



INSIDE
Forsan
eager to
return to
action after
last week's
victory.
Page 1B

Autopsy: Twins' deaths 'highly suspicious'

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The death of twin-infants in southern Howard County Sunday has been deemed "highly suspicious" by the Lubbock County Medical Examiners Office.

In a statement issued by the

Howard County Sheriff's Office late Wednesday afternoon, the preliminary autopsy report on 3-month-old twins Christopher Ryan Petree and Nomi Michelle Petree ruled out blunt force trauma, but by no means ruled out foul play.

"Autopsy comments are as follows," reads the HCSO

release. "Twins both found dead, highly suspicious deaths. Death of two infant twins is suspicious for foul play; no significant trauma suggestive of blunt force."

The remainder of the preliminary autopsy document, which was prepared by Dr. S. Natarajan of the Lubbock

County Medical Examiners Office, is not currently being released to the public according to Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, who ordered the autopsies on the twins.

"The autopsy report is not being released at this time. It is part of an ongoing investigation," said Wiseman.

According to reports issued by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the 3-month-old twins were found dead at their home on Dawson Road in south Howard County.

At approximately 9:27 a.m. Sunday, dispatchers at the

See **TWINS**, Page 3A

QUEEN FINALISTS



Bravo



Evans



Lewis



New



Rittchey

KING FINALISTS



Diaz



Nichols



Pike



Sheedy



Soto

King, queen finalists named for Big Spring

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

It'll be a black and gold weekend in Big Spring.

Big Spring High School began celebrating its annual homecoming this week, with a full slate of activities leading up to the weekend.

The BSHS student council sponsored "Steer Sprit Week," in which students were asked to dress according to a daily theme. For example, students are encouraged to dress in black and gold — the school colors — Friday.

An annual highlight of homecoming activities is the parade, which will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday. The parade route includes Main and Scurry streets, with 10th Street being the southern boundary.

A community pep rally and bonfire are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today at the Big Spring compost

ACTIVITIES

Today

7:30 p.m., bonfire, compost facility

Friday

4:30 p.m., Homecoming Parade along Main Street

7:30 p.m. Football Game at Memorial Stadium, Steers vs. Lubbock High School Westerners

10 p.m., Homecoming dance for students, high school cafeteria

Saturday

9 a.m., Coffee for the 20s, 30s, Heritage Museum.

All Day, Various activities. Contact your reunion chairperson.

site at the airpark.

Homecoming queen and king

See **BSHS**, Page 3A

TOWN HALL MEETING

No school finance bill better than passing a poor one, Sen. Seliger tells audience

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Sen. Kel Seliger will be the first to admit there was little that was "special" about this summer's special sessions of the Texas Legislature.

Seliger, R-Amarillo, Big Spring's representative in the Texas Senate, discussed what the Legislature did and didn't accomplish during a town hall meeting Wednesday afternoon at Hangar 25 Air Museum.

About 50 people attended the meeting, which covered topics ranging from education to imminent domain to the fate of the local VA hospital.

One of the most surprising things he faced in Austin this year, he said, was the pressure to support Republican leadership on important issues.

Although a loyal Republican, Seliger said he sometimes voted against the party line on issues.

"The leadership didn't help me get elected ... and a lot of people in this district did," he said. "Those are the people I work for."

Discussions on Texas public schools — and how best to finance them — took up the lion's share of the meeting, and Seliger admitted it won't be an easy problem to solve.

A state district judge ruled last year that the state's method of financing public schools was unconstitutional and must be revamped. That ruling was appealed to the state Supreme Court, where a decision is expected within the next few weeks.

The Legislature devoted



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

State Sen. Kel Seliger addresses a town hall meeting at Hangar 25 Wednesday afternoon. Seliger, Big Spring's representative in the Texas Senate, discussed a variety of issues with local residents.

three sessions this year to the issue, but failed to devise a system to revamp public school finance.

Noting that Big Spring and hundreds of other school dis-

tricts in Texas are already charging the maximum property tax rate allowed by law, Seliger said a new method of

See **SELIGER**, Page 3A

Police say be wary of solicitations for Katrina victims

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

As the current effort to clean up and rebuild much of the Gulf Coast seems to demonstrate the nobility of man, a few area scammers are taking advantage of local residents' big hearts, according to local law enforcement officials.

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith said his office is currently investigating several reports of transients using Hurricane Katrina as a cash cow, playing on the sympathies and willingness to give of local residents.

"We have reports of transients that are using the hurricane as a way to solicit money,"

said Smith. "We're currently looking for these people so we can put a stop to it. We also have reports of people going door-to-door asking for donations for the victims of Hurricane Katrina."

Smith said many of these organizations soliciting donations door-to-door and in parking lots seem legitimate at first

glance — until you begin to dig beneath the surface.

"There was a church from San Antonio that was soliciting donations on a roadway here in Big Spring," said Smith. "According to reports, they were claiming to be collecting money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. And while I'm sure they're designated as a

non-profit organization — making them 'legitimate' — no one knows where that money will go when it leaves Big Spring and goes to their church in San Antonio."

Smith said the focus in Big Spring should be Operation Big Heart, the local effort designed

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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.

DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY

Local observance of a national day of prayer and remembrance for victims of Hurricane Katrina will be held locally Friday, officials said.

Observances will be held at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster St., beginning at 12:15 p.m.

The Rev. Byron Brown of the Nazarene church said several churches have cooperated on the event, which should last about 30 minutes.

"We're going to have an introductory song, some short introductions, and basically, we're going to call the people to prayer." For more information, contact the church at 267-7015.

UW DINE OUT DAY

Herman's Restaurant on Gregg Street is the Dine Out Day restaurant Friday for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the restaurant's proceeds that day will be donated to United Way.

The following Friday, the Dine Out Day restaurant will be Spanish Inn. Future Dine Out Day restaurants are Domino's, Sept. 30; Christene's, Oct. 7; Greg's Grill, Oct. 14; Gale's Sweet Shoppe, Oct. 21; and La Posada, Oct. 28.



COMING THIS WEEKEND

Cover Story: Singer Amy Grant is taking a new direction in her career as host of the new NBC show "Three Wishes." Grant leads a team of experts to a small town to "grant" wishes to help make the hopes and unbelievable dreams of deserving people come true. Viewers will follow some of the town folks' deeply personal and heartwarming stories as Grant and these hopes are transformed into a life-changing reality.



Obituaries

Michael Coskey



Michael Coskey, 62 of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005, in an Odessa hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, Big Spring, with the Rev. Mark Winn, pastor of Sand Springs Baptist Church, officiating. Graveside services will be Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005, at 2 p.m. at Electra Memorial Cemetery in Electra. The family will receive friends today from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 3, 1943, and married Linda Cozart Sept. 11, 1964, in Iowa Park.

Mr. Coskey had lived in the community since 1975 and worked in the oilfield on drilling rigs and as a pumper, until retiring in June, 2002. He enjoyed raising animals such as goats and chickens.

Michael was a very family oriented person. He was especially fond of his grandchildren and was known as "Poppy" or "Poppa George." He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Coskey of Big Spring; two sons and daughters-in-law, Chuck and Lesa Coskey of Big Spring and Clark and Kayla Coskey of Abilene; his mother, Loraine Sullivan of Electra; two sisters, Linda Gameson of Graham and Betty Joyce Hippard of Midland; four brothers, Forrest Lee Henderson of Douglas, Ga., and Pat Coskey, Tommy Coskey and Danny Coskey, all of Electra; seven grandchildren, Shay Shubert of Carlsbad, N.M., Taylor Johnson of Merkel, Ashton Johnson of Big Spring and T.J. Karr, Clayton Karr, Brianna Coskey and Matthew Coskey, all of Abilene.

He was preceded in death by his son, Michael Wayne Coskey, his father, Erdell Coskey, and one sister, Waynell Reynolds.

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

Margarita Mata Garcia



Margarita Mata Garcia, 88, of Iraan, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005, in a McCamey hospital. A vigil service is set for 7 p.m. today at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 16, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born July 10, 1917, in Bermuda, Texas and married Guillermo "Willie" Garcia Aug. 5, 1937, in Sinton.

She was a longtime resident of Big Spring and moved to Iraan in 1993. She was a homemaker. She was a former member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Guillermo "Willie" Garcia of Iraan; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Elizabeth Jimenez of Big Spring, Elodia and Fred Gutierrez of Coahoma, Maggie and Tom Templeton of St. Marys, W.V., and Emily and Rosalio Montejano of Iraan; one son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Yolanda Garcia of St. Marys, W.V.; 33 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Willie Garcia Jr. and Adolph Garcia.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Ste. A-5, Midland 79701.

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

Marrissa Celeste Rivera

Marrissa Celeste Rivera, infant daughter of Nina and Frank Rivera, died Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

• **DAY OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE** of victims of Hurricane Katrina is set for the 12:15 p.m. Friday at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.

• **JESUS JAMS FOR JAYDE**, a fund-raiser to send 14-month-old Jayde Garcia to physical therapy in Alabama, is set for 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the Old Settler's Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park. Area praise bands are performing, an auction starts at 1 p.m., food, games and other booths scheduled. Call 264-0712 for more information or to donate.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT MARANATHA BAPTIST ACADEMY**, 903 Johnson, is set for 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Friday. Call 263-7696. Walk-ins welcome.

• **FISH FRY** at the American Legion Post No. 506, 3203 W. Highway 80, begins at noon Saturday. Call 263-2084. Delivery set for 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Carry-out available.

Police blotter

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

- **KIM STAMBAUGH**, 45, of 1305 Grafa, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **TAMMY HELMS**, 32, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCISO.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 300 block of 10th Street.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported in the 1200 block of Marijo.

Sheriff's report

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

- **BENNY ISLAS**, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCISO on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony and bondsman off bond for criminal non-support.
- **JASON PAUL BOLT**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of ride not secured by safety belt - passenger and violation of a promise to appear.
- **RAUL RAMIREZ**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCISO on a motion to revoke probation for consumption of alcohol by a minor - third offense enhanced and a motion to revoke probation for assault with intent to cause bodily injury.
- **TAMMY TYRE HELMS**, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCISO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation.
- **CHARLES JOSEPH WILSON III**, 55, was arrested Wednesday by the HCISO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Midway Road and Kenneth Road.
- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2600 block of East 24th Street.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Rebecca. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Vikki and 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of North East Ninth Street. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of West Fifth Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Around town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1952** will have a mini-reunion Saturday at 13th and Owens streets from 9 a.m. until we get tired. There will be coffee and sweet rolls and doughnuts for those interested and a catered noon meal. An RSVP is needed for the noon meal. A Dutch treat meal is planned following the parade. For information, contact Nila Bailey Allen at 263-1152 or 816-3301.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995 10-YEAR REUNION** is set for Homecoming weekend. For information about the events, contact BSHS 1995@yahoo.com or call Amanda or Stacie at 267-1353.

• **CLASS OF 1970 35th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING** set for Saturday. All classmates should send an e-mail address to Clarinda Harris Wright at richardwright@cox.net. For more information, visit www.bshsalumni.com/SiteMap/htm.

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

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Day of Prayer and Remembrance of victims of Hurricane Katrina is set for the 12:15 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster.
- Big Spring High School homecoming.
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- Blood drive at Maranatha Baptist Academy from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Call 263-7696. Walk-ins welcome.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring High School homecoming
- Don McKinney Float Fly-In.
- Jesus Jams for Jayde, a fund-raiser to send 14-month-old Jayde to physical therapy in Alabama, set for 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Area praise bands performing.
- Fish fry at the American Legion Post No. 506 begins at noon. Call 263-2084.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

SUNDAY

- Don McKinney Float Fly-In.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 70. East winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. Sunday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Sunday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s. Monday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Monday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. Tuesday—Mostly sunny. Highs around 90.

Tuesday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s. Wednesday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 17-19-24-28-33. Number matching five of five: none. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-7-6

BIG SPRING HERALD

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SELIGER

Continued from Page 1A

financing schools is vital. That doesn't mean finding a solution will be easy, he admitted.

"Fifty-three percent of the state's economy is now in the service (sector)," Seliger said. "Those companies may not own property ... and they may not pay franchise taxes. That means our tax system no longer properly addresses school finance."

The worst thing lawmakers could do, he added, would be to pass a bill that does not adequately address the problem.

"Anytime the Legislature doesn't pass a tax bill, that's not necessarily a bad thing," he said. "Some (education) bills did not pass this

year. Bad bills should not pass."

Once the Supreme Court issues a ruling, the Legislature will again take up the issue, he noted. Two things he definitely supports are pay raises for teachers and more money for the state teachers' retirement system.

When a bill is finally forthcoming, it will have far-reaching effects on Texans, he said.

"Whatever we do, it's going to take extra money," he said. "It will not only affect school finance reform, but also the way we tax Texans."

Among other issues discussed at the town hall meeting were:

- **Imminent domain** — Seliger hailed a bill passed this year that limits government's ability to seize private property for development purposes.



State Sen. Kel Seliger, left, talks with local residents during a town hall meeting Wednesday afternoon at the Hanger 25 Air Museum. About 50 people attended the meeting.

es.

- **Local control** — Seliger opposed bills — such as ones that would mandate start dates for

schools — that he said unfairly infringe upon local authority.

"Why is a decision made in Austin necessari-

ly so much better than one made here in Big Spring?" he asked. "What is it about the start of school here that's so

"We will be working from the civil end of things, while law enforcement works on the criminal side. Our main concern is for the safety of the other children in the home."

Meisner said CPS completed an investigation of the family in August 2004,

following allegations of physical abuse, at which time the mother of the twins completed parenting classes and what Meisner described as "various forms of therapy."

Investigations into the unexplained deaths are

being performed by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, Texas Rangers and Child Protective Services.

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

important to Austin?"

- The Big Spring VA Hospital — Seliger said he fully supports efforts to keep the hospital up and running here.

"I'm very optimistic about the future of the VA Hospital," he said. "I think it would be a terrible disservice to do anything to that hospital."

- Combining city and county governments into one entity — Seliger said that is an issue best left to local voters.

"My inclination is ... if that's what the people in that city and county want to do, I'm not sure why it shouldn't happen."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Marrissa Celeste Rivera, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102

TWINS

Continued from Page 1A

Howard County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from "frantic" woman saying that her babies were dead, according to information released by the sheriff's office.

HCSO deputies and Emergency Medical Service technicians responded to the home, where the infants were found dead.

Wiseman pronounced the infants dead at the scene at 11:50 a.m. Sunday and immediately ordered an autopsy to determine cause of death. The autopsies were performed Monday morning at the Texas Tech University

forensics center in Lubbock, according to Wiseman.

Child Protective Services has begun an investigation of the parents, 21-year-old Chris Petree and 27-year-old Lisa Riffe, according to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services spokesperson Marleigh Meisner.

Meisner said Riffe has voluntarily placed her other children with relatives pending the outcome of the investigation, which is expected to take approximately 30 to 45 days to complete.

"We have to determine what happened and how it happened so we can make sure it doesn't happen again," said Meisner.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1A

finalists were selected during a vote by the student body Wednesday.

The queen finalists are Jessica Bravo, Ashton Evans, Carmen Lewis, Jessi New and Raegan Ritchey. Homecoming king finalists are Paul Diaz, Jacob Nichols, Daniel Pike, Allan Sheedy and Matt Soto.

The queen and king will be elected by a vote of the student body Friday, and crowned during half-time ceremonies of the Steers' 7:30 p.m. game that evening in Memorial Stadium with Lubbock

High School.

Following the game, a student dance will be held at the high school.

Homecoming week also is a time for BSHS alumni to hold reunions. Retired BSHS teacher and counselor Janice Rosson said a complete list of class reunions can be found on the Internet at www.bshsalumni.com.

In addition, a Coming Home Queen, representing high school alumni, will be crowned prior to the start of Friday's football game, Rosson said.

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

SCAMS

Continued from Page 1A

to bring hurricane survivors to Big Spring and provide them with a great deal of their necessities, including a place to live, food and other resources.

"There's a fund set up at city hall. Anyone who wants to make a donation only needs to go there and contribute. That way they know the money is going to the Hurricane Katrina survivors and not just in someone's pocket," said Smith.

Smith said those who still wish to give to one of the groups soliciting donations can follow a few simple rules to make sure their dollars are

going where they're supposed to.

"If someone is going door-to-door or is approaching people in a parking lot asking for donations, make sure they have a peddler's permit from the city," said Smith. "If that person is someone you know and trust, it's OK to give. However, if you don't know them, then don't give them your donations."

For more information on Operation Big Heart and how to make a donation to the effort, call 714-7641.

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

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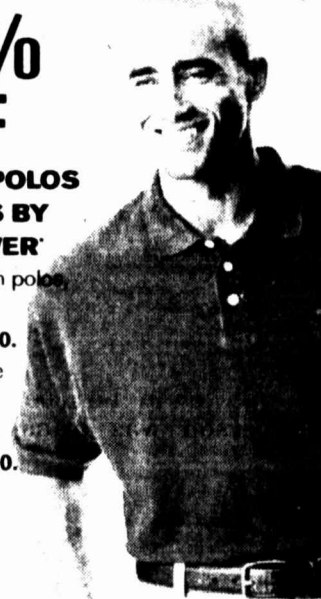
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

It's homecoming; Time for Steers fans to celebrate

There's a special feeling in the air — one of pageantry, tradition, pride, spirit. It's homecoming in Big Spring and that's a time to treasure. This weekend, memories will be rekindled and memories will be made.

Welcome exes! Whether you reside in Big Spring or have traveled "home" to be here, this is your special time. It's a time to greet old friends, classmates and teachers. A time to reminisce and think about those days when you were attending Big Spring High School.

It's also a special time for current students, especially you seniors. These are memories you will carry with you the rest of your lives.

A significant percentage of our lives is spent in classrooms getting an education. With it comes the camaraderie of being with other students, meeting in the library, making spirit signs, cheering the team on, spiking the volleyball or getting a base hit, scoring a touchdown, playing in the band, taking a role in a one-act play, serving on the student council, participating in a club, singing in the choir, cramming for a test late at night. Those are things you never forget. Some of you will remember with tears, some with laughter. But you will remember them. And as the years move on, they take on even more special significance.

Some of those memories will be made today with the bonfire that begins at 7:30 p.m. at the compost facility. Then there are Friday's activities: The afternoon pep rally in Steer Gym, the 4:30 p.m. downtown parade and the 7:30 p.m. game with Lubbock High School at Memorial Stadium along with its traditional halftime homecoming pageantry.

And as always, on Saturday there will be get-togethers by a number of classes.

Whether you are a BSHS alum or not, though, this is a fun week in Big Spring. So join us in kicking up your heels a little. Join us at Memorial Stadium on Friday night and cheer the Steers on to a win!

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@crcom.net.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we keep looking up to You, Lord, when we feel down.

Amen

Those big spending Republicans

Conservative dean William Rusher issued this sage advice at the University Club in San Francisco last week: Don't expect Republican politicians to be faithful ideologues, they'll only break your heart.

My heart, I must say, never did go pitter pat for House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Still, he done me wrong when, as The Washington Times reported Wednesday, he declared "victory" on congressional efforts to cut spending and said there was no fat left in the federal budget.

DeLay personifies the most ugly reality Republican voters must face: When a Democrat is in the White House, GOP members of Congress at least give lip service to the idea of watching taxpayers' pennies, and they'll oppose the president's pork barrel projects. But with a Republican president and Republicans in control of both houses of Congress, they become high rollers.

Expecting Republicans to curb spending when they're in power makes about as much sense as standing between Sen. Joe Biden and a live mike.

Not that the Dems are any better. As Tom Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste, noted over the phone, party affiliation isn't the issue:



DEBRA
SAUNDERS

"Anybody who is in power likes to spend money. That's generic. And appropriators in particular."

What to do? Citizens Against Government Waste has challenged members of Congress to sign a pledge to leave pork out of any Katrina relief package. So far, the pledge has found six takers, according to Schatz.

They are all Republicans with good skinflint credentials: Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma; and in the House, Reps. Steve Chabot of Ohio, Chris Chocola of Indiana, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lynn Westmoreland of Georgia. Westmoreland was one of 11 members of Congress to vote against the \$51 billion Katrina relief bill, noting that the amount is "nearly three times the entire annual budget of my home state of Georgia."

Said Schatz: "Everyone's opening up their wallets to help (Katrina's victims) — except members of Congress, who are opening up our wallets."

Six takers is pretty pitiful, when you consider that this pledge simply asks members to promise that every dime of supplemental spending for Katrina cleanup actually goes to disaster relief. The pledge doesn't even address Citizens Against Government Waste's push to cut \$24 billion from pet projects in the recently signed highway appropriations bill to offset some of Katrina's costs.

In the same spirit, the American Conservative Union called on President Bush and the GOP leadership to cut pre-Katrina pork. As

union chairman David Keene told The Washington Times, annual spending for areas outside of military expenses and homeland security increased \$303 billion between fiscal year 2001 and 2005.

Those numbers belie DeLay's claim that the federal government is running at peak efficiency. "Yes, after 11 years of Republican majority we've pared it down pretty good," he said.

It's not good enough for Republicans to be equal to Democrats in their ease in spending other people's money. The GOP is supposed to stand for fiscal conservatism and limited government — not Katie-bar-the-door spending. President Bush has to spend mightily to help those hurt by the hurricane, but he doesn't have to sign off on every pork-barrel project in GOP districts.

Unfortunately, a tight rein on spending never has been high on Dubya's list. He should have vetoed the pork-fest farm bill in his first term. But by failing to set the right tone, he enabled Capitol Hill to overspend. Today, you and I are paying for that lapse. And we'll be paying for it for years.

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I was quite impressed with Kent Sharp's eloquent and articulate piece in the Sept. 10-11 issue of the Herald with regard to the USAF's IFT program.

I concur that the AETC decision was a blatant miscarriage of integrity. Big Spring's proposal not only made economic sense, it contained a promise for a significantly safer environment. Unfortunately the powers that be often seem as if they have reached an abominable level of incompetence that well may afford disastrous consequences.

The conflict of interest is all too common with the business/political associations, smiling with immunity from such dubious behavior.

Whether or not investigations into the shenanigans of AETC come to fruition, Mr. Sharp, myself and the larger majority of those who have two brain cells to rub together know that Big Spring is the most intelligent choice for all the obvious reasons.

My advice to Midland?

Watch the skies! A cadet could soon be crash landing in your living room.

MICHAEL LEFORS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the letter in Monday's edition from Troy Axtens.

There has been enough tragedy to last a lifetime in the aftermath of Katrina. But I think there is entirely too much "Bush bashing" going on here. There is a lot of blame and enough to go around to all state and federal agencies.

On Sept. 2 President Bush was forced to negotiate with Gov. Blanco of Louisiana so he could send in aid. States rights. The governor and mayor of New Orleans, who by the way are both Democrats, watched for three days while Katrina bore down on their city and state and did nothing.

Their advice?

Leave town.

No assistance was offered to the poor or elderly as 400 school buses sat unused and later were flooded.

The Louisiana Disaster Plan, dated January 2000, states: "The primary means of hurricane evacuation will be personal vehicles. School and municipal buses, government-owned vehicles and vehicles provided by volunteer agencies may be used to provide transportation for individuals who lack transportation and require assistance in evacuating."

Why was this not implemented by the mayor and the governor?

Who knows?

It looks like poor planning, or no planning. As I said, there is plenty

of blame to go around.

The president would have had to invoke the Insurrection Act to send troops in without being requested by the state. The governors of Mississippi and Alabama put in formal requests for aid before the hurricane came ashore. Where was Gov. Blanco? She refused to relinquish any of her power for the good of her people. Now she and her party want to point fingers at the White House.

The Posse Comitatus Act prevents the president of the United States from sending federal troops into any state without a direct request by the elected governor of that state. The president could do nothing but stand by and watch the horror along with the rest of us, until he received a formal request for assistance.

There is plenty of blame to go around and a lot of heads should roll, but I doubt that happens. Let's remember the president cannot overrule the state's sovereign will.

CLEM JONES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Oh, how the nay-sayers and arm-chair consultants come out of the woodwork when there is something good done by a whole city and county. Out of state people who know our business, locals who are quick to criticize and others who never do anything to help out are always the first to put forth their opinions.

They say we yank people out of their element and throw them into a hot desert. That we don't know enough to make arrangements before hand and we are offering jobs to people who are not part of our community.

Little do these people realize that in only 36 hours from conception to implementation, the city leaders formed a plan to help some of these people.

I got a call late Friday night to help. The leaders of Big Spring — city officials, pastors and concerned citizens — worked long and hard to bring some semblance of sanity to disrupted people.

These nay-sayers could have been at the high school cafeteria and heard the praise of all the people. If they had, they would hide their heads in shame for their negative comments.

We gave these people medical attention, food and a place to sleep and rest for the first time in days. They were safe. They had a chance to think without being shot at or rejected. They were free to choose after their basic needs were seen to.

What were we supposed to do? Should we put them in tents and

let them fend for themselves or put them in large hobo cities so they would be in their own state?

No! These people were brought here by people who opened their lives and pocket books and gave of their time to help someone in need.

These people were plucked out of their homes by nature, not by us.

Maybe if you came down to some of the centers and helped, you would understand. Then, again, maybe we don't want your kind down there.

THE REV. JOEL R. MILLER
SENIOR CHAPLAIN, ESCC

TO THE EDITOR:

I would just like to voice my opinion on the recent all out effort of the people of Big Spring and the awesome way they have reached out to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina locally.

The donations and many, many items given in support have been just unbelievable. Kudos to them all, and especially all the volunteers who have worked so hard putting it into a combined effort of mass proportion in such a short time frame.

God bless.

RETA CLAYTON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I just wanted to say thanks to Kent Sharp for his excellent article of explanation concerning the failed attempt of the AETC proposal and bid.

It truly helps me better understand what they have been working on so hard the last plus year. I thank the Herald as well for allowing him the space needed to express his thoughts and concerns.

I urge any and everyone to send a letter of concern and questions to the names supplied just as I am going to do.

We will not know if hundreds of letters will do any good or not. However, we would know for sure what will happen if none are sent to them.

I would also like to say that I am proud to live in Big Spring, home of many wonderful and caring people who have assisted with Operation Big Heart. It's a shame 9-11-01 brought our country together as one and Hurricane Katrina is ripping it apart with the finger pointing.

Maybe it's time we do away with "Ds, Rs and Is" politicians place at the end of their name and we all use PAC, "Proud American Citizen."

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BIG SPRING

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News in brief

Deputies arrest 95-year-old man in screwdriver attack

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A 95-year-old man has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly threatening a 10-year-old girl with a screwdriver.

Malcolm Orum, who uses a wheelchair and walks only with a cane, allegedly pulled a screwdriver on Michallyna Krogstad after she and her mother, Michelle Krogstad, tried to find a binder for school in his bedroom, a Tom Green County deputy's report said.

Orum said in a story in Thursday's San Angelo Standard-Times that he had the screwdriver in his hand when deputies arrived but had been using it to try to pry open a broken razor. He said he swung his hand and swatted at the girl when she and her 12-year-old brother wouldn't stop jumping on his bed.

Orum was arrested Aug. 17 and remained in jail until Aug. 29 when his bond was set at \$20,000. He was released on his own recognizance.

Michelle Krogstad said she called deputies because the Veteran's Administration hospital had advised her to do so in such a situation so Orum could get a mental evaluation. She said she didn't intend for her boyfriend's grandfather to sit in jail.

"There's something really wrong with the system when you're willing to put a 94-year-old man in jail," Krogstad said. Orum turned 95 on Sept. 7.

Sheriff Joe Hunt defended his deputies' decision to jail Orum. "If they're not mentally incompetent, and they pull a screwdriver on someone," Hunt said, "they go to jail for aggravated assault."

A grand jury is expected to review his case next month.

UT, Texas Tech unveil proposals for Bush library

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas System on Wednesday unveiled a proposal to host President Bush's presidential library and museum in Austin or Dallas. Meanwhile, competing Texas Tech University

proposed a library and academic center in Lubbock.

The UT proposal suggests building the complex either in downtown Dallas, in the northern part of that city on UT-Dallas' campus or in west Austin on a tract of land owned by the university.

UT System officials also proposed a secondary site at UT-San Antonio to serve as a high-security conference center for world leaders and scholars, the Austin American-Statesman reported in its Wednesday online edition.

Texas Tech submitted its plan for the George W. Bush Institute for Global Freedom and Democracy.

The institute would be modeled after the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, a think tank housed at Stanford University, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported in its Thursday editions.

Supporters believe Tech's research programs, including studies on bioterrorism and international affairs, make it a natural fit for such an institute.

The proposals are due Thursday. The White House has not said when it may choose a location.

Others in the running for a presidential library include Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, Midland College and the University of Dallas.

After years of financial maneuvering, high fuel costs tip Delta, Northwest into bankruptcy

(AP) — Delta Air Lines Inc. snatched pillows from most of its domestic passengers, and Northwest Airlines Corp. quit offering pretzels. They slashed thousands of jobs and pressed remaining workers to take pay cuts. They renegotiated debt and dropped money-losing flights, but it wasn't enough to keep both airlines out of bankruptcy court.

Ultimately, both were undone by spiking fuel prices after Hurricane Katrina. Their other problems — heavy debt, mounting pension obligations, labor costs higher than their peers — were serious enough, but could be addressed later. But not the fuel.

Delta and Northwest both filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in New York on Wednesday. Both companies said the timing was a coincidence.

They became the third and fourth major carriers to enter Chapter 11 since the 2001 terrorist attacks. The nation's big airlines have lost more than \$30 billion in those four years, and the newest bankruptcy filings focused attention on the magnitude of the plight of the nation's big airlines.

By joining the parents of United Airlines and US Airways in bankruptcy, the four major carriers represent more than 40 percent of all available seat miles in the U.S., according to analysts.

"We are reading the first page in a thriller that will end either in resurrection or the death and burial of an entire industry as we know it today," said William Rochelle, an airline bankruptcy lawyer in New York.

Slow-moving Ophelia soaks N.C. but no early indications of severe flooding

NEW BERN, N.C. (AP) — Hurricane Ophelia weakened slightly as it crawled along the North Carolina coast at a tortuously slow pace on Thursday, and early indications were that the storm had not caused the severe flooding many feared.

The exposed Outer Banks islands of Ocracoke and Hatteras were still at risk as the storm paralleled the shore just to their east. Thousands of homes and businesses had no electricity.

Ophelia was expected to head back out into the open Atlantic later in the day or early Friday after an anticipated 48-hour onslaught of lashing rain and wind.

The storm had sustained wind of 80 mph Thursday morning, down from 85 mph earlier in the day, the National Hurricane Center said. It was expected to bring 3 to 5 inches more inches of rain along the coast, with a possibility of storm totals of up to 15 inches in some places.

Hurricane warnings covered about 220 miles along the state's coast from Surf City north of Wilmington to the Virginia line, where a tropical storm warning covered the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

More than 12 inches of rain had fallen on Oak Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River south of Wilmington, according to the National Weather Service in Raleigh.

District Judge: School pledge is unconstitutional

By DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An atheist seeking to strike the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools has won a major battle in his quest to force the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the issue again.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton sided with atheist Michael Newdow in ruling Wednesday that the pledge's reference to God violates the rights of children in three school districts to be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

Karlton said he was bound by precedent of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which in 2002 ruled in favor of Newdow that the pledge is unconstitutional when recited in public schools.

The latest decision could set up another church-state showdown at a time when the Supreme Court is in flux. John Roberts, who would succeed the late William H. Rehnquist as chief justice, is undergoing confirmation hearings, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is retiring when a successor is confirmed.

The Supreme Court dismissed the case last year,

saying Newdow lacked standing because he did not have custody of his elementary school daughter he sued on behalf of.

Newdow, an attorney and a medical doctor, filed an identical case on behalf of three unnamed parents and their children. Karlton said those families have the right to sue.

Newdow is hoping to get the high court to remove the pledge's reference to God and restore its pre-1954 wording, "one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"All it has to do is put the pledge as it was before, and say that we are one nation, indivisible, instead of dividing us on religious basis," Newdow told The Associated Press.

Karlton said he would sign a restraining order preventing the recitation of the pledge at the Elk Grove Unified, Rio Linda and Elverta Joint Elementary school districts in Sacramento County, where the plaintiffs' children attend.

The order would not extend beyond those districts unless it is affirmed by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, in which case it could apply to nine western states, or the Supreme Court, which would apply to all states.

Superintendent Steven Ladd of Elk Grove Unified School District said the pledge will be recited until the school receives the judge's restraining order, which could happen any day.

"Our board has long supported the Pledge of Allegiance as an appropriate patriotic exercise for willing students," he said.

Karlton, appointed to

the Sacramento bench by President Carter, wrote that the case concerned "the ongoing struggle as to the role of religion in the civil life of this nation" and added that his opinion "will satisfy no one involved in that debate."

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Hybrid

New Honda useful,
is also economical
but not much fun

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

I have yet to join the True Believers who insist that hybrid vehicles are, flaws and all, the answer to our problems of oil dependency, global warming, pollution and the heartbreak of psoriasis.

I like hybrids and admire what the manufacturers have done, both mechanically and with regard to their public-spiritedness, because at this point, none of them is making money from hybrids, regardless of what they tell their shareholders. No one has yet amortized the cost of developing such an innovative product.

As I spent a week in a 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid, I tried very hard to enjoy the experience, and ultimately I did.

Here's how: You know that with, say, a sports car, you get a certain amount of pleasure from the acceleration, the swoopy styling and the cornering?

In the Civic Hybrid, you get a certain amount of pleasure from looking down at your running fuel-mileage total and seeing that you are getting 38.3 miles per gallon. Which was my average over about 380 miles. This is considerably less than the EPA ratings of 47 mpg in the city, 48 mpg on the

highway, but still, 38.3 mpg is pretty good. Right? Right!

I don't think there was any way to get 48 mpg in the Civic, but I know I could have done better if I turned off the air conditioner, which, I understand, some True Believers are willing to do. Of course, in Florida, in August, it might be a bit warmish, but anything to save a gallon.

Actually, I have been in contact with some hybrid owners who did not realize that when you pull up to a stop sign, and the engine stops, the air conditioning does, too. The fan keeps blowing, and for maybe 30 seconds, the air is cool, but after that, it only gets warmer. With the Civic, the "economy" setting on the air conditioning lets the engine shut down at a stop, but on the regular setting, it won't.

The majority of my driving was done with the air on "economy," and if it wasn't, I would have averaged less than 38.3 mpg. But I would have been cooler.

Otherwise, the Civic was just not much fun to drive. Its electric-assisted power steering was notchy and annoying, and there was a remarkable amount of road noise from the tires. The Civic, like all Honda hybrids, is



The 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid

a "partial" hybrid, meaning it won't move using its electric motor alone; the electric motor just helps Honda's little 93-horsepower engine accelerate, and in doing so, the engine uses less gasoline.

And with the CVT (continuously variable transmission, which works like an automatic but doesn't have a set number of gears), acceleration really wasn't bad.

And typical of Civics, it was built like a little tank. There is no scheduled tune-up until 110,000 miles, and I have little doubt that it would be trouble-free transportation for a very long time. And with its 11.88-gallon fuel tank, you could legit-

imately expect a range of about 450 miles between fill-ups.

Satisfying? Yes. Fun? Sorry, not so much.

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www.bigspringherald.com

Garage Sales

BACKYARD SALE, 1906 Morrison Dr. Saturday, 8:00-? NO EARLY SALES!!! Books, twin size bed, stairstepper, treadmill, clothes, lots of misc.

FOUR FAMILY, 1016 Baylor, Saturday 7:00-?. Kids, junior and ladies clothes, shoes, scrubs, housewares, twin & queen bedding, toys and lots miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE: 401 Thompson Rd., Fri. & Sat. 8:00-?. Kid clothes, furniture, bedroom set, misc. items.

GARAGE/STORAGE ROOM Sale: 206 Washington Blvd., Saturday 8:00-5:00. Metal cabinet, interior door, golf clubs, window air conditioner, lawn mower, exercise bike, bookcase headboard, patio chair cushions, clothes, sleeping bags, lots more.

MOVING SALE, 2313 Alledale, Saturday, 8:00-? Home, seasonal decor, dining table, china cabinet, patio set, grill, office chair, desk, books, tools, adult clothes, misc. Cash!!

MOVING SALE: 1304 Mt. Vernon, Friday & Saturday 8:00-?. Furniture, washer & dryer, TV, microwave, bar stools, knick-knacks and lots more.

MULTI. FAMILY Garage Sale: 200 South Moss Lake Road, Friday & Saturday 8:00-5:00. Kitchenware, quilt tops, clothes and lots of misc.

THREE FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday, 8:00-? 103 East 20th. Lots of school kids clothes, all sizes, shoes, furniture, bedroom suite.

Garage Sales

MULTI. FAMILY: 210 Grimes, Fri. & Sat. 7:00-5:00. Baby items, tools, furniture, misc. items. Exit Midway Rd., turn right on Wilson Rd., follow signs to Grimes.

TWO FAMILY Yard Sale, Thurs.-Fri. 10:00-? & Sat. 9:00-? Hillside Mobile Home Park, one block east of FM 700, North Service Road. Furniture, lots of everything.

YARD SALE: 2104 Cecilia, Saturday 8:00-?. Kitchen items, furniture, toys, camping supplies and lots of misc.

YARD SALE: 2711 Central, Saturday 8:00-12:00. Dining room table, china cabinet, clothes, shoes, lots of misc..

Help Wanted

CANTEEN CORRECTIONS now hiring for 6 Positions. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 day work week. Must pass criminal and credit check. Pick up application at 2004 First Ave. Building #48 or Texas Work Force. Call (432)263-2366.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Heavy Equipment Operator/ Street Dept and for Utility Service Worker. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan (432)264-2346, The City of Big Spring is EOE.

DANCER/ ENTERTAINERS needed. Must be 18 yrs. old. Call San Francisco Bar & Grill (432)267-1767 leave message.

DENNY'S
Server positions available
Apply at:
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DENTAL OFFICE
Front desk coordinator. Knowledge of insurance and filing, scheduling of patients, ability to multi-task. Professionalism a must. Will train the right person. Come by 1708 E. FM 700.

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Refreshing, Christian atmosphere. Prime location! Excellent for walk-ins. State of the art equipment in a spacious, modern salon. Limited number of booths available. FMI call Gina Jones Amazing Cuts Salon (325)573-0189.

Help Wanted

DISTRICT MANAGER for West Texas/Snyder area. Richeson Companies, stable 33 year multi-unit Dairy Queen group, seeks qualified district manager for 8-store group, ability to travel a requirement, 55-60 hour work week includes weekends. Must have restaurant management, prefer DQ. Relocation a must. References, background check and drug test required. Salary plus bonuses. Phone, Amy Moore 800-346-7472.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

DOZER OPERATOR for Big Spring company with at least 5 years experience. Must be able to pass drug test. Benefits available. (432)238-7650.

DQ MANAGER TRAINEE positions available for local and surrounding areas. Need strong responsible leaders ready to learn and grow in thriving restaurant chain. Call, Amy Moore 800-346-7472.

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. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

Help Wanted

HEAVY TRUCK & diesel mechanic needed. 2 years experience. Must have own tools. Call (432)264-9667.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Full-time and Part-time clerk/cashier/cook. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700, Neighbors Convenience Store.

INSERTER. Part-time weekdays and Saturdays. Apply in Person at

Help Wanted

LOCAL CHURCH seeking nursery & toddlers caregivers. Send resume & references to: PO Box 507, Big Spring, TX 79721. Background check will be required!

LOOKING FOR (2) Part-time Personal Banker/Teller. Experienced preferred but not required. Apply at www.woodforest.com

MINIMAL PHYSICAL LABOR! Truckdrivers needed. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truckdriving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon-Fri. 8am-5pm.

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All type of repairs!
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More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available.
For Tree Trimming and removal.
Call Lupe
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432-268-6406

Help Wanted



ROUTE SALES
21 years or older
Must Live in Big Spring
Contact: Ed Lechler
to set up interview
Cell phone (432)557-1064
Monday thru Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Job Description:
Help on 2 Man Milk Route.
Must be able to handle early
hours and physical labor.

SOLID COMPANY expanding!
Our drivers average
\$3500/month wages, plus paid
travel, per diem, and lodging.
Home one week every month!
Medical and life insurance! Oil
field work, not driving only! 2
years Class A CDL experience
required. Good driving record.
Call 1-800-588-2669.

Taking applications for
Counter Help. Must be very en-
thusiastic. Duties include filing,
computer, phone and etc.
Benefits include paid vacation,
health insurance & retirement.
Apply in person, **Credit World**,
1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls
Please.

WAITSTAFF NEEDED
Must be able to work
Split-shifts.
Monday-Saturday
18yrs or older.
Apply at,
Red Mesa Grill
2401 South Gregg
No Phone Calls

WANTED 29 Serious people to
work from home using a com-
puter. \$500 to \$5,00.00 PT/FT.
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WANTED EXPERIENCED Gas
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full health benefits and retire-
ment plan. Send resume to
Plant Supervisor 11703 East
FM 846, Coahoma, TX. 79511
or fax (432)399-4290 or e-mail
mwcol@crcom.net

CITY OF Big Spring is accept-
ing applications for the position
of Firefighter/Paramedic
through October 12, 2005.
Testing will be on Saturday Oc-
tober 15, 2005. Applications
may be obtained at City Hall
(432-264-2346) 310 Nolan, Big
Spring, TX 79720 or from web-
site: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us
The City of Big Spring is EOE.

It Pays To Read
Big Spring Herald
Classifieds

Help Wanted

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

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Beginners through Advance.
Years of teaching experience.
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Call (432)263-3367

Items for Sale

TANNING BED 110 volt (home
tanner), big screen TV 55 inch
and pool table. Call
(432)264-0520 after 7pm leave
message.

YZ 490 Dirt Bike. Very fast,
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(432)398-5523. Also 10 ft. air
motor w/tower, 200 ft of new
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(432)264-6816.

Miscellaneous



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the distance
like the Classifieds!
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- Cars For Sale
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710 Scurry

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In the
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263-7331

Miscellaneous

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Come See the 100's of movies,
also music, furniture, clothes,
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Cheap Prices!

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LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
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1 & 2 Bedrooms &
1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

1313 OIL Mill Road. 3 Bed-
room with apartment in rear,
CH/A, fenced yard. \$600.00
Month, \$500.00. No pets. Call
(432)267-5759.

1706 JOHNSON. One bed-
room, one bath. \$225. month,
\$100. deposit. Call
(432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, fenced
yard. Damage Deposit. No
pets. Call (432)263-7259.

2210 LYNN. 3 Bedroom 2
bath, garage, fenced yard. One
year lease required. No indoor
pets. \$595. month + \$400. de-
posit. Call (432)263-6514
Owner/Broker.

2401 CHEYENNE. Large 2
bedroom, 1 bath, 2 living ar-
eas. Central air and heat. Nice
neighborhood. \$500. Month,
\$300. deposit. Call
(432)270-3848 for more infor-
mation.

2804 Crestline. 4 Bedroom, 3
bath, CH/A, 2 car garage. Call
(432)264-8813.

3 BEDROOM. 1607 Stadium
\$400.00. 2 Bedroom- 1410
Park & 1107 Lloyd, \$300.00
Also have 1 Bedroom Duplex-
\$225.00. Call Moren
(432)267-7380.

4219 HAMILTON. 3 bedroom,
1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841
or 517-0642.

620 STATE 3 bedroom, 1 bath.
1308 Baylor 3 bedroom, 1
bath. New carpet and tile.
\$550. Month, \$300. deposit.
Call (432)270-3848 for more in-
formation.

BUILDING for LEASE for retail
or office. 1712 Gregg. Approxi-
mately 5,000 sq. ft. \$750.
month + deposit. Call WESTEX
Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

2004 Johnson \$195. month,
\$100. deposit. Call
(432)263-1792, 816-9984.

Real Estate for Rent

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
\$200. Move-In Special
\$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

Largest nicest apartments
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2 BR \$265 - \$315
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Real Estate for Sale

1304 MT. Vernon, 2,600 sq. ft.,
2 Possible 3 bedroom, 2 bath.
2 Living areas, 2 fireplaces,
CH/A, 2 car garage w/fenced
yard. Call (432)816-9058.

139.5 ACRES Rich Farm
Land Glasscock County, Burns
Valley. Has metal barn, elec-
tricity is available. Hwy 87 and
Black top road too property.
Call (432)682-6016.

1711 HARVARD, 2/2/2 living,
large rooms/closets, CH/A,
double garage, huge backyard
w/trees, tile fence, storage
building. By College. \$77k.
Seller pays closing. Call
(432)263-9716, (817)881-3073.

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

2411 ACRES in Stonewall
County. \$495.00 per acre. Call
(817)300-0345
www.wtxranch.com

3/2/DEN BRICK home, dish-
washer and stove, circle drive,
bathrooms and kitchen remod-
eled. \$37,000.00 AS IS. Call
(432)213-3105.

COAHOMA HOUSE Rebuilt in-
side & out, 3 bedroom, 2 full
baths. 412 South 2nd. No
Owner Finance. \$45,000.00.
Call (432)270-0548 or
263-4548.

COAHOMA... 3/2/1 on 6 acres.
Massive garage/ workshop.
Nice! Call Charles Smith, agent
(432)466-1613 or Home Real-
tors (432)263-1284.

KENTWOOD HOME for sale,
2713 Central. 3 bedrooms, 2
bath, 2 living rooms, french
doors, fireplace, covered patio,
workshop. \$79,000.
(432)816-3467.

LOG HOME on 4 acres. Boat-
ler Road on top of "thrill hill".
Secluded, 2 bedroom. Excel-
lent water well. \$62,500. Ap-
pointment only! (432)264-9436.

PRICE Just REDUCED and
possible owner finance. Large,
charming older home with
some hardwood floors. Call for
all the details. Janet @ Home
Realtors (432)263-1284 or
213-5454.

Vehicles

DEALS OF THE MONTH:
7 New 2004 Models
Still In Stock!
Up To \$11,000 OFF - Don't Miss It!
BOB BROCK FORD
500 W 11th 267-7124

1997 DODGE Ram 1500 SLT
ext cab. 70K, alpine radio, nerf
bar, steps. Asking \$7,500.00.
Call (432)816-4181.

1998 BMW (Dark Green). Very
Clean. Good Condition.
Leather/power seats, power
sun roof, alarm system, auto-
matic, 96k. \$11,800.00. Serv-
ice Record Available. Call
(432)263-1738

1998 DODGE Dakota Sport,
loaded under 87,000. 4-cylind-
er, 5-speed, good fuel mile-
age. \$4,500. Call
(432)238-9434 after 6:00 p.m.

1999 BUICK Park Avenue.
37,000 Miles. Cream Puff.
Loaded. \$9,000.00. Call
(432)263-1698.

2000 MITSUBISHI Eclipse GT
(Black). Power windows, tilt,
cruise, CD player, spoiler, sun-
roof, 64k miles. Good tires.
\$10,000 OBO. Call
(432)466-2268.

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adventure of a lifetime
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DEAR PRUDENCE

Prudence: What is the
best way to turn someone
down when asked for your
phone number? In some
instances, lying and
claiming to be involved is
not an option, such as when
asked out by an acquaint-
ance who is aware that you
are available. What's the
best response, without
being rude? — Just
Wondering

Dear Just:
If you don't
care if the
person might
figure out
that he got
the bum's
rush, be off
by one digit.
Or... as
someone did
in a
television
show, write
down a few
too many
numbers. Or... as Warren
Beatty used to do before he
was married with a family,
he would tell people to call
him at a hotel at which he
did not live. Prudie is
guessing, however, you
don't live in a hotel.



**MARGO
HOWARD**

If you do give the number
out in order to be kind, you
will just wind up making
up something on the phone
about why you can't go. It
might be more painless just
to say, when asked for your
number, that you're doing
very little these days be-
cause of your
puppy/cousin/doctoral
thesis or a project at work.
— Prudie, evasively

Dear Prudence: I recently
married a wonderful man
and have encountered quite
a quandary. Prior to the
wedding, I made a sincere
effort to establish a
relationship with his
parents, a seemingly "white
picket fence" couple.
As I got to know his
mother, however, she would
have several glasses of wine
during dinners with just
the two of us and discuss
how unhappy she was in
her marriage. I always tried
to steer the conversation
elsewhere on these
occasions and began to see
less and less of her for fear
she might confess to the
affair I suspected she was
having and I would be
obligated to tell my fiancé.

During one of our
wedding showers, she had a
few too many and pulled
some of my family aside to
tell them she had been in
love with another man for
10 years and wanted to
leave her husband. Apart
from the sheer
inappropriateness of her
actions, I was left
wondering what to do —
she didn't confess it to me,
but I still know about it.

She takes "trips" with her
friend nearly every
weekend, and always wants
to pull me aside when my
husband and I visit to tell
me the latest reason she's
unhappy with her
marriage. I want to get
along with her, but I cannot
put myself in the position
of being her ally. To be
honest, it's so obvious to
me that she's having an
affair that I can't figure out
why my husband — or hers
— doesn't know.

When it all comes
crashing down, I don't want
to be in the middle. My
allegiance lies with my
husband, but I don't want
to make a rookie mistake
by telling him what she's
divulged to my family and
me. Do I spill the beans or
keep this to myself? — In
the Middle

Dear In: The wild card
here is that Prudie believes,
generally, that husbands
and wives do not keep
secrets from each other. In
your case, however, she
will make an exception.
Chances are that both
husbands — yours and hers
— know about her
unhappiness, her booze
problem and her stepping
out. For some people, it is
less painful to play dumb.
And if neither man knows,
so much the better.

Do not interject yourself
into this sad tale unless
asked. (You can only wind
up in the middle if you put
yourself there.) And you've
learned an interesting life
lesson about the seeming
"white picket fence"
couples, wouldn't you
agree? — Prudie, reticently

Dear Prudence: I am
stuck in a situation that —

unfortunately — I have
brought upon myself. I am
18 years old and have had
sexual intercourse with
three individuals. I have
recently decided that I
would prefer to abstain
from that activity until I
am married. This, however,
does nothing to change the
past.

The area I live in and the
church I attend are
environments in which
people are eager to
condemn sex before
marriage, and equally eager
to share dirt on how far
people have gone, how
many partners they've had,
how old they were when
they lost their virginity,
etc. A "friend" I'd confided
in told an individual that I
was dating about this, and
the news seems to be slowly
making its way — often in
a highly exaggerated and
nonfactual form — to
others.

So, my question is, how
do I respond when people
ask me about this? And
when is the appropriate (or
wise) time to share my past
with someone I am dating?
— Made My Own Bed

Dear Made: Regarding
how to respond when
people bring this up, Prudie
cannot believe anyone
would bring this up! If such
a clod does open his trap,
close him/her down with a
"Whatever are you talking
about?" It is not all that
hard to communicate that
the questioner is on shaky,
not to mention impertinent,
ground.

As for when to discuss
your past, that time in a
relationship usually reveals
itself. However... the less
specific you are, the better.
It is enough to say you are
no longer a virgin.
Supplying the names and
numbers of the players is
not a good idea.

And Prudie salutes you
for your wish to become
revirginized. The horse
may have left the barn, but
that doesn't mean it needs
to stop at every hitching
post. — Prudie, forwardly

Prudie: Recently, I ended
it with my boyfriend of 13
years. The reasons for this
were many — infidelity,
lying, manipulation, and
emotional and physical
abuse. I met a wonderful
man who sparked
everything back up inside.
Although my ex is many
things, I do still care about
him like a friend. I want to
remain on good terms with
him. Why is that
important? I'm not sure;
maybe because I've
remained friends with
every ex.

My new love is pushing
me to get a restraining
order, never talk to the ex
again and completely wash
my hands of him. I've
always been independent
and don't really take kindly
to being told what to do. I
know that my new love is
trying to protect me, as he
knows full well what I went
through with the ex. But
how do I tell him I'm a big
girl? I may need guidance
once in a while, and even a
little shove, but not an iron
fist.

I don't want things to end
with this new guy. I care
for him very much and
have fallen very fast for
him, despite my best efforts
to take things slowly. I feel
like I'm caught in the
middle. — Confused

Dear Con: Your dilemma
reminds Prudie of the old
gag: "There's no accounting
for taste," said the woman
when told her son was
wanted by the police. Why
in the world would you
want to maintain a friendly
relationship with a man
from whom you fled due to
infidelity, lying,
manipulation and all the
kinds of abuse there are?
To maintain your perfect
record of being friends with
all the exes is nuts.

Prudie's with you new
boyfriend about washing
your hands of the ex, but
you cannot gratuitously get
a restraining order as a
gesture. The bad boyfriend
— the one you want to keep
in your life — has to have
threatened you or currently
be stalking you to justify a
restraining order. Prudie
thinks you need a few
sessions with a therapist. —
Prudie, unsympathetically
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The waxing Aquarius moon has an agenda — to "hip" us up. Keeping current with social, political and technological events will be important to performing our best in our chosen roles. The free-flowing exchange of ideas is key. Readily admit what you don't know, and the right information will be made available. Eagerly share what you do know.

HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Since you're the one with a vision for where the action should go, you'll also be the one to move things along. Your more unique abilities are the ones that get you recognized. If you're not using them, then start to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In moments of weakness, it's easy to blame others for your chaotic lifestyle — until

you remember that the person who said "yes" to all these appointments was you. Perhaps there's nothing better to do than show up at each one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though an important relationship is still in its early stages, it feels as if you've been together since the formation of the solar system. Some of you will make a big commitment to celebrate your connection.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll wake up with the birds and have more accomplished by noon than you can usually do in a day's time. Note the curious rise of your popularity tonight. This happens with no input from you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone seems to have a personal relationship with you, even though you barely know this person. There is a bit of competition for your companionship, which could amuse you. But don't let it go to your head.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Quite naturally,

you'll assume the parental role. You're able to bring comfort and a feeling of normalcy to someone who is skittish and unsure. Note: This can be done without loaning money!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There is always a pessimist in the group, and somehow, you'll get stuck with him or her today. Try to represent the other side. Good things are possible and even probable. So stay versatile and open-minded.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The lines between reality and imagination are blurred, but maybe it doesn't matter. If you dwell in the imaginary side long enough, it becomes real. For luck, share your dreams with a Pisces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you abstain from too many pleasures, the "Mr. Hyde" in you will come out to have his day. Be moderate in all things, including moderation. Tonight, get out in style. Let loose, and have fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Agreeableness isn't all it's cracked up to be. If you don't exercise assertiveness, you'll lose the ability over time. Trivial information breaks the ice tonight. Learn all you can about what interests you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some people lose it under pressure, but stress gives you such an energy rush that all you lose is weight. You can get colleagues to help by turning on the charm. Side note: This is the ideal time to change your hair color.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your plan clearly isn't working. Don't give up, but do try something radically different. Franz Kafka once wrote that there are some things one can only achieve by a deliberate leap in the opposite direction.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My husband is an Aquarius, but his rising sign and Mars are in Cancer. I thought that this would make him much more protective and domestic

than the usual Aquarian, but I am sorely disappointed and I was wondering if these tendencies are just hidden in his chart because of his Mars position. Or, should I just resign myself to his detachment? I was born Aug. 22, 1961."

You are attracted to him because he had a fabulous way of bringing you out of your "shell" (Venus in Cancer) and making you feel bright and adventurous. Though you're a Leo, you are also ruled by a cool, calculating Capricorn moon and Mercury in no nonsense Virgo. Quite frankly, you scare him. He wonders why he should bother trying to be the big bad provider and protector you want when you're so self-sufficient. He deeply appreciates what you bring to the marriage but can't always find the words to tell you. He's afraid that if he did, you would know you have even more power over him and possibly leave. Get back in touch with the adventurous,

quirky, future-thinking man you fell in love with by praising this side of him instead of expecting him to be good at everything that you're good at.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Virgo people can be very discerning, but they detest complaining! Moby became a trendsetter when others in the music business griped about being ripped off through Internet music downloading. Instead of fretting, he found innovative ways to make money with music. His melding of the commercial and artistic side of music made him very rich and a respected artist at the same time.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for three years, and we have a 21-month-old daughter. Recently, my husband found out that he has gonorrhea. I asked him how he possibly could have contracted this disease. He insists he hasn't been with anyone else and that he would never risk losing me and our daughter.

He says he goes straight to work and right back home. I can't think when he would have the opportunity to cheat, but let's face it, it doesn't take all that long. I am convinced he's slept with another woman because gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease.

I am upset, confused and crushed that my husband would lie to me like this. I mean, there can't be any other way to get this, right? I hate being left in the dark, and I don't deserve this. How do I get him to 'fess up? — Ready to Leave

Dear Ready to Leave: We don't want to break up a family, but it is highly unlikely that your husband contracted gonorrhea through any means other than sexual contact. Symptoms usually show up within 30 days of exposure. If there are details that could exonerate him, you should discuss it with your gynecologist or internist, or contact the American Social Health Association (www.ashastd.org), P.O. Box 13827, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.

Dear Annie: My husband's brother is getting married soon, and the couple has opted for an all-adult reception. The bride's parents do not seem to have a very high tolerance for children at all and would prefer to keep the reception very formal. All the children are invited to the ceremony, but no one under the age of 18 is invited to the reception, except those in the wedding party.

I have three children under the age of 10. Two of our children and my husband are in the wedding. So where does that leave me and my youngest child? Hiring a baby sitter is not an option because we are coming in from out of town.

I have decided to go to the ceremony and then return to our hotel room with my third child and order pizza, visit the pool,

etc. Am I making a poor choice that my husband's family might hold against me? — Need an Opinion in Ohio

Dear Ohio: The wedding couple is entitled to exclude children if they wish, although since three

members of your family are in the wedding party, it would have been nice to make an exception for your youngest.

Nonetheless, most parents in your position ask the bride and groom, or other family members, for a list of baby sitters in the area. (Considerate bridal couples provide the baby sitters altogether.) You then have the option of hiring one to stay with your youngest child near the site of the reception. Otherwise, sorry to say, you will indeed have to skip the festivities.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Mad in Indiana," the 11-year-old who was lonely. My daughter also is an only child and always felt deprived.

For the past three years, we have had foreign exchange students living with us. It has been a wonderful experience for everyone. My only regret is that we did not start having students earlier, when my daughter was 11 or 12 years old.

My suggestion is to select a student who has interests similar to those of your child and family. Also remember that the exchange student is NOT a built-in baby sitter and should not be expected to entertain the young children.

I have been a volunteer area representative with Youth for Understanding for the last two years and have learned a great deal about kids and their cultures. If you are a caring family, please consider this wonderful experience. Call Youth for Understanding at 1-866-4-YFU-USA (1-866-493-8872) or check the website at YFU-USA.org. — C.R.

Dear C.R.: Hosting a foreign exchange student is a terrific way to learn about other cultures. Here are three more resources: Center for Cultural Interchange (cci-exchange.com) 1-888-

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

ABROAD1 (1-888-227-6231); AFS Intercultural Programs (afs.org) 1-800-AFS-INFO (1-800-237-4636); and AYUSA (ayusa.org) 1-888-55-AYUSA (1-888-552-9872).

Dear Annie: In June, I began

receiving prank phone calls from kids. I had no luck trying to trace the calls myself, so after nearly three weeks of continuous harassment, I contacted my phone company to find out who was doing this.

Once I received the phone number, I immediately called their house requesting to speak to their parents. However, the kids simply hung up on me every time I called and continued to phone my house with obscenities. Finally, I was able to get in touch with the mother of the children, a single parent, but all she said was "kids will be kids." She said they were just trying to have fun.

After arguing with her, she assured me that the children would never call again. But while the calls are not as abundant as before, I still receive a few now and then.

Is there anything more I should do? I do not wish to get the police involved. I am an elderly woman who has raised four kids of my own, but none of them were ever this rude. I do not want to stop answering my phone, and neither caller ID nor call blocking is available in my area. Please give me some advice. — Annoyed Patty

Dear Annoyed: Even though call blocking is not available in your area, talk to someone at your phone company and ask if there is anything it can do to keep those calls from reaching your home. The phone company often can block calls from their end. If not, invest in an answering machine, and let it screen all your calls.

Dear Annie: Regarding the letter from "Anal Retentive" about the toilet tissue debacle, my wife has a solution. In each bathroom she has placed a wicker basket that holds five to six rolls of T.P. Since the

dispenser is not used, there is never an issue on which direction it should roll. The big plus is you never run out in the middle of a job. I can't believe this subject has come up so often. — R.B., Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear R.B.: YOU can't believe it?! You should see it from this end. Read on:

From Sylmar, Calif.: Your answer regarding how toilet paper should be hung is WRONG! Never mind if it has a pattern. It should always be hung so that the end is over the top. That way, the "tail" always will be within easy reach.

Midwest: You should always roll from the back. It takes a little of the weight off the axle, thereby making it easier to pull. It may be harder to find the paper hanging off the back, but it is absolutely easier to roll.

Sierra Vista, Ariz.: This woman has a husband who actually replaces the toilet paper roll, and she is complaining about how he does it? You should have recommended counseling.

Lebanon, Pa.: Here's how I solved the toilet paper issue. I was shopping at my favorite store and found a holder that holds TWO rolls. I placed one with the tissue going over the top, and one that rolled behind. Now everyone is happy. By the way, the roll that is used the most is the one that rolls over the top.

California: Haven't those people who mount toilet paper so that it rolls off the back seen the TV ad where a cat furiously unwinds it when it rolls forward? Don't they realize how cruel it is to deprive a cat of one of its greatest joys? She should report her husband to PETA if he doesn't stop abusing the cat.

Jacksonville, Fla.: If the paper is rolled to the back, one will frequently brush one's knuckles against the wall while retrieving the paper. This will leave marks on the wall, which will become unsightly and need cleaning or repainting.

Florida: I have heard many answers to this dilemma. My favorite is, "From the bottom to the bottom."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGAR

BLONDIE

WIZARD OF ID

AGNES

HI AND LOIS

THE OTHER COAST

SNUFFY SMITH

BEETLE BAILEY

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Plotting group

6 Spout forth

10 School orgs.

14 Slack-jawed

15 Far from ruddy

16 "Nah!"

17 Reward for good work

19 Make over

20 Magician's word

21 Showed the way

22 Poker disc

23 Ships' wheels

25 Canyon effects

27 Chew the fat

30 Vintage auto

31 Perry Mason event

32 WWW address

33 "Me too!"

35 Up to now

38 Croat or Serb

40 Attack-dog command

42 Catch sight of

43 Sweetheart

45 Barber's device

47 Poet's nighttime

48 Potato-filled food

50 Capek play

51 Shoebox letters

52 Brogue, e.g.

54 Timex competitor

56 Danish physicist

57 "Got it!"

59 Sentimental sort

63 Geometry measure

64 Magazine middle, maybe

66 Diplomat's forte

67 Green Hornet's aide

68 All keyed up

69 Sommer of film

70 Not busy

71 Cathedral instrument

DOWN

1 Summer getaway

2 Golden— (senior)

3 Expose to view

4 Imitative

5 Varsity awards

6 Massage locale

7 Sandbox toys

8 Choice word

9 Garden neatener

10 Buy

11 Pope's jurisdiction

12 WWII hero

13 Murphy

14 Seek

15 Bargains

16 Loggers' tournaments

17 In fashion

18 Spy org.

19 Flow copiously

20 Folksy Guthrie

21 Unlimited authority

22 del Fuego

23 World Series mo.

24 Olympian's sword

25 Newcastle's river

26 Hold in esteem

27 Stylist's goop

28 Yang's opposite

29 Before

30 Library area

31 Die down

32 Reef makeup

33 Bel— (operatic style)

34 Bidder's proposal

35 Make well

36 Chinese gang

37 Rick's Casablanca love

38 Biblical paradise

39 Pull along

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REATORS VC.

That's Racin'

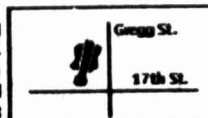
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Variety
of
statistics
makes it
tough
to
predict
the
winner
of the
Chase

CHOOSING A CHAMPION

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If you believe in numbers, then Tony Stewart is a clear favorite to begin a run to his second championship as the Chase for the Nextel Cup opens Sunday at New Hampshire International Speedway.

That is, of course, unless you look at a different set of numbers, which clearly establishes Jimmie Johnson as a favorite.

Or, if you want to look at recent history only, Greg Biffle is the obvious pick.

Kurt Busch, however, already knows the formula for success in the Chase, proving that last year when he became the first driver to win a championship under this format.

If momentum has anything to do with it, of course, you've got to go with Matt Kenseth. Consistency? Believe it or not, that's where the signs point to Rusty Wallace. If you're the sentimental sort, it's hard to argue with Mark Martin as your choice.

Carl Edwards is this year's

breakout story in NASCAR's top series. For those who like to root for underdogs, you've got Jeremy Mayfield. And Ryan Newman is irony's candidate — he's steadfastly said he's not a fan of the Chase format but he's been the guy who's picked up the most points from it in each of its first two seasons.

Based on the Chase drivers' career records Stewart and Johnson would figure to have a heck of a fight to the finish.

At the 10 tracks that make up the Chase, Stewart and Johnson both have career average finishes of just under 12th.

Stewart's best tracks, statistically, in the Chase are Dover, Kansas and Homestead-Miami. Johnson's top career finishes are at Texas, Charlotte and Martinsville.

Johnson's numbers would be significantly better if they didn't include his 39th-place finish at Charlotte in his Nextel Cup debut in October 2001.

Since then, he's finished no worse than seventh at Lowe's Motor Speedway and has won the past three and four of the past five there.

Wallace has been particularly solid at Dover, where he's in the top 15 in nine of his past 11 starts; at Kansas, where he has run fourth, third, ninth and 18th; at Martinsville; and at Texas, where he has finished no worse than 14th in his past eight tries.

Busch has finished first, first and second in the

past three races at New Hampshire, won at Phoenix earlier this year and has six top-10 finishes in nine races at Talladega. Martin has finished first, second and third in his past three races at Dover. Edwards has won and finished third in his two starts at Atlanta and was third in his first Cup race at Charlotte earlier this year.

Kenseth has seven top-10 finishes in his past eight races at New Hampshire.

Mayfield has finished ninth, fifth and third in the past three years at Kansas, a track where Biffle won last year. Newman has three victories and six top-10 finishes in seven races at Dover, three top 10s in four tries at Kansas and four straight top-10 finishes at Martinsville.

Based on his career record alone, Biffle would seem to be as much of a long shot as Mayfield or anyone else in the Chase. Biffle's career average finish at Chase tracks is 20th, and only at Atlanta, where it's 13.6, is it better than 15th.

But that doesn't tell the whole story for Biffle, whose entire season has been about defying his career patterns.

Biffle finished 20th and 17th in points in his first two full seasons in the Cup series. He's already got more top-five finishes this year than he'd had in 76 career starts coming into this year, nine to seven, and he has doubled his career total of top-10 finishes to 28.

Add the points the Chase contenders scored in their most recent races at the tracks that'll deter-



Stewart



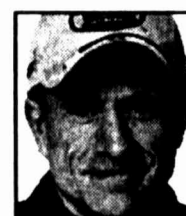
Wallace



Johnson



Busch



Martin



Mayfield



Edwards



Kenseth



Newman

THIS WEEK'S RACE

SYLVANIA 300

Where: New Hampshire International Speedway, a 1.058-mile paved flat oval located in Loudon, N.H.

When: Sunday at 1:10 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 12:10 p.m. Saturday.

TV: TNT.

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,133,010.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Also this week: Although he has no wins this season, Ted Musgrave has closed to within 49 points of NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series points leader Dennis Setzer entering Saturday's race at New Hampshire. The Busch Series is off until Sept. 24 at Dover, Del.

Worth mentioning: Kurt Busch finished first or second in his last three races at New Hampshire. Ryan Newman has a 5.7 starting average and an 8.9 finishing average in seven races at New Hampshire. His starting average is the best among active drivers. Greg Biffle has earned 105 bonus points in the first 26 races, more than any other driver.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

NASCAR's Chase for the Championship gets rolling this weekend at New Hampshire International Speedway. What do you think of the Chase format?

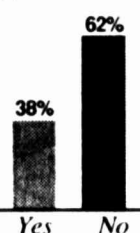
Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Will Jeff Gordon qualify for the Chase for the Championship after this week's race at Richmond?

Number of votes: 5,434



STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ **Tony Stewart** has 12 top-five and 18 top-10 finishes in 2005, both the most of all drivers.

■ **Ryan Newman** has 22 top-10 starts this season, the most of all drivers.

■ **Jeremy Mayfield** has finished sixth or higher in three of his past six races, including one victory.

■ **Kyle Busch** has finished fourth and first in his past two races.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Richard Childress Racing** and **Chip Ganassi Racing** each failed to get one of its three drivers in the Chase for the Nextel Cup for the second year in a row.

■ **Elliott Sadler** has finished 12th or worse in his last 10 races.

■ **Dale Jarrett** has finished 14th or worse in his last nine races.

Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

WINSTON CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Sept. 10:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	5050	21. Jeff Burton	2696
2. Greg Biffle	5045	22. Michael Waltrip	2681
3. Rusty Wallace	5040	23. Ricky Rudd	2516
4. Jimmie Johnson	5035	24. Bobby Labonte	2514
5. Kurt Busch	5030	25. Casey Mears	2439
6. Mark Martin	5025	26. Mike Bliss	2413
7. Jeremy Mayfield	5020	27. Jeff Green	2347
8. Carl Edwards	5015	28. Ken Schrader	2338
9. Matt Kenseth	5015	29. Sterling Marlin	2298
10. Ryan Newman	5005	30. Scott Riggs	2289
11. Elliott Sadler	2989	31. Dave Blaney	2259
12. Jeff Gordon	2972	32. Kyle Petty	2254
13. Jamie McMurray	2972	33. Scott Wimmer	2193
14. Kevin Harvick	2937	34. Travis Kvapil	2121
15. Joe Nemechek	2879	35. Mike Wallace	1754
16. Dale Jarrett	2858	36. Robby Gordon	1603
17. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2839	37. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1585
18. Brian Vickers	2807	38. Jason Leffler	1538
19. Kyle Busch	2748	39. Kevin Lapage	1085
20. Kasey Kahne	2739	40. Terry Labonte	937

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Sept. 9:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	3931	11. Greg Biffle	2095
2. Clint Bowyer	3862	12. Ashton Lewis	2041
3. Reed Sorenson	3645	13. J.J. Yeley	2006
4. Carl Edwards	3595	14. Johnny Sauter	2905
5. Kenny Wallace	3348	15. Stacy Compton	2684
6. Denny Hamlin	3346	16. Randy LaJoie	2667
7. Paul Menard	3196	17. Jon Wood	2588
8. David Green	3126	18. Justin Labonte	2563
9. David Stremme	3088	19. Kevin Harvick	2493
10. Jason Keller	3018	20. Stanton Barrett	2252

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Sept. 8:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Dennis Setzer	2581	6. Bobby Hamilton	2349
2. Ted Musgrave	2532	7. Todd Bodine	2306
3. Ron Hornaday	2388	8. David Reutimann	2302
4. Mike Skinner	2376	9. Matt Crafton	2290
5. Jimmy Spencer	2373	10. David Starr	2218

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sylvania 200, Loudon, N.H.

Projecting the Chase

Why did That's Racin' motorsports writer David Poole rank Greg Biffle as the favorite to win the Chase for the Nextel Cup this year? If you add the points each driver has scored in his most recent race at the Chase tracks to the total he'll start with on Sunday at New Hampshire, Biffle's the class of the field:

TRACK	Stewart	Biffle	Wallace	Johnson	Busch	Martin	Mayfield	Edwards	Kenseth	Newman
Current total	5050	5045	5040	5035	5030	5025	5020	5015	5015	5005
Loudon	190	155	142	124	175	118	106	127	134	142
Dover	118	190	155	165	138	165	121	115	146	155
Talladega	175	129	97	108	151	69	160	67	130	97
Kansas	121	170	109	67	155	103	165	97	112	69
Charlotte	91	155	139	185	34	79	160	170	52	160
Martinsville	95	76	160	142	111	170	123	49	135	165
Atlanta	112	170	82	180	67	165	124	185	70	126
Texas	75	190	134	165	151	103	135	106	114	120
Phoenix	64	45	55	118	190	115	124	146	37	121
Miami	165	190	147	170	160	135	58	121	106	78
Projected total	6256	6515	6260	6459	6362	6247	6296	6198	6051	6238

Chase. Last week: 2.

3. **Rusty Wallace** (car No. 2): Finished outside the top 15 just once since Richmond in May. That's called consistency. Last week: 4.

4. **Kurt Busch** (car No. 97): Starts Chase from two positions higher than he won last year's championship. Last week: 6.

5. **Jimmie Johnson** (car No. 48): Probably glad the Chase has no Richmond race. He was 40th and

25th there this year. Last week: 3.

6. **Mark Martin** (car No. 6): The one thing you know for sure is he'll give the Chase absolutely everything he's got. Last week: 5.

7. **Jeremy Mayfield** (car No. 19): Has only seven top 10s in 26 races. He'll need more than that to contend in the Chase. Last week: 7.

8. **Matt Kenseth** (car No. 17): Wouldn't it be ironic if he won the 2005 title with one race victory, as he

did in 2003? Last week: 9.

9. **Carl Edwards** (car No. 99): Like a kid in a candy store all year, for Edwards the Chase will seem like Christmas. Last week: 8.

10. **Ryan Newman** (car No. 12): Finished on the Chase cut line for a second straight year. Can he capitalize this time? Last week: 10.

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

Chase haters need to get real — and get over it

Through Sunday's games, the Atlanta Braves were 83-60 and the San Diego Padres were 71-71 — an 11 1/2-game difference in the standings.

But if the baseball playoffs started today, the Braves and Padres would play in the first round and would start even, with the Braves getting only one extra home game as a reward for their superior play all season.

The way critics of NASCAR's Chase for the Nextel Cup seem to look at things, that's an outrage.

In college basketball, a team can go undefeated from November to early March but still be knocked out of the championship running by losing just one game to a team that might well have lost 10 or 12 times previously. The NCAA basketball tournament is, in fact, revered expressly for that reason.

But the Chase format is derided as "artificial" or even "socialized."

Please.

The only significant major sport that

doesn't use something that's at least akin to a Chase-style system is college football, and its championship format is perhaps the most bone-headed thing ever devised.

The Chase has effectively repositioned NASCAR on the sports calendar.

Had Saturday's Chevy 400 at Richmond not been the final race before the championship field was set for the 10-race Chase, it would have been swept under by the start of the NFL season, a huge college football weekend, a baseball weekend and the end of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

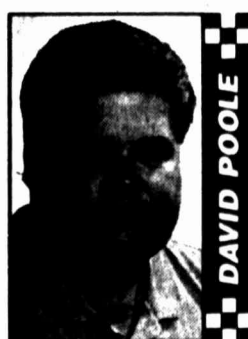
So what, the Chase-haters say. The fact that more people are paying more attention to NASCAR than they otherwise would be is no justification for using an unfair gimmick of a points system to choose a champion.

And the critics would have a point — if the Chase actually were unfair or just a gimmick. But it's neither. As long as Major League Baseball, the NFL, the NBA and

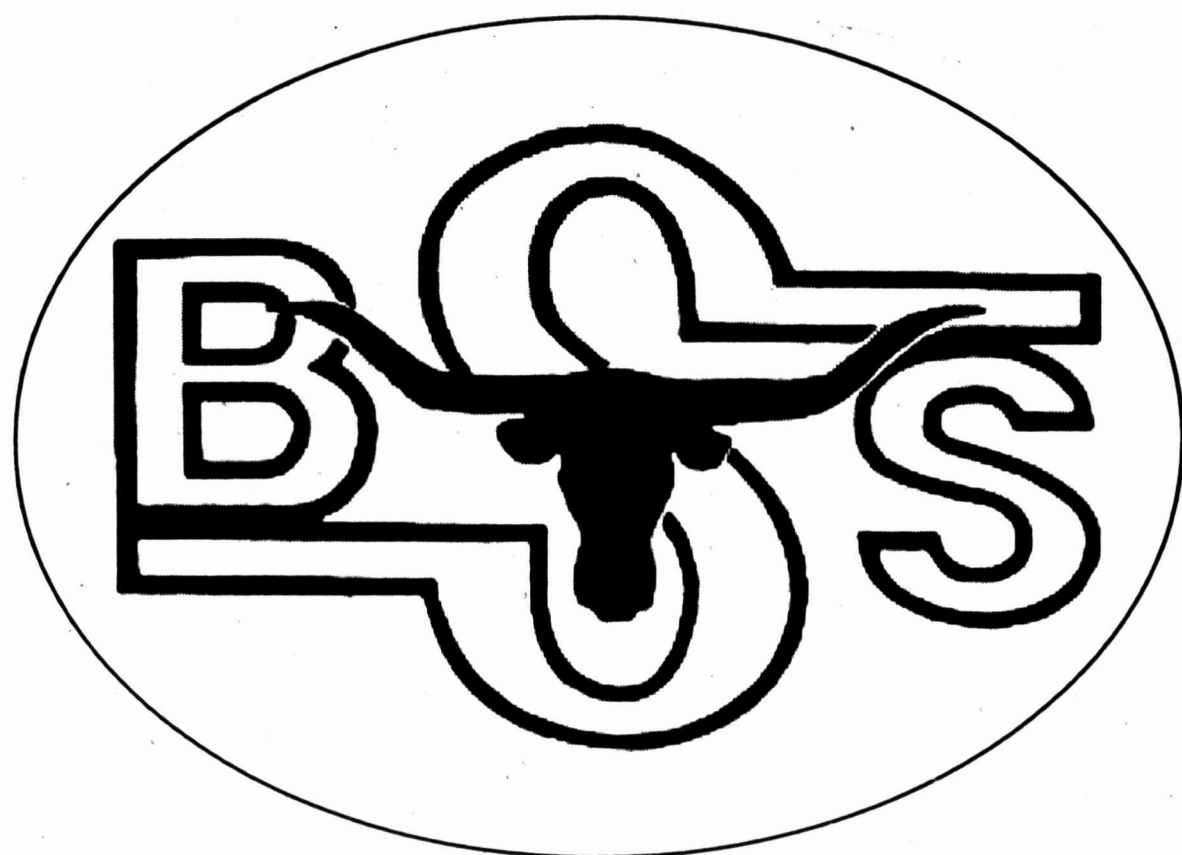
the NHL have "wild card" teams or the NCAA lets anyone other than conference champions into March Madness, the Chase will be every bit as fair as those playoff formats.

In each of those sports, teams play the same games in the postseason as they do the regular season. There are no gimmicks. The football field is still 100 yards in the NFL playoffs and in the World Series first base is still 90 feet from home.

The same thing is true for NASCAR. The same number of cars race under the same rules as they have all season.



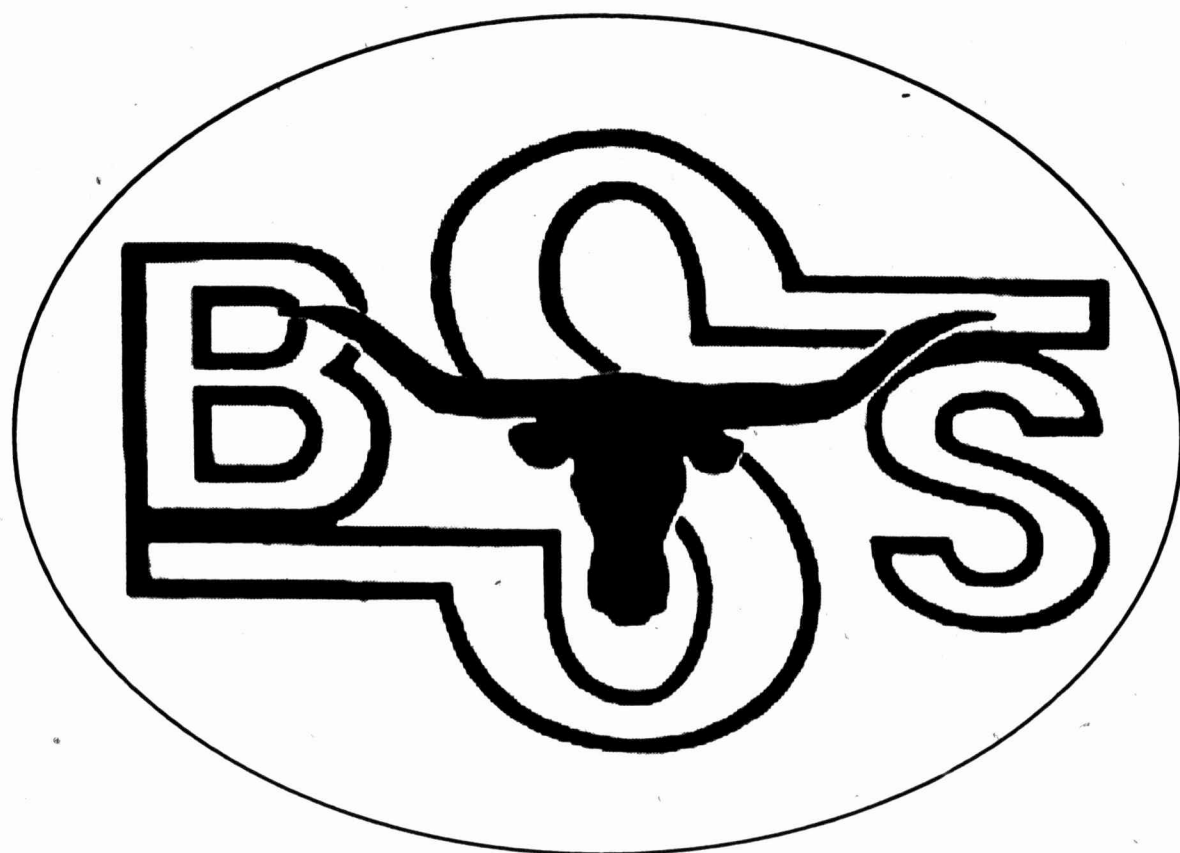
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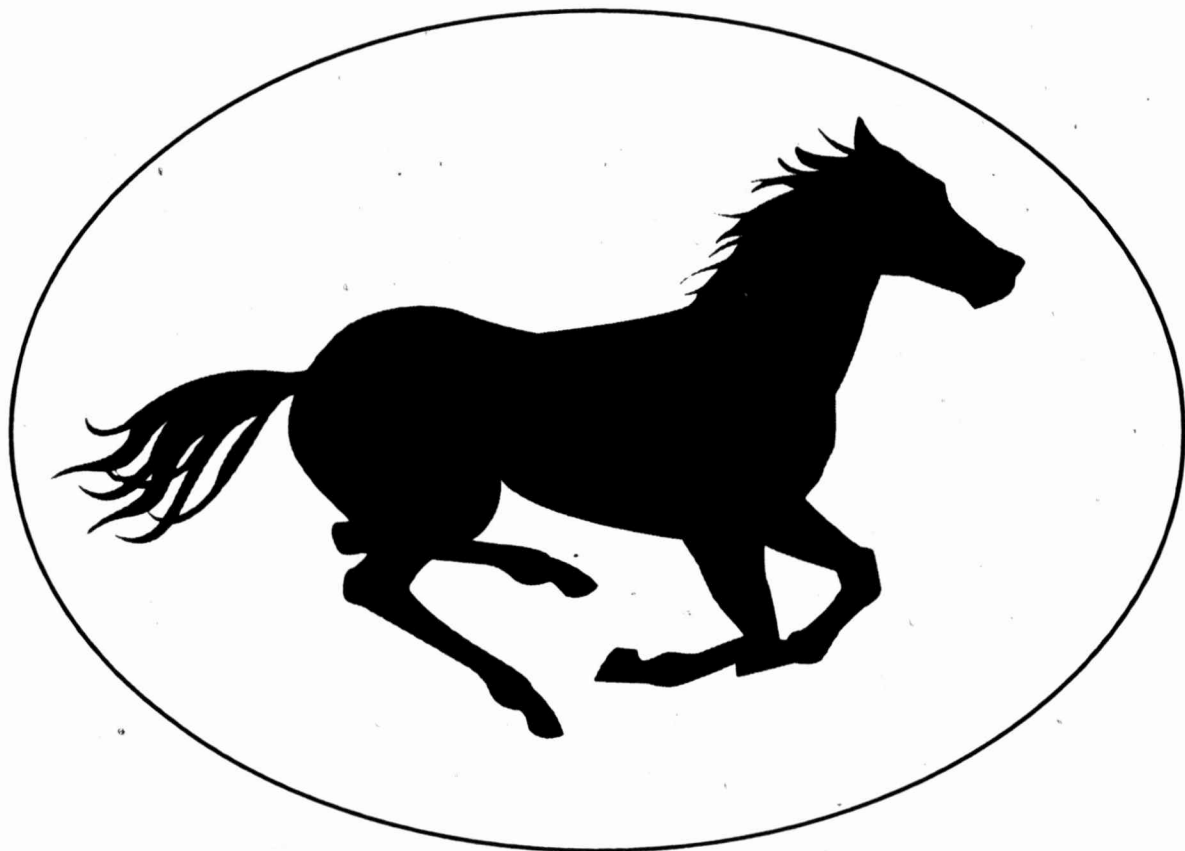
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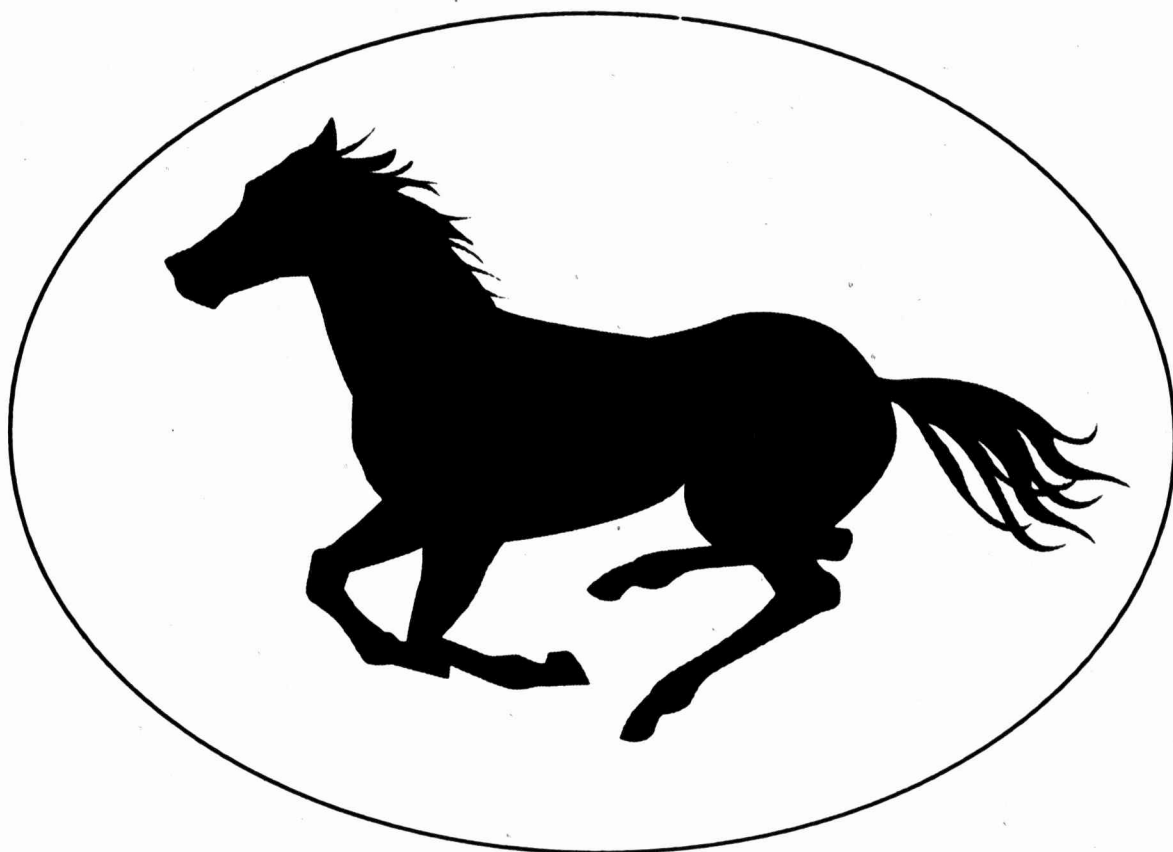
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