

THURSDAY

July 22, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR
TONIGHT 71°-73° TOMORROW 91°-93°

INSIDE

Church group
assists the elderly



Page 5A

BRIEFLY

Stargazing Party slated Saturday

Big Spring State Park's annual Stargazing party, postponed earlier this year, will take place at 8:30 p.m. Saturday atop Scenic Mountain. Entry to the park is \$2 per person.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: For 30 years, Mark Corbet, 53, of Redmond, Ore., (pop. 13,481) has assaulted forest fires from the sky. The 5-foot-7, 165-pound Corbet is one of the nation's 400 active smokejumpers, daredevils who parachute into remote locations across the West each summer to snuff out wildfires before they grow into uncontrollable conflagrations.

INDEX

Classified	2-4B
Comics	5B
Wheels	6A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1B

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9-11 panel: Government neglect not to blame for attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Sept. 11 commission concludes that a "failure of imagination," not governmental neglect, allowed 19 hijackers to carry out the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history. The panel calls for an intelligence overhaul to confront an al-Qaida organization intent on striking again.

While faulting institutional shortcomings, the bipartisan report being released Thursday does not blame President Bush or former President Clinton for mistakes contributing to the 2001 terrorist attack, Bush administration officials familiar with the findings said.

The report, which is the culmination of a

The report "debunks" some accusations... such as the Saudi government funded the hijackers and that the White House allowed a group of Saudis to slip out of the country just after Sept. 11.

20-month investigation into the plot that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, describes the

meticulous planning and determination of hijackers who sought to exploit weaknesses in airline and border procedures by taking test flights.

A surveillance video that surfaced Wednesday shows four of the hijackers passing through security gates at Washington Dulles International Airport shortly before boarding the plane they would crash into the Pentagon. In the video, the hijackers can be seen undergoing additional scrutiny after setting off metal detectors, then being permitted to continue to their gate.

See REPORT, Page 3A

Cotton crop doing well, but moisture needed very soon, producers say

By MEGAN KNIGHT
Special to the Herald

Howard County Extension Agent Tommy Yeater predicts a bumper cotton crop of 70 percent yield if the county receives rain within the next week.

"We are looking at some of the best and some of the worst cotton we've had," Yeater said.

"The cotton planted early in the season is doing extremely well, but needs rain; the cotton planted later, right before the rain, is probably about average, but I have more confidence in it than the rest because it doesn't need the rain as bad. The guys who planted late, after the rain, no one thought that would come up; we thought the seed was rotten, but some of it has."

More moisture is a necessity, said local



MOATES

farmer Mike Moates.

"The cotton is OK right now, but we're starting to need a rain. Last year the same thing happened. We got some rain in June and then it didn't rain again until the fall," he said. "We ended up getting a crop, but I don't know about this year."

Moates said that in a recent trip west, conditions were the same all the way to Abilene.

"The cotton is all ages, and in the heat of the day, it was starting to burn," said Moates.

Kim Denton farms south of Big Spring, and he said that conditions are similar all over.

"There's some baby cotton, and some that's knee high," he said.

"Most of mine is young cotton; we replanted after the rain. If we get a rain in the next week, we'll be OK."

Large-item pick up set for Friday in District 4

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Friday will be the last chance for city residents in District 4 to get rid of their large trash items for 2004, as the city prepares for the fourth phase in its large-item pickup program.

The city will conduct the program on Friday.

There's no charge to use the program, which has been working its way through all six municipal districts one at a time since April, but residents do need to be aware of what can and cannot be picked up.

Some of the more typical items picked up are tree branches, appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses.

City crews can't pick up any household hazardous waste, including any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car bat-

What: Large-item pick up.

Where: Residences in District 4.

When: Friday.

teries and tires.

Customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up. Heavy equipment is sometimes necessary to move the items and if a meter is hidden under or around items, it can pose a hazard.

The city will hold pickup days the fourth Friday of each month, concentrating on District 5 next, until it finishes making the rounds in September. The program is expected to follow the same type of schedule next year as

See TRASH, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Debbie Childress, left, outgoing New Hope Christian School administrator, and Vicki Parnell, incoming administrator, visit at the school about the transition. Parnell takes over on Monday and brings 25 years of early childcare development to the job. New Hope is currently accepting new students for classes which will begin Aug. 16.

Parnell excited about taking over reins at New Hope Christian School

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

A new administrator will take the reins of the early childhood development program at New Hope Christian School come Monday while the school prepares for its second full academic year.

"God made the decision," Vicki Parnell said, explaining her decision to shut down her home daycare business to accept the administrative position at New Hope. "I had decided to stay home when I had another baby until she started kindergarten. She starts kindergarten this year. God opened the door and I decided this is the place to be."

Parnell, who began her career at the early age of 16 as an employee of Baptist Temple daycare, brings 25 years of experience to the position.

She is the former owner of Sunshine Daycare, which was open from 1986 to 1996, and has her professional administrator's credential from the state of Texas. Parnell has collected 172 hours in training for child development and 135 hours in business management.

The community is invited to an open house at the school, 118 Cedar Road, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

According to outgoing administrator Debbie Childress, the transition of administrators has been a smooth process so far. Childress has overseen the early childhood program since the school's inception in November of 2002.

"It's been a joy to see the school grow and change and I feel privileged to be part of this ministry to Big Spring," said Childress, whose last official day on the job is July 30.

Parnell is already familiar with the private school since her 6-year-old

See NEW HOPE, Page 3A

Big Spring man charged with assaulting 16-year-old girl

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested Wednesday afternoon and charged with sexual assault of child after an alleged encounter with a 16-year-old female from Odessa.

Big Spring Police Department Public Information Officer Sgt. Roger Sweatt said 28-year-old Lionel Garza Jr. was taken into custody Wednesday during

investigative detention and charged with the sexual assault of the Odessa teen.

"We got the warrant for his arrest while we had Mr. Garza at the police station and were questioning him," said Sweatt.

Sweatt said the assault allegedly occurred after the girl, who was traveling by bus from Odessa to Ohio, was taken from the Big Spring bus station against her will.

"She had been put on the bus

by CPS (Child Protective Services) in Odessa and was traveling to Ohio," said Sweatt. "While she was stopped in Big Spring, she approached a couple and asked for a cigarette. They gave her one and asked her to sit down in the vehicle."

"Once she was in the car they drove off, taking the girl against her will. She was then taken to a rest stop on the outskirts of Big Spring, where the assault occurred. Right now we're trying

to find out if it was the rest stop near Coahoma or the one west of town."

According to a press release issued by BSPD Det. Phil Witten, the offense took place during the early morning hours of Wednesday, before daylight.

Sweatt said the investigation is ongoing with possibly more charges to come, including kidnapping.

See ASSAULT, Page 3A

Obituaries

Jack Delane Fryar



Jack Delane Fryar died at University Hospital in San Antonio at 2:15 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2004, following an automobile accident. Jack was born on May 28, 1935, in Howard County to Frank Read Fryar and Pauline "Polly" Snider Fryar. Jack was a graduate of Big Spring High School in 1952, Howard County Junior College in 1954, and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, with a bachelor of arts degree in 1956, and a master of arts degree in 1972. Jack's post-graduate studies were done at San Francisco State University, North Texas State University, and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Jack had 35 years of distinguished service in the field of public education, including 30 years for the Midland Independent School District, first as an English teacher, then as an English department chairman, assistant principal at Midland High School, senior principal at Robert E. Lee Freshman High School and finally as senior principal at Robert E. Lee Senior High School.

Jack retired in 1993, having touched the lives of countless students, both as a teacher and administrator, as well as enriching and enhancing the ability of his faculty and staff as an administrator. Jack always held himself to the highest standards of excellence, love, and dedication to public education. His highest professional honor was the naming of the Robert E. Lee Senior High library after him.

Jack was a member of First Baptist Church. His professional memberships included Midland Retired Teachers Association, Phi Delta Kappa, Texas State Teachers Association, National Council of Teachers of English, the Texas Council of Teachers of English, and Texas Secondary Principals Association. He had served as president of the Midland Genealogical Society, was a donor member of the Midland Community Theatre and the Museum of the Southwest.

Jack had many personal passions — cooking and entertaining others with delicious foods; searching for ancestors and living descendants through genealogical research; planning travel with his wife in their motor home; collecting and watching movies, travel videos, and documentaries; observing historical reenactments at Civil War sites; attending live performances of musical groups and dramas. He most of all had a real passion for his family, both immediate and extended.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Marie Fryar Hartup of Tampa, Fla.

Jack is survived by his wife of 47 years, Maridell Fisher Fryar; son Fred Eric Fryar and his wife, Karen, of Spring; and daughter Delanna Lynn Thomas and her husband, David Bruce Thomas, of Midland.

Surviving grandchildren are Reed Elizabeth and Thomas Eric Fryar of Galveston; Brennan Daniel Wolff of Spring; and Daniel Christopher and Jack Dawson Thomas of Midland. Jack is also survived by his nephew, B.E. Burton Jr. and his wife, Pat, of Abilene; and his niece, Barbara Burton Russell and her husband, Eddie, of Tampa, Fla.

He is also survived by sisters-in-law Jennie Fisher Conboy and her husband, John, of Clayton, Calif.; Lou Ann Fisher Sexton of San Francisco, Calif.; Lynn Fisher of Alameda, Calif.; and by nieces Tess Sexton, Lisa Mansell and her husband, Michael, of Clayton, Calif.; and nephew Lance Cpl. Ryan Sexton, U.S. Marine Corps, of Seattle, Wash.; and great niece, Genna Rose Mansell. He is also survived by his uncles George Snider and his wife, Rachel, of Kingman, Ariz.; and J.W. Fryar of Big Spring; and by his aunts Helen Snider Clark and her husband, Ed, of Ramona, Calif.; and Billie Snider O'Neal of Joseph, Ore. Numerous beloved cousins and their spouses also survive.

The family will receive friends at Ellis Funeral Home Friday, July 23, 2004, between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m.

Memorial services have been scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, July 24, 2004, at First Baptist Church in Midland. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland (432) 683-5555.

Pallbearers will be James D. Fryar, Travis Fryar, Danny Fryar, Fred Phillips, Claud Fryar, Kenny Fryrear, John Conboy and Lance Cpl. Ryan Sexton.

Memorials may be directed to the Jack Fryar Learning Resource Center at Robert E. Lee Senior High School in Midland.

Paid obituary

James W. "Jim" McBrayer

James W. "Jim" McBrayer, 89, died Monday, July 19, 2004, in Big Spring.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Friday in Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene with the Rev. H.B. Terry Jr. officiating.

He was born to Bessie (Fry) and Thomas Watson McBrayer on July 3, 1915, in Arkadelphia, Ark., and graduated from Lamesa High School and the Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He was a self-employed accountant and a member of Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. McBrayer was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah Ashford McBrayer, his parents, and a brother. Survivors include a niece, two nephews and a sister-in-law.

Memorials may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, 2555 Grape St., Abilene 79601.

Arrangements are under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **ELSIE DELGADO**, 19, of Lamesa, was arrested Wednesday on a Dawson County warrant.
- **LIONEL GARZA JR.**, 28, of Lamesa, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of sexual assault of a child.
- **ELDA BERNAL**, 33, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **ANTHONY PREMIANO**, 35, of 4219 Calvin, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.
- **SONIA MORIN**, 20, of 805 Lorilla, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **SABRINA PEREZ**, 29, of Snyder, was arrested Thursday on a Scurry County warrant and a charge of public intoxication.
- **ERNEST TAGGART**, 31, of 1614 Cardinal, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

Sheriff's report

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

- **RICHARD WAYNE RAINS**, 38, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of evading arrest with a vehicle.
- **LEROY WALLACE JR.**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of parole and failure to identify - giving false/fictitious information.
- **TIMOTHY JOHN FREITAG**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of consumption of alcoholic beverage by a minor and possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.
- **JOHN ANTHONY THURMOND**, 45, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance - more than 4 grams, less than 200 grams.
- **JOSHUA DON RICHTER**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **SONIA MARRISSA MORIN**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-8-15-16-29. Bonus Ball: 18. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$22,449. Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 14. Prize: \$1,455. Number matching four of five: 591. Prize: \$74. Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 393. Prize: \$98. Number matching three of five: 18,296. Prize: \$5. Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 4,554. Prize: \$5. Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 20,051. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$9 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 22-25-33-34-35

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-4-3

Weather

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 73F. Winds SE at 10 to 15 mph.

Friday: Generally sunny. High 92F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night: Clear skies. Low 71F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday: Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 60s.

Monday: Scattered thunderstorms possible. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 60s.

Support groups

MONDAY

□ All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- The Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance is canceled.

SATURDAY

- Heritage Museum Hispanic Celebration from 5:30-8 p.m. unveiling a new display honoring Hispanic heritage and customs. Free event, open to the public.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

SUNDAY

- Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between noon and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.

MONDAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Retirement reception honoring Jane Moore at the Knott Coop Gin is set for 2-4 p.m. Public invited.
- Take Pounds Off 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 Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Take note

□ **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

□ **MANNA RELIEF**, a non-profit ministry that provides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

□ **A MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE FAMILY OF TERRY STRICKLAND**, who died June 15, 2004, has been established at the Big Spring Educational Employees Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 1110, Big Spring 79720.

□ **A FUND FOR ALAN AND MITZI KNIGHT**, whose house on Oasis Road burned, has been established at the First Big Spring banking center. The home and all the family's belongings were lost.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TEXAS

Abandoned twin

FORT WORTH woman awaiting abandoning her twin last year has jumped bail. And authorities have fled to Euro. A district court warrants after Radacy pleaded guilty to kidnapping. Radacy pleaded guilty to kidnapping from her 21-month-old son, who was found on May 26, 2004. The first time she was arrested, she was charged with \$40,000 bail and in June on her release. "I felt she was in danger," Gallagher said, "and I did everything I could to protect her."

Jury acquits man

BRYAN (AP) — year-old daughter been acquitted of with intent to retaliate. Roy Flores, 43, were not to abandon child, but to teach away.

The decision to acquit after more than a year in prison when jury unlikely they would have convicted. Bryan-College Station editions.

District Judge continue and then about a half-hour. Flores — who was indicted and was Commission at 1 had been on trial Monday.

Witnesses said Harvey Mitchell year-old daughter Flores' intentions were to harm her. Wednesday morning that he subjected her to a risk, which is a "We're here bawling on the 'You don't abandon' Holding up a name Michele Esparza before turning a roughly half mile nesses.

"Can you abandon distance away from her?"

Second train involved

HOUSTON (AP) linked to a toxic time in less than 10 minutes.

No one was injured of chlorine gas released from the city of Houston. But it stretch of U.S. 9 mile radius to release.

A chlorine gas left three dead, respiratory problems than 90 tons of Pacific train in Northern-Santa

"The two incidents," Mark Da Omaha, Neb., said except for the In the Liberty sure plate on to said Jamie Gallagher coordination

Autopsy report

SOUTH PADRE says that the Laredo woman Padre Island in intoxication and Margaret Sus the morning of den under layers. The Cameron will review the tion to determine if it was

TRASH

Continued from Page 1 well.

For more information on the large-item program and more six city districts

ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1

"We're going to get his office before there's a possibility of kidnapping and a sweat said in course of the in

Contact Staff
232 or by e-mail

TEXAS BRIEFS

Abandoned twins' mother flees again

FORT WORTH (AP) — For the second time, a woman awaiting sentencing on felony charges of abandoning her twin toddlers on a Lake Worth road last year has jumped bail.

And authorities say Christy Leann Radacy, 24, may have fled to Europe again.

A district court judge signed three felony arrest warrants after Radacy apparently cut off her court-ordered leg monitor Sunday.

Radacy pleaded guilty this month to charges stemming from her 22-month-old girls being left on the road on May 26, 2003.

The first time she disappeared, Radacy forfeited \$40,000 bail and was apprehended by U.S. marshals in June on her return from Spain via England.

"I felt she was a safe risk," District Judge George Gallagher said, explaining his decision to again grant bail, because "she came back to the country and did everything expected of her."

Jury acquits man in endangerment charge

BRYAN (AP) — A Bryan civic leader who left his 6-year-old daughter along a highway in August has been acquitted of abandoning and endangering her with intent to return.

Roy Flores, 43, told authorities that his intentions were not to abandon his "fearless and determined" child, but to teach her a lesson after she tried to run away.

The decision to acquit him on Wednesday came after more than five hours of deliberation and a near mistrial when jurors sent out a note stating it was unlikely they would be able to reach a consensus, the Bryan-College Station Eagle reports in its Thursday editions.

District Judge J.D. Langley ordered the group to continue and the not guilty verdict was returned about a half-hour later.

Flores — who has served on numerous city committees and was on the Bryan Planning and Zoning Commission at the time of his arrest in August — had been on trial for the state jail felony since Monday.

Witnesses said Flores peeled out from the side of Harvey Mitchell Parkway in Bryan, leaving his 6-year-old daughter alongside the highway.

Flores' intentions that day shouldn't matter, prosecutors Jarvis Parsons and Brian Baker argued Wednesday morning. They said that what matters is that he subjected his daughter to an unreasonable risk, which is a violation of the law.

"We're here because a little girl was alone and trembling on the side of a busy road," Parsons said. "You don't abandon a child and call it discipline."

Holding up a map before the jury, defense attorney Michele Esparza estimated the distance Flores drove before turning around at 410 feet in contrast to the roughly half mile to a mile estimated by several witnesses.

"Can you abandon someone when you're a short distance away for less than 60 seconds?" she asked.

Second train leaks toxic chlorine gas

HOUSTON (AP) — A Union Pacific train has been linked to a toxic chlorine gas leak for the second time in less than a month.

No one was injured Wednesday when a white cloud of chlorine gas seeped from a parked tanker car east of the city of Liberty — about 35 miles east of Houston. But it caused the closure of a four-mile stretch of U.S. 90 and forced residents within a half-mile radius to remain indoors for eight hours.

A chlorine gas leak near San Antonio on June 28 left three dead and 40 others seeking treatment for respiratory problems after a container carrying more than 90 tons of chlorine ruptured when the Union Pacific train it was part of collided with a Burlington Northern-Santa Fe train, investigators said.

"The two incidents are separate and totally different," Mark Davis, Union Pacific's spokesman in Omaha, Neb., said. "There is no common denominator except for the chlorine gas."

In the Liberty County incident, the seal on a pressure plate on top of a tanker car was leaking the gas, said Jamie Galloway, the county's emergency management coordinator.

Autopsy report in on death at club

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) — An autopsy report says that the Spring Break death of a 21-year-old Laredo woman at a foam dance party at a South Padre Island night club was caused by acute alcohol intoxication and aspiration.

Margaret Susan Piton's body was found early in the morning of March 21 near the dance floor, hidden under layers of foam.

The Cameron County District Attorney's Office will review the South Padre Island police investigation to determine if any criminal charges are warranted.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

well.

For more information on the large-item pick up program and maps of the six city districts, visit the

city of Big Spring Web site at <http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us>, or contact the city at 264-2504.

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

ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1A

"We're going to conference with the district attorney's office before we start stacking the charges, but there's a possibility Mr. Garza will be charged with kidnapping as well."

Sweatt said no other arrests have been made in the course of the investigation.

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

Former death row inmate sentenced to life

PLAINVIEW (AP) — An inmate who spent 10 years on death row for his part in a robbery-murder in this West Texas city was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday.

Joe Lee Guy, 32, was convicted and sentenced to death in 1994, but last month U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings in Lubbock threw out the death sentence. That ruling did not affect Guy's conviction but sent the case back to court for sentencing.

"I feel grateful and blessed to get the death sentence off of me," Guy said. "I'm remorseful for the things I did, and I hope the family can forgive me for the things I've done."

Guy's mother, Gloria Guy, hugged him and gave him a kiss on the cheek in their first physical contact in 10 years. She declined to comment.

Guy will get credit for time served since his arrest in 1993 and will be eligible for parole in

about 25 years.

He had been waiting about six months for Gov. Rick Perry to decide whether to commute his death sentence. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles in January recommended unanimously that Perry commute the sentence.

According to his clemency petition, Guy was only a lookout in the robbery that led to the killing of 62-year-old Larry Howell at a Plainview grocery store

in 1993. The other two men convicted of Howell's slaying were sentenced to life in prison.

Testimony during evidentiary hearings in June indicated Guy was mentally slow and always was a follower.

Guy had appealed based on the behavior of a defense attorney and an investigator during sentencing, and the 5th Circuit in August sent the case back to Cummings' Lubbock court for evidentiary hearings.

NEW HOPE

Continued from Page 1A

daughter, Morgan, attended pre-kindergarten classes at New Hope last academic year.

"This is Morgan's family," Parnell said. "She absolutely loved it and the staff here is wonderful."

New Hope was created in 2002 shortly after the board of the long-time private school, Saint Mary's Episcopal School, suddenly shuttered the school's doors because of financial problems.

New Hope, supported by the Community of Hope, First Church of the Nazarene, was housed at the St. Mary's facilities and later purchased the building.

During the 2003-2004 school year, its first full academic year of operation, New Hope offered early childhood development classes and a self-paced, computer assisted education program for kindergarten

through 12th grade.

The school also continues the tradition of holding Chapel on Wednesday and invites pastors from various denominations to participate.

Childress estimates the school had an average of 60 students enrolled during the year and 55 students are enrolled for the 2004-2005 school year.

"Usually, the week before school starts and the week after school begins is our biggest enrollment period," Childress said.

This year, several new changes are expected when school begins on Aug. 16.

"We're opening a toddler room for 18- to 24-month-olds and we're not requiring them to be potty trained," Parnell said.

Construction of a toddler playground is under way and expected to be finished in the next three weeks in time for the opening of the school, she added.

"In the future, we are planning to

add an infant room," she said.

Also this year, the school can accept students who qualify for the Child Care Management Service Program, a state-funded service to help low-income families find affordable childcare, Parnell said.

The community is invited to an open house at the school, 118 Cedar Road, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, to meet new and returning teachers and visit the new toddler room.

Hours of operation for the preschool are from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, year round. School hours for kindergarten through 12th grade are from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, during the school year.

New Hope also offers an extended day program during the school year. For more information, call 263-0203.

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

REPORT

Continued from Page 1A

White House officials and congressional leaders were briefed on the panel's findings, and Bush was to receive a copy just before the 11:30 a.m. EDT release today on the commission's Web site and in bookstores.

The president, bracing for a report that will be sharply critical of the government's intelligence-gathering, said Wednesday he looked forward to reading it. He also said his administration was doing everything possible to combat terrorism, a major theme of his re-election campaign.

"Had we had any inkling whatsoever that terrorists were about to attack our country, we would have moved heaven and earth to protect America," Bush said. "I'm confident President Clinton would have done the same thing. Any president would."

Richard Clarke, former counterterrorism czar in the Clinton and Bush administrations and now an ABC consultant, said on the network's "Good Morning America" the commission avoided controversy. "To get unanimity they didn't talk about a number of things, like what effect is the war in Iraq having on our battle against terrorism. Did the president pay any attention to terrorism during the first nine months of his administration? The controversial things, the controversial criticisms of the Clinton administration as well as the Bush administration just aren't there."

"What they didn't do is say that the country is actually not safer now than it was then because of the rise in terrorism after our invasion in Iraq."

One administration official said the 575-page report concludes that Bush and Clinton took the threat of al-Qaida seriously and were "genuinely concerned about the danger posed by al-Qaida," but didn't do enough to stop the terrorist organization headed by Osama bin Laden.

There was a "failure of imagination" to provide

either Bush or Clinton with new options to deal with al-Qaida, the official said. There also was a failure to adapt to the post-Cold War era, and people just kept trying the same kinds of things that didn't work, the official said.

While administration officials offered a preview of the report, their summary was far from a complete accounting of the commission's findings.

Less than four months before the presidential election, the commission's work already has ignited partisan debate over whether Bush took sufficient steps to deal with terrorism in the first year of his administration.

The report will propose a national counterterrorism center headed by a new Cabinet-level national director of intelligence. The director would have authority over the CIA, FBI and other agencies, while congressional oversight also would be strengthened.

The commission described a rapidly changing al-Qaida threat that has become more dispersed and harder to detect. A national intelligence chief would coordinate information-sharing and intelligence analysis to thwart al-Qaida terrorists who are keenly inter-

ested in launching a chemical, biological or nuclear attack, commissioners say.

The Bush administration is reserving judgment on that recommendation, and officials doubt it could be approved by Congress this year.

Four administration officials briefed reporters on the content of the report Wednesday on condition of anonymity because it has not been publicly released.

"There were deep institutional failings within our government," an official said. "And that's what they really examine at some length over a long period of time — that there were a variety of factors spanning many years and many administrations that contributed to a failure to share information amongst agencies for both legal and policy reasons."

The official said, the commission found the FBI was not set up to collect intelligence domestically, in part because of civil liberties concerns.

The report lists a series of missed operational opportunities to stop the hijackers, such as the bungled attempts to kill or capture bin Laden and the FBI's handling of terror suspect Zacarias Moussaoui, who was arrested in August 2001 before the hijackings, the

official said. It also "debunks" some theories that once circulated widely, such as that the Saudi government had funded the hijackers and that the White House allowed a group of Saudis to slip out of the country just after Sept. 11 when all planes were grounded, the official said.

Commissioners have said the report also will fault Congress for poor oversight of intelligence gathering and criticize government agencies for their emergency responses to the attacks. The harshest criticism will be leveled at the FBI and CIA.

The 10-member panel declined to recommend a separate domestic spy agency modeled after Britain's MI5, as some outside experts have suggested, deciding that reform efforts by FBI Director Robert Mueller were on the right track despite the FBI's historical focus on law enforcement, said Rep. Jim Turner, D-Texas.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Saturday's fiesta
a celebration of
Hispanic culture

It's not every Saturday that the Heritage Museum becomes the place to be for festivities that include dancing and lively music. But there is no better way for the museum to open its newest exhibit which showcases the area's Hispanic culture.

Tammy Schrecengost, the museum's curator, has been planning the new exhibit for quite some time. She noted it's important to include all the cultures which have contributed to Howard County's rich history.

Obviously, the Hispanic influence on this community has been and continues to be significant. It deserves the recognition and celebration planned for this weekend's premiere.

The party begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and will continue to 8 p.m., featuring several dance performances and the music provided by a mariachi band. The event is free to the public.

The new display consists of memorabilia donated by area residents — a collection Schrecengost believes brings out the beautifully romantic aspect of the culture, seen through its customs and music.

"We'll have lots of bright colors and sounds," Schrecengost noted. "The Hispanic culture's music is so unique and beautiful. Even if you don't speak Spanish, you can sit down and listen to the music. You can feel the meaning ... it's more than just understanding the words."

We encourage all those who can take part in Saturday's opening of the exhibit. For those who can't, however, be sure to schedule a visit. The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 25.

The Heritage Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

We think you'll find the museum experience is well worth such a small cost.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
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- 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

Dear Lord, please take over our lives and lead us in your direction.

Amen

Shortcomings in care a crisis to families

Molly Ivins is travelling on a book tour. The following column was initially released in November 1999.

For a couple of months, I've been carrying around a newspaper clipping headlined: "Study Finds Shortcomings in Care for Chronically Ill."

What I've been looking for is a way to make the story "sexy," as we say in my trade. It would be easier if the headline said: "Crisis in Long-Term Care."

A crisis is sexy, whereas "shortcomings" are so ... perenial.

Shortcomings will always be with us. You can't cure shortcomings by throwing money at them. A policy on shortcomings will not make it into candidate debates.

You can't even get a good fight going over shortcomings: "President Opposes Shortcomings: Congress Is in Favor"; "Democrats Demand Action on Shortcomings, Republicans See Shortcomings as Personal Responsibility."

Meanwhile, I keep hearing the stories — the stories that middle-aged women tell one another.

Hope's father has had both legs amputated now because of the diabetes, and of course he's never really recovered from that first bad heart attack. Hope goes to see him at the home every day. She's a single mother with five children, one of whom has spina bifida, and she supports her family by cleaning other people's houses. Hope is not given to complaining, nor is her father, who supported his own four children by mowing other people's lawns.

"As long as he gets his breakfast tacos, he's OK," she says. He doesn't like American food, and the home is a tuna casserole sort of place, so every day she brings him

tacos for breakfast.

Courtenay is famous among her friends for telling funny stories about her mother's Alzheimer's. The latest bulletins on Mom's dotty doings are always good for a laugh. Because you have to laugh. That's the really, really important thing — you absolutely have to laugh. The crying requires no effort at all. You're going to cry — it's the laughing you have to work at.

"I was out there last night for Thanksgiving dinner," said Courtenay, "which they have several days early so the families can go somewhere else on Thanksgiving and think about things that make them thankful. Suddenly Mom needed to go to the bathroom, and as we were walking down the hall, I heard a woman telling her mother a sort of bedtime story. 'We moved here and then we moved there, and you remember Daddy got so sick ...'

"Telling her mother about her life — it was so awkward and dear and patient. And I thought, she's doing better than I did the last time. Because my mother keeps wanting to phone her parents. She doesn't understand why she can't get them on the phone, and I just snapped and said: 'Because they're dead! They are dead!'

"But it's like water flowing through your fingers; five minutes later, whether you do it right or wrong, she asks again why she can't reach them. And then I tell her again: 'Remember when Poppy got so sick, and remember you and Mun took such good care of him and after he died, remember how Mun came to live with you and then when she died you took her back to Honey Grove, and remember how you made her casket so pretty with all those flowers and you said how much Mun would like it because it was just like a lady's bonnet. Remember? Remember?'

"If they could figure out how to keep our brains alive as long as our bodies," said Courtenay, "they should get the Nobel Prize for

that. It's such a big mystery, living in suspended animation like this. But there is a kind of grace involved.

"At AA, there's a saying that you should try to do something good for someone every day without getting caught. And that's easy with Alzheimer's because they forget it as soon as it's done, so you know you're not doing it for credit. It's a kind of sacrament. You do it because of all the things that have been done for you, maybe not even by the parent you are caring for.

"Another thing that has sustained me: It helps to find somebody else going through the same thing and sit down and groan together about it. You can unburden yourself, and they won't think you're a crazy or cruel person for having these thoughts, fantasies about euthanasia. It's a real test of what you are, and you wind up thinking about what you are and how you can hang in there when you haven't got anything to hang in there with. That's a lot to be thankful for.

"The place she is in now is so much better than the first place she was in, and the first place was better than 90 percent of them — this horrible, pitiful thing that masquerades under the name of care. There was a woman with me last night who teaches at the university; she looked like death between her mother and her husband, who was misdiagnosed as having an infection rather than the cancer he actually had. So they think it's not a crisis?"

And they all have stories like that, all the women taking care of the parents with heart disease and lung disease and diabetes. Sometimes the parents have good days, sometimes bad days, but they are sick for so long, and the women who take care of them are so exhausted.

But it's not a crisis yet.

There are only shortcomings in the system.

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Kerry and the Iowa Caucuses

Not long ago, I interviewed John Kerry for a piece I was doing on the Iowa caucuses, where Kerry scored a surprise victory. Many now believe this single event made him the Democratic

nominee. (See U.S. News & World Report, July 19-26 issue, on the stands now.) Below is a portion of that interview:

Me: When you won Iowa, you called yourself "Comeback Kerry." What did you mean by that? What were you coming back from?

Kerry: Well, there was a media perception that the campaign was written off. People had all but handed the nomination to Howard Dean. We had to win Iowa or come in a very strong second. Winning was going to be better, but if I had come in second I still could have won the nomination. But it was going to be better to win, and I decided to go and try to do it.

Me: At the beginning of 2003, you were considered the front-runner. Was that a plus or a minus?

Kerry: You don't control whether you are front-runner or not. If you have a huge crowd, you take the crowd and build.

Me: But soon it all changed, and you were far down in the polls.

Kerry: What we couldn't control was the war in Iraq. Basically, I was moving very effectively and very well until the war in Iraq stopped the debate and changed the dynamic. It just didn't matter what you were doing and what you said, there was just one angry topic. Dean didn't have to vote on

the war, and he moved in and created a different dynamic.

Me: But, according to exit polls, you eventually won the antiwar vote in Iowa.

Kerry: We did. I think we managed to meet people and talk to people and explain to people, and time began to give people an opportunity to make judgments about why I voted the way I did and what my character was, and they trusted my position. They came to understand it and trust it.

Me: How important was getting Christie Vilsack's endorsement? (Christie Vilsack is the wife of Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack.)

Kerry: I think that Christie Vilsack's contribution to the campaign was very significant and sort of crystallized a great energy across the state. What she did was help legitimize what was happening and put a public face on it at a key moment.

Me: How important was the support of the firefighters' union to your victory in Iowa? (Kerry was endorsed by the International Association of Firefighters in September 2003.)

Kerry: All of the ingredients were important. A campaign is a series of events, and a series of communications, and a series of images, all cumulative. The firefighters were one of most prominent and visible of those events, and I think it had an impact. They just didn't endorse and that was it. They actually did stuff. They were there, they were present, they worked, they fought.

Me: When you were at a low ebb, down in the polls, down in fund raising, how did you get through it?

Kerry: We laughed a lot. We'd laugh at ourselves. We vented occasionally. But we had to go out

and make breaks and make the fight. It was tiring and challenging, but exciting.

Me: Were you confident of victory?

Kerry: We had a confidence. I had an inner confidence. I could see people shifting. I could see things the media couldn't. I was pretty confident, one foot in front of the other, steady as you go. I had a confidence that we would start to move the thing.

Me: Tell me about the importance of Michael Whouley.

Kerry: He's a very skilled, incredibly disciplined and capable operative. He works quietly behind the scenes like the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain. He is the Magical Mr. Mistoffelees. He can organize. He is calm and steady and knows where you are, and he knows how to count. It is good to have people around who know how to count! If it doesn't look good, my people know to say, "We've got a problem." And we had a few of those conversations early on. "What do we do? How do we fix it?"

Me: Did you dramatically improve as a campaigner in Iowa?

Kerry: I campaigned the way I campaigned throughout my campaigns. Historically, as a campaign comes into its final months, people pay more attention and your own focus and energy shifts into a higher gear. It's a marathon, not a sprint. You pace it. The bottom line is that what I was talking about mattered to people. That broke through.

Me: If elected, will you safeguard Iowa's first-caucus-in-the-nation status?

Kerry: I think that is a pretty good assumption.

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Adopt
and fr

By PAM KELLEY
Knight Ridder

HUNTERSVILLE — Lindsey and Turner arrived at Young's home on Sunday bearing lasagna, a chicken santitas and a DVI Bourne Identity Turners know movies are favorite.

Soon, Lindsey stocking Alice's room. Shawn was in a bedroom Lindsey worked, Alice chatted, described a recent trip. Alice told her cataract surgery had earlier in the

A year ago, Lindsey didn't Alice Young. But Turners and for couples Mecklenburg County Church became with Alice Charlotte's Ad Elder Program.

Alice, 69, said friendship and had changed her work

"These kids are and it has just bit up. You would believe," she said added a new dim my life."

The new program created by Charlotte's chapter of Love Nonprofit Christ that helps elderly low-income people mobilizing church congregations. It's to fill a growing need to help the elderly with activities they can remain independent.

Love INC — stands for "In the name of Christ" — has been in 30 states since 1992, Charlotte has enlisted church members to do yard work, clean up, deliver food, and deliver volunteers to Christian churches they help anyone less of religious

Typically, Love helped clients in need, such as delivery. But Director Pat says staff and often found that son they were with meals or transportation actually needs that were met.

"It just hurt someone in need to see those men Marcum says. Others at Love INC to find a solution dilemma.

"It was very Marcum says, they needed was someone

Parents si
of man ru

HOUSTON (parents of a man fatally run down by a wife in a jealous years ago had wrongful death against their d law.

Gerald and Harris — whose daughter-in-law Harris in the trial — are a lawsuit filed County district a jury trial to monetary damages as a result of their death between the Clara Harris after her conviction Clara Harris, 31, was convicted February 2004 by running orthodontist David.

Adopt program gives assistance and friendship to elderly residents

By PAM KELLEY
Knight Ridder

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — Lindsey and Shawn Turner arrived at Alice Young's home on a recent Sunday bearing taco lasagna, a chicken croissant and a DVD, "The Bourne Identity." The Turners know action movies are Alice's favorite.

Soon, Lindsey was stocking Alice's refrigerator. Shawn was vacuuming a bedroom. As Lindsey worked, she and Alice chatted. Lindsey described a recent beach trip. Alice told her about cataract surgery she'd had earlier in the week.

A year ago, Shawn and Lindsey didn't know Alice Young. But then the Turners and four other couples from Mecklenburg Community Church became paired with Alice through Charlotte's Adopt an Elder Program.

Alice, 69, says their friendship and help have changed her world.

"These kids are young, and it has just buoyed me up. You would not believe," she says. "It's added a new dimension to my life."

The new program was created by Charlotte's chapter of Love INC, a nonprofit Christian group that helps elderly and low-income people by mobilizing church congregations. It's designed to fill a growing need — to help the elderly or disabled with activities so they can remain independent.

Love INC — the "INC" stands for "In the Name of Christ" — has 123 chapters in 30 states. Since 1992, Charlotte's chapter has enlisted churches to build wheelchair ramps, do yard work, clean houses, deliver food. Volunteers come from Christian churches, but they help anyone, regardless of religious affiliation.

Typically, Love INC has helped clients with a single need, such as meal delivery. But Executive Director Pat Marcum says staff and volunteers often found that the person they were helping with meals or transportation actually had many needs that weren't being met.

"It just hurts to see someone in need and not to see those needs met," Marcum says. So she and others at Love INC prayed to find a solution to their dilemma.

"It was very clear," Marcum says, "that what they needed was a family — someone to come



Alice Young grips the hand of Shawn Turner as his wife, Lindsey Turner, looks on, in Young's home.

around them like a family and be there for them."

And so the Adopt an Elder Program was born. Volunteers can provide services such as meals, cleaning, transportation and yard work. They don't do nursing or personal care or give financial assistance. To keep a volunteer's commitment manageable, the program organizes a team from a church. At Mecklenburg Community Church, five couples, all from the same Bible study group, set up a schedule to visit Alice, usually on Sundays. The couples each end up visiting about once a month.

Over the years, two conditions, Wegener's Granulomatosis and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, have damaged Alice's lungs, requiring her to use oxygen and a wheelchair. Until last year, she relied mainly on her daughter, Denesa Lawson, for her care.

But Denesa works full time and has her own children. Caring for her mother was taking a toll on her whole family, she says, and she felt near exhaustion.

Luckily, Alice had an acquaintance at Love INC who knew of her situation. When Love INC decided to launch Adopt an Elder, Alice became

the first client.

Nearly a year later, everyone involved calls the match a success.

Denesa still cares for her mom, visiting two or three times a week, but Adopt an Elder has given her back her weekends and improved their relationship.

The Turners say they've had a good time getting to know Alice. Typically, they bring meals and clean her home, then hang around to chat and watch television. They're all sports fans, so they've watched college basketball and racing. Alice's care team has also taken her to lunch, dinner and a movie, "The Passion of the Christ."

Alice says it's been especially rewarding watching these young couples as their families grow. Since she met the group, one couple has had a baby and a second is expecting. Recently, a third couple adopted, and promptly e-mailed Alice photos of the baby girl. "Their lives are so interesting to me," she says. "I just love them, every one."

Funded partly with a United Way grant, Adopt an Elder is still in its infancy. The program has trained seven teams of caregivers from seven different churches and plans

to train several more by year's end. Love INC's national leaders have been so impressed with the concept that they plan to introduce it to chapters across the country. Already, several chapters have called Marcum to ask about it.

"We feel we did hear the Lord's will with this one," she says. "We believe in this case, we did hear the right answer."

Democratic report alleges Halliburton overcharged to import gasoline to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, Halliburton, charged the government \$2.68 per gallon to import gasoline from Kuwait to Iraq while a U.S. government agency did the same job for \$1.57 a gallon, a congressional Democratic report said Wednesday.

Halliburton's oil deliveries cost taxpayers an extra \$166.5 million, when the company's per-gallon price is compared with the government agency's price, the report said.

The report by the House Government Reform Committee's Democratic staff was prepared for Reps. Henry Waxman of California and John Dingell of Michigan, two of the leading Democratic critics of the company Cheney led before running for vice president.

The presidential campaign of John Kerry also has made Halliburton's contracts in Iraq and elsewhere a campaign issue, saying the Bush administration has shown favoritism in giving the firm non-competitive contracts.

Cheney has repeatedly denied any current involvement in the company or the contracts it has received.

Wendy Hall, spokeswoman for Houston-based Halliburton, said in a written statement that the price comparisons are unfair.

She said KBR, the subsidiary that handled the oil deliveries, has repeatedly asked for copies of the successor contract

given to the Pentagon's Defense Energy Support Center.

"If DESC would provide a copy we would be happy to review and make comment. Although we have not seen the contract, we believe the terms are significantly different and could impact the price. Beyond that, it would be imprudent to make conclusions without a thorough examination of both contracts," Hall wrote.

Halliburton, which provides services to the U.S. military in numerous countries, received the non-competitive oil delivery work from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May, 2003, and was replaced by the DESC last April.

Waxman and Dingell often have criticized Halliburton's fuel costs but the latest study compares Halliburton's costs to those of its successor.

The report said the defense agency purchased its gasoline in Kuwait directly, and then hired a Kuwaiti company — Altanmia — to transport the fuel to Iraq.

Halliburton, in contrast, used Altanmia to deliver the fuel and also to act as a middleman to purchase the gasoline. This arrangement drove up the costs, the report said.

The report said that Halliburton charged the government more than DESC for all three components of the total price: fuel purchase, transportation and fees/markups.

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Parents sue wife of man run down

HOUSTON (AP)— The parents of a man who was fatally run down by his wife in a jealous rage two years ago have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against their daughter-in-law.

Gerald and Mildred Harris — who stood by daughter-in-law Clara Harris in the murder trial — are asking in a lawsuit filed in Harris County district court for a jury trial to determine monetary damages owed them as a result of their son's death. A rift between the couple and Clara Harris developed after her conviction.

Clara Harris, 46, a dentist, was convicted in February 2003 of murder by running over her orthodontist husband, David.

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2004

ION has a charge

Saturn economy car gets performance makeover

By CAROL TRAEGER

Knight Ridder

Ford has its SVT Focus, Dodge has its Neon SRT-4, and Nissan has its Sentra SE-R. They're sporty renditions of regular cars, souped up with stronger engines, stiffer suspension and maybe a giant wing. Tuners tweak cars. Versions from automakers cut out the middle man.

Now General Motors wants a piece of the tuner-car pie, too, and it's going after it with a Saturn Ion.

An Ion, you say? The ho-hum economy car that replaced the Saturn S-Series back in 2002?

Yep. Same Ion. But different. This one's a Red Line, which means it has been tweaked by Saturn's Red Line hop shop and the speed merchants at GM's Performance Division.

Red Line models, which include the Vue and the Ion, are performance versions of standard street cars. The formula is simple: Take an average economy car or sport-utility vehicle, add more horsepower, bigger wheels, a lowered and sport-tuned suspension, and maybe a spoiler and some rocker panels, and voila, you've got a hot rod for a bargain price.

Starting with a standard Ion Quad Coupe — which has two half-size rear doors that are hinged at the back — the Red Line team dumped that car's anemic 140-horsepower 2.2-liter four-cylinder engine in favor of a 205-horsepower 2.0-liter super-charged Ecotec four-cylinder. Not only does the blown powerplant produce 65 more horsepower, but it also improves torque by 55 pound-feet — from 145 to 200. The engine is mated to a close-ratio Getrag five-speed manual transmission, a shifter that has one less inch of travel than the shifter in the standard Ion.

Testifying to how serious Saturn is about the Ion Red Line's performance, engineers spent months shaking it out on race tracks throughout the country and on Germany's famed, 170-turn Nurburgring circuit. The Ion Red Line that emerged features a lowered suspension, firmer springs, larger shocks,

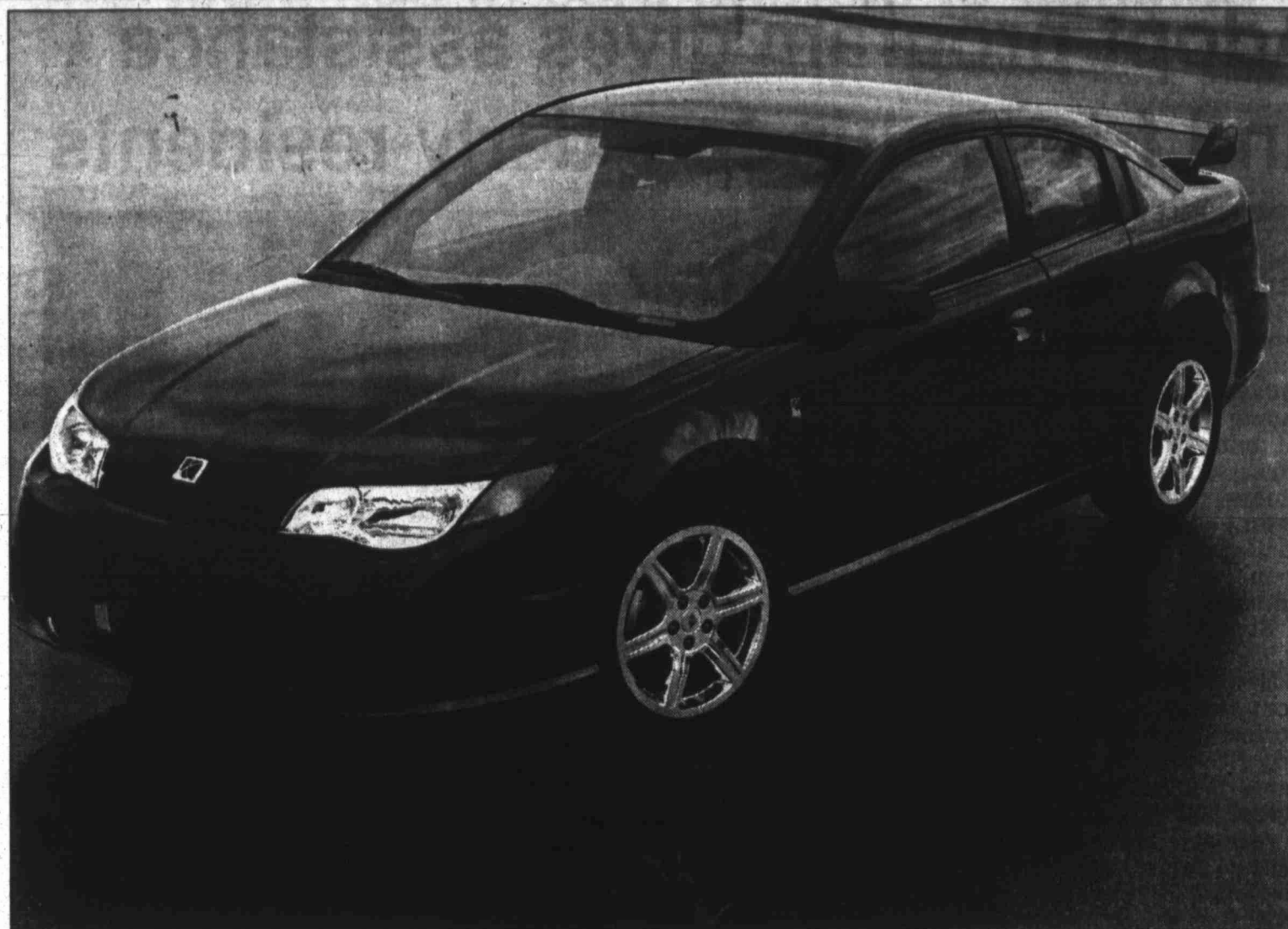
four-wheel disc ABS brakes, a high-flow exhaust, 17-inch wheels shod in Dunlop SP9000 performance tires, performance pedals (spaced for heel-toe shifting), and Recaro sport front seats.

Performance-wise, the Ion Red Line has a top speed of 144 mph. According to Saturn, it can rip from 0 to 60 mph in 6.3 seconds, and come to a stop from 60 mph in less than 120 feet. I didn't try to verify these numbers, but I had a lot of fun spirited this positively charged Ion around. With its 205-horsepower engine and 2,600-pound curb weight, the Ion RL feels frisky and light on its feet.

The engine emits a lusty burble on acceleration and feels perfectly matched to the swift-shifting gearbox. Saturn says it spaced the gear ratios evenly to keep the engine in its "sweet spot" between shifts. It works. The engine feels impossible to over-rev. Even when driving 70 mph in third gear, the tachometer registered just 4,800 rpm (the engine redlines at 6,500 rpm).

When it came to creating the Ion's exterior, Saturn's designers were apparently thinking "inside the box." In Red Line trim, the bland exterior rises halfway from the dead with the addition of a rear spoiler (available in several styles), a tiny Red Line emblem on the rear deck, a chrome-tipped exhaust pipe, special rocker moldings, and 17-inch six-spoke alloy wheels (which manage to look too dinky inside the gaping wheel wells).

Inside, the Red Line retains the regular Ion's center-mounted instrument binnacle and plasticky, down-market materials, but benefits from such extra goodies as a four-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel, Red Line shifter knob, performance pedals and Recaro sport front seats. The fabric Recaro seats hugged me as tightly as my Great Aunt Ethel when I tossed the Ion through the curves leading to Santa Cruz beach. The prickly seat fabric, however, is cruel to sunburned thighs, as I discovered when I drove home from the beach wearing shorts. (Bring a towel to sit on.)



The 2004 Saturn ION Red Line

WHAT WE DROVE:

2004 Saturn Ion Red Line Quad Coupe, a four-door, four-passenger coupe with a 2.0-liter, four-cylinder super-charged engine and a five-speed manual transmission

Stars: 5 stars

Base price: \$20,385

Price as tested (includes options and delivery charge): \$21,320

Curb weight: 2,590 pounds

Length: 185 inches

Turning circle (curb-to-curb): 35.4 feet

Standard features: Tuned induction and exhaust; front and rear performance stabilizer bars; race-track-tuned suspension; four-wheel disc brakes with anti-lock braking system; dual-stage front air bags; engine immobilizer; daytime running

lights; 17-inch forged aluminum wheels; P215/45ZR17 performance tires; sport fascias and rockers; bright exhaust tip; dual rear access doors; Recaro sport front seats; leather-wrapped performance steering wheel; performance pedal placement; air conditioning; power windows, mirrors and locks with anti-lockout; remote keyless entry; cruise control; AM/FM stereo with in-dash CD and MP3 player; tilt steering wheel; rear window defroster; 60/40-split rear seats; front and rear 12-volt power outlets.

Options on test vehicle: Front and rear floor mats; Saturn Advanced Audio System.

EPA figures: 23 mpg (city); 29 mpg (highway)

Permian Basin Area Foundation gives scholarship

The Permian Basin Area Foundation released the names of scholarships recipients for the 2004-05 school year. They are: John Connell Kayla Cook, Eric Tunnell, Krystle Mauldin and Mary Klein, all of Stanton, who received the John Connell Scholarship. Callie Harryman of Lenora, who received the Bob and Dorothy Deavenport Scholarship.

Jon Cotton, Krystin Hambleton and Rebecca Briggs, all of Stanton, and Mary Harryman and J.T. Springer III, both of Lenora, who received the Grace Loveless Jones Scholarship.

Jamie Salazar of

Stanton, who received the Jimmie and Dorothy Mashburn Scholarship.

Kinzie Williams of Stanton, who received the Dan and Billye Saunders Scholarship.

Haley M. Tollison of Stanton who received the J.M. Yater Scholarship.

Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Inc. Scholarships were awarded to Reina Cisneros of Big Spring, Garret Cornett of Coahoma, Kesha Christian of Forsan and Noemi Guerrero of Garden City.

Also Callie Harryman of Grady, Krista Blagrove of Sands and Kristi LeAnn Bridges of Stanton received Wes-Texas

Telephone Cooperative Inc. scholarships.

Marie Hall Scholarships were awarded to Tiffany Baker of Odessa, Mark Anthony Duran of Midland, April Fisher of Odessa, John Paul Garcia of Kermit, Marcos Gonzalez of Midland and Kyle Hartman of McCamey.

Also Rachel Haynes of Big Spring, Ashley Hicks of Odessa, Crystal Lange of Midland, Rachel Loe of Odessa, Christopher Matlock of Colorado City, Dana Reid of Coahoma, Joy Shaw of Big Spring and Laura Short of Midland received Marie Hall scholarships.

JULY CLEARANCE SALE



All Men, Women & Kid's Short Sleeve Shirts

BUY 1 HALF GET 1 PRICE



All Straw Hats 30% OFF

Large Group Of Men, Women, & Kid's Clothing HALF PRICE

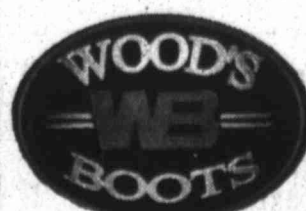


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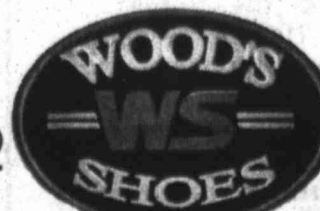


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IN BRIEF

Forsan announces week-long clinic

Forsan High School has announced an all-skills tennis clinic will take place Monday through Friday.

The camp is open for anyone in grades six through 12.

A section for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders will take place from 6-7 p.m. and the cost is \$25. The high school section will take place from 7-9 p.m. and will cost \$35.

To register, contact Tonya Vess at 432-268-8798 or 432-559-5822 or Connie Eggleston at 432-267-6913 or 432-517-0749.

Crossroads football sign-up dates set

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has announced the sign-up dates for the upcoming season.

Both football and cheerleading sign-ups will take place at the Big Spring Mall. Football players can sign up through Aug. 21 on Fridays (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) only. Cheerleaders can sign up at the same time through this Saturday.

The league is for kindergarten through sixth grade.

The flag football league costs \$30, while football division 1 and 2 and cheerleading costs \$55 and \$65, respectively.

For more information, call Stacie or Robert at 432-268-9634.

BSISD announces volleyball open gyms

Big Spring will hold volleyball open gyms on all Mondays and Thursdays for the summer from 6-8 p.m. at the junior high.

There will also be lifting and conditioning both Mondays and Thursdays after open gym from 8-9 p.m.

For more information, contact Revis Daggett at 432-816-9560.

Herald announces golf tournament

The Big Spring Herald has set its annual City Golf Championships for July 31 and Aug. 1 at Comanche Trail Park.

The tournament is open to all residents — men or women — of Howard County and annual members of Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Big Spring Country Club.

There is a \$35 entry fee, which includes green fee, but not carts. The tournament will be flighted by handicap and trophies will be awarded to flight winners.

For more information, contact Comanche Trail Golf Course at 264-2366.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Event, Time	Station	Time
Today		
Event, Time	Station	Time
Friday		
Event, Time	Station	Time
Saturday		
Event, Time	Station	Time

Armstrong continues to hold jersey

By JEROME PUGMIRE

Associated Press Writer
BOURG D'OISANS, France — Lance Armstrong led Tour de France riders up the final Alpine stage Thursday, the most punishing mountain trek so far in the three-week showcase race.

The 32-year-old Texan, inching closer to a record sixth Tour win, and others were to labor up five big climbs, including the grueling Col de la Madeleine, the highest peak in the Tour at a staggering 6,600 feet.

The 17th of 20 stages, a 127.08-mile slog from Bourg d'Oisans to Le Grand-Bornand, features three category 1 climbs — but the Col de la Madeleine is so tough it doesn't even have a rating.

Before the stage began, Spain's Roberto Heras, a former teammate of Armstrong, withdrew from the Tour after struggling Wednesday in a grueling individual time trial.

Heras, who left Armstrong's U.S. Postal-Berry Floor team to become leader of Spanish team Liberty Seguros, was the latest top contender to drop out.

Others included American Tyler Hamilton, Basque rider Iban Mayo and Spain's Haimar Zubeldia.

During Wednesday's time trial, Armstrong was booed, spat at and insulted, but shrugged off hostile sections of the crowd packing the road to win the stage — moving another step closer to cycling history.

Armstrong knows some would prefer that he didn't wear the overall leader's yellow jersey in Paris on July 25.

"That motivates me more than anything," he said. "It certainly doesn't work against me. I'm not concerned about them."

Armstrong extended his overall lead in winning the 9.6-mile clock race, as hundreds of thousands of fans snaked up the mountainside, standing perilously close to the riders.

The tense atmosphere, heightened by about 4.9 miles of unfenced roads, reached its peak when some spectators spit at and verbally abused Armstrong.

Armstrong complained about some German fans, saying they were "horrible." It was the first time that Tour organizers ran a time trial on the legendary climb.

It likely will take more than unruly fan behavior to stop Armstrong.

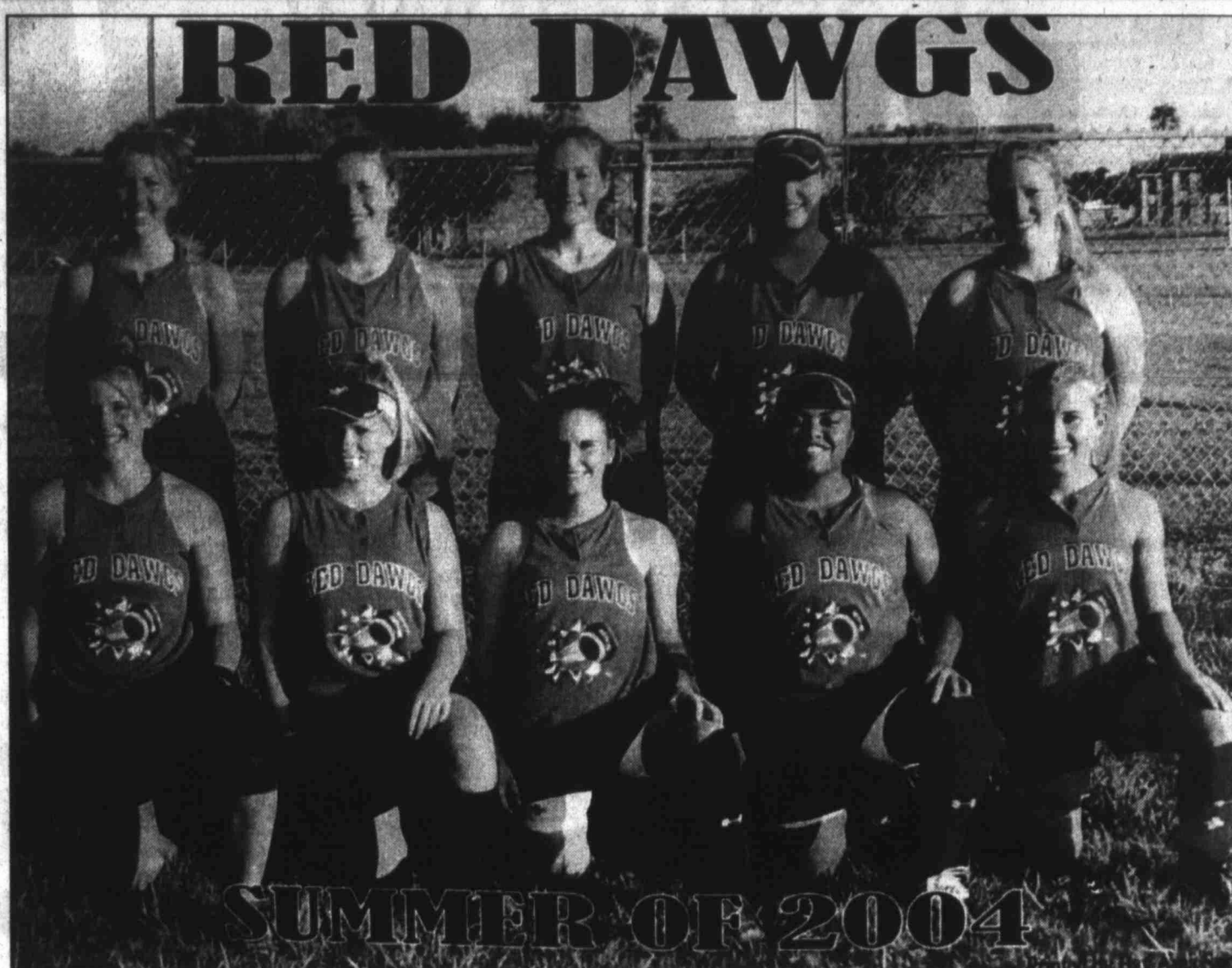
Armstrong has been peerless in climbs, winning three of the four mountain stages and finishing second once.

Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner and the last rider to beat the Texan in a time trial, was easily beaten, settling for second place 61 seconds back.

The German has finished runner-up five times in the Tour, including three times behind Armstrong.

Overall, Armstrong has a commanding lead of 3:48 over Basso. Ullrich improved to fourth, but trails by 7:55.

Armstrong seemingly has the Tour all wrapped up, but typically, he is not thinking that way.



The Red Dawgs softball team — which is made up of girls from Coahoma, Odessa, Eldorado and Greenwood — has qualified for the ASA 18-and-under Western Nationals in McAllen Aug. 2 through Aug. 8, after finishing second in the ASA 18-and-under state tournament over the July 4 weekend. The Red Dawgs compiled a 5-2 record at the state tournament, losing to the Rio Grande Valley Stars both times. They defeated teams from Rio Grande, El Paso and Corpus Christi en route to the championship game where they lost to the Stars, 10-1. Front row, from left: Brittany Allison, Betsy Green, Cheyenne Grice, Ami Martinez and Elizabeth Conley. Back: Ashle New, Emily Burgess, Christie Rich, Kall Roberts and Meagan Allison. Grice, Martinez, Conley, New, Roberts and Rich are all from Coahoma. The team is coached by Rocky New, Terry Don Roberts and Wade Allison. The Western Nationals tournament is expected to feature around 40 teams from the Western United States.

Rangers extend West lead

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON — Thanks to their surprising pitching, the Texas Rangers can do more than just out-hit teams now.

"It's why we are in first. We have the hitters, but we have to pitch," closer Francisco Cordero said. "It's been an unbelievable season, not only for me, but the whole team."

Ryan Drese threw seven innings in another impressive home start, leading Texas over the Anaheim Angels 3-2 on Wednesday night. Two relievers combined for a perfect eighth before Cordero got three outs for his 30th save in 32 chances.

Alfonso Soriano hit the major league-leading 145th homer for Texas, second in the majors with 524 runs.

The AL West-leading Rangers (54-38) have their best record through 92 games, one more win than in 1996 when they won their first division title. They are a season-

best 16 games over .500, going 5-1 since the All-Star break.

Michael Young's two-out double in the seventh drove in the go-ahead run, and the bullpen dominated the Angels in the last two innings.

Ron Mahay retired his only two batters and Carlos Almanzar struck out Vladimir Guerrero on three straight fastballs to end the eighth. Cordero then worked a perfect ninth.

"Fortunately, we had Ryan going and he kept us right in the middle of the game," Young said. "Our bullpen has been awesome."

Drese (6-5) allowed two runs on five hits, and his 1.98 home ERA is the second-best in the AL behind Oakland's Tim Hudson. All of Drese's wins have come at home, where his only loss was a 1-0 complete game against Houston.

"Drese kept the ball down all night," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's got a real good

arm, but has really started to understand the importance of movement and locating pitches."

Texas relievers have a 1.59 ERA since the All-Star break, allowing just four earned runs in 22 2-3 innings.

Anaheim lost for the fifth time in six games. The third-place Angels dropped a season-high six games behind Texas.

Young's double in the seventh, on the second pitch by Francisco Rodriguez, drove in Gary Matthews Jr. Young finished 2-for-4, extending his major league-leading totals to 135 hits and 45 multihit games.

Matthews led off the inning by drawing a four-pitch walk against Kelvim Escobar (5-7) and stealing second. The right-hander was relieved after getting a strikeout and a grounder.

Escobar struck out eight — seven in the first three innings, but he still trailed 2-0.

Soriano's 19th homer came after Young and

Hank Blalock, Texas' other All-Star infielders, struck out in the first. Soriano is 12-for-26 with three homers in his last seven games.

One night after tying a team record with three doubles, Rod Barajas led off the third with another two-bagger and scored on Blalock's two-out single that only went about 12 feet.

Blalock, mired in an 8-for-44 slump over 12 games, took a full swing. The ball dribbled up the third-base line and came to a stop in the grass just outside the cutoff surrounding home plate.

Jose Guillen, back in Anaheim's lineup after missing three games with lower back spasms, drove in Garret Anderson with his fourth-inning ground-out. Anderson singled and advanced on Guerrero's double.

Anaheim tied the game at 2 when Darin Erstad drew a leadoff walk in the seventh and scored on Adam Kennedy's two-out single.

George gets wish, Titans release veteran back

By The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans granted Eddie George's request and released the franchise's all-time leading rusher — a move

forced by salary cap pressures and perhaps George's declining skills.

The eight-year veteran, who turns 31 in September, rejected the Titans' latest offer and asked for his release

Monday so he would have time to catch on with another team before training camps open next week.

The Titans wanted George back, but at a reduced salary. The team's final offer was \$1.5 million in base salary — considerably less than the \$4.25 million he expected

to make this season.

George, who has never missed a start in his career, was popular with Titans fans, but his production slipped in recent years. In 2000, he ran for 1,509 yards, averaging 3.7 yards per carry. Last season his average fell to 3.3 yards per carry as he rushed for 1,031 yards.

Howard College Hawk Basketball Camp

When: July 26-30
Who: Third grade through high school (boys and girls)
Where: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Cost: Day camper, \$120
Overnight campers, \$220
Registration: Campers will register at 9 a.m. Monday, July 26, at Dorothy Garrett
Objectives: Teach fundamentals, discipline, sportsmanship, shooting, rebounding, passing, defense, ball handling and more
Food: Lunch is provided for day campers, but overnight campers will be provided breakfast, lunch and dinner
Staff: Howard head coach Mark Adams and assistant coach Jason Sautter

ODESSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Corpus Christi

August 7

5:30 p.m. — Tailgate party
7:30 p.m. — IFL game

Church Night

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Garage Sales

1301 MESQUITE, Fri. & Sat. 7-7. Bedroom suit, couch, love seat, recliner and more.

1806 ALABAMA, Saturday 8-1. Roll-a-way bed, lg. mirror, baby stroller & car seat combo, swing, picture frames and lots of misc.

Garage Sales

2 FAMILY Garage Sale: 4907 Ratliff, Fri. 8-? & Sat. 8-12. Clothing, bedding, furniture, toys, misc. items.

BIG GARAGE Sale: Friday & Saturday 7-5, 1014 Baylor. Christmas decorations, clothing, Coca Cola items. Just a little bit of everything.

GARAGE SALE, Saturday, 8:00am. Recliner, dinette set, office chairs, Jr. dresses, petite ladies motorcycle jacket, exercise stepper, his her bicycles, Mustang 5.0 rims, and misc.

GARAGE SALE: 1601 E. 11th Place, Saturday 8-2. Lots of assorted odds and ends.

GARAGE SALE: 1701 Lancaster, Saturday 8:00-? Furniture, fax machine, typewriter, microwave, name brand children, youth boy & girl clothing, toys and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 2209 North McGregor Rd. (Coahoma), Friday & Saturday 8-12. Couch, daybed, chair, lamps, sheets, clothing and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 622 State, Fri. & Sat. 8-2. VCR, DVD, new and name brand clothing, furniture and more.

MOVING SALE: 805 Highland Drive, Saturday 9-?. Kid swing set, furniture, baby bedding and little boy bedding, lots of knick-knacks.

MOVING SALE, Lots of miscellaneous. Saturday, 8:00-12:00. 2411 Allendale.

Garage Sales

MULTI. FAMILY Garage Sale: 1810 Morrison, Fri. & Sat. 8-?. Treadmill, baby & boys clothing, stroller, swing, car seat and more.

YARD SALE, 1813 S. Benton. Saturday only, 8:00-2:00. Baby girl clothing 0-9 months, boys clothes, 12-24 months, and other baby items, new items still tagged.

YARD SALE, Saturday only, 8:00-? 1903 S. Monticello. Clothes, Coca Cola collectibles, belts, furniture. Home-made burritos.

YARD SALE: Corner of Central & 2nd (Coahoma), Sat. 8-?. Kitchen, knick-knacks, clothes, lots of goodies.

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CDL DRIVER Needed. Good driving record. Must be over 23 years old. Reside in Big Spring. Apply at Mitchem Wrecker, 5715 West IH-20.

CHILD CAREGIVER position, full or part-time. Day or evening hours. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. No phone calls please.

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District has three openings for a Maintenance Worker in Big Spring, Lake Thomas and Martin County. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Applications are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

MUDLOGGER. Permian Basin experience. Call 1-800-533-8334 and ask for Frank or Ken.

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Property Belonging to Hattie Banta

Sat., July 24 - 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sun. July 25, 11 A.M. - 4:00 PM

135 W. Line St.

Loraine, TX

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815 WEST 17th. Nice 2 bedroom, 2-bath, fireplace, 2 car garage, fenced backyard, good location. \$650.00 month \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)267-7032.

COAHOMA AREA 2 bdrm, 1 bath, large carport, fenced yard. 102 Weaver, \$300 a month, \$150 deposit. Call 263-4528 or 432-296-0277 or 432-296-1523.

FOR RENT 7000 Sq. Feet Building with nice office. Also has 2- 14 ft. overhead doors. Call (432)634-1272 or 263-6021 or 267-8696.

HOME IN the country. 2314 N. Anderson. Spacious 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, pool, fireplace and more. Rent \$750.00 per month. Call (432)267-4206.

OFFICE/ SHOWROOM. 1800 sq. ft. 1307 B. Gregg St. \$400/month + deposit. Call Westex Auto Parts @ (432)263-5000.

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FOR SALE by Owner. 3 Bedroom Duplex. CH/A, fenced yard. Owner will finance with reasonable down payment. 2600 & 2602 Albroom. \$42,500. Appointment only. (432)352-0152.

Real Estate for Sale

FOR SALE By Owner. Owner Financing Provided. Low down payment, low monthly. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath brick home with shop out back. 1202 West 15th. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

FOR SALE, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house to be moved. Need some repair. Luther area. \$6,000. Call (210)414-9858.

HOUSE FOR Sale. 606 S. Main (Coahoma). 2 BR. \$250. down & \$250 monthly for 47 months. Call (432)267-2659.

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MUST SELL: 800 N. Pine. Plus four lot's to be fixed up. For INFO Call (512)589-2050. Asking Price \$12,500. OBO.

OWNER WILL FINANCE! 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Just remodeled! Great condition! 1209 Sycamore and 1214 Ridgeroad. LOW DOWN, LOW MONTHLY! Tadlock Realtors (432)580-4883.

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PRICE REDUCED 3205 Duke. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath has pool. Owner will look at all offers. Call Coldwell Banker (432)267-3061.

Rent to Own 3202 Auburn. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath with 1 car garage. New Evaporated Air Condition, fenced yard. \$400 month plus taxes and insurance. Owner Finance with \$2000 down and References. Call (432)267-6667.

SALE by owner: 110 Circle newly remodeled 3/2, 1600 sq ft. CH/A. Owner finance with \$1200 down. Payments approximately \$425 a month. Call 263-8005 or 270-0833.

SALE By Owner. Owner financing provided. Low down payment. Low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, freshly painted outside, fenced backyard. 1611 Owens. Call Kelly, (432)425-9994.

WOULD YOU like to own your home but have bad credit or not enough credit. 1209 Sycamore could be that home. I can work with you on the down payment Call Annette Sanchez @ 432-413-0549 or 432-620-8285 I will Finance you a house for 10 Years.

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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Danay	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6	News (CC)	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
7	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
8	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
9	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
10	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
11	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among
12	News Wheel	News Wheel	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Passion de Gavilanes	News Sainfield (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Lehrer	Atlantic City Casino	Movie: Last Train From	Star Trek: Next	Movie: The Fifth Element	Movie: The Parkers	Movie: Zenon	WNBA Basketball	Boxing: 1975	Movie: They Are Among

DENNIS THE MENACE

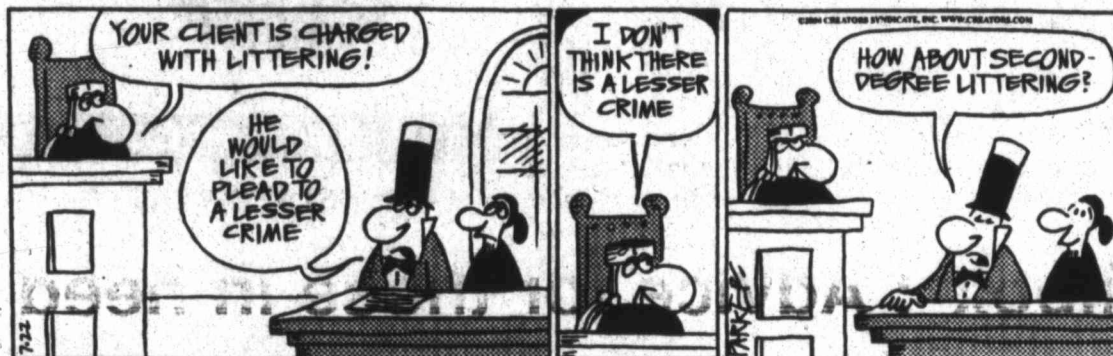


"... AND PLEASE TEACH MY DAD HOW TO KEEP A CAMPFIRE GOING."

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I saw it on TV once, but it looked littler."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 22, the 204th day of 2004. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 22, 1933, American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world in seven days, 18 and three-quarter hours.

On this date: In 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleveland.

In 1916, a bomb went off during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco, killing 10 people.

In 1934, a man identified as bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater.

In 1937, the Senate rejected President Franklin D.

Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1942, gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic seaboard.

In 1943, American forces led by Gen. George S. Patton captured Palermo, Sicily.

In 1946, Jewish extremists blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 90 people.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1995, Susan Smith was convicted by a jury in Union, S.C., of first-degree murder for drowning her two sons. (She was later sentenced to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: O.J. Simpson pleaded innocent to the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Five years ago: Family members watched mournfully from the deck of a Navy destroyer as the ashes

of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, were cast into the sea off Martha's Vineyard, consigned to the depths where they'd died.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 81. Singer Margaret Whiting is 80. Actor-comedian Orson Bean is 76. Actor Perry Lopez is 73. Fashion designer Oscar de la Renta is 72. Actress Louise Fletcher is 70. Director John Korty is 68. Actor Terence Stamp is 65. Game show host Alex Trebek is 64. Singer George Clinton is 64.

Answer to previous puzzle

SHAFT PACT POMP
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BISECT AUREVOIR
WHOA TAXI
TAME ARP TSARS
ABEL TOILER WAY
TILLWEMEETAGAIN
ADO HEARTH ORSO
RENEE SON DEED
LEES NIPS
TOODLEOO COPPER
RATE RUIN SEALY
IRIS ISLE SENSE
PSSY EAST EDGES

Newsday Crossword

GAMESTERS' WOES by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman

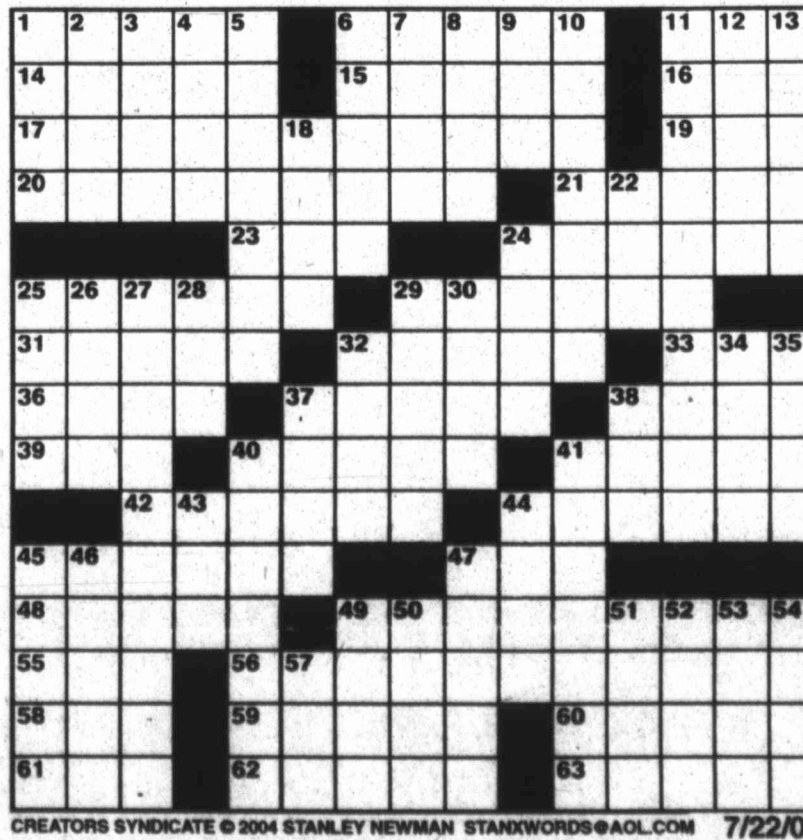
ACROSS

- 1 Lion group
- 6 Monastery superiors
- 11 Astor's business
- 14 Goes it alone
- 15 Superman portrayer
- 16 Santa — winds
- 17 Video effect
- 19 JFK served in it
- 20 Statement of belief
- 21 Did some cobbling
- 23 Poet Hughes
- 24 Napoleon or turnover
- 25 Flat dweller
- 29 Grew like a weed
- 31 Cuzco people
- 32 In one piece
- 33 Hasty escape
- 36 Satirist Sahl
- 37 Monstro, in Pinocchio
- 38 Sitarist Shankar
- 39 Mad — hatter
- 40 "Done at last!"
- 41 Like some booms
- 42 Bounty port of call
- 44 Rip off
- 45 Artist of visual paradoxes
- 47 Adversary
- 48 Iranian faith
- 49 Boat hangers-on
- 55 Have dinner
- 56 Club-soda garnish
- 58 SFO listing

- 59 Apartment sign
- 60 Dine at home
- 61 Rorem or Beatty
- 62 Mushers' vehicles
- 63 Resided

DOWN

- 1 Attention getter
- 2 Tug-of-war need
- 3 Misfortunes
- 4 —-yourself
- 5 Fancy homes
- 6 Bow-shaped
- 7 Swiss capital
- 8 Red veggie
- 9 She raised Cain
- 10 Having feeling
- 11 Geological break site
- 12 Racing family name
- 13 Hurler Johnson
- 18 Hook henchman
- 22 Buckeyes' sch.
- 24 Vaulters' need
- 25 Peru's capital
- 26 Son of Seth
- 27 Place to doodle
- 28 Took a load off
- 29 Puppeteer Lewis
- 30 Putter's target
- 32 Sharpen
- 34 Tel —
- 35 Nursery rhyme trio
- 37 Propeller sound
- 38 Reine's spouse
- 40 Supreme Being
- 41 Believers
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 — avail
- 45 Haley replaced him as the Tin Man
- 46 Brown in a pan
- 47 Guitar ridges
- 49 Liver product
- 50 Got 100 on
- 51 Lobster's weapon
- 52 Lo-cal
- 53 Oscar winner Jannings
- 54 Shipped off
- 57 Cyber-guffaw



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

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SIEMENS 300

Where: New Hampshire International Speedway, a 1.058-mile paved flat oval located in Loudon, N.H.
When: Sunday at 2 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.
TV: TNT.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.



Johnson

Purse: \$5,144,134.
Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.
Worth noting: Terry Labonte is expected to make his 800th career Cup start at New Hampshire. He is the fifth driver in NASCAR history to compete in 800 or more Cup races. Richard Petty heads the list with 1,185, followed by Dave Marcis (883), Ricky Rudd (821) and Darrell Waltrip (809).

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

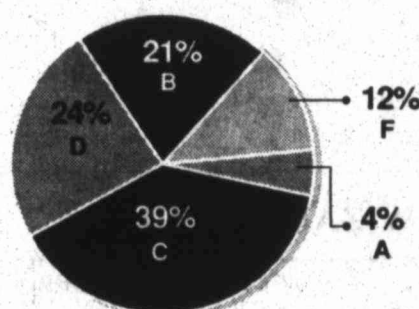
Who's the Nextel Cup driver you most love to hate?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What grade would you give the quality of racing this season on the Nextel Cup circuit?

Number of votes: 8,823



STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS

A list of who's hot and who's not in the NASCAR Nextel Cup series:

WHO'S HOT

■ **Jimmie Johnson** has 10 top-five finishes in the past 11 races. He also has 13 top-five finishes, four more than any other driver this season.

■ **Jeff Gordon** has four top-five finishes in the past five races.

■ **Terry Labonte** has four top 10s in the past six races.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Kurt Busch** has dropped from first to ninth in points over the past 12 races.

■ **Matt Kenseth** has one finish better than 12th in his past six races.

■ **Jeff Burton** has finished 23rd or worse in three of his past five races.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of July 11:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. J. Johnson (48)	2720	21. T. Labonte (5)	1894
2. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	2615	22. R. Gordon (31)	1838
3. J. Gordon (24)	2478	23. G. Biffle (16)	1806
4. T. Stewart (20)	2393	24. J. Burton (99)	1795
5. M. Kenseth (17)	2321	25. J. Nemechek (01)	1763
6. B. Labonte (18)	2278	26. W. Burton (0)	1737
7. E. Sadler (38)	2252	27. S. Wimmer (22)	1700
8. K. Harvick (29)	2229	28. R. Rudd (21)	1667
9. K. Busch (97)	2211	29. B. Gaughan (77)	1581
10. R. Newman (12)	2173	30. S. Riggs (10)	1517
11. J. Mayfield (19)	2108	31. R. Craven (32)	1472
12. D. Jarrett (88)	2083	32. K. Schrader (49)	1468
13. J. McMurray (42)	2068	33. K. Petty (45)	1444
14. K. Kahne (9)	2044	34. J. Green (43)	1422
15. M. Martin (6)	2035	35. J. Sauter	1217
16. C. Mears (41)	1998	36. D. Blaney (30)	953
17. R. Wallace (2)	1965	37. J. Spencer (4)	943
18. M. Waltrip (15)	1960	38. D. Cope (50)	841
19. S. Martin (40)	1941	39. K. Lepage (51)	582
20. B. Vickers (25)	1913	40. M. Shepherd (89)	502

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of July 10:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Truex Jr.	2863	11. K. Kahne	2126
2. K. Busch	2811	12. A. Lewis	2117
3. J. Keller	2504	13. T. Fedewa	2081
4. R. Hornaday	2495	14. R. Gordon	2050
5. D. Green	2495	15. K. Wallace	2028
6. G. Biffle	2487	16. C. Alwood	2002
7. J. Leffler	2444	17. S. Compton	1989
8. B. Hamilton Jr.	2393	18. D. Stremme	1980
9. M. Waltrip	2293	19. R. Pressley	1977
10. M. Bliss	2232	20. J. Sauter	1954

NEXT RACE: Saturday, New England 200, Loudon, N.H.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of July 17:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Setzer	1837	6. T. Musgrave	1610
2. B. Hamilton	1773	7. R. Crawford	1598
3. C. Edwards	1671	8. T. Kvapil	1564
4. M. Crafton	1651	9. J. Sprague	1544
5. C. Chaffin	1650	10. J. Wood	1527

NEXT RACE: July 31, Line-X Spray-on Truck Bedliners 200, Brooklyn, Mich.

Cutting to the 'Chase'

Cup drivers assess NASCAR's new title format

BY JIM PEDLEY
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Since NASCAR unveiled its plans for what amounts to a season-ending playoff in Nextel Cup, drivers and teams have taken a wait-and-see attitude.

Well, the wait is coming to an end. Only eight races will remain until the 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup, which includes the Oct. 10 race at Kansas Speedway, begins.

And what have we seen?

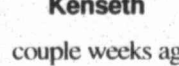
■ **The folks at NASCAR clearly think that their Chase (don't call it a playoff) is doing what it was designed to do:** They think it is creating improved racing and a snowballing excitement among fans, media and competitors as the season has progressed.



France

When the Chase begins on Sept. 19 at New Hampshire International Speedway, NASCAR officials think they'll more than hold their own against the NFL, college football, baseball's playoff run and the impending start of college hoops.

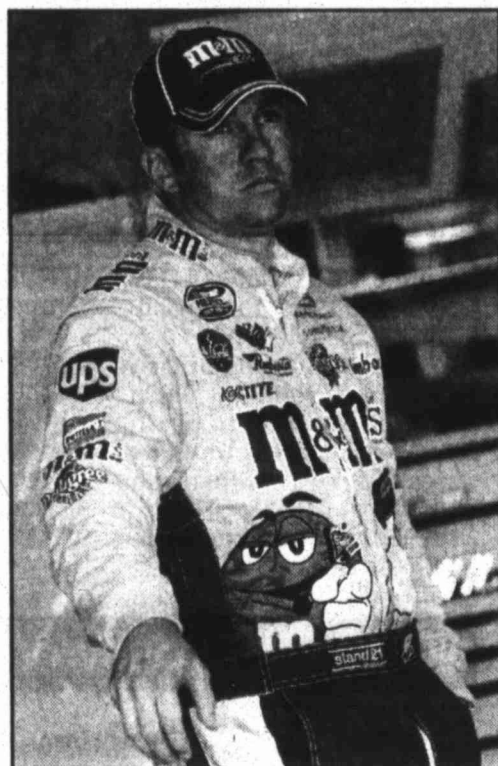
■ **Many drivers say they have not altered their driving strategies in light of the change:** Defending Nextel Cup champion Matt Kenseth had the most succinct answer when asked if he has changed the way he drives this year.



Kenseth

couple weeks ago.

"No," Kenseth said a



Elliott Sadler says he checks his place in the points standings on a weekly basis.

■ **Back at the shops, however, it appears life has changed:** Kenseth said his team, which looks to be included in the Chase, has "sort of" begun making preparations for the final 10 races.

"We're trying to design some new stuff on our chassis and some new stuff on our bodies, some testing and starting to get ready to know what we want to build for the last 10," he said.

■ **Many teams are well aware of where they are in the Chase:** Elliott Sadler, who drives for Robert Yates Racing, said he knows where he is and where others are in the chase for the Chase.

"Every Sunday night and Monday, I'm studying the points and looking at who we gained on and who we lost to and why," said Sadler, who sits seventh in the standings. "I also

try to project what we have to do the next one or two races to be where we want to be."

■ **Many teams that will not be in the Chase are beginning to feel left out of all the fun:** Driver Rusty Wallace, who is 17th in the points race, said he doesn't like the way those who no longer have hopes of making the Chase are feeling these days.

"If you're out of the top 10 this time, it's going to make you feel like a loser and I don't think that's good for the sport," he said.

■ **There is talk that the Chase will have a dramatic — perhaps drastic — effect on team-sponsor relationships:** "I feel like the sponsors are being cheated if they are not in the top-10 cutoff," driver Ricky Rudd said. "I think you will see sponsors in the future having one price if you are in the top 10 at the end of the year — because you are definitely going to get more attention — and another (price) if the guys were not in the top 10. I'm afraid it's going to come to that."



Rudd

■ **The heat is on for drivers:** "It's high as it's ever been in my career to make the top 10 at the 26th race," veteran driver Mark Martin said of the pressure this year. "If I can make the top 10, I may only have five minutes of relief and then start agonizing over whether or not we can win the championship because we're not going to be a contender for it if we can't make that cut."



Martin

■ **Only 10 drivers will be in the Chase this year, making moot the rule that says other drivers within 400 points of the leader after race 26 also will be included:** Heading to New Hampshire, the current ninth-place driver (Bobby Labonte) is 442 points behind leader Jimmie Johnson. The 11th-place driver (Jeremy Mayfield) is more than 600 back.

It's your call, Junior, but I'd catch a flick next time

Surely by now you've seen the replays of the crash in which Dale Earnhardt Jr. suffered burns Sunday at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif.

Earnhardt Jr. was released from a hospital in Sacramento Monday morning after being treated for the burns on his chin and both of his inner thighs.

His team has already begun working on the car he'll drive this weekend at New Hampshire International Speedway, trying to get more air to the affected areas, which will be sensitive to heat for a couple of weeks.

Thank goodness he was wearing gloves with his fire suit — he wasn't when he drove in the Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in May. That fire-protective clothing, com-

bined with the car's other safety equipment and, quite frankly, a little divine providence, kept the incident from being as serious as it looked.

It's pointless to argue about

whether Earnhardt Jr. had any business driving in an American Le Mans Series race on the final weekend off for Nextel Cup teams this season. Racers are going to race when they get opportunities that appeal to them.

Earnhardt Jr. has loved driving the factory-backed Corvette he was in Sunday ever since he ran the Rolex 24 at Daytona with his late father back

in 2001.

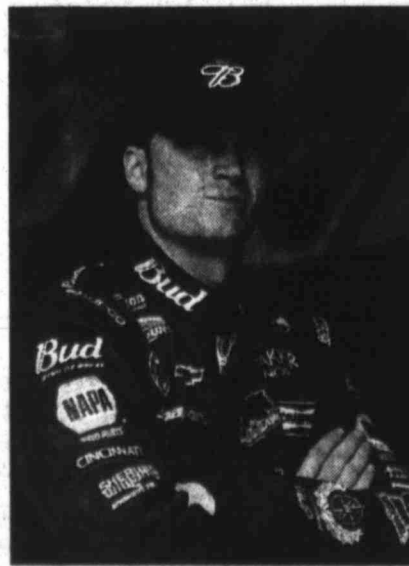
That enjoyment has to be balanced against a lot of other factors, though. Earnhardt Jr. has a team that's trying to help him win a Nextel Cup championship. He's got sponsors

"It's pointless to argue whether Earnhardt Jr. had any business driving in an American Le Mans Series race. ... Racers are going to race when they get opportunities that appeal to them."

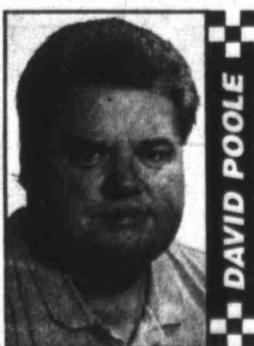
who've invested a lot of money into seeing him drive his red No. 8 Chevrolet. He's the main asset of Dale Earnhardt Inc.

Ultimately, it's the driver who's strapping himself into a car every time he goes racing. So it's his call.

But after what happened Sunday, if he asked me I think I'd tell Earnhardt Jr. to go see a movie on his next weekend off.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. suffered burns to his chin and inner thighs in an American Le Mans practice session at Infineon Raceway last Sunday.



DAVID POOLE

PHOTO BY AUTOSTOCK. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC GOODWIN/KRT