

## Statewide mental health forum here today

Public testimony may be given in the Allred Building auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### Special to the Herald

Testimony may be offered today at the Big Spring State Hospital on improving the mental health system in Texas during one of four statewide forums.

Public testimony will be presented from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

p.m. in the hospital's Allred Building auditorium, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87.

West Texas Centers for MHMR — the rural mental health authority for 23 counties in West Texas — is coordinating the daylong event, which got under way at 10 a.m. with an overview of crisis services.

State Health Services Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez, M.D., appointed the committee that will review the testimony and various presentations on mental health crisis services in Texas.

The purpose of the meetings is to hear comments from medical experts, local officials, com-

munity leaders and the public about how services are provided now and how they should be provided in the future.

Other hearings have been held in San Antonio and Austin. The fourth hearing will be held Monday in Harlingen.

Invited testimony will begin at 3 p.m. today, followed by a

dinner break. Public testimony will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the review committee represent emergency physicians, county commissioners, county probate courts, judges, sheriffs, police, hospitals, mental health and mental

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## College performance may impact high schools

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The state's rating system for public high schools could be modified to consider how their graduates perform in college, a school official said.

Under the accountability plan, a high school's ranking in the state accountability system could suffer if its graduates need remediation in college.

"It's part of the overall package to improve education and increase college-readiness standards," said DeEtta Culbertson, a Texas Education Agency spokeswoman. "We've already put in place a more rigorous curriculum and we're implementing several projects that are going to have an effect."

The state already tracks student performance from pre-kindergarten through college. Based on test scores and graduation rates, schools are ranked exemplary, recognized, academically acceptable or unacceptable.

Gov. Rick Perry in December proposed holding high schools accountable for student college performance. He also announced a \$71 million plan funded by philanthropists and the Texas Education Agency to boost science, math, engineering and technology programs at 35 disadvantaged high schools.

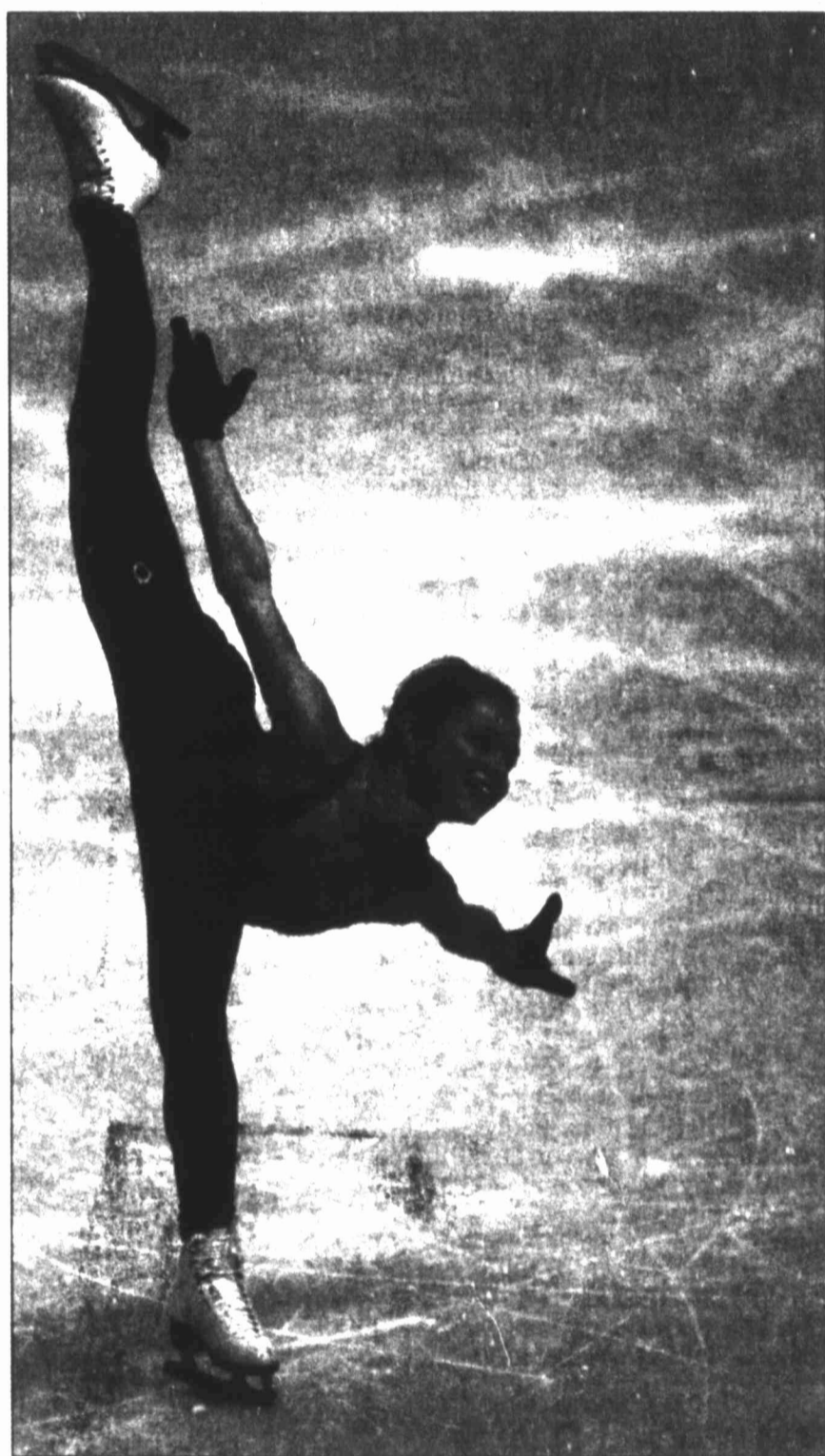
Culbertson said the accountability plan is in its early stages.

State education officials have to figure out who would be responsible for tracking the students and reporting the information, she said. There may also be privacy concerns that would hamper the program.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimated last year

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## GOING FOR GOLD



U.S. figure skater Sasha Cohen skates during a practice session at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Cohen is certainly hoping for a good result tonight, one that would bring the United States its third straight Olympic gold medal

Los Angeles Times photo/Wally Skelliff

## Coahoma ISD trustees approve calendar

### By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School trustees here gave their stamp of approval to the 2006-07 calendar during their monthly meeting Wednesday night in the administration building.

The new school year will begin in mid-August and end before Memorial Day, Superintendent

Jerry Johnson said.

Following a week of staff development, Aug. 14 will be first day of classes. Trustees approved the early start date in order to balance the new calendar, Johnson said.

"It allows us to finish the first semester before Christmas break," Johnson said. "That way, the kids won't have to come back from a two-week break and take

a test."

Among the highlights of the 2006-07 calendar are:

- Teacher "comp" days Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Jan. 5, 2007. If teachers have all their required staff-development training hours, these dates will be off days.

- School will be closed for Labor Day (Sept. 4), Thanksgiving (Nov. 22-24), Christmas and New Year's (Dec.

20-Jan. 5) and Easter (April 6).

- Bad weather days are slated for April 9 and May 7. If these days are not used by the school district by this time, they will be off days for both students and staff.

- Last day of classes will be May 25, 2007.

- In other business Wednesday,

See CISD, Page 3A

## Hangar plight

### To build or not to build, that's Moore's dilemma

### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Could a new aircraft hangar at the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark be the key to landing the next big industry in Big Spring? That may very well be the \$2 million question.

According to Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring Inc., a number of recent inquiries from aircraft and related companies looking for hangar space to locate their operations has him and the agency's board of directors looking into the possibility.

"In the last 18 months — more specifically in the last 12 months — we've had at least six aircraft or airliner-related prospects," said Sharp. "Two of them were very, very solid. They would have located here and brought

**"We have everything in place to put the building up. The real question of viability is can we get a prospect in there once the thing is built?"**

Sharp

with them the business they had already secured. One of them was with Southwest Jets and the regional jets like American Airlines and Continental are starting to fly. One was for paint

See HANGAR, Page 3A

## Heart Association Gala starts beating Saturday

The fund-raiser begins at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Sports fans will definitely have some items to bid on during this weekend's American Heart Association Gala, as tickets to several major sporting events have been secured for the event's auction.

Gala coordinator and local AHA board chairman Bobby Roever said the auction is truly shaping up to be something spectacular.

"We've got two tickets to a Dallas Mavericks basketball game up for auction," said Roever. "Those should be a pretty hot item. We also have two tickets to a Dallas Stars hockey game as well."

"We also have a one-night stay

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## Indecency case ends up in mistrial

### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A mistrial was declared Wednesday in 118th District Court after less than three hours of deliberation, putting the trial of a Big Spring man accused of indecency with a child back to square one.

The jury charged with deciding the fate of 29-year-old David Charles Patterson was polled by District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III

during the proceedings, with all jurors agreeing the chances of returning a verdict were nil.

"There were a few notes from the jury to the judge during the deliberation, mostly to the effect they were hung," said Howard County Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr. "In six years here, this is the first hung jury I've had."

"It really didn't come as a surprise. It's something

that's always a possibility. The jury was given two charges it could choose to find Patterson guilty of — indecency with a child or assault — or find him innocent. I'm not sure if that played a role in the jury being hung."

Orr said the jury was split 7-5, having begun deliberation at approximately 1:39 p.m. Wednesday, with the mistrial declared at approximately 4:15 p.m.

"The jury deliberated longer than it took for us to put on the evidence," said Orr. "That's something I think the judge took into consideration in declaring a mistrial."

Orr said the incident that led to Patterson's indictment allegedly took place July 10, 2004, in the northern park of Howard County.

"It allegedly happened dur-

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

Obituaries

Frances Marguerite Shirley



Frances Marguerite Shirley, 92, of Midland, passed away Monday, Feb. 20, 2006, at the Mabee Health Care Center. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. today, Feb. 23, 2006, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Larry Long of Fellowship Community Church and the Rev. Wade Cobb officiating.

Frances Marguerite Shirley was born March 29, 1913, in Sweetwater to Roy and Lucy Campbell, being one of 12 children. She married Foster Lando Shirley Aug. 16, 1931, in Shep. They celebrated 60 years of marriage before he preceded her in death December 1991.

They made their home in San Angelo for many years before moving to Big Spring in 1952. Frances was an accomplished and popular seamstress who sewed for the public and used her talents to create original designs for herself, her daughters and her grandchildren.

She provided a warm and welcome environment for her family and others who enjoyed her hospitality. She was an excellent hostess who loved cooking and entertaining everyone who visited her home. She adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In her early adulthood, she surrendered her life to Jesus Christ and faithfully served Him. Frances taught a kindergarten Sunday school class at Baptist Temple Church in Big Spring and she was also a member of First Baptist Church in Big Spring.

She is survived by two daughters, Mitzi Jordan and son-in-law, William T. Jordan of Texarkana, Donna Newsom and son-in-law, Bob Newsom of Midland; four grandchildren, Michael Newsom, Robin Wilson and David Newsom, all of Midland and Chris Jordan of Texarkana; six great-grandchildren of Midland and Andrews; and several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the Mabee Health Care Center and Home Hospice for their loving care and attention to Frances.

Honorary pallbearers were Tom Wilson, Jordan Wilson, David Newsom, Mike Newsom and Dustin Scott.

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

*Paid obituary*

Joe H. Ratliff

Joe H. Ratliff, 92, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, in a local retirement center. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Kerri Read Lane

Kerri Read Lane, 44, of Abilene, formerly of Coahoma, died Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- **HECTOR CASTANEDA**, 21, of 2504 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **FRANKLIN KYLE CASEY**, 44, of 1704 E. Fourth Street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of resisting arrest.
- **THERESA HARDEN**, 46, of 2106 Nolan, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
  - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **FORGERY** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION WITH INTENT TO COMMIT OTHER FELONY** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.

Sheriff's report

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

- **ROBERT PAUL LOWE**, 35, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of sexual assault of a child.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Andrews Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Northeast Ninth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported near the 179 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

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.

Take note

• **DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED** at Myer's and Smith Funeral Home to help with the funeral expenses of Margaret Johnson. For more information, call William Statham 213-1606.

• **VFW POST NO. 2013 NINTH ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER** is Saturday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the post, 500 Driver Road. Plates are \$6 and include all the chili fixings with dessert and a drink. Plates for children younger than 12 are \$3. Call David Leonard at 393-5667 for more information.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION** is at the Senior Center 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.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT THE VA MEDICAL CENTER** until 3:30 p.m. today. Call Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-4824.

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

• **PLANNING MEETING FOR THE WEST TEXAS PRODUCER'S AND FARMERS MARKET** is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday 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. Tuesday in

the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$10, available at the chamber until Friday. Call 263-7641 for more information.

• **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.

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

Around Town

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

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

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

Bulletin board

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

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

**FRIDAY**  
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets at 9 a.m. at 1019 Nolan St., and then travels to Midland at 9:30 a.m. to visit the Quilt Shop and have lunch. 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.  
• Spring City Senior Citizens 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**  
• American Heart Association Gala. Call 270-1383.  
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

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

**TUESDAY**  
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

**WEDNESDAY**  
• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.  
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

Weather

Tonight...Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s. Light and variable winds. The chance of rain is 30 percent.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the mid 70s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 6-22-23-27-29.  
Number matching five of five: 2.  
Prize per winner: \$16,309.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-9-5

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 7-15-25-28-29 Bonus Ball: 23

Estimated jackpot: \$7 million

Happy 90th Birthday Mother!!



Join us for a celebration in her honor

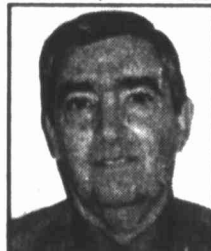
Saturday, February 25th 2-4 pm

At Garrett Hall First United Methodist Church

Given By Her Children

If you have any questions Call 267-8018

No Gifts Please!!



★ RE-ELECT ★  
**JERRY KILGORE**  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 2  
★★★★★★★

**JERRY KILGORE will:**

Work to promote increased efficiency and economy in county government through the continued use of sound business management principles.

- Insist on cooperation between county and city government.
- make every effort to support future growth and economic development of Howard County
- Support and understand the need for a strong county road system
- Be responsive to the needs and desires of the people of Howard County.

Vote For A Man Who Has Proven Leadership, Integrity and Responsibility And Who Will Continue The Revitalization Of The Functions And Properties Of Howard County.

Pub. Pol. Adv. by Jerry Kilgore, 2728 E. 28th, Big Spring, Texas 78720

BIG SPRING HERALD

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## 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  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Consider helping NIE effort

The Big Spring Herald is still in need of sponsors for its 2005-2006 Newspapers In Education program as the school year begins the move toward spring.

Currently, the Herald delivers 1,243 newspapers to school classrooms, where teachers use them as a tool to improve reading, writing and thinking skills. The teachers and students like them because of the focus on local issues and events.

"The newspaper is not only a true living history book of current events," Herald Publisher Susanne Reed noted, "it's also a tool for teachers to use in a variety of subjects."

We also like NIE because we believe it encourages students to become involved in the community. That's important, because our children are our community's future.

In addition, the NIE program is also intended to help create the newspaper reading habit in students.

We readily admit that having young people become newspaper readers enhances our business. It is our belief, however, that newspaper readers are the best-informed segment of our society. And by creating a life-long habit of newspaper reading, we make sure that tomorrow's voters and the leaders they elect are both well educated and well informed.

To deliver all these papers to schools costs money, of course. The schools are not charged. To keep this important tool free for teachers, the Herald annually asks for sponsors to help defray our cost.

Requests for sponsorships were sent to a number of Big Spring businesses some time ago and we have had some success through that effort. Among the corporate sponsors jumping in to help the students have been Alon USA, Big Spring Farm Supply, Western National Bank, the First Bank of West Texas, Rotary Club of Big Spring and Surety Title Company. As of yet, though, only a percentage of the \$10,000 targeted for the program has been secured. That's where you come in, we hope.

Gold sponsors are those that donate \$5,000 or more to the program; silver sponsors would be those contributing \$2,500; bronze sponsors contribute \$500; classroom sponsors provide \$125 to the program annually; and scholastic sponsors provide \$50.

As with any such program, however, even the smallest of donations is appreciated.

"That's why businesses that sign up to provide \$40 per month will be recognized as bronze sponsors," said Herald Circulation Manager Duane McCollum, who coordinates the program. "We recognize sponsors throughout the year."

Those interested in contributing to the program at any level can contact McCollum by calling 263-7331, ext. 244. He can also be contacted for more information by e-mail at circulation@bigspringherald.com.

Thank you for helping us help our community's future leaders.

## Looking at the happiness gap

It's been a rough couple of weeks. Hamas won the Palestinian elections; protests over cartoons representing the prophet Muhammad raged around the world; more Americans and Iraqis were killed by suicide bombers; new Abu Ghraib photos were released; and, here at home, the vice president got violent.

But despite the trying times, we Americans are managing to keep our spirits up. Last week, the Pew Research Center released a report on happiness in the United States. Of the Americans surveyed, 34 percent informed researchers that they were "very happy," while another 50 percent reported that they were "pretty happy." That's a happiness record in which our nation can take pride.

More than 200 years ago, our forefathers broke new ground by insisting, in the Declaration of Independence, that "the pursuit of happiness" was an inalienable right, sharing pride of place with "life" and "liberty." If the founders could see us today, I bet they'd be proud of the 84 percent of Americans who consider themselves happy campers.

Admittedly, some of us have made more progress than others when it comes to the pursuit of happiness. For instance, 45 percent of Republicans were "very happy," compared to only 30 percent of Democrats. White evangelical churchgoers were also particularly cheery lot, with 49 percent reporting themselves "very happy."

Meanwhile, poor people and black people tend, like Democrats, to be party poopers. Those with family incomes under \$30,000 were only half as likely as those with family incomes over \$100,000 to be "very happy," and blacks were almost twice as likely as whites to insist churlishly that they were "not too happy."

Not that this is surprising. Everyone knows that poor people, minorities and Democrats are always carping about racial and economic inequality, war, torture, the deficit, our lack of preparation for terrorist attacks and natural disasters, blah, blah, blah — all



ROSA BROOKS

**No matter how patriotically dedicated you are to the pursuit of happiness, it really is hard to be totally happy when there are all those naysayers out there, people who keep trying to make you focus on depressing stuff such as corruption in government, instability in the Middle East and the image of Dick Cheney, armed and dangerous.**

real downers. Meanwhile, happy people — exemplified by President Bush — resist all that negativity and stay focused on the good news.

So if you're one of those "very happy" Americans, clap your hands! Or, at least, pat yourself on the back, because you've got a lot to look forward to. Happy people have stronger immune systems than the gloom-and-doom crowd, and they may be more successful in life. As scholars Sonja Lyubomirsky, Laura King and Ed Diener conclude in a recent Psychological Bulletin article, "happiness, rooted in personality and in past successes, leads to approach behaviors that often lead to further successes." In other words, happiness doesn't just result from success: It may actually cause success. Now there's something to be happy about!

I know. It's not that easy, is it? Because no matter how patriotically dedicated you are to the pursuit of happiness, it really is hard to be totally happy when there are all those naysayers out there, people who keep trying to make you focus on depressing stuff such as corruption in government, instability in the Middle East and the image of Dick Cheney, armed and dangerous.

But if you're feeling bad, here's something to cheer you up: Some social psychology researchers insist that, at least in certain contexts, unhappy people may be more successful than "What, me worry?" types. That's because happy people tend to rely on what psychologists call "heuristic shortcuts" when performing tasks and making decisions. In English, this means that happy people rely

more on stereotypes and simplistic assumptions, while less happy people are more willing to think through each problem on its own terms.

Relying on heuristics has benefits; not least, it increases efficiency in decision-making. But it has hazards, too. Especially in situations that present new, unique or complex challenges, relying on heuristics can lead happy people into "cognitive errors" that gloomier folks can more easily avoid. Happy people, for instance, may be more likely to rely on ethnic and social stereotypes when evaluating individuals, and happy people also may be more inclined to fall back on simplistic political ideology in lieu of analysis.

All this leads some psychologists to conclude that whether happiness is good or bad depends largely on the context. Thus, psychologists Richard Lucas and Ed Diener note that "mildly dysphoric individuals" (a.k.a. "unhappy people") "are likely to underperform in leadership or social tasks" — meaning you wouldn't really want to hire them as camp counselors. But those same unhappy people "might excel in jobs . . . where constant vigilance for possible problems is absolutely essential."

Lucas and Diener suggest, for instance, that less happy people might do better than happy-go-lucky types when it comes to jobs such as "monitoring a nuclear power plant." Or reconstructing Iraq, or leading the Free World.

But don't let me rain on your parade.

Rosa Brooks is an associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law.

## Why not teach to the test?

All signs point to 2006 being a crucial year for testing in America, with the first national results from the new SAT due, as well as significant changes underway in how states use the tests that rate schools under the No Child Left Behind law. If only, then, we could figure out a way to speak clearly to each other about what we think of the many tests our children are taking. Let's start by trying to clarify what I consider the most deceptive phrase in education today: "teaching to the test."

Teaching to the test, you may have heard, is bad, very bad. I got 59.2 million hits when I did a Google search for the phrase, and most of what I read was unfriendly. Teaching to the test made children sick, one article said. Others said it rendered test scores meaningless or had a dumbing effect on instruction. All of that confused me, since in 23 years of visiting classrooms I have yet to see any teacher preparing kids for exams in ways that were not careful, sensible and likely to produce more learning.

There are, of course, ways to teach to the test that are bad for kids and that occur now and then in schools. Principals afraid that their scores would look bad have forced teachers to go over the same questions from old tests day after day. But there is no evidence that this happens often. Strong teachers usually raise a ruckus, administrators back down and everybody goes back to the traditional lesson reviews that all good teachers use.

When we say "teaching to the test," we should acknowledge that we are usually not talking about those drill fests. Rather, we often use the phrase to refer to any course that prepares students for one of the annual state assessment exams required under the No Child Left Behind Act. For reasons that escape me, we never say a teacher is "teaching to the test" if

**They are teaching not to the test but to the state standards — a long list of things students are supposed to learn in each subject area, as approved by the state school board.**



JAY MATHEWS

she's using a test she wrote herself. We share the teacher's view that what she is doing is helping students learn the material, not ace the test. But if she is preparing the class for an exam written by some outsider, the thinking goes, then she must be forced to adhere to someone else's views on teaching and thus is likely to present the material too quickly, too thinly, too prescriptively, too joylessly — add your own favorite unattractive adverb.

Yet if you asked the thousands of educators who have written the questions for the state tests that allegedly produce all these terrible classroom practices, they would tell you their objective is the same as the classroom teacher's: to help kids learn.

And if you watched the best teachers at work, as I have many times, you would see them treating the state test as nothing more than another useful guide and motivator, with no significant change in the way they present their lessons.

Those who complain are not really talking about teaching to the state test. Unless teachers sneak into the counseling office and steal a copy, which can get them fired, they don't know what's on the test.

They are teaching not to the test but to the state standards — a

long list of things students are supposed to learn in each subject area, as approved by the state school board.

Hardly anybody complains about teaching to a standard. Teacher-turned-author Susan Ohanian is trying to change this, and she refers to all advocates of learning standards as "Standardistos." But she has not made much headway, mostly because standards make sense to parents like me. We are not usually included in discussions of testing policy, but we tend to vote in large numbers, and everybody knows that any governor or president who came out against standards for schools and learning would soon be looking for work in the private sector.

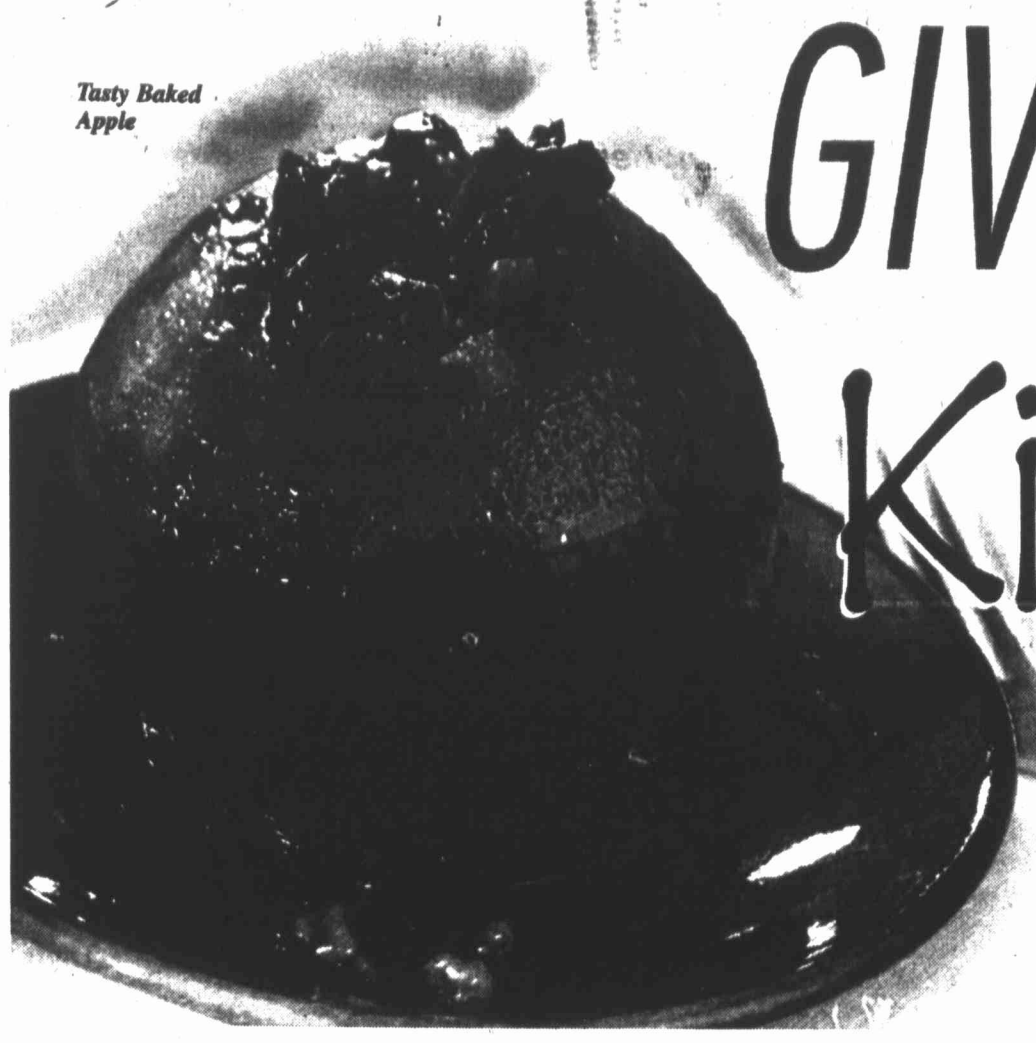
So why do we still talk about how terrible it is to teach to the test? I think it comes from our fear of the unknown. Those of us who are not teachers don't know what is going on in our children's classrooms.

And teachers don't know what harm might come to them from the test results, as interpreted by often-wrongheaded people such as principals, superintendents, politicians and, particularly, parents.

Conversations about this would go more smoothly if we didn't have such distorted views of what teaching to the test means. We might instead turn the discussion to what methods of instruction work best or how much time our children should spend studying.

In some classes, such as the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge courses, the need to prepare for a challenging exam outside of the teacher's control has often produced a remarkable new form of teamwork. Teacher and students work together to beat an exam that requires thought and analysis, not just memorization. If that is teaching to the test, let's have more of it.

Jay Mathews covers education for The Washington Post



Tasty Baked Apple

# GIVING

# Kid-Friendly Foods

# A HEALTHIER EDGE

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

**F**eeding your children healthy, balanced meals can be a major challenge at times. But your efforts in overcoming this challenge can pay off when it comes to the health of your kids' hearts. What you do today can set their future health status as adults on the right track.

According to government sources, about 10 percent of adolescents ages 12 to 19 already have high cholesterol levels (a key risk factor for heart disease).

With better eating habits, you can help reverse the statistics. Making sure children eat a heart-healthy diet is very important — and many leading health organizations agree. The best diets for families with children over the age of two should include: 1) foods low in saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol and total fat; 2) a variety of foods for a total diet balanced in carbohydrates, protein and other nutrients; and 3) only enough calories to maintain a healthy weight for one's height and build.

Looking for something simple that can help? Try soft, squeeze or spray margarine spread instead of butter. Since butter contains cholesterol and much more saturated fat, replace the butter with a soft margarine spread that has no cholesterol, no trans fat and 2 or less grams of saturated fat per serving. These kinds of margarine spreads are in step with recommendations from heart-health organizations including the government's National Cholesterol Education Program. According to government sources, it is preferable to use a soft or liquid (squeeze or spray) margarine spread in place of butter as part of a heart-healthy diet.

**Use a soft, squeeze or spray margarine spread in place of butter as part of a heart-healthy diet.**

More information on the importance of establishing heart-healthy eating patterns early in life can be found at [www.never2early.org](http://www.never2early.org). The Never2Early Campaign was initiated to help consumers, especially parents of young children, understand that risk factors for heart disease can start developing in the early years. The primary focus of the campaign is on eating a heart-healthy diet starting at the age of two. Since millions of children already have elevated cholesterol levels, it is important for parents to know that eating a heart-healthy diet can significantly reduce the chance of developing unhealthy levels of cholesterol.

**SHOPPING HINT: Look at the Nutrition Facts panel to make sure the margarine spread you select has 2 or less grams saturated fat, no trans fat and no cholesterol.**



Quick Confetti Corn

**M**argarine spreads consistent with heart-health recommendations are used in these recipes that the whole family can enjoy. Not only are the Sweet Spiced Tortilla Chips baked (not fried), they are a surprising change from the salty potato chips children often select. Who can resist the goodness provided by an "apple a day" in the form of Tasty Baked Apples? And the Quick Confetti Corn is just that — quick — but it also provides fiber and polyunsaturated fats found in the margarine spread as well as the corn.

### Tasty Baked Apples

4 servings  
Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

- 1 cup water
- 4 tea bags (black or green tea)
- 4 large baking apples (such as Rome or Golden Delicious), cored
- 1/4 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 2 tablespoons raisins (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 teaspoons I Can't Believe It's Not Butter! Spread with Calcium

Preheat oven to 350°F. In 1-quart saucepan, bring water to a boil; remove from heat. Add tea bags and brew 1-1/2 minutes, dunking occasionally. Remove tea bags and squeeze; set aside. Peel top 1/3 of apples. In 8-inch square baking dish, arrange apples, peeled end up; set aside. In small bowl, combine brown sugar, walnuts, raisins and cinnamon. Evenly spoon walnut mixture into center of apples, then evenly top with Spread. Pour tea over and around apples. Bake uncovered, basting occasionally, 1 hour or until apples are tender.

### Quick Confetti Corn

4 servings  
Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 6 minutes

- 1 tablespoon I Can't Believe It's Not Butter! Spread (tub)
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 cups frozen whole kernel corn
- 2 sliced green onions
- 2 tablespoons milk
- Pinch cayenne pepper

In 2-quart saucepan, melt Spread over medium heat and cook red pepper 2 minutes or until softened. Stir in corn, green onions, milk and cayenne. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until corn is tender. Season with salt if desired.

### Sweet Spiced Tortilla Chips

48 chips  
Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 8 minutes

- 1/4 cup Shedd's Spread Country Crock Plus Yogurt, melted
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 6 burrito-size flour tortillas

Preheat oven to 425°F. In small bowl, blend all ingredients except tortillas. Brush mixture on one side of each tortilla; cut each into 8 wedges. On lightly greased baking sheets, arrange tortilla wedges in single layer. Bake 8 minutes or until golden and crisp. Cool on wire rack or serve warm. Store in airtight container.

**MEXICAN SPICED TORTILLA CHIPS:** Omit sugar and cinnamon. Blend Spread with 3/4 teaspoon chili powder, 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Continue as above.

# Mazda3: Good value, plus fun to drive

By Steven Cole Smith

The Orlando Sentinel

They don't get the attention — or the sales — of comparable models from Toyota and Honda, but don't overlook the Mazda3 and its bigger brother, the Mazda6.

Both cars offer genuine value and, when outfitted in their sportier trim, serve up a fun-to-drive factor that rivals German cars.

Case in point: The 2006 Mazda3s. Though the engine and transmission aren't quite as refined as the new Honda Civic Si — which, incidentally, only comes as a two-door coupe — the Mazda3 sedan is at least as much fun to drive, and it has four doors. Its 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine has 160 horsepower, 37 fewer than the Civic Si's 2.0-liter engine, but the difference doesn't feel that big, likely due in part to the Mazda's 11 extra foot-pounds of torque.

The Mazda3 comes as a regular four-door sedan, such as the test car, or as a four-door hatchback. The base Mazda3i has a 2.0-liter, 150-horsepower four-cylinder, while the sportier Mazda3s has a 2.3-liter engine. The hatchback model gets only the 2.3.

Base price of the test car, a Touring model, was \$17,615, and that

buys a lot of standard equipment, such as side and side-curtain air bags, P205/50R-17 radials on alloy wheels, an AM/FM stereo with CD player and six speakers, cruise control, disc brakes with anti-lock, keyless entry, air conditioning and power locks, mirrors and windows. Options were a power sunroof and a six-disc CD changer, offered as a \$890

package. With shipping, the total was \$19,065. That's with the five-speed manual transmission; a five-speed automatic adds \$950. Mileage with the five-speed manual is an EPA-rated 26 mpg in the city.

Inside, the instruments are nicely placed, but I'm not a fan of

the sound-system layout, which revolves around a huge on-off/volume button. The front cloth-covered bucket seats are pretty comfortable, and the gearshift lever is in just the right place. The



2006 Mazda3

Mazda3s feels very familiar, very quickly. Rear-seat room is about average for a car this size, as is trunk space. One complaint: On the second speed, the fan for the air conditioning is loud. On the fourth and highest speed, you'll reach for the

stereo volume button.

The Mazda3s is certainly happy in the city, and it gives a very good ride on the highway, even on rough pavement. It's most in its element, though, on winding roads, where you can give the independent suspension a workout. Handling is excellent, much more neutral than most front-wheel-drive cars.

The Mazda3 went on sale in December 2003, as a 2004 model, and as the replacement for the Protege. It still looks and feels fresh but has been around long enough for buyers to expect a discount, making an appealing car even more so.

## Mazda3 s

Base price: \$16,615.  
Price as tested: \$19,065.

EPA rating: 26 mpg city, 32 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive sedan with a 2.3-liter, 160-horsepower 4-cylinder engine with a 5-speed manual transmission.



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# Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Page 1B  
Thursday, February 23, 2006

## Robinson's gem, Fonseca's bat lead Hawks to sweep

• Howard improves to 6-2 with two one-run wins in Abilene

By TROY HYDE

ABILENE — The Howard College baseball team used strong hitting and a big-time pitching performance to get two wins over a good Vernon College team Wednesday in Abilene at Hunter Field.

The Hawks got 10 hits — three from freshman David Fonseca — and found a way to get past three errors in the field and won Game 1, 7-6, and then Ryan Robinson

improved to 2-0 on the mound in Game 2 as he threw a gem and the Hawks won, 2-1.

Howard, which improved to 6-2 on the season, got down early in Game 1 as Vernon scored one run in the top of the third. The Hawks tied the game in fourth with a run of their own and each team scored two runs in the fifth to make it, 3-3.

The key inning for Howard came in the bottom of the sixth as the Hawks sent four runners past the plate and then held Vernon to three runs in its final at-bat.

Sophomore Eamonn Donovan pitched well on

the mound, but had nothing to show for it as his start resulted in a no decision. He threw five innings, gave up three hits and three unearned runs and struck out six batters, while walking four.

Freshman Scottie Moore got the win as he threw 1.2 innings of relief and improved to 2-0 on the year. He gave up three runs on four hits and struck out two. Adrian Bermudez picked up the save as he recorded the final out of the game.

Fonseca had an RBI to go along with his three hits. Barrett Lowenstein had two hits, including a

double, and scored a run, while sophomore Gabe Marchant went one-for-two with a triple, an RBI and a stolen base. He also scored twice.

Sophomore Darby Brown, who is hitting a team-best .517 at the plate so far this season, went one-for-three with two RBIs and a walk, but he also struck out twice. Freshman Dustin Dallas got a hit and an RBI and scored twice.

James Simmons led Vernon as he got two hits and had two RBIs. Louie Romero scored twice. Blake Coon pitched in relief as he took the loss on the mound, giving up

four runs — three earned — and recording just one out.

Both teams got seven hits at the plate in Game 2 as the pitchers took over. The difference in the game was two errors by Vernon as the Hawks won another close one.

Howard scored both of its runs in the first inning and held on to win 2-1 as Vernon scored its run in the bottom of the sixth.

Robinson threw all seven innings and gave up one earned run as he walked one and struck out three. Vernon's Jameson Maj was equally

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Little League signups needed, signups days announced

Little League signups for the upcoming season are taking place at the Big Spring Mall.

The signups will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. tonight 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).

B.S. Country Club sets scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will host a four-person scramble Saturday and Sunday.

The tournament will begin a shotgun at 1 p.m. on both days and the cost is \$75 to enter per player plus the cost of a golf cart. However, private carts are welcome.

The entry fee includes a BBQ on the course both days and practice rounds will be available Friday, but the cost of a cart will be extra.

The field will be flighted by first-round score. The number of flights determined the number of entries.

For more information or to enter a team, call the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

Bonds answers questions about baseball future

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Barry Bonds provided more questions than answers when he arrived at spring training.

He said he didn't know if he'd be ready for opening day, was uncertain about whether he would play next year and raised the possibility that he might not be the same slugger of old.

Bonds caused a stir in the past week when he gave two conflicting interviews — telling USA Today he was ready to retire at the end of the season and MLB.com that he felt good enough to play 10 more years.

Knicks trade for guard Francis

NEW YORK (AP) — Steve Francis was traded from the Orlando Magic to the New York Knicks for Penny Hardaway and Trevor Ariza.

Francis, who was averaging 16.3 points to lead the Magic, has feuded with coach Brian Hill this season. By dealing him for Hardaway's expiring contract, Orlando will get salary cap relief after this season.

The Knicks also acquired Jalen Rose from Toronto for Antonio Davis Feb. 2 in hopes of a playoff

## Cohen takes slim lead into tonight's free skate in Turin

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer  
TURIN, Italy (AP) — Sasha Cohen is saving the drama for the women's final.

A day after making the unusual decision to skip both of her practices, the U.S. champion spoiled a budding soap opera when she showed up for her final warm-up at the Palavela Thursday morning.

Cohen looked strong and fit, doing a light run-through of her program before working on her triple jumps, spirals and spins. She struggled with her triple flip, falling on one and stepping out of another before landing a clean one. Her spins were consistent and her spirals were solid — certainly not the look of someone struggling with an injury.

She left the ice briefly late in the session, but it appeared to be for an equipment problem, and she finished the practice by working on her footwork and presentation.

"We have an understanding of what is good

for her and what produces good results," John Nicks, Cohen's coach, said after she skipped her practices Wednesday.

And Cohen is certainly hoping for a good result Thursday night, one that would bring the United States its third straight Olympic gold medal. Cohen won the short program, but her lead is razor-thin.

She's ahead of two-time world champion Irina Slutskaya of Russia by only .03 points. Former world champion Shizuka Arakawa trails Cohen by .71.

"I was just looking at the points, and boy, is it close," said Carol Heiss Jenkins, the 1960 gold medalist and coach of Japan's Miki Ando, who is eighth. "I think they all have a chance."

Cohen has a reputation of being as headstrong as she is talented. She has had plenty of chances like these, only to fall apart and come up short. The 2003 and 2004 national championships. The 2004 world championships.



Sasha Cohen, of the USA, hugs her coach John Nicks after her performance in the ladies short program at the Palavela in the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, Tuesday. Cohen is in first place heading into tonight's Ladies' Free skate.

The Salt Lake City Olympics.

Each time she went into the free skate with a chance to win. And each time she faltered.

She went to the 2003 national championships as the strongest skater in the world, but wound up third after doing only five clean triple jumps and falling once. She won the short program at the 2004 nationals, but botched two jumps in the free and finished second.

She also won the short program at the 2004 worlds, but a couple of shaky landings and a two-

footed triple salchow spoiled her shot at gold.

And at the Salt Lake City Olympics, Cohen was in third after the short program but dropped to fourth — off the medals podium — with a sloppy free skate.

She did win her first national title this year, but it was like a pro competing against amateurs. Michelle Kwan skipped nationals with a groin injury, and teenagers Kimmie Meissner and Emily Hughes are nowhere near her class.

"I was a different person, a different athlete,"

Cohen said of her past failures. "I've learned and matured so much and learned how to handle the nerves a bit better since then. I've just evolved."

And figured out what works for her.

Cohen ditched Nicks after Salt Lake City and headed to the East Coast, working first with Tatiana Tarasova and then Robin Wagner. Both helped her grow as a skater, but neither could give her a champion's heart.

It wasn't until she

See COWEN, Page 2B

## OUT OF CONTENTION



USA Mathieu Schneider (23) skates by as Finland celebrates a 4-3 win over the USA during a quarterfinal game in men's ice hockey Wednesday in Turin, Italy during the 2006 Winter Olympics. The USA, which was picked to win the silver medal, is now eliminated from medal contention. The gold medal favorite, Canada, also lost.

### Playoff games at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

- Friday
- Haskell vs. Wink, 6 p.m. Class 1A Area Championship
  - Levelland vs. Clyde, 8 p.m. Class 3A Area Championship

### Tonight's Area Lineup

- Howard College basketball @ South Plains, 5:50 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.
- Big Spring softball @ Midland Tournament El Paso El Dorado, 5 p.m. (field 3) El Paso Hanks, 9 p.m. (field 8)
- Foran softball @ Midland Tournament Coahoma JV, 5 p.m. (field 1) Abilene Copper JV, 9 p.m. (field 1)

## Tennessee hangs on, gets big road victory

(AP) — Dane Bradshaw liked beating Florida so much the first time, he did it again.

The junior guard converted a turnover by the Gators into a game-winning layup for Tennessee for the second time this season.

On Wednesday night, it came with 15 seconds to play and gave the 10th-ranked Volunteers the lead in a 76-72 win over the 12th-ranked Gators.

He also did it last month, when his last-minute layup gave Tennessee the home win and ended the Gators' 17-game winning streak to start the season.

"Who else would make the play to win the game?" first-year Vols coach Bruce Pearl said. "It was obviously a gamble, but it was one that paid off."

Corey Brewer committed both turnovers, the latest on an inbounds pass with 18 seconds to play and the game tied at 72.

The pass was intended for Al Horford. Bradshaw stole it, spun around Taurean Green near the free-throw line and

scored the winning basket.

"I should have called time out," Brewer said. "I thought about it and everything started going fast. I made a bad play."

Brewer, who finished with 17 points, missed a 3-pointer on the other end with about 3 seconds to play. Chris Lofton added two free throws for the final margin.

Brewer's costly turnover in Knoxville came when he was driving for the winner. Lofton stole the ball and Bradshaw scored on the other end to start a wild celebration.

Tennessee (20-4, 11-2) clinched the Eastern Division's No. 1 seed in next month's Southeastern Conference tournament and secured its first series sweep of Florida (22-5, 8-5) since 2000.

"It was more than a statement game," Bradshaw said. "It was a championship game for us. We wanted to be able to control our own destiny, which we've been able to do. This win on

See ROUNDUP, Page 2B

**ROUNDUP**

Continued from Page 1B

the road was huge for us."

Lofton had 16 points, Bradshaw 15 and C.J. Watson 13 as the three guards combined to score 44 points on 16-of-34 shooting for Tennessee, which was 11-of-21 from 3-point range.

Joakim Noah led the Gators with 20 points, nine rebounds and five blocks before getting a tooth knocked out with about 2 minutes to play.

The Vols led 69-66 with 1:28 to play before Brewer tied it with a 3-pointer. JaJuan Smith hit a 3 for Tennessee seconds later. Brewer then missed a 3-pointer, but Horford got the rebound and handed it to Lee Humphrey, who hit his only 3-pointer of the night for the final tie.

"No one likes losing, but it's great for our basketball team to go through this," Florida coach Billy Donovan said.

**No. 1 Duke 73, Georgia Tech 66**

Shelden Williams had 26 points and 11 rebounds and J.J. Redick overcome a horrid start to score 22 points for the Blue Devils (26-1, 14-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won of their last 21 against Georgia Tech.

Redick entered with a chance to become the ACC's career scoring leader, but he missed 15 of his first 17 shots. Redick, who did hit the

go-ahead jumper with 8:51 remaining, needs nine points to break the ACC mark of 2,587 set by Wake Forest's Dickie Hemric 51 years ago.

Jeremis Smith finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Yellow Jackets (10-15, 3-11), who have lost three straight and 11 of 12.

**No. 4 Memphis 66, UTEP 56**

Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 17 points and the Tigers (25-2, 11-0 Conference USA) won their 14th straight.

Jason Williams had 18 points for the Miners (17-7, 9-2), who lost for only the second time in 12 games.

UTEP played most of the game without leading scorer and rebounder John Tofi, who sprained his right knee with 8:39 remaining in the first half. Tofi, who averages 14.5 points and 9.5 rebounds, was removed on a stretcher after about a 10-minute delay.

**No. 6 George Washington 77, La Salle 65**

Regis Koundjia scored 13 points to lead five George Washington players in double figures and the Colonials (23-1, 13-0 Atlantic 10) extended the nation's longest winning streak to 15 games.

Pops Mensah-Bonsu twisted his left knee in the first half and played only 13 minutes, scoring 10 points.

Darnell Harris had 19 points for La Salle (17-8, 9-

**Men's top 25 Roundup**

5), which had a seven-game winning streak ended and lost for the 11th straight time at the Smith Center.

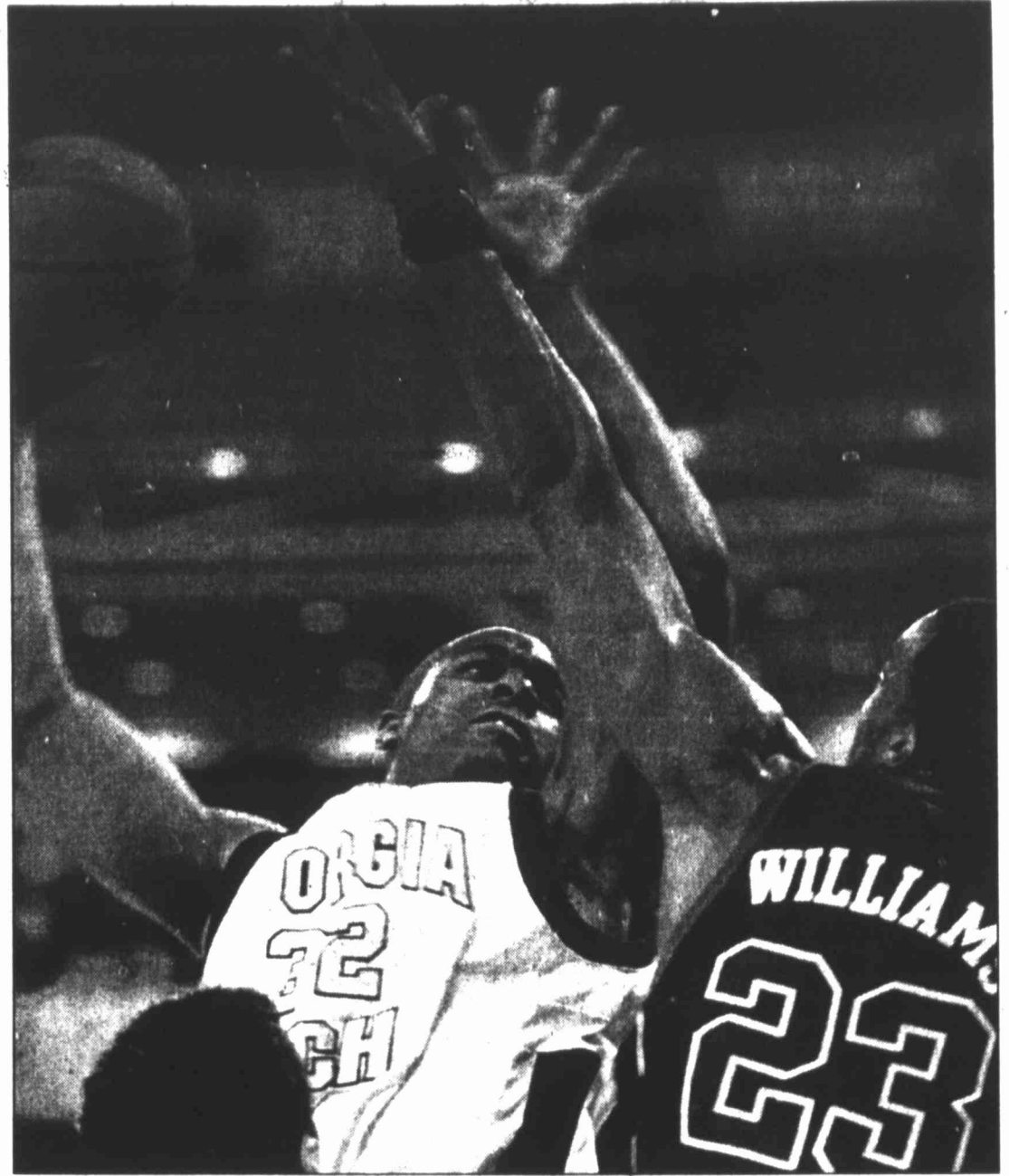
**No. 7 Texas 65, Kansas St. 64**

LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points and Kenton Paulino went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 16 seconds as the Longhorns (23-4, 11-2 Big 12) avoided a second straight loss. Paulino had 11 points and went 8-for-8 from the line for Texas, which was coming off an 81-60 loss at Oklahoma State on Sunday.

Lance Harris had 18 points for Kansas State (14-10, 5-8), which lost to Texas at home for the first time in Jim Woodriddle's six seasons as coach. David Hoskins scored to bring the Wildcats within 61-60 with 3:01 to go, but Kansas State didn't score again until Hoskins made a free throw with 3.7 seconds left to make it 63-61.

**No. 13 Ohio St. 79, No. 18 Michigan St. 68**

Terence Dials scored 19 points inside and Ohio State (20-4, 9-4 Big Ten) hit 11 3-pointers in snapping the Spartans' 15-game home winning streak. Je'Kel Foster had 17 points for the Buckeyes, who tied Iowa for first place in the Big Ten and snapped a 10-game losing streak in the Breslin Center.



KRT photo/Jenni Girtman, Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
Georgia Tech's Jeremis Smith (32) works unsuccessfully to score over Duke's Shelden Williams (23) who grabbed the rebound for Duke in second half action during Duke's 73-66 win over the Yellow Jackets at Alexander Memorial Coliseum in Atlanta, Ga., Wednesday.

**COHEN**

Continued from Page 1B

returned to California and Nicks in late 2004 that Cohen grew up. While she admits she dreams about a gold medal "a couple of times a day," it's no longer the only thing driving her.

"It's not always about being the most talented, it's about sticking it out. This sport rewards the tough people," Cohen said. "I've been working really hard at staying strong and being positive. That and enjoying every moment of the process."

Even the unusual ones. Nicks said Cohen skipped her practices Wednesday because she was tired. She didn't get back to the athletes' village until late Tuesday night, and then had trouble falling asleep. When she finally did, it was a fitful rest.

"I thought she should practice," Nicks said. "Then, when I heard of her rest issues, I thought she shouldn't do it."

And no, she's not injured. Cohen had her right leg wrapped Tuesday night and wore an ice pack after the short program, but Nicks said

it's nothing unusual. "She has occasional muscle problems and uses a lot of ice," he added, dispelling questions about a possible groin injury. "There is nothing untoward. She has a few aches, a few pains, as we all do when we get older."

She hopes to have something much better soon: an Olympic gold medal.

"Knowing Sasha, it's probably a little more of an attitude of, 'OK, this is going to be my Olympics,'" Heiss Jenkins said. "You have to think that way. It isn't conceit, it's confidence."

**HOWARD**

Continued from Page 1B

impressive, but couldn't pitch around two errors. He threw

six innings and gave up one earned run and seven hits and struck out eight batters.

Fonseca again led the offense with two hits, one RBI and a run.



Marchant scored the other run as he singled in the first inning and stole second base. Brown, Lowenstein, sophomore Will Basom and sophomore Jeff Storms all got

one hit as well. Dane Carter and Kyle Paul each got two hits to lead Vernon. Carter scored the team's only run.

Howard will next play a doubleheader in Weatherford Saturday starting at 3 p.m.

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NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services Big Spring

Tomorrow's Horoscope

This Capricorn moon is serious and strategic — she has to be. She considers it her job to help us find our way to the finish line of a project.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars ask: Can you be subtle? Diplomatic? Discreet? You may want to speak your mind, but wait until you're asked.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're walking a fine line. On the one side, you want to believe in your loved ones' capacity to for change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter where you go, the sky is still blue. Recognize what you have. Kid gloves come in handy to deal with a delicate situation in the work place.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your need for acceptance, love and validation is strong — so that makes you just like everyone else. Keeping this in mind, you spend your day giving others what they need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You think it will make your life easier to hire experts to do what you don't have the time or inclination to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Offer your insight to one who looks up to you. Keep it simple and straightforward. Your to-the-point guidance is invaluable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Regarding that troubled relationship: There is much that is still possible. Don't give up unless you feel you are unwilling to do things differently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll come face-to-face with a fascinating personality — that is, if you get out of your normal routine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no such thing as a happy medium today — or ever, as far as you're concerned. Medium is just sad.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Much is said of you. What really matters is who is saying it. Get to the source. You are quite disarming.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Since birds of a feather flock together, you should find yourself some fellow peacocks to be with today — you've got stuff to strut.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's what you choose "not" to say that is most impressive. High-class people "get" you — your discretion is mysterious and inviting.

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Nissan Winter Sale New Vehicles Arriving Daily! Huge Savings On All Cars - Trucks And SUV's Example: #584 MSRP - \$25,540 Customer Cash - \$2,750 Dealer Savings - \$2,495 Sale Price +TTL \$20,295 We Need Good Trade-Ins We'll Put Top Money In Your Trade #780 MSRP - \$36,495 Customer Cash - \$2,000 Dealer Savings - \$2,500 Sale Price +TTL \$31,995 Bob Brock Nissan 500 W. 4th St. 267-7424

Big Spring Herald Classifieds sidebar with various small ads and contact information.

THURSDAY

Table with 13 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



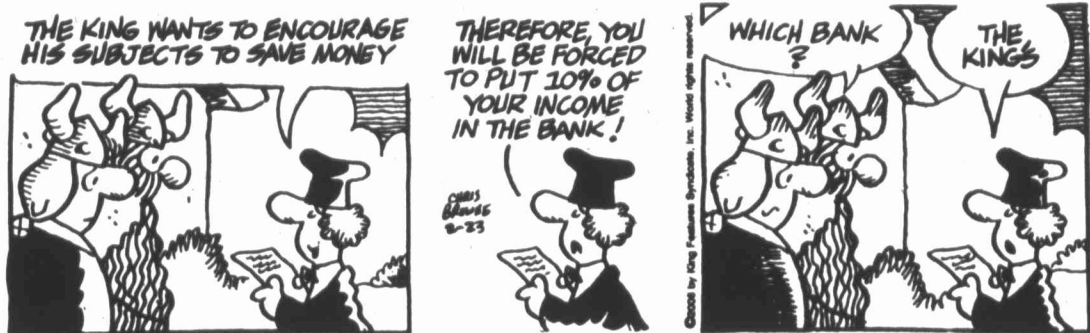
"SORRY, MR. WILSON. I WAS AIMIN' FOR THE MOON!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I have to go in. My mom thinks I'm cold."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2006. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised the American flag.
On this date:
In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.
In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio.
In 1847, U.S. troops under Gen. Zachary Taylor defeated Mexican Gen. Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista in Mexico.
In 1861, President-elect Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, an assassination plot having been foiled in Baltimore.
In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.
In 1905, the first Rotary Club service organization

was founded in Chicago by Paul Harris.

In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded the Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

One year ago: A jury was selected in Santa Maria, Calif., to decide Michael Jackson's fate on charges that he'd molested a teenage boy at his Neverland Ranch. (Jackson was later acquitted.) President Bush and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder agreed to turn down the volume on their disagreements about Iraq and Iran. French film star Simone Simon died in Paris at age 93.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Fonda is 66. Author John Sandford is 62. Singer-musician Johnny Winter is 62. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 60. Actress

Patricia Richardson is 55. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 54. Singer Howard Jones is 51. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 44. Country singer Dusty Drake is 42. Actress Kristin Davis is 41. Tennis player Helena Sukova is 41. Actor Marc Price is 38. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 35. Country singer Steve Holy is 34. Rock musician Lasse Johansson (The Cardigans) is 33. Actress Dakota Fanning is 12.

Thought for Today: "If you wish to avoid seeing a fool you must first break your mirror." - Francois Rabelais, French satirist (1494-1553).

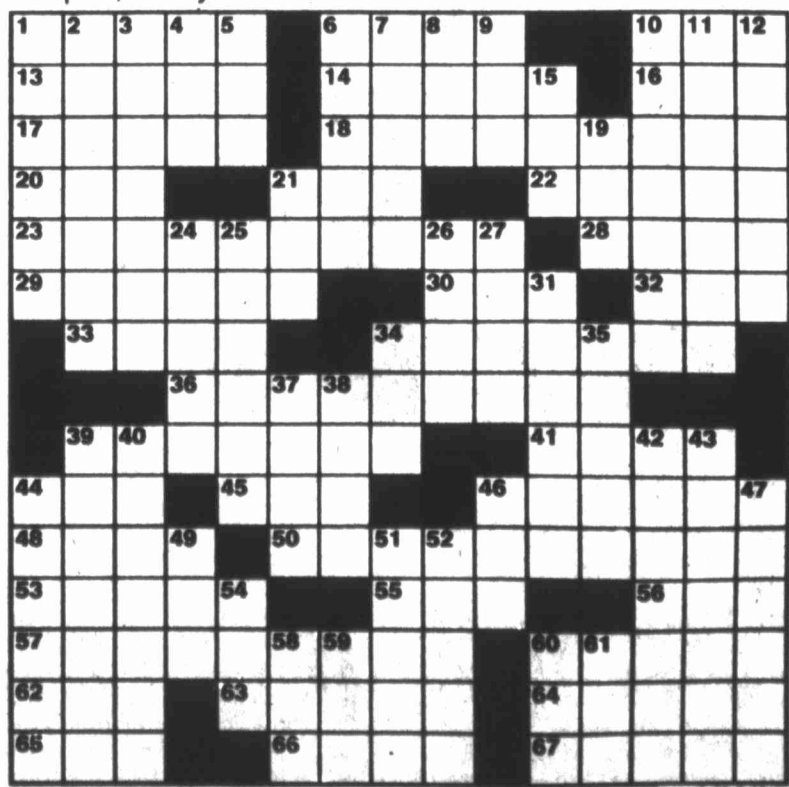
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Answer to previous puzzle: WACAO ALECK PLOD IDOS BRAVE LOGE NOWHEREMAN ISLE CREATE ANTEATER HER TWOS ARNO PEEN NURTURE SWAP DESIRE TAD HOSWO DUN DROID ORA SHAVED INDY ODYSSEY TACO GAIL GYRO PAS ISABELLA WREATH DAME MISSINGYOU OVER ASPEN GENT LESS NASA SEES

Newsday Crossword

VOWEL SHIFT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Parsley unit, 6 "Finished" rm., 10 Printer's widths, 13 Coeur d'... ID, 14 Sales on the Net, 16 Daisy... Yokum, 17 Safe place, 18 Kind of pen, 20 "Am... believe...", 21... Perignon, 22 Nursery rhyme dieter, 23 Salad ingredient, 28 Wise one, 29 Mad genre, 30 Place to graze, 32 Shirt with a slogan, 33 West Point sch., 34 Improper act, 36 Microsoft head, 39 Cow catchers, 41 Stash, 44 Draft dispenser, 45 Poetic nighttime, 46 Audiophile's rig, 48 Commotions, 50 Cotton eater, 53 Leaves in a hurry, 55 Align the cross hairs, 56 Tick off, 57 Teddy Roosevelt, in 1912, 60 Meir of Israel, 62 Environmental word form, 63 Still for rent, 64 Thumb twiddler, 65... Moines, 66 Poi source, 67 Suspicious, 10 Bahrain, for one, 11 Ran the team, 12 Small sofa, 15 Collectible vinyl, 19 Co... (some apartments), 21 Poor grade, 24 An arm and a leg, 25 Pat on the back, 26 Director Kazan, 27 Take a break, 31 "Fideles", 34 British sports cars, 35 Lauder of cosmetics, 37 Leopold's co-defendant, 38 Lantern-jawed TV host, 39 Epithet for Irma, 40 Handsome men, 42 Wright guy, 43 More off-the-wall, 44 Indented, perhaps, 46 Personal ad abbr., 47 Legendary cow owner, 49 Cardinal cap logo, 51 Surgeon's beam, 52 Deceive, 54 Dallas sch., 58 Toronto's prov., 59 Slangy suffix, 60 Hodges of baseball, 61 "To a..." work



# That's Racin'

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Go online and check out [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com) for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

"I think there are about 40 teams that would want to trade this week with us."

— Elliott Sadler, on his performance during Speedweeks in which he won a Gatorade Duel race on Thursday followed by his fourth-place finish in Sunday's Daytona 500.



## THIS WEEK'S RACE

### AUTO CLUB 500

**Where:** California Speedway, a 2-mile slightly banked oval located in Fontana, Calif.  
**When:** Sunday at 4 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:40 p.m. Friday.  
**TV:** Fox.  
**Radio:** Motor Racing Network; XM Satellite Radio.  
**Purse:** \$5,929,304.  
**Last year's winner:** Greg Biffle.  
**Also this week:** All three of NASCAR's top series are in action this weekend at California. Mark Martin tries to make it two wins in a row in Friday night's Truck Series race, while Tony Stewart, last weekend's winner in the Busch Series, will be replaced by owner Kevin Harvick in the No. 33 Chevrolet.  
**Worth mentioning:** Brian Vickers leads all drivers at California with a 4.5 average start in four races.

## POLL POSITION

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What stands out when you consider NASCAR penalties and the company's interpretations of its own rules?

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

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Teresa Earnhardt says it's unlikely we'll ever see Dale Earnhardt's No. 3 return to a NASCAR track, which runs counter to what Dale Earnhardt Jr. might like to eventually see happen. Where do you stand on the issue?

Number of votes: 11,632

Response	No. of votes	Percent
I'd like to see that car back out there, with the right driver, of course.	6,729	58%
She's right, that number should be permanently retired.	4,074	35%
Maybe we should wait another generation.	829	7%

## STOP 'N' GO

### WHO'S HOT

**Jimmie Johnson:** Nobody's hotter than the Daytona 500 winner to start the season.  
**Casey Mears:** Follows his win in the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona with a second-place finish in the Daytona 500. This could be a breakout year.



Johnson

### WHO'S NOT

**Chad Knaus:** Johnson's crew chief had to watch the driver's first 500 win on TV.  
**Daytona 500 qualifying procedure:** You should be allowed in the field if you can just figure it out.

— Jim Utter

## BY THE NUMBERS

### NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 19:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	185	21. Brent Sherman	100
2. Casey Mears	170	22. Kyle Busch	99
3. Ryan Newman	170	23. Dave Blaney	97
4. Elliott Sadler	165	24. Kevin Lepage	93
5. Tony Stewart	160	25. Mike Wallace	91
6. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	152	26. Jeff Gordon	90
7. Brian Vickers	151	27. Travis Kvapil	87
8. Clint Bowyer	150	28. David Stremme	79
9. Ken Schrader	138	29. Reed Sorenson	76
10. Dale Jarrett	134	30. Greg Biffle	75
11. Mark Martin	132	31. Denny Hamlin	73
12. Kasey Kahne	130	32. Jeff Burton	72
13. Kevin Harvick	128	33. Joe Nemechek	64
14. Robby Gordon	124	34. Sterling Marlin	61
15. Matt Kenseth	123	35. Bobby Labonte	58
16. Martin Truex Jr.	115	36. Jamie McMurray	57
17. Terry Labonte	112	37. Jeremy Mayfield	55
18. Bill Elliott	111	38. Kurt Busch	54
19. Michael Waltrip	109	39. Kyle Petty	46
20. Kirk Shelmerdine	103	40. Hermie Sadler	43

### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Feb. 18:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	185	11. Jason Keller	130
2. Burney Lamar	170	12. Ashton Lewis	127
3. Clint Bowyer	170	13. Kenny Wallace	124
4. Jon Wood	160	14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	122
5. Kevin Harvick	155	15. Denny Hamlin	121
6. Jason Leffler	150	16. Jamie McMurray	120
7. J.J. Yeley	147	17. Michael Waltrip	118
8. Todd Kluever	146	18. Danny O'Quinn Jr.	109
9. Fred Sorenson	138	19. Tim Sauter	106
10. Mark Green	134	20. Steve Grissom	105

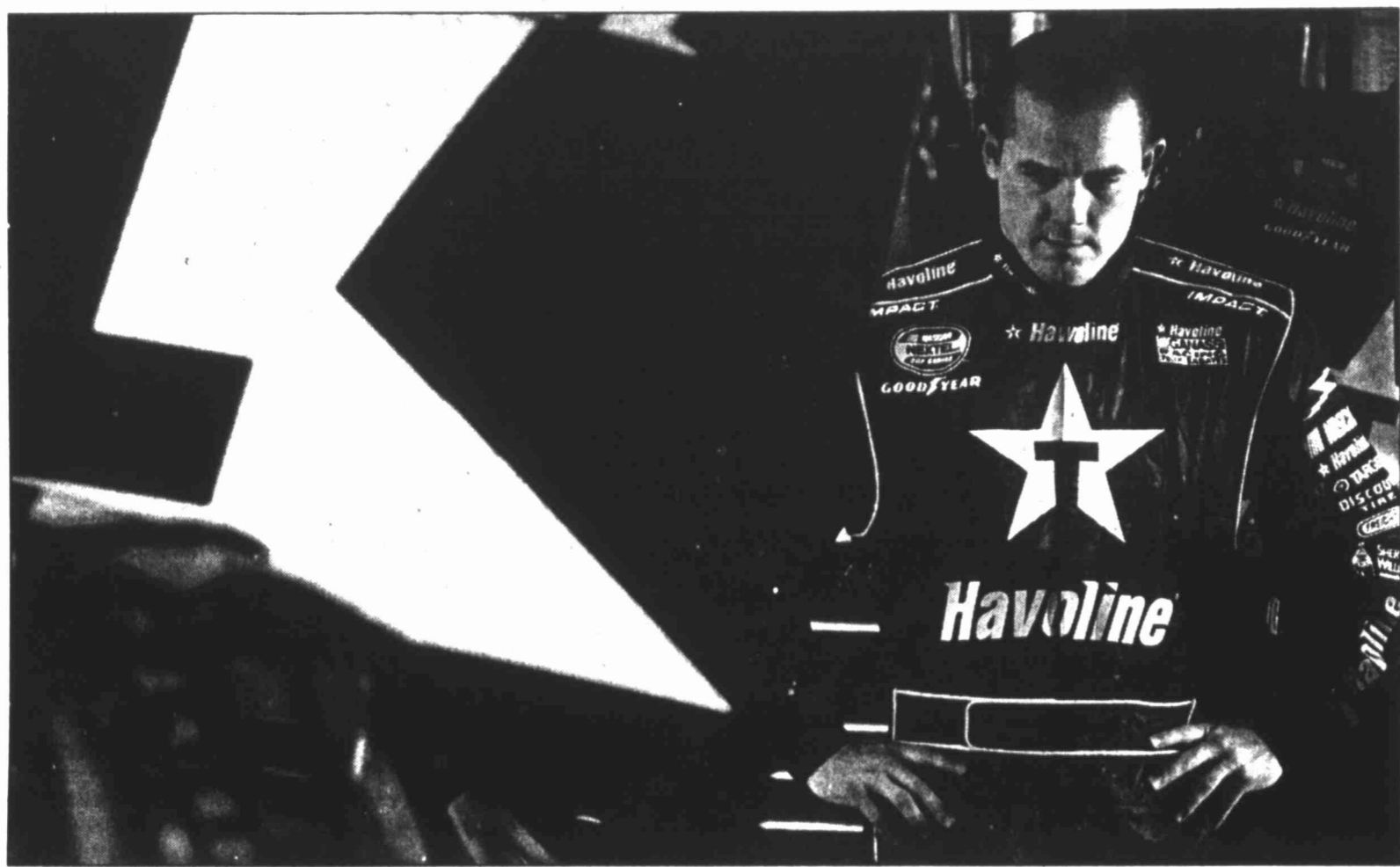
NEXT RACE: Saturday, Slater Bros. 300, Fontana, Calif.

### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 17:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Mark Martin	190	8. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	151
2. Todd Bodine	175	7. Erik Daniels	150
3. Fred Musgrave	170	9. Rick Crawford	147
4. Mike Skinner	165	5. David Reutimann	138
5. Jack Sprague	160	10. Kevin Hamlin	135

NEXT RACE: Friday, RaceTickets.com 200, Fontana, Calif.



Casey Mears looks over his car following practice at Daytona International Speedway. Mears finished second in the 2006 Daytona 500. JEFF SINER/KRT

# Building momentum

BY DAVID POOLE  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

## A runner-up finish in the Daytona 500 helps fuel Casey Mears' confidence

All things considered, Florida has been very good to Casey Mears this year. He began work with his Chip Ganassi-owned Nextel Cup team there in January and had a successful test in his No. 42 Dodge. He returned later that month and joined Dan Wheldon and Scott Dixon, who drive for Ganassi in the IndyCar Series, to win the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona sports car endurance event.

Then, on Sunday, Mears finished second behind Jimmie Johnson, one of Mears' closest friends in racing, in the Daytona 500. Johnson got the victory, but Mears also won more than \$1 million and got to keep his car while Johnson's victorious Chevrolet went on display for a year in Daytona USA.

"I had a really good feeling going into the Daytona 500," Mears said. "Throughout the whole week ... leading up to the 500, we just kept making more and more progress. We kept making the car better and better."

"Obviously you'd rather come out with a win, but it's my career best finish and the best finish I've ever had at Daytona obviously."

Mears came into the new NASCAR season with confidence and momentum after four top-10 finishes in the final seven races of 2005 as he completed three years in the No. 41 Dodges at Chip Ganassi Racing.

With Jamie McMurray's departure for a ride at Roush Racing and the arrival of rookie teammates Reed Sorenson and David Stremme, Mears moved to the No. 42 and joined crew chief Donnie Wingo and his team for Mears' fourth season in the Cup series.

Mears was in strong contention for his first



Dan Wheldon, Scott Dixon and Mears celebrate their victory in the 2006 Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona in January. AUTOSTOCK

Cup victory late last year, first at Texas and then in the finale at Homestead, but it wasn't until after he was part of the winning Rolex 24 team that more and more seemed to start looking at Mears as a potential breakout star in 2006.

"More than anything the 24-hour race and everything leading up to the Daytona 500 on the Cup side was really positive," Mears said. "That gave us a lot of confidence going into the 500. The 24-hour race boosted the whole team's spirits. Anytime you've got guys thinking positive, it's a good thing."

As much luck as he's had in Florida this year, it's not difficult for Mears to think positive about going across the country for the season's second Cup race, Sunday's Auto Club 500 at California Speedway.

Mears is from Bakersfield, Calif., and coming back to this 2-mile track about 50 miles east of Los Angeles is a homecoming for him. He'll have lots of friends and family around him this weekend as he continues to search for his first win in what will be his 110th career Cup start.

"I think we're proving as a team and I'm proving as a driver that we can run up front," Mears said. "Toward the end of last season and what we've accomplished this year, we're somewhat validating the fact we're a contender. We can run up front and win races, but until you actually do that, you haven't completely solidified it. We need to go out and win some races this year. That's our main focus. ... And for me, a win at California would be the most perfect."

Mears figures that he's not the only person happy to be in California this weekend. After testing and the long lead-up to the 500, leaving Daytona is in many ways the real start of the Cup season.

"It's funny because when you first get to Daytona you can't wait to get there and get the racing started," Mears said. "But as a driver there just isn't a lot of activity. Leading up to the race there's a couple of practices here and there. You've got the (Gatorade Duel) 150s, but it's so spread out."

"You're at Daytona for so long that at the end of Daytona at the beginning of the race you're so excited you can't wait to be a part of it. At the end of the race you're relieved it's over, and you can move on and get the year started."

## RANKINGS

### THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): There'll always be those who think this team won the Daytona 500 with a corked bat. Preseason ranking: 3.
2. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Sure, he showed his fang on Sunday. But he also finished fifth after all of

that mess. Preseason ranking: 1.

3. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): Last lap wreck cost him positions and points. He'll be happy to get to California. Preseason ranking: 2.
4. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): It didn't work, but give him credit for at least trying to pass Johnson on the final lap. Preseason ranking: 8.
5. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): His car was among the best in the 500 until he and Stewart regressed to the

fourth grade. Preseason ranking: 7.

6. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): If he hadn't gotten a piece of a late wreck, he might have salvaged a top-10 finish Sunday. Preseason ranking: 6.
7. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Mistake on pit road sidetracked what could have been a great feel-good story. Preseason ranking: 5.
8. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): His car wasn't running well or he wouldn't have been back where the wreck

found him. Preseason ranking: 4.

9. Casey Mears (car No. 42): His car looked strong throughout Speedweeks, not just in his runner-up finish on Sunday. Preseason ranking: 14.
10. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Another guy who gets major points for taking his shots at going after the 500 victory. Preseason ranking: 12.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com).

# NASCAR's rule enforcement is officially a joke

Stock car racing rules enforcement officially became a joke Tuesday when NASCAR announced the rest of its penalty against Chad Knaus, crew chief for Jimmie Johnson, for the No. 48 Chevrolet's Daytona 500 qualifying violation.

Knaus is suspended for three more Cup races after also having to sit out for Johnson's win in the 500 on Sunday. He is suspended until March 22, which means he can return to the pit box for the season's fifth race at Bristol on March 26. Knaus also was fined \$25,000 and placed on probation until Dec. 31.

The punch line, though, is that neither Johnson nor car owner Rick Hendrick lost points. That's right, no points.

Wait, it gets funnier. Terry Labonte, driver of the No. 96 Chevrolet, and Bill Saunders, the

owner of that car, were docked 25 points for having an unapproved carburetor modification on their car in the same qualifying session.

Crew chief Philippe Lopez also was fined \$25,000.

That team, Hall of Fame Racing, said it would appeal its penalties for what NASCAR officials said last week was quite likely a simple mistake. Joe Gibbs Racing built the engine and the carburetor for the No. 96 and will join in that appeal.

Hendrick Motorsports, on the other hand, won't be appealing the penalty stemming from the fact that the rear window on Johnson's car was tricked up to deflect air over the rear spoiler on its qualifying run.

Meanwhile, after saying for the past couple of years that it will use points to show teams how serious it is about enforcing the rules, NASCAR chose to split hairs in taking them from Labonte and not from Johnson.

"If we have a part or piece that's illegal that we can lay our hands on, that's when we take points," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR vice president for competition. "In the case of the 48, the parts were legal, they had been manipulated to have an illegal effect."

Last March at Las Vegas, Todd Berrier was suspended for four races, fined \$25,000 and his driver and owner lost 25 points for a violation found in Kevin Harvick's No. 29 Chevrolet after qualifying.

That sounds like the same thing Knaus did, but Pemberton said that in Berrier's case there were actual parts machined to help with the violation that had no other purpose. Last fall at Talladega, when Harvick's car had its

qualifying lap disallowed because areas in the rear end were illegally opened to let air flow through, Berrier got a two-week suspension and a fine.

But since there were no illegal parts, no points were taken.

That might be consistent, by a strict definition of that word, but it makes no sense. If you stab someone, does it make any difference if you made the knife or bought it?

Knaus defended the No. 48 team's Daytona win in a conference call shortly after the penalties were announced. "They went through inspection several times without a flaw and then they went out and won the Daytona 500, no questions asked," he said.

No, questions were asked. That's the problem, and instead of giving a definitive answer with its penalty, NASCAR half-stepped its way into an indefensible position.

Funny how often that happens, isn't it?