

RALD
2006

BIG SPRING HERALD



INSIDE
Local duo
set to play
in FCA all-
star game
on June 3
in Abilene.
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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 121

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Three Easter egg hunts slated for area children

Herald Staff Report

Two days, three places to go and thousands of colored treats will have little boys and girls hopping all over Big Spring this weekend in a series of Easter egg hunts.

The first — and one of the largest — will be Friday's hunt at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing to 4 p.m., the third annual

Community Easter Egg Hunt will feature 25,000 plastic eggs filled with candy and gifts or gift certificates donated by local businesses.

The event drew more than 450 children last year.

Organizers say there will be a separate hunting ground for children under age 6.

Other attractions planned include an inflatable bouncer or "moonwalker," a train ride and a visit by the Easter

Bunny. Odyssey Healthcare will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers.

At 10 a.m. the next morning — Saturday — the VA Medical Center will stage its fifth annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Extended Care and Transitional Unit. Children 0-10 years old are invited to collect eggs and meet the Easter Bunny.

Goodfellow Air Force Base personnel will assist with the

hunt. Children will be divided into three age categories and may be accompanied by a parent.

"All children are encouraged to attend and participate," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator at the VAMC.

Then, at noon Saturday, the fifth annual citywide Easter egg hunt will get bouncing at Birdwell Park.

Children of all ages can par-

ticipate. The younger ones will be allowed to begin searching for eggs first, then the older children will get to join in.

The Easter Bunny — no doubt a bit weary by then, but still hopping with holiday cheer — will also greet the children.

"People can bring their cameras and have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. There will be no charge," said Jennifer Patton, citywide hunt organizer.

BSISD officials eye new FIRST requirements

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A new mandate concerning how school districts spend their money has area officials concerned.

As part of the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), local districts will now be required to allocate 65 percent of their expenditures for instructional purposes, according to an executive order signed by Gov. Rick

Perry.

The new standard states that 65 percent of a school district's expenditures must go toward classroom instruction (teacher salaries and instructional material, mostly), co-curricular and extra-curricular activities (such as band and football) and school library and media services.

That rule exempts debt service, such as bond payments, and capital outlay, which Big Spring and many other districts regard as the purchase of any single item that costs more than \$5,000.

There is a three-year phase-in for the new rule, with all Texas public school districts being required to conform to the 65 percent standard by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

BSISD is close to conforming to the new rule at present.

Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said that, as of May 2004, almost 64 percent of district expenditures went to the targeted areas.

"We're really in very good shape," Waggoner said. "I think we're close, and won't have any trouble getting to 65 percent."

Superintendent Michael

Downes adds that proposed teacher raises should push BSISD above the 65 percent threshold.

The problem, Waggoner foresees, is not reaching the 65 percent plateau, but staying there. If, for example, fuel costs (which aren't considered part of the new formula) rise dramatically, the district will not only have to cover that expense, but add money to instructional areas to maintain the 65 percent standard.

"For every \$100 increase in non-instructional expenses," Downes said, "it will cost us \$285 to maintain the 65 percent balance."

Downes also takes issue with what exactly is considered instructional costs.

"Professional training also should be part of the rule," he said. "That is an integral part of classroom instruction. The number-one priority for instruction is the presence of highly qualified teachers. We've very fortunate to have good teachers in the district, but state mandates ... must provide for additional training."

The new rule is worth five points in the FIRST system. Districts receive a rating of Superior, Above Standard, Standard or Substandard achievement based on how many points they accumulate, according to information released by the Texas Education Agency.

But the new rule may be a bit of a paper tiger. Waggoner said that districts not meeting the 65 percent standard can still receive credit if they post their check registers (excluding payroll registers) on their Internet Web sites.

TEA figures show that, based on data from the 2004-2005 school year, the

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THE REAL THING



Gage Ferro, 6, takes a close look at the NASCAR vehicle driven by Michael Waltrip. The car, which competes in the Nextel Cup race circuit, was on display at the Big Spring NAPA auto parts store on Gregg Street Wednesday afternoon.

Hangar 25 officials are seeking \$1 million in TxDOT grant funds

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Where do you put a Harrier jet, an air ambulance, an F-100 Super Sabre, a variety of uniforms, flags, photographs and other memorabilia? That's exactly what the folks at the Hangar 25 Air Museum have been wondering. It appears there is an answer, however.

Officials are applying for a \$1 million Texas Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant to construct two Quonset huts on the south side of the museum to house the overflow of collections that can't be displayed in the hangar itself. The 80-

20 grant — meaning the museum will have to come up with approximately \$200,000 — has to be submitted by April 28. TxDOT will award the grants late this year.

Assuming Hangar 25's application is approved, construction could begin in 2007.

"It's not like we are wanting to build these in hopes of filling them. We have so, so many items to put on display that we don't have room for already," explained Heather Wallace, museum administrator.

"This project and the created space will allow the museum to better utilize all collection items

for visitor pleasure, documentary creation, oral history preservation and educational opportunities for history lovers of all ages," said Wallace.

The grant is linked to surface transportation, so museum officials are making a connection between the Texas and Pacific Railway system and Hangar 25. After all, the thousands of airmen who trained at the Big Spring Bombardier School and Webb Air Force base had to get to the city somehow.

"The system brought troops into Big Spring as well as delivered fuel and supplies. During our investigation of the rela-

tionship between the two, we have found many individuals with first-hand accounts of the railroad and troops," explained Heather Wallace, museum administrator.

With that in mind, the museum will also house memorabilia on the T&P Railroad and its significance to the former air base, said Wallace.

The choice of Quonset huts is fitting, museum officials say.

"The project will enhance the outward appearance of the museum by recreating the feeling of a World War II military base and keeping

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PARKISON TURNS 100

Ralph Parkison turns 100 Tuesday and will be honored with a special birthday party at the VA Medical Center and a day named in his honor.

Mayor Russ McEwen declared April 18 Ralph Parkison Day in Big Spring and will present a special proclamation to Parkison at the party, which begins at 2 p.m. in room 219 of the hospital.

Parkison, originally from New Mexico, traveled through Big Spring with a friend 12 years ago, headed to Arkansas. He said when he found Big Spring, he had found home.

For more information, call 264-4824.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The city of Big Spring will close all of its offices — including the municipal landfill — Friday in observance of Good Friday and the Easter holiday.

There will be no sanitation pickup on Friday.

While other city employees take the holiday off, emergency services, including police, fire and emergency medical services, will continue normal operations.

Howard County offices will also be closed Friday.

City and county officials said all offices will re-open for normal business hours on Monday morning.

RUSSIANS WIN CONTEST

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A team of three students from Russia proved their brainy prowess Wednesday, winning an academic competition in which they had just five hours to solve perplexing computing puzzles such as how to connect gears of a clock when given a specific shaft speed.

The team from Saratov State University won the 2006 Association for Computing Machinery's International Collegiate Programming Contest.

Working in teams of three, contestants in the 30th annual event had five hours to solve 10 problems.

Obituaries

Albina M. Hernandez



Albina M. Hernandez, 71, of Coahoma died Monday, April 10, 2006, in a Fort Worth hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 14, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery. A vigil will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born Nov. 29, 1934, in Ozona and married Domingo Hernandez in 1948. He preceded her in death Dec. 15, 2005.

Mrs. Hernandez moved to Coahoma in 1948 from Ozona. She loved her family very much and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Coahoma.

Survivors include one son, Domingo Hernandez Jr. of Houston; four daughters, Ramona Tijerina, Maria Pulver and Albina Arguello, all of Big Spring and Rosa Hernandez of Fort Worth; two brothers, Santos Mendez of Big Spring and David Mendez of Coahoma; two sisters, Victoria Sanchez and Susie Moreno, both of Big Spring; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family suggest memorials be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 108 S. 4th Street, Coahoma 79511.

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

Paid obituary

Earl Cunningham

Earl Cunningham, 52, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at his residence. Funeral services are 1 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Duane Bemis officiating.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home today from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

He was born Aug. 19, 1953, in Andrews and married Rose Watson Dec. 31, 1980, in Big Spring. He had lived in the community for more than 30 years. He worked as a correctional officer for Cornell Corrections. He worked with many people in the community.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Cunningham of Big Spring; one son, Curtis Earl Cunningham of Midland; one stepson, Gary Lee Smale and wife, Nelda of Big Spring; and seven grandchildren.

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

Eliodora G. Renteria

Eliodora G. Renteria, 74, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at her residence. Vigil Services were 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass was 2 p.m. today, April 13, 2006, at Myers and Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial followed at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born July 3, 1931, in Big Spring to Feliciano and Petra Gonzales. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include four sons, Fermin Renteria, Jesse Renteria, Gary Renteria and Pete Renteria, all of Apopka, Fla.; five sisters, Clara Renteria, Sofia Calderon, Lupe Gonzales and Antonia (Rachel) Gonzales, all of Big Spring and Juana Olivas of San Angelo; one brother, Feliciano Gonzales of Big Spring; special friends, Ricky and Alma Yanez; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Fermin Renteria and one sister, Maria Moreno. Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Agnes Oleta Pruitt

Agnes Oleta Pruitt, 87, died Wednesday, April 12, 2006. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2006, at the First Assembly of God Church in Midland. Interment is 3 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.

Visitation is 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland.

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

Take note

• HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM VETERAN OF THE MONTH RECEPTION, honoring the April veteran, Donald Scheiber, is 6 p.m. today at the museum. For more information, call 264-1999.

• BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," at 7:30 p.m. today in the high school auditorium. This is the performance that earned the BSHS theatre students a District 4-4A win. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. For more information, call 264-3641.

• HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM ART CONTEST deadline for submissions is Friday. Open to children 5-18, the winner's entry will become the art work for a new Hangar 25 T-shirt. For rules or more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

• BLOOD DRIVE AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 400 Scurry, in the Youth Hall, from 9 a.m. until noon Friday. Call 267-6394 for information or to sign-up to donate blood.

Police blotter

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

- ROBERT ALDRIDGE JR., 21, of 100 Lockhart, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle (two counts).
- ELADIO ZUBIATE, 29, of 2110 S. Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- KIMBERLY KILLCREASE, 25, of 1322 Harding, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- ROBERT SANCHEZ, 41, of Colorado City, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of Baylor.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
 - in the 1600 block of 17th Street.
 - in the 1900 block of Mittel.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 200 block of Nolan.

Sheriff's report

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

- STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check - bondsman off bond (pre-trial bonding).
- JIMMY OLIVARES, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for abandonment/endangerment of a child - criminal negligence.
- SHEILA EISENBACH, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- LESLIE LOUMENDY FUENTES, 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- RANDY OLVERA, 43, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- JUSTIN ALLEN BOBBITT, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 3000 block of South Moss Lake Road.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1300 block of West Leatherwood Road.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2900 block of Clanton. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Northwest First Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Wasson. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter. Fire was out upon arrival.
- TRASH FIRE was reported near mile marker 174 of Interstate Highway 20. Fire was extinguished.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2700 block of Coronado. Fire was out upon arrival.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Not as warm. Highs in the upper 70s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
- Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

FRIDAY

- Good Friday.
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

- Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

SUNDAY, April 16

- Easter Sunday. A Communitywide Easter Sunrise Service begins at 7 a.m. in the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheatre.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. 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 the La Posada Restaurant.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-15-18-26-33.
Number matching five of five: 3.
Prize per winner: \$10,503.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 12-20-32-39-42. Bonus Ball: 12.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$62,251.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-6-1

Easter Blessings to All

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
508 N. AYL FORD • 263-7884
ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
605 N. MAIN • 263-2864

HOLY THURSDAY • APRIL 13
Celebration Of The Lord's Supper
St. Thomas - 7:00 PM • Sacred Heart - 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY • APRIL 14
Liturgy Of Good Friday -
St. Thomas - 7:00 PM • Sacred Heart - 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY • APRIL 15
Easter Vigil Service
St. Thomas - 8:00 PM • Sacred Heart - 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY • APRIL 16
St. Thomas - 10:00 AM
Sacred Heart - 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Forsan among schools facing trouble with 65 percent rule

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

For smaller school districts trying to meet state financial standards, it is strictly a numbers game.

Revised state financial accountability standards for local school districts state that schools must expend 65 percent of their funds on instructional purposes.

Those instructional costs include teacher salaries, libraries, extra-curricular activities and

instructional supplies.

Districts that do not meet the new standard will not receive credit points under the state's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) and could conceivably receive a poor rating from the Texas Education Agency.

Generally speaking, Howard County school districts are in good shape in meeting the new standard. But it is also apparent that smaller school districts will have a harder time conforming

to the rule.

Big Spring and Coahoma districts now spend more than 60 percent of their funds on the targeted areas, and officials from both those school expressed confidence in surpassing the 65 percent threshold when it kicks in during the 2008-09 school year.

Forsan, however, faces a larger challenge. Following the state formula, 59 percent of Forsan's expenditures go toward targeted instructional costs.

But Superintendent Randy Johnson is confident that the district will soon have its figures in line with state mandates.

"As far as we can tell right now, we're going to be OK," Johnson said. "The three-year phase-in gives us time to find out exactly what the state is looking for."

The reason Forsan is having a harder time than its bigger sister schools meeting the new standard is simple, Johnson said — non-instructional costs such as administrative

salaries and fuel are spread out over fewer students, which lowers the percentage of what is spent on targeted areas.

Johnson also is concerned about what might happen if Forsan, as expected, becomes a "property-rich" district under current state financing guidelines. If that occurs, FISD would have to share its revenues with "property-poor" schools in the state.

"How will they calculate our expenditures?" Johnson asked. "Will they

calculate the total money we raise in taxes? Or just what we actually keep in our budget?"

The 65 percent rule is just one of 26 indicators that FIRST uses to rate school districts in the state. And, to Johnson, it is just another in a large number of changes the state throws at schools.

"Each time they raise the bar, we've met the challenge," Johnson said. "But instead of being able to celebrate our successes, (the state) changes the rules again."

WORLD BRIEFS:

Iran vows not to back away from enrichment

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed Thursday that Iran won't back away from uranium enrichment and said the world must treat Iran as a nuclear power.

China's Foreign Ministry said Thursday it will send an envoy to Iran and Russia to discuss the dispute over Tehran's uranium enrichment program.

Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai, who is in charge of nuclear nonproliferation issues, will make a "working visit" to Iran and Russia from April 14 to 18, said spokesman Liu Jianchao.

Meanwhile, Ahmadinejad comments were made as Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, arrived in Tehran for talks aimed at defusing tensions over Iran's nuclear program.

"We know they (the U.S. and its allies) are waiting for us to retreat an inch so that they use that (against us)," the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

FEMA: Louisiana homes must be raised off ground

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A few residents guessed correctly when they figured their moldy, mud-stained homes might have to be lifted off the ground to qualify for flood insurance or federal rebuilding aid in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines released Wednesday are meant to help residents rebuild in ways that comply with early drafts of flood maps showing how high water is expected to rise during a once-in-a-100-year storm. The so-called flood advisories also detail how well the city's levees would protect residents.

The guidelines recommend that thousands of homes and businesses in the area be raised at least 3 feet. Property owners who ignore the guidelines risk losing out on government aid to rebuild and could miss an opportunity for lower flood insurance premiums.

Defense preparing to begin its case in Moussaoui trial

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Defense lawyers for Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui face a daunting task: persuading a jury to spare their client's life after a week in which the horrors of the terrorist attacks were vividly revisited.

The defense was scheduled to begin its case Thursday morning in Moussaoui's death-penalty trial. They argue that the jury should spare Moussaoui's life because of his limited

role in the 9/11 attacks, evidence that he is mentally ill and because his execution would only play into his dream of martyrdom.

One witness the defense intends to call is would-be shoe bomber Richard Reid, who is serving a life sentence in Colorado.

Moussaoui testified earlier in the trial that he and Reid were to have piloted a fifth plane into the White House on Sept. 11, even though Moussaoui previously had said for years that he was training for a wholly separate attack on another day.

Defense lawyers have suggested that Moussaoui lied during his testimony to ensure he would be executed and achieve martyrdom. The court-appointed defense lawyers — with whom Moussaoui refuses to cooperate — have also said Moussaoui is merely "an al-Qaida hanger-on" who is seeking to inflate his stature.

Violence, political deadlock continuing inside Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four more American soldiers were killed in Iraq, the U.S. military said as the U.S. death toll for the month surpassed the total for all of March. More than 40 Iraqis also died, including at least 22 in a car bombing near a Shiite mosque northeast of Baghdad.

Meanwhile Wednesday, key Shiite politicians cast doubt on a plan to convene parliament next week, saying they still have not decided whether to replace their candidate for prime minister to break a deadlock over forming a new government.

Parliament Speaker Adnan Pachachi, a Sunni Arab, said at a nationally televised press conference that he would call parliament into session Monday to push forward efforts to form a new government, which have been snarled for weeks over who will serve as prime minister.

"It is my duty to the Iraqi people in order to preserve the credibility of the democratic process," Pachachi said.

Al-Qaida figure backs Iraqi insurgent efforts

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Al-Qaida's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri praised insurgents in Iraq — particularly Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — and called on all Muslims to support them in a video posted Thursday on the Internet.

The video was dated with an Islamic month corresponding to November 2005 — and al-Zawahiri mentions an Oct. 23 earthquake that hit Pakistan and Afghanistan. But it appeared to be the first time the 28-minute video has been made public.

It was not clear why the video was not released soon after the date it was allegedly filmed. Al-Zawahiri has appeared in at least three videotapes filmed since November.

include the moving of the control tower, or at least a portion, closer to the museum," said Wallace. "And we hope to also create a memorial garden space in between the new buildings and the existing hangar."

The public can help with the museum's effort

by contributing to fund-raising efforts such as the Silver Wings Ball, which takes place April 29 at the Big Spring Country Club. The formal event will feature dining and dancing to Carvel Mills and Sound Investment, a silent auction and more. For more information

on the Hangar 25 Air Museum and activities there, call 264-1999.

Contact News Editor Bill

McClellan by calling 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

GRANT

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with the era design," Wallace said.

The Quonset huts aren't the only physical plans in the works for the museum.

"We hope to be able to

SPENDING

Continued from Page 1A

average expenditure statewide on instructional costs is 62 percent.

Other proposed changes in the FIRST ratings include posting the superintendent's contract, list-

ing any outside employment by superintendents and disclosing any gifts to superintendents or school board members in excess of \$250.

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

Coronado Hills Apartments

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Local film buffs plan organizing

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The possibilities are endless.

Chances are you'll hear those words at least a dozen times in talking with local resident Brandon Johnson, who is in the process of forming the Big Spring Film Society, a group of area residents interested in the art of independent film making.

The society, which Johnson said would most likely spawn its own film festival in Big Spring, is an idea he has been toying with for quite some time.

"When I was a kid, my parents took me to Universal Studios in Hollywood several times," said Johnson. "There was this little spot where you could look out over the studio's back lot, and I used to just stand there and cry. My mother would ask me what was wrong, and I'd tell her I wanted to work there."

"I've been involved with film in one way or another my whole life, and there are a lot of people right here in Big Spring who are interested in it. You've got this guy over here working on 3D graphics on a computer and someone shooting on a Super 8 camera over there. They're here, we just have to get them all together for this thing to work."

Johnson said he's seen first-hand what a coalition of independent film makers can accomplish.

"I was part of a film coalition in Austin years ago," said Johnson. "They had cameras that you could rent, lighting equipment everyone had access to — all sorts of things you would need to make a movie."

"Most important, however, was a simple bulletin board they had. If

someone had a project, they would post the details on the board and ask for people to sign up to help. It really turned things into a group effort."

Johnson said the possibilities spawned by such an organization could do a lot more than just make movies — it could help revitalize the city of Big Spring.

"Am I saying Big Spring could start churning out super studio blockbusters that could make millions?" said Johnson. "No. What I am saying, however, is you never really know. We could shoot something here that could get on the film festival circuit and could bring interest from Hollywood."

"Independent film is a lot like the lottery. You could shoot something for a couple thousand dollars and some studio executive views it as genius, and your film gets blasted to the American public and you make a million dollars. Or, you spend \$500 on your film and a couple hundred people catch it on the Internet. You just never know."

Johnson said there are plenty of blockbuster movies that have proven his "lottery theory."

"The 'Blair Witch Project' is a prime example of this," said Johnson. "They shot the film on digital video, publicized it in a mysterious way, and made millions in the end. It was the most profitable film of all time when you look at what it cost compared to what it made. It cost \$30,000 to make and made more than \$125 million."

Johnson said although the chances of a rags to riches story like the "Blair Witch Project" coming from Big Spring aren't necessarily phenomenal, it's still some-

thing that shouldn't be ignored.

"I'm not promising that someone in the Big Spring area is going to make a film that takes off like that movie did," said Johnson. "But you never know. The next Steven Spielberg could be living right here in Howard County."

"I'm encouraging everyone who is interested to get involved with this. If you want to act, write, direct or produce, get involved. If you're in a band and want to start making your own music videos, get involved. Let's get something going in Howard County. The possibilities really are endless."

For more information on the Big Spring Film Society, contact Johnson by e-mail at filmbigspring@hotmail.com or call him at 263-4188 or 213-0759.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Eliodora G. Renteria, 74, died Tuesday. Funeral Mass will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday at Myers and Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Keep Texas Beautiful is an organization with a mission to empower Texans through education to take responsibility to enhance their community environment. KTB partners with more than 330 affiliates statewide to implement litter prevention beautification, community improvement and waste management activities.

Saturday, April 1, was our "trash-off" day, and it was another beautiful day the Lord gave us. However, He added a little wind, but it was a great day. There were approximately 135 volunteers who chose to join the others for a hot dog lunch at Heart of the City Park.

Thanks to the county for the loan of the tables and chairs, the city for its usual great help in providing and maintaining the receptacles as well as putting the banners up.

It is teamwork that makes this successful!

Everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship and time to rest.

I cannot always be sure of volunteers working, I record the numbers given to me. However, I do know that there are more out cleaning up. We had approximately 539 volunteers collecting 6,540 pounds of trash. They covered about 19 miles.

We originally reported 451 volunteers and it was increased to 539 because more volunteers from the Adopt A Highway group also took part.

The young people responded again. We had an estimate of 151 participants coming from the Big Spring Junior High School Honor Society, Big Spring High School Student Council, and Goliad's Classics and Cavaliers. The youngsters from Bauer, Kentwood, Marcy, Moss and Washington elementary schools worked on their campuses. It was certainly appreciated to have all the young people among us.

Others worked in various areas: Judge Tim Green had his Bible class from St. Thomas Catholic church cleaning Westover, the Hank Williamson family cleaned on Oasis Road, and the Gale's Sweet Shoppe family cleaned around the business to Sixth Street. They noted families out cleaning their yards. I'm sure there were other volunteers out that I was not informed of. Thanks to all of you.

Members of Adopt A Highway turned out with 122 volunteers from American Legion Post 506; Big Spring Model Airplane Club; Boys Club; Concerned Citizens; family of Phillip Guzman Jr.; and Howard County Probate Adults. They cleaned 14 miles. Thanks! If we could count their trash the weight would have been 32,000 pounds.

To everyone who participated in cleaning our community, we thank you. The goal and dream of Keep Big Spring Beautiful is to be a clean community free of trash and unsightly property. With everyone pulling together this can be accomplished. God bless you all.

PAT SIMMONS
KBSB COORDINATOR

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we walk in Your love and smile, Lord, the world smiles

Amen

Scary times for a mother of teens

He had a top-level security clearance and a top job at the Homeland Security Department, which didn't stop him from asking a girl he believed was 14 years old to think of him while performing sex acts.

He identified himself by his name and job title in the first instant message he sent, then followed up with 16 pornographic videos and chocolates.

He wasn't so crazy that he didn't know what he was doing was criminal — he told her he could go to jail, so she should erase his messages so her parents wouldn't find them.

Last Tuesday night, Brian Doyle, the deputy spokesman for the Homeland Security Department, a 55-year-old man, was arrested at his home outside Washington, D.C., on 23 felony counts because this time, luckily, the "girl" was really an FBI agent.

What's wrong with these men? Ask a shrink. Frankly, I don't really care. As a parent of two young teenagers, one 13 and one 15, what I know is that raising teenagers has never been more challenging.

The next day's headlines also trumpeted the fact that drug use among teenagers has dropped. Read on, and you find that, as usual, the devil is in the details. The big drop is from 11.4 percent who said they used drugs within the last month in 2002 to 10.9 percent who said they used them within the last month in 2004. To my unmathematical eye, it still looks like one in 10, just in the last month, which doesn't look great.

I live in California, where marijuana is legal for medicinal purposes. I voted for the law and support it. But I can't help wondering why the legal age for marijuana is 18, while it's 21 for alcohol.

I asked a doctor friend of mine

about it, and she laughed sardonically. The teenagers don't go to the clinics, she said. They don't bother with medical records. They go to the street corners. She told me about three corners in my neighborhood where you can buy marijuana any day after school. Why don't the police go there, then? I asked. They did, she said, and they switched corners. Of course.

Go on Craigslist, and you don't just find sex ads. After reading a story about the return of AIDS among young gay men, I checked it out. Pictures. And not of the guys' faces. I'm not kidding. I showed a friend who is the father of a young gay man. "PNP," the ads say, right now, and then they have these pictures so you can check out the merchandise. PNP means "party and play." Party means methamphetamines. My friend sat his son down for a talk. He wanted to lock him in the house. He isn't biased, just terrified.

There are lots of people my age — old enough to have lived a full life without the Internet — who pride themselves on being Luddites, who still think "myspace" is where they park at work in the morning, who laugh at the anti-drug commercials, who don't know what a webcam is — and figure these stories are always going to be about someone else's kids.

Arrests by the Justice Department's Internet Crime Against Children Task Force (ICAC) were up threefold from 2003 to 2005, which looks to me like the tip of the iceberg. I can't believe that 1,597 — the number of arrests in 2005 — even begins to address the problem out there. It's just too easy.

There is pornography everywhere on the Internet. I wouldn't care if I didn't have to see it. But it's unavoidable. You look for clothes for your kids, and you get pornographic websites. You open your email in the morning, and it's full of sex ads. I ask my kids if they get these, too, and they laugh

at me as if I'm from another century — which, of course, I am. Of course they do.

In my century, we used to hitchhike around town and get picked up by our parents' friends. It was my campaign to get a car, or at least to get my parents to lend me theirs more often. An utter failure, I should add. But I knew almost everyone who picked me up. My kids are growing up with an information superhighway that is littered with perverts from around the world, and they find you.

What's a parent to do? What parents have always done, only more, not less. Parents have to know what their kids are doing. That means really knowing. We have to understand the technology, the mode of communication, what it means to think you know someone, as opposed to really knowing them.

Is that party being given by a girl from school or a girl from the Internet? Is it from our town or Myspace? Myspace just purged literally hundreds of thousands of profiles for inappropriate content. Was one of those your kid's? Or your kid's friends?

Too many parents are afraid to be nosy. Parents are supposed to be nosy. How else are we supposed to do our jobs and keep our kids safe? If you're not nosy, if you don't ask your kid whom they're talking to online, or sending pictures to, or what they're looking at, how will you know if they're talking to a man like Brian Doyle, or one of the one in 10 who used drugs last month?

Brian Doyle understood something that most of us don't. Fifteen hundred arrests is nothing in a world of hundreds of millions of Internet surfers. He wasn't really scared at all. He knew what he was doing was a crime, but he was so bold that he gave his real name. He was looking for a real 14-year-old, and it was just his very bad luck that, this time, a guy like him didn't find one.

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ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

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U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th

Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **PETE LANEY**
State Representative
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Men, leave the cologne alone

Maybe we should just go back to Old Spice. At least with Old Spice, a gal knew what she was getting: A guy. And, frankly, that was enough.

Men were not trying to telegraph exactly who they were and what they stood for. A guy could be meek or macho, Democrat or on oxygen, and chances are, if he could still reach his hand to his cheek, that hand would be slapping on Old Spice.

Today there are more man-scents than Doritos flavors (a coincidence?). Shopping around last week, I found a bottle of Hummer — yes, a cologne named for a national embarrassment — next to a bottle of Donald Trump (ditto). Trump's cologne smelled like a newly shampooed rug. Felt like he was standing right there.

Other colognes took their names from designers, moods, psychological problems and raincoats. One called "Le Male" featured a shirtless sailor in lipstick. Now that is a niche. Then there's "Everlast Original 1910," the very first scent named for boxing equipment. (Not to be confused with the new

"Daytona 500," the very first scent named for a NASCAR event.)

No denying it: Sweat-drenched boxers do hold a certain appeal. Rrrrruff! Ruff! Ruff!

Ahem. Sorry. What I meant was: Sweat is attractive, in context. But in a bottle?

Nancy Tonei, marketing director for the scent, explained that the smell is post-shower, not pre. "The top note is mandarin, mint, lavender and lemon."

Sounded like Snapple to me, but I decided to ask around.

"It's fresh," declared Mark, a jewelry salesman under whose nose I shoved the bottle.

Nonetheless, Mark said he was not ready to give up his usual fragrance, Eternity. "I put it on, and the whole world is following me. The girls of the world," he added quickly.

Teelow, the store's security guard, was more game. "I could wear it after a nice bath. It's got a nice mellow smell to attract the ladies."

Teelow and other males should beware, however, that what they believe is attracting the ladies may be doing just the opposite.

"We found that the No. 1 odor that increased female sexual arousal was a combination of Good 'N' Plenty and banana nut bread," says Dr. Alan Hirsch, director of the Smell and Taste

Institute in Chicago. The three smells that most "inhibited female sexual arousal," Hirsch continued, were cherries, barbecued meat — and cologne.

"That man is cuckoo," said Teelow, hearing these results.

No comment. But Hirsch not only stands by his findings, he warns his fellow fellows that "men have a worse ability to smell than women, so they tend to use too great a level of scent." And as they age, he went on, their sense of smell only gets worse. "So the odor you choose may be very different from what a woman likes — especially if you're going out with a woman who is much younger."

Men, please cut out Dr. Hirsch's words and paste them on your bathroom mirror. Because even if you finally find the fragrance that announces to the world your personality, sexuality, choice of raincoat and boxing record, there is such a thing as too much information. Especially when it's going up a lady's nose.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (Lskenazy@nydailynews.com).

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cupcakes

ALL GROWN UP

FAMILY FEATURES
EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Cupcakes, once reserved for elementary school parties, kids' birthdays and picnics, have grown up. And oh, so beautifully. Great for today's more casual, grab-and-go way of eating and entertaining, these individual mini-cakes don't require the skill of a professional to slice and serve and can be hand-held in most cases.

Also new on the scene are great cupcake trees that allow you to show off your creations with the appropriate flair. And the sophistication of flavors is only limited by your imagination. Here are three great ideas and one easy but spectacular decorating idea. So whatever your spring celebration, these cupcakes are sure to "take the cake." Or, should we say, "take the place of the cake?"

For more great cupcake ideas, visit bettycrocker.com.

Key West Cupcakes

Prep Time: 25 minutes
Start to Finish: 1 hour 30 minutes

Filling

- 1 box (4-serving size) instant vanilla pudding and pie filling mix
- 1 1/2 cups whipping cream
- 1/4 cup fresh Key lime or lime juice
- 4 drops green food color
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Cupcakes

- 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist yellow cake mix
- Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box

Frosting

- 1 container (12-ounce) Betty Crocker Whipped fluffy white frosting
- 1 tablespoon fresh Key lime or lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon grated Key lime or lime peel
- Lime wedges (optional)

1. In large bowl, beat pudding mix and whipping cream with wire whisk 2 minutes. Let stand 3 minutes. Beat in 1/4 cup lime juice and the food color; stir in powdered sugar until smooth. Cover and refrigerate.
2. Heat oven to 350°F. Make and cool cake mix as directed on box for cupcakes.
3. Spread 1 rounded tablespoonful filling on top of each cupcake. Stir frosting in container 20 times. Gently stir in 1 tablespoon lime juice and the peel. Spoon frosting into 1-quart resealable plastic food-storage bag. Cut 1/2-inch opening across lower corner of bag. Squeeze 1 tablespoon frosting from bag onto filling. Garnish with fresh lime wedge, if desired. Store in refrigerator.

24 cupcakes

Strawberry and Cream Cupcakes

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 45 minutes

Filling

- 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist white cake mix
- 1 1/4 cups strawberry-flavored soda pop
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 egg whites
- 1 container (1-pound) Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy cream cheese frosting
- 1 to 3 drops red food color
- 1/2 cup white jimmies sprinkles

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Place paper baking cups in 24 regular-size muffin cups. In large bowl, beat cake mix, soda pop, oil and egg whites on low speed 30 seconds. Beat 2 minutes on medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally. Fill each cup 2/3 full of batter. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan to wire rack. Cool completely, about 20 minutes.
2. Stir frosting in container 20 times. Stir in 1 to 2 drops red food color. Frost cupcakes.
3. Place sprinkles and 1 drop red food color in small resealable plastic food-storage bag; seal bag. Gently shake and massage sprinkles until mixture is various shades of pink; sprinkle around edges of frosted cupcakes.

24 cupcakes

Molten Chocolate Mini Cakes

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 2 hours

- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist devil's food cake mix
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 container (1-pound) Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy chocolate frosting
- Powdered sugar
- Sliced strawberries

1. In 1-quart saucepan, heat whipping cream over medium-high heat until hot but not boiling. Stir in chocolate chips until melted and mixture is smooth. Refrigerate about 1 hour or until thick, stirring occasionally.
2. Heat oven to 400°F. Grease and flour 16 (2 3/4 x 1 1/4 inch) muffin cups. In large bowl, beat cake mix, water, oil and eggs on low speed 1 minute, scraping bowl constantly. Place 1/4 cup batter in each muffin cup. Spoon 1 tablespoon cold chocolate mixture on top of batter in center of each cup.
3. Bake 13 to 16 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched. Cool 1 minute. Carefully remove from pan; place on parchment paper. Cool 10 minutes. Frost with chocolate frosting. Just before serving, dust with powdered sugar. Garnish with strawberry slices. Serve warm.

16 mini cakes



DRESSING UP THE classic cupcake

Decorative Designs

On waxed paper, draw small decorative designs. Fill a small heavy-duty plastic food-storage bag with melted white chocolate, seal it and cut one of the corners with scissors. Squeeze bag, gently tracing the design drawn on the waxed paper. Sprinkle with colored sugar. Let stand to allow chocolate to set. Carefully remove waxed paper from chocolate design. Top cupcake with design.

White on White on White

Pull a sharp vegetable peeler down the edge of a white chocolate candy bar to produce chocolate shavings the perfect size for a cupcake. Frost cupcake with Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy creamy white frosting. Top with white chocolate curls and dust with powdered sugar.

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350 Z

Nissan makes only minor changes, but it still feels fresh

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
The Orlando Sentinel

Though I continue to maintain the Nissan Z's styling was better in 1970, and again in 1990, there's no denying the general goodness of the current Nissan 350Z. Virtually unchanged since its introduction in 2002 as a 2003 model, the car's looks still haven't won me over, but once you're inside, there's little to complain about.

The current model debuted as a coupe, and a roadster version joined the club as a 2004 model. That's the one tested here.

Nissan insists that for 2006, the Nissan 350Z "receives its first comprehensive updating since its introduction in the United States market in August 2002." Those changes, which challenge the meaning of "comprehensive," include a mildly restyled nose and interior, new headlights and LED taillights, a new power-steering system and a "refined" optional navigation system. Nothing here to make you

dump your 2005 350Z.

That said, the car still feels as fresh as the day it debuted. The coupe is offered in five models, the roadster in three, which sort of challenges the meaning of "models," too, as several are so similar. The coupes are the Base, Enthusiast, Touring, Track and Grand Touring models. The Base, Enthusiast and Touring models are differentiated by the standard equipment. The Track and Grand Touring models are pretty similar, except the Grand Touring has a little more stuff. Those two are the performance models, with front and rear spoilers, Brembo brakes and several other features.

All Zs have a 3.5-liter V-6 engine that has 287 horsepower when mated to an automatic transmission, and 300 horsepower with a manual transmission. The best buy in the coupe is the base model, which, at \$27,650, won't get you aluminum pedals, a limited-slip differential or a few other features,



Nissan's 350Z for 2006

but nothing I can't live without.

The Roadster comes in three flavors: Enthusiast, Touring and Grand Touring. The test car was a midlevel Touring model, and it was loaded: leather upholstery, a Bose seven-speaker stereo with a six-disc CD changer, traction control, side air bags, anti-lock brakes with brake distribution, and handsome 18-inch alloy wheels with P225/45WR-18 radials up front, P245/45WR-18s in back. Base price was \$38,450, and with a set of \$90 floor mats as the only option, a shipping charge

of \$605 brought the total to \$39,145.

The test car also had a five-speed automatic transmission, called a "semi-automatic" by Nissan, because you can manually shift gears, too, if you want. I usually didn't. The six-speed manual transmission offered with the 350Z is a slick, smooth unit, and just snicking an automatic from gear to gear isn't the same. But in rush-hour, stop-and-go traffic, the automatic is awfully nice.

Inside, the 350Z roadster is snug, in a good way. Both front seats are very comfortable and support-

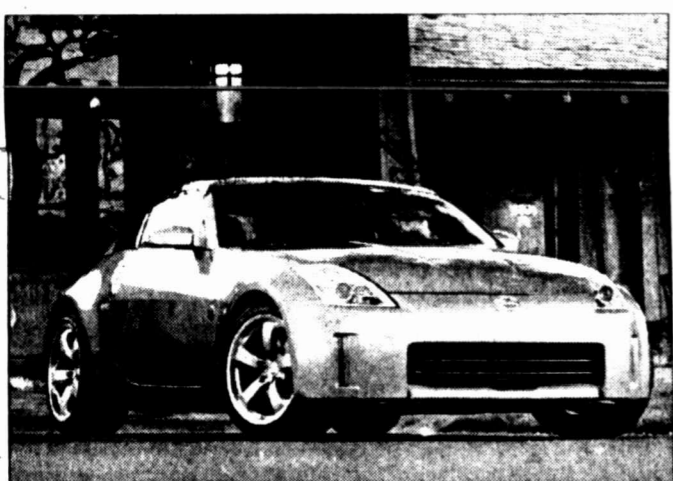
ive, and all instruments and controls are easy to find and operate. The power top raises and lowers at the touch of a button, and when the top is up, it's surprisingly quiet inside. The top takes up some trunk space, but there's still enough room for a weekend's worth of luggage. It's obvious this car was originally planned as both a coupe and a convertible, as the underbody structure is commendably rigid.

The 350Z's engine isn't particularly exotic, but it has plenty of punch and an exhaust note that's about as invigorating as

any you'll hear with a V-6. Handling is just superb; the new steering system is excellent, but so was the old one. Nissan has really found a happy balance between a sporting feel and on-the-road comfort.

Nissan 350Z sales remain high, and prices have kept close to sticker. Easy to see why: The Z delivers. Maybe not so much in the styling department, but undeniably in every other area.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



2006 NISSAN 350Z

Base price:

\$38,450.

Price as tested:

\$39,145.

EPA rating:

18 miles per gallon city,

24 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive convertible with a 3.5-liter, 287-horsepower V-6 and a five-speed automatic transmission.

"God Is Rich In Mercy"

Easter Services

Please mark off April 13, 14, 15th for the Triduum - the Holiest Days on the Christian Calendar

- ▶ HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 13TH 7PM
- ▶ GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 14TH 7PM
- ▶ EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 15TH 8PM
- ▶ ALLELUIA! EASTER SUNDAY

MASS AT ST. JOSEPHS - 9 AM

MASS AT IHMCH (EASTER SUNDAY) - 10:30 AM

The new candidates for Christianity will receive their baptism at the Easter Vigil liturgy which begins at dark on Saturday night. The Catholic Church has returned to this practice. (Of course when Christianity was a "New" religion whole families would have formation, be catechized, and join the church at the same time - from babies to parents). This model used by the disciples of Christ to teach the community about Christ and "the vision Christ revealed" is the basis for the RCIA program. The Triduum consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - the highlight of the church's liturgical year.

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BSHS ART WINNERS



Courtesy photo
Big Spring High School students who competed at the recent Visual Arts Scholastic Event regional meet in Odessa include, front row, left to right: Krista Chesworth, Frankie Acosta, Megan Carrillo, Jeong Kim and Malinda Walker; second row, left to right: Ira Friddle, Eric Barton, Floyd Turney, Collin Carroll, Stacie Rios, Josefina Gonzalez, Royce Perez, Kristina Moorhead, Ariell Brown, Audrey Hagland, Daniel Budke, Jennifer Petersen and C.J. Riddle. Not pictured are Jordan Chesworth, Chris Handova, Alyssa Newton, Jeremy Landin, Lidia Rodriguez and Brenn Swinney.

Art contest submission deadline Friday

Hangar 25 Air Museum is looking for talented artists, youthful artists, that is. And the deadline for all submissions to be turned in to the museum is 5 p.m. Friday.

The museum is calling for local artists to submit a T-shirt design that the museum will use on its T-shirts. The theme for the design is "Hangar 25...Housing the Past, Building the Future."

Age divisions for the contest are 6-8, 10-14 and 15-18. First, second and third place winners will be named in all age divisions.

All participants will receive a certificate and the overall grand prize winner will have the winning design featured on a Hangar 25 T-shirt.

Designs should be submitted on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of white paper.

All submissions must have the child's name, age and contact information on the back of the art work. For more information, call 264-1999.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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Helping too much

Nature provides parents examples for life

Many years ago I was told a story that taught me a lesson that I will never forget, and I hope it has meaning for you.

The story is about a little boy who lived in India. One day he went up to a guru who was intently looking at something in his hand. The little boy looked at the guru and asked, "What is that?"

"It's a cocoon," answered the guru. "Inside the cocoon is a butterfly. Soon the cocoon is going to split, and the butterfly will come out."

"Could I have it?" asked the little boy. "Yes," answered the guru, "but you must promise me that when the cocoon splits and the butterfly tries to come out and is beating its wings to get out of the cocoon, you won't help it. It is extremely important not to help the butterfly by breaking the cocoon apart. It must do it on its own."

The little boy promised, took the cocoon, and went home with it. One day as he was watching the cocoon, he saw it begin to vibrate and move and quiver, and finally the cocoon began to split in half.

Inside was a beautiful damp butterfly, frantically beating its wings against the cocoon, trying to get out and not seeming to be able to do it. The little boy desperately wanted to help. Finally, he gave in, and pushed the two halves of the cocoon apart.

The butterfly sprang out, but soon it fell to the ground and was dead. The little boy picked up the dead butterfly and in tears went back to the guru and showed it to him.

"Little boy," said the guru, "You pushed open the cocoon, didn't you?" "Yes, I did," said the little boy.

The guru spoke to him

gravely, "You didn't understand what you were doing. When the butterfly comes out of the cocoon, the only way it can strengthen its wings is by beating them against the cocoon. It beats against the cocoon so its muscles will grow strong. When you helped it, you prevented it from developing the muscles it would need to survive. Remember, what seems harsh or cruel in nature, is in reality wisdom and kindness for the time ahead."

This is a lesson that all of us as parents should remember. Handing a child the toy he wants instead of letting him try his best to crawl for it; fulfilling his every whim; loading him down with toys and other things he desires before he really needs them; emphasizing the importance of grades in school instead of the importance of an education.

These things tend to weaken the muscles a child should be developing on his own so he will have the strength he needs when the time comes to function independently.

TAKS Question
Taken from a former 11th grade Social Studies TAKS test:

In 1898 more than 200 Americans died when the battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded in Havana Harbor. This event prompted the beginning of the:

- Mexican-American War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- First World War

The answer is the first letter in the word considered.

Darrell Ryan is director of curriculum for Big

Spring Independent School District. He can be reached at 264-3600.

Parent's Corner

Come Celebrate Easter at Trinity Baptist Church

Hear the Choir Sing The Cantata "Champion Of Love"

Hear the special Easter sermon by Pastor Randy Cotton

Morning Worship

10:30 AM To 12:00 Noon

810 E. 11th
Big Spring, TX.

HIS TOMB IS EMPTY - HIS HOUSE SHOULD BE FULL

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Look Before You Leap

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦K 4 2
♥A 6
♦5 4 2
♠J 10 9 5 3

WEST
♦8 7
♥K Q J 10 7
♦10 7 3
♠A Q 8

EAST
♦Q 9 6 3
♥9 8 5 4 2
♦8
♠K 6 4

SOUTH
♦A J 10 5
♥3
♦A K Q J 9 6
♠7 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ Pass 2♥ Dble
3♥ 4♣ 4♥ 5♦
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Entry problems are a critical factor in the play of many hands. To be in the right place at the right time may be the key to the outcome, and a declarer who ignores this is bound to come a cropper more often than he should.

Take this case where declarer might easily go wrong — and in fact did. He got to five diamonds as shown, and West led a heart.

Declarer won, drew trumps, played a spade to the king and con-

tinued with a spade to the jack. The finesse succeeded, but declarer went down one. He could not repeat the spade finesse for lack of a further entry to dummy, and he eventually lost two clubs and a spade.

South would have made the contract had he played a low spade from dummy at trick two and finessed. After drawing trumps, he could then have crossed to the king of spades to repeat the finesse, and thus would not have lost a spade trick.

The hand highlights the importance of planning the play. South's only problem from the start is to avoid a spade loser, and this should dominate his thinking from the moment dummy appears. How best to accomplish this goal is something that must be solved at once and cannot be postponed until after trumps are drawn.

Percentage-wise, it is clearly best to assume that East has the queen of spades. To play West for the queen and finesse through him will be successful only if the spades are divided 3-3. This is too much to hope for.

Once the decision is made to play East for the queen, it is clear that a first-round finesse should be taken at trick two to guard against the possibility that East has four or more spades.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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That's Racin'

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

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Early lessons

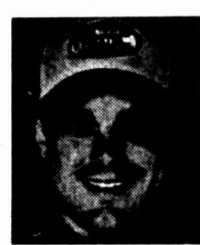
Observations from the first part of the 2006 Nextel Cup season

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Seven things we've learned in the first seven races of the 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup season:

1. IT'S NOT THE CHARGER

Kasey Kahne's two victories, at Atlanta and Texas, have come at the kind of tracks where Dodge teams struggled in traffic in the first year of using the Charger as their racing model.



Casey Mears

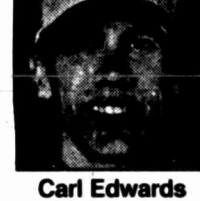
Casey Mears is also holding down a spot in the top 10 for Chip Ganassi Racing, which like Kahne's Evernham Motorsports team has kept its focus on working to make their Chargers better rather than falling back on their 2004 Intrepids.

Dodge has finally decided to end the "experimentation" with the older cars, telling Penske South and Petty Enterprises that it's time to get with the program.

Kahne has finished worse than 11th only once, and that was at Martinsville where he was running strong before losing an engine. More than anything else, that shows that a team can get the job done with a Charger.

2. SOME THINGS CHANGE ...

Last year, Greg Biffle came firing out of the gate with two victories and five top-10 finishes, and he was never lower than sixth in the standings the rest of the way. Roush Racing teammate Carl Edwards wasn't quite that hot early, but at no point was he outside the top 15 in the standings.

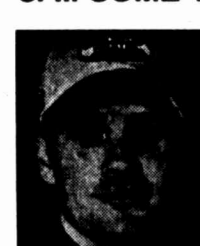


Carl Edwards

A lot has been said already this year about how the breaks have "evened out," and that some of the things that went their way a year ago have gone against them this year. That's true, but a big part of making the Chase for the Nextel Cup is salvaging decent finishes on days when things go against you.

It's not too late for either or both to recover. Matt Kenseth made the Chase last year despite having nine finishes of 25th or worse in the first 26 races. Edwards and Biffle have four each so far.

3. ... SOME THINGS DON'T



Jimmie Johnson

Jimmie Johnson started the 2005 season with seven straight finishes of eighth or better, including a victory. This year, he had one misstep at Bristol, but he's won twice and once again is atop the standings in the early going.

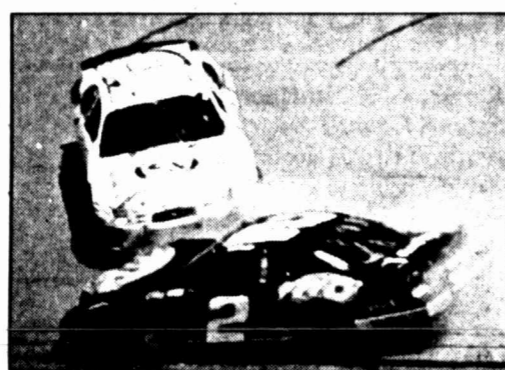
Johnson hasn't been out of the top 10 since the Atlanta race in March 2004. That's consistency.

4. BUSCH RHYMES WITH "BOO"

That's what Kurt Busch said after another victory at Bristol, where it doesn't seem to mat-



After seven races, owner-driver Robby Gordon is 27th in the Nextel Cup points standings.



Kurt Busch, car No. 2, collides with Greg Biffle during the 2006 Samsung/Radio Shack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

ter much what car he's in. After winning four times in five races there for Roush Racing, he came back this year to win in the Penske South Dodge.

Busch bumped Kenseth out of the groove en route to the lead in that race. He then rapped Jeff Burton in the rear at Martinsville and was involved in a crash that put Biffle in the garage at Texas.

That resume has allowed Kurt to supplant his younger brother, Kyle, as the No. 1 object of anger in the sport these days. Kyle started the season in that role, and frankly it got to a point where he was being blamed for things he really had very little to do with. Don't be surprised if that starts happening to Kurt, too.

5. THE BUSCH SERIES? WHAT BUSCH SERIES?

Nextel Cup has the weekend off for Easter, but plenty of guys who make their main living in that series will be in action in the "stand-alone" Busch race at Nashville. Too many, in fact, for some who believe the second-tier series is now nothing more than "Cup Lite."

What's to be done? Track operators will tell

you they need stars to sell tickets. But how can the Busch Series make its own stars if Cup drivers win all of its races? Where do young drivers go to learn how to win in stock cars go these days? How do teams that want to run the Busch Series get sponsors when Cup teams gobble them all up?

We know only that these will be difficult questions to answer.

6. TEMPERS ARE RAW

It's not unusual for there to be a few incidents between drivers and/or crews after Nextel Cup races, like the shove Jeff Gordon gave Kenseth at Bristol.

This is a tough business, and the pressure to perform, especially early in the season, has been ramped up by the Chase. You've got to get the job done in 26 races or the final 10 are just glorified tests for next year.

But you know things are really getting tense when girlfriends (e.g. Biffle's) and fiancées (e.g. Kurt Busch's) square off.

7. ROBBY GORDON NEEDS A GOOD LUCK CHARM

Gordon has nearly twice as many points at this stage as he did last year, and this time he's well inside the top 35 in the standings so unless the bottom falls out, he's going to make the race each week — a guarantee he did not enjoy last season.

That having been said, Gordon would be in much better shape if caution flags didn't keep coming out right after he makes a green-flag stop and if NASCAR officials hadn't had rabbit ears and penalized him for criticizing them at Bristol.

Gordon's fortunes have been so ill-timed that some of his fans think NASCAR's out to get him. That's paranoia, but if the breaks really do even out, Gordon's certainly in line for a run of good breaks.

year. Last week: 4.

6. **Kevin Harvick (car No. 29):** Tosses in a fifth at Texas with two top-10 short-track finishes. That shows promise. Last week: 10.

7. **Kyle Busch (car No. 5):** If they voted people into the Chase, neither Busch brother would be in good shape. Last week: 7.

8. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** If not for a late pit road speeding penalty at Las Vegas, he'd likely be

third in points. Last week: 8.

9. **Jeff Gordon (car No. 24):** Midpack run (22nd) at Texas looked too much like last year for Gordon fans' comfort. Last week: 5.

10. **Casey Mears (car No. 42):** Still hanging in the top 10 in points even though this car hasn't led a lap this season. Last week: 11.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What do you make of the confrontation between a pair of drivers' "significant others" during the Nextel Cup race at Texas?

Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Does it make a difference to you what corporation buys the naming rights to NASCAR's top series, or what the series is called?

Number of votes: 5,562

Response	No. of votes	Percent
No, not even a little bit.	3,492	63%
Maybe. I'd them to avoid some products/companies.	1,726	31%
Yes, I want to buy their products, whoever they are.	344	6%

STOP 'N GO

Q&A WITH KASEY KAHNE

Kahne ranks third in the Nextel Cup standings after seven races. He has three career wins in 79 starts with two wins and two poles to his credit already this season.

Q: Talk about last season.

Kahne: I was frustrated most of the year, trying to figure out how to get through that stuff and go fast and not have the problems we had. By the end of the year I just wanted to leave, take two weeks off and forget about racing for a little while. That's what I did and ever since then we've been focusing on how to go fast, and I think it's worked out well.

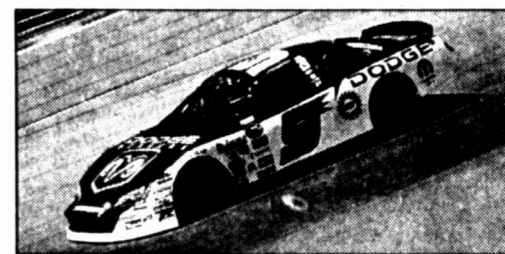
Q: Do you feel like the momentum is building this season?

Kahne: I've been happy all year with the way things have gone. We've had momentum all year, even with last week at Martinsville. I wasn't even that mad when we left there. I was disappointed we didn't finish in the top five. We had a car that was capable of probably running in the top three. Things like that happen, and it was nobody's fault, and it's been fixed since then.

Q: What difference does a year or two make?

Kahne: I've learned a ton since 2004. I was really new to the stuff, and I feel like I've got a lot more experience, and I'm a better, more mature Nextel Cup driver now. I was hoping we didn't have to get in a position to make it a photo finish or anything like that and take that chance.

— Jim Utter



Kasey Kahne drives to victory at Texas.

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of April 9:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	1063	21. Jamie McMurray	675
2. Matt Kenseth	1048	22. Carl Edwards	662
3. Kasey Kahne	1017	23. Greg Biffle	657
4. Mark Martin	1017	24. J.J. Yeley	652
5. Tony Stewart	966	25. Joe Nemecek	649
6. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	951	26. Jeff Green	642
7. Kyle Busch	950	27. Robby Gordon	637
8. Jeff Gordon	911	28. Scott Riggs	635
9. Kevin Harvick	859	29. Bobby Labonte	601
10. Casey Mears	845	30. Ken Schrader	597
11. Dale Jarrett	828	31. Dave Blaney	589
12. Elliott Sadler	804	32. Kyle Petty	585
13. Clint Bowyer	750	33. Michael Waltrip	558
14. Dennis Harlin	747	34. Sterling Marlin	555
15. Martin Truex Jr.	744	35. Jeremy Mayfield	550
16. Jeff Burton	741	36. Terry Labonte	516
17. Kurt Busch	722	37. David Stremme	475
18. Ryan Newman	711	38. Scott Wimmer	450
19. Re. J. Sorenson	701	39. Kevin Lepage	408
20. Brian Vickers	684	40. Travis Kvapil	319

NEXT RACE: April 22, Subway Fresh 500, Avondale, Ariz.

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of April 8:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	1099	11. Carl Edwards	808
2. Denny Hamlin	953	12. Matt Kenseth	795
3. Clint Bowyer	900	13. Jack Wood	793
4. J.J. Yeley	868	14. Jason Keller	756
5. Greg Biffle	849	15. Burney Lamar	755
6. Kyle Busch	832	16. Todd Kluever	710
7. Johnny Sauter	832	17. Reed Sorenson	700
8. Paul Menard	819	18. Ashton Lewis	690
9. Jason Leffler	818	19. Kenny Wallace	688
10. Jamie McMurray	816	20. John Andretti	655

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Pepsi 300, Lebanon, Tenn.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of April 1:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Mark Martin	720	6. Erik Darnell	552
2. Ted Muegge	665	7. Jack Sprague	544
3. Todd Bodine	662	8. Mike Bliss	544
4. David Reutimann	578	9. Dennis Setzer	531
5. David Starr	556	10. Rick Crawford	508

NEXT RACE: April 29, Dodge Ram Tough 200, Madison, Ill.

Evernham knows the highs and lows of racing

Nobody has to tell Ray Evernham about the ups and downs of Nextel Cup racing.

Sunday afternoon at Texas Motor Speedway, as he celebrated Kasey Kahne's second victory of the season, somebody in a buzz-killing mood brought up Jeremy Mayfield's 31st-place finish and the fact that it dropped the No. 19 team, which Evernham also owns, out of the top 35 in car owner points.

"It's like having three kids and two of them are doing really well," said Evernham, who also owns the No. 10 Dodges driven by Scott Riggs, who finished a strong seventh Sunday. "You're more concerned about the one who isn't."

In the first two years of the Chase for the Nextel Cup format, Mayfield made the championship playoff. This

year, he's yet to have a finish in the top 15.

Many of the people who helped Mayfield make the Chase in 2004 and 2005 are now part of Kahne's team, part of a late-season shakeup after the 19 fell out of championship contention while Kahne's team foundered in a slump that left him 23rd in the final standings.

It'd be easy to explain the dramatic change in fortunes this year by saying Evernham raided the talent cupboard on Mayfield's team and gave all the "good guys," including team director Kenny Francis, to Kahne.

But before the season began, Mayfield adamantly said he believed his 2006 team was the best he'd ever had going into a season. So far, at least publicly, he's said nothing to the contrary.

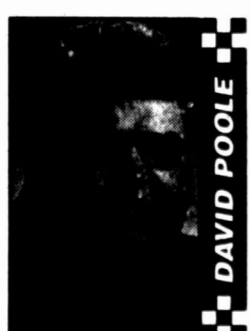
"We know our equipment is good," Evernham said Sunday. "We know our engines are good. We know we've got the formula. We've just got to figure out what's going on with our recipe, why they're struggling some."

"The good news is that inside our own house we have the answer. All we have to do is follow it and work on it."

How maddening must this racing business be for the people who're in it?

Evernham has one team, Kahne's, that has had a car good enough to win just about all of this season's seven races. Mayfield's team, meanwhile, seems to be drawing its luck from a dry well. Riggs didn't make the field for the Daytona 500, but he's finished in the top 10 the past two weeks.

At Roush Racing, Matt Kenseth has been just as consistently strong as Kahne this year. Meanwhile, it seems like things keep falling out of the sky



DAVID POOLE

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IN BRIEF

HC rodeo team sets annual crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team has announced its annual H-E-B crawfish boil will take place Saturday, April 29, at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. before Howard College Rodeo action takes place.

The price for a crawfish boil ticket is \$15. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event or ahead of time by calling Howard head rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 432-816-9477.

The Howard College rodeo will take place April 27-29.

Coahoma PTA to host dodgeball tournament in April

The Coahoma P.T.A. will be hosting a dodgeball tournament as an elementary playground fund-raiser Friday and Saturday.

The sign-up date for the event will take place Friday at 6 p.m. in the junior high gym.

There are several age groups, but each team must consist of only eight to 10 players. The groups are broken into five different categories: second and third, fourth and fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through 12th and adults, 18 and older who are not in school.

The cost for second through fifth grade is \$5 per person. The other groups will pay \$10 per person.

For more information, contact Laura at 267-9660.

KBSB golf toumey announced for month of April

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

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

BSHS volleyball meeting announced

Big Spring head volleyball coach Jason McAden will be holding a parent-player meeting April 27 in the Athletic Training Center at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone who wants to play volleyball and is entering seventh through 12th grade should plan on attending.

For more information, contact McAden at (325) 207-4987.

Softball toumey set at Cotton Mize

A "high voltage" softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Softball Field inside Comanche Trail Park Saturday.

The toumey will cost \$150 per team and the deadline to join is Thursday. There will be team trophies and prizes for the winners.

For more information, contact Matt at 263-213-5423 or 263-5219.

Piercefield, Phillips to play FCA all-star game



PIERCEFIELD

Special to the Herald

Almost 90 players from 55 Big Country high schools were announced to fill the rosters for the Seventh Annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Myrtle Greathouse All-Star Classic football game and two local football players will be participating in the event.

Big Spring senior Kyle Piercefield will play for the North all-stars, while Forsan senior Tyler Phillips will play for the South team.

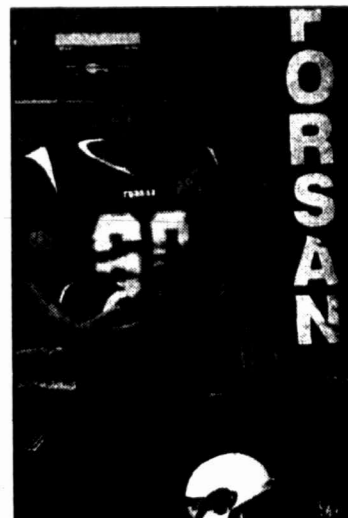
The 2006 game is scheduled for June 3 at Abilene's Shotwell Stadium.

The all-stars gathered March 26 for the FCA Victory Banquet at the Abilene Civic Center, featuring guest speak Art Briles, head football coach at the University of Houston.

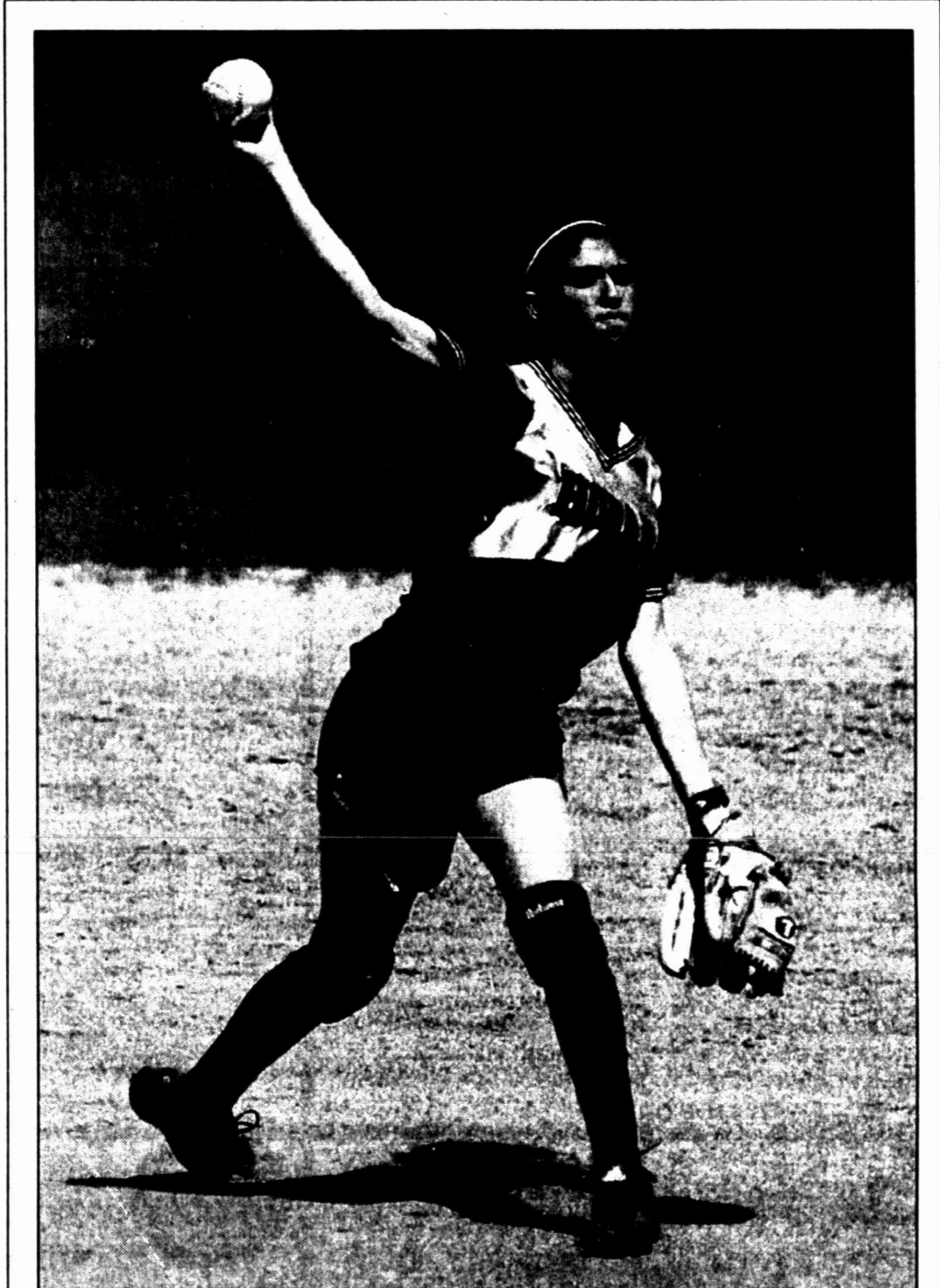
Teams, cheerleaders and coaches will report to two-a-day practices May 31.

The coaching staff for this summer's game have also been announced. The

North team will be coached by Stan Howard of Breckenridge and assisted by Keith Oldham of Breckenridge, Buddy Hardin of Hawley, Bryan Webb of Baird, Gary Roan of Stamford and Russell Lucas of Rotan. The South all-stars will be coached by Brent Brevard of Ballinger and assisted by Karl McCormick of Ballinger, Charlie McMath of Miles, Tim Reid of San Angelo Lake View, Ron Young of San Angelo Grape Creek and Sean Leamon of Junction.



PHILLIPS



Howard freshman Allisha Rams throws out a runner at first base from her shortstop position this past weekend against Odessa College. The Hawk women will host Midland Friday and Saturday in two doubleheaders beginning at 1 p.m. each day at Foundation Field. The Howard baseball team will play at Western Texas College Friday in Snyder before hosting Western Texas at Jack Barber Field Saturday beginning at noon.

Bulldogs' tennis team fares well at district

Coahoma sends eight netters to regional tournament

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor ABILENE — The Coahoma tennis team sent eight athletes to the regional tennis tournament this past week after finishing in the top two of the District 4-2A tourney, which was held in Abilene at the Oscar Rose Tennis Center.

The Bulldogs and Bulldogettes took home



three first-place finishes and two second-place finishes.

Taylor Haile advanced to regionals after winning the boy's singles title and Joe Holguin and Patrick Croft took home the title in boy's doubles. The

See BULLDOGS, Page 2B

Technology plays role in today's golf game

For those of you who sat around this past weekend and enjoyed the Master's tournament, you may have heard all the talk about the changes that took place at Augusta National.

So much has been said about the lengthening of holes, tightening of fairways and tucking of pins to toughen the golf course for the new breed of golfers.

As a fellow golfer, I am always looking for ways to make sure this technology is making its way into my bag also.

Here is what you need to know about to make sure you are getting the most out of your game.

The terms you need to understand are COR (coefficient of restitution), Launch Angle and spin rate.

The first is COR. The USGA has set the COR of a driver at .830. This means that if they fire a golf ball onto the face of a driver at 100mph, the maximum speed it can leave the face is 83 miles per hour.

Most current model drivers achieve this number almost exactly. This will only affect your game if you are playing with a driver older than five years.

The other two elements of launch angle and spin

rate work together. They address the changes in golf balls.

Ten years ago the top players played with balata balls, which were wound and had very soft covers. These elements required for balls hit hard to start very low because the spin rate would cause the ball to rise or balloon.

Today, balls are no longer wound. All major manufactures use two-piece construction. On a driver, the outer core compresses and contact is made with the inner core, which spins less. The result is the ability to hit the ball with very little spin. The result is the need for a driver to launch the ball high enough to maximize carry.

The average driver loft on tour has risen two degrees in the last couple of years.

The optimum launch angle for a drive is close to 15 degrees. Players today have access to technology such as launch monitors which show all these variables and how, by changing launch angle and spin rate, you can add several yards to your drives.

For more information on improving your golfing experience, contact your local PGA pro.

Larry Bryan is the Director of Golf at the Big Spring Country Club. He can be reached at 267-5354 (BS Country Club pro shop) or at larryj@crcom.net.

Mavericks lose ground on Spurs after shocking road loss to Golden State

Dallas trails San Antonio by 1.5 games with three games left

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer OAKLAND, Calif. — Jason Richardson scored 25 points and the lowly Golden State Warriors shocked the mighty Mavericks for the third time this season, winning 114-102 Wednesday night to put a big crimp in Dallas' hopes of finishing with the West's best record.

Rookies Ike Diogu had 22 points and nine rebounds, and Monta Ellis had a career-high 17 points for the Warriors, who snapped their nine-game losing streak and the Mavericks' five-game winning streak with another improbable effort against one of the NBA's best teams.

Troy Murphy scored 16 points for the Warriors, who will be the only team to beat Dallas three times

this season. Only the Spurs and the Lakers even managed to do it twice.

Golden State, which hadn't won since beating Sacramento on March 26, played an outstanding 32-point fourth quarter, making a 15-4 run midway through the period with big dunks from Richardson and rebound scores from Diogu.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and Josh Howard added 18 for Dallas (59-20), which missed its first chance to match the franchise record with 60 victories. The Mavericks trail San Antonio (60-18) by 1 1/2 games in the Southwest Division and Western Conference standings.

And the Spurs are likely to finish with the better conference record, the tiebreaker if the clubs finish with the same overall record. That means Dallas probably will be the No. 4 seed in the West despite its impressive

play all season, opening against the tough Clippers or Grizzlies before a probable second-round meeting with the Spurs.

Though Dallas lost both of its home games against Golden State this season, the Mavs seemed ready to pull away with 24 points in the first 7 1/2 minutes of a strong third quarter. But they went cold while the Warriors found their stride and took the lead late in the period.

Golden State surged through the fourth behind Richardson and his rookie teammates, who combined for 14 points in the fourth. The Warriors needed last-minute baskets to win both of their games in Dallas this season, but their fourth-quarter run took all the suspense out of a rare festive night in Oakland.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 16 points for Dallas, which lost for just the second time in its last 14 trips to Oakland.

IN BRIEF

BSHS Booster Club to give away Lady Steer jacket

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster Club will be giving away a Lady Steer jacket at the team's home softball game against Plainview today at 4 p.m.

Interested fans must enter a drawing, have the correct answer to a Lady Steer trivia question and be present to win.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023.

BSCC sets 'cancer' scramble tourney

The Big Spring Country Club has announced a 'cancer' scramble for April 29-30.

All proceeds of the four-person scramble will be given to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

The teams can be made up or be made for you and the field will be flighted by first-round score.

Prizes in the form of BSCC Golf Shop Gift Certificates will be given to the top three teams in each flight.

There will also be prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin.

The entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$20 cart fee, but private carts are welcome. Checks can be made payable to the Big Spring Country Club.

For more information, contact the Big Spring Country Club at 267-5354.

Softball touney set at Cotton Mize

The first-ever Spring Classic softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park April 22-23.

The tourney, which is under the direction of "Never Dead" softball has a \$120 entry fee per team. There will prizes for first through third place.

For more information or to enter a team, call 816-4523 or 816-1885.

Coahoma Booster Club to meet

The athletic booster club at Coahoma will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in Coach Kim Nichols' classroom to begin planning the athletic banquet.

For more information, contact Donna Wright at 267-6723.

Ragball touney set to benefit Relay For Life

A Relay For Life ragball tournament will take place at the Big Spring ISD Softball Field April 22 and 23.

Registration for the tournament will take place April 22 at 10 a.m. and teams must consist of five men and five women.

The cost of the tournament will be \$10.

BULLDOGS

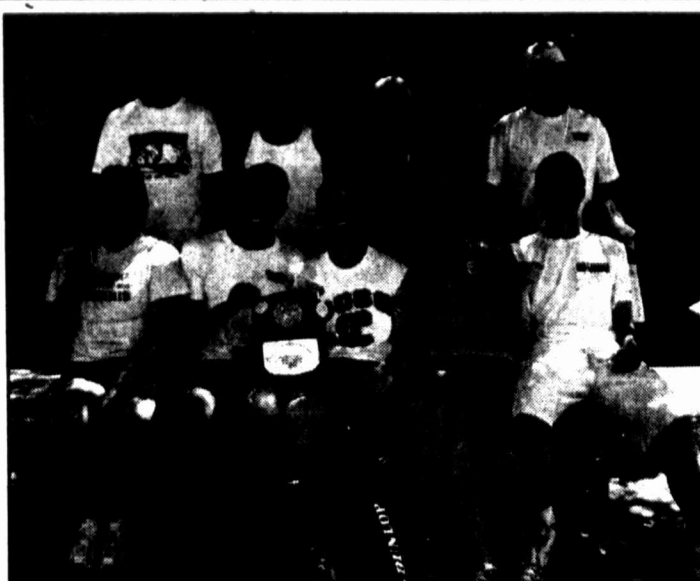
Continued from Page 1B

boy's team overall took home first place as a team, as well.

The other first-place finish came in girl's doubles as Chelsea Watts and Briana Thurman took home the gold. Callie Paige grabbed second in girl's singles, while Harrison Chevalier and Jessica Pittman qualified for the regional tournament after bringing home second place in mixed doubles.

The top two in each category advance to the regional tournament, which will be played at Abilene Christian University April 26-27.

The Coahoma boy's tennis team also consists of Kamrun Green (boy's singles) and Matthew Buske and Antonio Gonzales



Eight tennis players from Coahoma qualified for the regional tournament in Abilene after a successful district touney this past week. Front row, from left: Chelsea Watts, Joe Holguin, Patrick Croft, Briana Thurman and Taylor Halle. Back: Harrison Chevalier, Jessica Pittman, Callie Paige and Coahoma head coach Kevin Roberts. The regional touney will be played at Abilene Christian University April 26-27.

(boy's doubles). Ruiz and Kim Calvert were a part of Coahoma's junior varsity tennis team.

Matthews Jr. returns from DL, delivers huge hit for Rangers

• Texas halts Angels' domination in big way

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Mark Teixeira and Gerald Laird hit their first home runs of the season, Gary Matthews Jr. had a bases-loaded triple in his first game off the disabled list, and the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels 11-3 Wednesday night.

The Rangers had lost eight straight against the two-time defending AL West champions, 13 of 15, and each of the previous nine meetings in Anaheim — tying a franchise record for most consecutive losses in one opponent's ballpark.

Laird was 3-for-5 with two RBIs in his second start behind the plate.

John Koronka (1-1) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings, striking out five. The left-hander was one of three pitchers the Rangers acquired in trades after No. 2 starter Adam Eaton went on the disabled list.

Koronka went to the mound with a 1-0 lead

after Phil Nevin's two-out RBI single in the top of the first, then struck out the side with his first 11 pitches and stranded two runners in scoring position in the second.

The Rangers increased their lead to 6-1 with a five-run fourth, started by Teixeira's leadoff homer. Laird drove in a run with a high-chopping, bases-loaded single to shortstop, and Matthews capped the rally with his triple to left-center. Four of the runs were unearned, the result of a fielding error by Gold Glove shortstop Orlando Cabrera.

Kelvin Escobar (1-1) allowed eight runs and eight hits in 4 1-3 innings, and left the game after D'Angelo Jimenez's RBI single. There was some concern that Escobar might have to skip a start after cracking the nail on his middle finger during Friday's victory over the Yankees. But the nail was filed down properly and he was able to go — with Hector Carrasco ready in the bullpen just in case.

Vladimir Guerrero, who

scored on Robb Quinlan's sacrifice fly, has hit safely in all 39 career games against Texas — the longest streak by any player against one team since the divisional play began in 1969. The 2004 AL MVP, batting .451 against the Rangers, left the game because of stomach flu after striking out in the fifth.

Jimenez made his second start of the season for Texas at second base in place of rookie Ian Kinsler, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a dislocated left thumb. Kinsler was injured while getting thrown out trying to steal second in the second inning of Tuesday's 5-4 loss.

Matthews, activated a couple of days earlier than planned to replace Kinsler on the roster, had been sidelined because of a strained rib cage muscle. The injury occurred when Matthews was driving his car and tried to prevent himself from sneezing.

James hurts ankle in loss

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — LeBron James sprained his left ankle late in the third quarter and did not return to Cleveland's 96-73 loss to Detroit.

James landed awkwardly while being guarded by Tayshaun Prince, and the MVP candidate hopped on his right foot, keeping weight off his left foot.

The Cavs said his status is day to day.

Local Schedule

Thursday
Big Spring golf @San Angelo, 9 a.m.
District 4-4A track meet @Lubbock, noon
Big Spring softball vs. Plainview, 4 p.m.

Friday
Howard baseball DH @Western Texas, noon
Howard softball DH vs. Midland, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Coahoma baseball @Midland Trinity, 1 p.m.
District 4-4A track meet @Lubbock, 2 p.m.

BSJH hosts track meet

Seventh- and eighth-grade girls results from April 6

Seventh grade
Team — 89 points, fourth place
High Jump: Desiree Anderson, first, 4-8
Triple Jump: Patricia Morales, sixth, 25-9.75
Shot Put: Tanika Stephenson, fourth, 23-11; Lacey Lawrence, sixth, 23-9
Discus: Linzi Rodriguez, fourth, 53-5.75; Lacey Lawrence, sixth, 50-3
400-meter relay: Big Spring, second, 55.63
100-meter dash: Desiree Anderson, second, 13.31
800-meter relay: Big Spring, second, 2:02.19
300-meter hurdles: Chanel Cuvillo, 57.22
1,600-meter relay: Big Spring, third, 4:58.78
200-meter dash: Opal Gonzales, sixth, 31.05

Eighth Grade
Team — 119 points, third place
Long Jump: Iesha Simpson, second, 14-2.25; Linzee Yarbar, fourth, 12-5.5
Triple Jump: Simpson, first, 31-2.5; Yarbar, sixth, 26-8.5
High Jump: Macy Graves, fourth, 4-6; Halee Thomas, fifth, 4-6
Shot Put: Lauren Pomas, third, 27-11.5
Discus: Kani Davis, third, 72-9.75; Alex Ortega, sixth, 66-11
2,400-meter run: Vicki Conner, fourth, 11:12.7
400-meter relay: Big Spring, second, 56.44
100-meter hurdles: Yarbar, third, 19.09; Emily Key, sixth, 19.75
800-meter relay: Big Spring, third, 2:11.22
400-meter dash: Marissa Zavala, fifth, 74.4
300-meter hurdles: Yarbar, sixth, 61.25
200-meter dash: Simpson, first, 28.62
1,600-meter run: Conner, fifth, 7:03.43
1,600-meter relay: Big Spring, third, 5:12.76

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HUGE INSIDE Sale: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9:00-5:00. Collectibles, toys and much more. 1/2 Mile East of Salem Road.

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MOVING SALE: 1509 Sunset, Saturday 8:00-7 Washer, dryer, full bed, dresser, bedding, clothing, household items and lots more.

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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.

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Miscellaneous

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Freebies

TO GIVE away Free Computers. Call (432)264-0910.

Miscellaneous

TOSHIBA 52" big screen TV, great condition. Dremel 18" variable speed scroll saw, model 1680. \$75. Call (432)263-2085 after 5:00 or 517-0234.

Mobile Homes

1995 DOUBLEWIDE on leased lot. 2 car steel carport, covered deck, large storage. \$20,000. Owner finance with \$3,000. down. Linda Leonard, Home Realtors. (432)263-1284. (432)263-7500.

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1508 WOOD. Four bedroom, two bath. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Purchase plan available. Call (432)264-6611.

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THREE BEDROOM, two bath. Fireplace, CHA, CISD. \$600. Month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

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2523 DOW, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$385. month, \$150. deposit, CHA. 448 Armstrong. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath, CHA. \$425. month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

502 A Goliad- 1 BR, \$235.00; 1210 Wood- 2 BR, \$300.00; 1506 Chickasaw- 2 BR, \$300.; 902 East 12th- 1 BR, \$275. per month. (432)267-7380.

613 ELGIN. Clean 3 bedroom, 1 bath Brick. CHA, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$450.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

620 STATE, Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CHA, Large House. \$550. Month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

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A/C equipment - condensing units, compressors, fan motors, squirrel cages, much more.

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Scott Emerson auctioneer
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432-263-1831

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TDB.....\$23,505
Pkg. Discount.....\$850
MSRP.....\$22,655
Customer Cash.....\$2,000
Ford Credit Match.....\$1,000
Dealer Discount.....\$1,660

Sale Price +TTL \$17,995

\$7,145
Total Available Savings



06 Mercury Grand Marquis LS
Leather Seats - Cassette/CD - All Power
LS Premium Pkg. - Cruise- Much More.

TDB.....\$32,140
Pkg. Discount.....\$995
MSRP.....\$31,145
Customer Cash.....\$4,000
Dealer Discount.....\$2,150

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Ask About 1% APR Option



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All Power - Cruise Much More.

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Sale Price +TTL \$18,495

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804 W. 17th Street, Cute 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Fenced yard, central air/heat, hardwood floors throughout. \$550/mo \$250/deposit. Call (509)961-4714 or (432)816-9647.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

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4207 DIXON. Three bedroom, one bath. \$35,750. Will pay \$2,200 to buyer at closing. Call 1-800-804-7110.

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THREE BEDROOM, two bath with CH/A, fireplace, 2 car garage, sitting on fenced 20 acres, located in Forsan School District. Call Marie Rowland Brown, (432)263-6400.

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1982 KAWASAKI 1100cc, fully dressed. \$1,600. Call (432)263-8496 ask for Walter.

1993 HONDA Civic \$695.00! Runs, tags, must sell! For listing 800-749-8104 ext. N-237.

1994 FORD Explorer, red, 4-WD, 4-door, leather, loaded, mint condition inside & out. \$3,500 o.b.o. Call Dee, (254)205-0702, Big Spring.

1994 PONTIAC Sunbird SE. V6, 148,000 miles, red, sporty, standard. \$2300.00. Call (432)263-1964.

1995 JEEP Wrangler Sahara, hard top, auto, 66,000 original miles- adult driven never off road. Excellent condition. \$8,700.00 OBO. Call (432)935-2500.

2005 HD 2500 crew cab. Turbo diesel. 11,000K. Asking \$32,000 or best offer. Daytime (432)263-6185, evenings (432)399-4536 ask for Dr. Riley.

91 NISSAN Maxima SE, 6 cylinder, automatic, sun roof, 88900 actual miles, \$3650.00 Firm. Call (432)935-2312.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tonight, with its beautiful full moon, warrior Mars enters Cancer, the watery and maternal sign of emotions. This transit lasts through June 3 and is an uneasy fit for Mars. At the same time, it's an energetic balancing for the aggressive planet. Get quiet often. Pay attention to feelings. Let intuition play a bigger role in your passionate pursuits.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It may feel like the whole world is depending on you. Really, it's just three very needy, very persistent people. Take care of yourself first — they'll understand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You recognize something in someone that you absolutely know you want. Common sense goes out the window long enough for you to say something ridiculous and effective in order to seize the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The answer to your question comes in the form of a person — probably another air sign (Gemini, Libra or Aquarius). Make dinner plans with friends, and share your news.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the boat of life, you and your fellow oarsman must either work together, rowing in a common

direction, or be content to go nowhere. You'll be the organizing element in any group situation you encounter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You welcome the chance to change! A terrific new person helps along your career and social advancement, so be on your best behavior with those you hardly know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Accept all (reasonable and borderline reasonable) invitations. As a result of saying "yes," you'll be swept up in an adventure. Also, if you haven't extended a social invitation in a while, now is the time to do so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Rejection is nothing but a change in course on your path to success. If you are rejected today, count yourself among the lucky. Better to be stopped and put in the right direction than to wander, clueless, in the wrong direction!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take time to process the feedback you have been getting on a project. This saves you many hours of potentially wast-

ed time. You're feeling mischievous tonight and will attract a so-called partner in crime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Notice with whom you are the most comfortable, and consider why. It is advantageous to get more of this kind of energy flowing through your life — the energy of effortless relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You leave the house feeling like a million bucks. It's a good thing, too — your attitude and your clothes determine who is open to you and who isn't. Close the deal this afternoon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A case of the envies has recently plagued you, but this afternoon, the stars help you become as objective as possible. Even if you had the opportunity, you wouldn't trade lives with anybody in the world!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Loved ones are feeling sorry for themselves. It's up to you to remind them they've simply lost sight of the goal. Help them see it again. Your support is

worth more than diamonds.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born Aug. 19, 1953, in Omaha, Neb., at 6:30 p.m. I was in banking for almost 30 years, caught in a downsize in December 2001, and now I find myself drifting from job to job. I'm lost as to what I want to do and where to start. Is there a reason for this, and is this my destiny? Do you see me returning to the financial industry or another field?"

I believe this layoff is a blessing, meant to give you an opportunity to follow a path your blossoming heart hasn't dared follow until now. I see an interest from your childhood that you stopped pursuing long ago. With your sun, Mercury and Mars all in Leo, I believe this is a very creative endeavor. Now is your chance to pick it up again, learn more about it and follow where it leads. Your schedule permits you to do so. When your heart is glad, your work becomes abundant again. Also, it's time to differen-

tiate between the source of your income and the spigot from which it flows. Jobs such as your banking job are merely a spigot. The source is the universe itself.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Born under the sign of spring and newness, Claire Danes gives perpetually fresh performances. From a brooding teen in television's "My So Called Life" to a quaint retail clerk in "Shopgirl," Danes utilizes the Aries quest for novel experiences to tap into her characters. I see her focusing on her personal life now, which culminates in an elopement with her current boyfriend, Billy Crudup.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: As president of the Well Spouse Association, I would like to respond to the letter from the 53-year-old man whose spouse had a stroke and is now totally paralyzed and in a nursing home. You referred readers to our organization.

The Well Spouse Association is a nonprofit group for the support of people married to, or partners of, persons with chronic illness and/or disability. Our motto is, "When one is sick, two need help." My heart goes out to the gentleman who wrote in.

I would like to add that we do not act as a match-making service. I invite him and other well spouses to join the WSA and find people who are living through similar circumstances, and who will listen. — Richard Anderson, President, WSA

Dear Richard Anderson: Thank you for clarifying that. Again, those who are interested can contact the Well Spouse Association at www.wellspouse.org or call 1-800-838-0879.

Dear Annie: My 18-year-old daughter, "Tabitha," has been married for six months. Her husband, "Jimmy," a healthy 20-year-old high school dropout, has worked a total of eight days during this period and is currently unemployed.

Jimmy talks about getting a job, but he always has an excuse why some particular position doesn't suit him. He once told Tabitha he was going to work and actually left the house, but there was no job. His only interest seems to be his four-wheeler. He has debts he does not pay, and thanks to him, Tabitha owes \$18,000. She works very hard to make ends meet, but she cannot do it alone.

How can I get her to realize this man-child she claims to love really does not care for her the way a husband should? — Going Crazy in Kentucky

Dear Crazy: You can't. Anything negative you say about Jimmy will fall on deaf ears and force Tabitha to defend him. All you can do is be supportive. Let Tabitha know you love her and she can always come to you if she needs help. And it's possible that Jimmy will grow up and become more responsible. If not, we're afraid Tabitha will just have to learn her lessons the hard way.

Dear Annie: I am raising a teenager, and I have noticed how other adults let my daughter get away



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

with a lot, saying, "Oh, she's just being a teenager." Teens know this and play on it.

Please hold my teen accountable for her actions. We have taught her basic responsibility, and we offer support and guidance. We do not fix her poor decision-making, but we hope she learns from it.

We model to her when we screw up by saying we are sorry or that we were wrong, and we want her to do the same. So, please, if she is late to practice, with homework or at her job, if she doesn't return a call or an item she borrowed, don't blow it off because you want her to like you. When you don't hold her accountable, she thinks "it's no big deal." You are encouraging laziness and doing her a disservice. — Teen's Parent

Dear Parent: Good advice, although part of growing up means maintaining integrity in a world that may not demand it. You are setting a good example for your daughter, and we hope she will follow it even when she can get away with less.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Doc in Love," whose fiancée was addicted to painkillers and was forging prescriptions all over town.

Take it from someone who has been to hell and back with prescription pain pills. You cannot control it, it controls you. I remember the day I woke up and hoped I would get a headache so I could justify taking the pills. I had crossed the line. When I tried to stop, the withdrawal was so severe, I needed the pills to combat the nausea, diarrhea, sleeplessness, leg cramps, etc.

At the age of 46, I was arrested for illegally obtaining painkillers. I am on probation for a felony charge and had to go through a five-day supervised detox in a hospital.

I hope this woman will

admit to her addiction. Imagine the shame that will result if she doesn't get help and ends up in jail or worse. Don't think it can't happen. I am a middle-aged, upper-middle-class, intelligent woman with an engineer for a husband and a 25-year-old daughter. I attend church and Bible study on a regular basis. I am also an addict who had to learn a very hard and painful lesson that nearly destroyed my marriage and my life. — Painkillers Almost Killed Me

Dear P.A.K.M.: Thank you for being brave enough to share your story. We hope those addicted to pain medication will see your letter and seek help.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for three years, and things are great. The problem is my parents, who can't stand my in-laws.

I discovered how my parents felt when a friend told me that my mother said horrible, untrue things about my in-laws at our wedding. I confronted my parents and asked where this hostility was coming from. Mom said my in-laws flaunt their wealth and behave as if they are better than everyone else. Annie, that's just crazy. My in-laws make a lot of money, but they would never say or do anything to make others feel inferior. They've always been friendly and welcoming to my parents.

My husband and I have chosen not to tell my in-laws how my parents feel, although they may have an idea. We've planned a vacation in my in-laws' hometown, and we'll be staying with them for a week. Since my parents don't live far away, they're coming to meet us. Mom and Dad will stay at a hotel. My parents don't want to see my in-laws at all, but I think it will be hard to explain their absence.

I'd like us all to be together, but I'd hate for my parents' hostility to come through. I love my in-laws and don't want my parents' behavior to reflect poorly on me. How can I keep the peace? — Stuck in the Middle

Dear Stuck: Your parents seem insecure and jealous. You cannot fix that, but over time, we hope they will see that your in-laws are not a threat. (Although expect periodic flare-ups when you have kids.)

People related through their married children do not have to like one another

or spend time together, so don't feel obligated to get everyone at the same table. Ask your parents to do one activity with the whole group, but otherwise let them make their own plans. Treating both your in-laws and your parents with respect and love is the best you can do. Try not to make their relationship your problem.

Dear Annie: I note that you and other columnists often advise people to seek counseling for their problems, but the cost for a professional is \$100 to \$200 an hour, and several sessions are required.

I've tried five different counselors, but none would take Medicare. I was given another referral, and although we discussed the cost beforehand, the counselor raised the price three times after my husband and I had gone to her for about 10 sessions.

Now if I want help, I have to begin again. What can I do? — Need Therapy

Dear Need Therapy: Finding the right counselor takes time, and often, you have to go through several before you get the right match. We're sorry you've been having so much trouble. Try these: United Way, the YMCA, your local hospitals, churches, university psychology departments and graduate school counseling departments; Recovery Inc. (recovery-inc.org) at 802 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610; the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (www.aapc.org) at 9504A Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031-2303; Samaritan Counseling Centers (samaritaninstitute.org) at 2696 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 380, Denver, CO 80222; and The Alliance for Children and Families (www.alliance1.org).

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Always Been Short," and a few reader responses from short people. I, too, am the runt of the litter, but I am proud of it.

I have been told that I should sue the city for building the sidewalks too close to my behind. However, my best comeback for the snide comments is this one: Do you know the difference between tall people and short people? Short people reach perfection first. — Proud To Be the Runt in North Carolina

Dear Proud: Touche! We'd call that "short and sassy." © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (29)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (39)
6	News (CC)	News Midland	Spanish	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Odeesa	La Tormenta	News Midland	Raymond MLB Baseball	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Laher	Weather Extrem	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Law & Order (CC) (DVR)	Live (CC) BET Style	Phil of Future That's-Haven	Interruption MLB Baseball	SportsCenter	Storm of the Century (CC)
7	Ent. Tonight	Extreme Make-over Home	Barrera de Amor	70s Show The Loop	Survivor: Panama - Exile	Tierra de Pasiones	Will & Grace Name is Earl	Philadelphia Phillies at Atlanta Braves (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	TX Mighty Talk	Perfect Disaster	Movie: First Blood (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	NBA Basketball	Revised Freestyle	Movie: Cow Belles (CC)	Terms to Be Announced	NFL Draft Special (CC)	
8	AMERICAN Inventor	AMERICAN Inventor	Alborada	The O.C. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Without a Trace (CC)	Corazon Part Decisiones	Atlanta Braves (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Artiques Roadshow	Americas Volcanoes	Movie: The Great Escape (CC)	UFC Unleashed	Knick at Cavaliers	Beach Towel Throwdown	College Hill Li Kim Lock	Empar New Even Stevens	Quite Frankly	Storm of the Century (CC)
9	Commander in Chief (CC)	Commander in Chief (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Movie: Scary	California and American	Charlie Rose (CC)	Movie: The Great Escape (CC)	The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball	College Hill Li Kim Lock	Zack & Cody That's-Haven	With Smith Free Agent	SportsCenter (CC)	Storm of the Century (CC)
10	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Movie: Scary	The Hour of Healing	Del Sanchez Y. Salamanca	Perfect Disaster	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	TNA IMPACT! (CC)	Mavericks at Phoenix Suns	College Hill Li Kim Lock	Phil of Future Kim Possible	Bonds-Bonds	Baseball Outside-Lines	
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	TBA	Letterman Late Late	Laura Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night-Conan O'Brien	25 Movie: The Craft (CC)	Update/Israel Booker	Perfect Disaster	Americas Volcanoes	Movie: Battle	Blind Date	College Hill Li Kim Lock	College Hill Li Kim Lock	Slater, Slater It's the Shoes	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone	
12	AM News (CC)	Extra (CC)	Sonadoras	King of the Hill	The Insider														

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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2006. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

On this date: In 1598, King Henry IV of France endorsed the Edict of Nantes, which granted rights to the Protestant Huguenots. (The edict was abrogated in 1685 by King Louis XIV, who declared France entirely Catholic again.)

In 1742, Handel's "Messiah" was first performed publicly, in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in New York.

In 1906, 100 years ago, playwright, novelist and poet Samuel Beckett was

born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1943, President Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial.

In 1958, Van Cliburn became the first American to win the Tchaikovsky International Piano Contest in Moscow.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award, for "Lilies of the Field."

In 1986, Pope John Paul II visited a Rome synagogue in the first recorded papal visit of its kind.

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Stanley Donen is 82. Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 73. Actor Lyle Waggoner is 71. Actor Edward Fox is 69. Playwright Lanford Wilson is 69. Actor Paul Sorvino is 67. Movie and TV composer Bill Conti is 64. Rock musician Jack Casady is 62. Actor Tony Dow is 61. Singer Al Green is 60. Actor Ron Perlman is 56. Actor William Sadler is 56. Singer

Peabo Bryson is 55. Rock musician Max Weinberg is 55. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 54. Rock musician Jimmy Destri (Blondie) is 52. Singer-musician Louis Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 51. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 49. Actress Sandra Santiago is 49. Rock musician Joey Mazzola (Sponge) is 45. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 43. Actress Page Hannah is 42. Actress-comedian Caroline Rhea is 42. Rock musician Lisa Umbarger is 41. Reggae singer Capleton is 39. Actor Rick Schroder is 36. Singer Lou Bega is 31. Actress Courtney B. Vance is 25. Pop singer Nellie McKay is 24.

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Answer to previous puzzle

PALE	MEDS	TRAYS
ANK	ALAI	VENUE
COAT	GANG	SPELL
THREW	IN THE	TOWEL
ANNO	ETNA	
TOM	DRENCH	
SHE	EBOOK	LULU
WAVED	AWHITE	FLAG
AHEM	SWEAR	LPS
PARSEC	LOIN	
	QUIT	CUKE
HELD	UPONES	HANDS
ATARI	WORE	NOSH
STROP	ATTN	CLEO
HEAPS	NEED	ELLE

Newsday Crossword

BURNING ISSUE by Alison Donald

Edited by Stanley Newman

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ACROSS

- 1 Netflix delivery
- 4 George's brother
- 7 Big bashes
- 14 Brazilian hot spot
- 15 Cycle prefix
- 16 Unbinds
- 17 Words at the altar
- 18 Roof goo
- 19 Programming language
- 20 Dating-service goal
- 23 Slugger Sammy
- 24 Calendar abbr.
- 25 Pieces (candy)
- 29 Pkg. deliverer
- 31 Bull Run general
- 33 Bronze, for one
- 34 Boy Scout rank
- 37 Truce
- 40 Type of racehorse
- 42 Put off the inevitable
- 43 Cry of surprise
- 45 Out of practice
- 46 Singer Sumac
- 47 Govt. air monitor
- 48 TV alien
- 49 Cavalryman
- 52 Bull Run soldier
- 54 Fortune partner
- 58 McCourt memoir

DOWN

- 1 Sink-stain source
- 2 Part of 1 Across
- 3 Let's Make a Deal choices
- 4 Rope fiber
- 5 Makes into law
- 6 Blessed event
- 7 Romeo
- 8 Ottoman
- 9 Jedi's power
- 10 World Turns
- 11 Cash or cloth ender
- 12 Genetic letters
- 13 Item on an IRS form
- 21 Defective
- 22 Backless slipper
- 26 Leaves port
- 27 Snowy heron
- 28 Run-down
- 30 Clipping candidates
- 32 Comfort
- 34 Gas additive
- 35 Lunchroom lure

- 36 Heights, Israel
- 37 Do photo editing
- 38 Noble title
- 39 Makes light and airy
- 41 Coming out
- 44 Actor Malden
- 48 "Ridiculous!"
- 50 Seasonal song
- 51 Follow
- 53 Really bother
- 55 Out in front
- 56 High-IQ group
- 57 Ruhr River city
- 59 Comes to a halt
- 60 Graph lines
- 61 Dads
- 62 Pilot's hdg.
- 63 Greek letter

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