



BIG SPRING HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

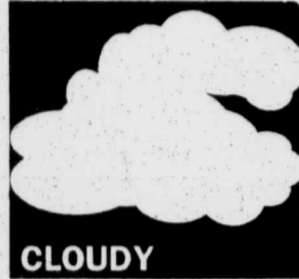
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

February 12, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT 21°-23° TOMORROW 32°-33°

BRIEFLY

Cardiology clinic

Covenant Heart Institute will sponsor a cardiology clinic at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 1501 W. 11th Place.

The clinic will be conducted by cardiologist Mindee Flippin. For an appointment or more information, call 1-877-604-3278.

INSIDE

Winter weather

A half dozen auto accidents were testament that winter weather had finally arrived overnight.

More ice and snow are in the forecast through Friday evening. The weekend promises to be warmer, though.

See Page 3A

BSISD trustees

An update on the investment plan from a \$9 million attendance credit purchase agreement will highlight a Big Spring Independent School board meeting today. The meeting begins at 5:15 p.m.

See Page 3A

COMING SUNDAY



Cover Story: The Centralia Orphans have a tradition of winning, and of being a part of their hometown's spirit.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

CARES Commission to present VA recommendations on Friday

Principi's decisions will follow at later date

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The waiting is over, almost. The Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission has scheduled a press confer-

ence at 2 p.m. Friday to announce its recommendations about a plan to revamp the Department of Veteran's Affairs health care services.

"Secretary (Anthony) Principi will take up to 30 days to review the recommendations, then he will announce his decision," said Karen Fedele, spokesperson for the

Department of Veteran's Affairs.

According to the CARES Internet Web site, www.carescommission.va.gov, the report is expected to be posted Friday.

What that report contains could have a dramatic impact

See CARES, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Marsha Allen
Pollard Chevrolet-Buick-Cadillac salesman Isaac Marquez, left, congratulates winner on William Sanchez on winning a new vehicle.

Local resident wins vehicle at Pollard GM

By MARSHA ALLEN

HERALD Life editor

All he did was push a button. William Sanchez visited his favorite car salesman, Isaac Marquez, on Wednesday to check out new cars at the Pollard Chevrolet-Buick-Cadillac dealership in Big Spring.

As Sanchez looked over a new, red Malibu, Marquez encouraged his potential buyer to participate in the General Motors current promotion in coordination with OnStar.

Sanchez pushed the blue OnStar hot button on the rear view mirror of the Malibu. He was connected with an OnStar operator who put him on hold. He held on the phone

See AUTO, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Austin Goswick, a fourth grader from Bauer Magnet Elementary School, spells a word during the practice round of the Big Spring Independent School Spelling Bee held Wednesday. After five furious rounds, 10-year-old Maranda Duchock, a Washington Elementary School fourth grader, walked away with the title.

Second chance nets Washington Elementary girl bee championship

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Ten-year-old Maranda Duchock learned Wednesday it's the second time around that's the charm as the Washington Elementary School fourth grader used her second chance to win the Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee championship.

"I'm very proud of her," said Rosie Lain, Duchock's school teacher. "She did a wonderful job. I think she's a naturally good speller. She just needs to work on it and she'll be a champion, just like she did today."

Contestants quickly fell to the side as the meet jumped off to a furious start in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria.

Maranda Duchock is the winner of this year's Big Spring ISD bee.



Fourth grader Katie Carrillo of New Hope Christian School was the first contestant out, being stumped by "baggage," but was quickly followed by fellow fourth-graders Aaron

Hanes of Kentwood Elementary School, Alexis Torres of Moss Elementary School and Austin Goswick of Bauer Magnet Elementary School.

Half of the contestants were gone after the first round, and seventh grader Hollie Biemeret of Big Spring Junior High School and fourth grader Kaycee Clayton of Marcy Elementary School fell in the second. That left Duchock and sixth grader Mary Kincaide of Goliad Intermediate School to battle for the next three rounds.

Duchock almost lost the title

See BEE, Page 2A

TxDOT

Hearing set tonight to mull transportation

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the state struggles to deal with a steadily increasing population, the Texas Department of Transportation is looking to the future of transportation in the Lone Star State and needs input from the people of Howard County.

The Abilene District of TxDOT will be holding a public hearing today at the Dora Roberts Community Center to discuss the Trans-Texas Corridor, an effort designed to help the state survive its transportation growing pains.

"In January of 2002 Gov. Rick Perry

See TXDOT, Page 3A

Runoff election drawing voter interest

Early balloting concludes at 5 p.m. Friday; election day is Tuesday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Early voting in the State Senate District 31 runoff election has netted more than 500 ballots this week, a major increase over the Jan. 20 special election that spawned the two-candidate race.

Howard County Clerk Donna Wright said early voting in the election has been brisk, with 474 ballots cast at the courthouse and 30 being mailed in, despite a shorter period to

cast ballots.

"Voter turnout has been really good so far," said Wright. "We had 158 people come in and vote when early voting started Monday. Another 189 came in on Tuesday, and as of Wednesday afternoon we've had 127."

"During the Jan. 20 special election it took us seven days to gather that many ballots in early voting, so I would definitely say things are better this time around."

See EARLY VOTE, Page 3A

Polls consolidated in Martin Co.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Early voting in the State Senate District 31 race is ongoing in Martin County, and will continue from 8 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. through Friday.

Early voters can cast their ballots at the

See MARTIN, Page 3A

FEB 12 2004

From Page One

BEE

Continued from Page 1A

in the fourth round when she failed on "surcharge" and left the door open for 11-year-old Kincade to take the lead.

However, after spelling "surcharge," Kincade faltered on her next word, "bonanza," giving Duchock a second chance to swoop in and retake the lead by spelling Kincade's word correctly.

The blond-haired, blue-eyed youth secured the title with the word "unicorn" and will now head to the Regional Spelling Bee as BSISD's representative.

"Regardless of the outcome today, all of you are champions," BSISD Assistant Superintendent Rey Villarreal told the contestants before the contest. "We are very proud of you as well as for all the contestants that participated in our spelling bee contests. They are winners in the knowledge they've gained."

Duchock, the daughter of CW and Darla Jordy, said she was excited about the win and the possibility of earning a shot at the 77th annual Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee contest set for June 1-3 in Washington D.C.

"She's been practicing running around saying words like pyrometallurgical," said Duchock's mother, Darla.

"It's a chemistry word," Duchock explained. "I found it in a book and I just like the word. I looked it up in dictionary.com and found it."

Kincade, the daughter of William L. and Katherine S. Kincade, will serve as alternative for the regional bee, which is sponsored by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. That contest is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6, in the International Cultural Center of Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

"Mary did an absolutely outstanding job," said Goliad Intermediate Principal Brenda Gainey. "This is the first time in seven years that we've been a runner up, so we're very proud that."

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

CARES

Continued from Page 1A

on the Big Spring area.

The draft plan released in August recommended major changes at the Big Spring VA Medical Center that could in essence close the facility, one of the city's largest employers.

The Big Spring VA employs 500-plus full- and part-time workers with an annual payroll of \$32.5 million.

The plan recommended a feasibility study to develop a critical access hospital in the Odessa-Midland area which would include a nursing home and expansion of an existing clinic to a multi-specialty outpatient clinic.

It also recommended the closure of inpatient surgical care at the Big Spring facility.

On a national level, the plan includes major mission changes at 13 facilities, including closures of hospitals in Waco; Canandaigua, N.Y.; Pittsburgh; Lexington, Ky.; Brecksville, Ohio; Gulfport, Miss.; and Livermore, Calif.

The news of the plan prompted a grassroots effort by area West Texans to keep the facility in Big Spring, uniting many residents from Howard, Midland, Taylor, Tom Green and Ector counties.

A three-person delegation from Big Spring visited with VA Undersecretary of Health Robert Roswell during a September meeting held in Washington, D.C., to find out the reason why his office recommend a feasibility study.

"At that meeting, Undersecretary Roswell indicated to us there was such a disparity in the population centers in Howard County compared to Ector and Midland counties that they felt like it was necessary to look at this position," delegation member Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said following the meeting.

The delegation pointed out information to Roswell that almost 60 percent of the veterans served by the Big Spring VAMC catchment area live east of Howard County including a large concentration in Taylor and Tom Green counties.

"We felt that the meeting was very, very important in that the Undersecretary for the first time realized that the population centers in the eastern portion of this catchment area would be poorly served if the facility was moved 60 miles farther away," McEwen said.

The independent commission held hearings in several states on the matter in the fall.

In September, more than 100 people traveled to El Paso for a CARES hearing to show support for the Big Spring VA. U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, and McEwen spoke to the Commission, presenting information in an attempt to reverse the feasibility study recommendation.

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

Police blotter

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

- **LYNDA JAMES**, 41, of 1300 Stanford, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **CHARLENE STORIE**, 23, of 1101 Marijo, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **ROBERT RAMIREZ**, 22, of 805 Willia, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **LARRY THOMPSON**, 21, of 2805 Macuslan, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest, driving while license invalid, traffic citations, a Trigg County warrant and a U.S. Army warrant.
- **BRIAN MITCHELL WALLACE**, 38, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JACQUELINE LEE JONES**, 50, address unknown, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CHRISTOPHER DAVID RIVERA**, 25, of 2618 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on local traffic warrants.
- **BOBBY SILVA**, 31, of 1209 Mesa, was arrested Thursday on charges of driving while intoxicated, possession of a controlled substance and traffic warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 200 block of Jefferson.

Sheriff's report

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

- **DANIEL A RAMIREZ**, 46, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **MARIO GARZA**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on two charges of indecency with a child-sexual contact.
- **ANIMAL CRUELTY** was reported in the 1500 block of W. FM 818.

Correction

The Tuesday, Feb. 10, edition of the Big Spring Herald incorrectly identified a suspect moved to the county jail as 19-year-old Joshua James Gibson. The subject moved was Joshua Jack Gibson, 21, of 1408 E. 18th Street.

Take note

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** established at the First Bank of West Texas, 1810 FM 700, to help with the medical expenses of 30-year-old Misty McCullum Wilson, who was diagnosed with cancer more than two months ago. Wilson, who went to Coahoma High School before moving to Lubbock, requires radiation treatments expected to cost \$10,000 per visit.

□ **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

□ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.** Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

□ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479 for more information.

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. at Herman's Restaurant.

The Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 West Highway 80.

Friends of the Library meet at noon in Howard County Library.

Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Big Spring Main Street meets at noon at the Railroad Museum, Second and Main.

Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets every second Thursday. New members are welcome. For more information call 263-2005.

Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

Arts, Craft and Quilting Club meets at 6 p.m. at Howard County Library at 500 South Main.

FRIDAY

Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited to attend.

AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Signal Mt. Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY

Dance begins at 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 703 West Third.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-17-21-32. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$38,857. Winning tickets sold in: New Caney. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 2-13-16-42-43 Bonus Ball: 25 Estimated jackpot: \$6 million Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-9-5

Weather

Tonight...Cloudy. Isolated flurries. Lows in the lower 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday...Cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow. Highs in the lower 30s. Light winds.
Friday night...Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows in the upper 20s. Light winds.
Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs in the lower 40s. West winds around 10 mph.
Saturday night and Sunday...Partly cloudy. Warmer. Lows in the lower 30s. Highs in the upper 50s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Presidents Day...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s.
Monday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s.
Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 60.

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Icy weather more snow

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Snow is in the cars and especially on roads in the area this morning. More wintry weather is predicted for the days.

"Right now we're getting a little freezing, little sleet and snow," said ER meteorologist National Weather Service in Midland. "As temperatures continue to drop throughout the week, we're expecting a change to all snow time later this afternoon. Slick roads throughout the area may be the result of several reports of accidents along Highway 177, sending law enforcement agencies throughout the area. At least a handful of accidents were reported this morning, along U.S. Highway 177. Road conditions are poor."

BSISD on attendance

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

An update on the attendance plan from the BSISD board meeting held Monday night at the school board meeting. The board agreed to purchase agreement with the Austin Independent School District for consideration of action contracts. The board will light the Big Spring Independent District Board of meeting today.

Trustees will meet at 5:15 p.m. in school board meeting. The agenda is lengthy.

Earlier in the year, trustees a contract with the ISD to sell a credits for a price tag, which is expected to be used this month. The district for the year instead of state funds. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

TXDOT

Continued from Page 1A

introduced the Trans-Texas said Kilgore. came about by things continuing in the direction they're going, the population of Texas is going within the next few years. If that Texas roadway is not prepared for that kind of growth.

"This hearing to introduce some ideas we have the situation that we have, and to give of Howard County a chance to give input and ideas they think it handled."

The ideas being around for the which would move people, utilities, range everyday to Kilgore said.

"We're looking for something from rotation and char explained, "to ideas such as ways and Eventually, for the corridor or separate lanes"

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Icy weather envelops Crossroads; more snow and cold in the forecast

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Snow is in the air, on cars and especially on the roads in the Crossroads area this morning with more wintry weather predicted for the next few days.

"Right now we are seeing a little freezing rain, a little sleet and light snow," said Eric Platt, meteorologist with National Weather Service in Midland. "As the temperatures continued to drop throughout the day we're expecting that to change to all snow sometime later this afternoon."

Slick roads this morning may be the cause of several reported accidents along Highway 87, sending law enforcement agencies scattered throughout the town.

At least a half-dozen accidents were reported this morning, mostly along U.S. Highway 87.

Road condition reports

from the Texas Department of Transportation indicated that areas of Highway 87 and Interstate 20 were freezing over and precipitation continued.

This inclement weather prompted Forsan Independent School District to canceled the District 3-2A University Interscholastic League Elementary Academic Meet with no plans to reschedule at this time.

"Currently, the temperature is 28 and it does look like right now most of the precipitation is a little bit west and north of the Big Spring area," Platt said. "As time goes on, the precipitation looks to sink south over the Big Spring area."

The National Weather Service predicts the Big Spring area could receive up to an inch of snow in the next few days.

"Currently we're looking at 40 percent chance of snow with lows of 25

and a northwest wind of 10 to 15 mph," Platt said. "With an average wind of 12 mph, we're looking at an wind-chill of 14 degrees."

"Friday, the area has a 50 percent chance of snow with area highs near 35 and northeast winds from 10 mph with a wind-chill in the mid 20s," Platt continued. "The forecast calls for 50 percent chance of snow on Friday night, tapering off by midnight with a few flurries on Saturday and a little bit warmer highs in the 40s."

Prospective travelers can check the TxDOT Web site www.dot.state.tx.us or call 800-452-9292 for a current update on conditions.

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

AUTO

Continued from Page 1A

for approximately five minutes, with intermittent requests from the operator for him to continue to hold. When connected for the final time, he was asked for information which included his home phone, last four digits of his driver's license and zip code. Then he was told he had won a GM automobile.

The General Motors pro-

motion runs through February. This is the first and only win in Big Spring, although other dealerships in Lubbock and Midland are part of the promotion. Pollard has two Cadillacs, two Chevrolets and two Buicks equipped for the game.

Certain GM vehicles nationwide have been designated as GM Hot Button promotional vehicles. They are equipped with the OnStar blue button. When pressed an OnStar operator asks for

information from the contestant which includes a home phone, last four digits of the participant's driver's license and a zip code.

Mail in forms are available, as well. Independent judges play the game for the mail-in participant if forms are mailed prior to March 1.

Sanchez will be notified in approximately three weeks with information about his win, designating the type of car to be his prize.

EARLY VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

What does Wright think is the reason for the improved turnout?

"That would be anyone's guess," she laughed. "You have to keep in mind the period to vote early is a lot shorter this time around, so people may not be waiting to the last minute. Also, the candidates have had a little more time to get the issues out to the voters. That may have played a role as well."

Early voting, held at the Howard County Courthouse, will close at 5 p.m. on Friday. Election day is Tuesday, Jan. 17.



NEWTON

MARTIN

Continued from Page 1A

Martin County Clerk's Office, located at 301 N. Peter in Stanton. Voters are required to bring their voter registration card or proper identification to vote.

Election day for the District 31 race is Tuesday. Martin County commissioners recently consolidated four of the polling places for the election, including precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4. These precincts will vote at the Martin County Community Center, located at 301 N. St. Theresa.

Precinct 3A voters can cast their ballots at Grady School, while precinct 4A

voters will be required to vote at Flower Grove Gin. All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday.

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

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Sydney W. Johnson, 77, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Military burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Natalia Puga Romero, 97, died Tuesday. Funeral mass will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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BSISD trustees to get update on attendance pact tonight

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

An update on the investment plan from a \$9 million attendance credit purchase agreement with the Austin Independent School District and consideration of administration contracts will highlight the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees meeting today.

Trustees will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the high school board room, 707 11th Place, to tackle a lengthy agenda.

Earlier in the school year, trustees approved a contract with the Austin ISD to sell attendance credits for a \$9 million price tag, which was expected to take place this month. BSISD will use this money to finance the district for the rest of the year instead of receiving state funds.

The transaction was

part of the Texas school financing formula in which rich school districts are required to share part of their wealth with poorer school districts.

Controversy about this particular part of the school financing formula dubbed "Robin Hood" caused legislators to sunset the formula during in the last legislative session and look for another way to finance public schools.

A special session is expected sometime this spring on the issue.

In other business, trustees are expected to head into closed session to discuss contracts for the administrative staff.

During the superintendent's report, Michael Downes is expected to discuss several issues including an effort by public school associations to inform the public about school financing, the possibility of establishing a

women's athletic coordinator's position and the recent University Interscholastic League realignment.

In other business, trustees will consider:

- An administrative salary schedule.
- An update in policy that will allow teachers who qualify to be evaluated every three years.
- Resolutions to deed properties to Howard County.
- The 2004-2005 school calendar
- Order school board trustee elections for May 15.
- A firm to perform audit services.
- Adjunct faculty agreement with the Texas Cooperative Extension service.

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

TXDOT

Continued from Page 1A

introduced the idea of the Trans-Texas Corridor," said Kilgore. "The idea came about because if things continue in the direction they're currently going, the population of Texas is going to double within the next 20 to 25 years. If that happens, Texas roadways are simply not prepared to handle that kind of traffic."

"This hearing is mainly to introduce some of the ideas we have to handle the situation to the people, and to give the people of Howard County a chance to give us some input and ideas on how they think it should be handled."

The ideas being thrown around for the corridor, which would be built to move people, goods and utilities, range from the everyday to futuristic, Kilgore said.

"We're looking at everything from road construction and changes," she explained, "to futuristic ideas such as superhighways and railways. Eventually, features of the corridor could include separate lanes for cars

and trucks, separate passenger, commuter and freight rail lines as well as a dedicated utility zone that includes water, electricity, natural gas, petroleum, fiber optics and telecommunications.



KILGORE

"We want to make sure the decisions we make on this will be the best for everyone in the state."

Kilgore said there will be a short presentation and video shown during the hearing, and while those in attendance are more than welcome to ask questions, answers are something they are looking for as well.

"We'll do the best we can to answer people's questions, but ideas and input is what we're really

after at this hearing," she said. "We'll have blank maps available that people can illustrate what they think is the best corridor through West Texas and the area, as well as a questionnaire for them to fill out at the end of the hearing."

"We want to know what people think of this idea. Do they think it's a waste of money? Do they think it's a waste of time? It's an excellent opportunity for those in the area to

see how the corridor could effect West Texas and add their ideas and input to the effort."

The meeting will begin with a registration session beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by the hearing at 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

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

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FEBRUARY 12 2004

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
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Tax form help
available to all
each Monday

What? Hey, dealing with income taxes is stressful enough without having to worry about filling out forms. If you are one of those who doesn't know W2 from WD-40, don't feel taxed... help is available. Each Monday through April 1, members of the AARP's Tax-Aide program will be at the Spring City Senior Center to help.

The free program is for all citizens, not just seniors. The service is not available to businesses, however.

The volunteers have been especially trained to fill out simple tax forms. Speaking of that, you'll need to bring your W2s, 1099s and documents showing your 2003 income, as well as your 2002 income tax return. Also needed are Social Security cards for each person listed on the tax return and for taxpayers who received a child tax credit payment in July or August last year.

The hours are 9 a.m. to noon and it's first-come, first-serve. The volunteers are also willing to work with homebound residents. To learn more about scheduling a visit to your home, or for any other information, call Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733 or the Senior Center at 267-1628.

Most of the volunteers have a background in accounting and several of them have been involved in tax preparation for a number of years.

Don't let the stress of filing out income tax forms get you down. Get some help. It's a wonderful service put on by people who care.

How To CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

About a man and his medals

"I look forward to that debate when John Kerry, a war hero, with a chest full of medals, is standing next to George Bush, a man who was AWOL in the Alabama National Guard." Those are the words of Terry McAuliffe,

Democratic National Committee chairman, non-veteran and political retainer of former President Bill Clinton.

Clinton, you may recall, also was no war hero, no veteran and no recipient of military medals. Yet somehow, Bubba beat two medal-earning war heroes (President George H.W. Bush and former Sen. Bob Dole) in bids for the White House.

McAuliffe's cheap shot, I believe, will come back to haunt him.

As White House spokesman Ken Lisaius noted, "The facts are that the president was honorably discharged for fulfilling his obligations" — which ought to settle the bogus AWOL charge.

But, no. Now, critics are demanding that Bush prove that 30-odd years ago, he always showed up when he was supposed to. Also, Bush should prove something that can't be proven — that he didn't receive special treatment when he was let out of the National Guard early to attend Harvard Business School.

Don't get me wrong. I've enjoyed listening to friends and neighbors in the Bay Area — people who wouldn't sleep for a year if their kids signed up for ROTC — voice their indignation at the possibility

that Bush might have missed so much as a day in uniform.

It's especially choice when they dismiss Bush's service in the National Guard because he didn't go to Vietnam. Such criticism ignores the risky nature of flying F-102s and the admittedly remote possibility of being sent into combat. The bottom line is that Bush served more than most Californians.

Another Yale grad, Kerry, went further. Kerry was a genuine hero in Vietnam, who risked his life to save others. I disagree with Kerry's take on many issues. I have never found him convincing or compelling. (I keep thinking of the "60 Minutes" interview in which Morley Safer asked a 27-year-old Vietnam War dissenting John Kerry if he wanted to be president, which was the rap on Kerry before he was elected to any office. "Of the United States?" Kerry asked, as if it never occurred to him before. "No.") But Kerry's actions in Vietnam speak well for his character.

That said, Kerry looks ridiculous lumping Bush's National Guard duty in with other "choices," such as "avoiding the draft" and "going to Canada, going to jail, being a conscientious objector." That wasn't the menu during the eight years Kerry spent in apparent harmony with Clinton's lack of military service.

Oh, I forgot. It's different for Dubya because he sent American troops to Iraq. (This argument is best used by people who don't remember that Clinton sent U.S. troops to the former Yugoslavia and are unaware that Clinton was commander in chief when U.S. planes dropped bombs in foreign lands.)

I never served in the military. Few 49-year-old women have. But I am a veteran of the age when my peers didn't trust men "with a chest full of medals." They feared that military men would be too quick to push for war — until military service worked to their advantage. Now that Clinton is gone, the left can argue that those who have been awarded medals are less likely to wage war.

But it's not service that dictates how candidates would vote on a war resolution; it's their worldview. Just ask Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a Vietnam War hero who has supported Bush's decision to invade Iraq. Come to think of it, Kerry voted for the resolution, too. In the end, voters will see military service as an important part of the package, one that fits with their take on the candidates' judgment and philosophy. Whom will Americans trust?

If Kerry actually shows up for a political debate wearing war medals, as McAuliffe suggested, the move could backfire — and not just because it would remind voters that Kerry threw away other people's medals to protest the Vietnam War.

Indeed, the donkeys should beware. McAuliffe can open the veterans-only door when it suits him, but he can't guarantee that the door won't hit his party on the way out.

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

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ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510

4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th
Cong. District)
1026 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202)225-4005

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Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building

Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

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

He's just a chorus of disinformation

Just for the record, since the record is in considerable peril. These are Orwellian days, my friends, as the Bush administration attempts to either shove the history of the second Gulf War down the memory hole or to rewrite it entirely. Keeping a firm grip on actual historical fact, all of it easily within our imperfect memories, is not that easy amid the swirling storms of misinformation, misremembering and misstatement. But since the war itself stands as a monument to what happens when we let ourselves get stampeded by a chorus of disinformation, let's draw the line right now.

According to the 500-man American team that spent hundreds of millions of dollars looking for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, there aren't any and have not been any since 1991. Both President Bush and Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, now claim Saddam Hussein provoked this war by refusing to allow United Nations weapons inspectors into his country. That is not true. Bush said Sunday: "I had no choice when I looked at the intelligence. ... The evidence we have discovered this far says we had no choice."

No, it doesn't. Last week, CIA director George Tenet said intelligence analysts never told the White House "that Iraq posed an imminent threat." Let's start with the absurd quibble over the word "imminent." The word was, in fact, used by three administration spokesmen to describe the Iraqi threat, while Bush, Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld variously described it as "immediate," "urgent," "serious and growing," "terrible," "real and

dangerous," "significant," "grave," "serious and mounting," "the unique and urgent threat," "no question of the threat," "most dangerous threat of our time," "a threat of unique urgency," "much graver than anybody could possibly have imagined," and so forth and so on. So, could we can that issue?

A second emerging thesis of defense by the administration in light of no weapons is, as David Kay said, "We were all wrong." No, in fact, we weren't all wrong.

Bush said Sunday, "The international community thought he had weapons." Actually, the U.N. and the International Atomic Energy Agency both repeatedly told the administration there was no evidence Iraq had WMD. Before the war, Rumsfeld not only claimed Iraq had WMD but that "we know where they are." U.N. inspectors began openly complaining that U.S. tips on WMD were "garbage upon garbage." Hans Blix, head of the U.N. inspections team, had 250 inspectors from 60 nations on the ground in Iraq, and the United States thwarted efforts to double the size of his team. You may recall that during this period, the administration repeatedly dismissed the United Nations as incompetent and irrelevant. But containment had worked.

Nor does the "everybody thought they had WMD" argument wash on the domestic front. Perhaps the administration thought peaceniks could be ignored, but you will recall that this was a war opposed by an extraordinary number of generals. Among them, Anthony Zinni, who has extensive experience in the Middle East, who said, "We are about to do something that will ignite a fuse in this region that we will rue the day we ever started." After listening to Paul Wolfowitz at a conference, Zinni said, "In other words, we are going to go to war over another intelligence failure." Give that man the Cassandra Award for being right in depressing circum-

stances.

Marine Gen. John J. Sheehan was equally blunt. Any serving general who got out of line, like Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki, was openly dissed by the administration.

Suddenly, the administration is left with the only good reason there ever was for getting rid of Saddam Hussein in the first place — he's a miserable s.o.b. You will recall that this is precisely the argument the administration rejected. Wolfowitz said that human rights violations by Saddam against his own people were not sufficient to justify our participation in his ouster.

Now, according to the president, Saddam Hussein is a "madman." Oh, come on. An s.o.b., yes, but crazy like a fox — always has been. It wasn't even crazy of him to have invaded Kuwait, given that April Glaspie, the American ambassador at the time, told him, "We have no opinion on your border disputes with Kuwait."

For everyone who ever cared about human rights and longed for years to get rid of Saddam Hussein, this late-breaking humanitarianism on Bush's part is actually nauseating. All the Amnesty International types who risked their lives to report just how terrible Saddam's rule was always had one question about getting rid of him: What comes next?

I don't think there is any great mystery here about how this "mistake" — such an inadequate word — was made. For those seriously addicted to tragic irony, consider that the most likely Democratic nominee is now John Kerry, who first became known 33 years ago for asking, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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MOLLY
IVINS

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It didn't take me to form a about the 200 CTS sedan.

The delivery barely dropped keys and pulled the parking week's test before I had out for a spin.

A few miles road, I began my pitch — the one I planned to give my wife as soon as we both got home from work.

The CTS delivered exceptional performance. It is quiet. It is smooth. loaded with to-use high-tech to keep a gadget happy for couple of years. "You gotta car." I said through the putting my

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It's my turn!

2004 Cadillac CTS one amazing vehicle

It didn't take long for me to form an opinion about the 2004 Cadillac CTS sedan.

The delivery guy had barely dropped off the keys and pulled out of the parking lot in last week's test vehicle before I had to take it out for a spin.

A few miles down the road, I began rehearsing my pitch — the one I planned to give my wife as soon as we both got home from work.

The CTS delivered exceptional performance. It is quiet. It is smooth. And it is loaded with more easy-to-use high-tech features to keep a gadget guy like me happy for at least a couple of years.

"You gotta see this car," I said, walking through the door and putting my half-empty

Big Slam Pepsi bottle down on the kitchen counter. "I really like this car. I mean really like it. And it's a sedan. It will seat the entire family. And it's rear-wheel drive with a new 3.6-liter V-6 engine that delivers 20 percent more peak power than last year's model (0-60 mph in 7 seconds).

"And get this," I said, pausing for effect, "it's got a retuned suspension with new shocks and mounts that slice through the curves like one of the \$90,000

European sports cars I had a few weeks back, but it's also a great touring sedan on the highway.

"And," I was starting to ramble, but I couldn't help myself, "it's got this great audio system with XM Satellite Radio with



The 2004 Cadillac rear-wheel drive CTS sedan.

more than 100 digital channels. We can drive coast-to-coast and listen to the '70s Channel the entire way. It even has a display that tells you the name of the song and who performed it.

"And you're going to love the two-tone leather, power, heated seats. And don't forget it comes with the OnStar communications system that not only tells you how to get to where you want to go but does about a gazillion other things for you — including running a remote diagnostic check.

"And," I was on a roll and just couldn't help myself, "it's got a place for my Big Slam Pepsi, and all these cool gauges, and a dual zone automatic climate control, and ..."

"I get the picture," my wife said, cutting me off in mid-sentence.

"But you don't understand," I interjected. "This meets all your cri-

teria. It has a seat for everyone in the family. It's not only more fun to drive than those expensive European models, it's more affordable.

"I want this car!" I said.

"What about the kids?" she said.

"They can buy their own car," I shot back.

"I meant, you have two kids getting ready to go to college. Don't you think we should get our priorities in order?" she asked.

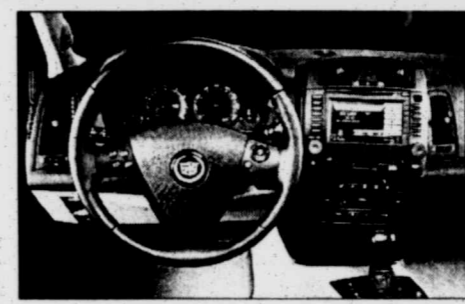
"But it's my turn!" I said, as she stood there giving me "the look."

"I'm sorry," she said. "Wait until the kids get out of college and then it will be your turn. Then you can buy whatever vehicle you want."

"But I really like this car. I want it to be my turn now!"

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



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Trim lines: base, CTS, CTS-V
PRICE RANGE:
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3.6-L V-6 (255 hp/252 torque)
5.7-L V-8 (400 hp/395) CTS-V

TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
5-speed automatic
FUEL: 87 octane (3.6 V-6)
91 octane (3.2 V-6)
EPA: 18 mpg city/26 mph highway (CTS)
BRAKES: Power-assisted vacuum with ABS and traction control

STEERING:
Power rack-and-pinion
TURNING CIRCLE:
35.5-feet
SUSPENSION:
Four-wheel independent suspension
LENGTH:
190.1 inches

WHEELBASE:
113.4 inches
WEIGHT:
3,694 pounds (auto transmis.)
WIDTH: 70.6 inches
HEIGHT: 56.7 inches
TIRES: 17-inch
FUEL TANK: 17.5 gallons
CARGO CAP: 12.8 cubic feet

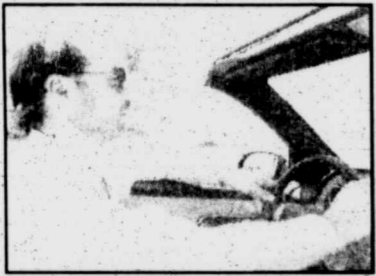
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Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@wax-ahachiedailylight.com.

ON THE ROAD



By NEAL WHITE

Club news

Big Spring Retired Teachers

The Big Spring Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) will meet Monday, Feb. 16, in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Aubrey Cherry, second

vice-president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, will present an update on TRTA trends statewide.

All retired school personnel are invited to attend. Call Jean Warren at 263-3643, for more information.

Art demonstrations to be presented by area artist

The public and membership are invited to attend the Big Spring Art Association Tuesday, Feb. 17. Guest art demonstrations will be presented by Sheree Moates, owner of Displays of Splendor.

Moates started her own art interest many years ago and has combined her art and her Christian faith into her paintings and teachings.

With a degree in art, she has studied extensively with Dalhart

Windberg and has won many honors in art shows.

While preferring oil as a media, she also works with watercolors, pastels and prismacolor pencils. Her desire is for God to show Himself through her artwork.

Anyone interested in art is welcome to attend the demonstration.

The Big Spring Art Association meets as 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the basement of the

Youth to hold mission workshop

Youth with a Mission will host "Take Action," a free youth event being held on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Twin Oaks Ranch near Lindale.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and finishes at 5 p.m.

Take Action will show participants the world of missions through video, drama, and music. Throughout the day valuable resources and relevant presentations will help equip youth workers.

The event is free and includes lunch, but a \$5 donation is suggested to help cover the day's activities.

Workshops, exhibits and contemporary worship music are part of the event's program.

Twin Oaks Ranch is located six miles west of Lindale. For more information, call 903-882-5591. The Web site is www.ywamtyler.org.

Long-term care should be planned before needed

A financial crisis could be looming for which one is not prepared. This is the loud and clear conclusion of a Roper study about long-term care which shows that most Americans have done little to prepare for what could be one of the largest expenses they'll ever face—their long-term care. The American Society on Aging (ASA) released the study.

But the Roper study of people 45 and older shows how few are taking heed. More than four in five, or 86 percent, of the people surveyed said it was

important they have enough money to be able to choose a long-term care setting if they or a loved one needs it. But only 37 percent have actually started saving money to cover those costs.

While the overwhelming majority, 89 percent, believe it's important or very important to have some type of private or government coverage for long-term care, only 17 percent have bought insurance that specifically provides it.

Long-term care is for people who need help taking care of themselves

after an injury, illness, stroke or disease. It can also include having a healthcare aide in the home, or staying in an assisted living facility. Forty percent of the people who need long-term care are actually young, working adults under the age of 65 who need help after an accident or an injury.

Half the people surveyed mistakenly believe their health insurance or disability insurance will pay for long-term care.

The Roper survey findings will be posted on Statefarm.com. Web site www.statefarm.com.

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

SEASON FORECAST

NASCAR writers predict nothing but sunny days ahead for Nextel Cup drivers Ryan Newman and Jimmie Johnson in '04

DAVID POOLE

David Poole covers NASCAR for The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

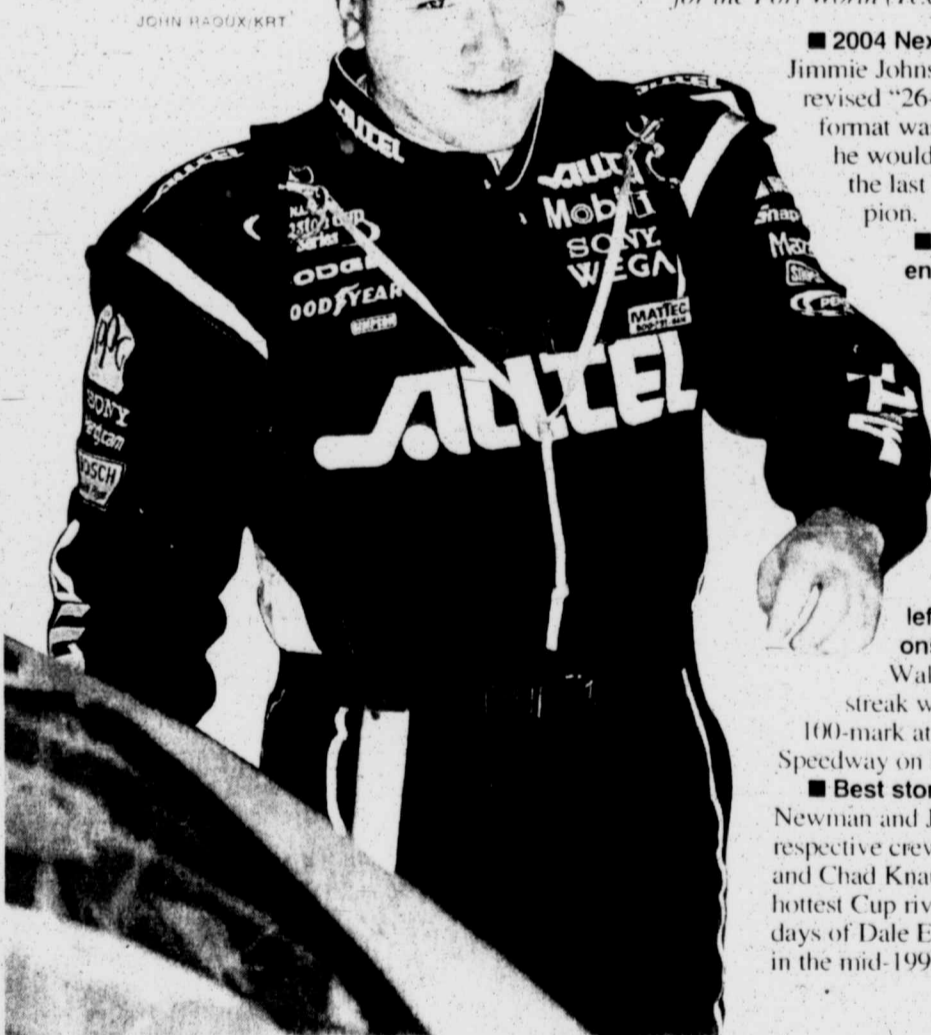
- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Ryan Newman. While figuring out how to win races and poles last year, Newman and his team learned a lot about racing for a championship. The 10-race showdown at season's end is right up Newman's alley.
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Jamie McMurray. Eight or nine of the "Chase for the Championship" spots are already spoken for by the sport's core stars. McMurray wins the battle for the "at-large berth."
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** Mark Martin, Dale Jarrett, Rusty Wallace or Bobby Labonte. At least two and maybe three of those guys will be on the outside looking in.
- **Best story line:** The best possible story line would be if the focus of the sport turned back to what's happening on the racetrack. It probably won't happen, but it's worth hoping for.

JIM UTTER

Jim Utter covers NASCAR for www.thatstracin.com

- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Jimmie Johnson. Remember the start of last season, when all the talk was of his "sophomore slump"? He finished second in points. "Nuff said."
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Ricky Rudd. He struggled last season, his first with the Wood Bros. But all signs so far point to an exciting and promising 2004 for this veteran.
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** At least two among the following won't make the cut: Dale Jarrett, Bobby Labonte, Kurt Busch, Tony Stewart and Dale Earnhardt Jr.
- **Best story line:** Which tracks will be in the final 10 for 2005?

Ryan Newman had eight victories in 2003.



JOHN RADUX/KRT



After finishing second in the final 2003 points standings, Jimmie Johnson could win it all in '04.

JIM PEDLEY

Jim Pedley covers NASCAR for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Ryan Newman. Newman was the people's champion after winning more than twice as many races as anybody else last year. This year, he becomes the champion in fact.
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Ricky Rudd. Year two with the Wood Bros./Roush Racing should go considerably better than year one.
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** Sterling Marlin. Two years after his great run at the Winston Cup championship, Marlin has yet to return to form.
- **Best story line:** Ford gets back into the race. Hard work and approval of new piston heads give Ford teams a nice boost in horsepower.

JOHN STURBIN

John Sturbin covers NASCAR for The Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Jimmie Johnson. If NASCAR's revised "26-10" points system format was in effect last year, he would have been crowned the last Winston Cup champion.
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Ricky Rudd. He won't necessarily be in the top 10, but Rudd will have the Wood Bros. Ford within the required 400-point cutoff margin. Nice job!
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** Rusty Wallace, whose winless streak will reach the magic 100-mark at the North Carolina Speedway on Feb. 22.
- **Best story line:** Ryan Newman and Jimmie Johnson, and respective crew chiefs Matt Borland and Chad Knuts, hook up in the hottest Cup rivalry since the early days of Dale Earnhardt/Jeff Gordon in the mid-1990s.

CAMMY CLARK

Cammy Clark covers NASCAR for The Miami Herald

- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Jeff Gordon. He's been rejuvenated by his new young teammate, Brian Vickers, and despite the emergence of Jimmie Johnson, he wants to still be the top dog at Hendrick Motorsports and the first Nextel Cup champion.
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Brian Vickers may be only 20, but he's on a magical run that will continue. In two short years, he's gone from almost having to leave racing because of lack of funding to becoming the youngest champion ever in the Busch series to wrestling the No. 25 Hendrick ride from veteran Joe Nemechek.
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** This is a tough one. Last year Terry Labonte made a great late run and clawed into the Top 10. This year there are so many good drivers with good teams that he'll be edged out.



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/KRT

Terry Labonte finished in the top 10 last year.

- **Best story line:** Toyota gets off to a slow start in its first season in the Truck Series, but comes on strong in the second half and wins the championship. It announces it will move into Nextel Cup racing in two years.

MIKE BRUDENELL

Mike Brudenell covers NASCAR for The Detroit Free Press

- **2004 Nextel Cup champion:** Ryan Newman will move away in the last 10 races of the season, when the championship race begins. He'll be pressed by Kurt Busch, Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon.
- **Biggest surprise entrant in the final 10-race championship chase:** Kasey Kahne will show speed and maturity beyond his years on all types of tracks. Watch for him in the Daytona 500.
- **Biggest surprise left out of the championship chase:** Sterling Marlin will find it hard to regain the form of a couple of years ago.
- **Best story line:** Brendan Gaughan wins a race in his rookie year and hands out free tokens to his dad's casino.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

DAYTONA 500

Where: Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile highly banked paved superspeedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.
When: Sunday at 1:30 p.m. (all times ET).
TV: NBC.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.
Purse: \$15,972,313.

Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip.
Also this week: The NASCAR Truck series kicks off its 2004 season Friday night under the lights at Daytona International Speedway. IWX Racing will be looking for its third consecutive championship with as many drivers.

The Busch series season opener is Saturday at Daytona. Last season's champion, Brian Vickers, has moved to Cup, but has a suitable replacement in the No. 5 Chevrolet team with 18-year-old Kyle Busch.

Worth mentioning: Greg Biffle became the sixth driver to score his first pole in a Daytona 500. The others were: Ramo Stott (1976), Loy Allen (1994), Dale Jarrett (1995), Mike Skinner (1997) and Jimmie Johnson (2002). The Nextel Cup "leader bonus" is worth \$10,000 for the Daytona 500. Only Matt Kenseth, as the reigning series champion, is eligible for the award for this race.



Waltrip



Kenseth

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who'll win the Daytona 500?
Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who'll win the pole for the Daytona 500?
Number of votes: 13,773

Driver	No. of votes	Percent
Dale Jarrett	4,147	30.1%
Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,459	25.1%
Someone else	2,622	19%
Matt Kenseth	1,021	7.4%
Ryan Newman	907	6.6%
Michael Waltrip	865	6.3%
Jimmie Johnson	752	5.5%

STOP 'N' GO

Q&A WITH GREG BIFFLE

Second-year Nextel Cup driver Greg Biffle won the pole for the 2004 Daytona 500 with a qualifying lap speed of 188.837 mph. It is his first career Cup pole.

■ **What about the prestige factor of being on the pole?**

■ **Biffle:** It's hard to explain how far the 16 team has come since last year. I've worked really hard over the winter and Doug (Richert, crew chief) has worked really hard and I'm proud of all of them. They're the ones that deserve the credit for this car being on the pole.

■ **Does this give more credibility to what you did last July?**

■ **Biffle:** They need to look at the race a little bit better last year and see who was up front leading. It was (Bobby Labonte), myself and (Terry Labonte). We were out front of all those Dale Earnhardt Inc. cars for a little bit of the race, so yeah, this says something for us.

■ **Is your mind already on the late-season chase for the title?**

■ **Biffle:** They start scoring points here on Sunday. We're thinking about that already. We want to make the top 10 in points and that's where our focus is — to have a chance to win the title this year.



Biffle

— Jim Utter

Once bitter rivals, Roush and Yates now make a powerful team

Jack Roush and Robert Yates building NASCAR racing engines together is like North Carolina and Texas forming a partnership to make barbecue. Nobody thought they'd ever see it.

Roush and Yates are gearheads to the core. Both have been tinkering with engines since they were old enough to hold a screwdriver. Roush has referred to a well-tuned engine as a symphony. Yates has made motors rumble with power ever since he was a teenager hot-rodding around on the streets of Charlotte, N.C.

In NASCAR, they've been sibling rivals, elbowing each other out of the way trying to get the bigger share of Ford's financial support over the years.

"I have certainly had respect for him and I hope he's had respect for me," Roush said of Yates. "But from the beginning of the racing season until the end we wouldn't talk to one another. We wouldn't acknowledge one another. We wouldn't have eye contact. We wouldn't shake hands. By all means, we wouldn't wish

one another good luck."
But now, one weekend into the 2004 Nextel Cup season, the big story is the success of a Roush-Yates partnership that now has all the engines for their Ford teams coming out of the same shop in Mooresville, N.C.

Dale Jarrett won last Saturday's Budweiser Shootout with a "Yoush" engine. On Sunday, Greg Biffle and Elliott Sadler got the front-row starting spots for the Daytona 500 and Ricky Rudd and Dale Jarrett also had top-five qualifying speeds with "Rates" power under their hoods.

"Robert Yates has always had great horsepower and Jack Roush has always had great fuel mileage," Sadler said. "You put those two together and ... we're going

to have a team to be reckoned with."

The concept certainly makes sense. Dodge's "one-team" approach to developing cars and engines it used when the company returned to Cup racing set the model. Toyota, in getting its NASCAR Truck series program up and running, is refining the process.

It seems, therefore, an obvious step for Ford to get its two remaining top-tier team owners to work together instead of spending its dollars twice. An opportunity arose when Roush decided to move his NASCAR engine operation from Livonia, Mich., to the Charlotte area toward the end of last year. Instead of building a shop of his own, Roush bought 50 percent of Yates' engine-building operations, thus merging the two shops into one.

Ford teams have new NASCAR-approved nose and tail sections on the body of their Taurus this year, the first

major revisions since the model was introduced in 1998. The teams also are working a new cylinder head into their engines — a major project the Yates-Roush engine group must now handle in concert as part of the new arrangement.

"We were in (Las) Vegas a couple of weeks ago testing and Jack and Robert were there talking throughout the entire time that we were there," Jarrett said. Asked if he ever thought he'd see that, he said, "Not in a calm way, no."

When the teams tested at Daytona in January, the Yates teams applied tuning techniques suggested by the Roush folks and their engines gained power. Jarrett used that power to hold off Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the Bud Shootout.

After Biffle's pole-winning run Sunday, Roush said the winter since the engine merger took effect in late November has been like "an Easter egg hunt."

"We've been taking things apart and seeing how they work and just putting the

best of both together," Roush said. "There have been a lot of things that I hadn't thought about that I saw that they had done very well and, to their surprise, a number of things they saw that the Roush guys had done better than they had thought."

One weekend does not a season make. The success of this venture will be measured in race victories and in how the partnership's engines endure a 36-race season.

"To be successful in racing, you have to be selfish," Roush driver Jeff Burton said. "But to be successful in today's environment, you have to be open. It's hard to do both."

So far, though, so good. "It might have been a little weird at first," Sadler said after Sunday's Daytona 500 qualifying. "But we were just down there in Victory Lane and Jack and Robert were shaking hands and smiling ear to ear."

Who's next? Coke and Pepsi?



DAVID POOLE

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Sports Editor
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Sports Editor
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Fast start spurs Cranes to stunning 54-51 win

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs painted themselves into a corner during the first quarter of their District 3-2A matchup with the Crane Golden Cranes Tuesday night. The Cranes jumped out to an 18-4 lead after the first eight minutes of play and then held off a wild comeback attempt to claim a stunning 54-51 victory.

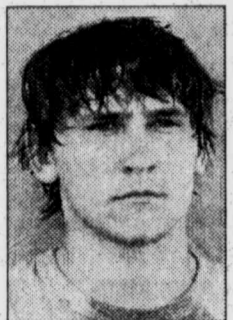
The Bulldogs clawed their way back in the final three quarters and even grabbed a slim one-point lead heading into the final frame before failing to hit key free throws down the stretch.

Coahoma shot just 50 percent from the charity stripe in the contest.

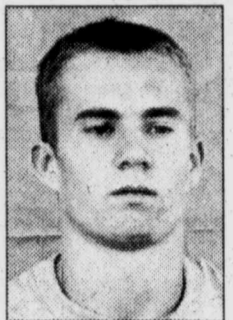
After the initial shock of the Crane's first-quarter outburst had subsided, the Bulldogs began taking control.

They outscored the Cranes by five points during the second period and cut the deficit to nine, at 32-23, heading into the half.

Coahoma came out of the break with plenty of spark. The



KEMPER



TINDOL

Bulldogs held Crane to just six points in the first eight minutes of the second half while reeling off 16 points of their own.

Coahoma held a 39-38 lead at the start of the

fourth quarter.

The final frame proved to be a killer for the Bulldogs. Coahoma missed several opportunities to put the game away from the free throw line and enabled Crane to

hang around.

The Cranes took advantage of the Bulldogs' shooting woes by outscoring them 16-12 over the final eight minutes.

David Heredia took game-high honors, pushing home 21 points for the Cranes Seniors Kelby Kemper and Sam Tindol carried the bulk of the Bulldogs' attack by hitting for 19 and 13, respectively.

Coahoma, which fell to 14-12 on the season and to a 6-2 mark in loop action, will host the Seagraves Eagles Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Coahoma Elementary gym. Crane, now 13-14 and 5-3, travels to Forsan.

IN BRIEF

Rebels to host TPBL champions Friday

The Big Spring Rebels will get their third shot at the San Angelo Chaparrals Friday when they host the defending Texas Professional Basketball League champions in the Steer Gym.

The Rebels are scheduled to begin play against San Angelo at 8 p.m.

The Rebels, led by Van Jamison, opened their inaugural season with a stunning 119-114 win over San Angelo last month. Since that win, Big Spring has managed to play .500 ball en route to building a 3-3 record.

Little League sign-ups to begin Feb. 21

Registration for the 2004 Big Spring Little League season will be held Feb. 21-28 at the Big Spring Mall. Registration through the week will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. During the week-end, sign-ups will be from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Children ages 5 through 16 who live within the Big Spring Little League boundaries are eligible to enroll. Registration is required even if the child played previously.

At least one parent or legal guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of the child's birth certificate is required. For more information, call Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

BSCGA to hold membership drive

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association will be holding its annual membership drive on Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

For more information contact Billy Pineda after 8 p.m. at 264-7116.

BSCC to hold 4-man scramble on Feb. 28

The Big Spring Country Club will hold a 4-Person Scramble on Feb. 28-29 beginning with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days. Entry fee is \$75 per player plus golf cart.

For more information call (432) 267-5354.

Lady Hawks to make home debut Friday

The Howard College Lady Hawks will make their home softball debut Friday afternoon when they face Ranger College at Foundation Field.

The first game of the doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m.

Howard College enters the game with a 2-0 season record.

Hawks' baseball games rescheduled

The baseball series between Odessa College and Howard College has been reset for Saturday and Sunday. There will be a doubleheader each day beginning at noon.

The changes were made due to the weather.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule
Feb. 12
Event, Time Station
Lady Hawks vs. NMJC, 5:45 p.m. 1490
Hawks vs. NMJC, 7:50 p.m. 1490

Another season done



Big Spring Junior high School eighth grade coach Melissa Kinnear talks to her team during a timeout Monday in their showdown with Merkel. The Lady Steers, despite solid efforts from Danielle Jeter and Amanda Caskey, closed out their 2003-2004 basketball campaign with a tough 37-20 setback.

Eighth grade B team closes out 12-4 season with rout of Merkel

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Junior High School Lady Steers eighth grade B team found the perfect way to close out their 2003-2004 basketball season Monday night.

They won — with ease. Clarissa Carrisalez scored 10 points and Hali Torres grabbed a season-high 15 rebounds and helped the Lady Steers pound out an impressive 31-12 rout of the Merkel Lady Badgers.

With the victory, Big Spring completes the season with a 12-4 record. "We did pretty well this season," said Carrisalez, one of the team's leading scorers. "I'm really proud of everyone on our team."

Carrisalez wasn't the only Lady Steers penciling her name into the scorebooks. In all, eight BSJHS

players managed to push home points in the 19-point win.

Amber Simer and Meredith Morgan both starred offensively. Simer scored six points in the win, while Morgan added five. Torres contributed four, while Kady Knox and Samantha Boehringer tallied two apiece and Randy Phillips and Mistie Aguilar chipped in one.

Morgan finished the game as the Lady Steers' second-leading rebounder, nabbing nine boards.

The rest of the junior high basketball teams didn't fair as well in their finales. Merkel won all three of the other junior high tilts.

The Lady Steers' eighth grade A team suffered a 37-20 setback despite solid performances from Danielle Jeter, Desiree Yanez and Amanda Caskey.

Jeter finished the contest with a team-high five points and five

rebounds. Caskey, who pulled down four rebounds, and Yanez both finished the contest with four points.

Lauren Sage contributed to the Lady Steers' effort with three points. Lauren Byrant and Maddy Hopkins scored two apiece.

The seventh grade A team dropped a 30-19 decision to Merkel.

In that game, Big Spring was keyed offensively by Shelbi Stewart and Ariel Johnson. Stewart pumped in a team-high eight points while Johnson added five. Courtney Strait contributed four.

The Big Spring seventh grade B team suffered a 37-27 setback despite a solid performance from Mirella Torres.

Torres pumped in a game-high 10 points. Jennifer Beauchamp added six while Honee Moore tallied five.

Coahoma Little League sets officer elections for Feb. 16

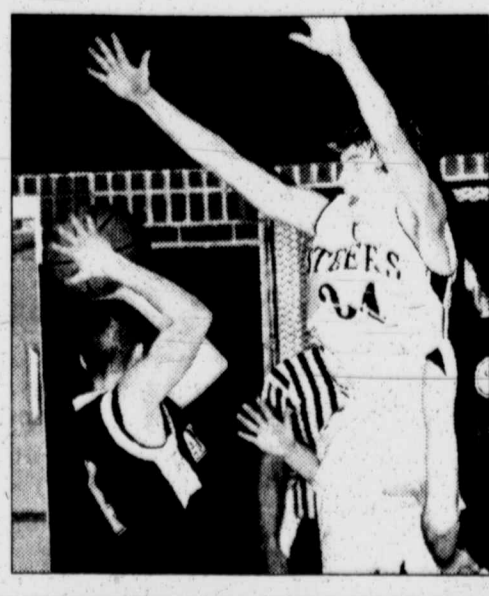
Baseball is beginning to make its presence felt again in the Crossroads.

The Coahoma Little League Baseball organization will begin preparations for the upcoming season next week when it conducts its 2004 league officer elections on Monday.

The election will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

In addition to the election, Little League officials are urging all persons interested in coaching a team this season to attend the meeting.

Registration of players for the upcoming season is scheduled to begin in Coahoma on Feb. 28 at Robert W. (Rob) Etheridge Junior High School in Coahoma. Sign-ups will run from noon to 4 p.m.



Herald Photo/Tommy Wells
Big Spring's Wesley Smith (right) tries to prevent an opponent from passing the ball during recent BSJS action. The Steers will make their final road trip of the season Friday by traveling to San Angelo for a bout with Lake View.

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(432)263-5818 or 2
2605 CINDY, 3
bath. Large living
fenced yard. \$575
posit. Call (432)264
3 BDR., 1 t
\$375/mo. 2602 A
432-352-0152.
3233 DUKE, 3
bath. CH/A, fence
ered patio, 1 1/2
Call for
(817)891-8322
(469)233-8889
4 BEDROOM, 2
newly remodel
270-3848.
407 1/2 E. 8th. 1
ment. Recently
New counter to
\$275/mo. + de pos
Call (432)267-2296
900 SCURRY, 3/1
bath. CH/A, washer, dry
Appliances furni
(432)213-2681
FOR RENT Large
room. 104-1/2
\$250. month. \$11
Call 264-6611.
LARGE 1 Bedroo
\$350 month. All bill
deposit. Call (432)2
MIDWAY AREA, s
room Mobile Hom
\$150/deposit. Was
CH/A. HUD app
(432)393-5585 or 2
NEW OWNERSHI
Bdrm . Apt. Home
bly Priced. Mana
site 24/7. ADVANT
APTS. 3304 W. HV
Sandra, (432)264-71
OFFICE/ SHOWR
sq. ft. 1307 B. Greg
month + deposit. (2
Auto Parts @ (432)2
THREE BEDROOM
laundry room. 161
\$300. month. \$15
Call (432)264-E
(432)333-3652.
Real Estate f
\$1,000 TOTAL Mov
On each remainin
homes on 1300
Marijo. Reasonably
required, Down pay
tance and lowere
rates to Qualified
Payments till Feb.
now (432)520-9848
vestments Inc.
705 S. Lancaster
than a storage bil
Price \$4,900. or \$
\$94/mo. for 84
(512)826-2553.
Real Estate fo
H
2 -
Rent - R
Swimmi
2
250

Real Estate for Rent

1, 2, 3 Bedrooms
Rent Based On
Income

Park Village Apts.

1905 Wason Rd.
Big Spring, TX
(432) 267-6421

\$\$\$ MOVE-IN SPECIAL
ONE and Two Bedroom
Apartment home available.
Starting from \$335.00
per month.

*FREE CABLE
*On site Laundry Facilities
*Covered Picnic area
with BBQ Grills
*Playground for the Kids
*Central Air & Heat

SUNSET RIDGE APTS
2911 W. HWY 80
432-263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

ANDA EN busca de una casa?
Si, no tiene credito o mal
credito hableme al numero
(432)413-0549 Annette San-
chez. Tengo una casa de 2 re-
camaras y 1 bano 705 S Lan-
caster Y otra de 1 recamara y
1 bano 1811 State St.

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Owner Financing Provided.
Low down payment, low
monthly. 3 Bdrm, 1 bath. Up-
dated Kitchen & bath. 1103
Sycamore. Call (432)425-9994.

FOR SALE: 2 story, 3,000 sq.
ft., downtown office building.
Would be ideal for Doctor's Of-
fice. Call (432)267-3126

NEED A home? I can help, no
credit, bad credit, I will finance
your home with a low
down/payment. Please call An-
nette Sanchez @
(432)413-0549 1811 State 1
Bdrm 1 bath & 705 Lancaster, 2
Bdrm 1 bath.

NEW CONSTRUCTION Open
House. Sat-Sun. 1-6 pm. or
any time by appt. 1308 Marjio.
Call (432)520-9848.

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CLERK OF THE COURT:
COLLEEN BARTON, DISTRICT
CLERK
P.O. BOX 2138
BIG SPRING, TX 79721-2138
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:
John T. Ferguson,
WEAVER & FERGUSON, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 1750
Big Spring, TX 79721-1750
NOTICE TO DEFENDENTS: "You
have been sued. You may employ
an attorney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer by
10:00 a.m. on the Monday next fol-
lowing the expiration of forty-two
(42) days after the date of issuance
of this citation and petition, a de-
fault judgment may be taken
against you."

TO: VIVIAN E. POWELL
STEWART and WILLIAM J.
WEAVER and MARJORIE
WEAVER, Individually and as In-
dependent Executrix of the Estate of
William J. Weaver, THE UN-
KNOWN DEVISEES OF WILLIAM
J. WEAVER, and, if any of such
persons are deceased, the heirs
and devisees, known or unknown,
of each of such persons who are
deceased.
You and each of you are hereby
commanded to appear and answer
before the 118th Judicial District
Court in the 118th District Court
Building in Big Spring, Howard
County, Texas, at or before 10:00
a.m. on the first Monday, after the
expiration of forty-two (42) days
from the date of issuance hereof,
being at or before 10:00 a.m. on
Monday, the 15th day of March,
2004, then and there to answer the
petition of L.E. OPPERMANN, in
Cause No. 43401, styled "L.E. OP-
PERMANN vs. VIVIAN E. POW-
ELL STEWART, ET AL" wherein
the said L.E. OPPERMANN is
Plaintiff, and the said VIVIAN E.
POWELL STEWART and WILLIAM
J. WEAVER and MARJORIE
WEAVER, Individually and as In-
dependent Executrix of the Estate of
William J. Weaver, THE UN-
KNOWN DEVISEES OF WILLIAM
J. WEAVER, are Defendants. The
said petition, files on the 30th day
of January, 2004, discloses, that
the nature of said suit is as follows:
This suit is brought to have a re-
ceiver appointed under the pro-
visions of § 64.091 and § 64.093 of
the Texas Civil Practice and Remed-
ies Code for undivided mineral in-
terest owned by the Defendants in
the following described lands in
Howard County, Texas:

W/2 Section 10, Block 34,
T-1-N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey
And to execute oil and gas leases
and take such other action deemed
necessary under the provisions of
said statute.
If this citation is not served within
ninety (90) days after date of its is-
suanance, it shall be returned un-
served.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY
HAND AND SEAL OF SAID
COURT on this the 30th day of
January, 2004, at Big Spring, How-
ard County, Texas.
COLLEEN BARTON, District Clerk,
118th Judicial District Court, How-
ard County, Texas
By Priscilla Ginnetti
Deputy
#4105 February 5, 12, 19 & 26,
2004

Vehicles

Great Selection of 03's with
up to
\$6500
Rebates
BOB BROCK FORD
500 W. 4TH 267-7424

TAX REFUND SALE
WE FINANCE YOU
Tax Checks Welcome!
87 Auto Sales
263-2382 267-8787

1991 CHEVY Passenger Van,
51k. \$3400. 1993 Ford 15 Pas-
senger Van, 90k. \$4300. Call
(432)393-5231.

2000 OLDSMOBILE Intrigue,
cruise, tilt, CD, cassette, all
power. Excellent condition.
\$6,750. Call (432)268-3654 or
466-2060.

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford
F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Re-
duce for quick sale, \$26,500.
Located 600 Main. Call
432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00,
432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original
Letters Testamentary for the Estate
of JUANITA HAMLIN, Deceased,
were issued on 02-09-2004, in
Cause No. P-13,129, pending in
the County Court of HOWARD
County, Texas to: JACK BUCHANAN.

All persons having claims against
this Estate which is currently being
administered are required to pre-
sent them to the undersigned
within the time and in the manner
prescribed by law.
c/o: Jack Buchanan
2107 North FM 820
Coahoma, TX 79511

DATED the 9 day of February,
2004
Respectfully submitted,
Hamby & Hamby
P.O. Drawer 2199
Big Spring, TX 79721-2199
Phone: 432-263-8395
Telecopier: 432-263-4798
LANNY HAMBY
State Bar No. 08816000
#4117 February 12, 2004

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent
School District shall receive sealed
bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., Feb-
ruary 26, 2004, on the following:
Cross Country Track Supplies
Football Supplies
Tennis Supplies
Volleyball Supplies

Specifications and bid documents
may be secured from the school
district's Business Office located at
708 East 11th Place, Big Spring,
Texas 79720-4648, phone number
(432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly
open and read immediately follow-
ing the deadline for receiving the
bids in the Business Office of the
Big Spring Independent School
District. Bidders are invited to be
present at the bid opening. Bids re-
ceived after the opening date and
time will be returned unopened.
Bids will be presented for consid-
eration to the Board of Trustees on
March 18, 2004, at 5:15 P.M. at
their regularly scheduled board
meeting. The Big Spring Indep-
endent School District reserves
the right to accept or reject any or
all bids.
#4115 February 12 & 19, 2004

1215 RIDGEROAD. Two bed-
room, one bath. \$325. month,
\$150. deposit. Call
(432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1311 TUCSON Newly remod-
eled, 2 bdr., 1 bath, one car ga-
rage, CH/A, W/D hookup.
Fenced yard. \$410/mo.,
\$295/dep. 432-270-0833 or
432-8005

2 & 3 Bdrm Houses for Rent
CH/A No pets No HUD
(432)263-5818 or 213-0820

2605 CINDY, 3 Bedroom, 2
bath. Large livingroom, CH/A,
fenced yard. \$575 month + de-
posit. Call (432)264-8813.

3 BDR., 1 bath, CHA,
\$375.mo. 2602 Albrook. Call
432-352-0152.

3233 DUKE. 3 Bedroom 2
bath. CH/A, fenced yard, cov-
ered patio, 1 1/2 car garage.
Call for Appointment
(817)891-8322 or
(469)233-8889

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath., CHA,
newly remodeled. Call
270-3848.

407 1/2 E. 8th. 1 Bdrm Apart-
ment. Recently remodeled.
New counter tops. CH/A.
\$275/mo. + deposit. No HUD.
Call (432)267-2296

900 SCURRY. 3/1 Apartment.
CH/A, washer, dryer hookups.
Appliances furnished. Call
(432)213-2681

FOR RENT Large one bed-
room. 104-1/2 West 13th.
\$250. month, \$150. deposit.
Call 264-6611.

LARGE 1 Bedroom, for rent,
\$350 month. All bills paid. \$150
deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

MIDWAY AREA, small 2 Bed-
room Mobile Home. \$300/mo.
\$150/deposit. Washer/ Dryer,
CH/A. HUD approved. Call
(432)393-5585 or 270-3928.

NEW OWNERSHIP 1 & 2
Bdrm . Apt. Homes. Reasonably
Priced. Management on
site 24/7. ADVANTUS PLACE
APTS. 3304 W. HWY. 80 Call
Sandra, (432)264-7641.

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

THREE BEDROOM, one bath,
laundry room. 1613 Cardinal.
\$300. month. \$150 deposit.
Call (432)264-6144 or
(432)333-3652.

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost.
On each remaining 3 New
homes on 1300 Block of
Marjio. Reasonably good credit
required, Down payment assist-
ance and lowered interest
rates to Qualified Buyer. No
Payments till Feb. 2004. Call
now (432)520-9848 Cameo In-
vestments Inc.

705 S. Lancaster. Cheaper
than a storage building! Cash
Price \$4,900. or \$500 down,
\$94/mo. for 84 mos. Call
(512)826-2553.

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HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

Real Estate for Rent

HILLSIDE PROPERTIES
Homes With Alarm Systems
2 - 3 - 4 - 5, Even 6 Bedrooms Available
Rent - Rent-to-Own or Buy With Owner Financing
Swimming Pool - Basketball & Volleyball Courts
24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
2501 Fairchild Phone 263-3461

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
With Valentine's Day
approaching and the
Scorpio lunar influence
on your
side now,
it's the
perfect time
to pick up
something
special for
a loved one.
You'll
intuitively
find just
what your
sweetie wants. Getting a
gift for someone new in
your life always feels
risky, but you'll succeed
brilliantly under these
instinctive stars.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April
19). Your leadership
ability is featured — you
put together a group of
people who can do the
job. Attention to diet and
exercise keeps energy
high. Temptations are
many; persevere to see
results. Those selling
property are lucky.

TAURUS (April 20-May
20). Can you be logical
about a passionate
relationship? Try! A
romantic interest may try
to lean on you
financially, but the need
is probably more than
you can give without
ultimately feeling
resentful. A long talk will
fix almost anything.

GEMINI (May 21-June
21). Family members are
receptive to your
suggestions but still
won't carry out plans as
you would have done it.
Everyone has his or her
own way. There may be a
miscommunication at
work to sort out.

CANCER (June 22-July
22). Avoid excessive self-
scrutiny. Your social
nature flourishes. Be sure
to use those contacts for
professional gain. A loan
will be approved.
Tonight, even if your
mind is made up, it
behoves you to let others
have an opinion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).
Be patient, and success
will be yours. Pertinent
details have yet to
present themselves.
You're tempted to spend
too much money for an
item — hold off for a
genuine bargain. Friends
help you figure out how
to get what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). Far-range plans
become crystal clear.
Keep your nose to the
grindstone — don't go out
to party until the work is
finished. Those looking
for work need only let
others know they are
available. Reach out.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).
Opportunities require
you to be in tip-top shape.
Even if you're not sure
what the prospect will be
exactly, get ready for it.
Keep an appointment
with a friend you have
not seen in a while, and
you'll have a fabulous
time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.
21). Deals are easier to
agree upon — people
want the same thing. Get
it in writing. Tonight,
pleasing loved ones is
tricky business, and
you'll realize that trying
to be everything to
everyone isn't the way to
go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
Dec. 21). Consolidate
financial matters that
need to be simplified.
Tonight, you are
charming, witty and
playful. You could easily
change the way you feel

about someone — one you
weren't attracted to
before could be a love
interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-
Jan. 19). Physical sports
and mental challenges
are the best places to
meet up with exciting
friends and romantic
prospects. The family
gets along best when
friends are invited to the
weekend activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-
Feb. 18). A deep sense of
questioning is at work in
your psyche.
Acknowledge that nobody
knows all the answers
any more than you do. At
the same time, it's
important to show
reverence for the past
accomplishments of
others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March
20). You are tempted to
spend crazy money for
emotional reasons.
Instead, sit down with the
bills or a list of dream
purchases, and figure out
how you are going to
make things work. There
is a way. Loved ones will
help.

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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I have been
married to "Justin" for 10
years, and we have four
wonderful children. We
live in a beautiful home
and have a terrific life.
However, Justin is very
controlling and jealous to
the point where I am
going crazy. When I tell
him how I feel, he says I
obviously need
medication.

Justin has taken over
our money because he
says I'm using up his
paycheck and he has
nothing to show for it. I
am not a spendthrift, but
I do buy clothes and
school supplies for the
children, not to mention
the occasional item for
myself. Justin won't pay
those bills until we have
a fight. Then he will
"allow" me to pay them.
We argue over this every
month.

I took a summer job to
help out financially. I
made good money, but
Justin was so jealous, he
accused me of meeting
men on my lunch breaks.
He even came to my
work place, just to be
sure. If Justin knows I
have \$10 in my pocket, he
will make sure I spend it
before he pulls out his
own wallet, which
invariably has at least
\$100 in it. He will say,
"I'd rather not break a
\$20." Consequently, I
rarely have any cash on
me and am always going
to the bank or asking
Justin for a few dollars.

Justin tells me that any
woman would love to be
in my shoes, to have a
man take such good care
of her. I love Justin, but I
can't take much more of
this. He is unwilling to
go for counseling and
makes me feel as if I'm
off my rocker.

Annie, other than this,
Justin is wonderful. He's
attentive, a good father
and a very hard worker.
Please help me. — Losing
My Mind in Georgia

Dear Georgia: Read
your letter again and
then ask yourself how
"wonderful" Justin really
is. He sounds emotionally
abusive to us, and there
is the potential for him to
become plenty worse. He
is diminishing your
ability to be independent
and blaming you for it.
Red lights are flashing
everywhere.

You must figure out a
way to stay financially
autonomous in case
things deteriorate. Talk
to a therapist about your
situation, or call the
National Domestic
Violence Hotline at 1-800-
799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

for suggestions. Please
don't wait.

Dear Annie: You
recently printed several
comments in response to
a letter about the value of
pornography. I read with
amusement the response
from "New Mexico," who
lent his oh-so-brilliant
insight by stating that
women were "stupid" and
"a vex on humanity" and
he much preferred porn.
What this scholar
seems to forget is that he
was born from a "stupid"
female. If it weren't for
his mother, we would
never have had the
privilege of reading the
rubbish he submitted. On
another note, you have to
feel a little sorry that the
guy's life is so pathetic
he has to blame an entire
gender. — Florida Female

Dear Female: Quite a
few readers were up in
arms over "New Mexico"
and his little tirade
against women. Some
were personally offended
and said we shouldn't
have printed his
comments at all. We
think the readers have a
right to see the wide
variety of opinions we
receive, since they reflect
the thoughts of people we
might not otherwise
encounter — and ought to
be aware of.

Dear Annie: What is the
proper etiquette after a
music recital? Should the
student present the
teacher with flowers? —
Panama, Okla.

Dear Panama: Flowers
are appropriate, although
not mandatory, for both
the teacher and the
student. The student may
receive flowers from
family members or
personal guests
attending. The teacher
can receive flowers from
the student. If there are
other students playing
at the same recital, it is a
lovely gesture to present
the teacher with a single
bouquet from the entire
group at the end of the
recital.

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ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING
HERALD APPRECIATES
YOUR BUSINESS
Here are some helpful tips
and information that will help
you when placing your ad.
After your ad has been pub-
lished the first day we suggest
you check the ad for mistakes
and if errors have been made
we will gladly correct the ad
and run it again for you at no
additional charge. If your ad is
inadvertently not printed
advance payment will cheer-
fully be refunded and the
newspaper's liability will be
for only the amount received
for publication of the adver-
tisement. We reserve the right
to edit or reject any ad for pub-
lication that does not meet our
standards of acceptance.

THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	Sports	New York	(250)
6 PM	News (CC)	Wheel-Fortune	News	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill	News	Pason de Gaviolanes	Seinfeld (CC)	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	New Detectives-Forensic		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	Sister, Sister	College Basketball	NHL Hockey	Law & Order: Special Victims	(CC)
7 PM	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Veio de Nova	Tru Calling (CC)	Survivor: All Stars (CC)	Amor Descarado	Friends (CC)	Movie: Random	West Tex Jmi World	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: The Longest Day	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Movie: Full-Court Miracle	Wake Forest at Clemson	Avalanche at Blues or Flyers	Movie: Billy Madison	Movie: Mad Dog Time
8 PM	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Te Amare en Silencio	My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgr	El Alma Herida (CC)	Hearts (CC) (DVS)	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Jack the Ripper: Mystery		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	106 & Park: Prime		College Basketball			35 Movie:
9 PM	PrimeTime Thursday	PrimeTime Thursday	PrimeTime Thursday	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show	Without a Trace (CC)	Mujeres Apasionadas	ER (CC)	40 Movie:	Secrets of the Pharaohs	More Than Human		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comcview	Sister, Sister	Louisville at Charlotte	The Season (CC)	Movie: Never Been Kissed	Crossroads (CC)
10 PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Laura	News	The Bridges of Madison	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News	Kim Possible	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	15 Movie:	
11 PM	Ent Tonight	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC)	CC	Al Rop Vivo	Show (CC)	County (CC)	Rev. J. Hansen	Sign Off	10:55 Movie: Von Ryan's	The X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens	Gonzaga at San Francisco	Rome is Burning (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	CC
12 AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Angela	Blind Date	The Late Late Show (CC)	Mania Celeste	Fraser (CC)	35 Movie:	Update-Israeli	More Than Human	Express	The X-Files (CC)	Comcview	Boy World	Garnight Streetball	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Billy Madison	12:05 Movie: Innocents

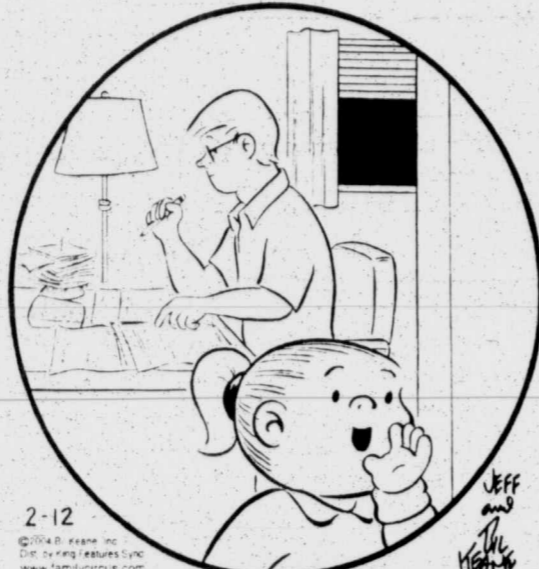
DENNIS THE MENACE



"HONESTY MAY BE THE BEST POLICY, JOEY, BUT SOMETIMES KEEPIN' YOUR MOUTH SHUT IS BETTER!"

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

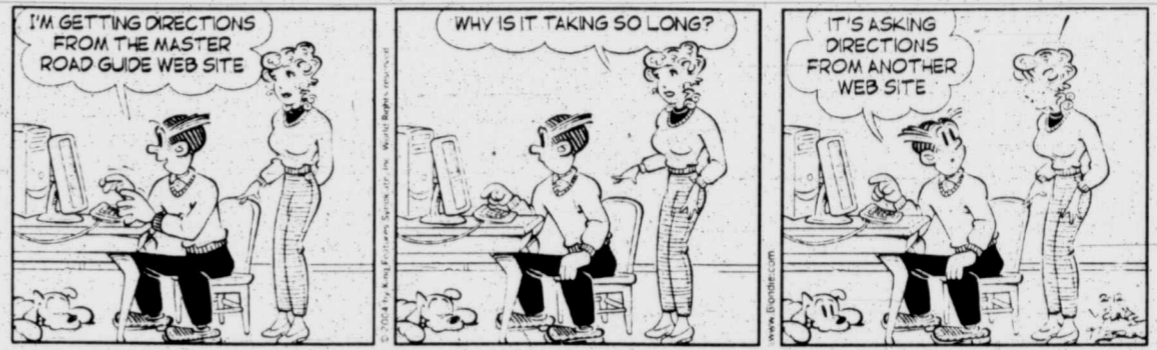


"Everybody come look! Daddy says he's gonna put on his thinking cap!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



dinosaur



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, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2004. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky.

On this date: In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1733, English colonists led by James Oglethorpe founded Savannah, Ga.

In 1870, women in the Utah Territory gained the right to vote.

In 1892, President Lincoln's birthday was

declared a national holiday.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington, D.C.

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" debuted on the Mutual network with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.

In 1968, "Soul on Ice" by Eldridge Cleaver was first published.

In 1973, the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

Ten years ago: President Clinton signed an \$8.6 billion relief package for victims of the Northridge earthquake in southern California. The 17th (XVII) Winter Olympic Games opened in Lillehammer, Norway.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is

81. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 78. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., is 74. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 70. Actor Joe Don Baker is 68. Rock musician Ray Manzarek (The Doors) is 65. Author Judy Blume is 66. Country singer Moe Bandy is 60. Actress Maud Adams is 59. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 59. Actor Michael Ironside is 54. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 54. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 52. Actress Joanna Kerns is 51. Actor-former talk show host Arsenio Hall is 49. Actress Christine Elise is 39. Actor Josh Brolin is 36. Singer Chynna Phillips is 36.

Answer to previous puzzle

LEHAR	THAW	HASH
ALIVE	RODE	ALUM
CIVIC	OWED	UTES
SEVENTENSPLIT		
DOS	LEM	
RICHES	STRUDELS	
ALOE	ROREM	TEA
COMMERCIALBREAK		
ESP	REPLY	ORNE
REENACTS	BOOSTS	
TAS	FOR	
GENERATIONGAP		
PINT	OXEN	ELLIS
ONCE	WERE	RULER
WAYS	SLID	YEARS

Newsday Crossword

FRONTIER DAY by Roslyn Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- 66 Is left hanging
- 67 Mike problem
- 68 Customs
- 69 Surrealist Max
- 70 Be certain of, with "on"

DOWN

- 1 Pal, for short
- 2 Temple leader
- 3 Strike caller
- 4 del Fuego
- 5 Do a kitchen chore
- 6 Constantly
- 7 Frisbee, e.g.
- 8 Rather distant
- 9 Soup server
- 10 Voice range
- 11 Pointed arch
- 12 Mineral deposits
- 13 Satire publication
- 21 Low card
- 22 Allow
- 26 Atlas islets
- 27 Clapton of rock
- 28 Musical units
- 30 Change décor
- 31 Agree to terms
- 32 Corn product
- 33 Some tennis shots
- 34 Rotunda topper
- 35 Surrounded by golf course
- 37 Half the
- 38 Opposite of sans
- 41 Pecan confections
- 42 First name in cosmetics
- 47 Persona grata
- 49 More flexible
- 51 Wide open
- 52 Stymie
- 54 Sibling's daughter
- 55 60 Minutes reporter
- 56 White cheese
- 57 Actor Calhoun
- 58 Rhine port
- 59 Tackles neighbors
- 60 Wildlife shelter
- 61 Just published
- 64 The Thin Man star

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

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