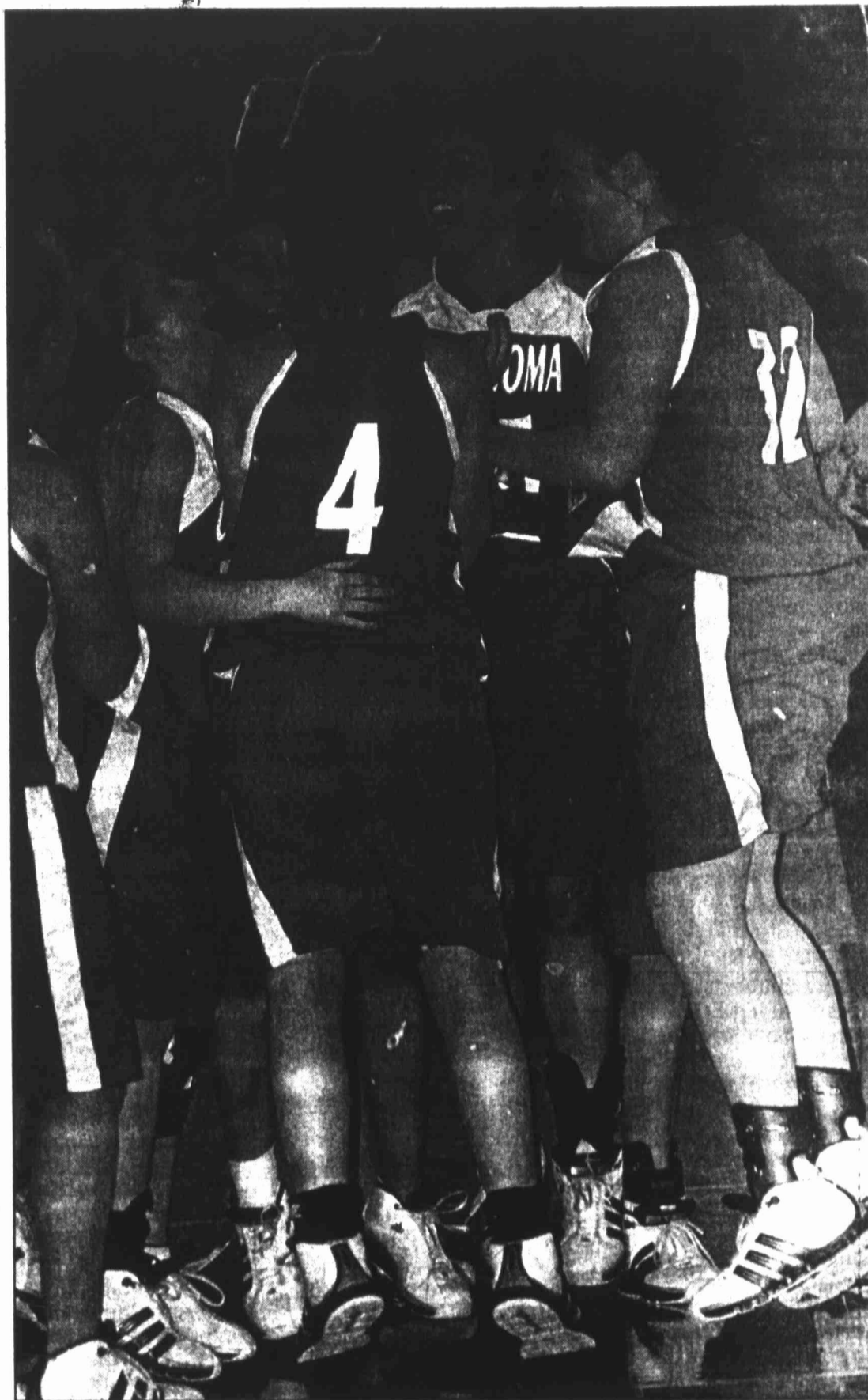
Sophomore Janice Gonzales hit three big 3-pointers in the first half to ignite the Bulldogettes and Coahoma never looked back.

"It helps when Janice can get some shots down early," said Sumrall. "Her three 3-pointers in the first half were all big. They kind of gave us some breathing room."

Gonzales finished with 11 points and senior Kali Roberts also reached double figures with 12 — eight of which came in the first half.

"Kali made some nice shots from the high post in the first half, too," said Sumrall.

Coahoma led by 15 entering the final quarter. Coleman started the period with four straight points, but Coahoma took advantage shortly after that. Sterling scored a 3-point play with 4:37 to go



Members of the Coahoma girls' basketball team celebrate after the Bulldogettes knocked off Coleman in the bi-district round of the playoffs Tuesday. Coahoma defeated Coleman, 53-32, and will play Kermit Thursday in Seminole.

## Knox City takes down G.C.

### • Poor free throw shooting, execution doom Lady Kats

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
TRENT — Poor free throw shooting in the fourth quarter and too many turnovers late forced the Garden City girls' basketball team out of the Class 1A playoffs earlier than expected Tuesday as the Lady Kats lost to Knox City in Trent, 41-34.

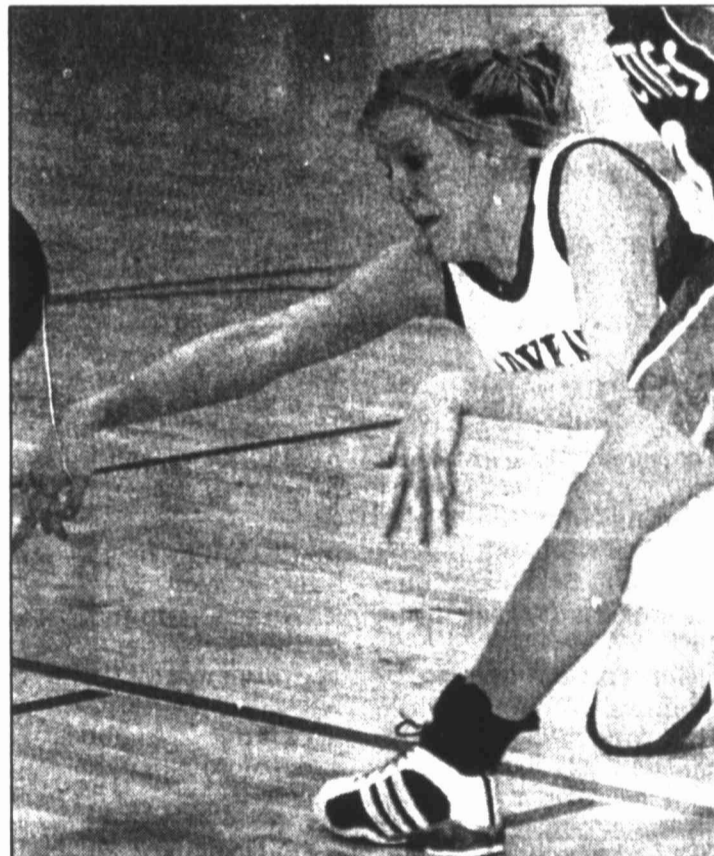
The Lady Kats scored just three points in the final quarter, missed four free throws and had some crucial turnovers down the stretch.

"We haven't shot free throws well all year and it affected us tonight," said Garden City head coach Brent Kirkland. "The turnovers came when the girls were trying to make plays and I can't ask for anything more than that. We just didn't execute the offense very well in the fourth quarter and Knox City did."

The game was tied after three quarters, but the Houndettes took control early in the fourth period. Nikki Moss scored the first three points in the frame and hit some big shots down the stretch. She finished with a team-high 15 points.

"She's a good player," said Kirkland. "We did a good job on her for the most part, but I think fatigue took its toll late."

The Lady Kats trailed by three with 3:22 to play, but missed two shots at the line to cut into the lead. The next two points of the game were scored



Garden City junior Lauren Plagens gets rid of the ball before returning to her feet during bi-district playoff action in Trent Tuesday. Plagens scored nine points, but Garden City lost to Knox City and ended its season with a 25-7 record.

by Knox City from the line and a turnover by Garden City with 40 seconds to go in the game wrapped things up for the Houndettes.

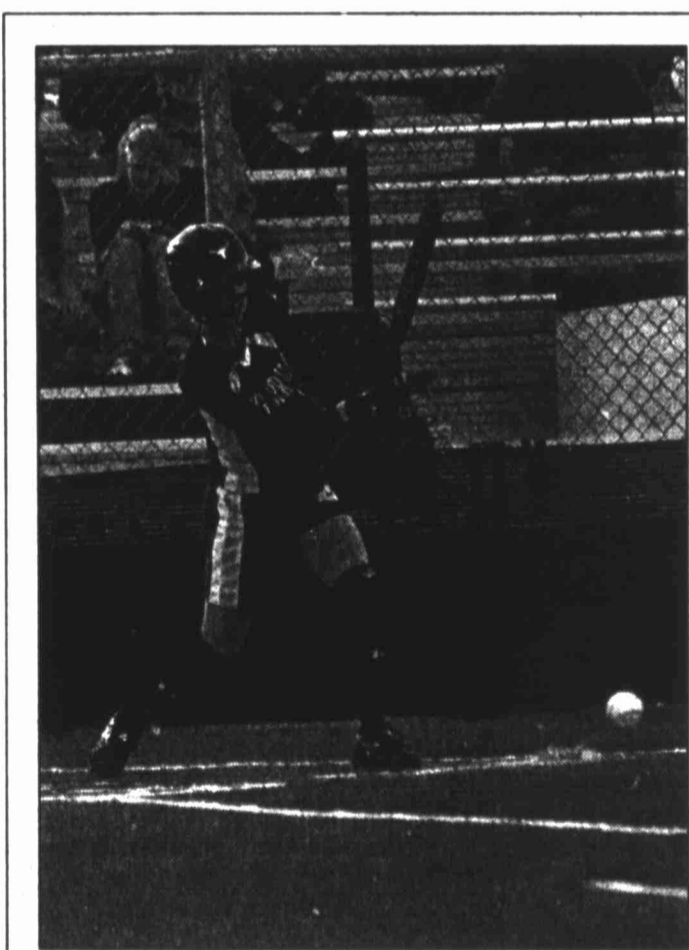
Garden City led most of the first half. The game went back-and-forth early in the first quarter, but the Lady Kats jumped ahead 10-5 on back-to-back baskets by junior K'Lann Niehues and Erin Hirt. Knox City was able to get the lead down to three with a layup just before the first-quarter buzzer.

Hirt started the second quarter out with a 3-pointer and the Lady Kats pushed their advantage to eight with two free

throws. The Houndettes quickly got back to within four before Niehues scored Garden City's next four points and extended the lead back to six. Knox City again scored just before the buzzer and cut the lead to four at halftime.

Niehues was tough to stop inside in the third quarter. She scored eight points in the period, but Garden City's lead vanished. The Lady Kats led by seven after a putback by Plagens, but seven straight points by Knox City tied the score at 25-25.

The game remained tied



Big Spring senior Heather Policky puts the ball in play during action at the softball complex Tuesday afternoon. The Lady Steers lost to Odessa Permian, 2-1.

## Stewart's cry for change get NASCAR's attention

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Motorsports Writer  
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — In response to comments from Nextel Cup champion Tony Stewart that somebody could get hurt or killed at Daytona International Speedway if changes aren't made, officials will begin policing the high-speed bumping that has become commonplace on NASCAR's biggest tracks.

Two days after Stewart said "bump drafting" — slamming into the rear of another car to maintain

momentum — is out of control at Daytona, NASCAR said that spotters will be placed in "zones" in the turns on the 2.5-mile oval track. They will feed information to NASCAR, which will then determine whether to penalize the drivers during Thursday's twin 150-mile qualifying races and Sunday's Daytona 500.

Bump drafting is common at Daytona and Talladega, the only two NASCAR tracks that

See NASCAR, Page 2B



# Redick breaks 3-point mark in Duke win

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — J.J. Redick scored 33 points and broke the NCAA record for career 3-pointers in Duke's 93-70 victory over Wake Forest on Tuesday night.

Freshman Josh McRoberts scored 12 of his 16 points in the first half and Shelden Williams also had 16 for Duke (24-1, 12-0 ACC), which is in position to reclaim the No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press poll next week following Connecticut's loss to Villanova Monday night.

The Demon Deacons (13-12, 1-10) lost their seventh conference game in a row. Justin Gray led them with 18 points, and Eric Williams added 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Redick entered the game needing two 3-pointers to break Curtis Staples mark of 413, set at Virginia from 1994-98. Staples was in attendance and presented Redick with a game ball in a ceremony following the game.

Redick also passed Virginia's Bryant Stith for fourth place on the ACC career scoring list, and remained on pace to pass Dickie Hemric at the top of the list. Hemric had 2,587 for Wake Forest, and Redick trails by 60 points with five games remaining in the regular season.

**No. 3 Memphis 80, Southern Mississippi 41**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Rodney Carney scored 15 points and Kareem Cooper had 13 points and 13 rebounds in Memphis' 12th straight victory.

Darius Washington and Shawne Williams had 11 points each for Memphis (23-2, 9-0 Conference USA), which led 34-10 at the half.

Courtney Beasley scored 15 points for Southern Mississippi. The Golden Eagles shot 28 percent in losing for the eighth time in their last

nine games.

**No. 6 Texas 90, Baylor 63**  
AUSTIN (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 23 points and 12 rebounds for Texas.

P.J. Tucker added 21 points and Brad Buckman had 12 points and 11 boards for the Longhorns (22-3, 10-1 Big 12), who are off to their best start in conference play.

Aaron Bruce scored 15 points to lead Baylor, which has lost 17 in a row against Texas.

The Longhorns' have hardly been challenged at home in the Big 12 this season, winning six league games by an average of 25 points.

**Seton Hall 71, No. 11 West Virginia 64**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Kelly Whitney had 21 points and 12 rebounds to help Seton Hall bounce back from a 42-point loss to top-

ranked Connecticut. Brian Laing added a career-high 19 points for the Pirates, who had won six straight before the 99-57 loss to Connecticut last Saturday.

Kevin Pittsnogle had 24 points for the Mountaineers (18-6, 9-2), who had won four of five and will play Connecticut at home Saturday.

**No. 18 Iowa 66, No. 16 Michigan State 54**

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Greg Brunner scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Jeff Horner added 15 points and six assists and Iowa picked up its fifth straight win over a ranked opponent.

The Hawkeyes (20-6, 9-3 Big Ten) set a school record with their 16th consecutive win at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and are now a full game ahead of Ohio State.

Paul Davis led Michigan State with 17 points and 11 rebounds.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Coahoma sophomore Janice Gonzales scores a layup in the fourth quarter of the Bulldogettes' playoff win against Coleman in Sweetwater Tuesday. Gonzales hit three 3-pointers in the first half and finished with 11 points.

# Buffaloes cruise to victory in warmup

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
SAN ANGELO — The Forsan boys prepared for a first-round playoff match with a recent victory over Eden in a post-season practice game.

Three Buffaloes reached double figures as Forsan improved to 21-7, winning 64-48.

"We played very aggressive on defense and caused several early turnovers which resulted in good transition baskets for us," said Forsan head coach Terry McDonald. "The guards saw the floor well and the post players did a nice job of running the floor."

Forsan jumped out to a

17-3 lead after the first quarter and never looked back. The Buffs only outscored Eden by two points during the final three periods, but the first-quarter rout proved to be too much for Eden to handle.

Jeremy Johnson led Forsan with 16 points, while Adam Bailey and Tye Baker added 14 and 10, respectively. Josh Paredez and Seth Johnson pitched in with eight and seven, respectively.

The Buffaloes' bi-district playoff game will take place Feb. 21, but their opponent is still undecided. It will be either Marfa or Fort Hancock.

# NASCAR

Continued from Page 1B

require carburetor restrictor-plates to sap horsepower and keep speeds down. But Stewart was particularly upset and vocal after a wild ride in Sunday night's Budweiser Shootout exhibition.

NASCAR officials quickly came to the conclusion that something needed to be done.

Robin Pemberton, vice president of competition, and Nextel Cup director John Darby outlined a plan Tuesday to begin policing the bump drafting.

"As we go forward in attempting to control bump drafting in those areas, there's going to be some very subjective calls being made," Darby said. "That's the reason we'd like to get this under way as quickly as possible. Pemberton added having officials police bump drafting is not a long-term solution.

# Dallas re-signs McBriar, adds Elam to roster

IRVING (AP) — Punter Mat McBriar signed a new one-year contract with the Dallas Cowboys, who also Tuesday added free agent safety Abram Elam to their roster.

McBriar, one of seven exclusive free agents for the Cowboys, signed a minimum deal worth \$385,000.

McBriar has punted in Dallas the past two years. He averaged 42.5 yards on 81 punts last season.

Elam went to camp as a rookie free agent with Miami last summer but was released after only four days.

**Upcoming Area Lineup**

**Wednesday**  
Howard softball DH@Western Texas, 2 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Howard basketball @Midland, 5:50 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.  
Coahoma girl's basketball Area Championship vs. Kermit @ Seminole, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday/Saturday**  
Howard baseball DH vs. LCU JV, 1 p.m.

# KATS

Continued from Page 1B

heading into the fourth and the Houndettes took control in the final frame, outscoring the Lady Kats, 10-3.

Garden City was led by Niehues' 14 points, while Hirt and Plegens each scored nine. The Lady

Kats only lose one senior — Tracy Eggemeyer — to graduation this year and should be able to build from what turned out to be a 25-7 season.

"We are going to have 11 of the 12 varsity kids back," said Kirkland. "I hope we learned to not take any-



thing for granted. We also need to do the little things if we want to get further next season."

Bridgett Billington finished with nine points for Knox City as well. The Houndettes will most likely take on Witharral this weekend.

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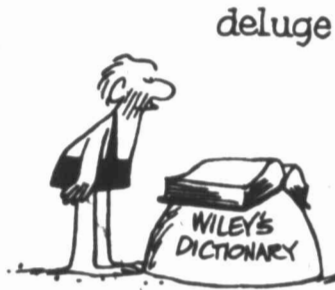
WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (3)	KOSA (2)	KYLE (1)	KWES (2)	WTBS (1)	KMLM (2)	KOCV (3)	DISC (2)	AMC (2)	SPK (2)	TNT (2)	BET (2)	DISN (2)	ESPN2 (2)	ESPN (2)	SCFI (2)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Spanish Pal de Otono	Odessa My Wife-Kids	Odessa News	Telemundo La Yornanta	Odessa News Be a Millionaire	Atlanta Raymond	Odessa Sam Peak	Odessa News-Lover	Discovery Mega-Excavators	Classics	Spike TV CBS Crime Score Investig (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Black Ent. Live Access	Disney Phil of Future	ESPN2 Intergallop College	ESPN2 College Basketball	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
7	George Lopez Freddie (CC)	George Lopez Freddie (CC)	Comis Vario Marea	American Idol Yes, Dear	Bill Standing	El Cuerpo del Deseo	XX Olympic Winter Games	Atlanta Raymond	Update/Arrest Dr. Karl Cook	Wondor Castle	The Blasters	Mingy Occiputary (CC)	Spike TV CBS Crime Score Investig (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Disney Movie: Double Teamed	ESPN2 Cincinnati at UNC	ESPN2 College Basketball	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
8	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Alfonso	Bones (CC)	Criminal Minds	Conson Part Declations	(CC)	Atlanta Raymond	Light of the Southwest	The Bill: Lord's	Mythbusters (CC)	(CC)	Spike TV Most Inevitable Women Special (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Glitterlands	Disney Synapse College	ESPN2 NBA Basketball	ESPN2 NBA Basketball	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
9	Invasion (CC)	Invasion (CC)	Don Francisco Presents	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	CBS NY (CC)	Declations	(CC)	Atlanta Raymond	Sax and City	Longest Night Remembered	Mythbusters (CC)	:45 Movie: Moonwalker (CC)	Spike TV CBS Crime Score Investig (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Soul Food (CC)	Disney Life Derek Stater, Stater	ESPN2 Basketball: Oklahoma at Colorado	ESPN2 Basketball: Wizards at Newetles	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News	Atlanta Raymond	10 Movie: Along Came a Spider (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Moonwalker (CC)	Spike TV CBS Crime Score Investig (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	In Living Color That's Raven	Disney Zack & Cody	ESPN2 Colorado State Football	ESPN2 SportsCenter	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Noticias Univ.	Becker (CC)	Latterman Late Late	Al Pejo Vivo	The Olympic Tonight Show	Atlanta Raymond	Spider (CC)	Dr. Snuggles Bookers	Sign Off	The Blasters	Spike TV CBS Crime Score Investig (CC) (DVS)	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Disney Phil of Future	ESPN2 With Smith Timeless	ESPN2 With Smith Timeless	SCFI Ghost Hunters (CC)
12	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Armas y Fivelas (88)	Becker (CC)	Show The Insider	Marka Calista	With Jay Leno	Atlanta Raymond	12-10 Movie: The Net	Update/Arrest John Hagee	Mythbusters (CC)	Hustle (CC)	Spike TV Real TV Blind Date	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	Disney Lizzie McGuire	ESPN2 Table Tennis	ESPN2 Table Tennis	SCFI The Twilight Zone (CC)

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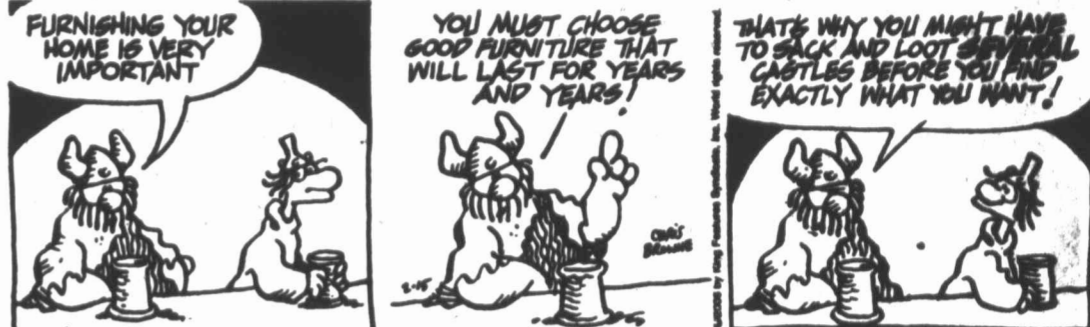


THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2006. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On Feb. 15, 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.
- On this date: In 1564, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.
- In 1764, the city of St. Louis was established.
- In 1820, American suffragist Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Mass.
- In 1879, President Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.
- In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that claimed the life of Chicago Mayor Antor J. Cermak.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to the Japanese during World War II.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa.

In 1986, the Philippines National Assembly proclaimed Ferdinand E. Marcos president for another six years, following an election marked by allegations of fraud. (Marcos was later ousted.)

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kevin McCarthy is 92. Actor Allan Arbus is 88. Country singer Hank Locklin is 88. Former U.S. Rep. John Anderson, R-Ill. is 84. Comedian Harvey Korman is 79. Actress Claire Bloom is 75. Author Susan Brownmiller is 71. Songwriter Brian Holland is

65. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 62. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 62. Actress Jane Seymour is 55. Singer Melissa Manchester is 55. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening is 52. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 42. Actor Michael Easton is 39. Actress Renee O'Connor is 35. Actress Sarah Wynter is 33. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 30. Actress Ashley Lyn Cafagna-Tesoro is 23.

Thought for Today: "We live by encouragement and die without it slowly, sadly and angrily." — Celeste Holm, American actress.

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Answer to previous puzzle

M	O	P	I	M	A	S	H	E	R	I
O	V	E	N	O	R	I	O	I	N	A
B	A	N	K	O	K	T	H	A	I	A
O	L	D	E	N	S	O	M	L	I	N
S	O	L	O	M	I	T	T			
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A	G	O	N	A	B	A	A	O	N	T
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S	N	O	R	E	T	E	A			
A	S	S								

Newsday Crossword

GO THE DISTANCE by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Annoyed with
- 6 Fish feature
- 10 "Dancing Queen" group
- 14 On the double
- 15 Two-tone cookie
- 16 Big swig
- 17 Novice Boy Scout
- 19 On the briny
- 20 Road-gripping ability
- 21 Put on a leash
- 23 Guffaw syllable
- 24 African plain
- 25 Zero of *The Producers*
- 29 Burger topping
- 32 Took a trajectory
- 33 Androcles' extraction
- 34 Mattress filler
- 37 "High Hopes" lyricist
- 38 Congo's former name
- 39 Make eyes at
- 40 --no replay
- 41 Line from the heart
- 42 Bring about
- 43 Totally preoccupy
- 45 Damer's need
- 46 Van Gogh locale
- 48 --Na Na
- 49 Yucatan builders of old
- 51 Least dense
- 56 Lend of tennis
- 57 Utility measurer

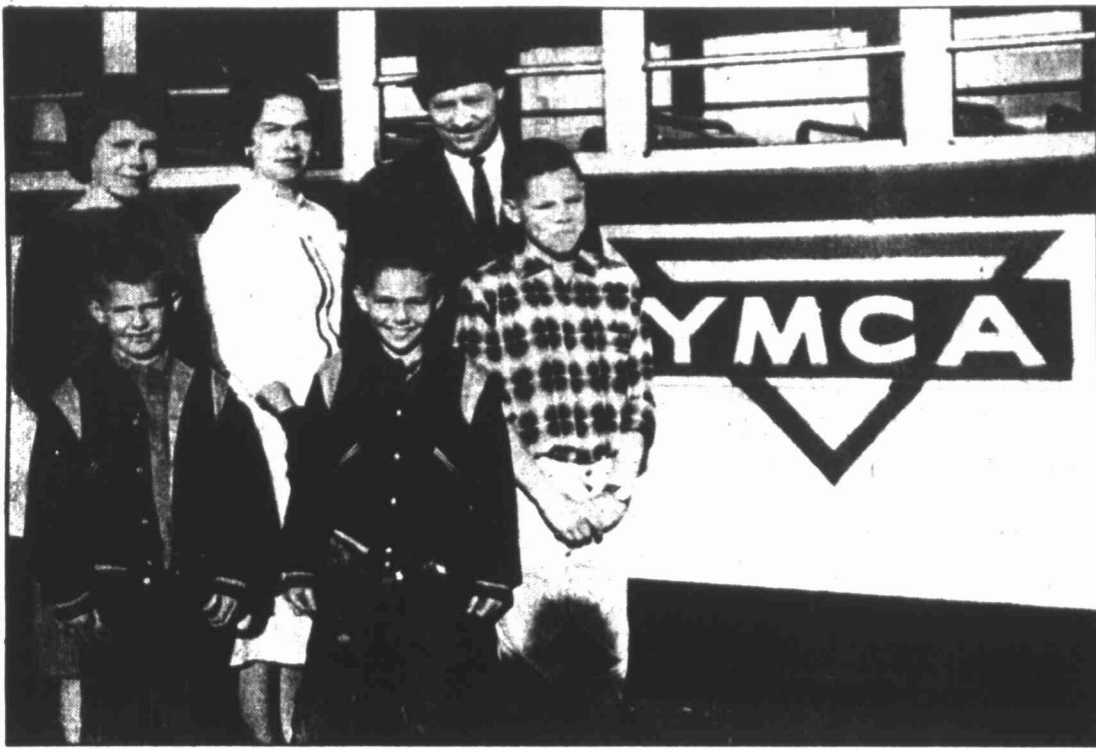
DOWN

- 1 Damon of film
- 2 Imitative one
- 3 Comic
- 4 Carvey
- 5 Chewed on a ring, perhaps
- 6 Really like
- 7 Laundry-room item
- 8 Summer sign
- 9 Mississippi senator
- 10 Shooting marbles
- 11 Second-rate
- 12 Run in the wash
- 13 In pieces
- 18 Mideast money
- 22 Not lumpy
- 25 PC alternatives
- 26 Nonwritten test
- 27 Place to spend recess
- 28 Sawbuck
- 29 Debt markers
- 30 Circle dance
- 31 Bard's "before"
- 33 Does road work
- 35 Rick's film love
- 36 Marsh plant
- 38 Actress Caldwell
- 39 Galley tool
- 41 Org.
- 42 Smooth talker
- 44 Kid's cap
- 45 Whaler's adverb
- 46 --acid (protein component)
- 47 "Bolero" composer
- 48 Be in a bee
- 50 --'pea
- 51 Recipe direction
- 52 Big rig
- 53 School on the Thames
- 54 Prepares, as an alarm
- 55 Plum or gum
- 58 Actress Gardner

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# CONGRATULATIONS...



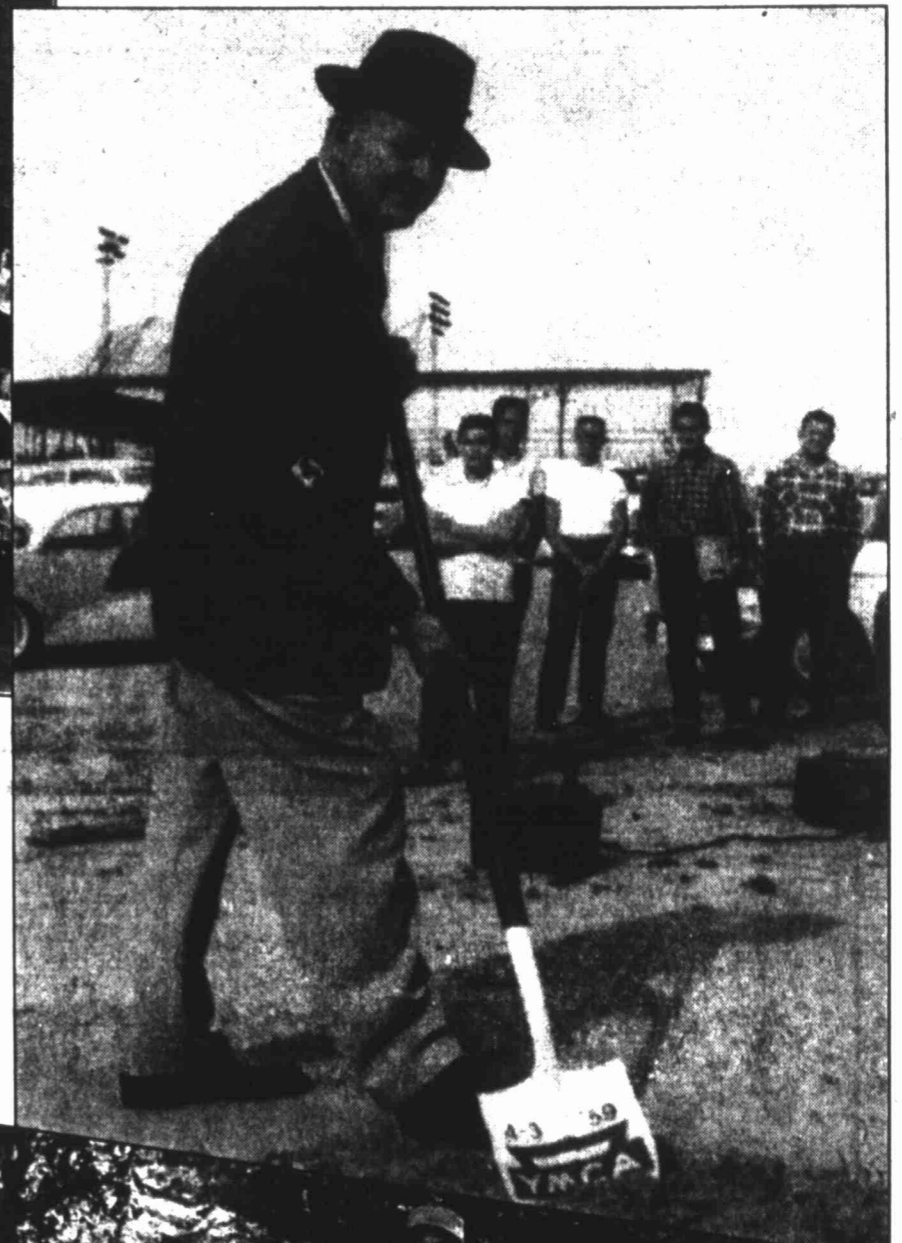
February, 1946 the Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA) began operating in Big Spring. The year 2006 marks 60 years of continuous programs, activities and services by the YMCA. Even though the YMCA had a presence in Big Spring from 1902 to 1928, it was not until 1946 when it began offering services as a member YMCA of the USA.

1946... the YMCA opened its doors on Main near 2nd Street above Wacker's Store (no longer standing). Primary activities included a parent-child program called "Y Indian Guides." The first Executive Director was W. R. "Bill" Dawes, the first Board President was Jack Y. Smith. Other community leaders who served as president in those early years included Joe Pickle, Clyde Angel, K.H. McGibbon and Clyde McMahon.

1949... the YMCA relocated due to a lack of space to a vacated church building on Scurry Street.

1955... a fund raising campaign committee was organized to raise money to build a new facility. Committee members included R. H. Weaver, R. W. Whipkey Mrs. K.H. McGibbon and Marvin Miller.

1960... the vision to build a new facility came true with the opening of the YMCA at its current location on Owens street.



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# ...YMCA on 60 YEARS!



1961... the YMCA leased a vacated Lakeview school building and established an extension or branch of the YMCA on the north side of Big Spring. This branch provided a game room and a small gym with outside playground area. The Lakeview branch ended operations in 1981.

Even though activities today at the YMCA are different from those in 1946 the mission and goals remain the same: The YMCA puts principles into practice through programs that build a Christian spirit, mind and body for all. The YMCA is a charitable non-profit organization that turns no one away due to inability to pay. Activities today include all day child care supervision, health and fitness programs, physical education classes and competitive sports leagues.

Currently... the YMCA Board President is Raul Marquez, serving an unprecedented sixth year in that capacity. The Executive director is Peter Thiry who has worked for the YMCA 24 years, and since 1998 in Big Spring.

Future... programs at the YMCA include Activate America, an innovative public health initiative of the YMCA movement nationwide that is making healthy living a reality for millions of Americans. One of the activities the YMCA plans to offer is a community walking program called Big Steps for Big Spring. This program will include the distribution of pedometers for all participants.




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Help Wanted

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**HIRING FOR 2006! AVERAGE POSTAL EMPLOYEE EARNS \$57,000/YR.** Minimum starting pay \$18.00/hr. benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience needed. 1-800-584-1775 ref#9020.

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1406 YOUNG. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$100. 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 Bedroom 1 bath @ 807 Anna - \$300.00. 1 Bedroom, 1/2 duplex @ 502 Goliad - \$240.00. Partially furnished. Call (432)267-7380.

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.

Real Estate for Rent

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

706-B GOLIAD. Clean one bedroom house. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$225. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

**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

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(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

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 Big Spring. Call (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.

**COUNTY HOME** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath in Forsan School District. Horse barns w/huge pipe fence, riding corral, 1 acre. \$65,000. Firm. No Owner Finance. (432)466-1850.

Real Estate for Sale

**LAST!**  
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.

2239 NORTH Hwy 137. Brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 acres. Big privacy fence with pine trees. Stanton School District. \$94,000.. Call (432)557-5408.

**COAHOMA REDUCED \$**, 3/2 with 6 acres and 50x70 workshop. A MUST SEE! Home Realtors, (432)263-1284.

**FOR SALE**, Lease or Rent: Nice 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home. Recently remodeled. Stove, refrigerator and dishwasher furnished. Call (432)263-1701, (432)466-3999.

**NEAR ELBOW** School, 2 bedroom 2 bath with 3 car garage on 2 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.

**OWNER FINANCED** 506 State 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large kitchen. \$1500 down, payment approx. \$240/month for 12 yrs. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

**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.

**CLASSIC 1975** Chevy Monza with factory V8. New exhaust & engine. \$5,000.00. Call (432)267-3564.

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Vehicles

Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** Mercury and Jupiter are working out their relationship, which grows more harmonious through the next few days.

**MERCURY** rules communication, and Jupiter is the planet of abundant good fortune. You probably have something to get off your chest, and the more you tell people, the better your chances are for making things happen quickly.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The omens urge you to follow the music of your Gypsy soul, especially if it means crossing a border or two. The unknown is discovered through the desire to know and by putting one foot in front of the other.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A flame that burned once can respark. That is to say, something is brewing in the area of romance. Treat yourself gently, and enjoy what's in front of you. This one will tap you on the shoulder.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Even though it's February, you're the secret Santa of the zodiac. Choose someone to bestow a kindness to and watch what happens when you give, a smile, a compliment or a gift. This small token will change your entire day.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your self-image becomes entangled in what loved ones are doing. Try to separate

who you are from how you are defined in your relationships. You're bigger than how one person sees you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're most effective at coaching yourself. Later in the day, it's companionship that makes even daunting tasks a lot of fun. Tonight, past misunderstandings can be cleared up if you'd only let others tell their side.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Intimidating figures figure into today's happenings. Instead of letting this shut you down, take it as an invitation to let your personality come out and play. Also, you're at the right place at the right time for love tonight.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Diversify. Let go of the known route in favor of the unknown, and you'll get the greatest amount of success in the shortest period of time. Another time saver is the pause you take to consider all sides before deciding.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whatever you focus on grows, and whatever you ignore shrinks. The family dynamic includes a power play. This is hard to disregard, but if you do, the problem will simply go away.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're a people-person who can get others to follow the plan. However, events require that you arrive on time, or it's better not to go at all. (You don't want to be remembered as the one who made everyone wait.)

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Leaps of faith may require you to stay in one place. Take hold of yourself, and trust the commitments you have

made. Your willingness to do so replaces the "zing" in a relationship that needed energy infusion.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You feel as though others are in charge of your schedule and, thus, your life. Turn down commitments willy-nilly. This leaves you with a blank schedule. It's time to make your own fun. Search for exciting events.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You are completely in tune with how much potential you have — even though others are not — and key changes help them realize it. Tweak your work environment until it motivates you to achieve more.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Denise Richards is a strong-willed Aquarian who is relatively unphased by the tabloid grilling of her recent divorce from Charlie Sheen. She's so focused on career and children that she doesn't have time to acknowledge prying eyes. Her work and focus pay off by the end of 2006, when she will find herself in a whirlwind of a new relationship — a new baby son will surely follow.

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

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