THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Poinsettia program to continue but none will be sold

ISD manufacturing classes a success, Moore directors told

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 103

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

product to manufacture may want to perk up their ears, as

will continue the high school manufacturing program but bow out of the sales arena.

Michael Downes, superintendent for BSISD, said the district won't be venturing out into the world of sales when it comes to Area investors looking for a the lighted poinsettias produced by the program.

"The attorneys have looked at officials with the Big Spring it, and there's just no way to

Independent School District escape the liability," Downes announced Wednesday they told members of the board of Moore directors for Development for Big Spring, the economic development company funding the program. "However, we are going to continue the program and simply donate the poinsettias to the city of Big Spring, which was the original plan for the program to begin with.



ing. We knew, going

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into this, that there were some issues with liability "We had close to 60 students and the possibility the school

and

he

system could not enter into a business type manufacturing process."

Lighted poinsettias manufactured by the high school program found their way onto the Settles Hotel and other area landmarks during Christmas holiday, drawing comments from local officials that Big Spring had become the

See POINSETTIA, Page 3A

Hitting the high notes

BSHS Band still in need of funding for summer excursion to Carnegie Hall

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Despite some unexpected expenses, officials are still optimistic that the Big Spring High School Band will raise the necessary funds to make its planned trip to Carnegie Hall this summer.

BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris said student-related expenses are close to being accounted for, but ancillary costs such as transporting the musical instruments to cert date of June 6 fast the final price tag even higher.

mates that the band has goal. raised \$120,000 for the trip, which still leaves

Donations should be made to Carnegie Hall Fund, Big Spring High

Harris

School, 708 E. 11th Place, Big Spring, *79720.*

New York — have pushed approaching, one would expect Harris and other band boosters to be ner-To date, Harris esti- vous of reaching their

Expect again.

"Oh, we're going — no

the group about \$55,000 doubt about it," Harris short of its goal. With the Carnegie con- See BAND, Page 3A

Howard County Republican

Convention slated Saturday

All area Republicans who voted in the recent scheduled half an hour primary are invited to the earlier than former coun-Republican Convention to eral other events going on be held on Saturday at simultaneously in Big 9:30 a.m. in Judge Robert Spring. Moore III's courtroom of Building.

The event is being County ty conventions due to sev-

For more information, the 118th District Court contact Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

HAWKS PREVAIL IN OPENER



Howard College's Richard Forbes (11) attempts a shot against heavy defensive pressure during the Hawks' 74-56 victory against Sheridan College of Wyoming in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association men's basketball tournament In Hutchinson, Kan. Wednesday. See story, Page 1B.

Tour bus accident kills 12 **Americans**

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) A bus swerved to avoid an approaching truck and tumbled 300 feet down a mountainside in northern Chile, killing American tourists, U.S. and Chilean officials said.

The two surviving Americans were in stable condition, John Vance, a U.S. embassy spokesman, told CNN in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Two Chileans were also hospitalized, said Juan Carlos Poli, a city hall spokesman in the Pacific port city of Arica.

The tourists returning to Celebrity Cruises' ship Millennium from an excursion to Lauca National Park when the bus plunged off the rugged highway Wednesday near Arica, 1 250 miles north of Santiago, he said.

Poli said the bus, which had a capacity of 16 passengers, "was totally destroyed."

Vance said the embassy was sending consular officers to Arica.

The victims were all in their 60s and 70s, but authorities would not immediately confirm their identities.

The Millennium was docked in Arica, and the cruise line said the ship will remain there until further notice. It had been scheduled to leave for Peru early Thursday. The ship was carrying approximately guests and 920 crew mem-

Tax-Aide program at Senior Center winding down

Free tax return assistance will conclude April 10

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

AARP will begin to wrap up its annual Tax-Aide program,

which ends April 10, as the group continues to help area free federal tax preparation residents make sense of the tax laws and forms that seem to get more complicated each year.

Gloria Hopkins, coordinator for the annual effort, said the volunteer-based program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

assistance to people who cannot far. afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those who don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins.

With more than a dozen vol-

"The AARP program provides tax returns, Hopkins said this year has gone smoothly thus

"We have 16 volunteers working in the program; we've been able to have anywhere between 10 to 14 working each Monday," been outstanding this year, and with so many, we've really been unteers helping people file their able to make things go fast."

And while the annual tax dance doesn't seem to change much from year to year, Hopkins said the way people file certainly has.

"Last year we were begging people to e-file their taxes," said said Hopkins. "They have just Hopkins. "This year, people are coming in and requesting it. I'd

See TAX-AIDE, Page 3A

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Sports

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

Military frees peace activists in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Thursday freed three Christian peace activists in hours earlier. rural Iraq without firing a shot, ending a four-month hostage drama in which an American among the group was shot to death and

dumped on a Baghdad street. Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, the U.S. military spokesman, said the hostages were being held by a "kidnapping cell," and the operation to free the

U.S. and British troops mation from a man captured by U.S. forces only three

No kidnappers were present when the troops broke into a house in western Baghdad. The captives' hands were tied, Lynch said.

"They were bound, they were together, there were no kidnappers in the areas," Lynch told a news briefing.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry said the captives were res-

between the towns of Mishahda, 20 miles away from Baghdad, and the western suburb of Abu Ghraib, 12 miles away.

British officials in Baghdad said those freed were Canadians James Loney, 41, and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, and Briton Norman Kember, 74. The men members of the Chicagobased Christian Peacemaker Teams — were kidnapped

captives was based on infor-cued northwest of Baghdad Nov. 26 along with their American colleague, Tom Fox.

The body of Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Va., was found earlier this month.

"We remember with tears Tom Fox," group co-director Doug Pritchard said. "We had longed for the day when all four men would be released together. Our gladness today is bittersweet by

Annette McDonald Campbell



Annette McDonald Campbell, 77, longtime Big Spring resident, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness Monday, March 20, 2006, in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2006, at the First Baptist Church Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller officiating.

Annette Jean McDonald was born Jan. 7, 1929, in Paducah to Allen and Tommie McDonald. She married Hugo Campbell Oct. 5, 1946. They were married for 57 years when

Hugo passed away in November 2003.

Annette was a member of First Baptist Church. She was a member of the Western Drifters Travel Club and a talented bridge player.

Along with so many Big Spring friends, Annette is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Walt Hanel of Lubbock; two sons and daughters-in-law Charles and Laura Campbell of Midland and Scott and Sharon Campbell of Austin; four grandchildren, Todd Hosmer and Andrew Campbell, both of Lubbock, and Craig Campbell and Lee Campbell, both of Austin; one great-grandchild, Zach Hosmer of Lubbock; and three sisters and their families, Joyce Matney of Paducah, Charlotte Whitley and husband, Harry of Crowell and Fern Hart and husband, Sam of Columbus, Ohio.

Annette was also preceded in death by one brother, Lloyd McDonald of Westminster, Calif., and one sister, Floye McDonald of Paducah.

Her family expresses their thanks to the compassionate staff of Grace House and NursCare Hospice,

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends donations be made to The American Diabetes Association, Annette Campbell Memorial Program, P.O. Box 1132, Fairfax, Va., 22038-1132 also memorialshelp@diabetes.org or to the First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Velma Una Talkington

Velma Una Talkington, 92, of Big Spring, affectionately known as Mammer, died Tuesday, March 21, 2006, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 24, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Lanny Hamby officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial

She was born April 18, 1913, in Hastings, Okla., and married LeRoy Talkington July 2, 1960, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death.

She worked for the Big Spring State Hospital and retired from food service after 21 years. She was a Baptist and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Survivors include two grandsons, Lanny Ray Fryar and wife, Elsa and Shirley L. Fryar and wife, Sarah; one granddaughter, Becky Henderson and husband, Grady; five great-grandchildren, Billy Weaver and wife, Kristie, Susanne Weaver and companion, David, Rance Fryar, Dakota Fryar and Cheyenne Fryar; two great-great-grandchildren, Lauren Weaver and Clayton Weaver; two brothers, Dalton White and Ray White; and one sister, Christine Kauffman.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Earline Fryar, her parents, Cad and Emma White, two brothers, Wilford White and Freddie White and one sister, Maxine Galloway.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

• DANIEL PIKE, 18, of 2714 Carrol, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license sus-

• GILBERT LUNA, 18, of 1611 State, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• JOSE TRINIDAD CANTU, 24, of 1500 11th Place, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana - two or less, driving while license suspended/invalid and violation of a protective order.

 VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported:

in the 1300 block of Lincoln. in the 1400 block of Lincoln.

• THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia.

• POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1400 block of Lacoln. POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES

OR LESS was reported in the 1400 block of Lincoln. EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 3200 block of Fordham.

 BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: - in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.

- in the 500 block of Westover Road.

Fire/EMS

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

· MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC. • TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. Service was refused.

MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Dow.

Service was refused.

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

Lola Keel



entrusted with arrangements.

Lola Keel, age 82, of Glendive, Mont., passed away Saturday, March 18, 2006, at the Glendive Medical Center in Glendive, Mont.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. today, March 23, 2006, at the First Baptist Church in Glendive, Mont., with the Rev. Ray Willis officiating. Interment followed in the Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive, Mont. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Glendive was

Lola was born Aug. 28, 1923, in Marietta, Okla., the daughter of John James and Belle Mae (Willis) McAnally. She was raised and educated in Marietta, Okla., graduating from high school there in 1941.

She married Dock Franklin Keel Nov. 8, 1942, in Marietta, Ok'a., and continued to reside with her parents while her husband was overseas during World War II.

In 1945 they moved to Spirit Lake, Idaho. Beginning in 1947, she accompanied her husband through the oilfields of West Texas, eventually settling in Eunice, N.M., in 1950.

Between 1943 and 1966 she raised two sons while holding numerous full-time bookkeeping positions. After somehow getting her two boys through high school and married off, in 1966 she again accompanied her husband to oil towns in Texas, Kansas and

As a lifelong member of the Baptist church, she moved her membership in 1976 to the First Baptist Church of Coahoma. After she retired in August 1986, she filled her leisure time with family, church activities and traveling with friends. Eventually she moved to Glendive in 2003.

Survivors include her sons, Gary and wife, Tamami Keel of Roseburg, Ore., and Bill and wife, Bonita Keel of Glendive, Mont.; her sisters, Imogene Greenwood of Marietta and Rebecca and husband, Howard Smith of Big Spring; nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and numerous inieces and nephews.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Winford Lee Tindol



W.L. "Sonny" Tindol, 76, of Odessa died Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at Medical Center Hospital. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2006, at Sherwood Church Of Christ with Lynn Money officiating. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

There will be a visitation from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. He was born Sept. 27, 1929, in Forsan. He served in the United States Army during the

Korean Conflict. He worked for El Paso Products for 30 years. He was a member of the Sherwood Church Of He is survived by his wife, Dean Tindol of Odesca;

daughter, Terri Pate and husband, Danny of Odessa; son, Jimmy Tindol of Midland; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Arrangements are under the direction of Hubbard

Kelly Funeral Home in Midland.

Alberto Smithwick

Alberto Smithwick, 87, of Odessa died Thursday morning, March 23, 2006, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sheriff's report

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

· ROBERT LUIS SALAZAR, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a TDC parole warrant for aggravated sexual assault.

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 46, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• TINA L. JUNKIN, 45, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on a charge of driving while

license invalid. • CHARLIE EVERRETT RYERSON, 60, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on a charge of

criminal trespass. • SHANNON BOUDREAUX, 35, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on a Galveston County

warrant for driving while intoxicated. • SANTIAGO ABREO, 69, was agrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a warrant for aggravated sexual

assault of a child. · ZACHARY SMITH, 25, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and making terroristic

threats to a family/household. • MARTIN PERLA-MARTINEZ, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Take note

• BUSINESS AFTER HOURS from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. today at Southern Maid Donuts and KaleidoScoops, 1103 E. 11th Place, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• BIG SPRING SYMPHONY GUILD FUND-RAIS-ER is 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at the St. Paul Lutheran Church educational annex, 811 Scurry. A Tupperware cooking demonstration is planned, with recipes available and door prizes. All proceeds benefit the Guild. For more information, or to learn more about becoming a member of the Guild, call 263-4033.

Bulletin board

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

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

FRIDAY

· Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 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.

· 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.

• 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.

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.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s Northeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Increasing clouds. Warmer. Highs around

70. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper

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

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-11-24-31-37. Bonus Ball:

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$18 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 4-19-28-30-37

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-9-6

SPRING $\Pi L K$ www.BigSpringHerald.com

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Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press. Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings,

except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas

USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811 USPS 1431-48 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

BAND

Continued from Pa

BIG SPRING HE

Thursday, Mar

said. "As for w we'll be in wh there, I can't tell Confidence as said the next fe will be a very time for the b

scrambles to

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money. The musician necessity, becor of all sorts of fu ranging from ca bake sales t dances.

And the loca has responded to pleas, he said. "The people of

have been rea ous," he said. " that there's a fe

POINSET

Continued from Pa

poinsettia ca Texas.

According to there have been inquiries as to ability of the p

TAX-AIDI

Continued from Pa

say were proba half on paper other half by e has really caug year. That's a percent jump

With the Apri ing deadline rig

RESCUE

Continued from P

the fact that T alive to join leagues in the tion.' In London,

Foreign Secre Salts said Kem "reasonable cor Baghdad's hea fied Green Zon Canadians req pital treatmen gave no further

Straw also details of the saying only tl lowed "weeks a of planning.

BY HOLIDAY Nature seems impulsive as burst through in unexpected patches of green. Months ago, a person or creature or wind planted the seeds, purpose or on accident. Capricorn moon in its = last quarter i that we rear

ly the "sowing have occurred ARIES (Mar 19). You're with know you we easy to forget yourself like t are. Genera. social circle some new bl everyone, incl back in form. TAURUS (A)

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cept of affinity mon ground.

20). Successful

cation relies o

1 Bedroom · \$3

801 W. Ma Big Sprir

Pool, Private & Washer - Dr 2-3 Bedroom

BAND

Continued from Page 1A

said. "As for what shape we'll be in when we get there, I can't tell you that."

Confidence aside, Harris said the next few months will be a very harrowing time for the band as it scrambles to get the remainder of the needed

The musicians have, by necessity, become masters of all sorts of fund-raisers, ranging from car washes to bake sales to benefit dances.

And the local populace has responded to the band's pleas, he said.

"The people of Big Spring have been really generous," he said. "We realize that there's a few thing we

didn't account for — such as paying for transportation from here to Dallas (airport) and to transport our instruments to New York — so we're trying to raise a few extra dollars,"

And more fund-raising activities are planned in the next few months. A cookbook featuring band boosters' favorite recipes are on sale for \$15 at various businesses around town.

In addition, the band has a car wash and bake sale scheduled for April 8 at the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Further down the road, a benefit dance is set for May.

Also, Herald Publisher Susanne Reed announced that the newspaper will offer a special deal on new subscriptions within the

next few days. For each new subscription received. the newspaper will donate a percentage of the cost to the Carnegie Hall trip fund.

With all the frenetic activity, one would imagine Harris to be fairly sick and tired of the whole affair.

Imagine again.

"You'd think I would be (sick and tired of fund-raisers), but I just admire this community for how giving it is," Harris said. "Some of the money we've raised has come out of parents' pockets, but most of it has come from donations."

To make a donation, contact Harris at the high school, 264-3641, or mail him c/o Carnegie Hall Fund, Big Spring High School, 708 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720.

Body of Plano woman found, son accused

PLANO (AP) — The body of a Plano woman has been found in Lake Ray Hubbard, nearly four months after her son was charged with murder in her death, authorities said.

Ellen Williams Hancock, 62, disappeared Nov. 26 from the apartment she shared with her son, 23-year-old Paul Edward Hancock and his girlfriend.

Police arrested Paul Hancock on a murder charge the following day. Hancock says he is innocent. He remains in the Collin County Jail with bail set at \$50,000.

Hancock told authorities the day of his arrest that he awoke to find his mother missing and the apartment a mess. Police found large amounts of blood and believed Ellen Hancock dead.

Leigh Ann Stewart, Paul Hancock's girlfriend, lived with the Hancocks stab his mother in the chest.

Police later arrested her and charged her with failing to report a felony for not telling police sooner. She remains free on bond.

Man accused in rebuilding scam

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A self-proclaimed pastor accused of swindling a woman out more than \$11,000 meant to repair her fire-damaged home faces a charge of theft.

Police arrested David Charles Anguiano, 52, Tuesday.

Authorities say Anguiano told Teresa Escobedo he would repair her home after it was damaged in a fire. Escobedo told police that Anguiano said he would charge her less than the insurance estimates and give her the remainder.

Escobedo told police Anguiano damaged her home even more, stole some and later told police that she saw him of her property, failed to pay two laborers and took \$11,350 in cash.

POINSETTIA

Continued from Page 1A

poinsettia capital of

According to Downes, there have been countless inquiries as to the availability of the poinsettias from both private citizens and other cities and organizations.

Downes said the program has accomplished its goal of providing workforce training, and if an investor or entrepreneur were to pick up the sales end of the endeavor, could thrive in the newfound industry.

filing.

"What you've done as an economic development board is provided some very valuable workforce training," said Downes. "If someone comes along now with an interest to be an entrepreneur and produce poinsettias, we have 50 to 60 kids who have

some training already, and some of them have lights out, because it is some very good training. I still a very viable project tell you, we have some and one that you (Moore expert welders and cutnow. They are really some outstanding kids.

"We are looking forward to continuing the train-

volunteers

ing. We don't see this as Development) have done'a ters that could go out and great job with," Downes manufacture these right told the board of directors. "If someone wants to come in and start the business, they have a workforce ready

which, as you know in economic development is very important waiting for them.'

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

TAX-AIDE

Continued from Page 1A

say were probably filing half on paper and the other half by e-file, so it has really caught on this year. That's about a 50 percent jump since last

With the April 15 tax filing deadline right around also need to bring any

the corner, Hopkins said area residents should move quickly if they

haven't already filed. "People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," she said. "They forms that show their fessional. 2005 earnings and their

"AARP 2004 tax returns. We also explain many special tax need a Social Security credits and deductions and how people may card for every person named on the return and claim them or, their tax a photo ID for the person returns," she said. "These volunteers help people Hopkins said the procomplete their returns, gram is a necessity for right down to any refunds

that may be due them." Hopkins said Tax-Aide will continue throughout the tax season.

"We'll continue doing taxes at the Senior Center from 8 a.m. until noon Mondays," said Hopkins. "For those who are homebound and can't get to the center with their tax information, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready."

The Senior Center is

located at 1901 Simler Drive on the McMahan Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information on the program, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

Jack Hensley, 48, a civil

engineer from Marietta,

Armstrong, 52, formerly

of Hillsdale, Mich.; and

Nicholas Berg, 26, a busi-

nessman from West

Still missing is Jill

Carroll, a freelance writer

for The Christian Science

Monitor who was kid

napped Jan. 7 in Baghdad

She has appeared in three

her kidnappers to Arab

satellite television sta

said: "None that I can dis-

The last hostage to be

freed in a military opera-

tion was Douglas Wood,

an Australian rescued in

west Baghdad by U.S. and

cuss at this time.

When asked

"Jack"

from Anchor

Ga.; Eugene

Chester, Pa

RESCUE

Continued from Page 1A

the fact that Tom is not alive to join his colleagues in the celebration.'

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Sa + said Kember was in "reasonable condition" in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone. The two Canadians required hospital treatment, but he gave no further details.

Straw also gave few details of the operation, saying only that it followed "weeks and weeks" of planning.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

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ly the "sowing" might

ARIES (March 21-April

19). You're with folks who

know you well, so it's

easy to forget to present

yourself like the star you

are. Generally, your

social circle could use

some new blood to get

everyone, including you,

TAURUS (April 20-May

20). Successful communication relies on the con-

& Washer - Dryer Conn.

2-3 Bedroom

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

either

T h

Nature seems gloriously

British Prime Minister mom said, 'Don't worry Tony Blair's office said he about it — just get home was delighted by the trio's release.

"He is particularly pleased for those released and their families. He congratulates everyone involved in the operation to rescue the hostages," his office said in a state-

and he sounded "fantas-

"He's alert and he was asking how we were tion," Ed Loney said. "My

don't really like. Find

something to like about

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). No matter where

you're going today, some-

one else knows a short-

cut. Connect with this

person, and create some

nice "vibes" so they will

have incentive to show

22). You're playing a high-

stakes game now, which

moment, you alternately

feel triumphant and inse-

cure. Focus on your

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Today is like one of those

movies that relies on the

comedic device of mis-

communication. Only,

sometimes it feels more

annoying than funny.

Asking the right question

will be key to saving time

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). The one who messed

everyone.

you the route.

have many!

and energy

cept of affinity. It's com- up wants another chance.

mon ground, similarities To forgive seems either

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and we'll talk about all that stuff when you get here."

many area residents who

can't afford to have their

taxes prepared by a pro-

The kidnapped men were shown as prisoners in several videos, the most recent a silent clip dated Feb. 28 in which Loney, Kember and Sooden appeared without Loney's brother, Ed, Fox. Fox's body was told CBC television that found March 10 near a his mother had spoken west Baghdad railway with James on the phone line with gunshot wounds

to his head and chest. Iraqi police said at the time it appeared that Fox had been tortured doing and said he was because he had bruises sorry for the whole situa- and cuts on his body, apparently inflicted

you may as well extend a

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Your current situation is

an "all-for-one-and-one-

for-all" kind of deal.

Through mutual support

and encouragement, you

and your team could

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

21). Obstacles in your

reach great heights.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

and attraction. That's foolish or divine. In truth.

why it's very difficult to it's probably both. You're

influence someone you in a lighthearted mood, so

CANCER (June 22-July career path are there to

courtesy.

before he was shot to death.

The previously unknown Swords of Righteousness Brigades claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

"As we study who could conduct these kinds of operations there seems to be a kidnapping cell that has been robust over the last several months in kidnappings," Lynch said.

In Fox's hometown, some of his friends learned of the rescues on the television.

"I think there's a bittersweet element to this in tions in conflict zones. that yes, our friend Tom

isn't coming home," said Anne Bacon, clerk of the Hopewell Centre Quaker meeting where Fox volunteered. "But we know Tom is with us and that Tom is overjoyed that these men will be reunited with their families."

The Christian Peacemaker Teams said the activists went to Iraq "motivated by a passion conducting these kind of for justice and peace." Group volunteers have been in Iraq since videotapes delivered by October 2002, investigating allegations of abuse against Iraqi detainees by tions. coalition forces. Its teams whether he had informapromote, peaceful solu- tion about Carroll, Lynch

"They knew that their only protection was in the power of the love of God and of their Iraqi and international co-workers," Pritchard said.

He also call d for coalition forces to leave the country

"We believe that the illegal occupation of Iraq by Multinational Forces is the root cause of the insecurity which led to this kidnapping and so much pain and suffering in Iraq," Pritchard said.

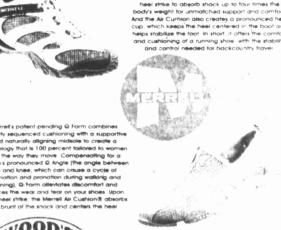
Other Americans taken hostage in Iraq and killed in addition to Fox were Ronald Schulz, 40, an industrial electrician

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Joyce Bruton, 76, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

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protect you. So don't be discouraged or take rejecis why, moment to tion to heart. The stars

align to block all choices that are opposing what is best for you. Big things strengths, of which you are around the corner. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Beyond the vagueness of affection

and friendliness presides the certainty of desire. It's OK to feel passionately about someone who doesn't exactly have the same degree of conviction Explain.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Issues of character arise. Treat everyone the same, and you'll pass with flying colors. Your steadfast attitude will distinguish you as a champion. A Virgo is on your side.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Recruiting is an art, and you're an art student today. Watch the master make people want to work for her. Observe the charismatic leader who has everyone pitching in to help his pet project. Who do you need to win over?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Loved ones will do almost anything to help you. This news may come as a big surprise to you now, since they have lately seemed anything but supportive. That's only because they don't understand what you're doing.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley Managing Editor **Bili McClellan News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Don't miss **Pow Wow** this weekend

he Crossroads area celebrates its heritage in many ways, but probably no other event is as colorful as the Big Spring Pow Wow, which will be held at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this weekend.

Native American dress has always been accented by many colors, but the costumes used during the various dances are especially vibrant and dancing is the primary activity of Pow Wow. And just wait until you see the grand entry, each day at 11 a.m. It is something very special.

There will be contests, featuring Northern Traditional, or war dancing, southern straight, fancy dance, grass dancing for men and for women, southern cloth, buckskin, jingle dress, fancy shawl, gourd dancing, hoop dancing and tiny tot dancing. Don't know what those all are? We'll it's time you found out!

One of the best things about the event is that you can come and go. It begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and except for a 5 p.m. dinner break, continues until 10 p.m. Then Sunday, there will be a Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m., followed by dancing until 5 p.m.

So no matter what your weekend is shaping up like, if you are in town you'll be able to catch some of the excitement. Admission is just \$2 for adults, and there is no charge for children 12 and under. At that price, it's good low-cost entertainment the entire family can enjoy.

Pow Wow is also a good 'ime and place to educate yourself and your children about Native Americans and get a glimpse of their heritage.

For the shopper in you, vendors will be on hand selling a variety of items, and there will be a canned food drive, a silent auction and concessions.

Don't miss out on the Big Spring Pow Wow. We're sure you'll have a good time.

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

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- Sign your letter.
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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity
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- 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 emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Narrow minds and poison pens

he greatest reward one receives from writing a syndicated newspaper column is the response we get from our readers, especially when some of them inspire you to keep

People from all walks of life and every corner of the

country are constantly sending me feedback that makes my job challenging and exiting.

Unfortunately, most of them are not just critical; they are ruthless.

It's human nature. Most of us only write a letter to a newspaper when we get mad

at something we read. When we like something, we rarely bother to let the writer know we enjoyed

So when readers respond to a Hispanic columnist, the bigots are the ones who come out of the clos-

"You cannot put a Mexican on the Supreme Court and trust that person to protect our borders." noted a reader from Texas, responding to a column in which I suggested that U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales should be appointed to the Supreme Court. "What are you smoking?"

When I suggested that illegal immigrants help keep our economy afloat by doing many undesirable jobs, a California reader tried a bit of sarcasm: "The evidence is clear," he wrote. "Without illegals, the United States would sink into the quicksand. The reason Mexico is so poor is that the illegals are up here helping us."

Some readers use language that I don't care to repeat. Some clip out articles on Latino criminals and send them to me, as if this was some sort of evidence to prove that only Latinos are committing crimes in this country. To them, most Latinos are "rapists, child

molesters, gang members and thieves.'

Some readers are so prejudiced that they read things in my columns that I never wrote. They assume I favor ideas and positions that I actually abhor.

When I say that Latino immigrants should not be penalized for the actions of a few terrorists who are not even Hispanic, the responses are astonishing: "What do you say, we just make terrorists legal?," one reader wrote. "We need more homeless in the United States, don't we?"

Some simply skip some parts of my column so they can spill their venom in letters that are often incoherent. I can say that most Latinos recognize, as they should, the need to learn the English language, and I'm still going to receive letters asking me why I don't tell "my people" to learn English. I can demonstrate how hard many illegal immigrants are working to support their families in an honest way, but I'm still going to receive letters telling me that they all came here to collect welfare.

They grab pen and paper and write letters that could make classic routines for "All in the Family." Archie Bunker, the classic TV bigot, has nothing to learn from these letter writers. Their writing demonstrates their xenophobia, but they think they're the

One reader tried to justify the mistreatment of illegal immigrants who were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. "I believe law enforcement officials, as all other people of the world, have compassion for all victims of Katrina," he wrote. "However, if in the process of going house to house they discover someone who has broken a law; I assume that person would be arrested and if found guilty punished accordingly.'

I may be wrong, but somehow I don't believe "compassion" is a word this man should be using. When Muslim immigrants were rioting in France, some bigots found an excuse to make their case against Latinos. "France has been celebrating its diversity over the past few weeks," one California reader wrote.

On the other side, a reader from Indianapolis noted that I should "Please know there are others of us here who appreciate the growing diversity of our city and communities.'

Thank goodness, not all the mail is negative. Another Indianapolis reader thanked me "for the enlightenments" and recalled the time when he witnessed some bigots in action. "I lived in Dallas for about six years in the early '90s, and I was privy to some of the same things you wrote about "how the Latino population did the work (and quite well, at that) that the 'natives' were unwilling to do, and yet, how residents complained that the 'foreigners' were taking over 'their jobs.' The more things change, the more they stay the same, eh? Unfortunately.'

And yet another Indianapolis resident wrote to offer her support for my mission as someone who writes about Latinos and their issues. "I just find it hard to believe that in this day and age, there are so many narrow-minded people still out there," she wrote.

Many people refuse to believe that this kind of racism and ethnic prejudice still exist in America. Even some Latinos will tell you they have never encountered it.

We may be sitting in a bus next to another Archie Bunker, but we will never know it, because most of these "REAL AMERICANS" don't even have the courage to sign their letters.

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

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State Capitol, Room 2S.1 Unelected panels overstep bounds

ondon — British journalists were hammering Prime Minister Tony Blair at his monthly press conference at No. 10 Downing Street last Thursday for his role in some political scandal. While commentators were mulling whether the latest news spelled The End of Tony Blair — a question they pose monthly — I asked the prime minister about Ken Livingstone, the mayor of London.

Last month, the three-man, unelected Adjudication Panel of England suspended Livingstone for four weeks, starting March 1, because Livingstone was "unnecessarily insensitive and offensive" when he likened a Jewish reporter to a Nazi concentration camp guard.

Livingstone brought the matter to court. A judge intervened and stayed the suspension, so Livingstone remains on the job, pending further review. I asked Blair, "Do you think it is right that the remarks of an elected official can be subject to an adjudication panel, and that an unelected panel can suspend an elected offi-

Blair punted. He feared there was some San Francisco angle (there was not). Then he noted, "We (the Labor Party) probably have established this particular board." ("We" did, but mostly to redress financial improprieties.) And: "It is the public that is best able to decide," "the board has made its decision," the board has "the right to do it," but in the end, Livingstone will "be a big part of our election campaign" and he's doing "really, really important" things.

Not the answer I had hoped for. I have no use for Livingstone. I despise his gratuitous attempts to blame the terrorist attacks (includ-

ing London's July 7 bombings) on "the Western need for oil." But if an unelected panel succeeds in suspending an elected official for something he said, democracy is in big trouble.

Also, it doesn't help that just as Europeans have credited free speech as the reason to publish

Danish cartoons offensive to many Muslims, an obscure body of bureaucrats tries to kick an elected politician out of his job for a month because he offended Jews. That's the problem with speech codes. Either governments muzzle everybody, or the remaining target groups are

doubly offended. Tony Travers, an expert on London government at the London School of Economics, called the suspension of Livingstone "a triumph of the unelected over the elected." It's not entirely clear, Travers added, if anyone imagined the panel would discipline an official "for things he said."

This is the story: One night last year, as Livingstone was leaving a party, London Evening Standard reporter Oliver Finegold asked hizzoner how the evening went. Call it high British wit, but Livingstone asked Finegold if he had "thought of having treatment." Then Livingstone, no Evening Standard fan, asked Finegold if he had been a "German war criminal." When Finegold answered that he was Jewish and offended by the question, Livingstone retorted, "Well, you might be, but actually you are just like a concentration camp guard. You're just doing it 'cause you're paid to, aren't you?"

Livingstone wrote in the Guardian on March 1, "As far as I am aware, there is no law against 'unnecessary insensitivity' or even 'offensiveness' to journalists questioning you as you try to go home. He's right. Blair and others

urged Livingstone to apologize, but the mayor refused. Livingstone's critics argue that the panel never would have gone this far if only Livingstone had apologized. Instead, one thing led to another. It is expected that the case will

be continued in the courts over the summer. This is choice: If the

Adjudication Panel for England had simply reprimanded Livingstone, without suspending him, Travers noted, Livingstone would have gotten, "in effect, an 80,000 pound fine," because he must assume his legal bills.

Even a de facto fine is an outrage. Before I left for London, I thought I might be able to write about how the Livingstone suspension could lead to the end of European rules that censor or criminalize politically incorrect speech.

But with Blair walking the cautious line, and other pols oddly silent about the panel's dangerous overreach, I now fear that the Labor Party will let the courts do the heavy lifting — if there is any heavy lifting.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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FAMILY FEATURES EDITORI

s weight weighi

or someone in y you have lots of American adult need to lighten Since the family is on a child's weight ar Crocker rallies family their weight concerns Guide for the Whole simple steps that pare healthy habits while a active and "grow into role models and coac The family that pla

has fun together. In b wide variety of delici and gain healthy hab Betty Crocker provid take toward better he Eating well is an in begin with breakfast This cookbook can

From Docto ames Hill,

nationally I weight loss is a professor i Department of at the University Colorado and a on obesity to th National Institu founder in char National Weigh Registry and de the "America o Move" prograr the co-author of Diet Book.

> Positive self powerful mo tool. Rather ting yoursel think and tal tively about to your kids a long way building you self-esteem your own!).

Practice eati until you are not full. Ove become a ha

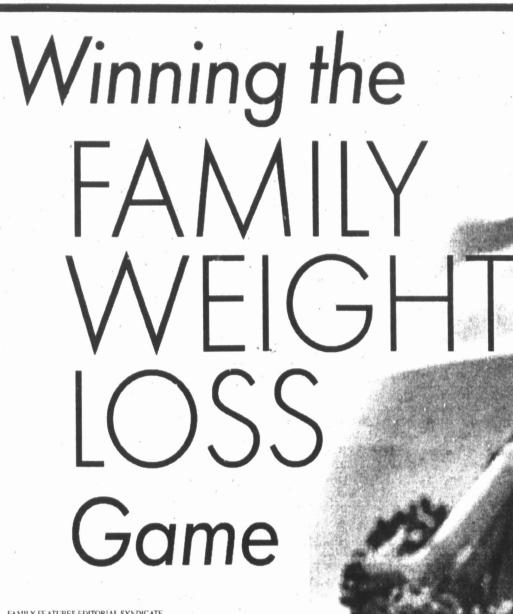
Focusing on how much y important, b only part of equation. Th big piece is you move. I and encoura kids to make habit. You n come up wi a new disco

> ■ Talk to your you use in t on the week to help (and

it's fun!

■ There may but one of t strengthens oxygen to y

> Encourage helping you they are lea benefits of



FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

's weight weighing heavy on your mind? If you or someone in your family needs to lose weight, you have lots of company: Nearly two-thirds of American adults and a third of American children need to lighten up.

Since the family is one of the most powerful influences on a child's weight and health, a new book from Betty Crocker rallies family members to team up in tackling their weight concerns. Win at Weight Loss: A Healthy Guide for the Whole Family maps out a game plan of simple steps that parents can take for improving their own healthy habits while allowing their kids to become more active and "grow into" a healthier weight. Parents are the role models and coaches of the family team.

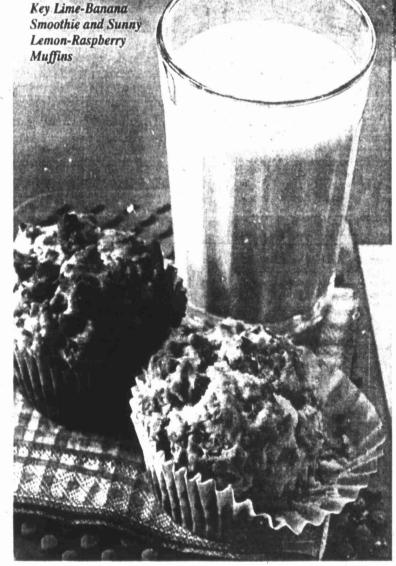
The family that plays together enjoys good health and has fun together. In becoming more active and enjoying a wide variety of delicious meals, any family can be winners and gain healthy habits for a lifetime. This new book from Betty Crocker provides realistic steps for any family to take toward better health.

Eating well is an important part of the plan: Always begin with breakfast and leave room for a healthy dessert! This cookbook can be purchased wherever books are sold.

From the Doctor's Kitchen

ames Hill, a nationally known weight loss authority, is a professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado and an adviser on obesity to the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Hill is cofounder in charge of the National Weight Control Registry and developed the "America on the Moye" program. He is the co-author of The Step Diet Book.

- Positive self-talk is a powerful motivating tool. Rather than putting yourself down, think and talk positively about yourself to your kids. It can go a long way toward building your child's self-esteem (as well as your own!).
- Practice eating only until you are satisfied, not full. Over time this will easily become a habit.
- Focusing on what and how much you cat is important, but it's only part of the equation. The other big piece is how much you move. Become more active yourself, and encourage your kids to make moving a habit. You may all come up with a new discovery that it's fun!
- Talk to your kids about the wholesome ingredients you use in baking and cooking. Involve them as much as possible in making dinner or breakfast on the weekend - chances are they'll be eager to help (and to eat what they've prepared!).
- There may be many benefits in being active, but one of the most important is that activity strengthens your heart, allowing it to pump more oxygen to your muscles.
- Encourage your kids to share their creativity by helping you in the kitchen. Kids feel proud when they are learning a life skill, understanding the benefits of good nutrition and its relationship to



Key Lime-Banana **Smoothie**

Prep Time: 5 minutes Start to Finish: 5 minutes

- 2 servings (1 cup each) 1 container (6 ounces) 99% fat-free Key lime pie yogurt (2/3 cup)
- 1 ripe banana, sliced 1/2 cup fat-free (skim) milk
- 1 tablespoon lime juice 1/4 teaspoon dry lemon-limeflavored soft drink mix (from 0.13-ounce package)
- 1 cup vanilla frozen yogurt

- 1. In blender, place all ingredients except trozen yogurt. Cover and blend on high speed until smooth 2. Add frozen yogurt. Cover and blen Funtil smooth.
- 1 Serving: Calories 320 (Calories From Fat 30), Total Fat 3g (Saturated Fat 2g), Cholesterol 10mg, Sodium 150mg, Total Carbohydrate 62g (Dietary Fiber 2g), Protein 119

% Daily Value: Vitamin A 60. Vitamin C 15%. Calcium 40%, Iron 25 Exchanges: 1 Fruit, 2 Other Capsal veliate, 1 1/2

Carbohydrate Choices: 4

Sunny Lemon-Raspberry Muffins

Prep Time: 15 minutes Start to Finish: 35 minutes 10 muffins

- 1 egg or 1/4 cup fat-free egg product
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups Whole Grain Total cereal, slightly crushed (1 cup)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup fat-free (skim) milk
- 1/4 cup canola or soybean oil
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 container (6 ounces) lemon fat-free yogurt (2/3 cup)
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen (partially thawed). raspberries
- 1. Heat oven to 400° F. Line 10 regular-size mulfin cups with paper baking cups.
- 2. In large bowl, beat egg slightly. Stir in remaining ingredients except raspbernes just until moistened. gently stir in raspberries. Divide buter evenly among muffin cups.
- 3. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately remove from par-

1 Muffin: Calories 190 (Calories From Fat 60). Total Fat 6g (Saturated Fat 0.5g), Cholesterol 20mg. Sodium 340mg, Total Carbohydrate 30g (Dietary

- Fiber 2g), Protein 4g % Daily Value: Vitamin A 2%, Vitamin C 10%, Calcium 30%, Iron 25%
- Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Other Carbohydrate, 1 Fat Carbohydrate Choices: 2

Easy Corn Flake-Crusted Fish Family Favorite Prep Time: 30 minutes

Easy Corn Flake-

Family Favorite

Crusted Fish

Start to Finish: 30 minutes 4 servings

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt 1 egg
- 1/4 cup water
- 3 cups Country Corn Flakes cereal, crushed (about 1 2/3 cups)
- 4 cod fillets (4 to 6 ounces each) 2 tablespoons canola or soybean oil
- L. In shallow dish, mix flour and salt. In another shallow dish, beat egg and water with fork. Place crushed cereal in third shallow dish. Dip fish in flour, coating well; shake off excess. Dip floured fish in egg mixture, then in cereal, coating all sides completely. Place coated fish on
- ungreased cookie sheet. 2. In 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Keeping at least I inch between fish fillets and cooking in batches if needed, cook fish in oil 3 to 4 minutes on each side, turning once, until well browned and fish flakes easily with fork. If needed, place cooked fish on paper towels on cookie sheet and keep warm in

225°F oven while cooking remaining fish. 1 Serving: Calories 320 (Calories from Fat 90), Total Fat 10g (Saturated Fat 1.5g), Cholesterol 115mg, Sodium 600mg, Total Carbohydrate 31g (Dietary Fiber 0g), Protein

% Daily Value: Vitamin A 10%, Vitamin C 4%, Calcium 20%, Iron 40% Exchanges: 2 Starch, 3 Very Lean Meat,

Carbohydrate Choices: 2

Note From the Nutritionist: Using wholegrain cereals as a breading or in baking is an easy way to work in whole grains and boosts vitamins and minerals in your favorite recipes, because the cereal is fortified. You can pair these crispy fillets with seasoned rice pilaf, coleslaw and baby carrots.

Recipes reproduced by permission from Win at Weight Loss: A Healthy Guide for the Whole Family by Betty Crocker. Copyright © 2005 by Betty Crocker. All rights reserved.

Acura RSX; Low price, luxury brand

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press All you young hot rods take note: Acura's 2006 RSX is the lowest-priced luxury-branded car in America — a powerful two-door coupe that has sporty and spunky written all over it.

Acura marks its 20th anniversary this year with an RSX that gives buyers more than a low, starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including delivery charge, of \$20,940. The four-passenger car has quick-response steering and four-cylinder engine technology that provides horsepower akin to that of some V6s.

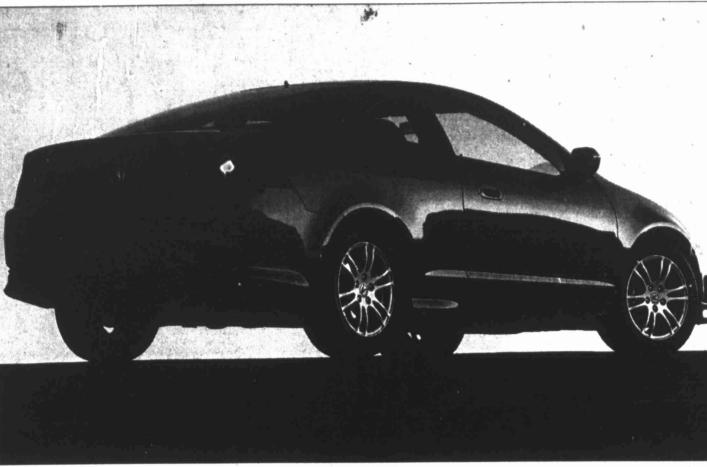
The RSX also comes standard with some luxury amenities, such as power moonroof, side airbags, six-disc, in-dash CD changer and automatic — not manual — climate control with air filtration system. Among the perks: a lengthy, sixyear/70,000-mile limited powertrain warranty in addition to a comprehensive, bumper-to-bumper warranty of four years/50,000 miles, whichever comes first.

The next lowest-priced luxury-branded car is the 2006 Saab 9-2X, which starts at \$23,710 and is basically a rebadged Subaru Impreza WRX.

Other RSX competitors are a diverse lot. Among luxury brands, BMW's lowest-priced coupe is the 2006 326Ci and Infiniti's is the 2006 G35 coupe. But both start around \$33,000, which is some \$12,000 above the RSX price.

Coupes from non-luxury brands include the 2006 Scion tC, which has a starting MSRP, including destination charge, of \$16,840, and the 2006 Ford Mustang, which starts at \$19,935. But these models have shorter warranties than the RSX.

And you can take pride in knowing the RSX ranks in Consumer Reports' "Best Vehicles for \$25,000 or Less" list, which was released this month. Its reliability is rated at "very good."



Acura RSX

The RSX replaced the long-lived Acura Integra small car earlier this decade, and even though sales quickly peaked in calendar 2002, the RSX retained a loyal following.

Import tuners — guys who like to customize their vehicles with eyecatching wheels, lowered suspensions and engine enhancements - have taken a special interest in this car.

But the RSX is an impressive performer without modifications,

For 2006, it's available in two versions: A 155horsepower with choice of five-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmission with shift-ityourself SportShift, and a higher-performance, 201horsepower Type-S with six-speed manual that was the test car.

The base model has 16inch, all-season, high-performance tires, while the Type-S wears 17-inch rub-

Passengers sit low to the floor in all RSX models. I dropped down into the seats, for example, as I entered and looked up at the trunks of bigger cars in the traffic ahead.

At least the sporty. bucket seat for the driver in the Type-S tester had manual height and lumbar adjustments. These features aren't available

Riders in the two small back seats can feel cramped. Rear windows ceiling. I liked that the ment was wet.

for the front passenger.

rear-seat floor was flat, though. It's obvious that the dri-

ver has the preferred seat better when the car is turned on.

Engine power in the Type-S came on so readily, I squealed the tires on don't open, and I found the car at startup one my hair was brushing the morning when the pave-

The uplevel, 2-liter, double overhead cam four cylinder with Honda's "intelligent" valve-control in the RSX, and it gets system known as i-VTEC has a high redline of 8,100

> rpm. The Type-S feels zippy, responsive, and torque peaks at 140 foot-pounds at 7,000 rpm while maximum horsepower is 201. Factor in that the RSX

weighs less than 2,900 pounds — versus the more than 3,300 for a Mustang with base V6 engine — and you can begin to understand why the RSX feels lightweight and spirited.

But be aware that unleaded premium gasoline is the recommended fuel for the Type-S. According to the owner's manual, using lower than 91 octane fuel "can cause occasional metallic knocking noises in the engine."

The RSX ride isn't quiet. I heard road noise on nearly all surfaces, except on fresh, smooth asphalt, and there's also a good amount of engine noise when the revs get above 4,000 rpm.

The basic suspension is the same on all models. independent, It's MacPherson strut up front and a double-wishbone independent rear.

But the Type-S model wears larger stabilizer bars, besides the larger tires.

Thus, the test Type-S rode so firmly it was almost jouncy over moderate to large road bumps.

The RSX stuck to the road stubbornly in curves and turns but understeered at the limits, as is typical with front-drive



Acura RSX

Young auto technicians like big, American cars

By RICK POPELY

Chicago Tribune **CHICAGO**

Conventional wisdom in the auto industry says young people don't want the same type of vehicles their parents drove, but the new-car buyers of tomorrow may not be all that different from today's.

Take Tony Ambrose, an 18-year-old senior at Downers Grove South High School, whose wish list includes a sport-utility vehicle or pickup with lots of power.

"I like the thrill of going fast and the versatility of a truck," said Ambrose. echoing many baby boomers. After all, light trucks pulled ahead of passenger cars in sales a few years ago.

Kristina Pszotka, a senior at Glenbard West High School, drives a Chevrolet Cavalier but likewise sees herself behind the wheel of an SUV or pickup, preferably a fuel-saving hybrid.

"The Cavalier is so small, and I've always wanted to drive bigger vehicles," she said, also sounding like her parents' generation.

Pszotka and Ambose were among several students from DuPage County, Ill., who toured

the Chicago Auto Show in a visit sponsored by Automotive Educational Systems, a national program to recruit and train young people for careers in automotive technology.

All spend part of their school day taking auto technician classes at the Technology Center of DuPage, a career training facility in Addison, Ill., and all have strong opinions about the vehicles they saw at McCormick Place.

Among the surprises is that they sound willing to give domestic brands a shot. Another is that carmakers who think hatchbacks are a good way to hook young buyers may be headed down the wrong road.

Tony Kryger, a senior at Glenbard North, owns a 2001 Dodge Dakota pickup but sees himself behind the wheel of a BMW and owning a BMW dealership.

More immediately, he'd like a GMC Envoy, a midsize SUV, when he heads off to college next year because of its cargo space and towing capability, traits that come in handy when moving to a dormi-

2006, Chicago Tribune.

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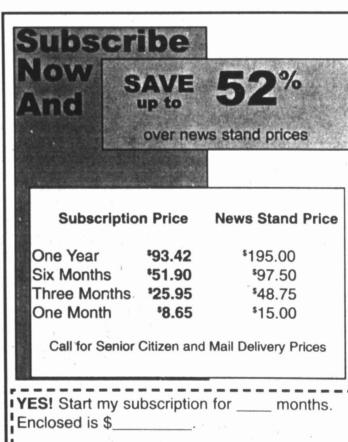




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IN BRIE

BSHS baseball te sets date for "Me the Steers" night

The Big Spring b ball team will h "Meet the Stee night today at high school base field from 5 p.m 6:30 p.m.

Besides the b school baseball to being introduced, area little lea teams will also be ognized. There will a hamburger suj including chips drink for \$5.

KBSB golf tourne announced for month of April

Keep Big Spi Beautiful will be h ing a golf tournan April 22 at the Spring Country C The tournament start at 9 a.m.

cost \$60 per per The tourney is a f person scramble. For more info tion, contact the c try club at 267-535

Relay For Life set dodgeball tourney

The Relay For has scheduled a d ball tournament Saturday at Goliad Gym be ning at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$5 to and a team need consist of four and four girls. The tournament

be sponsored Yellow Dogs and contact Angel So 264-4108.

Mickey Owen ca dates announce

The Mickey C Baseball School announced this y camp dates. The camp will

place at the Nat Little League Saturday. The clinic feat

two different sess The first session run from 9:30 a.i noon, while the ond session goes 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 The camp is players age 6 t The cost for one sion is \$35, but p ipants can get

sessions for \$55. For more info tion or to reg contact the M Owen Baseball S at 1-800-999-8369.

Scramble se for country c The Big S

Country Club host a three-pe scramble golf to ment April 1-2. Entry fee is \$6

player plus golf Private carts are come. Entry includes a bar dinner on the c April 1.

The tournamer begin with a 1 shotgun start days. The field w flighted by firstscores, and the ber of flights w determined by number of entrie For more inf

tion, call 267-535

Sports

SPRING HERALD

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

> Page 1B Wednesday, March 23, 2006

BSHS baseball team sets date for "Meet the Steers" night

The Big Spring baseball team will have "Meet the Steers" night today at the high school baseball field from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Besides the high school baseball team being introduced, the area little league teams will also be recognized. There will be a hamburger supper including chips and drink for \$5.

KBSB golf tourney announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$60 per person. The tourney is a fourperson scramble.

For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

Relay For Life sets dodgeball tourney

The Relay For Life has scheduled a dodge ball tournament for Saturday at the Goliad Gym beginning at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$5 to play and a team needs to consist of four guys and four girls.

The tournament will be sponsored by Yellow Dogs and for more information, contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108.

Mickey Owen camp dates announced

The Mickey Owen Baseball School has announced this year's camp dates.

The camp will take place at the National Little League Field Saturday.

The clinic features two different sessions. The first session will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon, while the second session goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The camp is for players age 6 to 12. The cost for one session is \$35, but participants can get both sessions for \$55.

For more information or to register, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

Scramble set for country club

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble golf tournament April 1-2.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry fee includes a barbecue dinner on the course April 1.

The tournament will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. The field will be flighted by first-round scores, and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

For more information, call 267-5354

Getting a 'W' with their 'D'

Defensive pressure equals win for Howard at NJCAA

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

HUTCHINSON, Kan. -With their usual aggressive defense and two big performances off the bench, the top-ranked Howard College men's basketball team moved into the quarterfinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament with a dominating 74-56 victory over Sheridan College at the Hutchinson Sports Center here Wednesday afternoon.

The Hawks held a usually potent 3-point shooting team to just four of 16 shooting. Meanwhile, Richard sophomore Forbes scored a gamehigh 22 points off the bench and freshman Bougari Konate, who is playing in the tournament with a hyperextended elbow, added 13 points and five rebounds.

"Our game plan was to defend the (three-point) line and we were able to do that today," said Howard head coach Mark Adams. "Bougari and Richard both had big games for us off the bench. They both made our bench outstanding and were the difference in the game.'

Howard improved to 33-1 on the season and will 8:30 p.m. Tallahassee (29-73-69, in overtime

Wednesday afternoon.



Howard College's Benson Akpan (50) attempts a shot against two Sheridan College defenders during the Hawks' first-round game at the National Junior College Athletic Association basketball tournament in Hutchinson, Kan. Wednesday afternoon.

action, Fort Smith defeatplay Tallahassee in the Perimeter took down quarterfinals tonight at Williston, Highland beat Southwest Tennessee, 3) defeated San Jacinto, Southwest Illinois defeated South Idaho, Iowa Western upset No. 2 In other first round Northwest Mississippi

and Arizona Western took to-back 3-pointers by ed Monroe, Georgia down Coffeyville in over-

time. Howard's games against Sheridan was close early in the first half. The Hawks led by only five points with 8:33 to play a good start and we made until halftime, but back-

sophomore Burgess and Konate later pushed the lead to 10 and then Burgess added a free throw to make it 26-15.

"We wanted to get off to some poor choices at Tonight's game Hawks Tallahassee (Fla.),

8:30 p.m. times, but I like a effort overall Adams. "The k

now is to star

trouble and get a

rest on the ben-

sible." If the Have weakness in ment it is the or lack there ! play just seed ship players the tourney

playing through "Dezmon right now b do what we him as man possible," sa "He and Boulet ing through II that's somethir. control at this

The Hawks at halftime and leading Burgess and Benny Valent had four pos hit a Howard's fir of the secon then Valentine on a jumper a but they each points Wedne went a combine 23 from the fir

"I felt good game," said Burgar didn't score was we defend night we'll l beat. We just a one game at a

Forbes straight Howard stretch in the and his 3-pour through made

See HAWKS. Da

Howard takes two from Westerners

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Howard College softball team is putting itself in prime position to make a run at the Western Junior College Athletic title.

The Hawks, currently second in the WJCAC, appear ready to make a run for the league crown after sweeping Western Texas in a doubleheader at Foundation Field Wednesday afternoon.

The cold, blustery weather wasn't very hospitable to fans, but it did little to chill the Hawks

bats in the first game. Howard scored a pair of runs in each of the first three innings to grab a 6-0 win, then coasted to the

Paige Ruiz, who was the

winning pitcher, helped her cause at the plate by going 2-for-3 with a double and triple.

But the big blow came from Jessica Garcia. The Burleson native had a home run and two RBIs, plus scored twice.

The second game was anything but one-sided, however - an extrainning affair that wasn't settled until Nicole Dickson knocked in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth for a 5-4 victory.

Dickson also picked up the victory on the mound. Howard improved to 24-6 overall and 14-2 in the WJCAC, good for second place behind leagueleader Midland College. "I thought things went

See HOWARD, page 2B

Jessica Garcia (3) is greeted by her Howard College teammates after hitting a name run is the first game of the Hawks' doubleheader with Western Texas College Weenesday-ar Foundation Felid.

Beauty of NFL system: It works as long as the money rolls in

he Dallas Cowboys got the receiver their fans loved to hate. The New England Patriots gave away the kicker their fans hated

to lose. Both moves were baffling, at best. And not just because it matters what fans think, because in the end it really doesn't.

Coaches and general managers can huddle in darkened rooms for weeks, emerge blinded by the



TIM DAHLBERT

light and still do from their mistakes quickly. something stupid. Owners can fall in love with players and hand out millions no lion, money Jerry Jones can

agency in the

aster may be. greatest The thing about free

matter what the potential for disthe new stadium opens in

So what if Terrell Owens goes berserk and tackles Bill Parcells for taking him out of a game. All it costs the Cowboys is \$10 milquickly make up by charging more for nachos and beer when

That's because Owens' \$25 million contract with the Cowboys ally isn't a \$25 million conmay be that teams can recover tract. If the Cowboys don't want See NFL, page 28

TO after a year, they him go and are out not \$5 million signing boats million first-year salar

Which is what Monday to Larry A guard who was the the Cowboys' glory of became disposable because age and the fact he was due be million next week and was going to count \$7.5 million toward next

BATTLE FOR THE PUCK

Dallas Stars' Niko Kapanen (39) dives as Minnesota Wild's Pierre-Marc Bouchard (96) advances the puck during the

Rest of the Big Five trying to find groove

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH. Fla. (AP) — Vijay Singh was on the far corner of the range at Bay Hill with a large bucket of balls and a swing that didn't appear as though it belonged to a three-time major champion. That was by design.

Singh was letting his driver lag at the top of his backswing - golf gurus would say the club was laid off - then ripping shots that either sailed left or right, rarely straight. The idea was to work himself back into the proper position to the point he was no longer thinking about

The Fijian has gone 15 consecutive PGA Tour starts without a victory, his longest drought in four

I worked really hard last week and worked really hard this week, as well. And

Golf

I'm making putts now," Singh said Wednesday.

The Championship gets under way Thursday, and Singh is not alone in his flaws.

Phil Mickelson failed to win on the West Coast for only the fourth time in his career, and two of those seasons ended without a victory anywhere that year.

At first, he figured it was his putting that held him back. Now he recognizes other chinks.

"I wasn't controlling my misses and shots the way I wanted, and there were a couple of other areas I wanted to improve," Mickelson

"I wasn't chipping the ball as close as I needed to. So, I spent some quality time on trying to address those

> Gordon Chase led the Generals with 18 points and nine rebounds and

"If Brian Duckworth doesn't show up today we long and the ones who get beat by about 40

> and Tallahassee plays the winner of Arizona Western and Iowa Western in the semifinals Friday night.

are led by the best commander in the game," said Burgess. "We have to battle for 40 minutes every game."

> the spring. "Barry was supposed to go four at-bats, but we had some long innings at night," Giants manager Felipe Alou said after an 11-4 loss to the Los Angeles Angels

second period at American Airlines Center in Dallas Wednesday.

Barry

released,

By The Associated Press

Alfonso Soriano were the

focus of attention at

spring training yet again.

detailing extensive evi-

dence of Bonds' alleged

steroid use was to be

Francisco Giants slugger

hit his fourth homer of

the spring on his first

Bonds, 9-for-13 (.692) in

spring training, wouldn't

speak with reporters

before or after his first

swing in five days.

the

A day before a book

Bonds

Scottsdale, Ariz. "I just didn't think one more at-bat or one trip to the outfield was going to do that much. He got a good workout."

Vladimir Guerrero and Casey Kotchman each hit three-run homers off Giants starter Matt Cain, but Bonds' two-run drive into the right-field bleachers was the main attraction again.

Alfonso Soriano finally agreed to change positions, and he had an easy first day in left field for Washington the Nationals.

In his only chance at his new position, Soriano jogged in a few steps to catch a routine fly ball by Albert Pujols, then threw to second to double off David Eckstein.

"I never think I'm going to make a double play in

Spring training

the outfield," Soriano said in Jupiter, Fla. "But I did

roundup

Bonds homers, Soriano takes the field

He agreed to make the move only two days after refusing to take his new position in the ouifield. The Nationals had a day off Tuesday, giving him time to accept the switch. "It's a relief for every-

exhibition appearance body, it really is," managsince Friday. He finished er Frank Robinson said 1-for-2 with a walk and before Washington's 9-3 played six innings in left loss to the St. Louis field — his longest stint of Cardinals. "We get the distractions away from here and we can focus on baseball now."

Now, all Soriano needs is his own glove. He bor-Lombard's outfield model Wednesday.

Soriano, an AL All-Star the last four years at second base, has never played the outfield in a major league game. He said the last time he played there in spring training was in 2001.

In other spring training

Yankees 5, Red Sox 4 In Tampa, Fla., Johnny Damon went 1-for-4 with two strikeouts as New York's designated hitter in his first game against his former team.

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada broke his nose when he was hit in the face by a ball while playing catch before the game. X-rays revealed a fracture, and he was to remain in the hospital overnight and was expected to be released Thursday Posada probably will not play in a game for at least five days.

Mets 2, Dodgers 1

In Port St. Lucie, Fla., Aaron Heilman pitched five effective innings and top prospect Lastings Milledge doubled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to lead the Mets.

Mets ace Martinez expects to miss opening day because of a nagging toe injury. The three-time Cy Young Award winner hasn't pitched in a spring training game yet due to a sore right big toe and doesn't think he'll be ready to start the season opener April Washington at Shea Stadium.

Left-hander Glavine, who turns 40 on rowed prospect George Saturday, will likely start the opener for the Mets.

> Diamondbacks Athletics 7

At Phoenix, Conor Jackson hit two solo homers, including one that sailed into a tree just beyond the left-field fence, disturbing a beehive. The game was delayed for a few minutes when a swarm of bees flew onto the field, forcing A's left fielder Nick Swisher to vacate the

Phillies 4, Braves 4, 10 innings

At Kissimmee, Fla., Kyle Davies bolstered his bid to make Atlanta's opening day roster by pitching five shutout innings. Jorge Sosa, also trying to wrap up a spot in the Braves' rotation, yielded four runs, including a three-run homer.

HAWKS

Continued from page 1B

Burgess later pushed the advantage to 14 with a 3pointer of his own.

"I just took the open shots and was able to knock most of them down today," said Forbes. "I got into a groove in the second half.

Howard used five straight points later in the second half to go up by 16 points and led by as many as 20 in the game before the Generals closed to 18 at the buzzer. But the Hawks' defensive effort against a high-scor-

HOWARD

Continued from page 1B

well, said Kelly Raines,

Howard head coach. "We

didn't hit as well in the

second game, but we've

have been the ultimate difference in the game. "They are as good of a

ing Sheridan team might

defensive team as I have ever seen at the junior college level," said Sheridan head coach Joel

"They are so strong and aren't long are really points," said Davidson.

Burgess finished with a game-high 16 rebounds. Freshman Phil Murphy only scored four points but he grabbed 10 rebounds. The Hawks only shot 37 percent from the floor, but outrebounded the Generals 52-37. They also went 21-for-31 from the free throw line.

around.

Sheridan also got a strong effort from Brian Duckworth, who finished with 15 points and nine rebounds.

The winner of Howard

"This is a war and we

played (Western) five or ing stretch of games, six times, so we new it which includes games would be harder for us to against Midland, will be score runs this time crucial for her team's

The Hawks return to "I think we have a great action March 31 and April chance (at the conference 1 when they play a pair of title)," she said. "If we doubleheaders at El Paso. continue to play well Rains said the upcomevery day, we'll be OK."

post-season chances.

NFL

Continued from page 1B

season's salary cap.

All Dallas had to do was show Allen the way to the door and wish him good luck. And, hey, if you want to come back at a cheaper price let us know isn't baseball, This

where George Steinbrenner ate Kevin Brown's \$16 million salary the last couple years, and has to pay Randy Johnson even more until he collects Social Security. Almost left out in the

tributes to the departing Paul Tagliabue last week was the fact that he has with help from the players' association — kept in place a system that rewards performance and comes close to forcing players to actually play for pay. Signing bonuses may be

huge, but with no guaranteed contracts there's rarely any complacency among players. The system, tied together with a salary cap, works, unlike baseball's dysfunctional labor division.

Tagliabue said at the Super Bowl this year that the philosophy on guaranteed contracts goes back to the founders of the league, who believed that a significant portion of pay should be for performance.

"Guaranteed contracts, within the context of a salary cap, takes it away from a player who is playing and gives it to a player who is not playing,' Tagliabue said.

gone along with that, often at a high price to those unfortunate enough to suffer career-ending injuries or whose performances, like Allen's, were

Players have generally

just declining. Many others, though, have made it up on the other end with signing bonuses that Tagliabue estimates make up half the league's \$3.4 billion in annual player costs.

And it's hard to argue when the amount of money each team can spend on players has gone up \$35 million in the last five years.

Those payrolls will skyrocket even more now because the NFL blinked earlier this month and agreed to a contract that will add nearly a billion dollars in player costs in exchange for six years of labor peace.

The agreement increases the salary cap from \$85.5 million to \$102 million for next year, and teams didn't wait long before starting to spend the money.

Owens got his, and so did Edgerrin James, who is guaranteed at least \$14.75 million of a fouryear \$30 million pact he signed with the beleaguered

Arizona Cardinals. And Steve Hutchinson got the richest deal ever for a guard, \$16 million guaranteed and a possible \$49 million over seven years from the Minnesota Vikings.

Adam Vinatieri won't get nearly that much because, well, he's a kicker. But his signing by the Indianapolis Colts was a good example of why fans should never get too

attached to players, no matter what they've done for a team.

Vinatieri won two Super Bowls for the Patriots on last-second kicks, and helped win the 2001 AFC semifinal on a memorable kick through swirling snow with 32 seconds left against the Raiders.

He's probably the best clutch kicker in the historv of the game. And, by all accounts, he probably would have stayed with the Patriots if they had shown him a little love.

Yet New England let him go, declining to pay him a paltry \$3 million or so despite reportedly having some \$20 million in unused cap money. Maybe an alarm went off when they realized they could buy 10 kickers at Vinatieri's price.

Indianapolis, meanwhile, didn't mind shelling out a few million to get him, not with memories still fresh of the kick Mike Vanderjagt missed in the playoffs that would have gotten the Colts into overtime against Pittsburgh.

The Cowboys took a gamble on TO. The Patriots took a gamble of their own.

In the NFL, though, rolling the dice isn't so hard. More money will be pouring in next year, and there will be plenty of time for those smart enough to correct any mistakes.

And that, really, is the beauty of the system.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him tdahlberg@ap.org

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MOVING SALE: 2007 Runnels, Saturday 8:00-? Clothing, toys and lots of misc. items.

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MARTIN CO. Hospital Home Health is looking for a full-time RN and a PRN to join their energetic staff. Must be willing to travel to surrounding areas. Bilingual preferred and salary DOE. Interested parties may call Allison @ (432)756-3259 fax resume (432)756-4510.

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Please contact Linda Ashford, RN, DON at (432)263-1271 or complete an application at Mountain View Lodge, 2009 Virginia Ave., Big Spring.

NEED BODY Tech with at least five years experience. Must be I-Car or ASE certified. Call or apply in person at Gillihan Paint and Body, 821 West Fourth Street, Big Spring, TX. Telephone (432)263-6528.

NEED MAINTENANCE person with nlumbing experience. Apply within, 2501 Fairchild, or call (432)263-3461.

NOW HIRING drivers to transport railroad crews. 25 Years old, pass a drug screen, good driving record. Retired Men and Women are encouraged to apply. (866)303-4100 Leave message with name, number and location.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation. We are now increasing our Certified Nurse Aid staff. Qualified person will be a friendly and compassionate team player. If this sounds like you, please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

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Call 263-3312

Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

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PRIVATELY OWNED group home looking for two people to fill evening slot, providing assistance to developmentally disabled individuals. Applicant must be dependable, have 3 references, personal transportation and exhibit high level of maturity. Will train right candidate. Must be drug free with high school diploma or GED. Willing to work weekends. Serious inquiries only. Contact Teresa @ 263-1408 for more

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TAKING APPLICATIONS for Class A or B CDL Driver. Experience with line work a plus but necessary. (432)267-6006.

TRANSIT MIX Concrete has an opening for a Mixer Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a Class A or B CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 35 hour guarantee offered with wages starting at \$9.75 or \$10.25 with 6 months mixer driving experience. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 N. Benton, Big Spring (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer

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



"Caring People - Caring for People", is exactly what we're about. We value each caregiver for the contribution they make to our success.

We are interviewing for a few "Caring People." If you are interested in making a difference and have the following qualifications, please call.

> **RADIOLOGY TECH PHYSICAL THERAPIST** RESPIRATORY THERAPIST **CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECH MAINTENANCE TECH** HOUSEKEEPER

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robbi banks@chs.net

Help Wanted TRUCK DRIVER

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

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

Instructional

PIANO & VOICE LESSONS Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

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

LARGE SOFA and loveseat. Good condition. \$250. Call (432)264-7567 after 5:00 p.m. MAYTAG WASHING machine.

Heavy duty, super capacity, quiet series. \$200.00. CRAFTSMAN REAR - Tine Tiller, 5 HP. \$75.00 Call (432)263-7518.

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FOUND FEMALE calico cat, very affectionate. Washington Blvd area. Call (432)263-3400, after 5:00 p.m.

FOUND: FEMALE puppy, 3-4 months old. East side. Call and identify, (432)263-3041.

LOST FEMALE red & white Springer Spaniel. \$50. Reward. (432)935-1160.

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\$145. NEVER USED Full size mattress and box. In plastic from manufacturer, Warranty. 806-549-3110

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Conduct training on a wide variety of existing DOT & OSHA related programs which include Confined Space, Confined Space Rescue, Hazard Communication, and H2S training to name a few. Confer with supervisor/managers to determine ongoing development needs in alignment with company objectives.

The ideal candidate for this position must be an enthusiastic team player, posse's strong communication and organizational skills and be willing to travel. Extensive knowledge of the oilfield is a plus.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Track all resumes and applications that come in. Interview applicants, administer personnel tests, evaluate applicant qualifications, and arrange for initial orientation of newly hired employees. Extend employment offers to candidates initiate background screens, drug screens, and reference checking. Conduct all new hire and refresher training.

Please e-mail your resume and salary requirements to jobs_msi@yahoo.com

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All Utilities Except Electric Paid Free High Speed Wireless Internet On-Site Manager

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Real Estate for Rent SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038,

(432)770-5656. Real Estate for Sale

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

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume

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\$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for

ABSOLUTE AUCTION. The former Dollar General building in McCamey, Texas is being auctioned March 25 at 10 a.m. Request information regarding property. 1-866-323-3111 or e-mail

ptaylor@rt66.com. www.ranchline.com.

EIGHT LOTS Moss Lake Road, 4.89 acres @ \$14,900. City water, electricity, phone, fireplugs. Coahoma School. Call Joe Hughes @ Home Realtors (432)263-1284 Cell 270-7877 Home 353-4751.

FOR SALE, Extra Clean 2 Bedroom, 2 bath Brick Home near College. Den w/fireplace, util. room, single garage, new carpet. Call (432)263-6887 or 270-1743.

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OLD 2 story house with 2 acres on Davis Road (West of Gail Highway). Lots of work but tons of potential with wood floors, high ceilings, leaded glass and original doors and hardware. \$11,000. (432)218-6511.

PRICE: \$29,900 Newly remodeled Duplex: 706 13th St. Each side: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, central air/heat, washer/dryer connections, new paint/carpet, gas stoves. Fenced backyard. Great investment property. Cal (432)935-6163.

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2004 TOYOTA Camry Solara, 4 cylinder, 30,000 miles, power & air, CD, alloy wheels, tilt wheel, cruise. Excellent condition, economical. \$16,500. (432)263-3723 After 6:00 p.m.

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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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bedroom - \$386.00 2 bedrooms - \$459.00 3 bedrooms - \$516.00 Please call for an appointment today!

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Too Many Altimas, Sentras, Maximas And Trucks $Our\ Loss = Your\ Gain$

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THURSD

BIG SPRING HERA

Thursday, March

WFAA(2)

6 :30 Ent. Tonight Extreme Mal eover: Home

9 :9M Prime...
9 :9M (CC)
10 :9M News (CC)
Nightline
:PM Ent. Tonight :AM Live (CC) 12 :30 News (CC)

DENNIS TH



FOR ALL THE BUMPER BC

DO YOU BELIEVE TH

WIZARD C



AGNES



HI AND LO



THE OTH WHATCHA GOT



I'M VERY YORE JUG



GET YOUR MUSCLES BREATHE

DEEP RELAX OVER

3-23

THURSDAY

_)	1	1														
1			WFAA(2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS[1]	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC 20	AMC (21)	SPIKE 22	TNT 23	BET 26	DISN 27	ESPN2	ESPN 29	COIFI 64
L			Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	28	Sports	ಟJence Fic.
Г	- :	PM	News (CC)	News	Peregrina	My Wife-Kids	College	La Tormenta	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	Dive to Ber-		CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Phil of Future	Kickboxing	SportsCenter	Movie: The
	6	:30	Ent. Tonight	Wheel-Fortune		Raymond	Basketball:		Be a Millionaire	Raymond	John Hagee		muda Triangle		Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	BET Style	That's-Raven	Boxing: Peter	Figure	Phantom
Г	_ :	PM	Extreme Mak-	Extreme Mak-	Barrera de	70s Show	NCAA	Tierra de	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	TX Mnthly Talk	Dive to Ber-	Movin; The	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Jamie Foxx	Movie: High	Manfredo Jr.	World	(CC)
	7	:30	eover: Home	eover: Home	Amor	The Loop	Tournament	Pasiones	Four Kings	Friends (CC)	Biblical Israel	TBA	muda Triangle	Comancheros	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	Jamie Foxx	School Musical	vs. Sergio		
Г	- :	PM	American	American	Alborada	The O.C.	Regional Semi.	Corazon Part	Name Is Earl	Movle: Sister	Light of the	Antiques	Strange UFO		MXC	Law & Order	Rip the	(CC)	Mora		Movie: The
	8	:30	Inventor	Inventor		(CC)	College	Decisiones	The Office	Act 2: Back in	Southwest	Roadshow	Stories		MXC	(CC) (DVS)	Runway	,	Boxing:		Hulk (CC)
Г	- :	PM	Primetime	Primetime	Aqui y Ahora	My Wife-Kids	Basketball:	Decisiones	ER (CC)	the Habit		National	Strange UFO	:15 Movie:	UFC	Law & Order	Comicview	Emperor New	Manfredo Jr.		
	9	:30	(CC)	(CC)		70s Show	NCAA			(CC)		Geographic	Stories	Bend of the	Unleashed	(CC) (DVS)		Even Stevens	vs. Pemberton		•
		PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	Tournament	Noticias	News	:10 Movie:	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Dive to Ber-	River (CC)	UFC	Las Vegas	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	Quite Frankly	Figure	
	10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Regional Semi.	Titulares y Mas	Tonight Show	Made in	Healing	(CC)	muda Triangle		Unleashed	(CC)	In Living Color	That's-Raven	With Smith	Skating:	
	44 3	PM	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	TBA	News	Laura		America	Del Sanchez	Sign Off	Dive to Ber-	:15 Movie:	CSI: Crime	Movie: Snake	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	College		Doctor Who
	11	:30	Jimmy Kimmel	Live (CC)	Risa	Malcolm-Mid.	Late Show-	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	(CC)	Jimmy Philips	. "	muda Triangle	Cahill, United	Scene Invstgtn		Jamie Foxx	Kim Possible	Basketball	(CC)	(CC)
	40 3	AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y	Becker (CC)	Letterman	Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien	12:10 Movie:	Update/Israel	"	Strange UFO	States Marshal	Real TV (CC)		BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	NIT	College	Doctor Who
	12	:30	News (CC)	Paid Program	Rivales (SS)	King of the Hill	Late Late	Pagado	Seinfeld (CC)	Outrageous	Booker	"	Stories	(CC)	Blind Date			That's-Raven	Quarterfinal	Grnday	(CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW YOU DON'T OWE US ANYTHING FOR ALL THE BUMPER STICKERS WE PUT ON YOUR CAR."

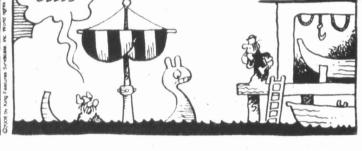
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"We need a new box of animal crackers. Y'can't eat these if the seal is broken."

HAGAR





BLONDIE







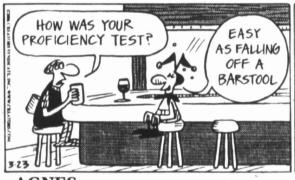
BC

DO YOU BELIEVE THERELL BE MORE PLAYER STRIKES THIS YEAR





WIZARD OF ID



YOU USE YOUR ANALOGIES, I'LL USE MINE ... YOU MEAN "106"

AGNES







HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST









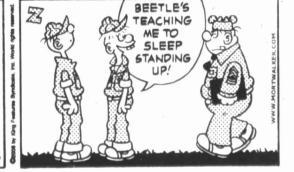
SNUFFY SMITH











This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 23, the 82nd day of 2006. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 23, 1775, Patrick

Henry made his famous call for American independence from Britain, telling the Provincial Virginia Convention, "Give me liberty, or give me death!' On this date:

In 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major (the "Surprise" symphony) was performed publicly for the first time, in London.

In 1806, 200 years ago, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy. In 1933, the German

Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial legislative pow-

In 1942, during World War II, the U.S. government began evacuating Japanese-Americans from their West Coast homes to detention centers.

In 1956 J years ago, Pakista, be ame an independent republic within the British Commonwealth. In 1965, America's first

two-person space flight began as Gemini 3 blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard. In 1983, President Reagan first proposed developing technology to intercept enemy missiles - a propos-

Initiative, as well as "Star Wars. In 1983, Dr. Barney Clark, recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center after 112 days with

al that came to be known as

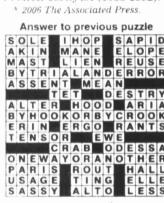
Defense

Strategic

the device. In 2003, a U.S. Army maintenance convoy was ambushed in Iraq; 11 soldiers were killed, seven were captured, including Pvt. 1st Class Jessica Lynch, who was rescued on April 1.

Birthdays: Todav's Comedian Marty Allen is 84. Movie director Mark Rydell is 72. Singer-producer Ric Ocasek is 57. Singer Chaka Khan is 53. Actress Amanda Plummer is 49. Actress Hope Davis is 42. Comedian John Pinette is 42. Actor Richard Grieco is 41. Country musician Kevin Griffin (Yankee Grey) is 41. Rock singermusician Damon Albarn (Blur) is 38. Actress-singer Melissa Errico is 36. Rock musician John Humphrey (The Nixons) is 36. Actress Keri Russell is 30. Actress Nicholle Tom is 28. Country singer Paul Martin Martin (Marshall Dyllon) is 28.

Thought for Today: "I speak the truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare; and I dare a little more, as I grow older." Michel de Montaigne, French essayist (1533-1592).



Newsday Crossword

53 Pet rescue org.

55 Handed down

punishment

birth name

63 Actor Estrada

64 Trucker, often

65 The Academy

66 DNA carrier

division

DOWN

2 Seized auto

3 Opposite of

4 Full of hubris

5 Walk gingerly

1 Guzzle

ecto-

67 Football-field

68 Freight haulers

Awards, e.g.

60 Timber wolf

actor

62 Marilyn's

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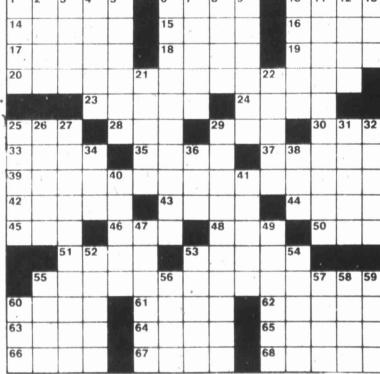
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3/23/06



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By MARSHA STURI Features Editor

The second annu Spring Powwow pr opportunity **Dorothy Garrett Co** this weekend to original Native An regalia dancers in titions.

"We have put tog spectacular powwo these contests will be something to see Randy McKinney

Plan no for 200 Trash-(

Herald Staff Repor

Pat Simmons, co tor for the Don' With Texas Trash Howard County, ing groups and in als who plan on l

with the Saturday 1, event to contact 'We'd like ever help clean up, spr and beautify our c nity," said Simmo has coordinated th effort for years. "V everyone plans to pate. We really

good cleaning of o munity again." She'd like to kn plans on partici how many vol will be helping, th ber of trash ba group estimates

need and what ar plan on cleaning. Bags will be from 9 a.m. to Friday, March 31 Big Spring Area C

of Commerce for who need them. Hot dogs will be at the Heart of t Park starting at 1 the day of the Tr

There will also be ing for prizes an for children who pate. "Bring your tras

park as we wi huge dumpsters trash," said Simn

See TRASH, Page 3



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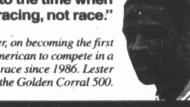
1-2B **Sports**

To reach us: Please call 263-7 a.m. to 5 p.m. M If you miss your | 263-7335 before

noon Sunday.

"I am looking forward to the time when my racing is about racing, not race."

> Bill Lester, on becoming the first African-American to compete in a Nextel Cup race since 1986. Lester finished 38th in the Golden Corral 500.



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

races there, he has six top 10s, has led 707

The thing about Bristol is you can be re-

laps and has an average finish of 7.1.

Earnhardt Jr. said.

you a nasty blow.'

ally good but still caught up in a wreck.

That's probably the main concern. Even if

sometimes because of all the lapped traffic,"

'That's just Bristol. You can't take a

Although he's run near the front the sea-

son's first three races, Earnhardt Jr. was par-

"The top five (finish) gives us momen-

tum. We were happy with the way we ran at

California and Vegas, but it didn't really give

"Obviously, I'm really happy with the

way we performed at Atlanta, especially giv-

en the setbacks during the race. But I'd be

lying if I said I didn't expect it. Atlanta has

always been a good track for us, just like

Bristol has always been pretty good for us.

ing up, and I think we'll be getting a lot

more top fives and — hopefully — wins."

"We're excited about the schedule com-

us momentum like a top five does," he said.

ticularly impressed with his team's third

break at any time. The moment you think

you're doing good, it'll jump up and deal

you're the leader, it's hard to miss wrecks

keturning to form?

Earnhardt Jr. pleased with team's early season performance

By JIM UTTER Knight Ridder Newspapers

> hat sound you're hearing from legions of Budweiser-red-wearing fans each week can only mean one thing — Dale Earnhardt Jr. is back in championshipcontending form.

Or is he? It's likely too early for a definite answer to that question, but based on performance alone in the first four races of the 2006 Nextel Cup Series season, he certainly appears

headed in the right direction. Earnhardt Jr. and four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon — two of NASCAR's biggest stars - both missed the Chase for

the Nextel Cup last season. After four races — including a season's best third at Atlanta last weekend - Earnhardt Jr.'s average finish is 12.25. His team has gotten off to a better start only once before in 2004.

In 2004, Earnhardt Jr. won two of the season's first four races and had an average finish of 10.5. He went on to qualify for the inaugural Chase.

This has been a good start to the season. Our cars are better, the people are better, the attitudes are better, everything is just better," Earnhardt Jr. said "I think the cars are driving better this

season, but we definitely had our problem tracks, and when it was bad, it was really "We've been to two of those problem

year than they were in '04. That was a great

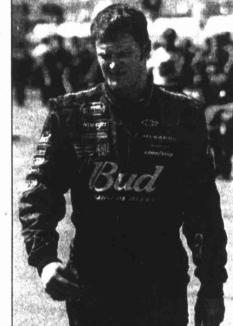
tracks already this year (California and Las Vegas), and we were a top-15 car each time." A late-race pit road call for four tires over two gave Earnhardt Jr. an 11th-place finish

at California, and he was running in the top

5 late at Las Vegas until he was penalized for speeding on pit road during a late-race caution and finished 27th. Regardless, Earnhardt Jr. finds himself

seventh in points entering Sunday's Food City 500 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway one of the driver's favorite tracks. He has finished in the top 10 in each of his last three Bristol races, including a victo-

ry in the 2004 Sharpie 500. In his last eight



Dale Earnhardt Jr. is in seventh place in the NASCAR Nextel Cup points standings.

to last season and this season

100	2005	2006
Race	Start, Finish	Start, Finish
Daytona	5th, 3rd	7th, 8th
California	40th, 32nd	18th, 11th
Las Vegas	34th, 42nd	42nd, 27th
Atlanta	35th, 24th	26th, 3rd

place at Atlanta, especially since he had to battle from the rear of field after experiencing tire problems twice during the race.

If so, the number and the volume of the IS HE BACK? red-clad fans in the stands is sure to grow. Comparison of Earnhardt Jr.'s start

	2005	2006	After the first four races of the seas
Race	Start. Finish	Start, Finish	Earnhardt Jr. has earned an average of 12.25. He enters Bristol Motor Sp
Daytona	5th, 3rd	7th, 8th	way with three straight top-10 finish
California	40th, 32nd	18th, 11th	the track.
Las Vegas	34th, 42nd	42nd, 27th	
Atlenta	35th 24th	26th 3rd	



RANKINGS -

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Sixth-place finish at Atlanta? Clearly, Darian Grubb has lost his touch. Bring back Chad Knaus. Last week: 1.

2. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Running well in the Cup and the Busch series. There may be a commonality there. Last week: 9.

3. Mark Martin (car No. 6): This team just keeps banging on victory's door, it seems, weekend after weekend. Last week: 4

4. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Two flat tires and he still made it back to 13th at Atlanta. This team looks solid, too. Last week: 2.

5. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Backto-back top-five finishes at 1.5-mile tracks has got to encourage this team. Last week: 5.

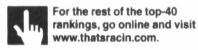
6. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Looked like the 2005 model of Tony Stewart with a patient top-five run at

7. Casey Mears (car No. 42): Very ordinary in 21st-place finish at Atlanta, but an off week didn't turn into a disaster. Last week: 3.

8. Kyle Busch (car No. 5): Battled through some challenges to get a top 15 at Atlanta. Needs a clean run at Bristol. Last week: 8.

9. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Things are looking up as this team is off to a solid start. May be a threat this weekend. Last week: 12

10. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): Team keeps leading laps but hasn't finished off any of those good runs yet this year. Last week: 7.





Rain delay allows reflection on Hamilton's health

n some ways, it's fitting that NASCAR's weather luck ran out on the same weekend that Bobby Hamilton told everyone he's beginning cancer treatments.

For the first time since April 7, 2002, at Texas Motor Speedway, a Nextel Cup race did not at least begin on its scheduled day as rain pushed the Golden Corral 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway back to Mon-Atlanta also was the

site of the most recent Cup race that stopped

one day and resumed the next when in October 2003 Jeff Gordon won a race completed on Monday after rain inter-

Last Thursday night, as the NASCAR circus gathered around the 1.54-mile track, Hamilton and his

team held a cookout outside his motor home, parked so that it overlooked

As they are barbecue and swapped stories, the subject of Monday races, ironically, came up.

Hamilton won four races in his Nextel Cup career, and two of them came in races delayed until Monday. The first was at Rockingham in the fall of 1997 and the second was the following April at Martinsville.

He raced in last week's NASCAR Truck race at Atlanta, finishing 12th, just hours after walking into the media

center and telling everyone about his diagnosis. It would be his last race, he said, but only for a while. "I'm not quitting," Hamilton said.

"I'm not that weak." Hamilton is one of those guys who



RUSTY JARRETT FOR NASCAR Last week, veteran racer Bobby Hamilton announced he has cancer.

doesn't take himself too seriously, and goodness knows racing could use a lot more of those. But cancer, of course, is a very serious thing. Hamilton knows he has a serious fight on his hands. And he's ready to get to it.

Monday, as the Cup teams gathered again at Atlanta to race, Hamilton

headed to Vanderbilt University's hospital to start treatment to fight the cancer that was discovered in his neck when he noticed the swelling wouldn't go down after he'd had wisdom teeth removed late last year. At the team cookout last Thursday,

nobody talked of chemotherapy or cancer. Hamilton was too busy swapping stories and enjoying the compa-Until last week, Hamilton had told

only a few people about his diagnosis. In a sport where secrets usually spread faster than a stain on a new shirt, the news surprised virtually everyone. There was little time to react before another race weekend began to unfold.

So the silver lining in Sunday's clouds was that they provided a moment's pause and a chance to say good luck to a good man. Here's to Bobby Hamilton.

May there be only blue skies and sunshine in his forecast.

FOOD CITY 500 Where: Bristol Motor Speedway, a highly

THIS WEEK'S RACE

banked 0.533-mile concrete oval located in Bristol, Tenn.

When: Sunday at 2:10 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network. Purse: \$5,426,071.

Last year's winner: Kevin Harvick. Worth mentioning: Dale Earnhardt Jr. has three straight top-10 finishes at Bristol, the longest current streak. He has eight top-15 finishes in his last nine races at Bristol.

Jeff Burton is the only driver with top-10 starts in all four races this season.

Jeff Gordon moved into the top 10 in points after Las Vegas for the first time since Bristol last August ending a 14-race absence, the longest of his career.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION When and where do you expect Dale Earnhardt Jr. to score

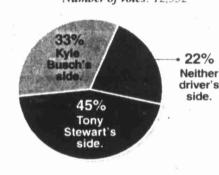
> top series? Cast your vote at: www.thatsracin.com

his next victory in NASCAR's

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

If you had to pick sides in the Kyle Busch-Tony Stewart row, which side would you choose?

Number of votes: 12,332



STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS ■ Say what you will about **rookies**, but this

year's Nextel Cup class seems to be backing up the preseason hype. At least one of the rookies has finished in the top 10

in every race this season. Clint Bowyer has the best finish of the group, a sixth at Daytona.

■ In the "no one has noticed" category for \$100: Dale Jarrett is ninth in points and has top-10 finishes in two of the four races so far.



■ This week should go a long way in determining if **Casey Mears** will be a legitimate contender this season. Mears, fifth in points, has finished 21st or worse in all six races at

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS The top-40 drivers as of March 20:

Points Rank/Driver

HE	INIVIDITYEE	Points	Hank/Driver	Points
1.	Jimmie Johns	on690	21. Greg Biffio	394
2.	Kasey Kahne	640	22. Joe Nemeche	ek382
3.	Matt Kenseth	612	23. Kevin Harvick	378
4.	Mark Martin .	600	24. Kyle Petty	357
5.	Casey Mears	554	25. Reed Sorens	on 353
6.	Jeff Gordon	539	26. Ken Schrader	348
7.	Dale Earnhan	dt Jr 534	27. Kurt Busch	346
8.	Kyle Busch	530	28. Terry Labonte	346
9.	Dale Jarrett	490	29. Michael Waltr	ip330
10	Clint Bowyer.	471	30. Carl Edwards	327
11	Jeff Burton	466	31. Jeff Green	322
12	Tony Stewart.	464	32. Scott Riggs	315
13	Elliott Sadler.	461	33. Dave Blaney	307
14	Brian Vickers	456	34. Jeremy Mayfi	eld280
	Martin Truex J		35. David Stremn	ne 271
16	Jamie McMur	ray 422	36. Brent Sherma	an 268
17	. Ryan Newma	n421	37. Kevin Lepage	266
	.J.J. Yeley		38. Bobby Labon	te245
19	. Robby Gordo	n 415	39. Sterling Marli	n 244
20	Denny Hamlir	1 409	40. Scott Wimme	r 186

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The ton 20 drivers or of March 19.

I ne top	-20 ariver	rs as of March I	8.
Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	772	11. Johnny Saute	er 577
2. J.J. Yeley	755	12. Ashton Lewis	
3. Jamie McMur	ray 698	13. Jason Keller	
4. Clint Bowyer.	664	14. Paul Menard	558
5. Denny Hamlir		15. Todd Kluever	549
6. Jason Leffler.	639	16. Reed Sorens	on 494
7. Carl Edwards	614	17. Mark McFarle	
8. Burney Lama	r606	18. Kyle Busch .	
9. Jon Wood	596	19. Matt Kenseth	470
10. Greg Biffle	595	20. Kenny Walled	e464

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sharpie Mini 300, Bristol.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS The top-10 drivers as of March 17:

1.	mark/Driver Points Mark Martin 560	6. Jack Sprague
3.	Todd Bodine 535 Ted Musgrave 495	Hick Crawford Erik Darnell
4.	David Reutimann 458	9. Jan Wood
5.	Johnny Benson 433	10. Mike Bliss