



Jail fails smoke test

What next?

Prisoners will be housed elsewhere

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

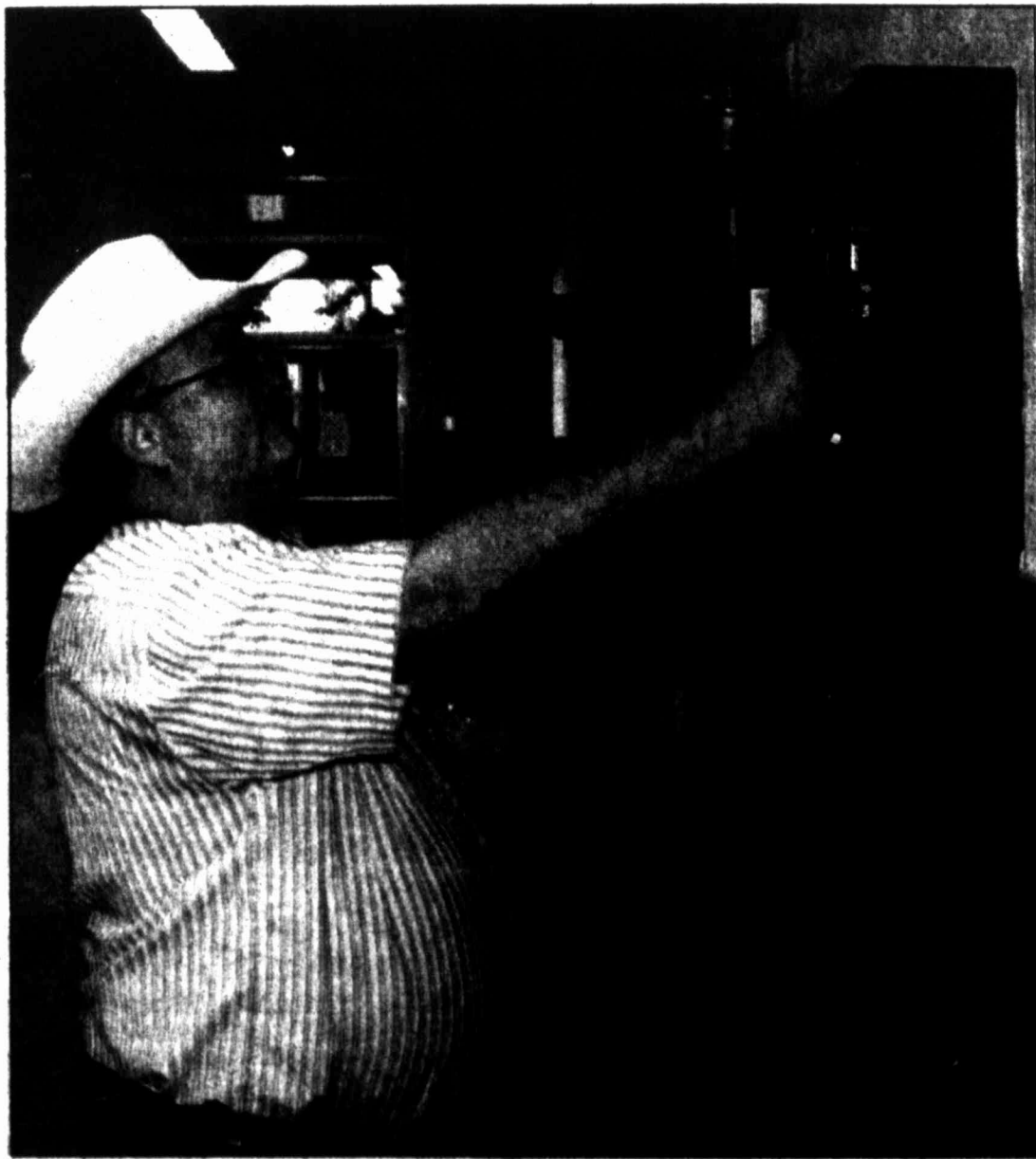
With regards to the jail, Howard County commissioners officially shifted from "what now" to "what next" mode this morning.

At an emergency meeting early today, commissioners met with Sheriff Dale Walker and other officials to discuss what to do in the face of the jail's impending closure.

While very few specifics were agreed upon at the meeting, one consensus was quickly reached — whatever solution is found to the problem, it will be expensive.

Although County Judge-elect Mark Barr was quick to point out that final closure orders have not been received from state officials,

See NEXT, Page 3A



Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker resets the fire alarm system for the county jail during a test of the facility's smoke evacuation system Wednesday night. The system failed to reset in the required 15 minute period, one of two system failures that is expected to draw an order from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards closing the jail.

Closure of facility expected in two weeks, sheriff says

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The halls of the Howard County Jail will soon fall silent, as the facility is expected to be shut down by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards after failing an inspection of the facility's smoke evacuation system Wednesday.

Sheriff Dale Walker delivered the news to the media in the lobby of the courthouse shortly after the test was completed.

"Brandon Wood, the inspector with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, has informed me we have failed this test," said Walker. "We failed the first test, which

requires the system to activate within one minute of smoke being introduced. It took a minute and 34 seconds before the activation

began. We did not fail on the migration, which is how much the smoke moves from one area to the next. There was some migration, but he told us he didn't fail us on that.

"However, the third part of the test is the reset of the system, and we did fail on that. After 15 minutes it should have been ready for a complete reset — meaning the floor is clear enough to reset the alarms without them

See FAILS, Page 3A

"I'm disappointed. I was hoping this would work and we wouldn't have to spend any more money to house our inmates out-of-county than we already are. However, it's about to get expensive."

—Sheriff Dale Walker

Effort set to recall mayor, four council members

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Proponents of an election to recall the mayor and four Big Spring City Council members have 30 days to gather the necessary signatures.

Charging that the council "circumvented the will of the majority of electors" in passing a law banning smoking in public places last month, local residents Shannon Thomason and Robert "Steve" Campbell filed an affidavit with the city secre-

tary's office Nov. 6 to recall Mayor Russ McEwen and council members Stephanie Horton, Jo Ann Staulcup, Gloria McDonald and Joann Knox. Council members Manuel Ramirez Jr. and Greg Biddison, who voted against the ordinance, were not named in the affidavit.

"Smoking is not the issue, although we are both smokers," said Thomason. "I agree smoking is bad for you. I try to discourage it in others. But this is

about business owner's rights. It is the right to say 'this is the clientele I want to serve.'"

"They are telling people who work 60 hours a week or more how to run their business," said Campbell.

The men aren't pleased, either, that council members did not turn the issue over to the voters.



Campbell



Thomason

"This is the card we were dealt — smoking," said Campbell. "But the real crux is voter's rights, plain and simple."

Both men signed petitions to ask the council to hold an election, but don't have any faith that the council will reconsider, no matter how many people sign them.

"They don't have to pay any

attention to that. The only thing they have to pay attention to is a petition for recall," said Campbell. "All they had to do was put this (smoking ordinance) on the May ballot for the people to decide. But they've been in their jobs so long they don't feel like they have to respond to the public anymore."

To force a recall election, a minimum number of signa-

See RECALL, Page 7A

Higher costs drives chamber to raise annual dues

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The board of directors for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to increase dues Wednesday afternoon, part of an effort for the local organization to cover increasing administrative costs.

Debbie ValVerde,



ValVerde

is based on how big the business is," said ValVerde. "The minimum

increase our members can expect to see is \$50. From there it increases based on the size of the business.

"It may seem like a lot of money now, but when you look at it spread out over the past seven years, it comes out to approximately a 3 percent increase overall. We feel like it's fair, and it really

is necessary for us to keep doing what we do." ValVerde said inflation in the costs of everything from paper to printing made the increase necessary.

"Everything has gone up over the past seven years," said ValVerde. "The price of office supplies and other materials we have to have to oper-

ate have steadily gone up. We have to find a way to cover that cost. We're a business, much like the businesses that we serve, and we have to bring in money as well."

The board received some good news from Treasurer Mark Morgan, who said the Chamber has managed to turn several money-losing events

into revenue generators.

"Three years ago Debbye (ValVerde) said we're not going to keep putting on these events for free," Morgan told the board.

"Revenues from the events — which include the annual banquet — for the year were

See DUES, Page 7A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Features 5A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



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To reach us:

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

ANGELFOOD PICKUP DAY

Angelfood pickup day is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2702 N. Birdwell. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief to communities throughout the United States. Locally, the program is operated through North Birdwell United Methodist Church.

December orders can also be placed at this time. Orders will also be taken Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Westside Community Center and Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at North Birdwell United Methodist Church.

For more information, call Madeline Boadle at 267-2203.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

StarTek, 501 Birdwell Lane Suite 30, will host a Business After Hours program from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. today.

Business After Hours is a community program sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce specifically designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors.

Door prizes will be awarded; refreshments will be available.

There is no charge to attend.

Those attending are invited to tour the facilities.

DINE OUT DAY IS FRIDAY

Sonic Drive In is the Dine Out Day restaurant Friday for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the drive in's proceeds this Friday will be donated to United Way, which serves 15 local agencies.

Sonic has two locations, one on Gregg Street, the other off FM 700.

For information about United Way for Big Spring and Howard County, call Cynthia Scott at 267-5201.



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Obituaries

William W. "Willie" Hull



William W. "Willie" Hull, 74, of Garden City passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, at the Stanton Nursing Center in Stanton. Masonic graveside rites will be at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006 at the Garden City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Hull was born on Oct. 20, 1932, in Martin County to the late Orby William and Alma Childers Hull. He was raised and educated in the Stanton area and moved to Christoval in 1946 where he graduated from high school. Willie was in the Naval Reserve, attended San Angelo College and graduated with a bachelor's degree from SMU.

Willie returned to San Angelo and joined the Edwards brothers, Connie and Bill, in their first business adventure, Edwards Petroleum Co. Later they moved their offices to Big Spring where he met and married his wife, Rita Harrington. Willie continued to work for Connie Edwards, his boyhood friend, until retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Rita Hull of Garden City; a daughter, Kyrenea Hull of Big Spring; two sisters, Hazel Ann Vautrin of Fort Worth and Myreta Buckholt of Pasadena, Texas; three nephews; three nieces; many great nephews and nieces; and numerous great great nephews and nieces.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Elton Hull; one sister, Evelyn Hayworth; and one grandson, Matthew Webb.

The family suggests memorials to the donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Jesse Reed Jr.

Jesse Reed Jr., 69, of Big Spring died Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006, at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born on Dec. 13, 1936, in Dallas. He married Thelma Isaiah on Aug. 4, 1996, in Hobbs, N.M. He was a disabled veteran having retired from the U.S. Air Force. He was a volunteer at the Big Spring Veterans Administration Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Reed of Big Spring; two daughters, Velda Williams of Phoenix, Ariz., and Felicia Perdue of Albuquerque, N.M.; three step-daughters, Susan Gooden and Deborah Hurrington, both of San Antonio, and Aretha Kitson of Bear, Del.; three step-sons, Andre Hurrington of Albuquerque, N.M., and Randy Hurrington and Edward Hurrington, both of Big Spring; one brother; five sisters; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; 12 step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Chuck Landers

Chuck Landers, 35, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, at his residence. Private family services will be held at a later date.

He was born May 11, 1971, in Houston to Helen and Johnny Landers. He was a computer specialist and had lived in Big Spring since 1984.

He is survived by one sister, Susan Smith of Big Spring; two brothers, Terry Webb of Big Spring and John Landers of Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Leland Wallace

Leland Wallace, 85, of the Morgan Community in Howard County died on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Police blotter

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

- CARL CARRIE, 30, no address given, was arrested on six local warrants and a charge of public intoxication.
- ERIC TOWRY, 32, 1715 E. Highway 350, was arrested on a hold for Howard County Sheriff's Office.
- DANNY DALTON, 36, Parker, Ariz., was arrested on a hold for the HCSO.
- MICHAEL BOLTE, 55, 412 Dallas, was arrested on a citation.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- THEFT was reported in the 2100 block of Marcy, the 200 block of Marcy and the 1100 block of Lamesa.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- LEANNE SMITH, 22, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- KEVIN LEE DUNLAP, 29, was arrested on charges of no insurance and resisting arrest.
- ERIC WADE TOWRY, 32, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- DANNY CRAIG DALTON, 36, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and evading arrest.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Gregg. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of E. Highway 350. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL HOLD A BAKE SALE from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 810 Scurry. All proceeds will go to the Howard County Bible Class Fund. Among the items will be pies, cakes, cookies, bread and jam. Also available will be cookbooks for \$10 each.

• BIG SPRING SCIENCE FAIR IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING and students are being requested to submit their entry forms to their science teachers. Since there is always a bit of confusion concerning the required paperwork to be submitted, the school district will conduct a special "Parent's Night" to go over details and answer questions. Big Spring Science Fair Parent's Night will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria.

• A LOCAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB IS FORMING NOW. All makes and models will be welcome. We are planning fun for the whole family while enjoying the outdoors and visiting trails both near and far. For more information contact Jimmy Hobby at (432) 935-2351 or Donny Booth at 816-9748.

• DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES will be giving flu shots Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 or no charge if you bring your Medicaid or Medicare card. Flu shots will be offered to everyone. For more information, call 432-263-9775.

• DAV AUXILIARY WILL HAVE A SILENT AUCTION Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. Proceeds will be used to provide Christmas for the fifth floor at the VA Medical Center.

• A MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR ESTHER LOPEZ has been established at Howard College by J.O. and Annabel Barker. To make a contribution, contact Jan Foresyth at 264-5051.

• THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
 - American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
 - Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
 - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

- MONDAY**
- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association will meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College. 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. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
 - Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

- TUESDAY**
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

Weather

Tonight—Mostly clear. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Friday—Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.
 Friday night—Clear. Lows in the upper 30s.
 Saturday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.
 Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
 Sunday—Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.
 Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
 Monday—Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.
 Monday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
 Tuesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-15-22-36-38-54. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$5 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-24-27-37. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 6-9-24-27-37

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
 USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

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House

WASHINGTON (The Associated Press) — President Barack Obama's pick for U.S. House speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi was unanimously approved by Democrats Thursday.

She vowed that she would lead the minority, "vigorously."

NEXT

Continued from Page 2

Walker told commissioners he's not waiting for the inevitable decision.

The sheriff said he would not be in the jail — the receiving room cells for temporary holding and the detoxification unit (the "drunk tank") will remain in operation under an agreement reached with the state.

FAILS

Continued from Page 2

going off again — didn't work. It has reset more than four hours after the time before it actually failed on two different points, and that's where we're at right now.

Walker said he would like to see the official facility in little more than two weeks.

"They have taken about 15 days to process the paper," said Walker. "I'm not sure (Wood) has already made a phone call to the executive director of the mission, Adan... and I expect the work will begin tomorrow. That's up to you. However, they take about 15 days to go into effect."

"I'm disappointed," he added. "I was hoping..."

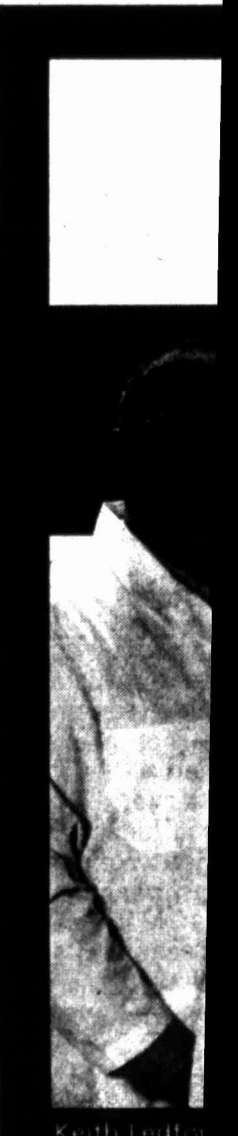
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House Democrats officially select Pelosi as Speaker-designate

WASHINGTON (AP)— Nancy Pelosi was unanimously named speaker-elect by House Democrats Thursday, the first woman set to take a post that constitutionally is second in line of succession to the presidency.

"We made history and now we will make progress for the American people," the Californian told members of the rank and file moments after her selection.

She vowed that after 12 years in the minority, "we will not be

dazzled by money and special interests."

Pelosi also called for unity in the party, but within moments she put her prestige on the line by nominating Rep. John Murtha for majority leader — the No. 2 leadership post — in a hotly contested race.

Murtha is running against Rep. Steny Hoyer, currently the party's second in command, but long a rival to the new speaker-in-waiting.

Pelosi's remarks were relayed by officials inside the closed-

door caucus.

She officially takes the post in January, succeeding Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert, when the House convenes and formally elects her in the next session of Congress.

Pelosi was elevated by her party caucus not long after Democrats went behind closed doors for secret balloting.

The history of the moment notwithstanding, there actually was more intrigue surrounding the contest for majority leader.

Pelosi had passed over Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, now the assistant minority leader, and endorsed longtime ally Murtha of Pennsylvania to take the majority leader spot.

Hoyer, a Pelosi rival, was battling to hold onto the lead in the race with Murtha, and both candidates were predicting victory via a secret ballot, which allows lawmakers to be evasive when asked about their intentions.

The Hoyer-Murtha battle was a no-win situation for Pelosi,

who had hoped to avoid the fight.

Murtha was a problematic candidate because of his penchant for trading votes for pork projects and his ties to the Abscam bribery sting in 1980, the only lawmaker involved who wasn't charged.

A Murtha victory could create hard feelings among Hoyer allies, especially moderate Democrats. On the other hand, a Hoyer victory could be seen as a defeat for Pelosi in her first major move since Election Day.

NEXT

Continued from Page 1A

Walker told commissioners he's not waiting for what he considers the inevitable decision.

The sheriff said parts of the jail — the booking and receiving room, five cells for temporary holding and the detoxification unit (the "drunk tank") will remain in operation under an agreement reached with the state jail

standards commission.

But, effective immediately, inmates will no longer remain overnight at the jail, Walker said.

"If we have a fire up there, they're dead," Walker said, "and I can't sleep knowing the situation is what it is ... so I've instructed my staff not to bring any inmate back to the jail unless there's a pressing reason ... and then we're going to send them back as soon as possible."

"I don't want inmates

sleeping there anymore," he said. "I'm trying to take care of not only my staff, but the inmates, which is my sworn duty."

Overnight inmates will have to be held elsewhere, which means the county will have to come up with funds to house, transport and care for those prisoners, officials said.

County Auditor Jackie Olson said there is approximately \$2.5 million in reserve funds available for immediate

use.

"We're going to run out of money pretty quickly," Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said.

Walker estimated that to secure bed space alone will cost the county about \$72,000 a month. That estimate does not include related costs such as transportation, personnel man-hours and emergency medical care, he quickly added.

Commissioners will meet with Walker Monday to come up with

specific numbers and budgetary requirements.

To address the smoke-evacuation problem at the jail, county officials, in consultation with City Fire Marshal Carl Condray and the state jail commission, plan to secure the services of a firm that will finally fix the vexing problem.

And although the problem is daunting, it is not unsolvable, Condray said. "What's most important here is to find a way to safely house prisoners in

Howard County," he said. "You can have a system up there that can work up to state specs, you bet ... I just don't think the existing system will work in this facility."

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

FAILS

Continued from Page 1A

going off again — and it didn't work. It had to be reset more than four minutes after the time limit before it actually held. So we failed on two different points, and that's where we're at right now."

Walker said he expects to see the official order from the state closing the facility in little more than two weeks.

"They have told us it takes about 15 days to process the paperwork," said Walker. "I'm sure he (Wood) has already made a phone call to the executive director of the commission, Adan Munoz, and I expect the paperwork will begin tomorrow. That's up to them. However, they tell us it takes about 15 days for it to go into effect."

"I'm disappointed," he added. "I was hoping this

would work and we wouldn't have to spend any more money to house our inmates out-of-county than we already are. However, it's about to get expensive."

Walker said the search for additional bed space is already under way.

"We're currently under contract with Dickens County, which is in Spur," said Walker.

"They have the majority of our inmates. We have one up in the Panhandle, and we have 12 down in Glasscock County, which is Garden City. Those are the three we're using right now that have available bed space. We're looking for more. My chief jailer has been on the phone all day today trying to prepare for additional beds. It's best for us

if we can put a large number of them in one location instead of scattering them everywhere. It's a logistical nightmare for our records keepers. It's going to be a mess."

As for reopening the jail, Walker said a great deal of work will have to be completed in the facility before the jail commission will rescind the order to close the jail.

"The commission has made it very clear they will not reopen the jail until all the variances that have been issued to the jail have been corrected," said Walker.

According to Commissioner Bill Crooker, the earliest the order could be rescinded would be Feb. 2.

"That's when the commission meets again,"

said Crooker. "That is the absolute earliest we could hope for. However, there's a lot of work that will have to be done before the jail commission will even consider it."

Closure of the county jail comes on the heels of the Nov. 7 defeat of a \$10.1 million bond issue that would have financed a new facility, located near the intersection of U.S.

Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20.

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

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Jesse Reed, Jr., 69, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

William "Willie" Hull, 74, died Tuesday. Graveside Services will be at 4:00 PM Saturday at the Garden City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Chuck Landers, 35, died Tuesday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

24307

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Big Spring Herald
Community Christmas
Parade

Entry Deadline
Friday, Nov. 17, 2006
5:00 P.M.
263-7331

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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.

Ronnie Cupetid
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Friday is final day to register parade entries

One more day. That's it. That's all the time that's left for registering entries for the 21st annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade — the event that officially kicks off the Yuletide in Howard County.

The parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2, but the deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday.

Registration forms have come in from individuals, businesses and church, civic and school groups who are planning their entries in keeping with this year's theme — "A Poinsettia Christmas."

The parade, which first wound its way down Gregg Street in 1986, will again be a lighted parade. But entries will be judged in slightly different categories this year. First-place plaques will be awarded to winners in four categories — Individual or family entries; those from churches, civic groups or schools; commercial entries; and those from industries. Second- and third-place finishers will receive certificates.

And don't forget, the entry judged "Best of Show" will receive a \$100 cash prize. The Mayor's Trophy for best use of lighting will earn one entrant \$75 and the Grand Marshall's Award for best costuming will receive \$50.

In addition, the Herald will again present a trophy to the best mounted entry from a sheriff's posse or riding club.

But you have to get your entries registered by tomorrow's deadline.

The parade is again set to begin at 5:30 p.m. that Saturday and we here at the Herald want to encourage everyone to come out and help us in getting the Christmas season off to a rousing start.

It's important to remember that a parade this size takes time to plan and coordinate. That's why we need those entries turned in no later than Friday afternoon.

And that's why we are again reminding our readers about the need to get those entries submitted.

Entry forms are available at the Herald's offices located at 710 Scurry, and you can also download them from our Website at www.bigspringherald.com.

So, if you are involved in any of the many organizations or businesses that annually take part in the Christmas Parade, and you haven't yet registered, get your entries filled in as soon as possible and let us know what you're planning to do.

Entry forms should be mailed to the Herald at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1431. For additional information concerning the parade, contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

As always, we're asking the community to help us make this the best Christmas parade Big Spring has ever had.

And you always respond. So come on, get those entries turned in, and join us in kicking off what we all know will be another magical holiday season.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we hook-up with You, Lord, for a bright future,
Amen

GOP: Back to the basics

While I stand by my contention that the Democratic Party is intellectually and morally bankrupt, I'll concede Republicans are floundering right now. Ideologically, this is a center-right nation, and yet Republicans lost at the polls. Democrats are going to continue being who they are, but Republicans need to come home.

It's true our congressional losses were not unusual for a midterm election, especially in the president's second term. But if the party had stuck to its principles, it wouldn't have sustained such losses. Republicans need to find their voice again, and well before the 2008 elections, which will be a formidable challenge.

Before addressing the points of conflict, let's consider the principles upon which most Republicans agree. Most agree on lower taxes, lower spending, less government regulation, a strong national defense and originalist judges. Our elected Republican representatives haven't always lived up to these principles, but they remain our principles.

Unfortunately the intra-party differences are many and growing in intensity. The issue of immigration is particularly divisive. Wall Street Journal conservatives are militantly open-borders. They seem to view border control advocates with an elitist disdain, attributing their views to a nativist, xenophobic strain. The border control activists resent the mischaracterization of their passion to preserve our sovereignty and unique American culture as racist. Many of them see the open-borders policy of the elite as wrong-headed naivete at best and economic idolatry at worst.

Maybe there is some merit in the contention that the stridency of some of the more extreme in

the closed-borders group turned off Hispanic voters. But that's a comment on tone, not policy. Besides, the election results on this matter are ambiguous. I think the open borders crowd grossly underestimates the breadth of the border control constituency, which is not limited to single-issue extremists. Growing numbers of mainstream conservatives (and others) regard laxity toward immigration, our language and the cohesiveness of our culture as ultimately threatening to the republic.

Social issues are another area of deepening conflict on the right. It's not just former Sen. John Danforth and former Bush faith-based advisor David Kuo complaining about Christian conservatives and their involvement in politics. There are many country club Republicans, Libertarians, agnostics, atheists and others who, though otherwise conservative, have had enough of "intolerant," "intermeddling," social conservatives who they mistakenly believe want to regulate their bedrooms.

Many of them seem to be as Christophobic as the most secular of liberal Democrats. They are even promoting the wrongheaded, hypocritical and convenient notion that Christians — but not those of other worldviews or religions — should relegate their religion to the privacy of their own homes and churches and stay out of politics and the public square. Sadly, this idea receives the unlikely aid of many apolitical evangelical Christians who wrongly — in my opinion — fail to grasp the interrelationship between politics, religious freedom and cultural wholeness.

Then there's foreign policy, which is rife with schisms among conservatives following the end of the Cold War and its unifying influence. On the one end, we have the neo-isolationists, who seem to believe that nothing short of a full-scale invasion by the armed forces of another nation on the territorial United States constitutes a threat to our national secu-

city that requires a military response.

On the other end are the neo-conservatives who appear to believe that we have not only the right, but the duty to invade other nations and establish democracies that will spread like a contagion into surrounding areas and lead to peace and prosperity for everyone.

In the middle are mainstream conservatives who believe our foreign policy ought to be governed first and foremost by our national interests. They believe the terrorist enemy is global in scope and design and that we must use all available tools to defeat it, that we were justified in attacking Iraq and removing Saddam and that encouraging Iraqi self-rule is the best of the imperfect options. They do not believe democracy, especially when not undergirded by Judeo-Christian principles, is a panacea.

President Bush has been erroneously assumed to fit into the neoconservative category because of his obvious enthusiasm for the pacifying effects of democracy. But I don't believe he ever would have attacked Iraq had he not believed we had a strategic interest in doing so quite apart from nation-building.

The antidote for what ails the Republican Party and the nation today is not to surrender to the destructive policies of the Democratic Party. But in the next few years, conservatives need to resurrect a defining, unifying message, which might result in some realignments. The guiding philosophy should be Reagan conservatism applied to today's set of similar (and different) problems. As the elections proved, Republicans cannot rely on the Democrats' bankruptcy to bail them out — and they shouldn't.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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4441.

Post-election etiquette, huh?

The sheer pleasure of getting lessons in etiquette from Karl Rove and the right-wing media passeth all understanding. Ever since 1994, the Republican Party has gone after Democrats with the frenzy of a foaming mad dog. There was the impeachment of Bill Clinton, not to mention the trashing of both Clinton and his wife — accused of everything from selling drugs to murder — all orchestrated by that paragon of manners, Tom DeLay.

Media Matters collected some gems of fairness. For instance, Monica Crowley with MSNBC, in the wake of John Kerry's botched program, astutely observed "how lucky we are that he was not elected president. ... The Republicans remain the grown-ups, the responsible ones on national security."

How many dead Americans has this grown-up war resulted in? And how darling of Fox's Juan Williams, upon learning polls show the people favor Democrats on taxes, to say, "To me, that's crazy."

And how many times did Chris Matthews use the Republican talking points about Nancy Pelosi?

Extremist, uncooperative, incapable, unwilling to work with the president.

So after 12 years of tolerating lying, cheating and corruption, the press is prepared to lecture Democrats on how to behave with bipartisan manners.

Given Bush's record with the truth, this bipartisanship sounds like a bad idea on its face. Go back to the first year of the administration, when Bush double-crossed Ted Kennedy in the No Child Left Behind Act. Think about it: You've said at the outset of your administration that you need cooperation to get anything done. Then you double-cross one of the senior senators of the other party when your re-education and labor agenda is dependent on him?

These people are not only dishonest — they're not even smart. Not that I recommend nailing them at every turn, but I wouldn't be surprised if they try to do it to Democrats. If what Republicans have been practicing is bipartisanship, West Texas just flooded.

OK, here's what the D's have going for them. New kids. Easy, popular first moves — for example, increasing the minimum wage. Republicans so inept that it's painful. You want to look at some really, really basic legislation, try fixing the Medicare prescription drug bill. Or the bank-

ruptcy bill. Or new dollar and trade policies.

Then we get to the real meat of this election. There are all manner of shuffle steps and politically shrewd thing for the D's to do. But now is not the time to be clever. The Democrats won this election because we are involved in a disastrous war. We know how to do this: Declare victory, and go home.

I noticed when Republicans are forced to talk about how to end this, they tend to announce that it's all hopeless: They have no ideas at all. Thanks, guys. Of all the options, I would say splitting Iraq into three states is least advisable. First, it puts us in the position of screwing the Kurds once again. Second, Turkey has serious objections to a Kurdistan. Third, Turkey is not a militia. Fourth, then you give Iran and Saudi Arabia a pawn piece. And there'd be an unimaginable amount of future hassle.

Do I have any good ideas? Yes, but it's not a solution. We need to start the Middle East peace process again. Because it's the right thing to do. Because it's what Bush should have done to begin with. Because we have to start somewhere.

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It sp
Euro-styl
to help Sa

By MARK PHELAN

Detroit Free Press

Saturn has been eb and bound for most of its b history, but the new A midsize sedan looks the booster rocket brand needs to fire it orbit.

You could call roomy, Euro-style se the Saturn 5. It's the f model in Saturn's line and it's got the pov style and payload capa ty to fulfill the stra pheric expectati General Motors crea when it launched brand almost 16 years to the day.

Then-GM Chair Roger Smith drear Saturn up to be a kind of car company. was losing market sh to imports a genera ago. Smith despaired getting existing bra like Chevrolet and Bu to reinvent the way t developed and sold c so he assigned a tear executives to start f scratch with a new br and a new compact ca

The brand succe The cars, not so m Saturn's dealer are am the best in the busin but its product line limited and uninspiri

Eight months Saturn had just th models: the Ion, Vue Relay. Of the three, the Vue compact SUV much good.

This spring, Sat added the exhilarating tle Sky roadster. Aura is in dealersl now and the Outloo midsize SUV that seat to eight, goes on sale this year.

The Aura — like Sky before it — ben from Saturn's alliance with G German Opel br which holds its ow competition with ev body from Volkswag Toyota in the fi European market. future Saturn models share their looks, and handling with continental cousins.

The Aura's well-app ed and comfortable ir or and elegant ext styling combine American low price lots of convenience tures to make a pelling case for moto multiculturalism.

Aura prices star \$19,945 for an XE n that comes with a horsepower 3.5-lite and four-speed auto transmission. The X base price is \$23,945 comes standard w 252-horsepower 3.6 V6 and GM's slick six-speed automatic mission.

I drove an XE b and spent more time XR equipped with a roof, leather trim a couple of other op that raised the st price to \$26,269. All p exclude destin charges.

Either trim level bargain, but I'm in over the XR, whose dard equipment inc a very good stereo v six-disc in-dash cha power adjustable p curtain air bags, seat side air bags, tronic stability c and antilock brakes

The piece de resis for me was the two less headsets that passengers in the seat to listen to a dif audio source from front seat.

"Now that's a v my brother John

It sparkles

Euro-style Aura sedan to help Saturn take off

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press

Saturn has been earth-bound for most of its brief history, but the new Aura midsize sedan looks like the booster rocket the brand needs to fire it into orbit.

You could call the roomy, Euro-style sedan the Saturn 5. It's the fifth model in Saturn's lineup, and it's got the power, style and payload capacity to fulfill the stratospheric expectations General Motors created when it launched the brand almost 16 years ago to the day.

Then-GM Chairman Roger Smith dreamed Saturn up to be a new kind of car company. GM was losing market share to imports a generation ago. Smith despaired of getting existing brands like Chevrolet and Buick to reinvent the way they developed and sold cars, so he assigned a team of executives to start from scratch with a new brand and a new compact car.

The brand succeeded. The cars, not so much. Saturn's dealer are among the best in the business, but its product line was limited and uninspiring.

Eight months ago, Saturn had just three models: the Ion, Vue and Relay. Of the three, only the Vue compact SUV was much good.

This spring, Saturn added the exhilarating little Sky roadster. The Aura is in dealerships now and the Outlook, a midsize SUV that seats up to eight, goes on sale later this year.

The Aura — like the Sky before it — benefits from Saturn's new alliance with GM's German Opel brand, which holds its own in competition with everybody from Volkswagen to Toyota in the fierce European market. Most future Saturn models will share their looks, ride and handling with their continental cousins.

The Aura's well-appointed and comfortable interior and elegant exterior styling combine with American low price and lots of convenience features to make a compelling case for motorized multiculturalism.

Aura prices start at \$19,945 for an XE model that comes with a 224-horsepower 3.5-liter V6 and four-speed automatic transmission. The XR's base price is \$23,945 and comes standard with a 252-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 and GM's slick new six-speed automatic transmission.

I drove an XE briefly and spent more time in an XR equipped with a sunroof, leather trim and a couple of other options that raised the sticker price to \$26,269. All prices exclude destination charges.

Either trim level is a bargain, but I'm in orbit over the XR, whose standard equipment included a very good stereo with a six-disc in-dash changer, power adjustable pedals, curtain air bags, front-seat side air bags, electronic stability control and antilock brakes.

The piece de resistance for me was the two wireless headsets that allow passengers in the rear seat to listen to a different audio source from the front seat.

"Now that's a value," my brother John said.

"You have no idea how sick grownups can get of Barney after about six hours."

The stereo is iPod-compatible, so the benefit extends from the purple dinosaur years through the awkward Jessica Simpson stage all the way to gangster rap and death metal.

The interior looks almost as good as it sounds. Precisely trimmed soft-touch materials cover the dash and doors. The warm brown faux wood adds a nice warm feel that is augmented by attractive amber mood lighting for the center console and door pulls. The wood trim pieces on the doors and dash don't quite line up, however, a miscue that's at odds with the interior's general precision. The misaligned pieces are not the result of a mistake at the assembly plant; they were designed that way.

There's also a slight, intermittent squeak from the driver's side window. Fit and finish is otherwise excellent. The XR I tested had black leather trim, an \$800 option. An extra \$100 buys glorious-looking saddle brown leather, which Saturn calls Morocco brown.

Another option package included a power adjustable passenger seat and adjustable pedals. Both useful features, but they would have been

more useful with the inclusion of a memory to store settings for two or three drivers.

Sight lines are excellent in all directions, and interior room is excellent, thanks to the car's 112.3-inch wheelbase, longer than the Chrysler Sebring, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Nissan Maxima, Toyota Camry or Volkswagen Passat.

The Aura has a 14.9-cubic-foot trunk, larger than the Accord's but smaller than those of the Fusion, Maxima and Camry. The lift-over into the trunk is a bit high, and the opening is narrower than ideal.

The car's exterior styling is restrained, substantial and elegant. From the enamel badge on the grille to its grace-

fully arcing roofline and short rear deck, the Aura looks unique and attractive.

Both drivetrains provide good performance, but the XR's more powerful engine and six-speed automatic transmission lends itself more to enthusiastic driving. The 3.6-liter engine provides ample power for confident acceleration, and the new gearbox provides smooth, precise shifts in both automatic and manual modes.

I'm not a big fan of manually shifting an automatic transmission, but the steering-wheel mounted paddle shifters on the Aura are among the best controls any automaker offers for the system.

The steering is precise and provides good feed-

back, although the effort is higher than ideal at 20- and 30-mph neighborhood speeds.

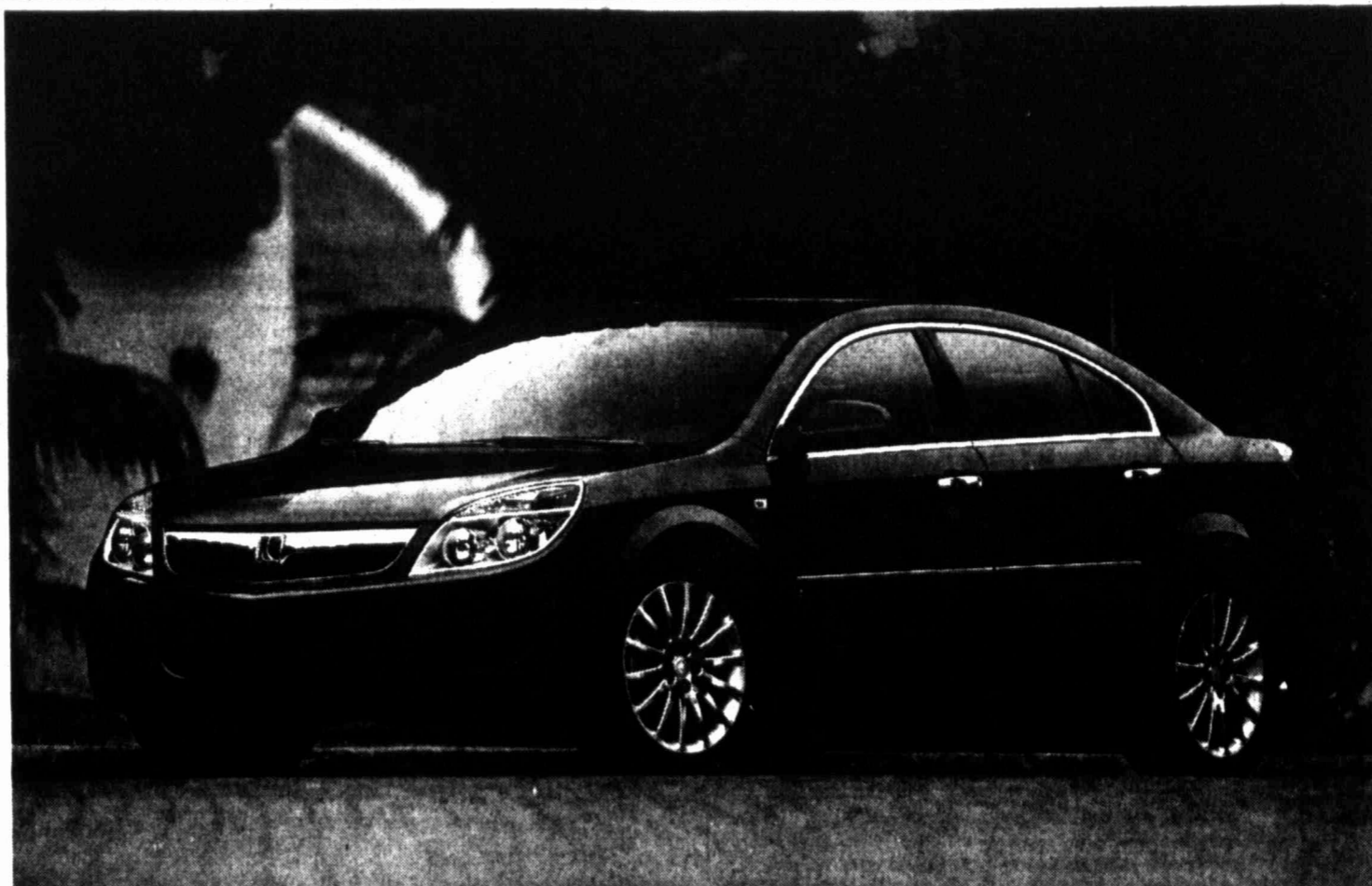
Steering feel is fine on the highway, but a speed-variable system would improve the overall package.

The Aura's handling is not quite as crisp as the Accord's or Fusion's, but it's well ahead of any other front-wheel-drive midsize sedan.

The suspension absorbs bumps from rough surfaces very well. Road and wind noise are minimal. Brake feel and stopping power are very good.

The Saturn Aura is on the launch pad. All systems are go and the sky's the limit for the best front-wheel-drive midsize sedan to hit the market in years.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services



The 2007 Saturn Aura XR

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Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

2007 Saturn Aura XR

Vehicle type: Front-wheel-drive five-seat midsize sedan

Base price: \$23,945 (excluding destination charges)

As tested: \$26,269

Standard equipment: Antilock brakes, electronic stability control, one-year OnStar service, curtain air bags, seat-mounted front side air bags, daytime running lights, automatic headlights, remote vehicle start, remote keyless entry, tire pressure monitor, theft deterrent system, fog lights, folding power side view mirrors, 18-inch multi-spoke aluminum wheels, chrome-tipped dual exhausts, automatic climate control, power windows with driver's express up and down, auto-dimming rearview mirror with compass, trip computer, power locks, eight-way power driver's seat with manual lumbar adjustment, AM/FM stereo with MP3-compatible six-disc in-dash CD changer and iPod jack, eight-speaker premium sound system, separate audio controls and two wireless headphones for rear passengers, tilt and telescoping steering wheel with audio controls, universal remote for garage door, etc.

Options: Leather-trimmed seats, steering wheel and shift knob, six-way power passenger seat, power adjustable pedals, power sunroof, XM satellite radio.

Specifications as tested

Engine: 3.6-liter DOHC 24-valve V6

Power: 252 horsepower at 6,400 rpm, 251 pound-feet of torque at 3,200 rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed automatic

Fuel economy: 20 mpg city/28 mpg highway

Wheelbase: 112.3 inches

Length: 190.0 inches

Width: 70.3 inches

Height: 57.6 inches

Curb weight: 3,647 pounds

Where assembled: Kansas City, Kan.

Comparative base prices (not including destination charges, V6 models with automatic transmission)

Ford Fusion V6 SEL: \$21,975

Honda Accord LX V6: \$25,200

Toyota Camry SE V6: \$24,615

Volkswagen Passat 3.6L: \$29,960

Contract Bridge

If at First You Don't Succeed

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 87

♥ 654

♦ AKQ6

♣ J103

WEST

♠ J10954

♥ K32

♦ 1982

♣ 7

EAST

♠ KQ632

♥ J1098

♦ 104

♣ 42

SOUTH

♠ A

♥ AQ7

♦ 753

♣ AK9865

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦			

Opening lead — jack of spades.

In general, a slam should be bid whenever there appears to be a better-than-even chance of fulfillment. It is in this area that a partnership's bidding skill is most severely tested.

Most slams should be reached by natural bidding methods and not through the use of artificial conventions. The trouble with ace-asking conventions such as Blackwood is that in the search for the number of aces held by the partnership, other critical features are often neglected.

The main question to be resolved in bidding a slam is whether there will be a good chance to make at least 12 tricks. Bids devoted to finding out the number of aces held in the

combined hands all too frequently bypass this basic question.

South's three-club rebid in today's deal announces a hand containing at least 16 points. It asks North to continue bidding unless his first response was a real minimum (six or seven points). A four-club response by North would indicate a hand such as the one he has, less the ace of diamonds. The five-club response selected by North, on the heels of his initial one-diamond response, described his values very precisely.

South's six-club bid is automatic. North is bound to have diamond strength and club support for the two bids he made, and South has excellent control of the unbid side suits.

Twelve tricks can be made by taking ordinary care, even though West has the king of hearts. South has two potential heart losers. He can avoid one of them in three possible ways: The diamonds may break 3-3; the heart finesse may succeed; an endplay may be arranged.

After winning the opening spade lead, declarer cashes the Q-J of trumps. Dummy's remaining spade is then ruffed. The A-K-Q of diamonds are taken, revealing that West started with four.

The six of diamonds is now led, on which South discards a low heart. West wins the trick, but has no satisfactory exit. A heart return would be into declarer's A-Q, while a spade return allows declarer to trump in dummy as he discards the queen of hearts.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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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.

"You know, there's really not a lot of pressure. ... How it falls is how it falls and that's just kind of how we've looked at it since the season started."

— Kevin Harvick, after his win in Sunday's Checker 500 at Phoenix.



Poised to make history

If driver Jimmie Johnson wins the 2006 Nextel Cup, owner Rick Hendrick will be the first owner in NASCAR history to win Cup titles with three different drivers

By JIM UTTER
McClatchy Newspapers

Team owner Rick Hendrick has fielded 2,239 entries in 22 years of Nextel Cup Series competition. He has 149 Cup wins and five series championships. Even with all that success, Hendrick still has the opportunity to break new ground in the sport should Hendrick Motorsports driver Jimmie Johnson clinch his first series title in Sunday's season finale at Homestead, Fla. Johnson's championship would make Hendrick the first owner in series history to win Cup titles with three different drivers. The list of owners with a pair of drivers winning titles is impressive — Hendrick, Joe Gibbs, Junior Johnson, Petty Enterprises, Carl Kiekhaefer and Jack Roush. Jeff Gordon gave Hendrick his first Cup title in 1995. Veteran Terry Labonte added the second in 1996. Since then, Gordon has won three more times, most recently in the 2001 season. The milestone speaks volumes about Hendrick's eye for talent and his organization. It also says a lot about the drivers themselves, as each came from a different background. Johnson developed in off-road racing, Gordon open-wheel and Labonte in Late Models. "We've been very fortunate to have guys and an organization that has learned how to run for championships," Hendrick said. "It would be really nice to see Jimmie (win). He's just been so good the past three years. "When Terry Labonte came on he helped us a lot with his general nature and the sharing of

- ### HENDRICK HIGHLIGHTS
- 5 Nextel Cup championships (Jeff Gordon, 4; Terry Labonte)
 - 4 Nextel Cup runner-up finishes (Ricky Rudd; Gordon; Johnson, 2)
 - 3 Craftsman Truck championships (Jack Sprague, 3)
 - 1 Busch Series championship (Brian Vickers)
- SOURCE: NASCAR

information. Jeff has just been so good, and won those championships and he in turn has helped Jimmie." The hardest part of maintaining such a stout organization lies on Hendrick's shoulders. In an increasingly competitive sport, he works tirelessly trying to keep other teams from luring away some of his best employees. "I think just trying to keep people around and keep them together and coming back each year having the core of the company intact is hard," he said. "You have to have talent, though. If you don't have the right talent in the car you aren't going to be able to do it. "I'm real proud of my organization. We have done a good job of getting prepared." Johnson in particular has been in this position before — the past two seasons in fact. In 2004 — the first season NASCAR used

the Chase for the Nextel Cup to determine the champion of its biggest series — Johnson finished second in the season finale, but still lost the title by eight points to Kurt Busch. Last year, Johnson entered the Homestead race trailing Tony Stewart by 52 points. But he qualified poorly (32nd) and struggled on the track before a flat tire led to a wreck. He ended up fifth in points. This year, Johnson enters as the leader, holding a 63-point advantage over Matt Kenseth entering Sunday's Ford 400. "We've been in this position before certainly," Hendrick said. "I'd rather be 63 ahead, that's for sure. It's the same old deal — you can't have any problems. "Last year hurt and so did the year before. You come so close leading (the points) all year. This Chase is all about being there in the top five every week, and Jimmie's been doing that here lately. "They are more mature, more relaxed and going about each week like it's another race. Of course, you say that and in the back of your mind you always thinking about what you need to do to win the championship." Hendrick said he saw a perfect example of that in last Sunday's race at Phoenix, where Johnson was trying to pass Kevin Harvick in the final laps for the win, but eventually backed off and settled for second. "Nobody is going to remember whether we finished first or second at Phoenix," he said. "They will remember if we win the championship. That's what we're after."

Jimmie Johnson, left, celebrates with wife Shandra; car owner Rick Hendrick, right, and crew after winning the 2006 Allstate 400 in August.

BOB LESIEUR/WEICK MEDIA



RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): He's been in contention before but never in command of the title picture entering the finale. Last week: 1.
2. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): It seems more likely this team will lose second than take away first at

- Homestead. Last week: 2.
3. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Probably won't win the Cup, but should win NMPA's Driver of the Year, hands down. Last week: 6.
 4. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Remember, he's bringing that Atlanta-Texas winning car with him to South Florida. Last week: 3.
 5. Denny Hamlin (car No. 11): Wonder if he'll do better beating the sophomore jinx than '05 phenom Carl

- Edwards has. Last week: 5.
6. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Team has come far since 2005 and doesn't have as far to go to be championship quality. Last week: 4.
 7. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Homestead dream sequence: Johnson is champ, Gordon wins to tie Earnhardt's total. Last week: 7.
 8. Jeff Burton (car No. 31): Like the No. 8 team, if this team improves as much next year as it has in '06,

- look out. Last week: 8.
9. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Homestead dream sequence II: Martin goes to Victory Lane in farewell Roush ride. Last week: 11.
 10. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Stewart or Johnson could match Kahne's season-high wins total of six at Homestead. Last week: 10.

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

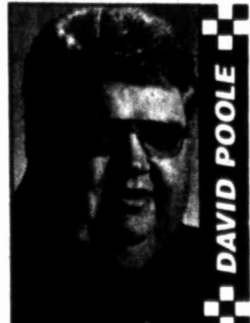
Showdown between Johnson, Kenseth fizzles

Nobody other than Jimmie Johnson or Matt Kenseth led the Nextel Cup standings during the first 26 weeks of the 2006 Nextel Cup season. They were the top two heading out of that regular season and into the 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup, and when both bobbed back to the top of the Chase race after Texas, it seemed the season had come full circle. Fittingly, the battle for the championship would boil down to which of these teams, which had consistently been the sport's two best this year, could do better over the final two races. Their showdown seemed to be the product of protracted destiny. But with one down and one to go, after Sunday's Checker 500 at Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, Ariz., it seems more like these teams are on two wildly divergent paths that just happen to have crossed.

While Johnson was getting his fifth straight finish of second or better as the runner-up to Kevin Harvick here Sunday, Kenseth was clawing to hold on for a 13th-place finish that had him all but waving the white flag when it was over. "Only if he blows up," Kenseth said when asked what his chances would be to overcome Johnson's 63-point lead in the finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday. "We're running so bad right now that I don't feel we can beat anybody. He's got to have problems and we're going to have to have a lot of good luck to get in there." Just because that sounds so pessimistic doesn't mean it's not accurate.

The way NASCAR's points system works, the cushion Johnson takes into Sunday's Ford 400 allows his team to run to avoid the kind of disaster that befell it last year when he went to Homestead chasing Tony Stewart but crashed out after a wheel problem and finished 40th. If Johnson merely has a moderately competent day, the chances that anyone will catch him are slim. Kevin Harvick and Denny Hamlin are 90 points behind, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 115 points back, and they'd need collapses from Johnson and Kenseth to have any real hopes of stealing the title. Kenseth's team is in marginally better shape, not because it has performed well, but because it has not had a disastrous Chase day like Johnson did when he opened the playoff with a 39th-place finish at

New Hampshire. Kenseth has six finishes of between 10th and 14th in the nine Chase races, a level of mediocrity that actually is a credit to how good his team has been making lemonade on weekends when the No. 17 Fords have been lemons. Johnson, on the other hand, goes into what is shaping up to be the crowning moment of his already brilliant career blasting on all cylinders. "I have a lot of confidence in myself, a lot of confidence in the race team and in our equipment," he said Sunday. Nine times in the first 35 races, there has been at least a 60-point difference in the number of points Johnson and Kenseth have scored in the same race. Four times Johnson gained that much ground, but five times he lost that much. If anything like that happens Sunday, things could get very interesting.



DAVID POOLE

THIS WEEK'S RACE

FORD 400
Where: Homestead-Miami Speedway, a 1.5-mile banked paved oval located in Homestead, Fla.
When: Sunday at 2 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: NBC.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.
Purse: \$5,270,543.
Last year's winner: Greg Biffle.
Worth mentioning: Jeff Gordon has six top-10 finishes in seven races at Homestead, but has never won there. His best finish was third in 2004. Tony Stewart is the only driver to lead in five of the seven races at Homestead. He has led 330 of the 1,873 laps. Jimmie Johnson is the only driver with seven top 10s in the nine Chase races.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
Team owner Rick Hendrick is shooting for win No. 150 and a Nextel Cup championship on Sunday. How do you think that will go?
Cast your vote at: www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
Two races left and five drivers with a legitimate title shot. Who will win the 2006 Nextel Cup title?
Number of votes: 7,888

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Jimmie Johnson	2,899	37%
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,283	29%
Matt Kenseth	1,455	18%
Who says only five have a shot?	514	7%
Kevin Harvick	464	6%
Denny Hamlin	273	3%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT
■ Jimmie Johnson: Looks like Johnson will finally end a season as well as he starts one.
■ Kevin Harvick: Has the momentum, but may be out of time.
■ Denny Hamlin: Incredible rookie season by any standard.

WHO'S NOT
■ Kyle Busch: Could never seem to get out of others' way in the Chase.
■ Matt Kenseth: Second in points and running terribly. Just think if they were performing well.
■ Ryan Newman: Pretty bad when finishing on the lead lap is now considered an accomplishment.

RANDOM THOUGHTS
■ Once again NASCAR showed its late-race inability to call cautions at Phoenix. Clint Bowyer blows up and is dumping fluid all over the track and NASCAR holds the caution flag because it wants the race to end under green. What happens? Somebody spins in the oil and brings out a caution anyway. Same story, different week.
— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS
The top-40 drivers as of Nov. 12:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	6332	21. Scott Riggs	3468
2. Matt Kenseth	6269	22. Elliott Sadler	3409
3. Kevin Harvick	6242	23. Dale Jarrett	3368
4. Denny Hamlin	6242	24. Jamie McMurray	3347
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	6217	25. Reed Sorenson	3319
6. Jeff Gordon	6185	26. Dave Blaney	3174
7. Jeff Burton	6107	27. Jeff Green	3156
8. Mark Martin	6059	28. J.J. Yeley	3142
9. Kasey Kahne	6013	29. Joe Nemechek	3131
10. Kyle Busch	5973	30. Robby Gordon	3070
11. Tony Stewart	4609	31. Ken Schrader	2973
12. Carl Edwards	4286	32. Kyle Petty	2849
13. Greg Biffle	3890	33. Sterling Marlin	2802
14. Kurt Busch	3866	34. David Stremme	2735
15. Casey Mears	3847	35. Tony Raines	2506
16. Brian Vickers	3806	36. Travis Kvapil	2369
17. Clint Bowyer	3699	37. Michael Waltrip	2350
18. Ryan Newman	3654	38. Scott Wimmer	1685
19. Bobby Labonte	3527	39. Jeremy Mayfield	1647
20. Martin Truex Jr.	3498	40. Kevin Lepage	1346

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS
The top-20 drivers as of Nov. 11:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	5493	11. Kenny Wallace	3541
2. Carl Edwards	4649	12. Jason Leffler	3448
3. Clint Bowyer	4553	13. John Andretti	3447
4. Denny Hamlin	4507	14. Ashton Lewis	3273
5. J.J. Yeley	4327	15. Jon Wood	3267
6. Paul Menard	3905	16. Stacy Compton	3227
7. Kyle Busch	3881	17. Todd Kluever	3166
8. Greg Biffle	3740	18. Danny O'Quinn Jr.	3105
9. Johnny Sauter	3660	19. Regan Smith	3061
10. Reed Sorenson	3633	20. Matt Kenseth	3031

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Ford 300, Homestead, Fla.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS
The top-10 drivers as of Nov. 10:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Todd Bodine	3566	6. Ron Hornaday Jr.	3192
2. Johnny Benson	3454	7. Jack Sprague	3173
3. David Reutimann	3383	8. Mike Skinner	3156
4. Tad Muzgrave	3250	9. Rick Crawford	3134
5. David Starr	3209	10. Terry Cook	3128

NEXT RACE: Friday, Ford 200, Homestead, Fla.

BIBLE



St. Paul Lutheran Church, 810 Scurry. A the items will also be available Murphy.

DUES

Continued from Page 1
\$50,000, and the cost them was \$30,000. means the Chamber aged to bring in an tional \$20,000 thr these events."

ValVerde said it been anything but ea take Chamber events were losing money turn them around. "It's been tough," ValVerde. "We were to turn our annual quiet around by gi businesses a chan showcase themselves their products by deo

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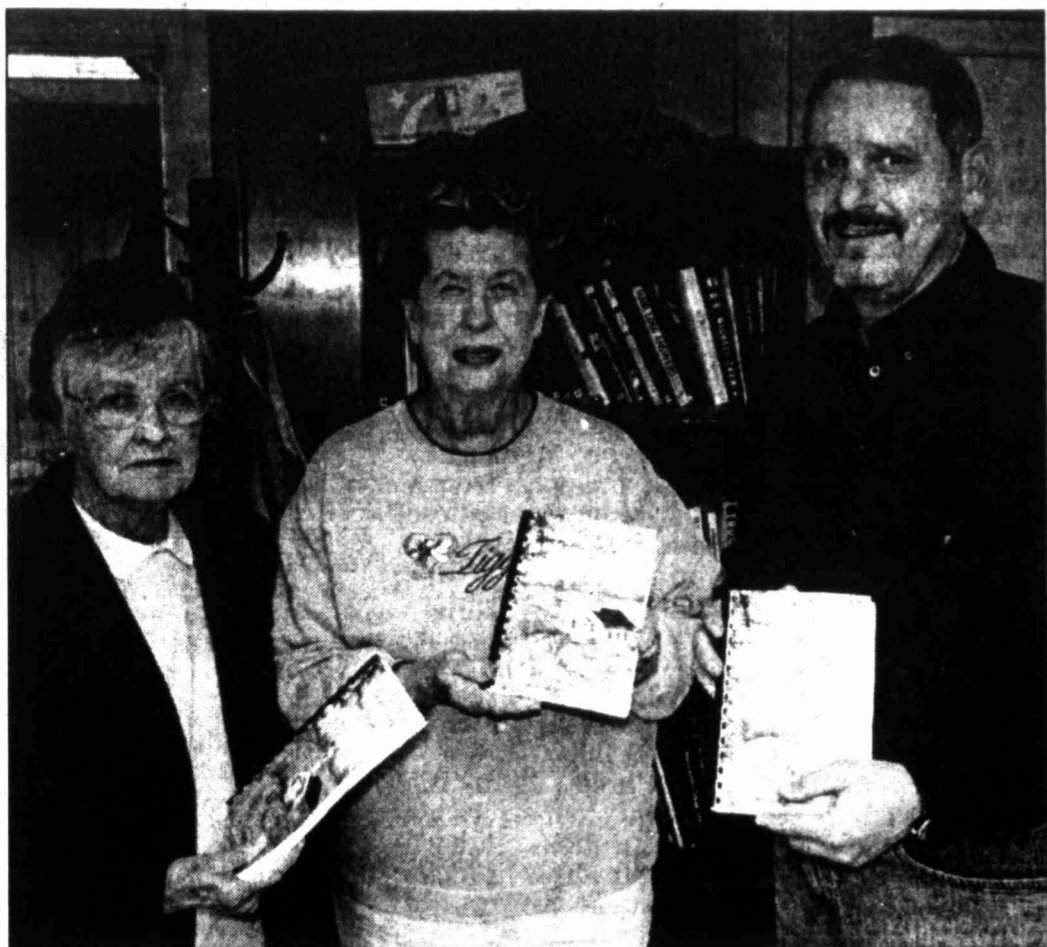
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BIBLE CLASS FUND-RAISER



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

St. Paul Lutheran Church will hold a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 810 Scurry. All proceeds will go to the Howard County Bible Class Fund. Among the items will be pies, cakes, cookies, bread and jam. Shown holding cookbooks, which will also be available for \$10 each, are, from left, Doris Hicks, Jaunell Roeber and Murray Murphy.

RECALL

Continued from Page 1A

tures will have to be obtained on petitions and returned to Peggy Walker, city secretary. The number of signatures necessary differs with each person named in the affidavit because the process is dictated by the number of votes cast in the previous city election.

To put Mayor McEwen's name on the recall ballot, it will be necessary to obtain 473 signatures from city residents who are registered voters. For the others, proponents of the recall will need to obtain signatures from registered voters residing in specific districts. Those districts, council representatives and number of signatures needed are; District 1, Horton, 100 signatures; District 3, Staulcup, 100 signatures; District 4, McDonald, 150; and District 5, Knox, 152.

The formula is 35 percent of the votes cast in the previous city election, or a minimum of 100 signatures.

"When they get those signatures, which has to be within 30 days, I will go about verifying the names on them," explained Walker. "They can have more signatures than they need, but they must have the minimum."

She said it would take several days to accomplish her task, but, if the petitions are returned on time with enough verified signatures, the issue will be placed on the May ballot. Ironically, the mayor's seat and the District 5 seat are up for election in May.

The council's 5-2 decision to pass the ordinance has been a controversial one.

With few exceptions, it eliminates smoking in all public places — including restaurants. Bars and lounges are exempt.

The affidavit charges that the mayor and four council members "did not act in the public interest and instead acted to further certain personal agendas" and said they placed "unfair and unenforceable restrictions upon the citizens and businesses of Big Spring."

"We hope to be able to get the major and council members who supported this off the council, and elect council members who are responsive to the majority of the voters," said Thomason.

The men have until Dec. 15 to return the petitions to city hall.

Those interested in the recall effort are invited to visit a Web site set up by the Thomason and Campbell at www.bigspringfreedom.com

Another group is circulating a petition which would force an election for a city charter amendment providing for an initiative and referendum provision.

"What that would do is that if people disagreed with any future decision by the council, and they (citizens) can get enough signatures on a petition, they would then be able to take that issue to the voters," said Walker. "It would not be retroactive, so it would not change the no-smoking ordinance."

To bring about a city charter amendment election, petitions containing the names of 5 percent of the registered voters would be necessary.

COMING NEXT: Council members comment on the recall attempt.

DUES

Continued from Page 1A

\$50,000, and the cost for them was \$30,000. That means the Chamber managed to bring in an additional \$20,000 through these events."

ValVerde said it has been anything but easy to take Chamber events that were losing money and turn them around.

"It's been tough," said ValVerde. "We were able to turn our annual banquet around by giving businesses a chance to showcase themselves and their products by decorat-

ing a table, which costs \$125. They are able to benefit by showing off their products to everyone in attendance, and the Chamber is able to bring in the revenue it needs to operate. It works for everyone, and that's what I wanted to accomplish."

Hilda Lara, vice president in charge of community development for the Chamber, said the 2007 banquet is slated for Jan. 18 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and will feature the theme "Lights! Camera! Big Spring in Action!"

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News briefs

High school students to take fourth year of math, science

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education has given preliminary approval to new rules requiring high school students take four years of classes in both math and science.

The board on Wednesday unanimously approved the new curriculum, which adds a year to the current minimum requirement of three years of math and science.

The 15-member elected board, which is expected to take a final vote on the rules Friday, was responsible for crafting guidelines to implement a new state law adding the fourth year.

The new curriculum will first apply to next year's freshmen. It's part of a sweeping education reform bill the Legislature approved during a special session on school finance earlier this year.

Last top Enron exec given 5 1/2 years in prison

HOUSTON (AP) — Much like other Enron Corp. executives just before they were sentenced for their roles in the company's scandal-ridden collapse, Richard

Causey expressed regret for what he did.

"As God is my witness, I never did anything intentionally to enrich myself or hurt the company or its employees," Causey said Wednesday just before he was sentenced to 5 1/2 years by U.S. District Judge Sim Lake. "I am sorry and ashamed to be in front of you today under these circumstances."

Causey was the last top Enron executive to be sentenced for taking part in one of the biggest corporate scandals in U.S. history.

Causey, the company's former chief accounting officer, pleaded guilty in December to securities fraud. His plea came two weeks before he was to be tried along with Enron founder Kenneth Lay and former chief executive Jeffrey Skilling on conspiracy, fraud and other charges related to the company's collapse.

South Texas teacher gets 5 years for student relationship

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A Brownsville high school teacher was sentenced Wednesday to five years in prison for having an improper relationship with a student.

A jury convicted Steven Ray Brooks on Oct. 2 on four felony counts for

relations with the 16-year-old girl in 2004 and 2005.

Brooks, 49, resigned Oct. 12 from his position as a criminal justice teacher at Hanna High School.

Prosecutors said during Brooks' trial that the teenage girl became infatuated with Brooks and "he returned her affection."

The victim, now 19, read a letter to Brooks after the judge issued the sentences.

"The past year has been the worst year of my life," she said. "I've dropped so many tears over this."

Defense lawyer Richard Zayas called it a "tough case."

During the sentencing hearing, one witness alleged she engaged in an improper relationship with Brooks while she was a high school student in the 1980s. But other students testified on Brooks' behalf, saying he was a positive influence and helped them graduate from high school.

Two troopers with the Texas Department of Public Safety also testified that Brooks would be a good candidate for probation.

Improper relationship between an educator and student is a second-degree felony with punishment ranging from two to 20 years in prison and a

\$10,000 fine.

Emmitt Smith wins ABC's 'Dancing with the Stars'

NEW YORK (AP) — Three-time Super Bowl champion Emmitt Smith, who proved to be as nimble on his feet in the ballroom as on the football field, was named the winner of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" Wednesday night.

The NFL's all-time leading rusher beat out actor Mario Lopez.

The hunky, dimpled Lopez was generally regarded as the series' most dynamic celebrity dancer, but the public's vote, the deciding factor after the contestants had tied in the judges' tally at Tuesday's final dance-off, brought Smith the victory.

"It is awesome! It is awesome!" declared Smith, after hugging his professional dance partner Cheryl Burke. "We came a long way, we really have."

Burke won last season, too, on the arm of singer Drew Lachey.

Smith had kind words for Lopez, who was gracious in his defeat. He called the former "Saved by the Bell" star a "true gentleman" and said he and partner Karina Smirnoff "raised the bar" during the competition.

"This whole journey was unbelievable ... And Karina, most unbelievable person," Lopez gushed. "It's something I'll never forget."

Texas appeals court rejects treaty violation argument

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday rejected an appeal from a death row prisoner whose case was among several dozen nationally involving condemned killers who were born in Mexico and whose punishments had been sidetracked after intervention from President Bush.

"We hold that the President has exceeded his constitutional authority by intruding into the independent powers of the judiciary," the court said in a 64-page ruling that included 283 legal footnotes.

Lawyers for condemned murderer Jose Ernesto Medellin had argued his rights were violated when a Houston court tried and sentenced him to death in 1994 for the rape-slayings of two teenage girls.

Specifically, Medellin, who was born in Mexico but who spent most of his life in Texas, contended he was denied legal help under international

treaties when he was charged, tried, convicted and condemned for the 1993 slayings of Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16, in Houston.

Superior Court rejects Einhorn's appeal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A former hippie guru who hid out in Europe for nearly 17 years after killing his ex-girlfriend and hiding her body in his closet has lost an appeal of his murder conviction.

A three-judge Superior Court panel rejected all 10 issues raised by Ira Einhorn, 66, who is serving life in prison without parole for the murder of Holly Maddux of Tyler.

Einhorn, who fled after Maddux disappeared in 1977, was convicted in absentia at a 1993 trial but granted a new one after he was caught in southern France.

Einhorn's wife, Swedish-born Annika Flodin, declined to come to the U.S. to testify, fearing she might be arrested for aiding a fugitive. They had married while Einhorn was on the run.



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HERALD

Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2

Parade theme:

"A Poinsettia Christmas"

Entry deadline — Noon, Friday, Nov. 17

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

\$100 Herald's Best of Show Award: for best interpretation of theme.

\$75 Mayor's Trophy: for best use of lighting.

\$50 Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming.

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:
1. Individual or family 2. Civic group, school or church
3. Commercial 4. Industrial

In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories. Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

PARADE RULES

- The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. No other Santa Claus will be permitted in the parade.
- Floats should not exceed 65 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
- Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
- Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
- Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
- For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

2006 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____

You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.

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Big Spring, TX 79721
Fax (432) 264-7205

- Individual/Family Civic/church/school
 Commercial Industrial Mounted

QUESTIONS? CALL (432) 263-7331, Ask for Elizabeth Flores

IN BRIEF

Class 4A, Big Spring playoff tickets

Hereford (9-1) vs Spring (3-7), 2 Saturday, Lubbock Lowrey Field.

Tickets are now sold at the Ad Training Center. They are \$3 for students, \$5 for adults or they may be purchased at Lowrey Field.

B.S.I.S.D. 'black' pep rally update

Their will be a "out" pep rally held the Big Spring football team tomorrow night 8 p.m. at the Steer Center. All students, parents and BSHS are encouraged to attend, and to black in honor of Steer team.

Powder Puff football fund raiser slated

The Powder Puff Football Game will be played tonight at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$4 for adults. Freshmen will face against the sophomore class, followed by Junior vs. Senior Championship Game. The fund raiser is sponsored by the junior class. All Steer fans, parents of BSISD students are asked to come and support the Spring High School fund raiser.

Howard Hawks men's basketball

The Hawks will be hosting Community College Friday night at Do Garrett Coliseum. Game time is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. off and fans are asked to enter the Hawks early. The Hawks are currently 5-0 and rank the top 10 in the country for JUCO Basketball. Tickets will be available at the Coliseum Friday night.

Howard Hawks basketball program

Howard College is offering a basketball program for girls, first through eighth grades. The program is scheduled to the first 200 cantos and include season pass to all games at the 'H Nest', a T-shirt, a courtyard pizza with the Hawks pizza and coaches. Date of the club Nov. 18, at Do Garrett Coliseum. For registration information, contact Coach Earl Didd 264-5043 or assistant coach ketball coach Rodewald at 264-5043.

High school football playoffs Friday

BSISD is hosting a playoff game between the Wink Wildcat and the Sun Roughnecks tomorrow night at Mer Stadium. This is a Class 1 District playoff scheduled to start 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the stadium gate an hour before kickoff. All football fans are encouraged to attend.

IN BRIEF

Class 4A, Big Spring playoff tickets

Hereford (9-1) vs. Big Spring (3-7), 2 p.m. Saturday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field.

Tickets are now being sold at the Athletic Training Center. Prices are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults or tickets may be purchased for \$7 at Lowrey Field.

B.S.I.S.D. 'black out' pep rally update

Their will be a "black out" pep rally held for the Big Spring football team tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Steer Gym.

All students, parents of students and BSISD fans are encouraged to attend, and to wear black in honor of the Steer team.

Powder Puff football fund raiser slated

The Powder Puff Football Game will be played tonight at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$4 for adults.

Freshmen will face off against the sophomore class, followed by the Junior vs. Senior Championship Game.

The fund raiser is sponsored by the junior class.

All Steer fans, and parents of BSISD students are asked to come out and support the Big Spring High School fund raiser.

Howard Hawks men's basketball

The Hawks will be hosting Mesa Community College Friday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Game time is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tip off and fans are asked to enter the 'Hawks Nest' early.

The Hawks are currently 5-0 and ranked in the top 10 in the country for JUCO Basketball.

Tickets will be available at the Coliseum Friday night.

Howard Hawks start basketball program

Howard College is offering a basketball program for girls in the first through sixth grades.

The program is limited to the first 200 applicants and includes a season pass to all home games at the 'Hawks Nest', a T-shirt and a court-side pizza party with the Hawks players and coaches.

Date of the clinic is Nov. 18, at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

For registration information, contact Head Coach Earl Diddle at 264-5043 or assistant basketball coach Eric Rodewald at 264-5043.

High school football playoffs Friday night

BSISD is hosting the playoff game between the Wink Wildcats and the Sundown Roughnecks tomorrow night at Memorial Stadium.

This is a Class 1A Bi-District playoff game scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the stadium gates one hour before kickoff and all football fans are encouraged to attend.

Ready and healthy, Steers enter playoffs

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

When Big Spring traveled to Hereford to battle the Whitefaces on Sept. 15, the Steers were a wounded and a struggling football team. Big Spring was looking for its first win of the season and Hereford was undefeated and on its way to a district championship.

At first glance, the Hereford vs. Big Spring playoff game looks scary for the Steers, but if the Whitefaces (9-1) managed a one-touchdown victory when the Steers (3-7) fielded an inexperienced team with several starters on the sidelines, this playoff game Saturday afternoon at Lowrey Field could be just what Big Spring needed when the Division II, bi-district pairings were announced.

"Hereford is all about No. 3 (quarterback Casey Page)," coach Tim Holt said. "As he goes, they go. He operates their spread offense very well. He might even be a better runner than passer, but there is no question that he's the leader of that football team."

Paige and his offense averaged more than 37 points per game this season for the Whitefaces. The silver lining is when you take a look at the Hereford defense, you find a suspect unit that is giving up 26 points per game.

The first time these two teams squared off, the Steers sent a defensive secondary out there that consisted of a freshman, two sophomores and one junior. Don't expect to see that Saturday. This time around the Steers are healthy, and this time they know the football season is at stake.

"We're certainly going to line up and put our kids in the best position to be successful," Holt



Senior defensive back Scott Fankhauser is ready for the playoff challenge that Hereford presents. Fankhauser was not able to help his teammates in the first meeting, as he suffered a concussion the week before and had to watch from the sidelines.

said. "The nature of their wide open scheme is a concern for us, but we just need to tackle well and minimize the yards they get after a catch."

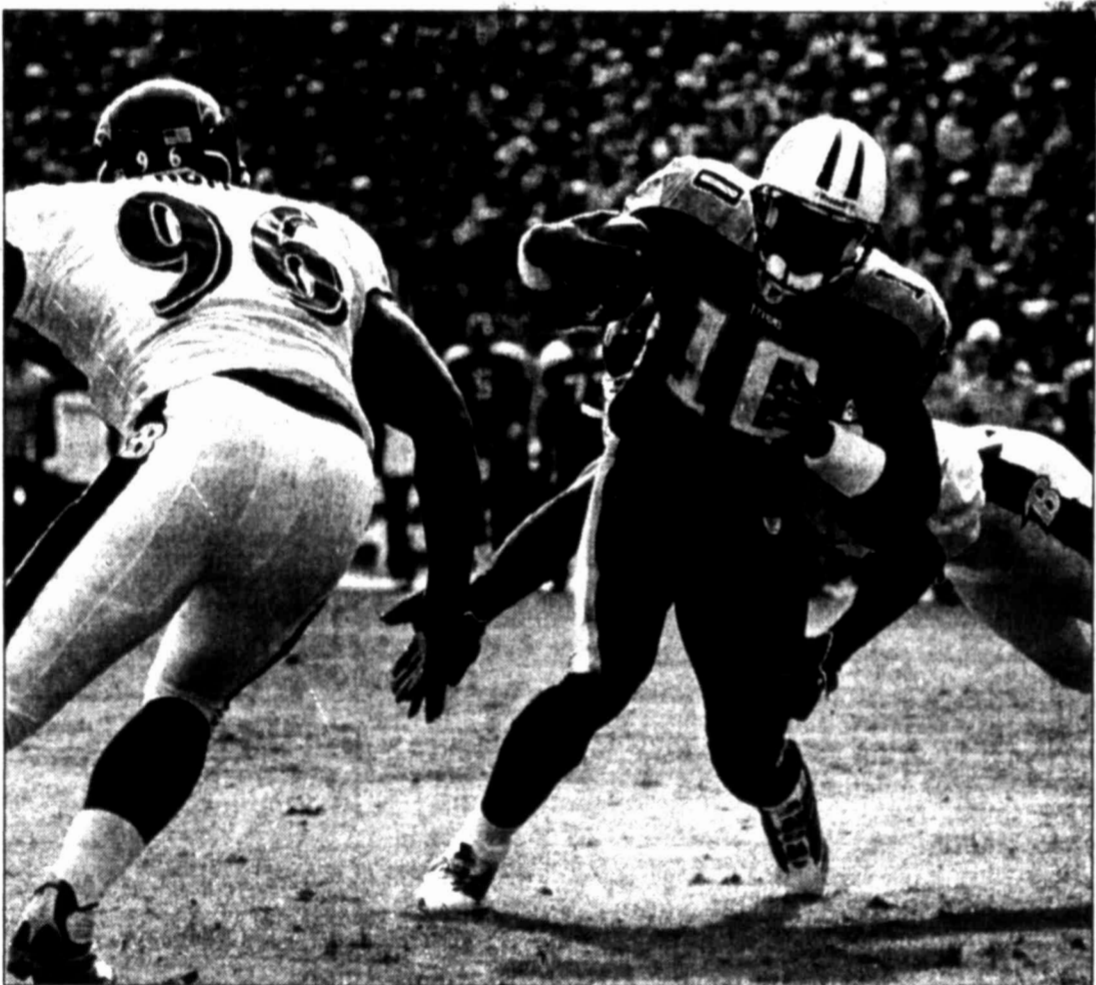
"We feel very fortunate to be playing at Lowrey Stadium. We

are 3-0 at that field over the last two years. Our kids and our coaching staff have good memories and feel really comfortable playing there."

One Steer who needs to feel comfortable is senior Scott

Fankhauser. Due to a concussion suffered early in the year, the all-purpose player had to accept a role on special teams, where he is firmly planted as the kicker, in

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young (10) goes in for a touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens in the first quarter Sunday. The Ravens defeated the Titans 27-26.

Young can learn a lot from McNabb

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Vince Young already has accomplished more than Donovan McNabb at this stage of his career. He'd like to be in the same company a few years down the line.

McNabb lost his last game at Syracuse and didn't start his first NFL game until Week 10 of his rookie season with the Eagles in 1999.

Young single-handedly led Texas to the national championship over Southern California in the Rose Bowl last January and became the starter in Tennessee's fourth game this season. The edge for Young stops there.

Once McNabb finally broke into the lineup after being selected with the No. 2 overall pick in

the '99 draft, he quickly established himself as one of the top players in the league. McNabb led Philadelphia to the playoffs in his second season and made the first of five straight trips to the Pro Bowl that year. He took the Eagles to the NFC championship game the next four seasons, including a trip to the Super Bowl.

Young, the third overall pick this year, can only hope to match McNabb's success. For now, he's working on improving his skills each week. When the Titans visit Philadelphia this Sunday, Young probably will watch the opposing QB a little closer than usual.

"To me, he's the leader out there," Young said of McNabb. "He does a

See **YOUNG**, Page 2B

Oral Roberts upsets Kansas

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — It's party time at Oral Roberts, the religion-based school in Tulsa that gave Bill Self his first job as a head coach.

The lightly regarded Golden Eagles came into Lawrence as double-digit underdogs to a mighty Kansas team ranked No. 3 in the country, victorious in 165 of its last 175 home games. What they went home with Wednesday night was a surprising 78-71 victory over the Jayhawks, Self's current team.

"It may be the biggest regular-season win in school history," Oral Roberts coach Scott Sutton said. "Our trainer has been here over 30

years and said it was the highest-ranked team we've ever beat."

No doubt, the Jayhawks had a bad night. They were a miserable 11-for-21 from the foul line and spent most of the night missing easy shots and playing bad defense.

Nevertheless, led by Mid-Continent player of the year Caleb Green and unheralded sophomore Marchello Vealy, the Golden Eagles looked, acted and played like the best team on the court.

"When you beat the No. 3 team in the country, you have to feel well," said Green, who had 20 points and 11 rebounds. "This is a big day for our university."

Kansas' loss was nearly overshadowed by No. 2

North Carolina, which rallied to beat Winthrop 73-66 in the NIT Season Tip-Off at Charlotte, N.C. Tyler Hansbrough had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Wayne Ellington added 13 points and Brandon Wright scored 12 for the Tar Heels, who overcame 25 points from the Eagles' Torrell Martin to advance to the semifinals next week in New York against Gonzaga.

In other games involving ranked teams Wednesday, it was: No. 6 UCLA 82, BYU 69; No. 8 Georgetown 86; Vanderbilt 70; No. 9 Wisconsin 79, Wis.-Green Bay 62; No. 15 Arizona 101, N. Arizona 79; No. 18 Syracuse 81.

See **KU**, Page 2B



University of Kansas' head coach Bill Self watches practice earlier this year. The No. 3 ranked Jayhawks lost 78-71 to Oral Roberts Wednesday.

NOV

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2006

Forsan rumbles its way into bi-district playoff game

JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — As the 2006 Texas football playoffs get under way this weekend, the Forsan Buffaloes (6-4, 5-2) enter on a high note.

As winners of their final three games and four of their last five, the Buffs appear to be peaking at just the right time and the excitement of the post season is looming.

"The excitement is building around here and we just can't wait until Saturday," said head coach Tommy Thompson. "The players, the students and the whole community have been waiting for this. It really means so much to our program."

Coach Thompson said a play-

off appearance is great, but it can mean more than just having a great season.

"This can really help to lay a foundation for future Buffalo teams," Thompson said. "We are establishing the bar this year and setting goals for not only this team to reach, but for other teams coming up. We are beginning to develop a desire to compete and to win around here."

In order to win this week the Buffs will have to beat a familiar opponent in the form of the Winters Blizzards. They will meet for the bi-district championship this Saturday in Abilene at McMurry University.

The Blizzards have beaten the Buffs in the last two meetings,

including a District 10-1A match-up last season with Winters winning, 49-39.

"Winters has beaten us the last couple of times we've played," said Thompson. "There is a little history between us and we would like nothing better than to beat them in the playoffs."

The Blizzards run a spread offense that tries to utilize their quarterback, Allan Green, as a dual pass/rush threat. He also has two speedy WRs that he loves to get the ball to.

Defensively, Winters will run a basic 5-2 front and will put the secondary in a "1 and 3" basic coverage.

"We have to play great on both sides of the ball,"

Thompson said. "We cannot give up big plays and we have to take care of the ball when we have it on offense. We have to use our speed to get where we need to be and create turnovers on defense and to keep the chains moving on offense."

The Buffs have been missing some key players, but expect to have starting center/defensive end, Blake Grantham, back in the lineup. Forsan hopes that the extra day of rest (playing on Saturday) will help heal up others.

"We are going into the game healthy and ready to play," Thompson said. "Grantham is back and at full speed and Wesley Newcomb is doing good recovering from a slight ankle

sprain. He will be ready to go this Saturday. We have solid players in every spot that we can count on to make plays for us."

Thompson said the keys to this game are obvious: Ball control, great defense and winning the turnover battle. But he also said it will depend largely on how the players react to adversity.

"When bad things happen we need to recover and make good things happen," said Thompson. "And when we make a great play we need to keep our cool, get excited, but not overconfident. I expect us to play a great football game against a good Winters team."

Game time in Abilene is 2 p.m.

Bobcats drop Spurs, 95-92 in OT thriller

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Adam Morrison decided to relax a little bit after putting too much pressure on himself in the first few games of his career.

The idea paid off as Morrison scored 27 points, surpassing his career high from one night earlier, and the Charlotte Bobcats beat the San Antonio Spurs 95-92 in overtime Wednesday night.

"The coaches were telling me I was putting too much pressure on myself," Morrison said. "Everyone was expecting so much out of me, especially at the pick I went (third overall)."

Morrison started the season shooting 32 percent, including 10-of-43 (23 percent) through five straight games before Tuesday. But he has gone 21-for-41 the past two nights in Oklahoma City and San Antonio.

"This is a big win for us," Morrison said. "We've been in all those games we lost, so to finally get one is exciting."

Emeka Okafor added 19 points for Charlotte (2-6), which had lost four straight. It was the first victory over the Spurs in Bobcats franchise

history after four previous tries.

Tony Parker scored 25 points and Tim Duncan added 24 and 13 rebounds for the Spurs (6-2), who had won five straight games.

Morrison, a rookie from Gonzaga, scored 21 points Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

He made his third start of the season Wednesday, and responded by hitting 12-of-23 from the floor, including 2-of-3 3-pointers.

He hit six of his first seven shots in the opening quarter while the rest of the Bobcats shot 3-of-15 to start the game.

"He is a basketball junkie," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's a scoring machine. He's a fantastic young talent."

San Antonio could have tied the game with 29 seconds left in overtime, but Manu Ginobili missed a wide-open 3-pointer.

The Spurs were 3-of-12 in overtime while the Bobcats went 5-of-7.

"There were just too many layups that we missed and too many mistakes that we made late," Duncan said. "Not to take anything away from Charlotte. They played great. We just helped them out a lit-

tle too much tonight."

San Antonio outrebounded Charlotte by 20, but the Spurs wasted the effort by going 2-of-17 from 3-point territory.

Charlotte rebounded Ginobili's miss and got the ball in the hands of Raymond Felton, and the Spurs fouled him to stop the clock with 16 seconds.

Felton sank the first foul shot but missed the second. Okafor rebounded and slammed the ball back in to give the Bobcats a 95-89 lead.

"We were winning the whole game, but we finally finished one out on their homecourt," Okafor said. "This is a statement that we can do it. We didn't fold. It's a great morale booster."

Okafor entered the contest with four straight games of at least 20 points and 15 rebounds. In addition to his 19 points Wednesday, he had nine rebounds.

After the Spurs won the previous night in a big effort to overcome a 19-point second-half deficit, San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich already had pulled four of his starters with 4:24 before the end of the first quarter.

STEERS

Continued from 1B

the first contest between these two schools. As a wide receiver on offense and a defensive back on defense, Fankhauser was unquestionably missed in the first meeting.

"That was tough to sit there on the sidelines and watch them pick on our young secondary," Fankhauser admitted.

"They will see a different secondary in Lubbock. Our defense is playing better right now, and we really feel like we can manhandle them up front this time around. We've shown that ability the last few games, and right now everything is coming together and we're getting healthy at just the right time. This is the position we wanted to be in at the beginning of the year."

The Steers are expecting a big crowd Saturday afternoon, and

Fankhauser said he expects everyone to see a different ending from the one that they witnessed if they made the journey to Hereford for the first shoot-out.

"Our job is to take away what they do best," Holt added. "That's their quarterback running and throwing the football around the field. We have to stop that in order to be successful, and right now our kids are attentive and being coachable."

"I feel really good about how everyone is preparing for this game."

There will be a "black out" pep rally held for the Steers tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in the Steer Gym. All BSISD students and fans are asked to attend.

Game time is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, at Lowrey Field in Lubbock.

Contact Sports Editor Michael Grimes at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

YOUNG

Continued from 1B

whole lot for that team. That's what I take from the similarities — how much of a leadership role he has for that team and that city period. I feel the same way about myself."

Young already sounds a lot like McNabb when he talks about running the ball. Both are dangerous scramblers who prefer to pass first. McNabb always hated being labeled a "running quarterback," and only runs out of necessity. Young has said he doesn't want to be known as another Michael Vick.

"You don't want to be out there running all day, taking unnecessary hits, but at the same time you have to take your chances," Young said. "When it's time to take the runs, you have to take off with it. When I run the ball like that and do the things I do, it brings a lot to the game. Defensive coordinators will be on the

edge of their seats."

After running only four times in each of his previous two games, Young scrambled eight times for 39 yards in a 27-26 loss to Baltimore last week. He also threw for 211 yards and nearly helped the Titans upset the heavily favored Ravens.

Overall, Young has completed 46.9 percent of his passes (82-for-175) for 973 yards, five touchdowns and eight interceptions in eight games, including six starts. He has 176 yards rushing on 37 attempts. McNabb had almost similar numbers as a rookie in 12 games, including six starts. He completed 49.7 percent of his passes (106-for-216) for 948 yards, eight TDs and seven interceptions. McNabb ran 47 times for 313 yards.

"I'm really excited about my progression," McNabb said of Young. "I think a lot of times people get caught up in stats, but you just have to see his comfort level in the pocket, calling the plays, the guys rallying around him making plays for him. He's put his team in position to win a lot of games. He's going to contin-

ue to do that. I'm excited to see the way he's handled everything."

McNabb eagerly waited for his first chance to start for a struggling team that finished 5-11. He grew more impatient the longer he sat behind Doug Pederson and later said it was frustrating to watch from the sideline.

The Titans, though, paved the way for Young by trading Steve McNair to Baltimore before the season. Then coach Jeff Fisher gave veteran Kerry Collins only three starts before beginning the Young Era.

"There's a learning process to go through," McNabb said. "You learn about work ethic. You learn how to prepare yourself when you get on the field. You begin to get that comfort level in the offense where you feel like you can do more. The bad thing about it is you just feel like you're sitting on the sideline and that you'll never get in and you get frustrated."

KU

Continued from 1B

Northeastern 58; No. 22 Kentucky 57; Miami (Ohio) 46; and No. 24 Nevada 75, Oregon St. 47.

Self, who was 55-54 at Oral Roberts from 1993-97, insisted his players had not stumbled over their own press clippings. Just this week, though, Sports Illustrated put them on the cover of its college basketball edition and proclaimed the Jayhawks the best team in the land.

"We didn't deserve that. What had we done to deserve that?" Self asked. "All we did last year, we played pretty good for most of the season and we got beat in the first round. This team hasn't done anything to deserve the accolades people are putting on them before they've earned it. SI didn't have anything with us losing tonight. ORU had a lot to do with us losing tonight."

Vealy, a 6-7 sophomore, made only one of 13 3-pointers as a freshman last season. Against the Jayhawks, he was 7-for-8 from beyond the arc - his only miss was on his last heave after the Golden Eagles (1-1) had taken

command. "We wanted to come out and shock the world tonight," Vealy said, "and we did it. I was just shooting the ball. Every time I caught it, they all kept telling me to shoot."

The Golden Eagles seemed quicker, more aggressive and better organized than the favored Jayhawks (1-1) from start to finish. After

trailing by as many as 10 points in the first half, the Big 12 favorites got as close as 72-69 on Russell Robinson's free throw with 1 minute left.

However, Ken Tutt hit ORU's 11th 3-pointer and added two free throws in the final minute, sealing Kansas' 11th loss in its last 176 home games.

Tutt and Adam Liberty each had 12 points for the

two-time defending conference champions.

Kansas got 22 points from freshman Darrell Arthur. Julian Wright, a preseason favorite for Big 12 player of the year, blew layups on two consecutive possessions as Kansas tried vainly to regain the lead in the second half.

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Please contact Rudy Gonzales, Environmental Supervisor at 432-263-1271 or complete an application at Mountain View Lodge, 2009 Virginia Avenue, Big Spring.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE is accepting applications for the following opening:

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NEW KING mattress set. In plastic, full factory warranty. \$249. Call 806-549-3110.

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Vehicles

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ANSWERS

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BY HOLIDAY MAY
The Scorpio sun vates our awareness the inner workings Subtle triggers for certain behaviors suddenly seem obvious. Under the current Libra moon, this knowledge is well applied to relationships. By understanding what motivated another, we can get what we want more easily employing the laws of ipocrycy.
ARIES (March 21-19). If you don't have passport, get it. Whether or not you to a foreign land

Annie

Dear Annie: I am year-old woman, married 10 years to an attractionist, and we have children. I am physically healthy and have a youthful figure for my appearance. My should be perfect, I've learned to live in silence with a secret. I fell in love with a young man when I was only 18. "Tommy" were very close though we were in and affectionate, I expressed how I truly I left my hometown I was 24 with a goodbye. Not a day gone by that I have thought of him, in my wedding day. This is the last thought I go to sleep and the thought when I wake I have not seen my school sweetheart for least five years, but I moved back to my town-a year ago, I him to say hello, I sounded overcomblamed his father drilling into his head he should not allow self to fall in love in not to be hurt. He in an unhappy relationship, but has never married and has not haven't spoken to since.
What do I do with feelings? It seems to my loyal and ge husband that when my head on the pillow thinking of someone else. My husband idea. I would have an idiot to leave him how do I cure them meet Tommy in and talk, maybe feelings would wash once and for all. Or something I should completely avoid? Give anecdote. — Lost Love California

Dear Lost Love: a lost love. We search who needs therapy think the relationship ended because you could confess true feelings. We are unable to communicate doesn't have the emotional maturity for forming relationship, romanticize Tommy the point when destroy your family OK to see him — but if you bring your heart along.
Dear Annie: My mother is 12 and has the same age. "Annie" spends the night to time. My mother is her mother. She not pick up Annie next day, and she does not want me in her home. She play around the neighborhood for the rest of day.
I've told my mother that I feel terrible for her daughter. When my daughter I must know where she is going and she must in with me. I hope

\$400 TO \$1,000 PROFIT PER MONTH



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Scorpio sun activates our awareness of the inner workings of life. Subtle triggers for certain behaviors suddenly seem obvious. Under the current Libra moon, this knowledge is well applied to relationships. By understanding what motivates one another, we can get what we want more easily, employing the laws of reciprocity.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

the year is up, you'll at least be changing your mindset to a global mode. This expansion touches every part of your life.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's like you're walking around in a pleasant dream. People meet your requests with a smile. You do your work without really noticing and enter rooms wondering what you were looking for.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You make a priceless discovery. If you were more selfish, you'd keep it to yourself and benefit privately from the find. But you're an altruist, and so you pass on what you know.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). While you're taking action to improve your appearance today, consider this: Over the years,

your face has changed to reflect the emotions you feel most often. It's within your power to feel beautiful.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Though you try your darndest to get your way, the larger part of you knows it's not really about you. With an empowered peripheral vision, you sense the needs of the other beings around you.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get down to business. The kind of clients and customers you want are looking for someone with passion for the work in question. The more enthusiasm you can drum up, the more money you'll make.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's true you were born with certain gifts and lim-

itations. But ultimately, you decide who you are. The afternoon brings people who don't know you — a chance to play around with your new personality.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are attracted to the kind of relationships that have no rhyme or reason whatsoever. You like someone, and they like you. Chalk it up to chemistry, and have a good time.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Did you know that the iron in your blood is more than 15 billion years old? It's the same iron that's in plants and rocks and everything else on the earth. You feel an increased sense of connection to it all now.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To make things

simpler, your choices come in twos. Coffee or tea? Work or play? Glasses or laser treatment? And the best part of all is that you can put off choosing for another day.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may find yourself in possession of things that don't belong to you or information that's none of your business. What fun! Of course, the only reason this occurs is because you emanate trustworthiness.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As a water sign, you intuitively understand the concept of soft power, the greatest power there is. By remaining fluid you can go anywhere you need to go. There's always a path for you.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sometimes a name says it all. In the case of Scorpio

film director Martin Scorsese, when his name is attached to a project, no explanation is needed. The thought-provoking Bob Dylan documentary "No Direction Home" and now the explosive big-screen extravaganza "The Departed" both demonstrate Scorsese's visionary genius. The esteemed Academy will recognize this genius, too.
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.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 35-year-old woman, married 10 years to an attractive dentist, and we have three children. I am physically healthy and have retained my youthful figure and appearance. My life should be perfect, right? I've learned to live in silence with a secret.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I fell in love with a young man when I was only 18. "Tommy" and I were very close, and though we were intimate and affectionate, I never expressed how I truly felt. I left my hometown when I was 24 with hardly a goodbye. Not a day has gone by that I have not thought of him, including my wedding day. Tommy is the last thought before I go to sleep and the first thought when I wake up.

I have not seen my high school sweetheart in at least five years, but when I moved back to my hometown a year ago, I called him to say hello. He sounded overcome. He blamed his father for drilling into his head that he should not allow himself to fall in love in order not to be hurt. He is now in an unhappy relationship, but has never married and has no kids. I haven't spoken to him since.

What do I do with these feelings? It seems unfair to my loyal and generous husband that when I place my head on the pillow, I am thinking of someone else. My husband has NO idea. I would have to be an idiot to leave him, but how do I cure this? If I meet Tommy in person and talk, maybe these feelings would wash away once and for all. Or is that something I should completely avoid? Give me an antidote. — Lost Love in California

Dear Lost Love: You see a lost love. We see a guy who needs therapy. You think the relationship ended because neither of you could confess your true feelings. We think he is unable to commit and doesn't have the emotional maturity to form a lasting relationship. Don't romanticize Tommy to the point where you destroy your family. It's OK to see him — but only if you bring your husband along.

Dear Annie: My daughter is 12 and has a friend the same age. "Amanda" spends the night from time to time. My problem is her mother. She does not pick up Amanda the next day, and Amanda does not want me to take her home. She prefers to play around the neighborhood for the rest of the day.

I've told Amanda's mother that I feel responsible for her daughter. When my daughter is out, I must know where she is going and she must check in with me. I have said

that Amanda can spend the night only if her mom picks her up by noon, but it never happens. My only other recourse is to prohibit her from staying over, but that only punishes the girls. Am I being weird about this? — Worried Mom

Dear Worried: Even in safe neighborhoods, it is no longer wise to let 12-year-olds wander around alone for hours. Tell Amanda that the next time she spends the night, she must bring her house key. Inform Mom that you will bring Amanda home at a set time and if Mom is not there, you will wait until Amanda gets into the house safely. Beyond that, there's not much you can do unless you want to stop inviting her or keep her with you until her mother deigns to show up.

Dear Annie: We were invited to a friend's wedding. While getting ready, my wife wanted to wear a white suit. I argued that only the bride or groom can wear white at a wedding, otherwise it may appear that you are taking attention away from the newlyweds. Am I old-fashioned? — Wearing Green

Dear Green: Guests used to avoid wearing white at a wedding, but now it is OK to do so, provided the outfit doesn't compete with the bride — no white formal gowns, for example — but a cream or winter white suit would be fine.

Dear Annie: My wife, "Lena," and I recently separated after almost 15 years of marriage and two wonderful sons. Like any marriage, we have had our ups and downs. I love her with all my heart and soul. Needless to say, I was floored when Lena told me she could no longer live with me.

I put aside any ego and feelings of anger, and we came to amicable terms for a separation agreement. Since Lena had been a stay-at-home mom since our children were born, I told her I was willing to take custody of our boys while she got her new business off the ground.

Three days after we separated, Lena started seeing the father of a boy on my sons' soccer team. Everyone, including my sons, could see what was

happening. It made the whole situation very awkward. A month later, she moved into the boyfriend's home. She has seen our boys only four times, and each time has been met with some type of drama. She did not call or write either child on his birthday. In fact, she treats her boyfriend's son better than her own.

This is smashing my broken heart to pieces. I still love Lena and know there is a good person inside her, but I can't understand how she could do this to her own children. Per the separation agreement, Lena has the boys one weekend a month, but they don't want to see her or spend time with her. I would never keep them from her, but I also don't want to force them to go.

Lena used to be Mom of the Century. Now, it's like

she died. Am I obligated to make the boys spend one weekend a month with her, knowing they will be at "his" house? — Three Broken Hearts in Virginia

Dear Virginia: Probably, so your best bet is to make this a less negative experience for your sons. They are angry with their mother, and she is so wrapped up in herself and her new boyfriend that she is neglectful. Still, it's best for them if Lena stays involved in their lives, even a little. Get some counseling for your boys and for yourself so all of you can deal with this mess in the healthiest way possible.

Dear Annie: My parents married in 1969, had three kids, and divorced in 1991. They later remarried in 1994 and have been happy ever since.

My question is, which

anniversary should we celebrate? Can we celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2009? I'm a huge fan of parties and would love to throw them a surprise 40th. — Don't Have a Clue What To Do

Dear Don't Have a Clue: This is entirely between you and your parents. Which anniversary do they consider themselves to be celebrating? That's the number you should follow, even if it means celebrating their 15th instead.

Dear Annie: Please print this to remind people to be kind to others. My sister passed away three months ago at age 50. She suffered from Crohn's disease for 27 years without complaint. What did bother her were people who made her the target of thoughtlessness.

Yes, my sister was thin from illness, not from

anorexia. For the lady who suggested she add a few more items to her grocery cart, she would have loved to do so had her body allowed a diet without boundaries. A hospital staff member said, "My you are a little one!" Do you think that made her feel better?

The next time you feel like asking a stranger to turn sideways to see if she'll disappear, please think first. My sister would never have gone up to a stranger and said, "My, it looks like you've put on a few pounds." — Grieving in Appleton, Wis.

Dear Grieving: We are so sorry for your loss. People don't mean to be cruel, and we hope you can forgive them for their thoughtlessness. Please consider some short-term grief counseling to help you let go of your anger.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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THURSDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Thursday. Columns include WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLF, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'll help you with your diet and eat those cookies for you."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Down from there, Barty. You're not a cat!"

HAGAR



"WE CAN'T AFFORD ALL THIS STUFF! WHY CAN'T A HUSBAND JUST GO TO A STORE AND BUY WHAT HIS WIFE WANTS?"



"BUT EVERYTHING LOOKED SO GOOD!"

BLONDIE



"LOOK, DEAR, I FOUND SOME CHERRY FLAVORED TOOTHPASTE"



"COCONUT CREAM PIE FLAVORED TOOTHPASTE"



"EVERYTHING REMINDS YOU OF COCONUT CREAM PIE"

BC



"NEVER GO TO AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST WHO SELLS WHITE CANES."

WIZARD OF ID



"THIS MAN HELD UP THE BANK"

AGNES



"AGNES, PLEASE TELL US HOW THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION CHANGED AMERICA."

HI AND LOIS



"I'M TOO BIG TO TAKE A BATH"

THE OTHER COAST



"SCRATCH SCRATCH"

SNUFFY SMITH



"GRACIOUS!! WHAT'S ALL TH' RACKET?"

BETLE BAILEY



"COOKIE? LISTEN! WE HAVE A PROBLEM OVER HERE"

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2006. There are 45 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: Two hundred years ago, on Nov. 16, 1806, Moses Cleaveland, the land surveyor for whom the city of Cleveland is named, died in Canterbury, Conn., at age 52.

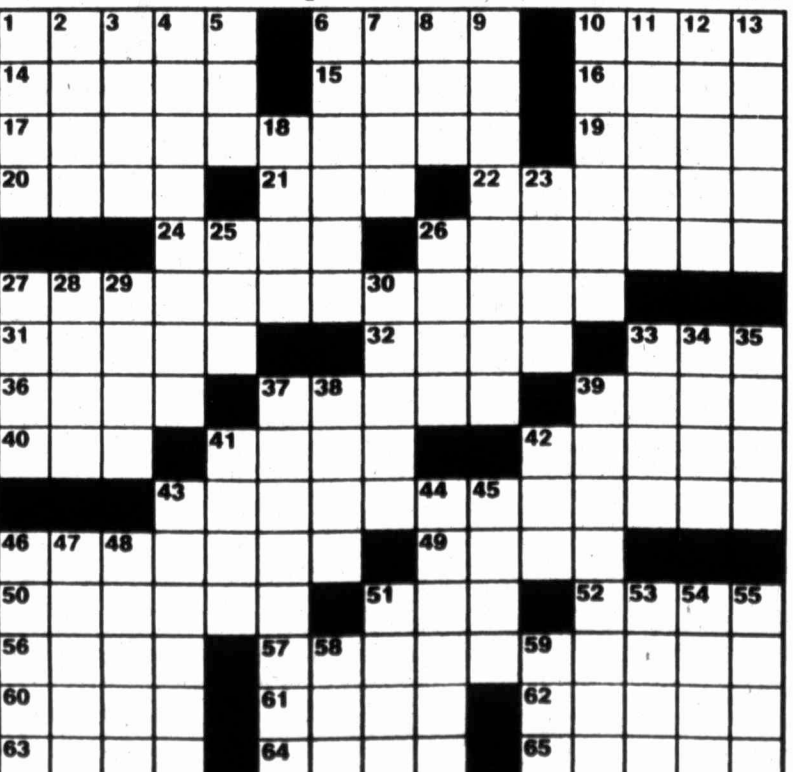
his second trial of charges he'd murdered his pregnant wife, Marilyn, in 1954. In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on an 84-day mission. In 1973, President Nixon signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. Ten years ago: President Clinton spent the first full day of a shortened vacation in Hawaii that preceded a trip to Australia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Garrison is 43. Former baseball player Dwight Gooden is 42. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 42. Actress Tammy Lauren is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 37. Actress Martha Plimpton is 36. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul is 29. Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal is 29. Actress Kimberly J. Brown is 22. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey ("My Wife and Kids") is 10.

Newsday Crossword

NUPTIAL QUARTET by Donna Levin Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Fish-shack offering 6 Occident 10 Skip past 14 Hosiery color 15 Diva's big moment 16 Impetuous 17 Beowulf's tongue 19 Bill of Rights defense org. 20 Wharf 21 Certain lodge member 22 Had a hankering 24 Hair do 26 Perplexed 27 Where Dartmouth is 31 Title role for Clooney and Sinatra 32 Stat 33 Didn't budge 36 Bridge, in Brittany 37 Watch surreptitiously 39 Festive 40 Put the kibosh on 41 Sgts. and cpls. 42 cholesterol 43 Temporary reprieve 46 Fusillade report 49 Auction sign 50 Fidelity competitor 51 Luncheonette order 52 Footnote abbr. 56 Trattoria order 57 It flows through Vienna 60 Read closely (over) 61 Swedish equivalent of Lawrence 62 Scarecrow's innards 63 Nash Bridges' grp. 64 Author Ferber 65 Pathetic 8 Bro's sib 9 Mutiny on the Bounty extra 10 Delphic one 11 Rambo-like 12 Caribbean cruise stops 13 Hollow sounds 18 Microbe 23 Diamond protector 25 Room cooler 26 Facetious "I see!" 27 Yup's opposite 28 Keynesian subj. 29 Proceed 30 Final authority 33 Delhi dress 34 Reunion attendee 35 Domesticated 37 Crossword game 38 Tawny potable 39 Takes up, as an issue 41 bene 42 "Star Wars" initials 43 Blubbered 44 Former Polish leader 45 Cornerstone abbreviation 46 Replies, quickly 47 Base (pop group) 48 Amadeus choreographer 51 Freezer mishap 53 Jefferson's veep 54 Support beam 55 Like morning grass 58 Terhune's collie 59 Balaam's beast



BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER

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Officials est

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Financially speaking of the Howard County come at a worse time. Failure of a sm... test at the trouble... afternoon led Cour... Walker to decide... immediately, no p... kept overnight at th...

E-wast

Take your comp... ers, cell phones a... other electronic ite... to the designated... hangar at the airp... between 9 a.m. an... p.m.

By THOMAS JENKIN

Staff Writer

Area residents w...

video cassette rec...

Bond project outlin

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — H... cessfully passed a... lion bond, Independent Schoo... trustees began the... toward spending... found money durin... meeting Thursday... the administration... board room. Coahoma ISD vot... ly approved the... finance constructio... ovation projects t...

See C1SD, Page 3A



INDEX

- Classified 3-5B Features 6A Obituaries 2A Opinion 4A Sports 1-2B

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