

ngness to
e "zing"
hip that
fusion.
Jan. 20-
feel as
are in
schedule
ife. Turn
nts willy-
ves you
edule. It's
our own
exciting

19-March
pletely in
w much
have —
thers are
changes
alize it.
ork envi-
it moti-
achieve

ROFILES:
ds is a
Aquarian
relatively
e tabloid
r recent
Charlie
o focused
children
have time
e prying
and focus
nd of 2006,
nd herself
of a new
a new
urely fol-

ke to write
his, please
ators.com
Write the
e Holiday
you may
ard in the
out more
Mathis and
columns,
Creators
page at
m.
ORS SYN-

34,725

3,500

2,930

95

ab

18,500

\$2,000

\$1,005

5

BIG SPRING

HERALD

INSIDE

Hawks start conference play with sweep of Western Texas

Page 1B

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 73

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006

COPYRIGHT 2006

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Willie's on the road again

In concert tonight with fellow outlaw David Allen Coe in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

By THOMAS JENKINS

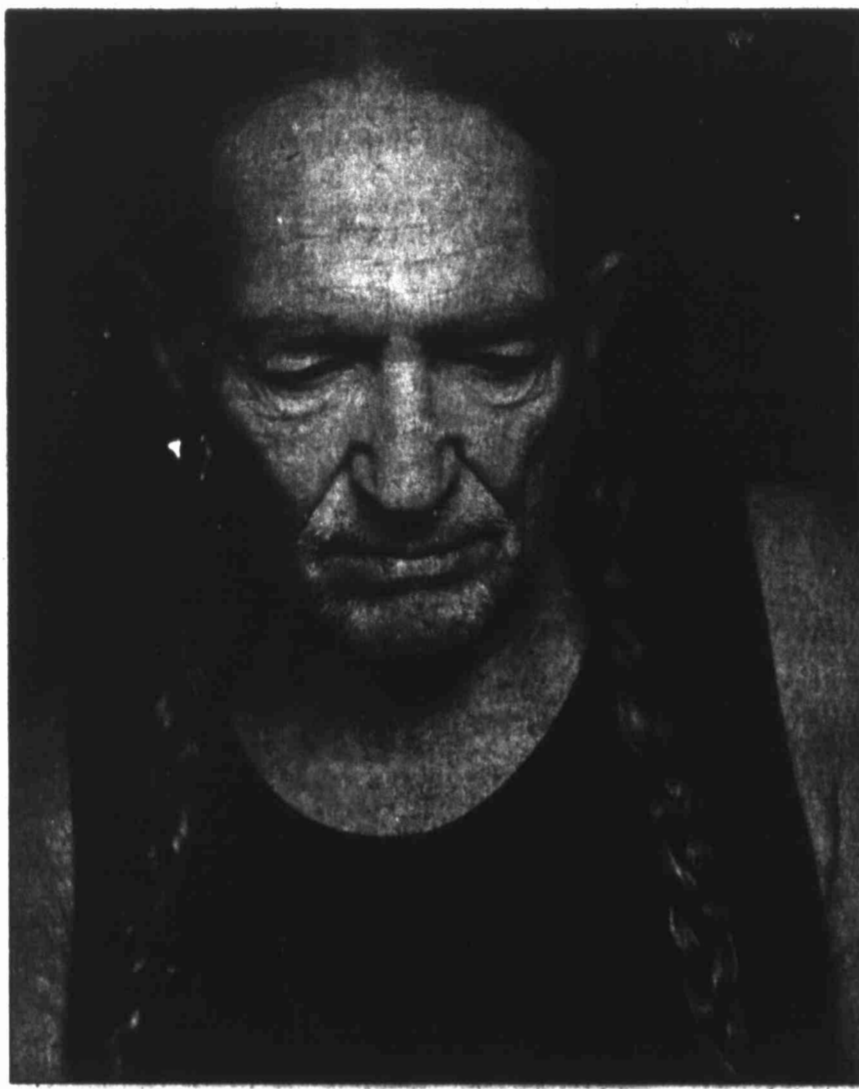
Staff Writer

Legendary country and western artists Willie Nelson and David Allen Coe have cut a wide swath across the world in their long-lived careers, and that path will bring the pair of musical outlaws to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum tonight.

Set for tonight at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., tickets are \$35 and will be available at the Howard College Box Office. As of Wednesday, some 2,500 tickets had already been sold.

Born in 1933 in the tiny Central Texas farming community of Abbott, Willie Nelson grew up in a world permeated with music — the gospel songs of the grandparents who raised him; the blues and Mexican corridas that eased the labor of the cotton fields; the country and Western Swing hits filling the airwaves from Nashville and Fort Worth — and the inner music was inside of him.

"I was raised and worked in the cotton fields around Abbott with a lot of African-Americans and a lot of Mexican-Americans, and we listened to their music all the time. I guess that's why I was influenced a lot by those around me — there was a lot of singing that went on in the cotton fields," said Nelson during a break at this year's annual Fourth of July Picnic.



His around-the-beat blues-flavored vocals set the Nashville musical establishment on his ear. His spare-sounding breakthrough album, 1975's "Red-Headed Stranger," went so against the Music City grain of the day that his record company president first thought Nelson had presented him with a demo. His early-70s merger of the traditional country and long-haired hippie audiences was called suicidal at the time,

Willie Nelson, left, and David Allen Coe, right, will perform at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus at 7:30 p.m. tonight. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. As of this morning, tickets were still available at the coliseum box office. Unless the show is sold out, tickets will also be available at the door. To reach to box office, call 264-5045.



and has since come to be regarded as visionary.

Outside the recording studio, Nelson established himself as a champion for the family farmer with his annual Farm Aid concerts. His Fourth of July Picnics have for the past quarter-century served as a rite of musical passage in Texas.

Nelson's films include The Electric Horseman (with Robert Redford and Jane Fonda), Songwriter (with Kris Kristofferson), Wag the Dog (with Robert DeNiro and Dustin Hoffman), and many others.

Today, Nelson divides his time between the road and his

beloved Pedernales recording studio and golf course in the Hill Country outside of Austin. Often asked when he plans to retire, the 67-year old Nelson invariably replies with a smile, "All I do is play music and golf — which one do you want me to give up?"

Nelson isn't the only country music visionary set to take the stage this evening, as music-world bad-boy icon David Allen Coe is set to perform.

From the age of nine, Coe was in and out of reform schools, correction centers and prisons.

See CONCERT, Page 3A

Cheney calls shooting 'one of the worst days of my life,' takes full blame

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Soft-spoken and contrite, Dick Cheney relived the horrible moment when he fired his shotgun at a quail only to see his bloodied hunting companion drop to the ground.

"I ran over to him," Cheney said, telling his version of shooting 78-year-old Harry Whittington on Saturday for the first time Wednesday to Fox News Channel. "He was laying there on his back, obviously, bleeding. You could see where the shot struck him."

He said Whittington was conscious and breathing but stunned silent.

"I said, 'Harry, I had no idea you were there.' He didn't respond," Cheney said.

The vice president tried to stem the damage from a public relations disaster for the White House, accepting responsibility for the accident while defending his decision to keep it from the public until the next day.

"You can't blame anybody else," Cheney told Fox's Brit Hume in a half-hour interview. "I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend."

"The image of him falling is something I'll never ever be able to get out of my mind," Cheney said. "I fired, and there's Harry falling. It was, I'd



Vice President Dick Cheney took full responsibility for the accidental shooting of hunting partner Harry Whittington.

have to say, one of the worst days of my life at that moment."

Cheney said he had had a beer at lunch that day but nobody was drinking

when they went back out to hunt a couple hours later at a sprawling Texas ranch owned by Cheney. See CHENEY, Page 3A

Chamber likely to take a stand on lockup issue

By THOMAS JENKINS

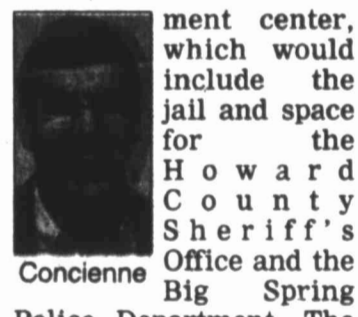
Staff Writer

As the debate surrounding the county's need for a new jail facility heats up, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors discussed Wednesday whether the organization should get involved.

"I guess the question is whether or not we should take a stance on this, and if so, how to go about it," Joe Conciencie, chamber past president, told the board.

The question was posed by Conciencie following a brief update from chamber ex-officio Bill Crooker, who also serves as a Howard County commissioner.

"There are two basic schools of thought at this point," said Crooker. "One is that we should build a joint law enforce-



Conciencie

ment center, which would include the jail and space for the Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Big Spring Police Department. The other thinking is to build a smaller, jail-only facility in downtown Big Spring."

Crooker said he supported the joint law enforcement center, not just because it would allow local law enforcement to reduce duplication of services, but because he feels having both departments under the same roof is moving toward a future realignment of the two.

"I don't expect to see it in my lifetime, but I

See CHAMBER, Page 3A

INDEX

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



Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

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

BECOMING THE TEACHER

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — When the principal of Blair Elementary School needed someone to instruct teachers in the use of PlayStations, she turned to the experts — the students.

The school purchased 23 PlayStations last month to use with educational games for third- through fifth-graders. But not all the teachers took to the video games — one became so flustered that she didn't want use them in class, principal Sharon Sand said. So Wednesday, students gave advice on plugging in the machines, using the software and navigating the buttons. Not all the teachers needed help, but many did.

COMING THIS WEEKEND

The Big Spring Herald presented contested candidates in the March primaries with a questionnaire on issues pertinent to the state and county. Their responses will be featured in a special supplement this weekend which will include voter information for the early balloting period as well as election day.



BLOOD DRIVE FRIDAY

Mountain View Lodge is having a blood drive through United Blood Services from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday in the Bloodmobile at the nursing home, 2009 Virginia Ave.

Blood donor requirements are that the donor be at least 17 years old, be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, know names of all medications currently being taken and have valid identification, such as driver's or donor ID.

Call UBS at 561-5539 for qualifications. To sign up for the blood drive, call Jessica Paredes, director of marketing and admissions for Mountain View Lodge, at 263-1271.

Obituaries

Arian Craig Coffee



Arian Craig Coffee, 103, peacefully died in her home Feb. 15, 2006. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 2006, in the First Baptist Chapel with Chaplain Joe Torres of Home Hospice officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends today at the funeral home from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.

She was born Aug. 17, 1902, in El Capitan, N.M. She married John A. Coffee Sept. 3, 1930. He preceded her in death Feb. 13, 1990. They celebrated almost 60 years of marriage before his death in 1990.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffee moved to Big Spring from Hereford in 1938, when his cousin, Tom Coffee, asked John to come and join him in his law practice.

She was an active member of First Baptist Church since April 1939 until around 1995, when her health prevented her attendance. She loved her Sunday school class, which was led by Evelyn Coker. She faithfully watched her church services on television for many years.

Mrs. Coffee loved music, especially piano music. As a young girl, she learned to play the piano. She instilled this love of music in her daughter, Barbara and in her grandchildren.

One of her joys was listening to her daughter practicing the piano each day; frequently her granddaughters practiced the piano in her home.

She was an avid gardener, being a member of the Big Spring Garden Club. Frequently she won ribbons for flower arrangements which were entered in flower shows.

She grew the flowers in her garden, which she arranged so beautifully. A beautiful magnolia tree grew on the home property and she was known for taking these fragrant and beautiful blossoms to church or giving them to friends.

They also adorned her home; her family will always remember that special smell of the magnolia in her home.

Mrs. Coffee was a quiet, reserved lady who did many caring deeds, and loved visiting friends in nursing homes. She had a tender heart and cared about others.

She loved the ladies who gave her wonderful care in her home for several years; Louise Huitt, Julia Bihl, Benita Torres, Brenda Conner and lately Connie Davila. There were also other caregivers through the years for which the family is grateful.

Her family will always appreciate the Hospice nurses and other aides who lovingly helped care for her. Her hospice pastor, Joe Torres, when he visited and sang to her, made her eyes sparkle.

She was also preceded in death by her son, John Richard Coffee and her sister, Mrs. Kathryn Thigpen.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Louis Heinze of Arlington and her daughter-in-law, Gloria Coffee White and her husband, Joe White of Big Spring and Austin.

She leaves six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, all whom she dearly loved as they loved her.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Christopher Ray 'Chris' Arenivaz



Christopher Ray "Chris" Arenivaz, 19, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services are 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubelo officiating. Interment will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park. Vigil is Friday at 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born Aug. 6, 1986, in Hobbs, N.M. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include his parents, Ramona Arenivaz and Zeke Flores Jr. of Big Spring; two sisters, Cruz Flores and Brandi Flores, both of Big Spring; one brother, Zeke Flores III of Big Spring; his father, Arnold Gandar Jr. of Big Spring; grandparents, Gregorio and Angie Arenivaz and Elvira Gandar, all of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Arnold Gandar Sr.

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

Lindel N. Koonce

Lindel N. Koonce, 80, of Vincent died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Benito 'Benny' Marquez Jr.

Benito "Benny" Marquez Jr., 54, of DeSoto, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday Feb. 13, 2006, at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. Services are pending with West-Hurt Funeral Home in DeSoto.



RE-ELECT
Ben Lockhart
Republican Candidate For
COUNTY JUDGE
Howard County
Early Voting Feb. 21 - March 3, 2006
ELECTION DAY MARCH 7, 2006

Pub. Pol. Adv. by Ben Lockhart, 300 Main, Big Spring, TX

Malcolm Patterson

Malcolm Patterson, 96, of Elbow died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 2006, in the Mount Olive Memorial Park with Chaplain James Byler of Odyssey Hospice officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

He was born Jan. 31, 1910, in Elbow and married Lila Mae Hollow Oct. 18, 1933, in Waco. She preceded him in death Dec. 27, 1992.

Malcolm was born to L.S. and Kate Patterson, a pioneer farming and ranching family in Howard County. He graduated from Big Spring High School and received his geology degree from Texas Tech University.

He worked for Phillips Petroleum for 19 years as a geologist. He returned to Howard County in 1951 to partner with his brother in the insurance business and ranching.

Malcolm was a member of First Baptist Church; he had served as a director of the Big Spring Rodeo Association, director of First Federal Savings and Loan, past president of Big Spring Rotary Club and was involved in the Texas Hereford Association and Big Spring Racing Pigeons Club.

Survivors include Dona Kelley, his loving companion, of Elbow; two nephews, Dan Patterson and Rip Patterson and wife, Claudie, all of Elbow; two nieces, Judy McAlister of Dallas and Joy Conaway of Houston; one sister-in-law, Winnie Patterson of Elbow; one brother, Murry Patterson of Dallas; great-nieces and nephews, Bart and Todd Patterson, Lee Wright, Jay and Jeff Conaway, Kip McAlister, Kate Marshall and Tiffany Wilkins; and a number of great-great-nieces and nephews.

The family suggest memorials be made to Odyssey Healthcare, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring 79720 or West Texas Boys Ranch, 10223 Boys Ranch Road, San Angelo 76904-9989.

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

Paid obituary

Pauline Compton Wood

Pauline Compton Wood, 93, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services are 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 2006, in the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with her son, Dr. E.B. Compton Jr., officiating.

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

She was born Oct. 8, 1912, in Pawhuska, Okla., and married Escol Burvis Compton Feb. 24, 1932, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Jan. 23, 1980. She then married Milas R. Wood April 15, 1980. He died in 2002. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and was the retired office manager of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Commission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Survivors include her son, Dr. Escol B. "Bennie" Compton and wife, Janet of Wichita Falls; two granddaughters; two great-grandsons; one brother-in-law; and one sister-in-law.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Balfour and Dollie Mae Hubbard, two brothers, B.S. Hubbard Jr. and Tommy Hubbard and one sister, Elnora Hart.

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

Marilyn Ann Bodenstedt

Marilyn Ann Bodenstedt, 74, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2006, in Big Spring. Memorial services are 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 2006, at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home.

She was born Oct. 5, 1931, in Benton, Ark., to her late parents, Alice and Maynard Burrow. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Dieter Bodenstedt of Bremerhaven, Germany. She served in the USMC from August 1953 until April 1955 and re-enlisted in the US Army in April 1965 and served until January 1985, for a total of 22 years.

She is survived by four brothers, Clennon Burrow and Bill Burrow, both of Benton, Ark., Robert Burrow of Fort Worth and Sammie Burrow of Wilmer, Ala.; and three sisters, Jimmie Hamilton of Sherwood, Ark., Joyce Pickens of Lubbock and Mary Lou Diccico of Benton, Ark.

She donated her body to the Texas Tech Medical School and the family suggest memorials be made to a favorite charity.

Charles 'Chuck' Chrane

Charles "Chuck" Chrane, 52, of Logo Vista, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Margaret Johnson

Margaret Johnson, 56, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **CLYDE NORTHCUTT JR.**, 43, of 1303 Colby Ave., was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- **STEPHANIE ALVAREZ**, 21, of 616 Caylor, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **KORI D'ANN LEWIS**, 23, of 904 E. 12th Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- **PATRICIA ROBERSON**, 22, of 1312 Lindbergh, was arrested Wednesday and held by the HCSO.
- **DERRICK DRAKE**, 19, of 1425 Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local citations.
- **CODY WINGO**, 17, of 1700 Purdue, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **TERESA MORGAN**, 46, of 2900 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants and a local citation.
- **BETTY MUNIZ**, 40, of 406 S. Lancaster, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 100 block of Whipkey.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **JOSHUA HYDEN**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for burglary of a vehicle and bondsman off bond for theft.
- **KORI D'ANN LEWIS**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify - giving false information, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, possession of a controlled substance and escape while arrested/confined - felony.
- **MARVIN LEE STOKER**, 33, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JANET SWINNEY**, 43, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **PATRICIA FRANCISCA ROBERSON**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check, a motion to revoke probation for assault on a public servant and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **MICHAEL ROY ROBERSON**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance, bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated - second offense, bondsman off bond for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.
- **NINEA MORENO GARCIA**, 50, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- **RONALD LARRY BARRY**, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- **BRYON PATRICK PAYNE**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to the Big Spring State Hospital.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of East Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.BigSpringHerald.com
Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring
432-263-7331 Missed Your Paper:
(Main Switchboard) 432-263-7335
432-264-7205 (Fax) (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-7p.m.
Sun. 8a.m.-noon)

Susanne Reed Publisher/Adv. Manager... Ext. 250
John A. Moseley Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Duane McCollum Circulation Manager... Ext. 244
Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256
Dianne Marquez Business Office Manager... Ext. 255

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

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

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

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
Huge Group Of Men, Women, & Kid's Shoes
HALF PRICE!
All Fleece Lined NEW SPRING SHOES
50% OFF JARRING DAILY
WOOD'S WE SHOES
Mon - Sat * 8:30 - 6:00
East 120 Colorado City
800-29BOOTS * 728-3722
woodsboots.com

Escape, suicide try keep deputies busy

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Officials with the Howard County Sheriff's Office had a busy day at the courthouse Wednesday, as a female escaped while awaiting court proceedings and a jail inmate attempted suicide.

According to Sheriff Dale Walker — Kori Lewis, 23, of 904 E. 12th Street here — was being restrained on a bench near the dispatcher's office. She was being held by Dickens County because Howard County con-

tracts with that entity to house its female inmates.

"Lewis was in the custody of a Dickens County guard," said Walker. "At some point, Lewis asked to go to the restroom, and the only restroom we have in the courthouse to take female prisoners to is the public restroom.

"The guard didn't follow procedure. She took the inmate to the restroom with no restraints at all. At that point, Lewis just bolted out the east door of the courthouse."

According to police records,

Lewis had been arrested Tuesday by the Big Spring Police Department on charges of failure to identify, possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

Walker said the woman was taken back into custody shortly after her ill-fated escape.

"She ran down Third Street, heading east, once she got away from the guard," said Walker. "She was caught in the alley behind A-Bob's Bail Bond, where she was trying to hide in a dumpster. She's now being

charged with felony escape charges, in addition to the charges she was arrested for."

The turmoil continued Wednesday night, as 41-year-old Eduardo Arturo Farias, an inmate at the county jail, made what Walker deemed a "half-hearted" suicide attempt.

"The inmate was a mental subject, but he wasn't on suicide watch," said Walker. "He was found hanging in his jail cell by guards, who immediately got him down. He was rushed to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical

Center, where it was determined he had no sign of injuries.

"At that point, he was up talking and walking around. In all, I think he was just putting on more than he was really trying to attempt suicide."

Farias had been transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

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

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

According to his publicity handout, he spent time on death row after killing a fellow inmate who demanded sexual relations.

When Rolling Stone magazine questioned this, Coe responded with a song, "I'd Like To Kick The (deleted) Out Of You."

Whatever the truth of the matter, Coe was paroled in 1967 and took his songs about prison life to Shelby Singleton, who released two albums on his SSS music label. Coe wrote Tanya

Tucker's 1974 U.S. country No. 1 hit, "Would You Lay With Me (In A Field Of Stone)?"

Coe took to calling himself Davey Coe — the Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy — at one point in his career, performing in a mask and driving a hearse. He satirized the themes of country music with hilarious addi-

tions to Steve Goodman's "You Never Even Called Me By My Name," but has often used the cliché himself.

His defiant stance and love of motorbikes, multiple tattoos and ultra-long hair made him a natural Nashville outlaw, which he wrote about in the self-glorifying "Longhaired

Redneck" and "Willie, Waylon And Me."

For more information on the concert, call the Howard College Box Office at 264-5045.

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

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

believe someday we're going to see the two law enforcement groups — the Sheriff's Office and Big Spring Police Department — combined into one entity," said Crooker. "This joint law enforcement center will make that combination even easier... Do we want to be progressive, or do we want to just patch this and take care of it the simple and easy way?"

The county jail has been a major point of discus-

sion and division at the county level for the past several years. The existing jail fails to meet state standards in several areas, but the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has granted waivers — or "variances," as the state commission describes them — on many of these areas, allowing the jail to remain in operation.

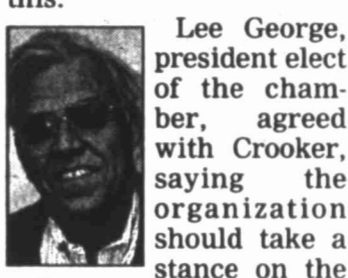
Jail problems that have been granted waivers include not having at least two unobstructed exits from the jail; inadequate fire suppression equipment; no reliable means of remotely

unlocking and locking of cells; exit doors that swing against traffic; and corridors that are too narrow.

The variances granted by the state are coming to a screeching halt, according to Crooker.

"We met with the TCJS board last week, and they want us to come back in May and show them what we've accomplished on the issue," said Crooker. "If there is some way the chamber could evaluate the situation and form some opinions, I think it would be very beneficial. After all, these are our elected officials, and I feel

like the chamber represents the business element of our community. They need to know about this."



George

"As a chamber, I feel like we should formulate the pros and cons of the situation," said George. "Both proposals have very positive attributes, as well as

some negative attributes. We need someone who can be unbiased and look at this and give us a perspective of the advantages and disadvantages that we can present to our members in an effort to inform them. That way, they can go to their county commissioners and county judge and present what they are in favor of, and why they are in favor of it."

Concienne made a motion to have an executive committee look at the matter and bring back a recommendation before the next chamber of commerce meeting.

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

CHENEY

Continued from Page 1A

mutual friends. Law enforcement officials have ruled out alcohol as a factor.

The vice president has been under intense political pressure to speak out about the accident, which has become a public relations embarrassment and potential political liability for the White House. Senior advisers to President Bush worried that Cheney's silence had suggested a possible cover-up, and Cheney acknowledged that he delayed an announcement over the advice of Bush's press advisers.

"We really didn't know until Sunday morning that Harry was probably going to be OK, that it looked like there hadn't been any serious damage to any vital organ," he said. "And that's when we began the process of notifying the press."

Cheney said he agreed to the suggestion of ranch owner Katharine Armstrong to have her announce it to a local newspaper. "I thought

that was the right call. I still do," the vice president said.

Armstrong has suggested that Whittington was at fault in the shooting because, she said, he failed to announce himself as he rejoined the hunting line. But Cheney, who has been hunting for at least 12 years, said in no uncertain terms that Whittington was not to blame.

"You can talk about all of the other conditions that exist at the time, but that's the bottom line and — it was not Harry's fault," he said.

He said Whittington was dressed properly in orange and the upper part of his body was visible, but he was standing in a gully with the sun behind him, which affected his view.

"I saw him fall, basically. It had happened so fast," Cheney said. "He was struck in the right side of his face, his neck and his upper torso on the right side of his body."

Whittington was in stable condition Wednesday at a Corpus Christi hospital, a day after doctors said one of the pellets traveled to his heart and he had what they called "a mild heart attack."

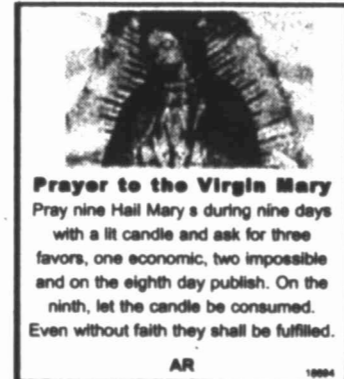
Cheney said he had agreed that Armstrong should be the one to make the story public because she was an eyewitness, because she grew up on the ranch and because she is "an acknowledged expert in all of this" as a past head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He also agreed with her decision to choose the *Corpus*

Christi Caller-Times as the way to get the news out.

"I thought that made good sense because you can get as accurate a story as possible from somebody who knew and understood hunting and then it would immediately go up to the wires and be posted on the Web site, which is the way it went out and I thought that was the right call," Cheney said.

"I had a bit of the feeling that the press corps was upset because, to some extent, it was about them — they didn't like the idea that we called the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* instead of *The New York Times*," he said. "But it strikes me that the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* is just as valid a news outlet as *The New*

York Times is, especially for covering a major story in south Texas."



Prayer to the Virgin Mary
Pray nine Hail Marys during nine days with a lit candle and ask for three favors, one economic, two impossible and on the eighth day publish. On the ninth, let the candle be consumed. Even without faith they shall be fulfilled.

Coronado Hills Apartments

1 Bedroom - \$375 • 2 Bedroom - \$475 • 3 Bedroom - \$575

801 W. Marcy • 432-267-6500

Big Spring, Texas 79720

Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking & Washer - Dryer Conn.
2-3 Bedroom



"Remember...you deserve the best!!"

County Commissioner's Duties

The duties of a county commissioner calls for representation of all citizens, hands-on service, as well as policy making budget decisions.

Among other responsibilities, the commissioner's court:

- develops and maintains all county roads
- sets the yearly property tax rate and approves the budget and employment level of the county
- calls, conducts and certifies elections, including bond elections.
- sets employment and benefit policy
- established financial and law enforcement/jail needs & Plans
- acquires property for rights-of-way or other uses determined to be in the public's best interest
- provides rural ambulance services and subsidizes rural fire protection
- oversees the construction, maintenance and improvement of county roads & bridges
- supervises and controls the county courthouse, county buildings & facilities
- determines the county tax rate
- fills vacancies in elective and appointive positions
- has exclusive authority to authorize contracts in the name of the county

VOTE FOR A MAN WHO HAS PROVEN HIS LEADERSHIP, INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THE CITIZENS OF HOWARD COUNTY
RE-ELECT JERRY KILGORE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 2



Pol. Ad. Pl. For Jerry Kilgore, 2729 E. 25th, Big Spring, TX 79720

FULLMOON, INC. ROOFING

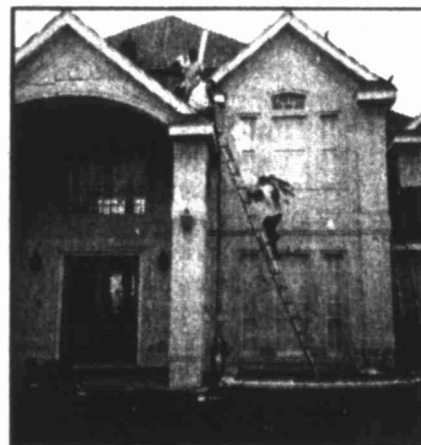
Commercial • Residential • Industrial • Insured • Bonded • Three Million General Liability

Between You & The Elements...

REASONS TO CALL

- Ranked Top 25 Roofing Contractors in Texas
- Owns Corning Preferred Contractors
- Save \$100's to \$1000's On Your Next Roof

When You Want The Best



FREE ESTIMATES!
CALL (432) 267-5478
BIG SPRING, TEXAS
HENRY BACKES



MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Margaret Johnson, 56, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lindel N. Koonce, 80, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Charles "Conuck" Chrane, 52, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Emergency
activity:
ck of Gregg
0 block of
nsported to
ck of Main
4C.
ock of East
o SMMC.
r Paper:
7335
m.-7p.m.
(noon)
... Ext. 250
... Ext. 230
... Ext. 244
... Ext. 256
... Ext. 255
Spring Area
West Texas
diation, The
y mornings.
Herald, P.O.
paid at Big
746-6811
; \$93.42 year-
112.50 month-

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Weather
to turn a
bit colder

Blowing dust followed by blowing snow? It could happen. The weather forecast isn't too kind to Howard County and the rest of the Crossroads area for the next few days. While temperatures in the 60s and low 70s have made for a mild February, the blowing dust and parched land have been less than ideal. Well, get ready for some colder temperatures, at least temporarily.

High winds are in the forecast today, with temperatures climbing into the mid 70s. Those winds, according to the meteorologists, may get up to 30 miles per hour — not exactly cook-out weather if you live next to an unpaved road or a harvested cotton field.

In the meantime, relocate your winter wear. A north wind will begin blowing our way sometime after midnight, plunging the lows into the mid 20s. It's likely to feel like the temperature is in the teens or single digits, however, as the wind will continue to blow.

Friday, the wind is expected to die down — all the way to 10 or 15 miles per hour. Highs will be below 40 degrees, and will seem even colder.

Look for the temperature to be mired around 30 Saturday with a chance of snow or light freezing rain. We like that word rain. Rain is something we haven't seen much of for a long, long time. But this isn't how we envisioned getting some moisture.

However, we can be somewhat thankful for a small reprieve. A few days ago, Saturday's high was expected to be in the 20s. The weather guys (and gals) have revised that a few degrees in our favor.

Anyway, be cautious. If we do get some sleet or rain, it could get ugly Saturday night when the lows will park somewhere below freezing. Be sure and bundle up, and check on your outside pets.

The cold spell won't last long. There is another chance of freezing rain Sunday morning, but highs are to be in the mid 40s that day, sneaking up into the high 50s by Presidents Day.

Just remember, bundle up, hold off on washing the car until next week and don't spit into the wind. Have a good weekend.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

Uncle Sammy, call the movers!

Last month, the Miss America pageant was held in Las Vegas, marking the first time in 86 years that the event took place outside

Atlantic City, N.J. And from all appearances everything went OK; a new superpower siren was crowned, and apparently managed to begin her duties without the traditional dip in the ocean. (Who needs salt water when you've got Bluephoria?)

Clearly, the world is not what it once was, and perhaps it's time to look at some other time-honored institutions that might benefit from a change of scenery.

—Mardi Gras. As we all know, New Orleans is hurting still. Some people think a big party is just what the city needs right now to get back on its feet. What the city needs is to say "au revoir" to its carefree, hedonistic past and become a respectable, hard-working urban center. A model of industry and civic responsibility. And you don't do that by sending festooned floats through your downtown. Let the pre-Lenten bacchanalia move to Detroit, a city that has worked hard for the last century and is definitely in need of a little revelry right now. (One Super Bowl every two decades is not gonna cut it.) Detroit is no slouch when it comes to music (Motown, Eminem), and who needs gumbo when you've got

pierogies from Hamtramck?

—The Academy Awards. Los Angeles gets glamour 365 nights a year; would it kill the city to spread a little of that around one night every March? Imagine the excitement and anticipation as the Oscars move to Hot Springs, Ark.! Paparazzi would be staking out the famous mineral baths for weeks prior to the big event, and stars and their entourages would enliven the lobby of the Arlington Hotel. The East Coast media would no longer have to fly all the way across the country. Former President Clinton would surely find time to return to his old hometown and grace the stage, giving viewers around the world the priceless spectacle of his patented longwindedness being drowned out by an orchestra.

—The Kentucky Derby. This is more than a horse race, this is a great American springtime celebration that, unfortunately, takes place in Kentucky. Who goes to Kentucky? The derby needs a bigger stage, a higher profile, a hipper image. Those hats are pre-Madonna. And who drinks mint juleps in the age of the mojito? Put the horses and the jokers who ride them into Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands and watch as a little horse race becomes the most lucrative two minutes in sports. The Meadowlands — it's a name MADE for giddy-up AND ... it's right in the heart of the Northeast corridor! Instead of thousands droning "My Old Kentucky Home" we'll have tens of thousands singing "Born to Run." Go Boss.

—The Iditarod. We've all heard about those adorable sled dogs,

but how many of us have actually seen them? Exactly. Because they're all the way up IN ALASKA! IN THE WINTERTIME!!! A much more market-friendly locale would be South Florida. Up north, the dogs run for a dozen days over 1,150 miles of snow but, big deal, they were made to run in snow. Let's see how they do pulling airboats through the Everglades! The new Iditarod will begin in Flamingo (you gotta love it already), wind its way up to Chokoloskee, and then head over to Homestead, before a final, triumphant march up Route 1 into downtown Miami, where the winning team will be greeted by bowls of freshly fried churros.

And while we're at it ...
—The Tour de France. Texas has owned this bike race for the last seven years, so it only makes sense to move the thing to the Lone Star State. Texas is a bit like France anyway, a large, thickset territory with lots of odd corners (good for long-distance bike races) and a citizenry with a very high opinion of itself. Sure, you lose the mountains but you gain heat AND humidity. And you save the French the humiliation of having to watch an American beating the world at their national sport every year. The race will end outside Amarillo as riders toast each other with bottles of Shiner while weaving their bikes around half-buried Cadillacs. Viva el Tour de Texas!

Thomas Swick is a writer for the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. He can be contacted at tswick@sun-sentinel.com

ADDRESSES

Phone: 202-224-2934

• GEORGE W. BUSH

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative (19th
Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• RICK PERRY

Governor

State Capitol, Room 2S.1

P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• PETE LANEY

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
401 Austin, suite 101
Big Spring, 79720

Immigration may swing elections

In this fall's mid-term elections, congressional Republicans must decide how closely they will align themselves with immigrant bashers — and what price they are willing to pay for going overboard.

Mean-spirited campaigns have a history of hurting those who specialize in scapegoating illegal immigrants for self-serving ambitions.

In fact, with immigration becoming such a hot-button topic, and with so many Republicans up for reelection, this could be the issue that swings the balance of power on Capitol Hill this year.

There are many other reasons why Republicans are at risk of losing their majority in both the House and the Senate — the war in Iraq, a skyrocketing deficit, ethics scandals, tax reductions for the rich, federal budget cuts that hurt the poor and the elderly. But in states heavily populated by Latinos and other immigrants, count on immigration to become a deciding factor.

What happened in California when former GOP Gov. Pete Wilson went on a rampage against illegal immigrants could easily happen again on a national scale.

In California, while pushing to deny public education and health care to illegal immigrants, Wilson won reelection. But four years later, reacting to his abusive, fear-mongering demagoguery, about 1 million Latinos became U.S. citizens, registered to vote in record numbers and helped Democrats regain control of the governor's office for the first time in 16 years. The backlash was so severe that Wilson's own presidential aspirations were derailed only a few weeks after he hypocritically used the Statue of Liberty to launch his candidacy.

After Wilson, many others have failed to win votes by promoting isolation and xenophobia:

When New Jersey GOP Rep. Bill Martini used deceptive scare tactics to create anti-immigrant hysteria and get himself into Congress in 1994, he went to Washington and stood with those who cut benefits even from legal immigrants. He appealed to the hatemongers in our society by

constantly noting that yesterday's immigrants were more willing to learn English and less likely to depend on entitlements. Two years

later, he was booted from Congress with the help of many Latino voters who gave his seat to a Democrat.

When Patrick Buchanan declared his presidential candidacy in 1999, he called for a "moratorium on immigration and a national campaign of assimilation." He drew less

than 1 percent of the popular vote in the 2000 election.

When Virginia gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore seized on the immigration issue last November, he attacked his Democrat opponent with a TV commercial that asked, "What part of illegal does Tim Kaine not understand?" Kaine won by a 52 to 46 percent margin.

When Jim Gilchrist, founder of the U.S. border vigilante Minuteman Project, ran for Congress in a special election in California's conservative Orange County in December, he turned the race into a referendum on illegal immigration. He got only 25 percent of the vote.

These two latest losers managed to fall on their faces in spite of consistent free publicity from TV xenophobia-baiters, like Lou Dobbs and Bill O'Reilly, who love to exploit this issue without offering reasonable solutions.

Yet, there are many conservative ideologues in Congress who are now following that path. Using terrorism as an excuse, they figure that the tide has turned in favor of their bashing ways, and that they will ride on an anti-immigrant groundswell.

While they try to appeal to their conservative base, they are making it easier for Democrats to win the growing Hispanic vote. And they are giving reason to ponder to the majority of Americans — compassionate people who still recognize that this is a nation of immigrants.

"While there has been enormous

progress for the Republican Party under President George W. Bush, there is real danger for a repeat of the Pete Wilson era that alienated Hispanics from the GOP for years," said Robert Deposada, president of the conservative Latino Coalition while releasing the 2005 National Latino Survey last month.

"If the Republican leadership in Congress allows an extremist group to control the debate over immigration reform and put partisan rhetoric over real common-sense legislation, the GOP will eliminate all the progress achieved by President Bush in attracting Hispanics into the GOP."

And yet, that's precisely what several Republican congressional candidates are planning.

Leading the pack is Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican who is said to be considering a symbolic run for the presidency in 2008, to force other candidates to debate his draconian ideas. He wants to deny citizenship to the U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants, and he wants to deport the 11-million people who wash our cars and dishes, take care of our children, clean our yards and our homes and do many other jobs Americans reject.

The only candidates who can benefit from the immigration issue are the ones who can offer rational solutions. They must recognize that national security is a real concern, but not one that should be used to scapegoat innocent, hard-working people who are needed to keep our economy afloat. They must acknowledge that while the borders should be controlled, legal immigration must be increased. They must concede that while illegal entry should not be rewarded, we have to find a way to legalize those immigrants who are already here.

Many Republicans consider immigration their secret weapon this year. But many other Americans know this is a weapon that has a history of backfiring demagogues right out of office. ators.com.

COPYRIGHT 2005 CREATORS
SYNDICATE INC.

The NEW STYLE of Dining

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

“Dining used to mean gathering around the table — but that isn't always easy for today's busy families,” says style expert Susie Coelho, a favorite of Home & Garden Television (HGTV) viewers. “We're eating more meals on the go, and in more casual places — in the car, in the stadium stands, at a tailgate. But that doesn't mean that you have to sacrifice style. Vanity Fair napkins lend a simple, warming ‘touch of class’ to any meal — no matter where you are!”

Georgia-Pacific Corp., the maker of Vanity Fair napkins, asked Susie for a few easy, helpful tips on how you can use high quality Vanity Fair napkins to complement your every day eating occasions!

- **The family that cooks together ...** Families have more fun — and communicate better — when they prepare meals together. Let kids help choose tonight's menu, chop vegetables, stir the sauce or lay the table. And when you add accents to your everyday table, such as colorful placemats, wooden napkin rings and white Vanity Fair dinner napkins, you teach kids that mealtime matters.
- **Back-to-school style:** Kids (and dads!) love little surprises in their lunchboxes, from notes to homemade goodies. Adding a couple of Vanity Fair napkins is a great way to make “just another” cafeteria lunch seem special. Spill-prone kids love how strong and absorbent they are, and dads appreciate their thickness and generous size.
- **Take flair outdoors:** Barbecues, picnics, soccer matches, football tailgates — every season brings another great reason for families to eat outdoors. Plastic wineglasses, a small bouquet of flowers in a glass bottle and Vanity Fair Elegant Dinner napkins are easy, sure-fire ways to dress up your picnic basket or tailgate spread.
- **Dress up the drive-thru:** If, like many time-pressed people, you're a fan of the drive-thru lane, keep a stash of Vanity Fair napkins in your glove compartment and add some flair to your fast food forays. They're strong and absorbent in their generous size and ensure that they'll cover your lap.
- **Cut down on washing dishes:** Use Vanity Fair napkins to carry snacks from the kitchen to the family or TV room. Strong and big enough for snacks like cookies, sandwiches and fruit, they can stand in for plates.
- **Style — it's in the details:** When you're entertaining family and friends, special touches aren't just for special occasions anymore. Even for a simple supper or informal brunch, it's fun to put down a colorful patterned tablecloth and fill a small pitcher with wildflowers for a simple, attractive centerpiece. Add some Vanity Fair napkins and your table is “set” — these small entertaining details all add up to show your loved ones how much you care.
- **Hold a “fold-a-thon”:** Keep the kids busy while you cook. Give them a stack of Vanity Fair napkins and challenge them to come up with creative ways to fold them. The family votes on the best, and the winner gets to choose tonight's TV show!



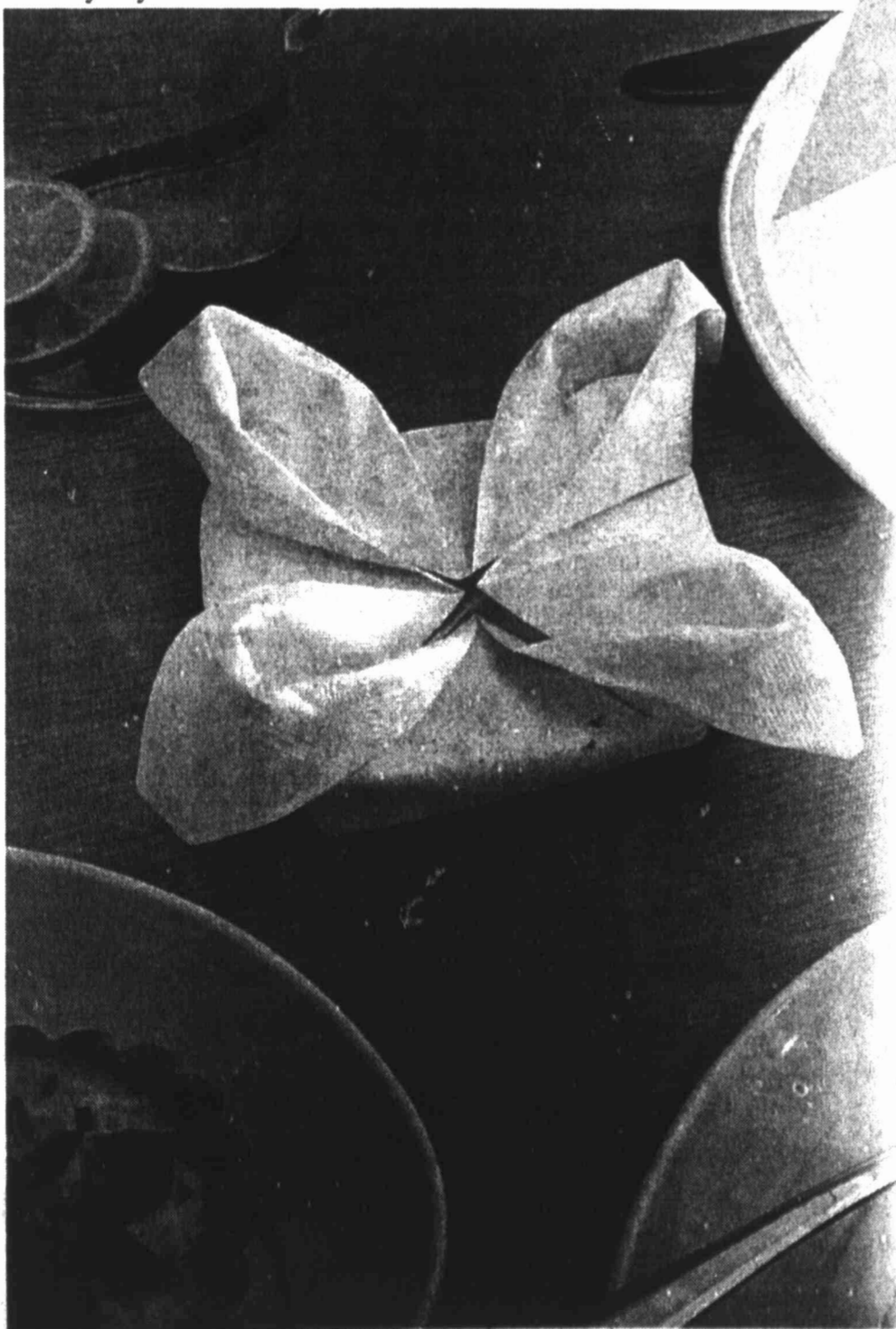
Standing Fan

Folding Napkins, WITH STYLE

When you're setting the table for an easy meal at home, “casual” and “quick” don't have to mean “drab.” Even when the plates are plastic and the menu simple, Vanity Fair napkins can serve up a side of visual pizzazz. They're perfect for folding into festive shapes, and the only limit is your imagination.

To get your creativity simmering while dinner bakes or steams, look over these two folding ideas — the Pretty Posy and Standing Fan creations, pictured in the photos. Ready? Grab some napkins and go!

Pretty Posy



Pretty Posy

-
1. Fold outer corners of napkin (A) along dotted lines to center of square (B).
-
2. Repeat step 1.
-
3. Turn napkin over, folds facing table.
-
4. Repeat step 1.
-
5. Firmly hold down corners in center (shown here as a star), using fingers or small bottle/drinking glass.
-
6. Holding center points down, reach under napkin and pull out corners from center.
-
7. Arrange “petals,” to resemble rabbit ears when finished. (see photo)

Standing Fan

-
1. Fold napkin edge A to meet edge B (like a book).
-
2. Pleat lengthwise like an accordion, leaving last 3 inches unfolded.
-
3. Fold pleated napkin in half, with 3-inch edge in center.
-
4. Tuck top corner A of center flap to indicated point B (dotted line indicates where to fold).
-
5. Allow fan to open and stand. (see photo)

9-7X: Saab styling, American traits

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press
When Americans' love affair with sport utility vehicles started shifting sales away from the Saab brand of Sweden, the company went back to the drawing board.

The result: Saab's sales decline stopped last year when it started selling its first SUV, the 9-7X.

A version of the Chevrolet TrailBlazer and GMC Envoy mid-size SUVs sold since early this decade, the 9-7X mixes Saab styling with American SUV traits like the high ride and standard all-wheel drive. There's also a roomy cargo area in back, and good-sized, 18-inch wheels and tires.

But Saab character touches are here, too.

The ignition keyhole of the 9-7X is right where it should be inside a Saab — between the front seats — and the front styling wouldn't be mistaken for anything but a Saab.

Starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including delivery, for a base 2006 9-7X with inline six cylinder and automatic transmission is \$39,240. A 9-7X with a V8 starts at \$41,240.

The 9-7X competes against the Volvo XC90 premium SUV, which starts at \$36,770 for a 2006 model with turbocharged five-cylinder engine and front-wheel drive.

Another competitor is the 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee, which starts at \$27,860 for a V6 model with automatic transmission and two-wheel drive.

Considered a premium SUV, the five-passenger 9-7X has many standard amenities, including heated front seats, leather-trimmed seats front and back, curtain airbags, moonroof,

Bose stereo system, tow package and rear air suspension.

Many of these items are options on the sibling TrailBlazer and Envoy, which start around mid-\$20,000.

The 9-7X also has a firmer, sportier ride, thanks to firmer shock absorbers and springs as well as a larger diameter front sway bar, among other things. The vehicle sits slightly lower to the ground than the TrailBlazer and Envoy.

The rack-and-pinion steering ratio is changed for a quicker steering response, and four-wheel disc brakes are updated for a more solid brake pedal feel and strong



2006 Saab 9-7X

braking.

Overall, the ride feels more taut than in the regular TrailBlazer and Envoy, as the vehicle body motions are controlled.

Because of the suspension changes, passengers can notice vibrations on most road surfaces. But the 9-7X's truck-based character comes through only at certain times, such as when the SUV goes over potholes in a bouncy, jostling fashion.

The vehicle's all-wheel-drive system requires no action from the driver.

It doesn't come with an extra-low gear for rugged off-roading.

Power from the TrailBlazer and Envoy engines comes on readily, with no hesitation as the

9-7X merges into city traffic or accelerates to highway speeds.

The test model had the base, 4.2-liter, dual overhead cam, inline six-cylinder engine that puts out a commendable 291 horsepower and 277 foot-pounds of torque at 3,600 rpm.

The uplevel, 5.3-liter, Vortec V8 generates 300 horsepower and 330 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm and has technology that automatically closes some engine cylinders to conserve gasoline in certain driving conditions.

As a result, the government's fuel economy ratings for the six- and eight-cylinder engines are nearly identical and are in the 15-miles-per-gallon range for city driving and 21

mpg for highway travel.

There's decent passenger room inside the 9-7X, which includes rear-seat legroom of 37.1 inches, compared with 35.5 inches in the back seat of Jeep's Grand Cherokee.

But the Cherokee has more rear hiproom — 60.6 inches vs. the 9-7X's 58.1 inches.

Maximum cargo space in the 9-7X is 80.1 cubic feet, which is better than the 67.4 cubic feet in the Grand Cherokee but less than the 85 cubic feet in the Volvo XC90.

The XC90 is also available with seven-passenger seating.

The nicely done Saab cosmetics notwithstanding, there are reminders that the 9-7X is a General Motors product.

It has GM's old-style, uncomfortable front-seat shoulder belts that are attached to the seatbacks rather than the side pillars.

The blinker stalk in the 9-7X is GM's old-fashioned one that incorporates the cruise control operation and always seems to be in the "on" position. The roof rails, which are standard, don't include crossbars, and the drop-down screen for the optional entertainment system hinders views out the rearview mirror.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Alon USA, L.P. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Nos. 20487 and 51A which would authorize continued operation of the No. 2 Sulfur Recovery Unit, the Hydrodesulfurization Unit and the Reformer Unit at the Big Spring Refinery. The refinery is located at the intersection of Highway I-20 and Refinery Road, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y ENTIDADES INTERESADAS: 20487 Y 51A

Alon USA, L.P. se ha registrado con la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Tejas (TCEQ o Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) para la renovación de un Permiso de Calidad de Aire Num. 20487 y 51A el cual autorizara continuar el funcionamiento de un(a) No. 2 Sulfur Recovery Unit, el Hydrodesulfurization Unit y el Reformer Unit en Big Spring Refinery, en Interstate Highway 20 and Refinery Road, Big Spring, Condado de Howard County, Tejas. Información adicional sobre esta solicitud puede encontrarse en la sección de avisos públicos de esta publicación.



All AMERICAN WEST Purses 20% OFF
All WINTER COATS 30% OFF

All Sterling Silver & Turquoise Jewelry 20% OFF
All Reg. Priced Ladies' Jeans 20% OFF

Large Group Of Anderson Bean, Ariat, & Ladies' Lucchese Full Quill Ostrich Boots \$249.99

WOODS BOOTS Mon - Sat * 8:30 - 6:00 East I 20 Colorado City 800-29BOOTS * 728-3722 woodsboots.com



To subscribe, call 263-7331

Put Some Representation In Your District.



Elect

Gerald (Jerry) Middleton As Your Congressman for the Texas Congressional 85th District.

There are many issues that are facing all of us, coming up in the near future.

My main goal if I am elected is to bring the voice of the people of the 85th district to Austin. Small Business Owner Jerry's for the last 8 years. Married to Joyce, two boys, Robert & Carl. NRA "A" rating for the 2006 Election Cycle.

Education: High school with some college
Business background: Efficiency expert, machinist, tool & die maker, Bookkeeper, purchasing agent, inventory controller, heavy equipment operator, welder, luthier & farming.

E-Mail electjerry@aol.com
Paid political ad by citizens to elect Gerald Middleton Congressman for the 85th District.

Drew Mouton

Republican For State Representative District 85

Uncommon Leadership & Experience

Throughout his 28 years in West Texas, Drew has proven his commitment to our West Texas communities.

Common West Texas Values

- Strong Public education
- No public tax dollars for private schools
- Competitive teacher salaries
- Protect our water rights
- Fiscal responsibility throughout state government

"I will appreciate your vote in the March 7 primary."

Paid political ad paid for by Mouton for State Representative, P.O. Box 1030, Big Spring, TX 79721, Katie Orimes, Treasurer.

2006 Saab 9-7X 4.2i
BASE PRICE: \$38,520 with six-cylinder engine. AS TESTED: \$40,540.
TYPE: Front-engine, all-wheel-drive, five-passenger, premium, mid-size sport utility vehicle.
ENGINE: 4.2-liter, dual overhead cam, inline six cylinder.
MILEAGE: 15 mpg (city), 21 mpg (highway).
LENGTH: 193.2 inches. WHEELBASE: 113 inches.
CURB WEIGHT: 4,770 pounds.
BUILT AT: Moraine, Ohio.
OPTIONS: Entertainment system \$1,300.
DESTINATION CHARGE: \$720.

700 Auto Sales
2000 E. FM 700 • Big Spring, TX 79720
267-AUTO
267-8888 or 267-3251
Jude Smith - Sales Billy Smith - Owner

IN BRIEF

Lady Steer Booster meeting announced

The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m. All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Carol Policky at 466-3900.

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season and they will be held each Saturday from Feb. 18 through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women ages four and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Little League ump needed, signup days announced

Little League signups for the upcoming season will take place Feb. 18-25 at the Big Spring Mall.

The signups will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Anyone interested in umpiring little league baseball games or for more information on the little league signups, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 432-816-9984 or 432-263-1792 or Randy Phillips at 432-264-6600 (day) or 432-263-5314 (night).

Dornmeister gets gold, U.S. hockey team skates to tie

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Austrian Michaela Dornmeister finally discarded the disappointment of a near-miss at the 1998 Nagano Games by winning her first Olympic gold in the women's downhill. Up and coming Lindsey Kildow showed serious guts simply by skiing at all.

Kildow, who tied for eighth, had a bruised thigh, aching back and sore pelvis after a body-battering crash in Monday's practice on the same hill.

The U.S. hockey team skated to a disappointing 3-3 tie against lowly Latvia after brushing aside predictions that had it finishing in the bottom half of the Olympic standings.

Chad Hedrick's hope of matching Eric Holden's record of gold medals in Winter Olympics ended when the Americans were eliminated in the quarterfinals of team pursuit.

Solid pitching sends Howard to wins in WJCAC

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
SNYDER — Howard College's softball team started the Western Junior College Athletic Conference season with two road wins Wednesday as the Hawks took down rival Western Texas College, 7-3 and 7-2.

Howard, which improved to 11-4 overall and 2-0 in the WJCAC,

reached double digits in hits in both contests, got two strong pitching performances and limited its errors in the field.

"It's a good start," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines. "We feel good about going 2-0 on the road."

The Hawks were down one run early in the first game as Western Texas scored one run in the first

inning. Howard took the lead in the second inning with two and then scored five runs in the final two innings to win by four.

Sophomore Paige Ruiz improved to 4-1 on the season as she threw all seven innings, gave up five hits and two earned runs, while striking out and walking six.

Freshman Laura Lopez led the Hawks at the plate

as she went two-for-three with a double, had 2 RBIs, scored twice and walked once. Freshman Kendra Corbin and Brittany Westbrook and sophomore Amanda Kuramata all had two hits at the plate, as well. Freshman Jessica Garcia tripled and scored a run. The other three runs were scored by Corbin, Kuramata and sophomore Nicole

Dickson.

"We have a good offensive team and the girls know that I expect to score runs every time out," said Raines. "We emphasize hitting an awful lot and that is one of our strengths."

Dickson got the win on the mound in Game 2 as she gave up just one

See HOWARD, Page 2B

B.S. boys end year with loss to 'Stangs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ANDREWS — The Big Spring boy's basketball team concluded its season Tuesday night on the road

against arch rival Andrews and lost, 74-39.

The Mustangs grabbed an 18-7 lead

Tannehill after one quarter and led 39-20 at halftime. The Steers managed just 19 points in the second half — two in the third quarter — and lost by 35.

Andrews improved to 4-6 in District 4-4A play, while Big Spring dropped to 3-7.

Raymond Porter led Big Spring with 10 points, while Ryan Tannehill added eight and Terrance Clemons scored six.

Brett Bailey hit five 3-pointers and led the Mustangs with a game-high 24 points. Jose Ramirez and David Rodriguez both hit double figures with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

A big difference in the game was shots at the foul line. Andrews was 20-for-31 from the charity stripe, while Big Spring went eight-for-15.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Kalan Whitehead attempts a jump shot during the Steers' win against Lake View last Friday. Big Spring ended its season Tuesday with a road loss to arch rival Andrews.

Top-ranked Howard ready for showdown

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The highly-anticipated Western Junior College Athletic Conference rematch is finally here. The No. 1 ranked Howard College men's basketball team will play 12th-ranked Midland tonight at the Chaparral Center at Midland College.

The game could be the biggest athletic sporting event in the state this evening and the two WJCAC powers will tipoff at 7:50 p.m.

"It's all about Midland at this point," said sophomore guard Charles Burgess after Howard's

win over New Mexico JC Monday. "They are in our way to Hutch and we need to come ready to go because playing in their house will be tough."

The Hawks have already defeated the Chaps twice this season. They defeated Midland by nine at the Odessa College Tournament in November and needed a buzzer-beater by sophomore guard Dezmon Harris to defeat the Chaps at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum last month.

Howard looks to extend

See SHOWDOWN, Page 2B

Suddenly-hot Hawks seek 3rd straight win

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

At 0-5 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, the Howard women's basketball team seemed dead in the water a few weeks ago.

Somebody forgot to tell the suddenly-hot Hawk women and head coach Earl Diddle as Howard tries to win its third straight game tonight on the road against arch rival Midland.

With two straight wins the Hawks have also got themselves back into the WJCAC mix. They passed Frank Phillips in the

standings Monday after win over New Mexico and are now just one-half game behind the Lady Thunderbirds for fifth place. Sitting in a tie for fourth place is Midland College at 4-4. A win tonight for Howard could seriously put it back into the race for the final post-season berth.

Several keys for Howard tonight, according to assistant coach Eric Rodewald, include taking care of the ball and free throw shooting. The Hawks committed just 15 turnovers against

See HAWKS, Page 2B

Two unearned runs cost B.S. in opener

• Lady Steers give up two early runs, bats go quiet in loss to Odessa Permian

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The Lady Steers had no trouble with pitching in its first regular season game without Alex Watkins and Chelsea Abner as freshman

Shelbi Stewart pitched seven solid innings on the mound.

However, two first-inning errors and not enough support with the bats led to a home-opening defeat against Odessa Permian at the Big Spring softball complex. Permian scored two unearned runs in the first inning and

held on for a 2-1 victory against Big Spring, which is coming off a season in which they reached the regional championship game for the first time in school history.

"I think overall it was a good game," said Big Spring head coach Jennifer Reyes. "We had our chances to score, but could never get the key hits to get runners across."

Stewart gave up six hits and two unearned runs on the mound and struck out three, while walking one, but took the loss. She was also two-for-four at the plate.

Senior Mandy Walker, junior Amber Sides and senior Katy Watton all had two hits as well. Walker doubled and Sides tripled.

The Lady Steers scored their only run in the third inning, but Permian shut them down the rest of the way.

"They responded well after having two mental breakdowns in the first inning," said Reyes. "I think it was nerves."

Hollie Hutson got the win on the mound for



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Big Spring senior Krista Chesworth, right, makes the tag on a Permian runner sliding into second base during the Lady Steers' season-opening loss to the Lady Panthers. Permian scored two unearned runs in the first inning and won, 2-1.

Permian as she gave up nine hits and one unearned run.

Hutson struck out seven and walked one.

The Lady Steers will be back in action starting today at the New Braunfels Tournament.

The tourney runs through Saturday.

Big Spring will not return home until the District 4-4A opener March 17. It takes on rival Lake View.

The Lady Steers play in Coahoma March 14.

Hawk rodeo squad gets special visit from NFR qualifiers

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

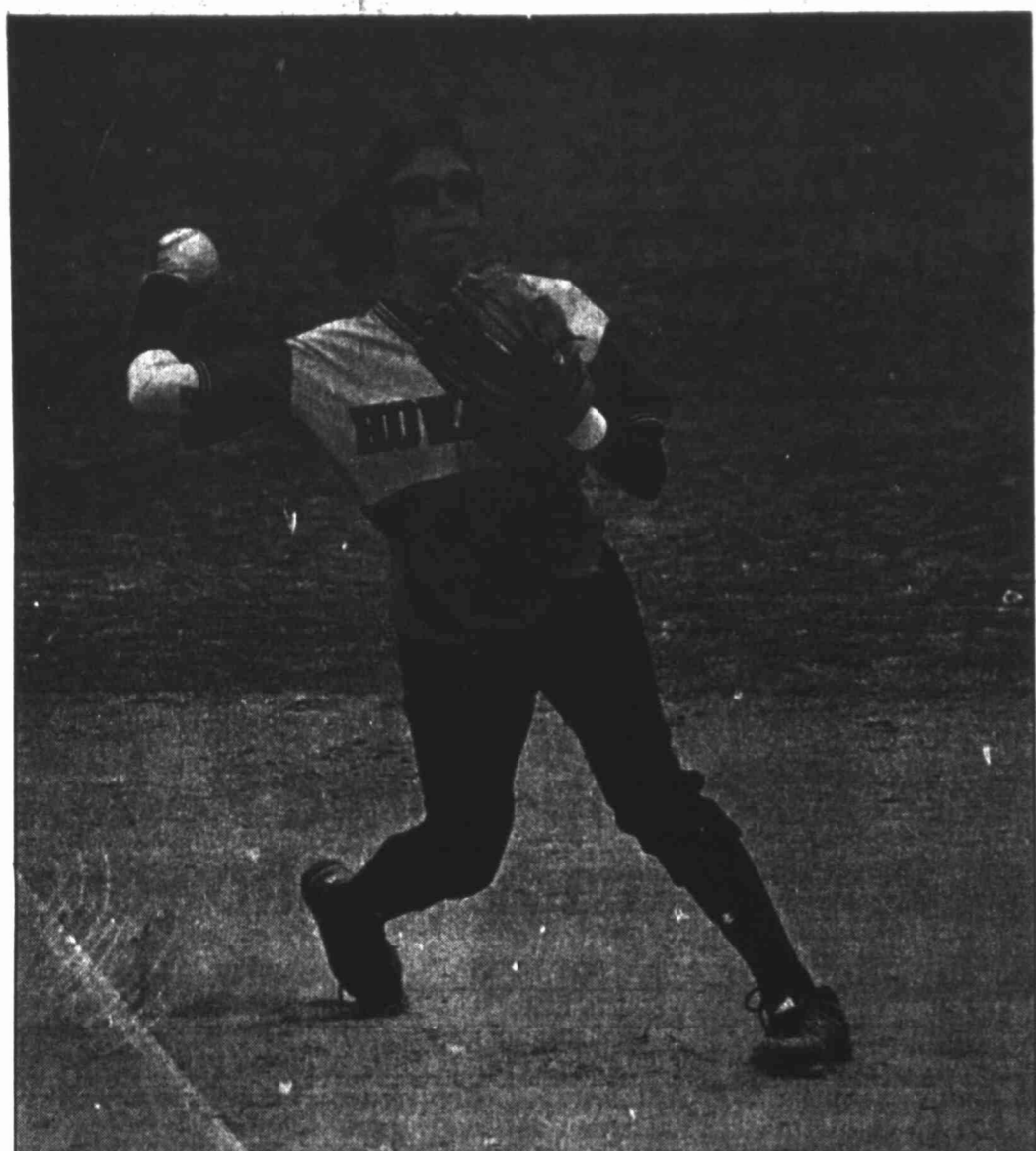
Eight members of the current pro rodeo circuit made a stop in Big Spring this week on their off days of current rodeos. The group will be working out with the Howard College rodeo team the rest of the week before heading to the Tuscon Pro Rodeo in the coming weeks.

The list of members on the pro rodeo circuit visiting Howard this year are Nationals Final Rodeo (NFR) Qualifiers Stockton Graves and Ronnie Fields, Prairie Circuit champion Tooter Silver, Rodney Burke, who owns the two-time horse of the year in the PRCA, Chancey Larson, Cody Browne, Jonathan Ragatz and Ricky Riley. All eight visitors are steer wrestlers.

Burke, Ragatz, Fields and Silver are all compet-

See RODEO, Page 2B





HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard freshman shortstop Alsha Rams attempts to throw out a runner at first base during the Hawks' sweep of Western Nebraska earlier this month. Howard began conference play Wednesday and recorded two road wins against Western Texas College.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

earned run and seven hits, while striking out two. She improved to 4-1 on the year.

"Both pitchers did a good," said Raines. "The two errors we had in each game caused some runs, but both Paige and Nicole were able to keep us ahead."

Dickson was helped out by Ruiz at the plate

as she got the offense started in the first inning with a grand slam — her fifth home run of the season.

Howard added two runs in the fourth and added its final run in the seventh. Western Texas scored one run in the second and one run in the fifth.

Corbin, Garcia and freshman Honda Rodriguez all went two-for-four at the plate. Rodriguez and Corbin each scored two runs,

while Garcia doubled and scored one run.

The Hawks left for Fort Worth today and will compete in the Cowtown Classic — a tournament featuring every junior college in the state of Texas — this weekend. Howard will play Ranger at 9:30 a.m. Friday and also plays Bossier (La.) and Texarkana Friday. Texarkana features former Big Spring standout Leina Braxton.

SHOWDOWN

Continued from Page 1B

its winning streak to 26 games and improve to 10-0 in the conference with a win, but might play short-handed again as Harris is not expected to play due to a bad ankle sprain. Phil Murphy sat out the New Mexico game after being suspended for violating team rules, but is expected to return tonight. Suspended forward Louis Rodgers, the team's second leading scorer, will not play and might not return this season.

The Chaps need a win to get back into the conference title mix. Their only loss in WJCAC play came against Howard so a win tonight will create a first-place tie with the nation's top-ranked team. Midland

enters the game 22-3 overall with two losses coming against Howard.

Howard, on the other hand, is looking to distance themselves from the pack. A win against Midland tonight would the Hawks a two-game lead on the Chaps and will put them in the driver's seat for the title.

"This game could be for the conference championship," said Burgess. "We need to throw out the first two victories because they won't mean much tonight. I think this game will be the game of the year."

Both teams are coming

off impressive wins. The Hawks defeated New Mexico by 34 points and extended its school-record winning streak to 25 games, while Midland traveled to Clarendon and won in a tough atmosphere. .92-78.

Midland is led by four players in double-figures and point guard Tim Crowell, who averages 9.5 points per game. Ricky Smith is leading the way with 15.2 points per game, while Rodrigue Mels and Nemanja Calasan both average 13 points per game. Davlin Davis also scores in double figures with a 12.6 points per game average.



HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

New Mexico in the win, but the losses they have had this year have been because they were unable to value the basketball.

Tonight's game, which begins at 5:50 p.m., is a must-win for both teams as only two games separate second place and seventh place in the stand-

ings.

The Lady Chaps are led by Rachel Brazell, who averages 14.8 points per game. Rhea Carter averages 10.4 points. Midland, which enters the game with a 19-7 overall record, will have to play tonight's game without Addie Lees,



GILYARD

who suffered a concussion against Clarendon.

Midland is coming off a road loss to Clarendon. Clarendon is the other team in the standings with a 4-4 record. Both Midland and Clarendon are tied for the final playoff spots.

The Hawks are led by sophomores Latoya Fairley and Jennifer Pena and freshmen Chanel Jones-Delas and Kim Gilyard.

Stanton falls at bi-district

• Low-scoring second half dooms Lady Buffs against Ballinger

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — The Stanton Lady Buffaloes

ended their basketball season Tuesday as the Lady Buffs lost a bi-district playoff game against Ballinger at the Junell Center in San Angelo.

Stanton scored just 14 points in the second half, including two points in the third quarter, and lost

51-30.

Ballinger will meet District 2-2A champion Wall in the Area Championship round. Taylor Pelzel led the Lady Bearcats with 17 points. Callie Williams added 13 points.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1B

ing in San Angelo at the present time and Fields also has the chance to qualify for the finals of the San Antonio rodeo.

"This here teaches you about life," said Burke, who is making his second visit in two years through Big Spring. "The kids here have five or six things going on at one time and they are still able to get them done. I just try to tell them to keep a straight head and always try hard."

Burke's horse, Zan, has won horse of the year each of the last two years. The top 25 cowboys in the world in each rodeo event vote for the best horse in the event and Zan won best horse twice in the steer wrestling event.

"It's a big honor because it is being voted on by other cowboys," said Burke, who resides in Benton, Ark.

Burke is the only one of the eight members in town that has a family back home.

Burke has a wife and two kids and has little time to see them throughout the year.

"There's really not



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard got a visit from several members of the pro rodeo circuit this week. Front row, from left: Cash Kerner, Juan Alcazar, Jonathan Ragatz, Rodney Burke, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Ricky Riley, Chancey Larson, Tooter Silver, Laramie Hall, Cody Heiner, Paul Young and Cody Browne. Back: Stockton Graves, Lance Jowers and Ronnie Fields. Ragatz, Burke, Riley, Larson, Silver and Browne are all members of the pro rodeo circuit. Jowers, Kerner, Alcazar, Hall, Heiner and Young are all current members of the Howard College rodeo team. Graves and Fields were both National Finals Rodeo qualifiers last year.

enough time to see the family, but doing what I do allows us all to have food and a roof over our heads," said Burke. "I have the most time with them during the winters, but from June through September I am not around much."

The eight visitors all compete in the same events and often travel to the same rodeos because of familiarity.

But Burke doesn't see it

as competing against his fellow competitors and friends.

"We all try to go to the same rodeos because we know each other," said Burke. "I don't look at it as competing with these guys though. I am just competing against the steer and trying to get the fastest time I can. If my horse is used and won by someone else I get 25 percent of the winnings so I can win without winning

myself."

The Howard College rodeo team, which is coached by Greg Kernick, is preparing for the spring season, which consists of six rodeos in March and April.

The Hawks' season begins March 9-11 in Weatherford and ends April 27-29 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl.

They also visit Odessa, Snyder, Pampa and Tarleton State University.

Wescott wins a wild one, brings home gold for America

BARDONECCHIA, Italy (AP) — American Seth Wescott used a sweet little slide move to nudge into first place and become the first Olympic champion in the wild sport of snowboardcross Thursday.

Wescott gets a gold medal. Everyone else gets warm compresses and aspirin.

Some said snowboardcross resembled NASCAR riders at a time vying for

space, pushing and shoving through the tight corners on the 3,100-foot-long course. But not even NASCAR would allow some of the things that happened over these 90-minute of side-by-side racing.

Wescott won by being able to stay out of any messes over his four trips down the slope. In the final heat, he took the lead over silver medalist Slovakia with a deft pass-

ing move in the middle of the course and led the rest of the way, barely beating Zidek past the finish line.

Paul-Henri Delerue of France took bronze.

"I just knew if I was patient and confident that I'd reach the part of the course that I could work a little better, catch the speed on him," Wescott said. "Then coming into that one turn, I dove the inside line on him like clockwork. That's how it

worked out."

Wescott, winner at last year's World Championships who has devoted most of his life to this dangerous discipline of snowboarding, was the exception on a day full of thrills and spills.

Only about five seconds had elapsed before the first wreck of the finals and it was significant. Drew Neilson of Canada, the fastest qualifier in the

See TURIN, Page 3B

Mavericks take over first place in West

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks are right where they want to be. Not now, but in two months when it's time for the playoffs.

Dallas goes into the All-Star break with the best record in the Western Conference, alone on top after a 103-97 victory over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

"That doesn't mean anything right now. That's where we want to be in April," Jason Terry said. "We're going to come back hungry. We know what we're playing for. ... We have to get home court."

To get the No. 1 seed that would give them home-court advantage, the Mavericks (41-11) know they have to stay ahead of San Antonio in the Southwest Division. Or they can be no better than a No. 4 seed.

"We're really striving to be the top dog in June, not February," coach Avery Johnson said.

Dirk Nowitzki had 25 points with a key assist after the Wizards got within a point for the fourth time in the fourth quarter, 97-96 with 1:14 left after Caron Butler's 10-foot baseline jumper.

After Butler's shot, the last field goal for Washington, the Mavericks crossed mid-court, called timeout and set their play. Erick Dampier, just back in the game, got a pass from Nowitzki and drove the lane for an easy layup with 53 seconds left.

The Mavericks went ahead to stay with a 10-0 run midway through the second quarter, but in the closing minutes had to hold off the Wizards, who

have lost two in a row since their season-best five-game winning streak.

"We stopped them when we had to," Terry said. "That's the sign of a good team."

The Mavericks won their 11th straight home game, one short of the franchise record. They play their first four games after the break at home.

With San Antonio (40-12) losing 103-100 in overtime at Philadelphia in its last game before the break Wednesday night, the Mavs took over the top spot in the Western Conference. Only Eastern Conference-leading Detroit (42-9) has a better record.

Since last losing at home Dec. 30 against Golden State, the Mavericks are 20-3 overall. That stretch included an NBA-best 13-game winning streak that was snapped Friday night at Denver.

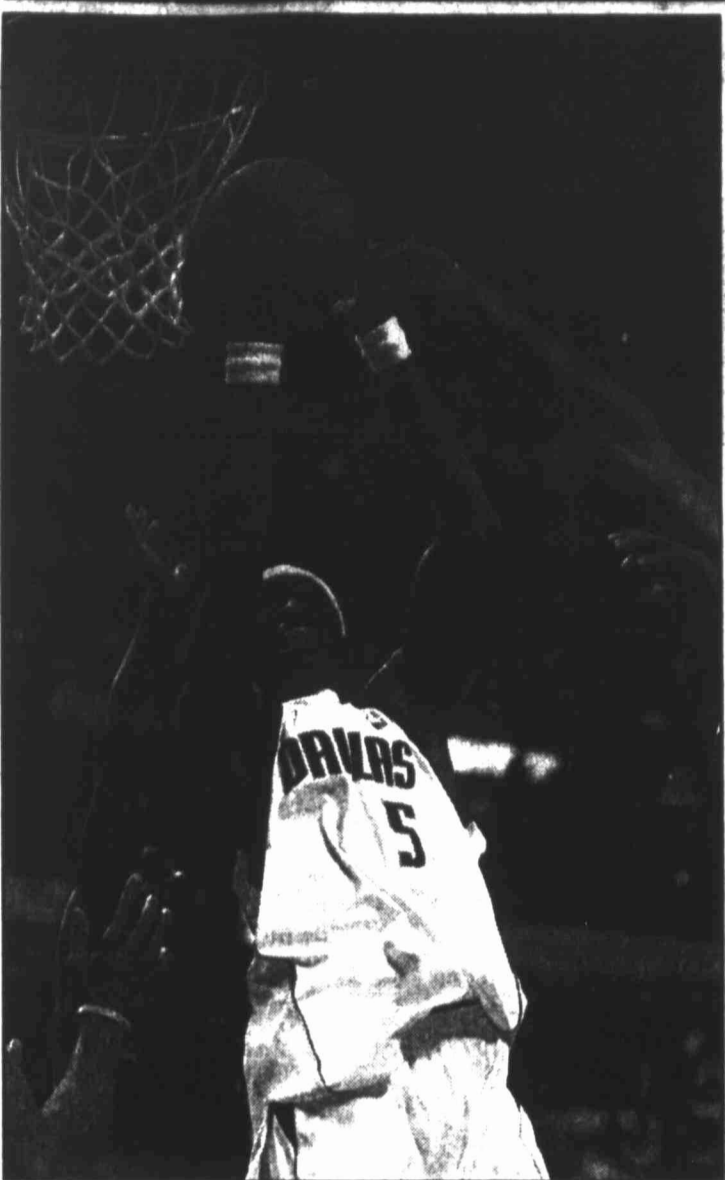
Following the Dampier layup, Gilbert Arenas missed another shot in what was one of the All-Star's worst shooting games of the season. Terry then drove for a layup to make it 101-96.

Arenas finished with 12 points — his third-lowest total this season and nearly 17 below his season average. He was 4-of-22 shooting.

"That was difficult. I just tried to play my game and go inside," Arenas said. "It was kind of frustrating, driving in and getting hit. I didn't hear any whistle."

With about 8 minutes left, Butler had a steal

See MAVS, Page 3B



KRT photo/Jeffery Washington, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Mavericks' Josh Howard takes the ball to the goal at the American Airlines Center in Dallas Wednesday.

MAVS

Continued from Page 2B

who missed a layup while making contact in the air with defenders. No foul was called, and coach Eddie Jordan was given a technical foul after he ran to midcourt shouting his displeasure at the non-call.

Nowitzki missed the free throw, but after the inbound pass hit an 18-footer.

Arenas was initially left off the Eastern Conference All-Star team despite being the NBA's fourth-leading scorer. Commissioner David Stern put him on the squad last week to replace injured Jermaine O'Neal.

This game wasn't reflective of what Arenas has done all season. He missed all seven of his shots in the fourth quarter. Plus, Nowitzki beat him on a drive with about 4 minutes left, turning around Arenas and popping an 11-foot jumper to make it 92-85.

With 2:20 left and the Wizards within three, Arenas was called for an

offensive foul on a drive against Nowitzki. The Mavericks couldn't convert and Butler drove the baseline for a layup to make it 97-96. Next was Nowitzki's pass to Dampier.

Josh Howard scored 26 points and Terry added 19 for the Mavericks.

Butler led the Wizards with 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Antawn Jamison added 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Johnson, 57-13 since replacing the retired Don Nelson last March, will coach the Western Conference All-Stars in Houston on Sunday. The only Dallas player with him will be Nowitzki, who was selected last week as a reserve.

The Mavericks' go-ahead run midway through the second quarter snapped a 36-all tie. Marquis Daniels found Howard alone under the basket for an easy slam dunk for the tiebreaking basket with 7:32 left, and Howard scored the next bucket on a layup after rebounding his own miss.

Arenas missed three shots in that 3 1/2-minute span.

Start feeling warm: Pitchers, catchers report to camp duty

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — It's time for the words baseball fans couldn't wait to hear: pitchers and catchers.

Just 112 days after the Chicago White Sox completed their World Series sweep of the Houston Astros, spring training began Wednesday when pitchers and catchers reported to a half-dozen of the 30 major league training camps in Florida and Arizona.

Workouts started Thursday, and the Minnesota Twins will become the final team to report Sunday. Position players are due in next week, and before you know it will come the April 2 opener, when Cleveland visits the White Sox.

There will be an interesting twist this year, with the spring split by the first World Baseball Classic, a 16-team tournament from March 3-20 in which players will be on national teams instead of major league clubs.

But for now, teams were settling in.

Sammy Sosa, however, was not at spring training. The 37-year-old outfielder, just 12 homers shy of becoming the fifth player to reach 600, rejected an offer from the Washington Nationals and is likely to retire.

The former Chicago Cubs star batted .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs last year in his only season with the Baltimore Orioles.

"It wasn't about the money and it wasn't about No. 600," said his agent, Adam Katz. "It was a function of Sammy's expectation of his own performance. He didn't want to go out there and underperform like he did last year because it was just too painful for him, and it's just something he doesn't want to go through again."

While not yet at the San Francisco Giants' camp in Scottsdale, Ariz., Barry Bonds was the big topic of conversation there.

The 41-year-old outfielder hit five homers in 14 games last season after recovering from three knee operations.

He has 708 homers, six behind Babe Ruth and 47 shy of Hank Aaron's career record.

"As a manager, I'd like to see how he is," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "One time last spring, he was catching fly balls with the outfielders, and after that it was all downhill. He's got to get in shape, but he's a smart man and a smart player. The earlier he gets started, the better."

In Lakeland, Jim Leyland spent his first day on the job as the Detroit Tigers' new manager. He walked into his clubhouse office at Tigertown, stopped and pointed at a huge black and white photo of Ty Cobb on the wall.

"I was the only one in baseball to spike Ty Cobb," Leyland said. Leyland was hired Oct. 4 to replace Alan Trammell after Detroit skidded to its 12th straight losing season. How did the 61-year-old spike Cobb, a Hall of Famer who retired as a player in 1928 and died in 1961?

"I was frustrated after a Florida State League game back in 1977 and threw my spike up against the wall," Leyland said. "Unfortunately, it hit the

picture." A 6-inch gouge is evident next to Cobb's left cheek in the picture, patched with tape. Leyland was the manager of the Lakeland Tigers that year.

Even as teams got ready to take the field, there was still offseason business going on.

Pitcher Jeff Weaver became the last major free agent to find a team, agreeing to a one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels worth \$8,325,000.

He joins his younger brother, Jered, a former pitching star for Long Beach State, who is a prospect in the Angels' organization.

"It's another quality arm that we're getting in here," pitcher John Lackey said at the Angels' camp in Tempe, Ariz. "You never can have too much pitching."

In Mesa, Ariz., the Cubs said that while Kerry Wood's rehabilitation from shoulder surgery is progressing, the star pitcher might not be ready for opening day.

"I don't put schedules on rehab," Cubs pitching coach Larry Rothschild said Wednesday after Wood made about 75 throws off flat ground. "That will be determined as we go. He's where he should be in a rehab from the surgery. No setbacks or anything. As long as we can keep progressing, that's what we are after."

Wood was on the disabled list three times last season.

The 1998 NL Rookie of the Year made 10 starts, ended up in the bullpen as an effective reliever and then had arthroscopic surgery Aug. 31.

In Vero Beach, Fla., closer Eric Gagne addressed his comeback from elbow-ligament surgery. The former NL Cy Young Award winner, who appeared in just 14 games last year, has thrown off a mound six times in the past three weeks.

"I expect to be the kind of pitcher I was," he said. "I feel I'm 100 percent to where I should be right now."

In Dunedin, Toronto center fielder Vernon Wells said he wouldn't mind playing a corner outfield spot or designated hitter for the United States in the WBC so that Ken Griffey Jr. can play center.

"I don't care. I'm going to get a fair amount of playing time," Wells said.

In Peoria, Ariz., Japanese catcher Kenji Johjima stood in the lobby of the Seattle Mariners' spring-training headquarters with his English tutor.

"From what I understand, he's worked really hard to learn the language," Mariners pitcher Clint Nageotte said.

In Tampa, the Yankees said Carl Pavano has lower back discomfort that will prevent him from throwing off a mound until around March 1. After signing a \$39.95 million, four-year contract, Pavano missed the second half of last season because of a shoulder injury.

"You certainly don't want to get to this point of taking this much care and then decide that just because the season opener is coming that you've got to hurry up and do something," manager Joe Torre said.

TURIN

Continued from Page 2B

tame morning runs, got tripped up by Polish competitor Rafal Skarbek-Malczewski, who slipped and slammed into the netting. Neilson bounded down the course, hurting his back and pelvis on the way.

Thirty minutes later, the favorite and one of the best riders in the world over the past few years was limping home, bemoaning the realities of his sport.

"His nose caught my tail and I was down before you knew it," Neilson said. "That's the beauty of it."

He wasn't alone. Wescott's three teammates all lost in heats after contact, or what looked like contact and one of the collisions resulted in some bad blood between two Americans.

Jason Smith was leading and looking good in the semifinals before Delerue nudged him out of the lead. That left Smith to battle with Wescott for second and Smith lost.

One race earlier, American Nate Holland had the most curious ride.

Going four-wide with

the riders in his heat, including Smith, he took huge air on a jump about one-third of the way down the course — so high that he could plainly be seen wiggling back and forth in the air. He was in the jumble because Smith had slowed down in front of him.

"I don't know what he's doing speed-checking in the course on an Olympic game day," Holland said.

After the jump, Holland landed on his backside and when it was over, tried to protest, saying he had gotten hit.

Who didn't? The biggest wipeout of the day came in a semifinal near the top of the hill when Spain's Jordi Font appeared to lose his balance, then reached out and grabbed Canada's Jasey Jay Anderson from behind.

They slammed into the gate and while Zidek raced 10 seconds ahead of them, they gathered themselves up and continued down the hill. Anderson beat Font easily for second, which would earn him the spot in the finals, but he was unable to keep his board inside the gate and was disqualified.

A video review showed no conclusive evidence to overturn the call and Font advanced.



KRT photo/Joe Rimkus Jr., Miami Herald
Seth Wescott of the United States jumps toward the finish line to advance in the 1/8 finals in snowboard-cross in Bardonecchia, Italy, Thursday.

"I thought I had it because I intentionally put my board on the other

side of the gate," Anderson said. "That's boardercross."

Indiana's Davis stays positive despite rumors

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer
STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Indiana coach Mike Davis tried to stay positive.

But after the Hoosiers' latest setback, a 71-68 loss to Penn State on Wednesday night, there was one question on everyone's mind: Was he stepping down after this season?

"I'm not answering anything about my job," Davis said in a low, raspy voice after a reporter asked him about a story posted Wednesday night on SI.com, citing sources in the athletic department that he would step down after the season.

Davis said he didn't know about that story until he was asked about it on his post-game radio show.

"If I say something, I say the wrong thing," Davis said. "I just need to keep my mouth quiet and focus on my basketball team."

ESPN.com reported late Wednesday night that Indiana will hold a news conference Thursday at which Davis will announce his resignation, effective at the end of the season.

Indiana (13-9, 5-6 Big Ten) lost for the sixth time in seven games. The Hoosiers fell out of the Top 25 this week for the first time this season, giving more fuel to a vocal contingent of fans calling for his ouster.

But Davis said he saw some good signs Wednesday, even though his team squandered a halftime lead.

Robert Vaden led Indiana with 17 points and A.J. Ratliff had 11 points, all in the first half. That was as many points as Ratliff had in his last four games combined.

"I thought we made some progress," Davis said. "Some guys made plays who hadn't made plays in a while. ... We can take a lot of good out of this."

More so for Penn State (12-11, 4-8), which won for the first time since beating then-No. 6 Illinois on Feb. 4 to snap the Illini's 33-game home winning streak.

Ben Luber hit a jumper, then Geary Claxton nailed a 3 with 3:46 left to give Penn State a 70-65 lead.

Lewis Monroe hit one of two free throws to cut the lead to 71-68, then Luber missed two free throws with 2 seconds left. But Marshall Strickland missed a desperation 3 after the buzzer, and the Penn State fans stormed the court.

Claxton had 20 points and nine rebounds, while Travis Parker had 21 points and seven rebounds for Penn State.

Unlike its last two games, home losses to Minnesota and Wisconsin, Penn State didn't lose momentum in the second half.

"We didn't want anything to happen like the previous two games we

played in the second half," Claxton said. "So we came out with a lot of energy because we worked real hard over these last two practices."

Penn State coach Ed DeChellis said that while his young team, which has just one senior (Parker), didn't play well in the last minute, "it was important for us get the good feeling back."

DeChellis steered clear of the rumors surrounding Davis.

"That's not my deal," he said. "I'm focused on Penn State."

Davis, in his sixth season since replacing Bob Knight, took Indiana to the NCAA championship game in 2002. But his team has slipped badly since starting this season 10-2 and peaking at No. 9 in the AP poll on Jan. 9.

The game Wednesday night was his first back on the bench after missing one game with flu-like symptoms amid rampant speculation about his job security.

BIG SPRING CLASSIFIEDS

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Announcements

Didn't Get Your Paper?
 Call 263-7335
 Mon-Fri. 8am-7pm
 Sun 8am-noon



Business Opportunity

ACKERLY/KNOTT
 Do you live in Ackerly or Knott and work in Big Spring? Help pay your gasoline bill by delivering the Big Spring Herald in Ackerly and/or Knott.

For more info call Duane McColium at BIG SPRING HERALD (32)263-7331

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if you have been made we will correct the ad at no additional charge. If you are inadvertently not paid for an ad, please contact the newspaper's liability and we will be for any amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Business Opportunity

BIG SPRING ROUTE
 Instant Income - No Selling. \$12,950 req'd for locations & Inventory. (800)373-5470.

The Big Spring Herald always need dependable carriers for various routes. Must have insurance and reliable transportation.

Apply in person. Contact Duane McColium 710 Scurry (432)263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

Cemetery Lots

CEMETERY LOT at Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Sharon. \$900.00. Call Bobby Thurman toll-free (866)608-9302.

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: Lots of Furniture for the Home. Big & Tall men's clothes, women's wear, dishes, frames, appliances, electronics. Burritos to be sold as well. 2100 S. Monticello, Saturday 7:30-7.

Help Wanted

Assistant Manager/Collector
 Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

BEST HOME Care has full time RN position available. Great working hours with competitive pay and sign on bonus. Apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C, or call 263-3851.

BEST HOME Care is seeking qualified individual to fill position of community liaison. Excellent salary with chance to earn bonus pay. Apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C.

CNAS NEEDED for 2pm-10pm and 10pm-6am shift. Contact Paula Lawrence, (325)378-2134. Sterling County Nursing Home.

COMMERCIAL CARPENTER NEEDED
 Interior trim and finish out carpenter and general laborers needed immediately for construction project in Big Spring. Call Sandy at (432)264-9894 or (325)565-5273 (cell). Equal Opportunity Employer.

DO you have at least 3 years Carpentry & Painting experience. Transportation to and from job sites. Willing to work. Apply at Texas Workforce or call (432)267-2296.

FULL TIME RN Case Manager needed in Big Spring and surrounding areas with a fast growing home health agency. Apply @: Interim HealthCare, 4610 N. Garfield, Ste. B-20 or fax to: (432)618-0307.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

EXPERIENCED PART-TIME morning Cook and evening Counter Help. Apply in person Dairy Queen, 1506 E. 4th St., Big Spring. No Phone Calls.

EXPERIENCED TRUCK mechanic needed to work on Cummins & Caterpillar engines. Salary DOE, health insurance, 401K plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or fax resume to 4320263-6012. EOE

H.E.B. IS taking applications for the position of Hourly Experienced Cake Decorator for the Big Spring store. Stop by 2000 South Gregg for an application. No phone calls, please.

HIRING FOR 2006! AVERAGE POSTAL EMPLOYEE EARNS \$57,000/YR. Minimum starting pay \$18.00/hr. benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience needed. 1-800-584-1775 ref#9020.

HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM needed as Dorm parents for basic Child-Care Facility. Salary plus room & board, benefits. Call Texas Pythian Home, 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday (817)594-4485 or visit our web site www.pythianhome.org

Help Wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING for a Physical Therapy Tech/ Assistant at Big Spring Physical Therapy. Experience preferred but will train a self-motivated, eager person. Fax resumes to (432)267-3581 or come by 1707 Lancaster for an application.

LOOKING FOR (3) Part-time Personal Banker/Teller. Experienced preferred but not required. Apply at www.woodforest.com

MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker for the Lake Thomas area. 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 required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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

Help Wanted

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
 Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job sites. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
 Big Spring Area Routes Midland Reporter-Telegram The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. General knowledge of the Big Spring area, good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call 432-687-9002.

NORTHCREST APARTMENTS is taking applications for a maintenance person. Make ready experience required. Must pass drug test and background check. 1002 N. Main, 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.

NOW HIRING Full time Driver. No experience necessary will train. Please apply in person, 912 East 4th Street, Big Spring.

STERLING COUNTY Nursing Home is looking for Relief Cook/Dishwasher. Call and ask for Diann Nelson (325)378-2134.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day
 Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!



AUTO PARTS

WESLEX
 Since 1947

- 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles
- 20,000 sq ft of Warehouse Storage
- Specialize in late model quality auto parts
- Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, minivans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles

Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 PM/day 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT
 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000

CARPET

CARPET SALES and Construction Management
 Draw Plans & Estimates

Kenny Thompson
 270-0548

BIG SPRING HERALD

YOUR AD

PUT YOUR AD HERE
 CALL 263-7331
 Herald Classifieds

BIG SPRING HERALD

CONCRETE

MARQUEZ FENCE CO.
 All types of fences & repairs.

Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates
Benny Marquez-Owner
 267-5714

CONCRETE

J. T. Builders
 Remodeling • Drywall
 Ceramic Tile • Electrical
 Plumbing • Roofing
 Brick & Concrete Work
 Driveways • Sidewalks
 Fireplaces • Stucco
 Swimming Pool Decks

JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ
 (432) 213-0882 Cell
 (432) 263-2110 Res.
 108 E. 11th PLACE
 BIG SPRING, TX. 79720

DIRT WORK

DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY
 We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots.

432-756-3444

FENCES

Finest In Fencing
 Wood & Chainlink

Free Estimates
 432-270-7518

YOUR AD

PUT YOUR AD HERE
 CALL 263-7331
 Herald Classifieds

BIG SPRING HERALD

FENCES

ACEVEDO'S
 Pipe Fencing • Wire Fencing • Fencing
 Welding • Dozer Work
 Buy and Sell Pipe

SANTIAGO ACEVEDO
 Loraine, Texas
 Cell: 325/242-2087
 Home: 325/737-2361
 Cell: 325/242-0578

FENCES

CHARLIE METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON

B & M Fence Co.
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE
 FREE ESTIMATES
 ROBERT MARQUEZ
 263-1613 •
 1-800-825-1389
 1000 Lanes Hwy. • Big Spring

HOME IMPROVEMENT

DOORS/GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS
 Home Repair • Carpentry
 Sheet Work
 Repaired/Replaced
 Kitchen & Bath

BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK
 409 E. 3RD 267-5811

HOME IMPROVEMENT

AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE

- Renovation
- Repairs
- Maintenance

Quality Work You Can Trust
 Satisfaction Guaranteed
 NO JOB IS TOO SMALL!
 Russ Crain (owner) 432-270-2585

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Gibbs Remodeling
 New home Construction • Room Additions
 Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing
 Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair
 All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home.
 Call 263-8285

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Speedy Sr. Construction
 We Do It All!
 Residential & Commercial
 Ceramic Tiles, Cabinets, Drywall, Textures, Plumbing, Electrical
 AC, Roofs, New Additions & Lawn Service

Phone: 432-263-2911
 Cell: 432-816-3832

LAWN SERVICE

MOWING • ALLEYS HAULING • TILLING TREE TRIMMING STUMP REMOVAL

CALL
432-267-5460
 CELL
816-6150

PEST CONTROL

SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL
 Since 1954
 432-263-6514

2008 Birdwell Lane
 Max F. Moore
 www.swalpc.com
 mm@swalpc.com

RENTALS

VENTURA COMPANY
 432-267-2655
 Houses • Storages
 Commercial Buildings
 1003, 07, 11 E. 11th Pl.
 For rent/sale
 811 Colled
 1811 Main
 204 11th Place

ROOFING

PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT
 Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded

Home Phone# 432-263-5430
 Cell# 432-213-0363

ROOFING

JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING
 Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repair
 Free Estimates!!
 Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
 267-1110

STORAGE

AAA Mini-Storage
 Special 1/2 Off on 3rd Month

New Move Logic or Small Units Available. No Drive In All! New Accessory Van & Enclosure

3301 E. FM 700 263-0732

TAX SERVICES

FAST CASH
 On Income Tax Refund
 Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. •

TAX ASSOCIATES
 406 Runnels
 Home Phone: 263-1613
 CALL
 (432) 264-6134
 *No Hidden Expenses!
 *With BAL Approval

TREE TRIMMING

MURRAY'S TREE SERVICE
 Holiday Specials
 Tree Removal Specialist.
 Minor/Major trimming, stump removal, flower bed cleaned, hedges trimmed. Prices negotiable.

(432) 570-9917
 (432) 230-6778, cell.

TREE TRIMMING

LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
 More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.

Call
 Lupe Villalpando
 432-268-6408

Big Sp Thursc
 OILFIELD
 An exper company son to in calized drilling rig
 Experie and inste able but essentia lity to wo supervi some time desire to sponsibil plicants r and hig Many pe strong in but in fac apply uni that you are seeki
 The co competit sive be truck, too training to work. In asked to professio E-mail or Person Attention Fa
 usres
 When please re per in wh NO
 PARKVI
 habitatio creasing Aid staff. be a frie ate team like you, at Parkv blitation,
 PRICE
 now hiri sitions.
 1. Cor
 2. Ad
 3. Sfr
 4. Est
 Resumes (432)267 son at 2 Big Spr Employee
 SHELL
 for new and part tant Man at any S Spring. ment.
 SUMME
 Valley F Fork, C dents to Houseke horse w mainten board & and app Director, Granbury
 All real newspa Federal 1988 w advertis tion o on race nationa to make limitatio This n ingly ac real est of the la hereby dwelli newspa equal o

Help Wanted
OILFIELD SERVICE PERSON
Big Spring, TX Area
An expanding oilfield service company seeks a service person to install and service specialized instrumentation on drilling rigs in the local area.
Experience with drilling rigs and instrumentation is desirable but not essential. What is essential is an exceptional ability to work hard without direct supervision, work irregular and sometimes long hours, and a desire to have complete responsibility for one's work. Applicants must be a self-starter and highly self motivated. Many people say they are strong in these personal traits, but in fact very few are. Do not apply unless you are confident that you have the character we are seeking.
The company will provide a competitive salary, an extensive benefit package, field truck, tools and all necessary training to perform the required work. Interested parties are asked to send a resume and 3 professional references by E-mail or Fax to:
Pason Systems USA Corp.
Attention: Hiring Manager
Fax: 720-880-0016
E-mail: uresumes@pason.com
EOE

When submitting resumes, please reference the newspaper in which you saw the ad.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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

PRICE CONSTRUCTION is now hiring for the following positions:
1. Contract Administrator
2. Administrative Assistant
3. Safety/Hr Officer
4. Estimator
Resumes can be faxed to (432)267-1694 or apply in person at 2701 N. Highway 350, Big Spring, TX 79720. EOE Employer.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full and part time cashiers, Assistant Managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs students to work all types of jobs. Housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen and maintenance. Salary, room, board & bonus. For information and application write Personal Director, 6315 Westover Dr., Granbury, Tx. 76049.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Help Wanted
TAKING APPLICATIONS for the following positions: Backhoe operators, Bucket truck operators, CDL Class A or B Dump truck drivers, General Laborers, GOOD DRIVERS. LICENSE REQUIRED or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

THE SAN Angelo Standard Times is seeking a mature individual for home delivery of newspapers in Big Spring. Make approximate \$650.00 per month. Running your own business. Must like working early morning hours. Call today 1-(800)588-1884 ext. 8294.

TRANSIT MIX Concrete has an opening for an Aggregate Truck Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a Class A CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 35 hour guarantee offered. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 North Benton, Big Spring, TX (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

TRUCK DRIVERS
\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS
Drivers earn up to \$50 thousand per year plus a \$500 sign-on bonus. Benefits include: Medical, Life and Dental Insurance and paid vacation. Applicants should have 3 years driving experience. Oilfield driving experience hauling sand, dry cement, or other equipment operating experience helpful. Class A CDL, good driving record, DOT drug & alcohol testing required. Call 432-563-0722 M-F from 8am-5pm to schedule interview.

WAITRESSES NEEDED
Split Shift
Must be 18
Monday-Saturday
Apply in person,
Red Mesa Grill
2401 Gregg

WANTED; RETIREES with own RV for summer employment at Fun Valley Family Resort, South Fork, Colorado for office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance and RV parks. Write Personnel Director, 6315 Westover Dr., Granbury, TX 76049.

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

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

NEW BALANCE Elliptical & Bow Flex. Sell both for \$1200. Call (432)267-7449 or (432)557-6504.

ORLANDO/ DISNEY Area. 7/6 night stay. Paid \$600.00 Will sell for \$199. Good for one year. Call 915-233-2010.

Lost and Found
FOUND- SATURDAY night Feb. 11th corner of 17th and Gregg St. Young, medium sized female dog. Very sweet and good natured. To identify and claim call (432)267-4656.

SMALL DOG found on Coronado Plaza parking lot. Call (432)816-1592 to identify.

Miscellaneous
2 PC QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC MATTRESS in Plastic Factory Warranty, Sacrifice \$169. Call (806)549-3110.

Miscellaneous
BASEBALL BATTING cages equipment- 3 machines, netting, helmets. Office Bldg. 14x14. Pipe & fencing. Priced to Sell. Make Offer. 1210 E. 4th, Bill Chapp (432)213-0426.

CHEAPEST ADVERTISING OUTDOORS!!! (35/MO.)
Bench signs see lots of traffic daily! Advertise your business where you get more bang for your buck! Bench sign advertising in Big Spring 800-417-7419.

FAMILY HEALTHCARE w/prescription plan! \$69.95/mo. Nationwide coverage, no limitations. Includes: doctors, dental, vision, hospital and more. Everyone accepted! Call WCG 800-228-9214 X2303.

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

O ACHESI NASA memory foam. Queen Sleep System, first \$599. takes brand new warranted set - UNOPENED! Call (806)549-3110.

ORLANDO/ DISNEY area. 7/6 nights stay. Paid \$600. Sell \$199. Good for one year. Call (915)233-2010.

On the Farm
ROUND SALES of Hay Grazer. Saint Lawrence, Texas. Call (432)268-3084 or 268-3083.

Pets
AKC REGISTERED Miniature Dachshund puppies, with papers. \$200.00 each. Call (432)263-2733.

READY NOW! 3 small CKC Chihuahua puppies - 1 female. One year old Bay Gelding, very gentle, great potential. Call (432)263-1701 or 466-3999.

TO GIVE away to good home. Gray & white cat, neutered, all shots, tags. Serious inquires only! Call (432)816-7163.

Real Estate for Rent
Knollwood Heights Apartments
1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.
(432) 264-1735
Now Leasing!
Grand New
1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts
\$385 - \$520 monthly
New Appliances & Full Size Washer & Dryer in Apartments
On Site Maintenance
• Swimming Pool
• Fitness Room
• 2 Playgrounds
HUD Accepted

1111 MULBERRY. Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, washer/ dryer connections. \$425. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1406 YOUNG. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$100. deposit. **1406 TUCSON.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1408 DONLEY. Extra Clean, Furnished 1 bedroom 1 bath Apartment. Water & Gas Paid. \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. (432)263-4922.

1413 SYCAMORE. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. New paint & carpet. \$14,000.00 Cash or Owner Finance with \$2,000.00 Down. Call (325)695-6100 after 6:00 p.m.

2 Bedroom 1 bath @ 807 Anna - \$300.00. 1 Bedroom, 1/2 duplex @ 502 Goliad - \$240.00. Partially furnished. Call (432)267-7380.

Real Estate for Rent
2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished, Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461-Tom.

3005 CACTUS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Unfurnished. Call Mary, (432)213-0828. 9:00-7:00 p.m.

407-1/2 East 8th - 1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit, CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

706-B GOLIAD. Clean one bedroom house. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$225. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

BUILDING for LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month +deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month
\$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

SUNSET RIDGE APTS
Family Friendly
Free Cable TV
Playground!
No Water Bill
Paragon Security
24 Hour Laundry
On-Site Mgr & Maint
2 Bdrm \$345
1 Bdrm \$255
(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale
1150 SQ. ft. brick home, 2 bedroom, one bath, 2 car garage. Total electric, on two acres, with large barn, three water wells. 8-1/2 miles northwest of Big Spring. Call (432)816-6042.

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

What's LAST!
20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

2239 NORTH Hwy 137. Brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 acres. Big privacy fence with pine trees. Stanton School District. \$94,000.. Call (432)557-5408.

COAHOMA REDUCED \$. 3/2 with 6 acres and 50x70 workshop. A MUST SEE Home/Realtors, (432)263-1284.

COUNTY HOME 3 Bedroom, 2 bath in Forsan School Dist. Horse barns w/huge pipe fence, riding corral, 1 acre. \$65,000. Firm. No Owner Finance. (432)466-1850.

FOR SALE, Lease or Rent: Nice 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home. Recently remodeled. Stove, refrigerator and dishwasher furnished. Call (432)263-1701, (432)466-3999.

NEAR ELBOW School, 2 bedroom 2 bath with 3 car garage on 10 secluded acres. Shade trees, good water well plus 2 irrigation wells. A barn and two storage buildings. \$89,000 firm. Call (432)213-1800 after 5pm.

OWNER FINANCED 506 State 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large kitchen. \$1500 down, payment approx. \$240/month for 12 yrs. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

REDUCED! Owner Finance. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackery, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$24,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

Vehicles
Several New 2006 Fords, Lincoln, Nissans Available At Huge Savings
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7421

CLASSIC 1975 Chevy Monza with factory V8. New exhaust & engine. \$5,000.00. Call (432)267-3561.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
Such As ALL BILLS PAID
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
538 Westover 263-1252
Housing Assistance Accepted

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The scales of justice are Libra's symbol, and with the moon's journey through the righteous sign, the need for fairness is paramount. Though life is often unfair, it's possible that the idea of justice we have in our heads isn't as complete as the one the universe has in mind. Accept that something complex and possibly perfectly just is happening.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A happy ending can come in the middle of a story — or, in the case of today, in the middle of a perilous task. You're not a victim, but once in a while, it's nice to be saved.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You need a big challenge. It's the only way your valiance will have a chance to emerge. So, when you see the obstacle, as you will almost as soon as you get to work, don't back down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's personal inventory time. Everyone sees her own shortcomings, but instead of dwelling on them, give yourself some constructive criticism. Put it all down on a list. Include the overwhelming number of wonderful things about you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is much to celebrate. The planets align to make you more aware of this and also to give you a buoyant attitude. When you are happy, think it, say it and sing it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The enemy is that part of you that feels the need to complain. If you resist, you'll find your power. It takes energy to articulate these gripes, and that energy is better spent in a more proactive way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no time for being exclusive, separate

or alone. You see only the potential to connect with people because you're so busy asking, "How can I help?"

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your job seems overwhelming — too many balls to keep in the air at once, you think. Calm down, and tap into the universal intelligence for help. The planets orbit with elegant precision, and so can the million things you've got going.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's tremendous support for you out there now. Your partner will be generous — probably not in a big way but in some small, barely detectable way that cements your eternal affection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). State your problem, and state it thoroughly and yet in the simplest of all possible terms. If you take the time to do this, your problem is half solved. The other half, a Virgo can help you with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Jung said that everything that irritates us about others can lead us to understanding ourselves. It might take the insights of a Pisces to get you to that place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Break the ice with that cool, aloof person by being the first to disclose something about yourself. Showing vulnerability will help this person (with a wall up that rivals the one in China) drop his or her guard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're stronger. You're able to swoop up an opportunity that just last year would have eluded you. Influential people gravitate toward you. Sagittarius and Taurus people in particular will have deals worth considering.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Leo, and my boyfriend's moon is in Aquarius. Because these are opposite signs, I'm worried that things could get ugly. Is their any hope for us?"

The synergy between two charts and their subsequent compatibility goes far beyond the interactions between just two planets, so don't give up yet. The sun represents your personality and purpose, the way you manifest your will. The moon represents the emotional landscape, the way you manifest your spirit. Your purpose and personality and his emotional needs are of an opposite nature, yet they balance each other, creating a tremendous amount of attraction in the relationship. He may feel this overwhelmingly. As a rule, the sun sign will dominate in an opposition, and in your case, Leo will have it no other way. This aspect could result in some tension and competitiveness and can be an unstable combination at times. However, much can be attained together, and although this is not as harmonious as others, it can be a good marriage combination if other aspects within your charts support the relationship, notably Venus and Mars. Bottom line, there is a tremendous attraction here, so have fun with it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Because of its name (meaning "water bearer"), many people mistakenly think that Aquarius is a water sign. But it is in fact an air sign, ideal for professions, such as ballerina or basketball player, who take to the air. Graceful and quick energy is bestowed on Aquarian people, like Michael Jordan. Although this sign can be quite athletic, their winning edge is their ability to envision success vividly.

© 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

BASIC energy services
first in the field

Midland-based growth leader in oilfield services industry offers competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service; and paid holidays.

We have immediate openings in our Midland offices
Senior Accountant
Degreed Accountant with 3-5 years experience in the oil and gas/energy industry.

- Experience with general ledger, month end close, and financial software
- Financial statement preparations
- Strong analytical skills

Accountant
Degreed Accountant with 0-3 years experience.

- Experience with general ledger accounting preferred.
- Account reconciliation
- Bank reconciliation

Email resumes to staffing@basicenergyservices.com, Fax to 432-620-5501, or mail to: Basic Energy Services P.O. Box 10460 Midland, TX 79702
Attn: Dana Quintero, HR Representative

To learn more about other opportunities, or to locate the Basic office nearest you, visit our website at www.basicenergyservices.com
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. EOE/M/F/D/V Drug Free Environment

ed. in & work 60+ transportation hotel paid er diam. es. 100% ly at 749 Snyder.

IVERY routes telegram

ram available for both Retail General Spring for reliable ndable morning from m. e call 2.

APART- applications person. ence re- drug test ck. 1002 P.m.

me Driver. ssary will n person, reet, Big

y Nursing for Relief ll and ask Nelson

ut had her

Jobs ots. 44

MENT

HOME CE

anted MALL! 76-2888

ING

EE G ars amp le. ing

edo s

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband, "Dan," and I have been married almost three years, and we have a beautiful baby girl.

Two years ago, Dan was in an accident, and ever since, he has been in constant pain, and there's not much hope of improvement. He is quite angry about this, and subsequently, he is not exactly pleasant to be around. I seem to get the brunt of his anger. I cannot do anything right, and he is forever disappointed in me.

Every member of his family and mine has told me that he does not treat me right and that I shouldn't put up with it. He refuses to speak to my mother any longer, and even his mother told me to leave him, saying it would "wake him up."

Annie, I am tired of making excuses for his behavior to strangers, to



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

family and, most importantly, to myself. I know he only acts like this because he is in pain and he's worried how to provide for his family. But that doesn't mean he should take it out on me. I am concerned about my daughter growing up in this environment.

Dan often doesn't recognize that he is angry or

rude. And the times when he does, he thinks he is justified because "no one understands" how much pain he is in. What do I do? I love him very much, but should I just hold on in the hope that one day his pain will go away? — Healthy in Virginia

Dear Healthy: Chronic pain can make anyone irritable and angry, but Dan should not be abusing his family's affections. Talk to Dan's doctor, and find out if something can be done to manage his pain more effectively. While Dan could benefit from seeing a therapist, he may not be willing to do so. We recommend you contact the American Chronic Pain Association (theacpa.org) at 1-800-533-3231 for assistance and information.

Dear Annie: My husband and I are in our early 70s, and I often am scared with Joe's "hot rod

driving."

We've both taken the AARP driving course, where we learned to maintain one car length for every 10 miles of speed. Joe claims that traffic would come to a halt if everyone drove that way. He feels it's his responsibility to keep all lanes of traffic moving. Furthermore, his reaction time is slowing down. He doesn't notice when the space in front of us is diminishing, and too many times, he gets so close he has to slam on the brakes. Can you help? — Nervous Wife

Dear Wife: Joe apparently slept through the AARP class and needs a refresher course. If he isn't willing to follow the rules, you should get behind the wheel or stop riding with him. We know this may present some technical difficulties, but calling a taxi is

better than calling the paramedics.

Dear Annie: OK, I love you gals and think you are the most level-headed advice columnists out there. But when you said "Ohio Mom" was obligated to send a wedding gift to a wedding she was not attending, I had to ask, are you insane?

If not, that may explain why I seem to receive so many invitations from out-of-state relatives and former business associates I have not talked to in years. Is this some new kind of social extortion scheme? — Hyperventilating in Orlando

Dear Orlando: Please don't hurt us. We don't make the rules, we only give out the information. According to Peggy Post, "Everyone who receives a wedding invitation should send a gift whether they attend the wedding or not. But if you send invitations to casual acquaintances, business associates you don't know well or people you haven't seen in years and they do not attend the festivities, then a gift is not expected."

Dear Annie: My husband and I always rush to help my daughter and son-in-law, no matter the distance. This assistance has been in the form of child care, manual labor and emergency funds. We pay for our own transportation to their state. We are happy (and financially able) to do so. My last trip there lasted two weeks.

However, I am starting to feel that we have spoiled my daughter and her husband. They seem to think a simple verbal "thanks" does it. To me, a gift of some kind — flowers, whatever, would demonstrate some extra effort to express their gratitude, and it would mean so much to me. I would like to be treated the way they would treat one of their friends who had extended such a kindness. Have we spoiled them? — A Parent in Salem, Ore.

Dear Parent: We wouldn't say "spoiled." You have trained your daughter and her husband to expect these indulgences, and they are not accustomed to thanking their parents as they would friends. We'll take it one step further and say that it would occur to very few children to thank their parents with gifts — which is a shame, since it would be so appreciated.

If your daughter is grateful for your assistance, thanks you in other ways, and gives you gifts on your birthday and special occasions, try to be satisfied with that.

Dear Annie: I married "Julie" just as her two children were reaching independence. I convinced her to complete her bachelor's degree, and she worked for two years, then quit and worked as a temp for several years, never earning more than \$5,000 a year. She then went back to school but never completed her master's degree. She now works on and

off, averaging \$2,000 a year.

Julie recently tried making and selling beautiful craft items but lost a great deal of money at it. Meanwhile, my job is in jeopardy, my paycheck has been cut in half, and I cannot afford to quit and give up my medical coverage and retirement plan.

Julie is not one of those wives who stayed home to raise my kids, nor has she ever cooked, cleaned or done errands independently of me. She says she's "too weak" to vacuum or shampoo the carpets, so that's my job. I barbecue or we don't eat. She waits for me to get home to go grocery shopping with her.

I'm worn out and frustrated, and will be really angry when I have to take a second job to make ends meet because Julie thinks she did enough work during her first marriage and deserves to "retire" now. Help. — Sinking Fast in California

Dear Sinking: Julie sounds like she may have ADD. She cannot finish what she starts and flits from one project to the next. Get her to a doctor for an evaluation. From there, you and Julie should seek counseling (your job may offer help through an Employee Assistance Program). She needs to understand that she is wearing you out and exhausting her marriage.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for seven years, and we are still very much in love. However, "Scott" refuses to sleep with me. Don't misunderstand — our sex life is wonderful, but when it comes time to say good-night, we go to our separate rooms.

After all this time, frankly, I like sleeping alone. I just wondered if your readers could tell me if this is normal. I do not know of any other couple who behaves this way, and I would be very embarrassed if anyone knew of our sleeping arrangements. — Sleeps Alone and Likes It in Worcester, Mass.

Dear Sleeps Alone: We can tell you that you are not the only ones who do this, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with it. As long as your sex life is healthy, where you sleep is irrelevant. In fact, there was a time when having separate bedrooms was a sign of extreme wealth. And no one kept you awake with snoring.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWALS PERMIT NOS. 20487 AND 51A
APPLICATION Alon USA, L.P. has applied to the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Nos. 20487 and 51A which would authorize continued operation of the No. 2 Sulfur Recovery Unit, the Hydrodesulfurization Unit and the Reformer Unit at the Big Spring Refinery. The refinery is located at the intersection of Highway 1-20 and Refinery Road, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. The existing facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter including particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and sulfur including sulfur vapor.

The TCEQ received these applications on January 03, 2006. The applications are available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Midland regional office, and the Howard County Library, 500 South Main Street, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Midland regional office of the TCEQ.

The TCEQ executive director has determined these applications are administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the applications are administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the applications. Information in the applications indicates that these permit renewals would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. The TCEQ may act on these applications without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

After technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided. According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on

disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notice (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

INFORMATION Written public comments or requests for a public meeting or contested case hearing should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar a 1-800-687-4040. General information regarding the TCEQ can be found at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Alon USA, L.P., P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Texas 79721 or by calling Dr. Weinan Chen, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Engineer at (432)263-9214.

Issuance Date: January 23, 2006
COMISION DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS AVISO DE RECEPCION DE SOLICITUD E INTENCION DE OBTENER RENOVACION DE PERMISO ATMOSFERICO PERMISO PROPUESTO NUM. 20487 Y 51A
SOLICITUD. Alon USA, L.P., P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Texas 79720, se ha registrado con la Comision de Calidad Ambiental de Tejas (TCEQ o Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) para la renovacion de un Permiso Calidad

de Aire Num. 20487 y 51A el cual autorizara continuar el funcionamiento de un(a) No. 2 Sulfur Recovery Unit, el Hydrodesulfurization Unit y el Reformer Unit en Big Spring Refinery, Interstate Highway 20 and Refinery Road, Big Spring, Condado de Howard, Tejas. La instalacion existente va a emitir los siguientes contaminantes atmosfericos: compuesto organico, NOx (oxidos de nitrogeno), CO (monóxido de carbono), SO2 (oxidos de azufre), materia en particulas, y amoniaco (PM incluso PM10), H2S (sulfuro de hidrogeno), amoniaco y azfre incluso azfre vapor.

Esta solicitud fue sometida al TCEQ en January 03, 2006. La solicitud esta disponible para revisarse y copiarse en la Oficina Central del TCEQ, en la Oficina Regional del TCEQ en Midland, y en Howard County Library, 500 South Main, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. El archivo del cumplimiento de las leyes de la instalacion, si existe, estara disponible para el publico en la Oficina Regional del TCEQ en Midland, Tejas.

El director ejecutivo del TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud se halla administrativamente completa y conducira un analisis tecnico de la solicitud. La informacion que se incluye en la solicitud indica que esta renovacion del permiso no resultaria en un aumento de emisiones permisibles y no resultaria en la emision de un contaminante atmosferico que no hubiera emitido anteriormente. TCEQ puede actuar en esta solicitud sin buscar comentarios publicos adicionales o dar la oportunidad para una audiencia de caso impugnado se cumple con ciertos criterios.

COMENTARIOS PUBLICOS Usted puede presentar comentarios publicos, o solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe al domicilio a continuacion. TCEQ tomara en cuenta todos los comentarios publicos en la decision final de la solicitud. La fecha limite para presentar comentarios publicos es 15 dias despues de que se publique el aviso en el periodo. Despues de la fecha limite para comentarios publicos, el director ejecutivo preparara una respuesta para todos los comentarios publicos pertinentes y materiales o importantes. Valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de trafico y zonificacion se encuentran fuera de la jurisdiccion de TCEQ para abordar en el proceso del permiso.

Despues de que se concluya la revision tecnica de la solicitud, el director ejecutivo tomara en cuenta los comentarios y preparara una respuesta para todos los comentarios publicos pertinentes y materiales o significativos. Si solo se reciben comentarios, la respuesta a los comentarios, junto con la decision del director ejecutivo con respecto a la solicitud se enviara por correo a todas aquellas personas que presentaron comentarios publicos o que se encuentran en la lista de correos para esta solicitud, a no ser que la solicitud se refiera directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO Usted puede solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado. El solicitante o el director ejecutivo tambien pueden presentar una peticion para que la solicitud haga referencia directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado despues de la revision tecnica de la solicitud. Una audiencia de caso impugnado es un proceso legal similar a un juicio civil en el tribunal de distrito del estado. A menos que se presente una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado dentro de 15 dias de esta notificacion, el director ejecutivo puede autorizar la solicitud. Si no se recibe una solicitud para audiencia dentro de 15 dias, no se dara otra oportunidad para una audiencia. De acuerdo a la Ley del Aire Limpio del Estado de Texas § 382.056(o) solo se puede conceder una audiencia de caso impugnado si el historial de cumplimiento del solicitante se encuentra en la clasificacion mas baja de

acuerdo a los requisitos de historial de cumplimiento que aplican y si la peticion para audiencia esta basada en cuestiones debatibles de hecho que son pertinentes y materiales para la decision de la Comision con respecto a la solicitud. Ademas, la Comision solo concedera una audiencia sobre cuestiones que se presenten durante el periodo de comentarios publicos y no se retiraran.

Una persona que puede estar afectada por contaminantes de emisiones atmosfericas de una planta tiene derecho a solicitar una audiencia. Si se solicita una audiencia de caso impugnado, debe presentar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociacion, un representante oficial), direccion, numero del telefono y numero de facsimile si lo tiene; (2) el nombre del solicitante y numero de permiso; (3) la declaracion "[yo / nosotros] solicito una audiencia de caso impugnado"; (4) una descripcion especifica de como se veria adversamente afectado por la solicitud y emisiones atmosfericas de la planta de manera que no es comun para el publico en general; (5) la ubicacion y distancia de su propiedad con relacion a la planta; y (6) una Descripcion de como emplea la propiedad la cual pueda ser impactada por la planta. Si la peticion la hace un grupo o asociacion, el miembro o miembros que tienen derecho a solicitar una audiencia y los intereses que el grupo o la asociacion busca proteger, tambien se deben identificar. Tambien puede presentar los ajustes que propone hacer a la solicitud / permiso que pueden satisfacer sus preocupaciones. Las peticiones para una audiencia de caso impugnado se deben presentar por escrito dentro de 15 dias despues de aviso, a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe a la direccion a continuacion.

Si se registra oportunamente una peticion para audiencia de caso impugnado, el director ejecutivo enviara la solicitud y cualquier peticion para una audiencia para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los comisionados de TCEQ para su consideracion durante la reunion programada de la Comision. Excepto si la solicitud se refiere directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado, el director ejecutivo enviara por correo la respuesta a los comentarios junto con la notificacion de la reunion de la Comision a todas aquellas personas que hayan hecho comentarios o si se encuentran en la lista de correspondencia para esta solicitud. Si se concede la audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estara limitado a casos debatibles de hecho relacionados a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad atmosferica que se hayan presentado durante el periodo del comentario. Cuestiones tales como valor de la propiedad, ruido, seguridad de trafico y zonificacion no esan dentro de la jurisdiccion de la Comision para abordarse en este proceso judicial.

LISTA DE CORRESPONDENCIA Aparte de presentar comentarios publicos, puede solicitar que lo / la incluyan en la lista de correos para recibir en el futuro avisos publicos para esta solicitud especifica que envia por correo la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe enviando una peticion por escrito a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe de TCEQ a la direccion a continuacion.

INFORMACION Los comentarios publicos o peticiones para una reunion publica o audiencia de caso impugnado se debe presentar a la Oficina del Funcionario Jefe, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Para mayor informacion acerca de esta solicitud para permiso o el proceso para permisos, favor de llamar a la Oficina de Asistencia al Publico, al 1-800-687-4040. Si requiere informacion general de TCEQ dirigirse al portal electronico www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Se puede obtener informacion adicional del Alon USA, L.P., P.O. Box 517030, Dallas, TX 75251-7030 o al llamar al señor Weinan Chen en el (432)263-9214 #4878 February 16, 2006

Has anyone ever told you about a special event that is supposed to be happening, only to find out that the person who told you didn't have all the facts? Call 263-7331 to start your subscription to the Big Spring Herald today, and get the scoop on local news and events.

Big Spring Thursday
THU
6 30
7 30
8 30
9 30
10 30
11 30
12 30
DEN
HARD
WORE
I WAS
BC
HOW
WIZ
AGN
HERE'S
BECOME
SEARCH
T NE
HI A
ANO
E
T
THE
PREV
EXPE
SNU
NO
FISHW
BEE
SARG
SICK IN
MEL

THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOBA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (24)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCFI (32)
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Plaf de Oloro	My Wil-Kids Raymond	News Erit. Tonight	La Yemanita	News De a Millinaire Raymond	Raymond	Joe McGee John Hages	News-Labir	Wild and Wild Pockets	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	NBA Programs	Live BET Style	Plaf de Oloro	Interruption SportsCentury	2006 NFL Pro Bowl Skills	Movie: Dagon (CC)
7	Dancing With the Stars (CC)	Dancing With the Stars (CC)	Corbis Viento y Mare	Movie: Legally Blonde (CC)	Survivor: Panama - Elite	El Cuerpo del Deseo	XX Olympic Winter Games (CC)	Frings (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Serial Biblical Israel	The This Old House Hour	Black Sly: X Pite	Movie: Live and Let Die (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Basketball: Philadelphia	Movie	Movie: Life is Beautiful	Women's College Basketball	Competition	
8	Crumb (CC)	Crumb (CC)	Albonda		CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Corazon Part Decisiones		Movie: Home Alone (CC)	Light of the Southwest (DVB)	Antique Roadshow	Space Shuttle: Countdown		Austin Powers: International Men of Mystery	76ers at Chicago Bulls			College Basketball: Georgetown at Marquette	Movie: House of the Dead 2	
9	PrimeTime Live (CC)	PrimeTime Live (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	My Wil-Kids 70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Decisiones				National Geo	How High Can You Fly?	Movie: The Men With the Golden Gun	MRC Videogames	NBA Basketball: Houston Rockets at Phoenix Suns	Top 25 Hottest Black Couples	The Emperor's New Groove	College Basketball: San Diego State at UNLV	Movie: Night of the Creeps	
10	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Tlaxcala y Mas		:10 Movie: Grumpy Old Men (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Supernatural	Men With the Golden Gun (CC)	Houston Rockets at Phoenix Suns	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	San Diego State at UNLV	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Night of the Creeps	
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Dabaz	TBA	Late Show Raymond	Late Show Raymond	News The Olympic With Jay Leno	Men (CC)	Del Sanchez Jimmy Philips	Sign Off	Black Sly: X Pite		CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Phoenix Suns Inside the NBA	Jamie Foxx	Phi of Future Kim Possible	Cuba Family With Smith	Garnight Baseball (CC)	
12	Live (CC)	PGA Wrap-Up Extra (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (SB)	Becker (CC)	Show King of the Hill	Marla Caleste Pagado	Tonight Show With Jay Leno	12-10 Movie: Grumpy Old Men (CC)	Update/Serial John Hages		Space Shuttle: Countdown	12-15 Movie: Live and Let Die	Fast TV (CC)	Blind Date	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	Wn. X Games All-Access	SportsCenter (CC)	The Twilight Zone (CC)

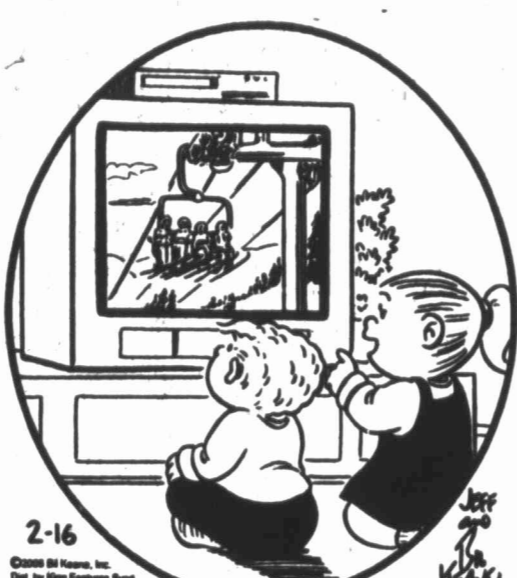
DENNIS THE MENACE



"HARD TO BELIEVE I WORE THESE WHEN I WAS 210."

"SO HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"That's the funnest part of skiing."

HAGAR



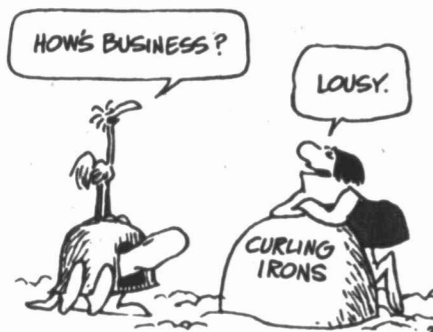
DO YOU SELL AMMUNITION FOR CATAPULTS?

YES SIR...



BUT DELIVERY IS EXTRA

BC



HOW'S BUSINESS?

LOUSY.



MAYBE IT HSN'T LOCATION AFTER ALL!

WIZARD OF ID



JUNIOR WANTS TO TAKE MUSIC LESSONS



I'M NOT BUYING A PIANO

HE'S THINKING ABOUT DRUMS



HOW MUCH IS A PIANO?

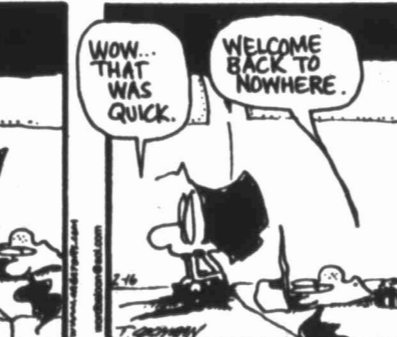
AGNES



HERE'S THE DEAL! I WILL BECOME FAMOUS FOR SEARCHING FOR A FAME I NEVER FIND!



THEN YOU CAN'T SAY YOU NEVER FOUND IT.



WOW... THAT WAS QUICK.

WELCOME BACK TO NOWHERE.

HI AND LOIS



ANOTHER CAR BOMB EXPLODED TODAY



WHY ARE YOU GIVING TRIxie A BATH NOW?

I NEEDED A NEWS BREAK

THE OTHER COAST



PREVIOUS JOB EXPERIENCE?

EMPLOYN

PROFESSIONAL WAITER.



OH? WHEREABOUTS?

I'VE WAITED IN THE CAR. WAITED OUTSIDE THE GROCERY STORE. WAITED AT HOME DURING THE DAY...

SNUFFY SMITH



HONEST, SHERIFF, I NEVER SAW TH' SIGN!!

OKAY, SMIF, I'LL GIVE YA TH' BENEFIT OF TH' DOUBT ON THIS ONE!!



AN' RELEASE YA INTO TH' CUSTODY OF DOC!!

BEEBLE BAILEY



SARGE IS SICK IN BED

I'M GOING TO READ TO HIM

THAT'S NICE, ZERO



OH, LOOK! HERE'S A WHOLE SECTION ON FERTILIZER!

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2006. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor during World War II.

On this date:

In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

In 1862, during the Civil War, some 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1918, Lithuania pro-

claimed its independence.

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1994, at least 217 people were killed when a powerful earthquake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A-300-600R, trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board and six people on the ground.

One year ago: The NHL canceled what was left of its decimated schedule after a round of last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap — the flash-point issue that led to a lockout.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Patty Andrews is 88. Kim

Jong Il, the president of North Korea, is 64. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 60. Actor Pete Postlethwaite is 60. Actor William Katt is 55. Actor LeVar Burton is 49. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 48. Actress Lisa Loring is 48. Tennis Hall of Fame player John McEnroe is 47. Rock musician Andy Taylor (Duran Duran) is 45. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 34. Singer Sam Salter is 28.

Thought for Today: "There are two ways to slice easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking." — Alfred Korzybski, Polish-American linguist (1879-1950).

© 2006 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle:

MADAY	GILL	ARRA
APACE	OREO	GULP
YENDITION	ABEA	TRACHION
HAR	VELDY	
MOSTEL	CHESE	
ARCED	THORN	AIR
CANN	ZAIRE	OGLE
SLO	AORTA	GAUSE
OBSESS	THREAD	
ARLES	BPA	
MAYANS	SHARRET	
IVAN	WATERMETER	
MERI	EVIL	EYOTE
OLDE	EARL	RINSE

Newsday Crossword

JAM SESSION by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 68 Handout from a hostess | 10 Overlaid decoration | 42 Swan Lake princess |
| 1 Moved along a curve | 69 Thailand, formerly | 11 At any point | 43 Scandinavian capital |
| 6 ERA or RBI | 70 Irani religion | 12 Conjuror | 46 See |
| 10 Ring things | 71 Busy bugs | 13 Not too busy | 52 Across |
| 14 Jeweler's lens | 72 Hard to hold | 18 "Right now!" | 49 Basketball filler |
| 15 Bohemian | 73 Licky residue | 23 OT book | 50 Halter, e.g. |
| 16 Track shape | | 25 Cologne scent | 54 Principled |
| 17 In dire straits | | 27 Excalibur wielder | 55 Crimson Tide, to fans |
| 19 Toy-brick brand | | 28 Roundup rope | 56 Bakery need |
| 20 Board member, briefly | | 29 Last part of <i>The Crucible</i> | 57 Fast season |
| 21 Commandment complement | | 30 Commandeer | 59 "Good heavens!" |
| 22 Philanthropist | | 32 Type of fin | 61 Classic soda brand |
| 24 Med. care option | | 33 Sudden winds | 62 Cardinals or Orioles |
| 26 Superman's real name | | 34 Heap of literature | 63 Steinbeck migrant |
| 28 Scale notes | | 35 Dapper | 66 Flaky dessert |
| 31 In a stressful situation | | 40 Three-headed watchdog of myth | 67 CSI network |
| 36 King topper | | | |
| 37 <i>Ivanhoe</i> author | | | |
| 38 Subtle atmosphere | | | |
| 39 New-car reading | | | |
| 41 Walks | | | |
| 44 Tag info | | | |
| 45 Scoots along | | | |
| 47 Sylvester, to Tweety | | | |
| 48 Having no options | | | |
| 51 Bashful | | | |
| 52 With 46 Down, <i>City Slickers</i> star | | | |
| 53 Alley prowler | | | |
| 55 Spanish dance | | | |
| 58 Barfy | | | |
| 60 Cognizant of | | | |
| 64 State firmly | | | |
| 65 In trouble | | | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20					21			22	23						
24					24	25		26	27						
28	29	30			31	32					33	34	35		
36					37						38				
39					40				41	42	43				
44									45	46			47		
48					49	50							51		
52									53				54		
55	56	57						58	59			60	61	62	63
64								65	66						67
68								68							70
69															71
71								72							73

That's Racin'



"Contrary to popular belief, everyone cannot be replaced. Legends live on forever. I don't think the No. 3 will ever be driven by anyone else."
—Teresa Earnhardt, who doesn't believe anyone—including her stepson, Dale Earnhardt Jr.—will bring the No. 3 the late Dale Earnhardt made famous back to Cup racing, on thatstracin.com.

© 2006 Charlotte Observer. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune

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

TOUGH TO CALL

Driver changes make ranking Nextel Cup teams difficult

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

How long will it take?

If you're still writing 2005 on your checks, the 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup season could be rough. With so many new drivers in different cars, fans could be halfway to the Chase for the Nextel Cup and still wondering why Sterling Marlin isn't crawling out of the No. 40 Dodge after a race.

All of the switching around also makes it tougher—as if it weren't already tough enough—to rank the 25 top Cup teams going into the season.

How, for instance, will Jamie McMurray perform in his new Roush Racing ride? Bobby Labonte and a cast of talented supporters figure to raise the competitive level of the No. 43 Dodges, but how soon will that talent show up on the track?

So as you're looking at the preseason rankings, keep in mind that this is less of a forecast of where we think these teams will wind up and more of our assessment of where the teams—and these are team, not driver, rankings—stand as they head into the Daytona 500.

1. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Mark Martin was on the button when he called Stewart the greatest driver in a generation. As the reigning champ continues to mature, that becomes more evident. Final 2005 ranking: 1.

2. Greg Biffle (car No. 16): If Stewart's not your pick to repeat, Biffle has to get serious consideration. He's got every bit of the equipment, the talent and the determination a champion needs. Final 2005 ranking: 2.

3. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Hasn't finished worse than fifth in the final standings, but you'd think this team would have learned enough lessons from those near misses to have a title-winning plan by now. Final 2005 ranking: 4.



Carl Edwards is expected to be a factor in the 2006 Nextel Cup Chase for the Championship.

4. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): Some expect him to win a championship. We do too—in the Busch Series. He'll be a factor in the Cup Series, too. He's been too solid so far to suffer a big sophomore dip. Final 2005 ranking: 3.

5. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Seems unsure how much is left in the tank for a "bonus" season with Roush Racing. When the engines start, Martin will give it all he's got—and that's more than most. Final 2005 ranking: 5.

6. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): It just doesn't seem possible that Gordon could miss the Chase two years in a row. But those who think he'll win his fifth title in 2006 seem like they're reaching a bit. Final 2005 ranking: 8.

7. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Took himself out of the Toyota sweepstakes by signing a contract extension with Roush Racing. Kenseth's just too consistent not to pick to at least make the Chase. Final 2005 ranking: 7.

8. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Dodge's teams have to have a better handle on the Charger entering the car's second year of competition. If so, this team should be where the improvement shows most. Final 2005 ranking: 9.

9. Kyle Busch (car No. 5): Here's a third Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, with four Roush Racing Fords, in our top 10. Until those two teams stumble or others step up, that's where the power is. Final 2005 ranking: 12.



Busch

10. Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19): Can Mayfield go three-for-three in making the Chase? He says his team's better now than it was in the two years he did make it. That's good, because it will need to be. Final 2005 ranking: 11.

11. Kurt Busch (car No. 2): If Busch can turn boos into motivation, he'll finish the season considerably higher. Final 2005 ranking: 10.

12. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): A miraculous resurgence is certainly possible, but we're going to need to see it before we believe it. Final 2005 ranking: 15.

13. Jamie McMurray (car No. 26): McMurray needs at least a couple of wins to come close to the Chase in this car. Final 2005 ranking: 6.

14. Casey Mears (car No. 42): Came so close to his first win late last year. Should get it in '06 coming off Rolex 24 victory. Final 2005 ranking: 13.

15. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): There's a big upside here if the pairing of Sadler and crew chief Tommy Baldwin Jr. clicks. Final 2005 ranking: 17.

16. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Like Gordon and Earnhardt Jr., this team needs a major rebound after substandard '05. Final 2005 ranking: 19.

17. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Toyota chum already in the water about Harvick, so distractions could be an issue. Final 2005 ranking: 14.



Brian Vickers drives the No. 25 car.

18. Brian Vickers (car No. 25): All this team needs to do is keep up with its Hendrick teammates and it'll be just fine. Final 2005 ranking: 18.

19. Dale Jarrett (car No. 88): It'd be no surprise if he wins again, but it would be one if he gets into Chase contention. Final 2005 ranking: 16.

20. Martin Truex (car No. 1): Ranked tops among an impressive rookie class. If DEI's better, he could wind up higher. Final 2005 ranking: Not ranked.

21. Jeff Burton (car No. 31): Far more optimistic than he was a year ago. The sport could use him back toward the top. Final 2005 ranking: 23.

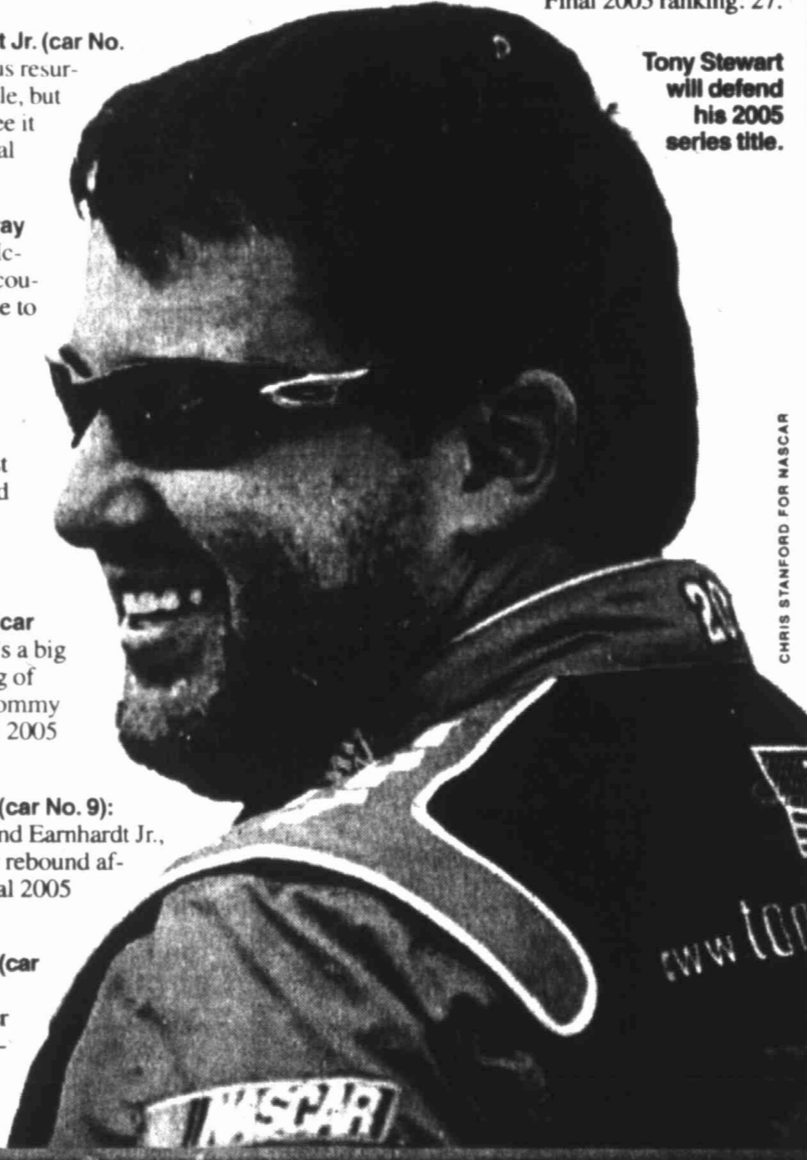
22. Joe Nemechek (car No. 01): Gap between this team and top-10 contention isn't as wide as it seems, but it's there. Final 2005 ranking: 21.

23. Bobby Labonte (car No. 43): Could be one of the year's best stories if Labonte gets this famous car to Victory Lane. Final 2005 ranking: 32.

24. Reed Sorenson (car No. 41): It'll be tempting to expect way too much, too soon from this talented young driver. Final 2005 ranking: 20.

25. Clint Bowyer (car No. 07): Bowyer will be much higher than this in the Busch standings as he runs both series. Final 2005 ranking: 27.

Tony Stewart will defend his 2005 series title.



CHRIS STANFORD FOR NASCAR

NASCAR's penalties lack any real punch

In ejecting Chad Knaus on Monday from Daytona 500 activities, NASCAR did only part of what it needs to do in response to shenanigans discovered in Nextel Cup qualifying at Daytona International Speedway.

Knaus, crew chief for Jimmie Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet, will sit this one out after that car's qualifying lap at 188.762 mph was disallowed for rules violations found in inspection after qualifying Sunday.

According to a source in the garage, Johnson's car was rigged so the shape of the rear windshield area could be altered after the car passed pre-qualifying inspection. The intent was to deflect more air off the rear spoiler, reducing drag and helping the

car go faster.

You know, cheating. This is at least the seventh time in his tenure as Johnson's crew chief that Knaus has run afoul of the sport's rulesmakers.

NASCAR tried to suspend Knaus for two races last year after the No. 48 was too low in postrace inspection after a victory at Las Vegas. A three-member commission reduced the suspension to probation, leaving a \$25,000 fine and a 25-point penalty in place.

NASCAR can "eject" a participant from an event without having that action subject to appeal. Since the Daytona 500 event began with practices Saturday, that rule applies in this case, and Knaus cannot

appeal the decision.

"We understand NASCAR's position," team owner Rick Hendrick said in a statement released Monday. "Our expectations for the team remain high. It's a deep, championship-caliber group and they'll step up this weekend."

Darian Grubb, lead engineer for Johnson's team and Jeff Gordon's No. 24 team, will assume Knaus' duties. "It's obviously disappointing to miss the biggest race of the year, but I'm confident in Darian and the rest of my teammates," Knaus said in a statement that avoided the issue of what was actually done to the car. "There's been a lot of effort put into the Daytona 500 and I know the team will be successful."

NASCAR said more penalties against the No. 48, as well as Hall of Fame Racing, which had its time dis-

allowed because of an illegal modification to the carburetor in the No. 96 Chevrolet driven by Terry Labonte, could be announced after the race Sunday.



Knaus

That'll be too late to complete the job properly. Johnson and Labonte will be moved to the rear of the field for 150-mile qualifying races Thursday, but those are toothless penalties.

Johnson is guaranteed a Daytona 500 starting spot because his car was in the top 35 in car owner standings last season. Labonte will race in the 500, too, because he's a former Cup champion and therefore eligible for a provisional that would give him the No. 43 slot.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

DAYTONA 500

Where: Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile high banked paved quad-oval located in Daytona Beach, Fla.

When: Sunday at 2:30 p.m. (all times ET).

TV: NBC.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$18,029,052.

Last year's winner:

Jeff Gordon.

Also this week: The NASCAR Craftsman Truck and Busch Series kick off their seasons this weekend at Daytona as well. The Truck series race is Friday night, following the first installment of the four-race International Race of Champions. The Busch Series opener is Saturday afternoon, following final Nextel Cup practice.



Gordon

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How many Nextel Cup races do you expect to watch, either on the tube or in person, in 2006?

Number of votes: 11,633

Races	No. of votes	Percent
Every one of 'em	7,255	62%
30 or more	2,155	19%
20-30	1,068	9%
10-20	481	4%
5-10	359	3%
A title of the Daytona 500 and I'm done	315	3%

STOP 'N' GO

INSIDE LOOK

Nextel Cup Series rookie and winner of Sunday's Budweiser Shootout, Denny Hamlin, answers a few questions.

Q: You're running full time in Cup and Busch. How do you keep your life organized?

Hamlin: "The first thing that we did was print off 12 sheets of paper. Each sheet of paper had a calendar for each month, and before we planned any appearances, we designated time off. You all are going to have to plan around it. We did our best to get as much time as we can because you have to keep your sanity to keep your head in the game, for sure. I had to bite the bullet and buy my own plane this week. It's a lot for me in a short amount of time."

Q: What kind of airplane did you buy?

Hamlin: "I got a Lear 31A and I'm excited about that. It's the same plane that Joe [Gibbs, car owner] has. He probably didn't get one in his first year."

Q: Just a couple years ago you were making a car payment, now you're buying a plane.

Hamlin: "It takes a lot of people to set me back down to earth. One year ago I was coming into Daytona really unknown. I had run one Busch race, and lot happened in one year. I'm living the dream right now."

—Jim Utter

RACIN' NOTES

NEXTEL CUP SERIES SCHEDULE

Feb. 19	Daytona Intl. Speedway
Feb. 26	California Speedway
March 12	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 19	Atlanta Motor Speedway
March 26	Bristol Motor Speedway
April 2	Martinsville Speedway
April 9	Texas Motor Speedway
April 22	Phoenix Intl. Raceway
April 30	Talladega Superspeedway
May 6	Richmond Intl. Raceway
May 13	Darlington Raceway
May 20	Lowe's Motor Speedway
May 28	Lowe's Motor Speedway
June 4	Dover Intl. Speedway
June 11	Pocono Raceway
June 18	Michigan Intl. Speedway
June 25	Infineon Raceway
July 1	Daytona Intl. Speedway
July 9	Chicagoland Speedway
July 16	New Hampshire Intl. Speedway
July 23	Pocono Raceway
Aug. 6	Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Aug. 13	Watkins Glen International
Aug. 20	Michigan Intl. Speedway
Aug. 28	Bristol Motor Speedway
Sept. 3	California Speedway
Sept. 9	Richmond Intl. Raceway
Sept. 17	New Hampshire Intl. Speedway
Sept. 24	Dover Intl. Speedway
Oct. 1	Kansas Speedway
Oct. 7	Talladega Superspeedway
Oct. 14	Lowe's Motor Speedway
Oct. 22	Martinsville Speedway
Oct. 29	Atlanta Motor Speedway
Nov. 5	Texas Motor Speedway
Nov. 12	Phoenix Intl. Raceway
Nov. 19	Homestead-Miami Speedway