



Spy agencies said 'dead wrong' on prewar Iraq intelligence

By KATHERINE SHRADER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a scathing report, a presidential commission said Thursday that America's spy agencies were "dead wrong" in most of their judgments about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction before the war and that the United States knows "disturbingly little" about the threats posed by many of the nation's most dangerous adver-

saries.

The commission called for dramatic change to prevent future failures. It outlined 74 recommendations and said President Bush could implement most of them without action by Congress. It urged Bush to give broader powers to John Negroponte, the new director of national intelligence, to deal with challenges to his authority from the CIA, Defense Department or other elements of the nation's 15 spy

"The bad news is that we still know disturbingly little about the weapons programs and even less about the intentions of many of our most dangerous adversaries."

agencies.

It also called for sweeping changes at the FBI to combine the bureau's counterterrorism and counterintelligence resources into a new office.

The report was the latest somber assessment of intelligence shortfalls that a series of

investigative panels have made since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Numerous investigations have concluded that spy agencies had serious intelligence failures before the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks against the United States.

The report implicitly absolves

the Bush administration of manipulating the intelligence used to launch the 2003 Iraq war, putting the blame for bad intelligence directly on the intelligence community.

"The daily intelligence briefings given to you before the Iraq war were flawed," the report said. "Through attention-grabbing headlines and repetition of questionable data, these briefings overstated the

See **SPY**, Page 5A

Schiavo succumbs

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP) — Terri Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged woman whose 15 years connected to a feeding tube sparked an epic legal battle that went all the way to the White House and Congress, died today, 13 days after the tube was removed. She was 41.

Schiavo died at the Pinellas Park hospice where she lay for years while her husband and her parents fought over her fate in the nation's most bitter right-to-die dispute.

The feud between the parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, and their son-in-law continued even after her death: Brother Paul O'Donnell, an adviser to the Schindlers, said they and their two other children "were denied access at the moment of her death. They've been requesting, as you know, for the last hour to try to be in there and they were denied access by Michael Schiavo. They are in there now, praying at her bedside."

Schiavo suffered severe brain damage in 1990 after her heart stopped because of a chemical imbalance that was believed to have been brought on an eating disorder. Court-appointed doctors ruled she was in a persistent vegetative

Advanced directives

Case increases awareness of key health issues

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Features Editor

With the focus of the nation on Florida and questions about quality of life and who shall make medical decisions, Home Hospice has received several requests for advanced directives.

"An advanced directive is a form a person can fill out that will allow their family, physician and hospital to know their wishes in the event they cannot make those decisions themselves," said Janell Woody, a registered nurse specializing in community education for Home Hospice.

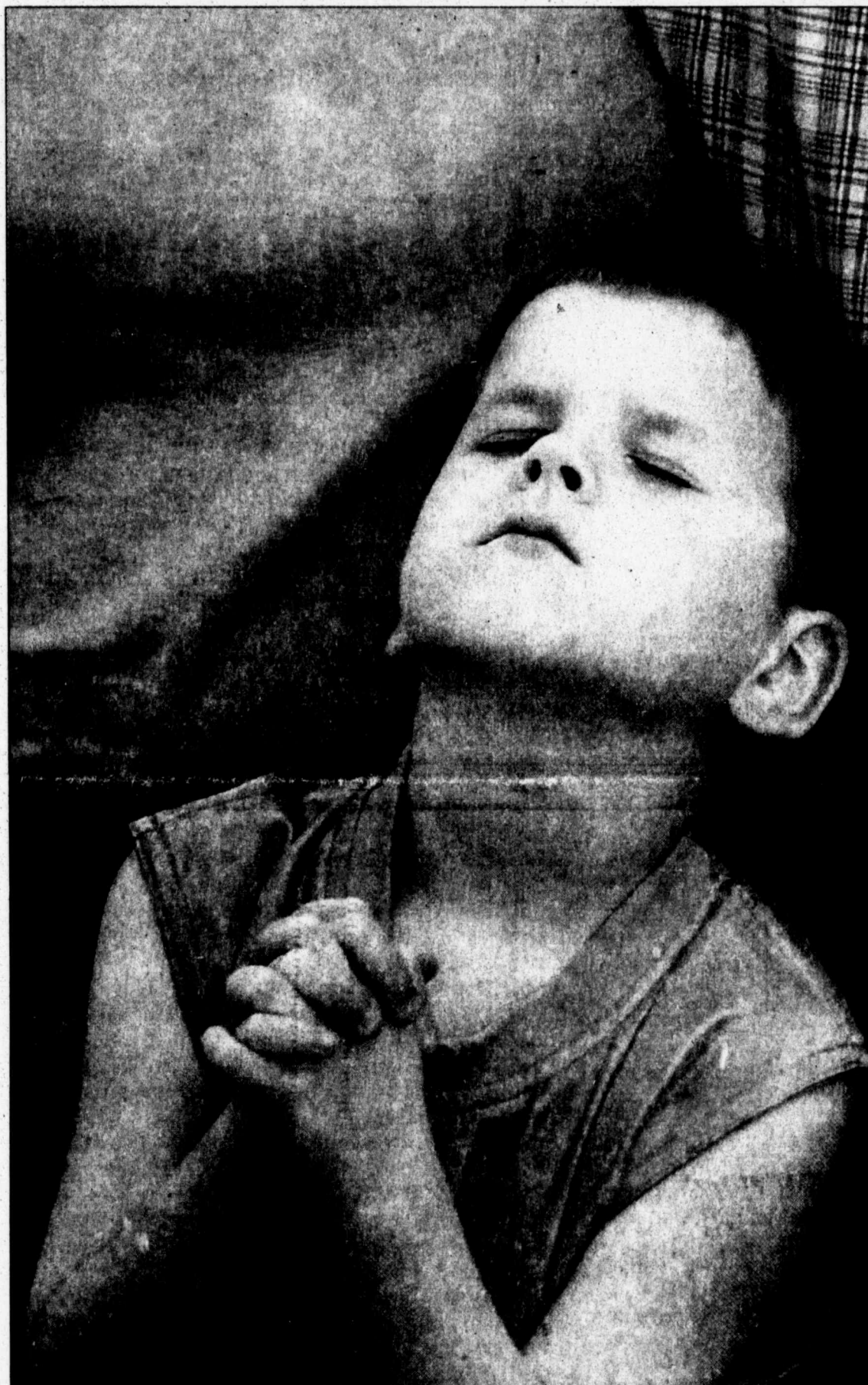
Woody said her office in Odessa has received

See **DIRECTIVE**, Page 5A

state, with no real consciousness or chance of recovery.

The feeding tube was removed with a judge's approval March 18 after Michael Schiavo argued that his wife told him

See **SCHIAVO**, Page 5A



KRT photo/Eric Mencher, Philadelphia Inquirer
Jeremiah Reed, 6, of Sanford, N.C., prays during a service outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., where Terri Schiavo was living. Schiavo died this morning.

Needle attack

Three students jabbed by syringe brought to campus

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Three Washington Elementary students required medical attention after being jabbed by a hypodermic syringe brought onto campus by a classmate, school officials said Wednesday.

None of the three students were seriously injured, and all three were expected back in class this morning, Washington Principal Steve Waggoner said. The student who brought the syringe onto campus, however, faces unspecified disciplinary action.

Waggoner said the incident began early Tuesday when a student found the syringe on a sidewalk while en route to the school. Later that morning, while the children were coming out of computer class, the student stuck the other children with the needle, Waggoner said.

The students were immediately taken to the school nurse and parents were notified, he said, adding that the three were seen by a doctor Tuesday. Two of the students were back in class Wednesday, while the third was expected back

See **NEEDLE**, Page 5A

Highland Council urges participation in town hall meeting

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Highland Council for the Deaf will hold a special town hall meeting Saturday evening in hopes of opening the lines of communication between the community and the organization's board of directors.

"The town hall meeting was scheduled in order to encourage stakeholders to provide feedback and input to the board



"The organization is designed to meet the needs of the community, which includes working hand in hand with the members of the community."

Teresa Minchew, executive director

of directors and staff of HCD in the strategic planning process," said Teresa Minchew, executive director of the council. "We

would like to provide an opportunity by which the community and organization can come together and discuss the needs

of the service area as well as recommendations to these needs. As with many non-profit organizations, there are instances when the need for services far outweighs available staff or resources. Community members are encouraged to attend the town hall meeting as well as consider possibly serving in long-term roles within the organization.

"An annual report as well as

other information will also be available for the public. Highland Council for the Deaf offers a number of social services and programs, including but not limited to, the regional specialist on deaf and hard of hearing issues, the specialized telecommunications assistance program, and a senior citizen's program specializing in deaf and hard of hearing issues."

See **MEETING**, Page 5A

INDEX

Classified 6-8C

Features 4A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



TONIGHT 33°-35°

TOMORROW 64°-66°

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Elbow pre-K, kindergarten sign-up set THIS WEEKEND

Herald Staff Report

Forsan's Elbow Elementary will begin registering students for next year's pre-K and kindergarten classes.

Registration will take place from Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8, in the elementary office.

Elbow Elementary is located south of Big Spring on the corner of

Nichols Road and Farm Road 818. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

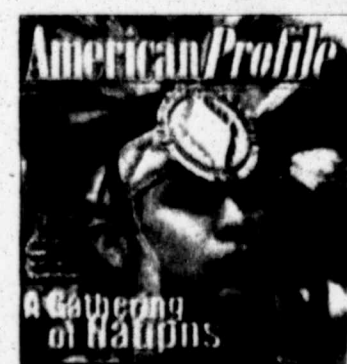
Monday only, the office will stay open until 6:30.

Parents should bring the child's birth certificate, Social Security card, shot records and proof of residence (utility bill with name and address). In addition, parents of Pre-K students should bring

proof of income to see if they qualify under state requirements. The pre-K program is new to the Elbow campus and anyone interested is encouraged to come for the pre-registration.

In order to be eligible for Pre-K, a student must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005.

Students in kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2005.



Cover Story: Each April, more than 3,000 American Indians representing 500 tribes from across North America gather at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to sing, dance, and drum, sell their wares, and socialize as part of the nation's largest powwow.

Obituaries

Rose Gamble



Rose Gamble, 78, of Big Spring, died Wednesday morning, March 30, 2005, at Mt. View Lodge. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 1, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Jan. 5, 1927, in Canton to Luther and Leona Lassetter. She moved to Big Spring from Colorado City in 1955. Rose was a homemaker and had worked for the Big Spring Independent School District, TG&Y and Woolworth. She was a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Michel and Jaynie Gamble and Terry and Galynn Gamble, all of Colorado City, and Perry and Wanda Gamble of Big Spring; a sister-in-law, Thelma Lassetter of Oklahoma; 10 grandchildren, Mandy Gamble, Logan Gamble, Ingrid Gamble, Joshua Rainey and his wife Christina, Jordan Rainey and his wife Jennifer, Justin Gamble and his wife Kristin, Angie East and her husband Stephen, Chris Evans and his wife Kim, Matt Gamble and Amie Greer and her husband Nathan; 13 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Mrs. Wayne Bonner, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721 and Angel Fund at Mt. View Lodge, 2009 Virginia, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid Obituary

Georgia Thompson



Georgia C. Thompson, 80, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 28, 2005, in a local hospital. No services are planned.

She was born Sept. 3, 1924, to James and Addie Adcock in Aquilla, and married Emery Thompson Feb. 3, 1945, in Ardmore, Okla.

Mrs. Thompson had lived in Big Spring since July 1969. During World War II, she had worked for the Department of Defense as a "Rosie the Riveter." She enjoyed sewing, ceramics and traveling. Georgia was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Survivors include her husband, Emery W. Thompson of Big Spring; her son and daughter-in-law, Jackie W. and Garnetta S. Thompson of Jeffersonville, Ky.; three grandsons, Eric W. Thompson and wife, Keri of Louisville, Ky., Gregory K. Thompson and wife, Peggy of Louisville, Ky., and Brian D. Thompson of Stamping Ground, Ky.; four great-grandchildren, Kyle L. Thompson, Courtney L. Thompson, Jenna N. Thompson and Kaia M. Thompson, all of Louisville, Ky.

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

Paid Obituary

Police blotter

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

- **JOSEPH OLVERA**, 18, of 101 N. Goliad, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**, 20, of 1005 S. Johnson Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of robbery.
- **BRYSON VANDERBILT**, 20, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **ESHA WARD**, 20, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **JESSIE REYES**, 18, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **ROBBERY** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

Take note

• **HOWARD COUNTY JURY PANEL CALLED FOR FRIDAY IS CANCELLED.**

• **HOME HOSPICE CELEBRATES** its 10-year anniversary from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. April 7 in the office, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A. The public is invited. Call 264-7599 for more information.

• **FLIGHT SAFETY PRESENTATION SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION** is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Big Spring Airport Terminal, 3200 Rickabaugh Dr., for area pilots. John Boatright, a flight safety officer from the Lubbock FFA is the scheduled speaker. There is no charge. Call 264-2362 for more information.

• **COMANCHE TRAIL COUPLES FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE DANCE** is set for 5:30 p.m. April 7. Pairs and spares are welcome. Call Sue Russell at 398-5452.

• **TEXAS MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION** has set a fund-raiser from noon until midnight April 30 to send members to the National Coalition Motorcycle Rally in Nashville, Tenn. The event will take place at the Cossack's Motorcycle Club on Birdwell Lane. Food, music and entertainment will include an auction. The cover charge and all other pro-

Robert Reed

Robert Reed, 72, of Coleman passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at his residence in Coleman.

Private family graveside funeral services were held at the Coleman City Cemetery Thursday, March 24, 2005, with Mr. Joe Hailey, a Church of Christ minister, officiating. Henderson Funeral Home had charge of arrangements. Memorial services will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Reed was born in Big Spring, the son of Asa Walker and Nina Jewel Brummett Reed. On April 4, 1952, he married Opal Bishop in Corpus Christi.

He was a petroleum engineering graduate of Texas A&I University where he was a member of Sigma Tau honor fraternity. He was also a member of the Safari Club and of the Elm Street Church of Christ in Coleman. He was a retired petroleum engineer from Atlantic Richfield, which is now British Petroleum.

Survivors include his wife, Opal Reed of Coleman; three sons, Owen W. Reed of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Kyle S. Reed of Coleman County and Boyd N. Reed of Lucas; a sister, Claudia and her husband Bob Headley of Whitehouse; two grandchildren, Katelyn Reed and Austin Reed, both of Lucas; two nephews, Steve Headley and Dee Headley, an aunt, Willo Dean Cipriani; and cousins Barbara Forney, Billie Ruth Gill, Tommy Germany, Eunice Choate, Carroll Reed, Horrace Smith and Curtis Germany.

Paid obituary

Effie Mulkey

Effie Mulkey, 97, of Big Spring died Wednesday morning, March 30, 2005, at Mt. View Lodge. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sheriff's report

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

- **WILLIAM ALLEN TILLEY**, 24, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **MARCUS LAMON COLE**, 18, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone and a capias warrant for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- **JOANN THOMPSON**, 40, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87 at 1:43 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87 at 11:55 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal at 11:03 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 10:04 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 9:12 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 3:23 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 8:52 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road at 2:03 p.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter at 10:29 p.m. Wednesday. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of W. Second Street at 1:17 a.m. Wednesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

ceeds will benefit the conference expenses. Call 268-6421 for more information.

• **A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF TYBO JACOBS** at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahom and Big Spring to help with funeral costs. He died in an automobile accident March 10.

• **MEMBERS OF THE PUGA FAMILY** are searching for family members to invite to a family reunion July 2 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Contact Anna Gutierrez-Trevino at 466-1780.

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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- West Texas Pachyderms meet at noon in the Big Spring Country Club. Jason Moore, who is in his third term as state chairman of Young Republicans is the scheduled speaker. All interested persons are invited to attend.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact, Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

FRIDAY

- 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.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

- Texas Trash-Off.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

SUNDAY

- Daylight Savings Time begins. Set clocks forward one hour.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at the Chinese Dragon Restaurant.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph.
Friday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.
Saturday - Increasing clouds. Highs in the mid 70s.
Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
Sunday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.
Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
Monday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.
Monday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
Tuesday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 12-16-21-26-35
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 6-15-18-23-37. Bonus Ball: 16.
(six, fifteen, eighteen, twenty-three, thirty-seven.
Bonus Ball: sixteen)
Estimated jackpot: \$31 million.
Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-9-8

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TEXAS BRIEFS

Man sentenced to four months in jail for clinic shooting

LUFKIN (AP) — A college student who admitted firing several shots into an unoccupied East Texas Planned Parenthood clinic must undergo psychiatric evaluation and treatment while serving more than four months in jail, a judge ordered Wednesday.

Daniel Bryan, 20, also was sentenced by Judge David Wilson to serve 10 years of probation after finishing his jail term.

Bryan pleaded guilty in February to deadly conduct for using a high-powered rifle to shoot into the closed clinic Aug. 18. The shots ripped through the walls, doors and office equipment.

He told the judge he was suffering from depression and upset over problems at school and home when he shot into the clinic. A pre-sentence investigation showed Bryan suffered from psychological problems that stemmed from his placement in foster care as a child. The Lufkin Daily News reported in its Thursday editions.

"I don't like going to counselors. I'm afraid of what they might tell me. Nobody wants to think of themselves as crazy," Bryan said Wednesday.

Earlier, witnesses said Bryan had threatened to blow up or fire into the United Nations when no one was in the building.

Bryan, a former student council president at Angelina College, denied making any specific threats.

Finding an appropriate sentence, especially one that would provide both punishment and rehabilitation, was difficult, said District Attorney Clyde Herrington.

Anti-abortion activists had been holding demonstrations at the clinic earlier the day of the shooting.

The clinic does not perform abortions but refers patients to clinics that do.

Brownsville's Mexico bridges get radiation scanners

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Brownsville's four bridges to Mexico are the latest U.S. ports to get scanners to check for radioactive and nuclear materials that can be used by terrorists, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Wednesday.

Known as radiation portal monitors, the scanners cost about \$280,000 per machine. At landports, they are being installed in every lane.

Unlike X-rays, the scanners act like radio receivers that respond to certain types of energy. They do not emit radiation.

They are already in place in many U.S. seaports and landports including: Calexico East, Otay Mesa, and Tecate border crossings in California; Santa Teresa in New Mexico; and in Texas Laredo's four bridges and El Paso's Bridge of the Americas.

By the end of the year the scanners are expected to be added at the San Ysidro and Calexico west crossings in California, the Nogales crossing in Arizona, and the Hidalgo/Pharr international bridge in Texas.

"The plan is to deploy them everywhere," said Barry Morrissey, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection in Washington. "What we're interested in are basically terror weapons."

Morrissey said so far the device has detected only radiation from innocent sources including bananas, tiles made from quarry stone and medical equipment.

Neighbor charged with capital murder in teen's death

HALTOM CITY (AP) — A 44-year-old neighbor of a teenager who was found fatally stabbed, bound and gagged at a playground was charged Wednesday with capital murder, Haltom City police said.

Lavern Pratt was served the arrest warrant in jail, where he had been since his arrest last month on a charge of hindering apprehension of a suspect in the death of 14-year-old Lan Thuan Bui, a freshman honors student.

Two of Lan's friends found her face down, near a swing set at her apartment complex in this Fort Worth suburb on Feb. 7. Lan, who studied forensic science at Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth, had been stabbed in the neck and chest.

Investigators say Lan's blood was found on Pratt's pajama pants. Pratt's DNA was found on the rope and electrical tape around Lan's hands, Haltom City Police Chief Ken Burton said.

Pratt initially denied having information about the crime but later told police he saw his stepson, 19-year-old Gustavo Flores, restraining Lan on the day she was killed.

Flores, who remains in custody on an unrelated warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, said he was not in town the day Lan's body was

found. Although no physical evidence links Flores to Lan's killing, investigators have not ruled him out as a suspect, police said. Flores also lived in the complex and had access to Pratt's apartment.

Pratt was being held on a \$1 million bond in the capital murder case, which includes the teen's kidnapping and murder.

Boy Scouts official pleads guilty in child porn case

FORT WORTH (AP) — A former high-ranking Boy Scouts of America official who ran a task force that worked to protect children from sexual abuse pleaded guilty Wednesday to a federal child pornography charge.

Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr., 61, acknowledged receiving and sending over the Internet more than 500 images of boys, some younger than age 12, posing nude or engaging in sex acts.

During his arraignment Wednesday after he was charged March 21 with possession and distribution of child pornography, Smith pleaded guilty without making a deal with prosecutors.

He answered the judge's questions with "yes, sir" or "no, sir" but did not speak otherwise.

"He is contrite," said Jack Strickland, Smith's attorney. "He has accepted responsibility."

He faces five to 20 years in prison without parole and up to a \$250,000 fine. U.S. Magistrate Charles Bleil said Smith was not a danger to society and would remain free until his July 12 sentencing.

Smith worked for the Boy Scouts for 39 years, the last nine as a national program director, but he did not work directly with children in his most recent job, Boy Scouts officials said. He resigned in February after the allegations surfaced.

Smith, who lives in the Fort Worth suburb of Colleyville and has been married for more than 30 years, first saw child porn on his home computer four years ago after someone in an online chat room sent him images, Strickland said. Smith tried unsuccessfully to overcome his problem but always kept images away from the workplace, Strickland said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret Helmer said authorities found 520 images of child pornography, including video clips, on Smith's home computer during a search last month. None was found on his work computer, Helmer said. There was no evidence Smith had inappropriate contact with children, Helmer and Strickland said.

Remains believed to be Dallas hiker found in Big Bend

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK (AP) — A muddy backpack found by hikers in Big Bend National Park led to the recovery of skeletal remains believed to be those of a North Texas man missing since June.

Park rangers returned to the site where the hikers discovered the pack Thursday and found what they believe are the remains of Peter Bastien, 37, of Dallas, a news release said.

They also found clothing and Bastien's identification, the release states.

The remains were found in the western part of the park in an area known as Mule Ears, which had been searched extensively when Bastien disappeared.

Missing hikers can die from exposure quickly in Big Bend. A New York man who went missing in May 2004 was found less than 24 hours later. He died of dehydration, officials said.

Temperatures in the park often exceed 100 degrees during the time of year Bastien disappeared.

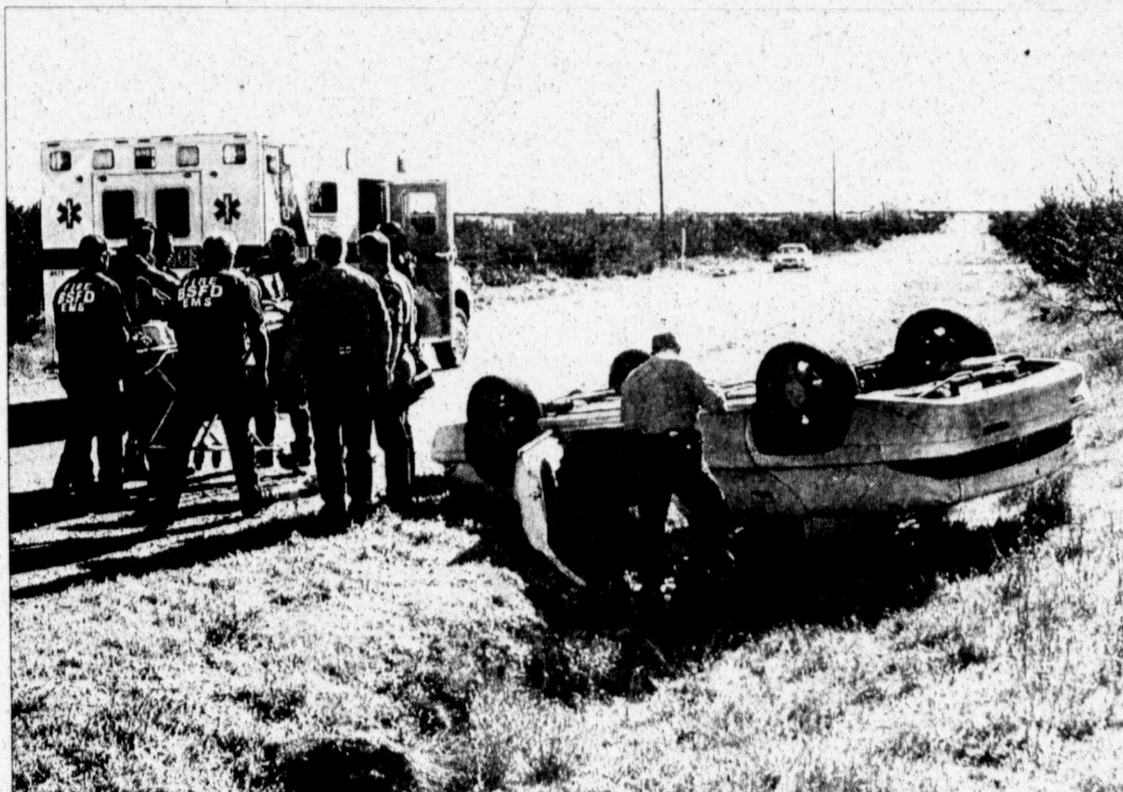
In early June, rangers found his Ford Taurus in the Mule Ears parking lot, but a seven-day ground search covering about 5,600 acres of the 801,163-acre park in southwest Texas turned up nothing. Planes searched a 33,000-acre area.

Family members have been notified of the preliminary identification, but dental records will be needed to confirm the remains are Bastien's, the release said.

From 1996 to July 2003, Bastien was employed at Massachusetts' Lincoln Laboratory, a research center that specializes in defense technology.

found.

MINOR INJURIES



Emergency response personnel prepare to transport 17-year-old Ashley Colegrove to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a one-car rollover in the 2900 block of Bryan Road. According to officials at the scene, Colegrove was traveling west on Bryan Road when she swerved to avoid hitting a dog. She received only minor injuries in the crash.

District attorney won't appeal court's Atascosa ambush ruling

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Prosecutors have decided not to appeal the court ruling that overturned the capital murder conviction of a man police said aided the ambush killing of South Texas sheriff's deputy.

Kenneth Vodochodsky, 24, has been spared lethal injection for the Oct. 12, 1999, death of Atascosa County Deputy Thomas Monse Jr. Two other law officers also were killed in that night's attack.

"Praise God!" his parents, Annette and Anthony Vodochodsky, said in a two-word statement.

Vodochodsky will be released from death row. But Rene Pena, district attorney for the 81st Judicial District, said his decision does not mean Vodochodsky will go free anytime soon.

Pena said Vodochodsky will be returned to South Texas to face pending indictments related to the other slayings that included another

Atascosa deputy and a state trooper. Pena said he hasn't decided which of the pending indictments against Vodochodsky he will prosecute next.

Vodochodsky's trial lawyer, Alan Futrell of San Antonio, said he was pleased his client will be moved out of the Polunsky Unit in Livingston, where Texas houses its death row.

"I didn't think he deserved to go there to begin with," Futrell said. "I'm glad for Kenny, but it still doesn't make the wrong that happened right."

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled 6-2 last April that the circumstantial evidence against him was "so weak as to undermine confidence in the jury's determination."

Former District Attorney Lynn Ellison appealed the ruling in May, but the appeals court reasserted this month there wasn't

enough evidence to keep Vodochodsky behind bars, much less on death row.

Although Vodochodsky never fired any of the fatal shots that killed the officers, a Karnes County jury convicted him in 2001 under a Texas law that states anyone who encourages, assists or even tries to help commit murder is equally culpable.

Prosecutors argued he helped his friend and roommate, Jeremiah Engleton, go on the murderous rampage when Vodochodsky bailed him out of jail and drove him to a gun shop to buy \$200 worth of ammunition.

According to court records, Vodochodsky gave conflicting statements to his girlfriend, police and a reporter whether he was at the house when Engleton placed a bogus 911 call to lure officers.

After killing the officers, Engleton committed suicide.

Medicaid option approved by Texas House committee

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill approved by a House committee includes a way of providing managed care for Medicaid recipients who need the most care while still enabling public hospitals to receive federal funds.

Health and Human Services Commission officials had planned to expand the Harris County pilot program, StarPlus, a method of providing health care for aged, blind and disabled Medicaid recipients in September.

That plan was halted early in the session at the urging of lawmakers, who had learned about the millions of federal dollars public hospitals stood to lose.

The state reimburses public hospitals for services provided during inpatient hospital stays based on set rates, which typically are below the cost of the service. The federal government kicks in money to help the hospitals get closer to the full cost, but only up to the rate set for Medicare reimbursements.

Providers lose that federal money when they are part of an HMO system.

Rep. Dianne Delisi, R-Temple, filed the bill, being pushed by the Texas Medical Association, that includes many StarPlus character-

istics. Medicaid recipients would be required to have a primary care physician, whom they would choose from a pool and could visit regularly. Case managers would also monitor patients' care.

The program would be open to virtually all Medicaid recipients.

Aged and disabled Medicaid recipients make up 28 percent of the people in the program, but they account for 65 percent of the costs, according to the commission.

The bill also calls for creating a pilot program, called Integrated Care Management, in eight regions that would provide an option for Medicaid recipients and wouldn't replace HMO programs, said Delisi.

who chairs the Public Health Committee, which approved the bill.

The state would decide in 2007 whether to expand the pilot program to other parts of the state.

The bill now goes to the House.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Rose Gamble, 78, died Tuesday. Memorial Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends from 10:00 until 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Effie Mulkey, 97, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

Let's stop talking and do something on beautification

It's a point we've made often. We all talk about making a difference, but how many of us follow up by doing something about it?

Well, here's your chance. Saturday is the Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off, a day to pick up bottles, cans, plastic bags and all other debris in our communities.

Bags used for picking up trash can be obtained at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Friday, or you can bring your own. The drop-off area for trash will be the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring. Those who participate can enjoy refreshments and hot dogs, courtesy of H-E-B, at noon.

You can choose any area to clean up. A number of groups have already signed up to pick up trash in certain parts of the city, so our advice is to go to an area where no one is working, and get after it.

One other thing ... it will be appreciated if you will separate aluminum cans from the rest of the trash you collect. Those cans will be sold to raise funds for Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

A clean community is a more inviting community, we all know that. But it's time to stop talking about it and start doing something about it.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I have lived in the Big Spring area, Highland South specifically, for about a year and a half. My wife and I enjoy the neighborhood, which is quiet and contains many lovely older homes.

It is a mystery how the residents of this community have little regard for speed limits, hurtling themselves in their oversized gas-guzzling SUVs and pickups in excess of 50 or 60 mph down Highland Drive, which has a 30 mph speed limit.

I have made numerous requests to both the local police chief and the Highway Patrol (two of which live on this street). The result being a local policeman stationed down the street for a few hours one day several months ago.

What does it take to get someone to come off his dead behind and do something positive? I realize resources throughout Texas are limited, but each time I pay my property taxes, I get sick thinking of how little we receive in return.

There are few small children on this street, but the result of doing nothing about the problem will not be an injured child, but a dead senior citizen.

WILLEM J. PAFFEN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am in the fifth grade at Northeast Elementary in Kearney, Neb.

I have adopted your state as a class project to research. I will be doing a report and other projects. Then in early May my class is having a "States Fair." I will be displaying my report and any other information or materials I receive about your state. I am in hopes some of your readers will be able to help me with my project. I was able to research your city and newspaper on the internet and I'm excited to learn more about your state.

I would really appreciate it if some of your readers could drop me a postcard from your state.

I would like to get many different postcards to display during our "States Fair." I could also use maps, brochures, souvenirs, or other information that would be helpful to do a display about your wonderful state. This is a big project and I hope your readers can help.

They can send them to Steven Laird, Northeast Elementary, Mr. Haas' Class, 910 E. 34th Street, Kearney, Neb. 68847.

My class is really excited about this project. Thanks for your help.

STEVEN LAIRD
KEARNEY, NEB.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we gently help others in need of You, Lord.

Amen

Inside report: Stem cell swap

The quiet of Easter recess on Capitol Hill was interrupted last week by stunning news that Republican leaders of the House had changed their position on allowing a vote for federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research opposed by President Bush. The untold story is that a vote swap of epic proportions was behind this development.

House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert agreed to schedule the vote for this summer only after Rep. Michael Castle of Delaware, leader of a small band of liberal House Republicans, threatened to withhold votes on the closely contested budget resolution just before the recess began. Hastert asserted he was not yielding on stem cell research to save the budget, but that was the reality inferred by shocked conservatives.

The stem cell swap changes the climate on an issue menacing Republican solidarity. With Hastert removing the House roadblock, legislation funding human embryos for medical research could pass both the House and Senate despite opposition from Republican leaders and the White House. Bush almost certainly would have to cast his first veto.

Hastert gave the green light to Castle and his associates March 16, the day before the House voted on the budget. No press conferences or news releases heralded the event. The first news of this was a March 25 story by reporter

Rick Weiss in the Washington Post revealing that "the House leadership has agreed to allow a floor vote" on the bill. Foes of cloning human embryos for stem cells were devastated.

The development can be credited mainly to Mike Castle, who may be the most influential House member without a leadership position. A former governor of Delaware who has declined nearly certain election to the U.S. Senate, Castle's leverage comes from heading a few liberals who sometimes provide the difference between victory and defeat in the narrowly divided House.

Castle, who combines passion for issues with parliamentary cunning, gathered together six like-minded colleagues who belong to two liberal Republican organizations: the Tuesday Group and the Main Street Partnership. They discussed withholding their votes in support of the budget unless Hastert yielded on stem cell research. That possibility was clearly conveyed to the leadership.

The budget was a priority for Republican leaders, and victory was not assured. Hastert and Majority Leader Tom DeLay had agreed to spending caps pushed by the conservative Republican Study Committee to avert vote defections on the right. But with Democrats unified in opposition to the budget, no-votes by even a handful of liberal Republicans could have been disastrous.

Castle's group had expanded to eight when it met with Hastert March 16, the day before floor action on the budget. The speaker informed them he would schedule a stem cell vote, probably before the July recess but probably not

on the specific bill Castle co-sponsors with Democratic Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado.

Hastert then told them this was no trade, that there was no quid pro quo required by their votes on the budget the next day. The sense of this was that the speaker had carved out deniability in what looked like blatant vote swapping. In fact, one of the eight liberal Republicans — Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut — did vote against the budget. But Castle and the other six supported it, as the budget passed by a scant four votes.

Hastert won his budget but opened the door to a bitter fight on a party-splitting issue. Bush got a taste of this recently when he invited moderate-to-liberal Republican House members to the White House for a pep talk on Social Security reform. Castle responded that while Social Security means a lot to the president, stem cell research means much to him. Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, a liberal on many issues who is ardently pro-life, then spoke up in opposition to Castle.

The House Republican leadership has guaranteed that these passionate intraparty differences will be aired on the House floor, with corporate business getting into the act in favor of federal funding. Yet to be seen is whether pinning down votes to pass the budget was worth it.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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ROBERT NOVAK

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• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

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BIG SPRING

CITY COUNCIL

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• **GREG BIDDISON** — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

• **W.A. "WOODY" JUMPER** — Home: 263-0782; Work (BSSH): 267-8216.

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• **JOANN KNOX** — Home: 816-9083; Work (BSISD): 264-3635.

Putting ex-presidents back to work

Former President Jimmy Carter is back at work again. "I am concerned about the state of our electoral system," he told the Washington Post, "and believe we need to improve it." With former Secretary of State James A. Baker as co-chair, Carter will lead a national bipartisan commission on election reform. His prestige and experience will ensure that policy-makers will consider the commission's recommendations.

Carter is not our only activist former president. Last month, at the request of President George W. Bush, former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush came together to sustain public awareness and raise funds for the nations devastated by the Southeast Asia tsunami.

Roles for former presidents are not defined by law or custom. Commonly, they leave office, write their memoirs, build their libraries, deliver speeches and serve on corporate boards. These activities may do a lot for their egos and net worth, but they don't do much for the nation. There ought to be a way to encourage former presidents to remain active and productive in the public arena.

Taking on useful work after the presidency is not new. John Quincy Adams left the White House in 1829 and served in Congress from 1831 until his death in 1848. William Howard Taft was dean of the Yale Law School and chief justice of the United States after his presidency.

Bush and Clinton made news with their willingness to work together. It surprised the public that former rivals would collaborate, even on such a compelling cause. "Not to say that differences don't matter," Clinton has noted about his work with Bush. "Not to say that you shouldn't have political arguments, but I think if we remembered our common humanity it would make our politics work better."

This collaboration should not have been a surprise. In fact, the Bush-Clinton partnership is not the first bond between presidents of different political parties. President Truman established what may well have been the most productive presidential partnership in American history. He wrote a short note to Herbert Hoover in 1945 asking for his advice on postwar food shortages. Over the next eight years these two very different men worked together to feed Europe and reorganize the executive branch of the federal government.

Since then there have been other productive bipartisan presidential partnerships. Over the last 20 years, Presidents Gerald Ford and Carter have collaborated on many causes, including efforts to nurture democracy around the world.

But participation is inconsistent because there's no structure or institution to provide a channel to let former presidents perform useful service. One option is to make these men honorary members of the U.S. Senate. Although appealing, this idea would require a constitutional amendment and is not likely to make the best use of their influence and abilities.

A less formal possibility is for sitting presidents to call on their predecessors to raise public aware-

ness of critical issues such as starvation in Africa or head up commissions on, say, the future of Social Security or health care reform. Former presidents of different parties working together would be likely to encourage solutions to complex national and international problems. Although the Carter commission will be a private effort, it is a model that has real potential.

At the very least sitting presidents could meet regularly with their predecessors to seek advice on matters of national concern. The current President Bush talks with his father from time to time, and it would be well worth his effort to consult regularly with Presidents Ford, Carter and Clinton, as well.

Shared experience brings these men together in friendship and partnership. Hoover once referred to former presidents as "that most exclusive trade union." Exclusive, indeed. Our former presidents are a band of brothers with a mutual respect that they and they alone can fully appreciate. They want to be useful, alone and together, and whoever is sitting in the Oval Office has the power and the suasion to challenge them to put their experience to use.

That's the hidden message of the Carter Commission on Electoral Reform and the Bush-Clinton mission to Southeast Asia.

Timothy Walch is the director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa, and the editor, with Richard Norton Smith, of "Farewell to the Chief: The Role of Former President in American Public Life" (1990). He also is a contributor to the History News Service.

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TIMOTHY WALCH

MEETING

Continued from Page 1A

Minchew said she hopes the meeting will reach a diverse cross-section of the community.

"The optional sessions, such as this town hall meeting, are intended to reach an array of individuals from all different backgrounds, ages, and walks of life," said Minchew. "The environment is child friendly with an emphasis placed on meeting the needs of individuals with regard to deaf and hard of hearing issues, including family members and friends affected by hearing loss."

The gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a beans and cornbread supper, with registration for submitting comments and concerns to be addressed during the meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and is expected to continue through 9 p.m.

Minchew said the information gathered during the meeting will be used to make sure the council doesn't stray from its mission.

"The council has expanded services throughout its 23-year history," Minchew explained. "In the strategic planning process, HCD hopes to receive feedback from the community regarding what needs should be addressed by the organization. The organization is designed to meet the needs of the community, which includes working hand in hand with the members of the community."

"Any service risks veering from their true mission when they lose sight of the needs within the community. Ample resources, such as funding, staff members, or additional programs and services, are continuously in demand. Should community members be able to provide supplementary resources by any means, the

council will be better equipped to meet the needs of its consumers."

Minchew said one of the biggest challenges currently facing the Highland Council is the lack of interpreters, especially in rural areas that are forced to compete with larger cities.

"Interpreters are in demand not only statewide, but also on a national level," said Minchew. "It is difficult at times to offer the benefits packages that are competitive with those of the larger metropolitan areas or in comparison to that of the newest and upcoming advancements, specifically the latest call centers which offer live interpreters via cable or Internet feeds."

"While as a community we are thrilled to have the services, the number of community interpreters are decreasing as the positions are filled within the relay centers. As always, we encourage persons interested in interpreting as a career to check out the program offered by SWCID (Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf). It is truly one of a kind as SWCID is the only community college for the deaf in the nation. We are fortunate to have such a quality training opportunity in West Texas, especially right here in our home town."

In the end, however, Minchew said she and the council are hoping to identify the challenges and needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community through the town hall meeting, which is open to the public.

The meeting will be held at the SWCID Student Center, located at 3200 Avenue C on the school's campus.

For more information, call 267-6779 or e-mail hcd@nts-online.net.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at city-

SCHIAVO

Continued from Page 1A

long ago she would not want to be kept alive artificially. His in-laws disputed that, and argued that she could get better with treatment. They said she laughed, cried, responded to them and tried to talk.

During the seven-year legal battle, Florida lawmakers, Congress and President Bush tried to intervene on behalf of her parents, but state and federal courts at all levels repeatedly ruled in favor of her husband. The case focused national attention on living wills, since Schiavo left no written instructions in case she became disabled.

After the tube that supplied a nutrient solution was disconnected, protesters streamed into Pinellas Park to keep vigil outside her hospice, with many arrested as they tried to bring her food and water. The Vatican likened the removal of her feeding tube to capital punishment for an innocent woman.

The Schindlers pleaded for their daughter's life, calling the removal of the tube "judicial homicide."

Dawn Kozsey, 47, a musician who was among those outside Schiavo's hospice, wept when she learned of the woman's death.



KRT photo/Eric Mencher, Philadelphia Inquirer
The Rev. Jesse Jackson hugs Mary Schindler, mother of Terri Schiavo, outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla. Schiavo died today.

"Words cannot express the rage I feel," she said. "Is my heart broken for this? Yes."

Although several right-to-die cases have been fought in the courts across the nation in recent years, none had been this public, drawn-out and bitter.

Six times, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene. Schiavo's fate was debated on the floor of Congress and by President Bush, who signed an extraordinary bill March 21 that let federal judges review her case.

"In extraordinary circumstances like this, it is wise to always err on the side of life," the president said.

Federal courts refused again and again to overturn the central ruling by Pinellas County Circuit Judge George W. Greer, who said Michael Schiavo had convinced him that Terri Schiavo would not have wanted to be kept alive by extraordinary means.

Described by her family as a shy woman who loved animals, music and basketball, Terri Schindler grew up in Pennsylvania and battled a weight problem in her youth.

"And then when she lost all the weight, she really became quite beautiful on the outside as well. What was inside she allowed to shine out at that point," a friend, Diane Meyer, said in 2003.

She met Michael Schiavo at Bucks County Community College near Philadelphia in 1982. They wed two years later. After they moved to Florida, she worked in an insurance agency.

Recurring battles with weight led to the eating disorder that was blamed for her collapse at age 26.

Doctors said she suffered severe brain damage when her heart stopped beating because of a potassium imbalance. Her brain was deprived of oxygen for 10 minutes before she was revived, doctors estimated.

DIRECTIVE

Continued from Page 1A

several calls asking about advanced directives the hospice is making forms available at no charge.

"There is really a three-part process for an advanced directive and I really believe a person should carry one with them, as well as having one at home and on file with their physician," Woody said.

She explained the first part is the advanced directive, which can be filled out as specific as a person desires, she said.

"They can fill those out to indicate what treatment is allowed, such as antibiotics, to prevent pain from infection," she said.

The advanced directive, she said, speaks for a person should an injury or illness render them unable to express their desires, she said.

"And it's not just for older people, I believe everyone should have one. My husband and I have filled ours out," she said.

The second portion of making sure a person's wishes are carried out is medical power of attorney. Woody said this form goes hand-in-hand with the advanced directive.

"This should be a person who you can be assured will follow your wishes. The medical power of attorney speaks for you," she said.

The third form available is out of hospital do not resuscitate, or DNR. Woody said this form,

which applies just to injuries or illnesses outside a medical facility, provides emergency medical technicians responding to an emergency call with the wishes of an individual.

"For all these forms, two witnesses not related to the individual and who have nothing to gain must sign the form for them to be valid," she said.

Home Hospice has these forms available for the public. Celebrating 10 years from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. April 7, the facility will have forms and staff members will be on hand to answer any questions.

Marsha Sturdivant is the features editor for the Big Spring Herald. Contact her at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

NEEDLE

Continued from Page 1A

in class today.

The student who found the syringe remains out of class indefinitely, Waggoner said.

"That student's situa-

tion was handled through the school district's Code of Student Conduct, and is not on campus at this time," he said.

Waggoner said the situation was handled through the district's management plan, and that police were not noti-

fied. Waggoner expressed deep regret over the incident.

"It's very unfortunate that this happened, and I wish it hadn't," he said. "In my 31 years (in education), this is the first time I've encountered this situa-

tion." Waggoner said the three injured students have all undergone blood tests, with more likely in the near future.

A parent of one of the students involved in the incident objected to the district's refusal to pay

the children's medical bills, but District Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said the district is prohibited from paying such bills.

A recent opinion issued by the Texas Attorney General precludes school districts from paying stu-

SPY

Continued from Page 1A

case that Iraq was rebuilding its WMD programs."

The unclassified version of the report does not go into significant detail on the intelligence community's abilities in Iran and North Korea because commissioners did not want to tip the U.S. hand to its leading adversaries. Those details are included in the classified version.

The commission was formed by Bush a year ago to look at why U.S. spy agencies mistakenly concluded that Iraq had stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, one of the administration's main justifications for invading in March 2003.

"We conclude that the intelligence community was dead wrong in almost all of its prewar judgments about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction," the commission said in a report to the president. "This was a major intelligence failure."

The main cause, the commission said, was the intelligence community's "inability to collect good information about Iraq's WMD programs, serious errors in analyzing what information it could gather and a failure to make clear just how much of its analysis was based on assumptions rather than good evidence."

"On a matter of this importance, we simply

cannot afford failures of this magnitude," the report said.

The commission also said that it found no indication that spy agencies distorted the evidence they had concerning Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, a charge raised against the administration during last year's presidential campaign.

"This is not 'politicization,' the panel said of its own report. "It is a necessary part of the intelligence process."

The commission gave Bush a specific suggestion about the daily intelligence briefings he receives. The panel said that Negroponte should not be the person who briefs the president, or even be in the room every day when the report is given.

"For if the DNI is consumed by current intelligence, the long-term needs of the intelligence community will suffer," the report said. Bush, however, expressly said he planned to give Negroponte responsibility for the daily briefings at the time the president introduced his choice to be the new director of national intelligence.

The report delivered a harsh verdict. "Our intelligence community has not been agile and innovative enough to provide the information that the nation needs," the commission said. It noted that other investigations have reached similar conclu-

sions. "We should not wait for another commission or another administration to force widespread change in the intelligence community," the report said.

Looking beyond Iraq, the panel examined the ability of the intelligence community to accurately assess the risk posed by America's foes.

"The bad news is that we still know disturbingly little about the weapons programs and even less about the intentions of many of our most dangerous adversaries," its report said. The commission did not name any country, but appeared to be talking about nations such as North Korea and Iran.

"Our review has convinced us that the best hope for preventing future failures is dramatic change," the report said. "We need an intelligence community that is truly integrated, far more imaginative and willing to run risks, open to a new generation of Americans and receptive to new technologies."

The report urged Bush to give more authority to

Negroponte, his new director of national intelligence, overseeing all of the nation's 15 spy agencies.

"It won't be easy to provide this leadership to the intelligence components of the Defense Department or to the CIA," the commissioners said. "They are some of the government's most headstrong agencies. Sooner or later, they will try to run around the DNI. Then, only your determined backing will convince them that we cannot return to the old ways," the commission told Bush.

On al-Qaida, the commission found that the intelligence community was surprised by the terrorist network's advances in biological weapons, particularly a virulent strain of a disease that the report keeps secret, identifying it only as "Agent X." The discovery of al-Qaida's work came only after the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan removed the Taliban from power.

"Al-Qaida's biological program was further along, particularly with regard to Agent X, than

pushed," the report said. "It will not do its best unless it is pressed by policy-makers — sometimes to the point of discomfort."

It said analysts must be pushed to explain what they don't know and that agencies must be pressed to explain why they don't have better information on key subjects. At the same time, the report said the administration must be more careful about accepting the judgment of intelligence agencies.

"No important intelligence assessment should be accepted without sharp questioning that forces the (intelligence) community to explain exactly how it came to that assessment and what alternatives might also be true," the report said.

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"Remember...you deserve the best!"

Performance

New Dodge Neon version truly makes the grade

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

Quietly, Daimler Chrysler's SRT group has been trying to take over the performance market. We have the Dodge Viper, a Viper-powered pickup truck and the Chrysler 300 SRT-8, and soon we'll see an SRT version of the new Charger and Jeep Grand Cherokee.

And the group hasn't neglected the entry-level segment. The SRT-4 is a full-out performance version of the Neon, with a turbocharged 2.4-liter, 230-horsepower four-cylinder engine.

The SRT-4's base price, before shipping, is \$20,650, which gets you the 230-horsepower engine, a beefed-up manual transmission, air conditioning, a good stereo with a CD player, a rear spoiler and big P205/50R-17 tires and alloy wheels.

There's also stuff you can't see, including a taut suspension — the ride can be downright punishing on rough roads — because when you come down to

Dodge Neon SRT

Base price:
\$20,650.

Price as tested:
\$22,390.

EPA rating: 22 mpg city, 30 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, front-wheel drive with turbocharged 2.4-liter, 230-horsepower four-cylinder with five-speed, manual transmission.

it, the SRT-4 is about as racetrack-ready as any affordable car on the market.

If that isn't enough, Dodge has just begun offering an even higher-performance package for the SRT-4 called the ACR, or American Club Racer, option group.

Dodge offered the ACR package in the mid-1990s for the Neon, making it a very popular vehicle for



2005 Dodge Neon SRT

club racers, who could modify the Neon ACR easily and inexpensively for parking lot-based autocross racing or for track racing with groups such as the Sports Car Club of America.

The ACR package for

the 2005 SRT-4 costs \$1,195 — a rather astounding bargain — and it includes different tires, lightweight BBS alloy wheels, adjustable Tokico front and rear shock absorbers, "Viper-inspired" front seats with pass-throughs

for competition seat belts and additional suspension-related bits and pieces.

Just the wheels and shocks are worth \$1,195, so if you're speed-minded, this ACR package is a no-brainer.

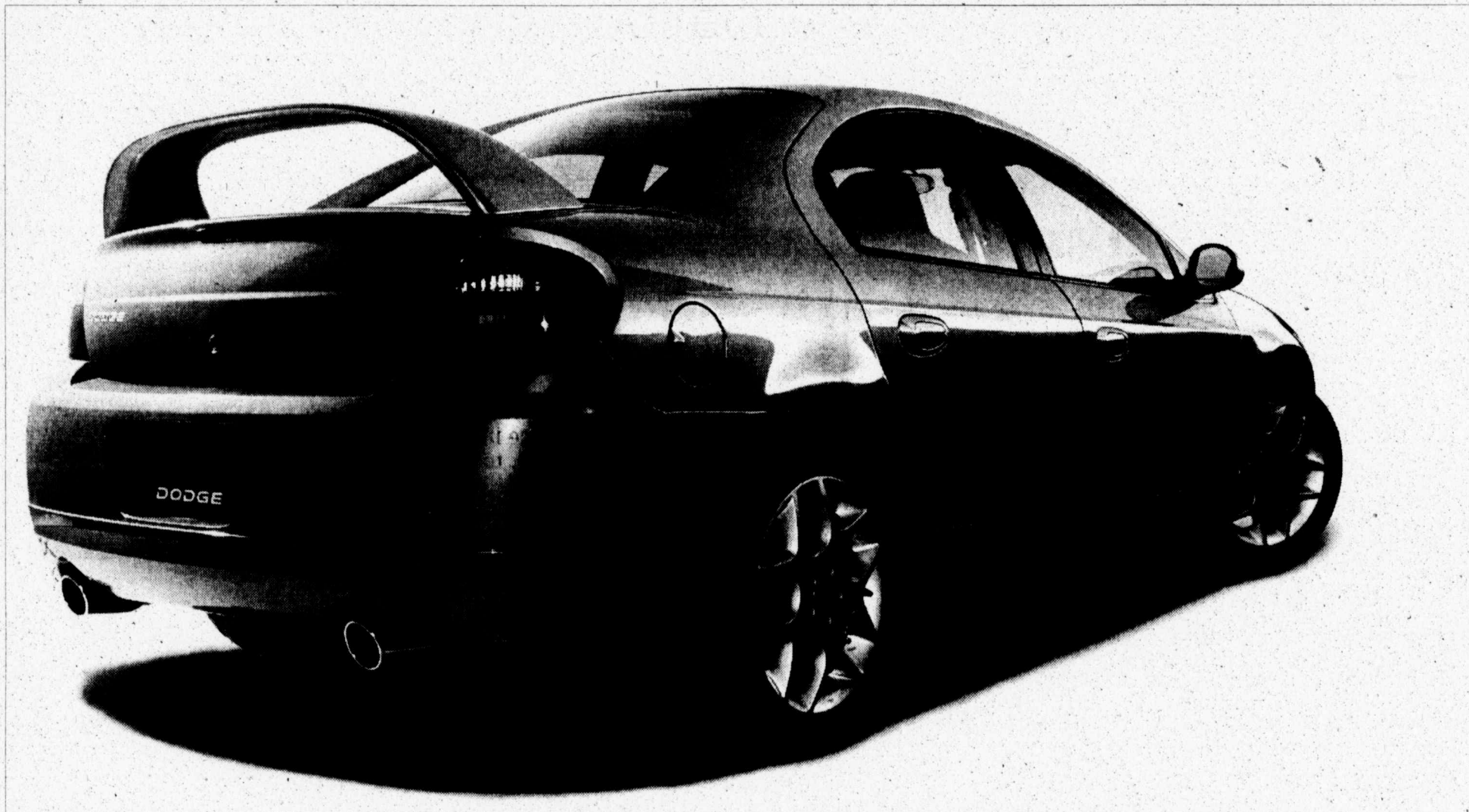
I had the opportunity to drive a regular SRT-4 and an ACR version (tiny ACR badges on the sides plus different wheels are the only exterior tip-offs) on an autocross course, and while the SRT-4 is undeniably composed, the ACR version is just that much better.

Like the SRT-4, the ACR version can be driven very aggressively with no big surprises, but it especially responds to smoothness. The tires and suspension are astoundingly capable and lap after lap don't give up.

Inside, the new front seats are grippy and supportive. Gauges and instruments look upscale. The five-speed manual transmission still isn't quite as smooth-shifting as some of the competition's, but it's more than acceptable.

The SRT-4 can be a bit high-strung for some customers, but driven conservatively, it can be reasonably economical week-day transportation, and on weekends — well, the SRT-4 ACR is ready when you are.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



Final Four-bound Baylor providing healing boost

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

(AP) — The mention of Baylor sports so often has evoked negative images.

Miserable football teams. The men's basketball tragedy two summers ago when a player was killed, allegedly by a former teammate, leading to an investigation that uncovered a scandal.

While there have been some healing moments for the world's largest Baptist university since then, nothing has provided the boost created by the Lady Bears making the NCAA Final Four.

"This has taken us one step further beyond the tragedy," athletic director Ian McCaw said Wednesday.

Adds Grant Teaff, Baylor's football coach during the program's heyday: "This is a catalyst that can pull people strongly together again in support of something extremely positive. ... Athletics are the window through which the world looks at your university. Right now, the view is pretty good."

There have been other feel-good stories lately from the Waco campus, about 100 miles south of Dallas.

The school's baseball, softball and women's tennis teams are all nationally ranked this spring. The men's tennis team won the school's first NCAA championship last spring.

Last summer, Baylor track stars Jeremy Wariner and Darold Williams won gold medals at the Olympics.

Even the football team, which had won just five of its previous 68 Big 12 games, upset Texas A&M at home in October.

Still, all that pales in comparison to the Lady Bears (31-3) capping a season full of positives by making the Final Four, putting them two wins from a national championship.

They go into Sunday night's game against LSU with an 18-game winning streak. They've earned their first Big 12 regular season and tournament titles — five years after coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson took over a program coming off a seven-win season and had never been to the NCAA tournament.

"It helps magnify the other success programs we've had," men's basketball coach Scott Drew said. "It's a platform to talk about other success as well. As we all know, people watch TV and read newspapers. The more positive publicity people see, the better."

Drew was hired after the death of player Patrick Dennehy, who had been missing for six weeks before his body was found in a field a few miles from campus in July 2003. Former player Carlton Dotson goes on trial for the slaying this summer.

Basketball coach Dave Bliss and

athletic director Tom Stanton resigned after serious NCAA violations were revealed. The school also levied stiff sanctions on itself and relaxed transfer rules, letting its top three scorers switch schools. They were last in the Big 12 this season.

Drew is hoping the excitement generated by the women will help his squad, too.

"Hopefully events like this again show the positiveness of Baylor University and all the good things happening," he said.

Mulkey-Robertson insists that she addressed her team about the men's tragedy only once before last season. She challenged the Lady Bears to give Baylor fans something to rally around.

"It's not like we got motivated by it, or used it as motivation in the locker room," she said. "I just felt like we needed to take the focus off the tragedy as best we could and win basketball games."

The Lady Bears went 26-9 last season and made it to the NCAA round of 16 for the first time, so this season is no fluke.

"The girls took on the theme last year they were the shining light of Baylor. They've taken that to a new level this year," said Steve Smith of the Waco Chamber of Commerce. "Time heals, but when you add an event like this, it just really separates the two events and helps you forget the past."

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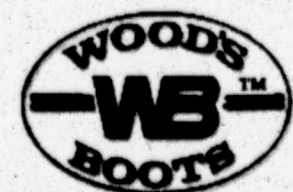


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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Thursday, March 31, 2005

IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Cotton Mize Field

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is Friday, April 15.

Concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext. 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Dodgeball touney benefiting Relay For Life set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for April 9 at the YMCA and the tournament will benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament costs \$10 per person and the deadline to register is April 5.

For more information, call 267-7911 ext. 214 during the day or 267-2004 at night.

Big Spring C.C. sets three-person touney

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble Friday and Saturday.

The entry fee is \$50 per player plus golf cart. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day.

The entry fee includes barbeque Saturday, as well.

For more information, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

Howard County sets 4-H tournament

The Howard County 4-H Club has set up a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place Friday and Saturday starting at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Teams can have up to four players and the cost of each person is \$10 and participants must be at least 16 years old.

The tournament is double elimination and will also include a 3-point contest.

T-Shirts will be awarded for first and second place teams.

The deadline to enter is March 30.

For more information, call the Howard County 4-H during the day at 264-2236 or Brian Moore at night at 393-5571.

Garden City golfers dominate host tournament

Grady boy's, girl's finish second and third, respectively

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
STANTON — Both Garden City golf teams enjoyed first place team trophies recently as the school won the top prize in both the girl's and boy's tournament at the first-ever six-man shootout/Garden City Invitational at the Phoenix Country Club in Stanton.

GIRL'S TOURNAMENT

The Lady Kats' top team (red) shot 430 as a team and defeated second place Grady by 34 strokes. Garden City's other team (black), which was made

up of all freshman, came in sixth after shooting a 545.

Garden City had three of the top five medalists and the two best shooters on the day.

Kayla Madrano won the event with an impressive 99, while Amanda Hirt finished second with a 104. Sophomore Erin Hirt came in fifth overall after she shot a 110.

Grady's best shooter was Kelsey Tubb, who came in third overall with a 105. Ashlee Nichols of Loop and Haylee Bingham of Meadow finished fourth and sixth, respectively.

The tournament also gave out two other awards. Sagan Wilks of Meadow won the closest to the pin contest after coming within 18 feet of

the hole, while Nichols captured the longest drive trophy after shooting 200 yards off the tee.

"We're proud of all our kids," said Garden City coach Ken Hoskins. "We had a good tournament.

All teams battled in the wind well."

BOY'S TOURNAMENT

The Garden City boy's top team

shot 364 and defeated second place Blackwell by 15 strokes, while Grady shot a 380 and came in third and Sands hit a 411 and finished fifth. Garden City's second team came in sixth after shooting a

426. The top local finisher of the tournament was Sands' Jarrod Fry, who finished second with an 82. Garden City's Cory Multer finished third with an 89, while Grady's Doug Rutledge tied for fourth with a 90. Eric Hirt and Taylor Niehues, both of Garden City, tied for sixth overall after shooting a 91.

Garden City's RC Leitgeb won the closest to the pin award as he was 17-7 away from the hole. Rutledge and Johnathan Tunnell, also from Grady, tied for the longest drive award as each player smashed the ball 274 yards off the tee.

Garden City, Grady and Sands will all participate next in the district golf tournament at Comanche

Trail Golf Course in Big Spring Monday beginning at 9 a.m.

First-ever six-man shootout/Garden City Invitational at the Phoenix Country Club in Stanton

Girl's final team standings: 1. Garden City Red, 430; 2. Grady, 464; 3. Loop, 490; 4. Meadow, 515; 5. Blackwell, 526; 6. Garden City Black, 545.

Girl's top six medalists: 1. Madrano — Garden City Red, 99; 2. Amanda Hirt — Garden City Red, 104; 3. Tubb — Grady, 105; 4. Nichols — Loop, 107; 5. Erin Hirt — Garden City Red, 110; 6. Bingham — Meadow, 112.

Garden City Red (minus medalist winners): Rebecca Cmek, 117; Brandi Halfmann, 118. Garden City Black: Mikela Barton, 130; Amy Multer, 125; Whitney Kellemeier, 138; Haile Schaefer, 152. Grady (minus medalist winner): Emily Krug, 115; Sandi Cox, 121; Kenzie Madison, 123; Kierston Russell, 125. Sands: Samantha Peacock, 133.

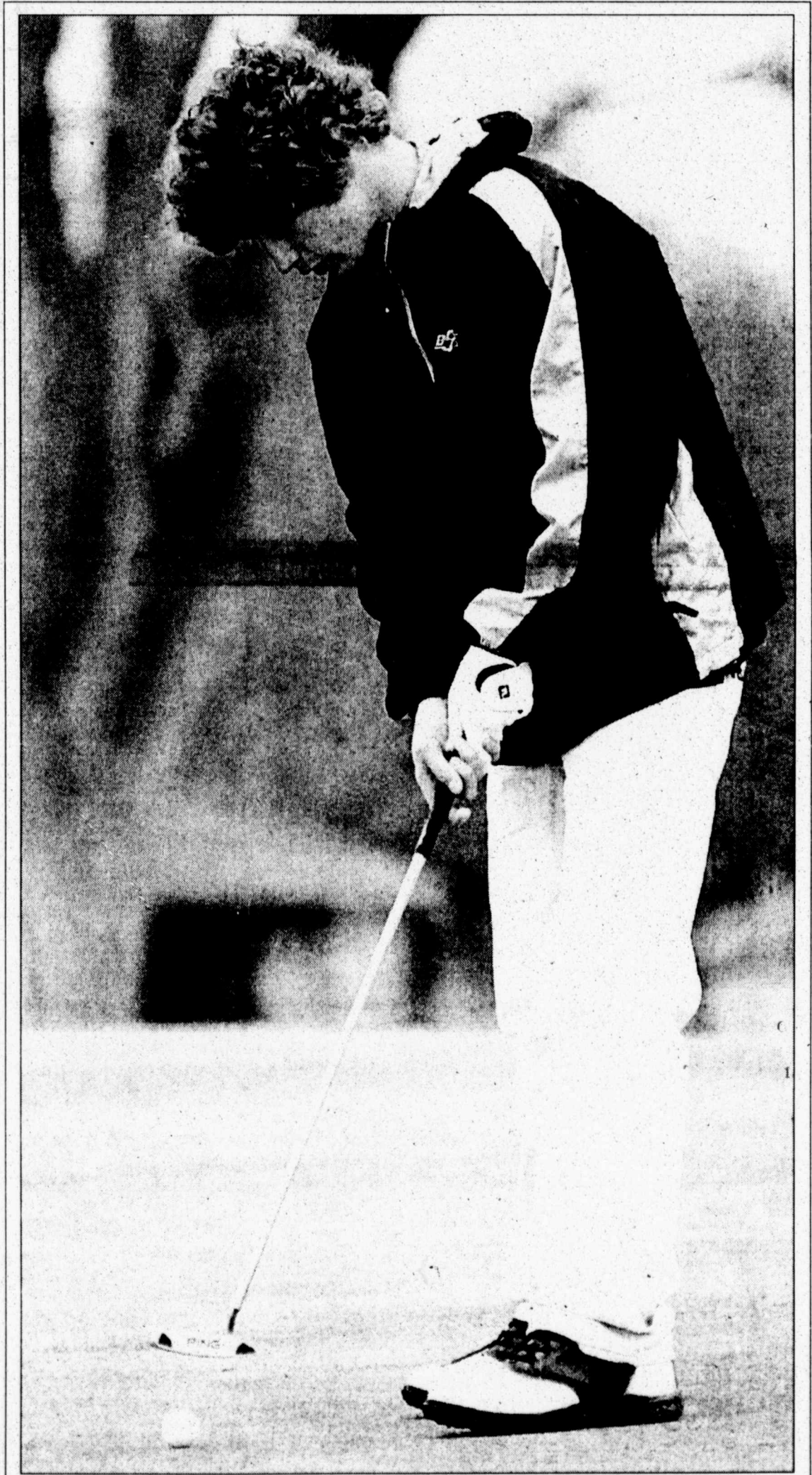
Boy's final team standings: 1. Garden City Red, 364; 2. Blackwell, 379; 3. Grady, 380; 4. Withral, 403; 5. Sands, 411; 6. Garden City Black, 426; 7. Meadow, 472.

Top six individual medalists: 1. Phillip Buckner — Blackwell, 80; 2. Fry — Sands, 82; 3. Multer — Garden City Red, 89; 4. (tie) Jake Bauer — Withral, 90; 4. (tie) Rutledge — Grady, 90; 6. (tie) Eric Hirt — Garden City Red, 91; 6. (tie) Niehues — Garden City Red, 91.

Garden City Red (minus medalist winners): Sam Long, 93; Leitgeb, 106. Garden City Black: Chase O'Brien, 100; Evan Jansa, 103; Travis Coats, 107; Colton Schwartz, 116; Jared Bradford, 126. Grady (minus medalist winner): Justin Tubb, 94; Jonathan Tunnell, 98; Lane Sands, 98; Clay Mitchell, 101. Sands (minus medalist winner): Erik Gutierrez, 106; Cevan Smithson, 109; Garrett Nichols, 114; Trent Rogers, 115.



Fry



Big Spring's Taylor Parks lines up a shot on the No. 9 green at Comanche Trail Golf Course during the Big Spring Invitational back in February. The Steers travel to Plainview today.

Laurikkala takes first at Comanche Trail

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
BIG SPRING — While Midland Christian was dominating the team portion of the Coahoma Golf Invitational at Comanche Trail Golf Course, Coahoma's Sini Laurikkala was dominating the girl's individual competition.

Laurikkala easily grabbed first place overall Wednesday as she defeated second place Challis Wims of Idalou by eight strokes. Laurikkala shot a

79 on the day. Courtney Ryburn and Courtney Elder of Midland Christian finished third and fourth, respectively.

The Midland Christian girls won the tournament after shooting a 378. Stanton finished third with a 417, while the Coahoma girls did not field an entire team.

Savanah Smith finished first among Stanton's team as she had a 95. Megan Cook finished with a 103.

The Forsan girl's were led by Shiloh Sanders' 101

and Bethany Shivers of Coahoma finished with a 122, as well.

Midland Christian also won the boy's tournament after shooting a 315, but was just two shots ahead of second place McCamey and six shots ahead of third place Borden County. Stanton's No. 2 team finished seventh, Coahoma's No. 1 team grabbed 10th and Stanton's No. 1 team took 13th. Coahoma's No. 2 and

Local cyclist seeks ride across America

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Forget about the Tour de France. Local cyclist Cadet Bryant wants to try his luck at another cycling race — the Race Across America (RAAM).

"It's the hardest race in the world," said Bryant. "I want to be able to race in this, but it costs \$2,500 to enter and if I don't get some sponsorship help from the community then I won't be able to do it."

Bryant plans on making the trip to the June 2006 race and needs to start planning his expenses now.

"I prefer to get help locally in West Texas because they would be more willing to help," said Bryant.

RAAM starts in San Diego and ends in Atlantic City, and to prepare for a race like this, Bryant competes in other races throughout the year, but does not do

extensive training.

"I used to train too much for endurance rides, but I have learned to cut back now," said Bryant, who has been racing seriously for the past three years. "Now, I just do several stage races in the summer, compete in other races throughout the year and ride 100 miles per day three times per week."

There are several qualifying races on the way to competing in RAAM. The first one Bryant hopes to compete in is the Race Across Oregon June 4.

To qualify for RAAM, a rider must complete two qualifying races and each race consists of at least 500 miles in 48 hours.

"I will know by mid-April if I am going to have the money to ride in RAAM," said Bryant.

In the meantime, he will continue to compete in other races. Bryant will race in the Tour de Phoenix (75 miles) this weekend and plans to race a lot in the summer-time.

Bryant graduated from Coahoma in 1992 and is currently teaching English at Howard College.



Bryant

Big Spring JH track at Levelland

March 24

Seventh Grade

- Lauren Porras, shot put, fifth — 27-0; discus, fourth — 56-2.
- Macy Graves, high jump, third — 4-2.
- Iesha Simpson, triple jump, second — 27-3; 200 meter dash, first — 29.03.
- Marina Trevino, pole vault, third — 5-0; 100 meter dash, fifth — 14.51.
- Selena Gonzales, 100 meter hurdles, fourth — 20.73.
- 400 meter relay team — Callie Shafer, Marina Trevino, Selena Gonzales and Simpson — second, 58.13.
- 800 meter relay team — Marissa Zavala, Linzee Yarbar, Shafer and Simpson — second, 2:07.29.
- 1,600 meter relay team — Graves, Yarbar, Zavala and Trevino — third, 5:01.88.

Eighth Grade

- Breanna Conner, shot put, fifth — 25-4.
- Leslie Leal, discus, second — 83-5.
- Bri Downes, high jump, third — 4-4.
- M'Lyn Swinney, high jump, fourth (tied) — 4-2.
- Andrea Claxton, high jump, fourth (tied) — 4-2.
- Jennifer Beauchamp, triple jump, fifth — 26-5.
- Tra Walker, long jump, fourth — 12-6; 100 meter dash, fourth — 14.53.
- Ambrie Schaffner, pole vault, second — 6-0.
- Megan Hilario, 2,400 meter run, fifth — 10:55.
- Catherine Leubner, 800 meter run, second — 2:38.68; 400 meter dash, first — 1:08.
- Chelsea Franco, 800 meter run, third — 2:52; 400 meter dash, fifth — 1:12.20.
- Cheyenne Lesser, 100 meter hurdles, third — 18:59; 300 meter hurdles, fifth — 59.03.
- Brianna Rodriguez, 100 meter hurdles, fifth — 19.47.
- Turquoise White, 200 meter dash, second — 30.31.
- Whitney Worthan, 200 meter dash, fifth — 31.09.
- 400 meter relay team — White, Walker, Downes and Claxton — second, 57.91.
- 800 meter relay team — White, Downes, Beauchamp and Worthan — second, 2:10.29.
- 1,600 meter relay team — Franco, Claxton, Walker and Leubner — second, 4:51.32.

See GOLF, Page 2B

Veteran coaches get back to Final Four as tourney hits St. Louis

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Writer

All those treys being launched from all over the NCAA tournament map last weekend did wonders for college basketball.

But North Carolina coach Roy Williams admitted Wednesday they made him jumpy.

He's got Sean May, the best big man still standing in the Final Four, and he'd prefer to keep running his offense from the inside out. He doesn't even want to think about getting caught up in a shootout.

"The first thing I start looking for," Williams said, "is the closest exit I can sneak out."

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo would volunteer to escort him when their teams meet in Saturday night's semifinal. Ditto for Louisville's Rick Pitino and Illinois' Bruce Weber, whose teams play the opening semifinal. All three would welcome the chance, even if none came out and made the offer during an hour-long teleconference.

But there was little doubt all three wouldn't mind seeing enough traffic beyond the arc in St. Louis to fill an air controller's grid.

"I like it," said Weber, whose team put up almost three dozen 3s in a furious comeback win against Arizona in overtime.

Pitino made 3-pointers the backbone of his shake-rattle-and-roll offense for years.

"I've been saying for seven years that the 3-point shot is too close," he said. "We shouldn't move to the NBA distance, but back to the Olympic line."

But that debate will have to wait until the National Association of Basketball Coaches holds its next coffee klatch. For the time being, shooting and defending the 3, protecting the ball, and keeping players calm and confident in late-game situations is more than enough for the coaches to worry about heading into the biggest weekend of the season.

The good news is that the coaches, except for Weber, are as experienced at Final Fours as experienced gets. The bad news is that the players, with one exception, have absolutely no Final Four experience.

Pitino, who won a national title at Kentucky, is back for the fifth time with his third program. Izzo, who won

Men's Final Four St. Louis Saturday

No. 1 Illinois vs.
No. 4 Louisville
5:07 p.m. (CBS)

No. 1 North Carolina
vs. No. 5 Michigan State
7:37 p.m. (CBS)

in 2000, is back for the fourth time in the last seven years. The long-suffering Williams, who brought Kansas to the closing weekend four times, is making appearance No. 5 as well.

Only Weber, at 48, is a newcomer. So naturally, he spent the last few days calling friends in the business for tips on what to expect. But the free advice stopped Wednesday.

"He's a 3-point shot at the buzzer from being perfect this season," Pitino said jokingly.

Besides, all four coaches expect to be occupied just giving advice to their own squads. After scanning all four rosters, Izzo could find only one player who's even been to a Final Four, and that's his own Tim Bograkov, a fifth-year senior and former walk-on.

But all four teams are led by upperclassmen, which the coaches agreed was the difference in getting through what has been an upset-filled, last-gasp tournament. The top high school seniors and underclassmen continue to depart for the NBA, but the depth of talent and experience on the Final Four teams proves the top coaches, at least, have learned to adapt.

"If you look at the last six, seven, eight years, teams like UConn, I think all those teams had plenty of juniors and seniors. The only exception was Syracuse," said Izzo, with a nod toward Carmelo Anthony, "and they just happened to have one of the greatest players in the game."

And if your team doesn't have one of those, well, there's always Lady Luck.

Williams is not a superstitious sort, but he began a tradition of spitting in a river near the tournament site when he was an assistant at North Carolina. He's been kidded about it often enough to chuckle, "maybe I should market it." And despite mixed results, with the Mississippi River nearby, Williams wouldn't rule it out. Anything for an edge.



KRT photo/Kirihmon F. Dozier, Detroit Free Press
Michigan State's Liz Shimek and Kelli Roehrig carry head coach Joanne P. McCallie off the court after beating Stanford, 76-69, Tuesday at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo. Michigan State will meet Tennessee at the Final Four Sunday.

NIT still not favorite among coaches

By IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Phil Martelli and Dave Odom have sent better teams to the floor than the ones that will meet for the NIT championship.

Martelli only has to think back one year, when Saint Joseph's reached the NCAA regional finals with future NBA players Jameer Nelson and Delonte West running the show in the backcourt.

Odom's point of reference is his time at Wake Forest when Tim Duncan manned the middle and led the Demon Deacons to the NCAA's round of eight in 1996.

Both coaches are looking forward to playing for this title Thursday night in Madison Square Garden, but it's not the tournament they wanted to be in.

"The NIT is a reward for all teams that had a good year," Odom said. "The NCAA is a reward for all those that had a great year. Winning the NIT might bring it up to a very good year, but it's not going to make it a great year."

"Let's make sure we understand that," Martelli does. Last year he was the Associated Press Coach of

NIT Championship Tonight New York City

Saint Joseph's vs.
St. Louis
6 p.m.

the Year, an honor bestowed upon him when Nelson and West carried Saint Joe's to a 30-2 record.

A two-point loss to Oklahoma State kept the Hawks from reaching the Final Four.

This season was much different. Saint Joseph's carried a 3-6 start into the New Year, and Martelli was miserable. He felt he was letting everyone down, and his ever-present optimism was gone.

His wife Judy and Saint Joseph's athletic director Don DiJulia told him that the season still had a few months left, and it would only get worse if he didn't snap out of the funk.

Martelli gathered his players and told them things were broken in the program that was the toast of Philadelphia a year earlier.

"It was more like the State of the Union from me," Martelli said Wednesday. "It was depressing, and I am a

glass half-full all the time guy. But I didn't know how it was going to get fixed. We made some technical changes in the way that we played, we changed the tone of our practices."

Suddenly, it all turned around. Since Jan. 1, the Hawks are 21-5 and enjoying the longest postseason run in school history. The opinion is Martelli has done a better job with this club than he did last year with his stars.

"People didn't listen correctly when they heard the awards last year," he said. "I wasn't the coach of the year, I was the coach of JAMEER last year."

"When I look in the mirror, I can say I put this team in the best position to be successful. It's the players who have responded to that."

Odom has South Carolina (19-13) in the NIT championship game for the second time in four seasons, and has been quite comfortable in the tournament. He has a championship, a runner-up finish and a 15-3 record in five trips.

He went three times with Wake Forest and won it all in 2000. He's trying to duplicate that with the Gamecocks after falling short in 2002.

Rangers get lefty in trade with Orioles

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles finally gave up on pitcher Matt Riley, trading the left-hander to the Texas Rangers on Wednesday for outfielder Ramon Nivar.

Riley made his debut with Baltimore in 1999, two years after being drafted in the third round. After appearing in three games in '99, he didn't suit up for the Orioles again until 2003.

He went 3-4 last season and is 4-4 lifetime with a 5.40 ERA in 19 games.

"It might be just a matter of timing for him," Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie said. "Matt certainly has the talent to do something, but he needs to be more consistent."

The list of Riley's misdeeds is far more extensive than his accomplishments. He's been late for practice, ignored his coaches, and in 2000 was arrested for participating in a bar fight. As recently as last July, he betrayed the trust of the team by driving home to Baltimore after being sent to Philadelphia early to rest up for a starting assignment.

"I just wasn't consistent. There were injuries, some problems off the field, discipline problems," Riley said. "I'm disappointed, but I'm also excited about a new start. I've got a lot of great friends here, but there comes a time when you have to move on and take another step somewhere else."

Riley was penciled into the No. 5 spot in Baltimore's rotation when camp got underway, but had an 11.57 ERA in five games and fell behind Rick Bauer and Bruce Chen in the competition for the fifth slot.

"What we have right now, I just didn't see him being that guy," Orioles manager Lee Mazzilli said. "This gives him a chance to stay in the big leagues. I wasn't sure he could come out of the 'pen and do the job.'"

But that's exactly where Riley will fit in with Texas — at least for now. He is expected to be a member of the bullpen when the team breaks camp.

"He's youthful, left-handed and has a good arm," Rangers general manager John Hart said. "When you have a chance to trade a utility player to get a youthful left-handed starter, that's a deal you have to make."

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

No. 3 teams finished 16th and 18th, respectively.

Forsan also competed in the tournament. The Buffaloes No. 1 team grabbed 11th, while its No. 2 team came in 17th.

Clay Hines of Bibb McCamey won the overall boy's title after shooting a 72. Joe B. Bryand of Stanton led all local shooters with a 77 and



BIBB



CHAVEZ

grabbed fifth place overall.

Dex Shafer led Stanton's No. 1 team with an 82, while Matthew Ruiz scored a 92.

Coahoma's No. 1 team was led by Terrell Bibb, Taylor Earhart and Blaine Henderson, who all shot an 89. Stephen Ewing led Coahoma's second team with a 92, while Jerrod Smith's 106 led Coahoma's third team.

Forsan was led by Mark

McKiski's 84, while Adam Johnson and Tye Baker shot a 93 and 94, respectively.

Steven Chavez led Forsan's second team with a 95.

Coahoma and Stanton will begin the District 4-2A golf tournament Monday, April 4, and finish Monday, April 11.

The first round (April 4) will be played at Hawley and the final round (April 11) will be played at the Comanche Trail Golf Course in Big Spring.

Forsan's district golf tournament will take place at Baird (first round April 4) and San Angelo (final round April 11).



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2 FAMILY Estate Sale: 2510 North Birdwell Lane, Sat. 9:00 till 1:00. Everything must go.

2 FAMILY Sale: 3310 Drexel, Fri. Sat. and Sunday 8-7. Boys' clothes, swimming pool, miscellaneous items, and much more.

Garage Sales

3 FAMILY Sale: 3200 Duke, Saturday 8-12. Kid's clothes, furniture, crafts, kitchen items, bedding and misc. items.

AVON SALE; 112 Lindsey (off South Service Rd. in Sand Springs) Saturday 9:00 till ?.

CHURCH YOUTH YARD SALE, 4215 Dixon Street, Saturday 8:00-3:00. All sales benefit church youth ministry students.

GARAGE SALE. Don't miss this one It's BIG. Patio table & chairs, chest of drawers, sewing machine, wheel chair, antique chair, lamps, dishes, bed spreads, house wares, decorative items, many miscellaneous. Friday 7-5 & Saturday 7-7, 4029 Vicky Street.

GARAGE SALE: 1700 South Main, Saturday 9-?. Furniture, clothing, antiques and more.

GARAGE SALE: 2613 Lynn Drive, Saturday 8-?. Lots of misc. adult and children's clothing, toys, kitchen and household misc.

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 5405 Rockhouse Road, Saturday 8-2. NICE girls 0-6, boys 10-16, ladies 8-20 clothes, shoes, motorcycle boots, infant misc., chrome wheels/rack, king bed.

GARAGE SALE: 903 Highland, Saturday 8:00-?. Dishwasher, stainless steel sink, washer & dryer, Southwest deco., books, little boys clothes and much much more.

HUGE SALE: Friday & Saturday 7:00-?. Dresser, chiffonobe, hide-a-bed, coffee & end table, TV New surround sound, vanity dresser & stool, dishes, cookware, collectables, lawn furniture, jewelry. Lots of misc. 5612 Midway Road.

MOVING SALE! Name brand clothes, movies, home decor and lots more. Too much to list. 4105 Parkway, Sat. & Sun. 7:00 am until all gone.

MULTI FAMILY. 3225 Fenn Ave., Saturday 8-1. Refrigerator, Riding mower, 1975 Jet ski, kids clothes, linens, recliner, toys, and much more.

Garage Sales

MULTI. FAMILY. 2600 Apache, Saturday 8:00-12:00. Household items, antique glass, furniture, many items you don't want to miss.

MULTI. FAMILY/CARPOR Sale: 6010 S. Service Road, Friday & Saturday 8-?. Short bed camper shell and too much to list.

PORCH SALE: 1508 Runnels. Friday 9-?. New and used items. Religious items, Mexican imports, flea market items, tools, tires and more.

SALE, SATURDAY, April 2nd, at 408 N.E. 11th. Clothes, baby bed and toys.

Help Wanted

BEST HOME Care has CNA position available. Please apply at 111 E. 7th Street, Suite C.

PARK VILLAGE Apartments hiring experienced maintenance supervisor. Prefer AC certified and plumbing required. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply at 1905 Wasson Rd. 9:30am-noon, Monday-Friday.

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40 YR OLD PAVING CO. IN HILL COUNTRY NEEDS: 2 Asphalt Distributor Drivers w/Class A-CDL- tanker & hazmat a must. Exp. pays top \$. Late model Mack equip. Work 50-70 hrs week, state wide, full time w/guaranteed hrs. in winter. Pd travel, motel and per diem. Will train right person. "Drug Free Work Place" EOE. Phy & D/S. 401K. Ins. Call 800-880-4547 or 512/848/6914 and ask for David.

AMERICAN TRUCK & Equipment Painting is looking for experienced Automotive Industrial Painters with some body work knowledge. Starting \$10.00 - \$13.00 per hour. Call (432)756-3388 or apply in person at 3262 East I-20, Stanton, Tx.

BODYMAN/ PAINTER- 5 years experience, must have own tools; pays 45% commission. Contact Shannon @ Buddy's & Son Body Shop. Colorado City. (325)728-4282.

Help Wanted

COME JOIN OUR TEAM! Comanche Trail Nursing Center, is accepting applications for Full Time LVN, 2-10pm shift; Part Time LVN; House-keeping & Laundry Supervisor; Cook & Dietary Aide. Fulltime Benefits include: paid vacation, 401K plan, health insurance. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway, Big Spring, TX 79720.

DENTAL ASSISTANT needed for our progressive dental office. Previous experience in dentistry is preferred, but training is available for the right person. We value warmth, maturity, and a non-smoking health centered lifestyle. Personally submit a resume to 307-D W. 16th Street.

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Help Wanted

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

FARM HAND Wanted. Experienced Only. \$7.00/hr. Call (432)684-5418.

FLAT ROCK Services. Needing Drivers. Must have Class A CDL. Top Pay. Must pass Drug test. Call (432)270-8612 or 1-866-744-3706.

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A Great Career Opportunity. Now Hiring Drivers for: Pump Trucks, Transports, Vacuum Trucks. Requirements: Valid CDL, 21 years of age, Clean MVR. Must pass drug screen. No experience necessary. Call 432-756-2875. Apply in person at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

CITY of Big Spring is taking applications for **Jailer**. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

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Class A CDL (tank & hazmat)
Belly Dump
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Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

MARTIN COUNTY Hospital Home Health is taking applications for PRN LVN and PRN CNA positions. Fax applications to (432)756-4510 or call 756-3259. Ask for Allison Williams, R.N.

NEED EXPERIENCED R&R Person for local transmission shop. Must have own tools. Apply in person at Rick's Transmission, 608 E. 3rd. No Calls. Pay based on experience.

OIL FIELD Pump & Supply Company has open position for experienced Field Sales Rep. Salary D.O.E.. Send resume to: P.O. Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79720.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT D.O.N position available with growing Home Health Agency. Great opportunity for advancement. Apply at 1510 Scurry St. Suite C. Big Spring, TX 79720. Call (432)714-4510.

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WANTED: FARM-LIVESTOCK worker from 05-01-05 to 03-30-06 to operate tractor with 9-row folding equipment using manual, GPS, and computerized tracking system. Contour farming with numerous point rows and terraces, sub-surface drip irrigation, planting, cultivating and harvesting crops. Must prepare land for the next season. Livestock duties: herd, tend, vaccinate, artificially inseminate, maintain water and feeder troughs for cattle, sheep and swine. Also, operate welder, cutting torch and tools for repair of equipment, machinery, and farm vehicles. \$320/week plus room, tools/equipment provided. Transportation and subsistence expenses to worksite provided at completion of 50% of work plus return transportation at completion of contract 3/4 work period guaranteed. Applicants contact State Workforce Agency, 310 Owen St., Big Spring, Texas 79721. Phone 432-263-8373. Job order: 2197831.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

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SNAPPER 28 rear engine riding mower, 11 HP, B & S engine. \$750. OBO. Call (432)267-7564.

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FREE LOVEABLE gray & white house cat. Declawed & spayed. Litter box, food, dishes, toys & create are all part of package. Call Mary 816-9591.

Real Estate for Rent

628 CAYLOR. Three Bedroom, one bath. \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-5386

Real Estate for Rent

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2004 Johnson. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$199. month, \$100. deposit. **1507 Austin.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom. Refrigerated air, fenced backyard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$350/month, \$300/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

702 WEST 18TH. 3 Bedroom 2 bath. CH/A with fenced yard. \$525. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

905 EAST 14th. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Newly Remodeled. CH/A, 2 living areas, hardwood floors, fenced backyard. \$550 month plus deposit. Call (432)263-6582.

BUILDING for LEASE on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

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Spacious 1 Bedroom's
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800 N. Tubb Rd. MFG Home. 3/2, total electric, CH/A, carpet & shop. Coahoma District. Fenced 1 acre. \$55,000.00. Owner will consider financing 10% down. Call 1-432-213-4460.

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FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 1500 Kentucky Way. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

WILL PAY Cash for Houses up to \$25,000.00. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
On the last day of the month, we're feeling anything but complete. Aries energy drives us forward like a drill sergeant marching his platoon up the mountain. As tired as we get, it makes no sense to quit — we're almost to the top. Tonight the moon enters Capricorn, and a sense of pride and responsibility kicks in. Hard work satisfies the soul.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One dropped habit alters your destiny. What do you grumble about most often? If you can give it up for the next three days, your life will change — incrementally at first, and then remarkably.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sweeties know how to press your buttons (an understatement to be sure. Actually, they dance on your buttons, or stomp them into bits). Your patience is tested again and again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your puritanical friends have something to say about your recent choices. It's hard to blame them for being nosy. You're the same way about someone else. Who can live and let live when the gossip is this juicy?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Since you're so responsible, the onus of communication is on you. There's no need to be worried about how you will be received. You are just the messenger, not the message.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Distinguish yourself! Higher ups encourage — no, demand — individualism and entrepreneurship. When you "bring it," the money will follow. Tonight, someone dear to you needs to be held.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're attracting what you want, even though you're not consciously aware of what that is. Put a pen to paper, and get to know

your subconscious mind. When you master your thoughts, you master a lot! **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Since the sexiest part of the body is the mind, you amp up your appeal by reading and talking to smart people. Make sure your food for thought is as nutritious as you'd like the food for your body to be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Alone you can only do so much. The first step to accelerated success is to acquire a mentor, a team or a network. People you run into today are exactly right for the roles you need to fill.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You resonate with the soul force that emanates from a fascinating someone. You may go out of your way to capture the attention of such a person, and you won't be sorry you did.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stick to your present career track. Your passion will eventually make you wealthy. Hire help before you get overwhelmed, not after. You don't want to be too tired to lead effectively.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a banner day for creative people like you, and you can actually make money selling your works. Teamwork produces the most exciting, lucrative and speedy results — if you can deal with the big egos involved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Let go of control and let the day take you where it will. When you're relaxed, your mind can play. The result is that you dream up brilliant solutions to your current problem. You really are genius.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: (Answered in two parts ... continued from yesterday): "I'm an Aries born April 9, 1960. I haven't had a relationship in 16 years. What's up with that? Am I, and others like me, destined to walk the Earth alone? So many of us do. What should I be doing instead of waiting for Mr. Right who will probably never come?"

On walking the Earth alone: You're not alone. As far as what you should be doing instead of waiting for Mr. Right: Look at all of the connections you have established in this lifetime and all of the ways you are connected to your fellow beings. Write about this in a journal. Celebrate and be grateful for those relationships, even though they don't fit your description of romantic love. When you recognize and give energy to the ways in which you are willing to be connected to others, you will start to broaden your capacity to connect. Make a daily practice of celebrating your connection to your fellow human, and within a few lunar cycles I predict you will have attracted more love, in its various forms, to your life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Celine Dion is a fiery Aries performer with her Sun, Moon and Saturn in Aries. Her chart reveals a risk-taking, high energy personality that burns the candle at both ends. This year, a stroke of marketing genius could cause her to align with an unlikely product, boosting sales and setting a new business precedent. During a hiatus from her Vegas show late this spring, she'll make her press-worthy move.

HOLLY LOGISTIC SERVICES

**Holly Energy Partners
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
March 28, 2005**

Measurement Tech - Big Spring, TX

Forty-hour workweek is standard with overtime required. Occasion call-out response & occasional travel is required. Assist the Supervisor of Measurement with the day-to-day duties of meter calibration, meter repairs and troubleshooting metering problems. Included in these duties are electrical and mechanical calibrations of some of the equipment associated with metering systems. Some duties will include acquiring a working knowledge of all pipeline and terminal operations and provide calibration and maintenance support throughout the system. (currently over several states) High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent and at least 21 years of age. 5 years prior experience with pipeline products metering or related experience is necessary. A valid driver's license is also required. Must have the ability to be contacted by phone. Individuals must be able to successfully complete a comprehensive physical that includes a drug and alcohol screen and wear respiratory protection equipment (**NO BEARDS**). Able to work safely in a hazardous environment and solve problems quickly & efficiently. Be able to make decisions, take responsibility, & work with minimal supervision. Salary commensurate with general qualifications & experience. **Applications may be obtained at the Texas Workforce Commission located at 310 Owens Street, Big Spring, TX 79720. Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at 5:00.**

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

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\$299 Such As **ALL BILLS PAID**
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THURSDAY

MAR. 31

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DENNIS THE MENACE



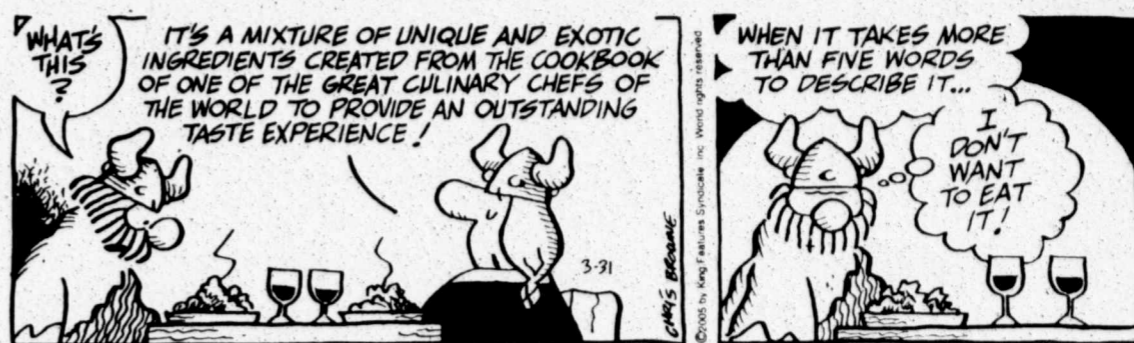
"DON'T WORRY, MR. ROBBERSON. OL' RUFF WASHES YOUR FACE WHETHER IT NEEDS IT OR NOT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma and I have been reminiscing about yesterday."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



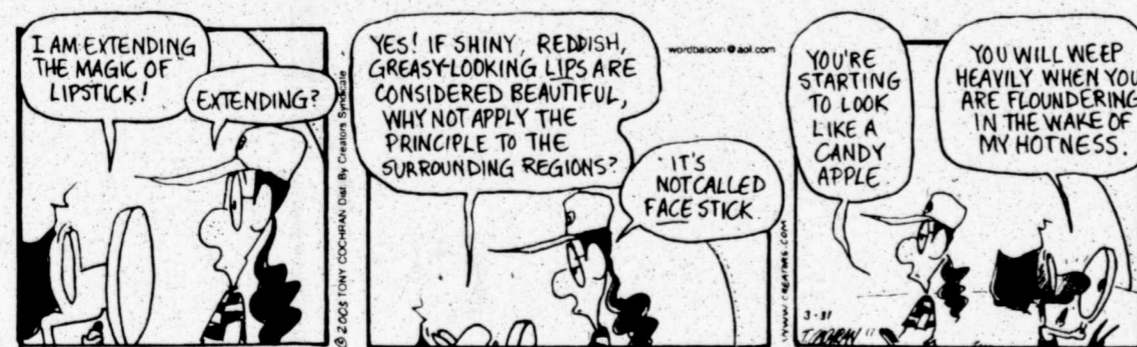
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 31, the 90th day of 2005. There are 275 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: One hundred and twenty-five years ago, on March 31, 1880, Wabash, Ind., became the first town in the world to be illuminated by electrical lighting. On this date: In 1889, French engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion. In 1917, the United States took possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. In 1933, Congress authorized the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1943, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" opened on Broadway. In 1945, the Tennessee Williams play "The Glass Menagerie" opened on Broadway. In 1949, Newfoundland entered confederation as Canada's 10th province. In 1968, President Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek another term in office. In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico. In 1991, the Warsaw Pact spent the last day of its existence as a military alliance. In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally killed by a prop gun during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, N.C. Ten years ago: Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club. (Yolanda Saldivar was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.) Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 78. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 77. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 71. Actress Shirley Jones is 71. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 71. Musician Herb Alpert is 70. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 65. Actor Christopher Walken is 62. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 60. Former Vice President Al Gore is 57. David Eisenhower is 57. Actress Rhea Perlman is 57. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 50. Actor Marc McClure is 48. Actor William McNamara is 40.

Answer to previous puzzle

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: APART, SLAP, JEST, RECUR, TORO, AMMO, ARENA, INTO, VEIN, MUDSLINGER, ANTE, ENG, EVADED, SPICED, STRIP, TODD, YOKE, SPARK, ALOFT, GIN, ALLAN, ROLFE, REST, EDIE, ERRED, OCTANE, SERENE, SPA, IMUS, JOE, COLLEGE, LASH, LEAVE, LACED, ALSO, CHAN, AMONG, SLOP, TUNE, SALTY

Newsday Crossword

ROUND FIGURES by Doug Peterson

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of round figures and a grid of numbers.

That's Racin'

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Bristol bounce

Kurt Busch's winning record at Bristol Motor Speedway is tough to beat

BY JIM UTTER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

It's hard to believe, but there was a time when Kurt Busch was downright awful at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Really. Busch, looking for his fourth consecutive victory in the track's spring race this weekend and the winner of four of Bristol's past six Nextel Cup races, couldn't get out of his own way in his rookie season.

In 2001, he started 39th and finished 42nd in his first appearance there and started 26th and finished 25th in his second.

Some wondered whether the brash young driver with the aggressive racing style would ever win at the track. Now they wonder if he can lose.

"Early on, my right foot was very heavy. I had to race hard and I wanted to go quick and that hurt me at many places. Then at Bristol it killed me," Busch said.

"I made 50 laps my first race there. In the fall race my rookie year I think I was eight laps down running all on my own. That was my worst racetrack my rookie year and that definitely helped me develop as a driver."

So how has Busch been able to adapt his aggressive style to fit the save-your-car-until-the-end strategy that Bristol demands?

It wasn't easy. "It's a matter of protecting your race car at certain points and being overly aggressive in other points of the race," Busch said.

"The tough deal for some drivers is to know when to run a specific lap time — to be as fast as you can go. But you can't do that lap time if there's somebody holding you up in front of you. You have to find that other guy's weakness."

"There are always going to be (cautions). You can't get too excited. You just have to wait for the race to come to you."

As Busch's success has blossomed at Bristol, so has his career. The track was the site of his first series win in 2002, when he beat wily veteran Jimmy Spencer, also a strong performer on the concrete track. He ended the year with four wins and finished third in points.

He swept both races in the 2003 season, when he again finished with four wins.

Last season, he used a win and an eighth-place finish there to help secure a spot in the inaugural Chase for the Nextel Cup 10-race championship playoff and went on to win his first series title.

Entering Sunday's Food City 500 (1:15 p.m. ET, Fox), Busch is fourth in points and trailing leader Jimmie Johnson by 105.

A visit to the site of a third of his 12 series wins is likely just what Busch and his



Kurt Busch has won four of the past six Nextel Cup races at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Roush Racing team needs to challenge Johnson for the top spot.

"I get all juked up about it. Our team is definitely gassed up every time we go to Bristol. It's a fun racetrack for the team," Busch said.

"It's a love-hate relationship. Right now, our team definitely loves going there. We're due. We'll knock on wood, but we don't want that bad luck."

Even winning the series championship hasn't changed Busch or his team's approach to Bristol. They still tested at the track this season and are taking nothing for granted.

"The championship is not going to carry us through a win on a specific weekend," Busch said. "We

still have to adjust on the car as if we had never won there before because every day presents a new challenge."

WINNING WAYS

Since joining the Nextel Cup Series, Kurt Busch has made Bristol Motor Speedway his personal playground. Here's a look at his eight races at the track:

Year	Start	Finish
2001	39	42
2001	26	25
2002	27	1
2002	8	6
2003	9	1
2003	5	1
2004	13	1
2004	24	8

— Jim Utter

"Our team is definitely gassed up every time we go to Bristol. It's a fun racetrack for the team."

— Kurt Busch

NASCAR's packed schedule leaves little wiggle room

After two open dates in the season's first six weeks, the next scheduled off weekend for the Nextel Cup Series is July 31 — and that's the season's last one.

That's 33 events in 34 weeks — 17 races in a row followed by that single break and then 16 more through season's end.

NASCAR's private jet and motor home set can certainly handle that, while the guys on the crews and back at the shop, the ones who work 52 weeks a year anyway whether they're at a track or not, will cope as best they can.

Still that doesn't mean that it's a good idea to cram in so much racing, leaving so little wiggle room in a schedule.

Let NASCAR have a weather weekend like the PGA Tour had at the Tournament Players Championship and that'll be easily proved.

But what's the answer?

One of the great scheduling taboos is being broken this year, with Darlington's lone race scheduled for May 7, the Saturday night before Mother's Day.

The reason that weekend has traditionally been left open dates back to the ridiculously low turnout for the 1986 running of the circuit's all-star event, held that year on Mother's Day at Atlanta Motor Speedway. It is sometimes said that it might have been quicker to introduce the crowd to the drivers that day, rather than the other day around.

But does that mean that now, nearly 20 years later, a Mother's Day weekend race won't work? After all, the circuit certainly has no tradition of leaving Father's Day open.

Maybe what happened at Atlanta in May 1986 was that not very many

people had bought into the still new idea of having an "all-star" NASCAR race. Maybe it was an indication —

one that might yet be worth heeding — that a successful all-star event is something that could only be pulled off at the track in Charlotte, N.C.

Darlington Raceway officials are actually quite pleased, it turns out, with the reception their race is getting from the ticket-buying public this year.

Sales for the May 7 race there are significantly ahead of the pace set when the track sold out its race during the Chase for the Nextel Cup in November.

Baseball plays a full slate of games on Mother's Day. There's a golf tournament that week as well.

Easter Sunday, certainly, is a different thing altogether. Mother's Day is a

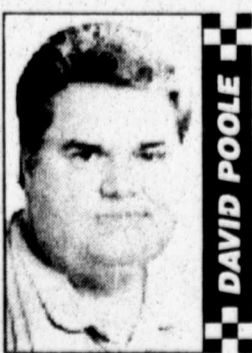
secular holiday, while Easter is one of the two most important dates on the Christian calendar. Sure, the PGA Tour and the NCAA basketball tournament don't mind scheduling on Easter, but it probably speaks well of NASCAR to leave that day open.

But couldn't a Nextel Cup race be held on Saturday during Easter weekend?

The Busch Series ran Saturday at Nashville, so it certainly doesn't seem out of the question.

What's the perfect place to run a race the day before Easter? California Speedway.

When it at track got the second date on the Cup schedule this year, it went head to head for ticket sales with Las Vegas Motor Speedway in the season's third slot and foundered, badly. California could hardly do worse selling a Saturday afternoon race the day before Easter, allowing its local fans to still observe the holiday.



DAVID POOLE

THIS WEEK'S RACE

FOOD CITY 500

Where: Bristol Motor Speedway, a 0.533-mile highly banked concrete oval located in Bristol, Tenn.

When: Sunday at 1:15 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 5:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,336,617.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Worth noting: Jimmie Johnson has five victories and 10 top-10 finishes in the 10 races since Charlotte last October.

Richard Childress, Roger Penske and Rick Hendrick are all tied as the active car owner with the most victories at Bristol (seven each).

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

A new breed of "Young Guns" is making waves on the NASCAR circuit. What do you think about all these young drivers getting the big-time rides?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which team has the best chance of recovering from early points woes and making it to the Chase for the Championship?

Number of votes: 9,317

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,542	38%
Matt Kenseth	3,232	35%
Kasey Kahne	1,457	16%
Bobby Labonte	452	5%
Someone else	394	4%
Ricky Rudd	139	1%
Jeremy Mayfield	101	1%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

There isn't anyone much hotter in NASCAR these days than Carl Edwards, who earned his first Busch and Nextel Cup victories the same weekend in Atlanta. He leads the Busch standings and is third in Cup.

Anyone who had doubts about Greg Biffle's staying ability should just file them away. In the past three races Biffle has moved from 24th to second in Cup points, including a win at California.

WHO'S NOT

Talk about up-and-down seasons. In four races, Jeff Gordon has two finishes of fourth or higher and two of 30th and lower. After a wreck and a 39th place finish at Atlanta, Gordon is 12th in points.

Kyle Petty showed signs of turning the corner this season, but finishes of 25th and 36th in the past two races have sent him in the opposite direction. He's slipped from 16th to 24th in points.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of March 20:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	680	21. Jeremy Mayfield	410
2. Greg Biffle	598	22. Brian Vickers	389
3. Carl Edwards	593	23. Jeff Green	380
4. Kurt Busch	577	24. Kyle Petty	379
5. Mark Martin	539	25. Scott Wimmer	369
6. Ryan Newman	515	26. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	365
7. Tony Stewart	514	27. Michael Waltrip	352
8. Elliott Sadler	482	28. Kasey Kahne	349
9. Rusty Wallace	477	29. Joe Nemechek	349
10. Jamie McMurray	475	30. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	340
11. Kevin Harvick	469	31. Matt Kenseth	339
12. Jeff Gordon	464	32. Travis Kvapil	324
13. Mike Bliss	460	33. Ken Schrader	313
14. Dave Blaney	458	34. Jason Leffler	292
15. Dale Jarrett	456	35. Kevin Lepage	281
16. Sterling Marlin	438	36. Mike Wallace	267
17. Casey Mears	434	37. Bobby Labonte	250
18. Scott Riggs	432	38. John Andretti	225
19. Kyle Busch	420	39. Ricky Rudd	222
20. Jeff Burton	417	40. Robby Gordon	165

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of March 26:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Carl Edwards	955	11. Jon Wood	596
2. Reed Sorenson	860	12. Justin Labonte	588
3. Clint Bowyer	831	13. Justin Keller	582
4. Martin Truex Jr.	789	14. Randy LaJoie	582
5. Ashton Lewis	721	15. David Green	571
6. Kenny Wallace	714	16. Johnny Sauter	568
7. Kevin Harvick	690	17. Tim Fedewa	543
8. Denny Hamlin	676	18. Kasey Kahne	536
9. David Stremme	658	19. Stacy Compton	511
10. Shane Hmiel	647	20. Michel Jourdain Jr.	507

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sharpie Professional 250, Bristol, Tenn.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of March 18:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Bobby Hamilton	525	6. Dennis Setzer	414
2. Ted Musgrave	460	7. Matt Crafton	401
3. Ricky Craven	439	8. Johnny Benson	401
4. Jimmy Spencer	438	9. David Starr	389
5. Ron Hornaday	422	10. Robert Huffman	378

NEXT RACE: April 9, Kroger 250, Martinsville, Va.