



**BIG
SPRING**

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

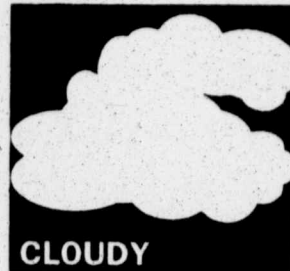
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

March 25, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
63°-64° 76°-78°

BRIEFLY

GOP convention set here Saturday

The Howard County Republican Convention will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Howard County District Courtroom in the District Court Annex. All Republicans are encouraged to attend. Speaker will be U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

Crusade to begin at Pentecostals

International evangelist Rev. Charles Mahaney will begin the Final Hour Prophecy Crusade tonight at 7:30 in the Pentecostals of Big Spring Church, 1004 Locust St. Tonight, Mahaney's message will be about rebuilding the Temple in Israel and the building of Zion. The crusade will continue Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, contact Michael Mahaney at 263-0050.

Readers needed for The Moving Wall

Volunteers are still needed to help with "The Moving Wall," which will be in Big Spring Saturday through April 2.

People are needed to read names of MIAs, POWs and KIAs from Texas.

To volunteer to read should call Vickie Osburn or Katy McKinney at 267-7828 beginning Monday.

As always, anyone who cannot volunteer but who would like to donate funds to help with the upkeep of the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial can send contributions to VMC, P.O. Box 2854, Big Spring,

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Vol. 100, No. 107

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

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

Snake, rattle and roll

Rattlesnake Roundup to strike this weekend

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Handling, milking, racing... it's a Wesst Texass tradition when it comes to the Rattlesnake Roundup.

The 42nd annual roundup slithers into the Howard County Fair Barns this weekend, with lots of activities planned.

"We going to have skinning demonstrations, milking demonstrations, live handling of snakes and snake races throughout the day," said Dennis Burns, Rattlesnake Roundup chairman.

One of the most popular events of the three-day roundup is the live snake-handling demonstrations where professional snake

ROUNDUP SCHEDULE

Friday

1 p.m., weigh-in

Saturday

10 a.m.-6 p.m., weigh-in
10 a.m.-6 p.m., arts and crafts show, outdoor flea market

10 a.m.-6 p.m., handling demonstrations, educational exhibitions, milking, races.

noon-6 p.m., skinning

Sunday

noon to 4 p.m., weigh-in
noon to 6 p.m., handling demonstrations, milking, skinning, races
noon to 6 p.m., arts and crafts show, outdoor flea market

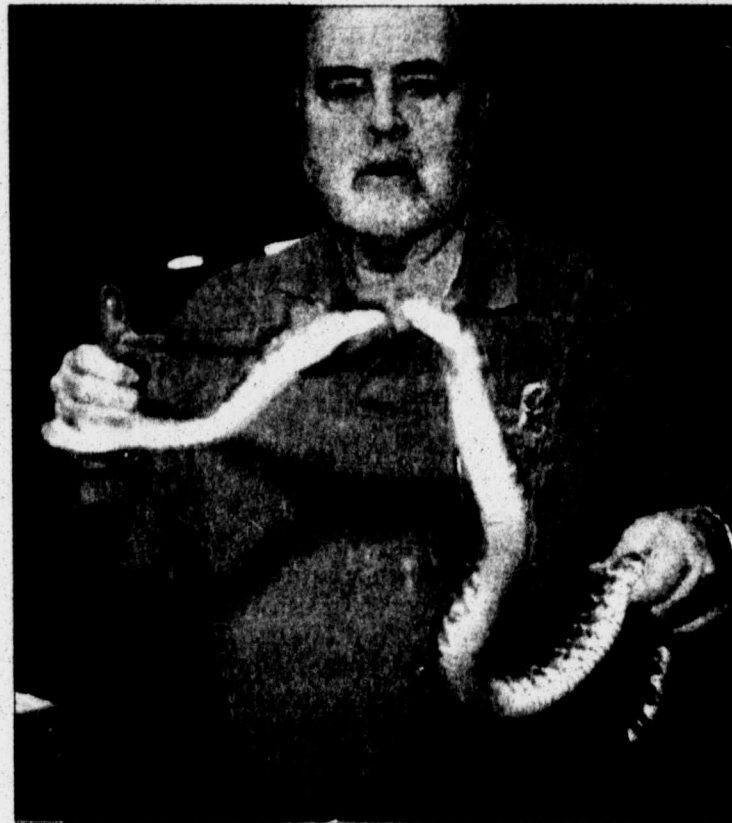
5 p.m., awards ceremony

handlers perform incredible stunts before the crowd and at the same time offer safety lessons on how to handle the poisonous reptiles.

"When you get these guys together, anything goes," said Monty Stallcop, professional snake handler. "They play baseball with the snakes. They'll get into a sleeping bag full of snakes."

"We have one snake handler who has several world titles for handling snakes," Stallcop continued.

"He does one trick where he holds five or six snakes in his mouth by their tails. He even kisses

See **SNAKES**, Page 3A

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Professional snake handler Monty Stallcop displays a diamondback rattlesnake. The 42nd Rattlesnake Round-up is set to strike this weekend at the Howard County Fair Barns. The event includes live snake handling demonstrations, educational exhibitions, snake skinning and races.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

As Mother Nature kicks Spring into full gear, flowers and blossoms of a variety of colors have been popping up all over the Crossroads area. The nice weather may be short lived, however, as the National Weather Service forecasts possible thunderstorms throughout the rest of the week and weekend. For more on the weather, see the weekly forecast on Page 2A.

Taxes

Penalties continue to grow for those who have not paid

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the April 15 federal tax filing deadline looms on the horizon much like a veil of doom, property owners that haven't paid their local taxes may find their 2003 bill ballooning beneath their feet.

Howard County Tax Assessor and Collector Kathy Sayles said penalties and interest on local taxes have been accruing since the first of February, and when you look at the average numbers, it can add up quickly.

"As of the first of February, penalties began being assessed to delinquent

See **TAXES**, Page 3A

"If you know your taxes are delinquent and have questions... you need to call our office."

Kathy Sayles,
tax collector

Carlisle, Thompson bringing concert to First Baptist Saturday

HERALD staff report

First Baptist Church of Big Spring will present "Butterfly Kisses" Bob Carlisle with Ed Thompson Live...In Concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are \$10 in advance from the Master's Touch or Displays of Splendor. Tickets can be reserved by calling the church at 267-8223.

Carlisle, a multi-Dove and Grammy award winner, provides a multi-media concert for the entire family.

"I've known for a couple of years now that God is opening a new chapter in my life, but I didn't know what direction it would take me in," said Carlisle.

"I knew I had to be prepared for it though, because I knew it was going to be pretty

involved. 'Butterfly Kisses' was the platform given to me so that I might have a chance to minister to the hearts of people even more."

"...when people listen to my songs, hopefully they can find some healing."

Bob Carlisle

"Butterfly Kisses" is a song Carlisle wrote for his daughter. It received a Dove Award (1997 Song of the Year) and a Grammy (1998 Best Country Song).

The concert, sponsored by First Baptist Church of Big Spring and the ministry of LOGOI, a mission organization focused on helping Spanish pastors in Latin America

and Cuba, will also feature Christian comedienne Ed Thompson.

Known for his zany "Ed-ertainment" comedy, Thompson said hardly anyone knows this, but I'm really quite famous.

"To my wife's chagrin, I'm often remembered most for my infamous trumpet duet, with myself," Thompson said.

A past winner of the nationwide Christian Artists Seminar and Talent Competition in Colorado, Thompson started as a serious musical artist.

Today, Thompson, his wife Jennifer, and their "three extremely active, athletic and good-looking kids" live in Miami, Fla. 'along with a dog, a cat who ran away and a hermit crab living somewhere under our kitchen

See **CONCERT**, Page 3A

Forsan one-act cast to present 'Our Hearts' on stage tonight

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The Forsan High School one-act cast will present a public performance of its contest play "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," at 7:30 p.m. today.

Set in 1923 aboard a cruise ship, the play revolves around two 19-year-old girls Cornelia Skinner and Emily Kimbrogh played by Keisha Christen and

Rachel Clinton who are heading to Europe.

"They get into some crazy situations," said Director Jim Rhodes. "They meet a number of mad-cap characters."

Rounding out the main cast are Skinner's parents, played by Abby Janca and Jonathan Moore.

"I wanted to produce a comedy this year," Rhodes said. "I felt we had the cast to do this, and I like

period pieces."

The curtain rises for the 40-minute play at 7:30 tonight in the Forsan High School Auditorium.

Supporting cast members are Matt Posey, Jonathan Gomez, Cory Reyna, Tim Ballard, Crystal McNew, Ruth Kaelin and Kyle Briggs.

Crew members are Candis Snowden, Casi Graves, AaRika Thixton and Levi Johnson. Jeremy Higginbotham serves as

the assistant director.

The one-act cast will take the performance to University Interscholastic League contest Saturday at Crane High School. Also competing will be Coahoma, Seagraves, Colorado City, Stanton and Crane high schools.

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

Obituaries

Jackie Dale Thomason



Jackie Dale Thomason, 71, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 22, 2004, at the V.A. Medical Center in Albuquerque, N. M., following a long illness. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. today, March 25, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel with John Doll officiating.

He was born Oct. 13, 1932, in Coke County. He was the son of Rodney Willard Thomason and Stella Mae Calder Thomason. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

He had worked as a lineman electrician for oil companies and also owned and operated College Park 66 Service Station. He later went to work at Harris Lumber and Hardware.

He married Lola Mae Fowler Aug. 18, 1972, in Sanderson. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1972.

He is survived by his wife, Lola Mae Thomason of Big Spring; his children, Shirley and Ray Borders of Cedartown, Ga., Marvin and Betty Gross of Big Spring, Tonya McDonald of Atlanta, Ga., Angie Mathews, of Temple, Ruth Simpson and Billy Don Thomason, both of Pecos; grandchildren, Sharee Kurimski and Donnie and Beth Borders all of Cedartown, Ga., Betsy and Tommy Vaughn of Odessa, Tammie Gross of Big Spring, Julie and J. J. Thompson of Stanton, Marvin Gross and Katie Gross, both of Big Spring, Lacy Bogart, Devin Mathews, and Anthony Pearson, all of Temple; great grandchildren, Sean Borders, Cody Summerlin, Aimee Hebert and Katelynn Borders, all of Cedartown, Ga., Kari Dawn Gross and Baylea Gross, both of Big Spring, Brittney Vaughn and Caden Vaughn, both of Odessa; one brother-in-law, Alvin Atnipp of San Angelo and one sister-in-law, Ellen Thomason of Coahoma.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Bennie Willard Thomason and sister, Norma Jean Atnipp.

The family will be at 106 Lincoln Ave. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.
paid obituary

Clara Canales

Clara Canales, 74, of Big Spring, died Thursday, March 25, 2004, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP is requesting donations of any household items, furniture, appliances, linens, cookware and dishes to be distributed to the needy in Big Spring. Items will be picked up. Please call 263-5683 and leave a message.

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.

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.

Police blotter

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

- ROBERT DIAZ, 21, of 1111 Ridgeroad, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault/family violence.
- JOYCE JENNINGS, 20, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- SHARIKA GATEWOOD, 26, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
 - in the 500 block of 13th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Lancaster.
 - in the 1000 block of Goliad.
 - in the 3600 block of Hamilton.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 3200 block of Duke.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT was reported in the 3700 block of Connally.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore.
- FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- ERIC MITCHELL, 46, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a parole violation.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the area of North Highway 87.
- THEFT was reported in the 5300 block of Longshore.

Support groups

THURSDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet only on the second Thursday of the month at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The group will no long meet weekly.

Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 North Highway 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY
AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m

MONDAY
Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.
 - Arts, Crafts and Quilting Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main at 500 S. Main St.
 - "Life After Loss," a grief support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, meets from 6-8 p.m. for the next six weeks at Home Hospice, 600 S. Gregg St. Registration is required. For more information contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 - Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

- FRIDAY
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant
 - Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Country and Western Dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 15-17-18-20-37. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$39,993. Winning tickets sold in: Mesquite. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-12-18-25. Bonus Ball: 17. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$15 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-6

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Reflecting A Proud Community

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(Fax) 432-264-7205

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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. A 10 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.
Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

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12:00 -Hawk Baseball vs. Midland honoring Alon employees and retirees
12:45 Dedication of FOUNDATION FIELD
1:00 - Lady Hawk Softball vs. Midland honoring Dora Roberts Foundation

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Forsan School District up its Intercho District 3 academic The m scheduled the School/Ju ing, w because weather. "We've some of

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Friend U.S. Ar Shay H holding party for p.m. Tue side of

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TAXI
Continued taxes." penaltie go up t July, w assesce penaltie and an cent for "Base bers we tive tax value of which r taxChil that's fe lege, ci someone that an quest penaltie it rema the wa penaltie so it ca Sayle will 1

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Forsan to complete UIL elementary academic meet Friday at church

HERALD Staff Report

Forsan Independent School District will wrap up its University Interscholastic League District 3-2A elementary academic meet Friday.

The meet, originally scheduled for Feb. 12 at the Forsan High School/Junior High building, was postponed because of inclement weather.

"We've been holding some of the contests at

the school campuses," said Elbow Elementary Principal Randy Johnson. "We will culminate competition Friday with the speaking events."

The competition will be held at Forsan Baptist Church and feature the second and third grade story-telling competition and the fourth and fifth grade oral reading events.

Students from Coahoma, Colorado City, Crane, Seagraves, Stanton and Forsan will be competing.

Veteran to be welcomed home

Friends and family of U.S. Army Cpt. Jacky Shay Howard will be holding a welcome home party for the Ranger at 6 p.m. Tuesday, on the east side of the Howard

County Courthouse. Howard has been in Iraq serving as the commander of the Delta Battery 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment for the past year.

BRIEFS

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Sixty prominent Palestinian officials and intellectuals on Thursday urged the public to refrain from retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hamas' founder, saying it would ignite a new round of bloodshed that would only hurt Palestinian aspirations for independence.

The half-page advertisement in the PLO's Al-Ayyam newspaper called on Palestinians to lay down their arms and turn to peaceful means of protest to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The ad reflected growing sentiment among many Palestinian leaders and intellectuals that military struggle is not helping the Palestinian cause. Thousands of Palestinians have died during 3 1/2 years of fighting with Israel. Similar calls in the past have had little impact on public opinion, and Thursday's ad was greeted with little enthusiasm by ordinary Palestinians.

Hamas' founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, was killed in an Israeli air strike on Monday, prompting an unprecedented outpouring of outrage on Palestinian streets. Hamas has

promised to strike back, saying even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is a target.

LINCOLN, Ill. (AP) — Abraham Lincoln's ties to Illinois already are honored on everything from state license plates to commemorative quarters, but a small-town group is working on an even bigger tribute.

A 305-foot monument of Lincoln — as tall as the Statue of Liberty — has been proposed in this namesake city of about 15,000 people.

Supporters think the \$40 million statue could ultimately anchor a massive theme park blending historical exhibits with rides, restaurants and other attractions.

"If we get the money, I think you'll see it go and I think you'll see it become one of the biggest tourist attractions in America," said the Rev. S.M. Davis, a Lincoln pastor who first suggested the monument.

The idea has met skepticism in Lincoln, where some townspeople worry that the statue, which would be visible for about 20 miles, might be in bad taste. Others question whether the rural area could pull off a project so big that organizers predict it could double Lincoln's population within five years.

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A



CARLISLE

sink." Along with Thompson's comedy, Carlisle's music carries a personal, family theme, and his songs are written from life.

"At the heart of it, I'm a blue collar songwriter. So when people listen to my songs, hopefully they can find some healing. I'm writing songs once again that deal with the nuts and bolts issues for people, their hearts and their daily agonies," Carlisle said.

For more information, contact First Baptist Church at 267-8223.

SNAKES

Continued from Page 1A

a cobra."

And then there are the snakes — lots and lots of snakes.

"We estimate we'll purchase around 2,000 pounds of snakes," said

Ray Alexander, AMBUCS treasurer. "We'll slaughter about 200 for cooking and then the rest are sold to handlers that process the snake. They'll sell the skins for belts and boots. They'll sell the meat and sell the rattlers for key chains. They freeze some of the smaller snakes and then mount them in

poses." Even the snake's poisonous venom is put to use, Alexander said.

"We have a guy who milks the venom and then uses it for research purposes," he said.

Money raised from the roundup goes toward scholarships and charitable programs supported

by the roundup's sponsor, the American Business Club of Big Spring. Super 8 Motel also sponsors the event.

Friday marks the first day of the roundup with snake weigh-in from 1 to 5 p.m., but activities jump into full gear Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. with live demonstrations, edu-

national exhibitions and races. The doors close at 6 p.m.

The event continues Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age 4 through 11.

An arts and craft show will also be held at the Fair Barns in conjunction

with the roundup. The arts and craft show is free to the public.

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

taxes," said Sayles. "The penalties will continue to go up until the first of July, when they will be assessed at 18 percent for penalties and interest, and an additional 15 percent for attorney fees.

"Based on the 2003 numbers we use for the effective tax rate, the average value of a home is \$33,314, which makes the average tax bill about \$520, and that's for the county, college, city and schools. If someone with a tax bill at that amount were delinquent right now, the penalty would be \$57.23. If it remains delinquent all the way to July 1, the penalty will jump \$185.72, so it can add up fast."

Sayles said her office will be sending out

notices to delinquent taxpayers in May, but for those that aren't sure where they stand now, help is only a phone call away.

"I will be mailing out notices on the first of May letting people know their taxes are delinquent," she explained. "The information on the back of the mail out explains where the 15 percent being assessed for attorney fees goes."

"If you know your taxes are delinquent and have questions, or if you haven't received your bill

and you think you should have received one, you need to call our office. The penalties will increase again by 2 percent on April 1, bringing it to a total of 11 percent. On May 1, it will go up again, making it 13 percent, and then again in June for 15 percent."

As always, Sayles said it's better to be sure your taxes are up to date than to get that ominous note from her office through the mail.

"Some individuals don't have to pay taxes because their homestead exemp-

tion takes care of it, but it certainly doesn't hurt to call and make sure everything is in line," she said.

Sayles said tax collections are moving along the normal pace for this time of the year.

"For the county and college collections, we had 94 percent of the 2003 taxes in and paid as of the end of February," she said. "That's a pretty good percentage. On average, about 3 percent to 4 percent of the taxes go delinquent every July, so we expect to pick up some more collections between

now and June. A lot of it just depends on how the people decide to pay it.

"Once taxes become delinquent in July, there's an option to make payments on their balance. It doesn't stop the penalties and interest from accruing each month, but it's an option."

For more information on your local taxes, contact Sayles at 264-2232.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Long awaited, the Moving Wall will be here Saturday

It's coming. The Moving Wall, eagerly anticipated for several years now, will be arriving in Big Spring this week and be on display beginning Saturday morning.

Most of us know what The Moving Wall is and what it represents. But our world keeps moving on, and time along with it. So for those born in the last three decades, we'll explain that The Moving Wall is a half-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. — a memorial to honor those Americans who were killed in the Vietnam War.

The Moving Wall was constructed in 1984 through the efforts of John Devitt. An out-of-work Vietnam veteran, Devitt had to borrow money from family and friends to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington in 1982. He was so moved by the experience that he vowed to share it with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington. Since then, The Moving Wall has appeared in more than 400 communities across the United States, drawing hundreds and even thousands of visitors at each location.

The Moving Wall has not only stirred emotions; it is the reason for one of our community's most poignant undertakings. The Wall came to our city in 1987 and its influence led to the construction of the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial.

Opening ceremonies for The Moving Wall will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday. From that moment, the Wall will be available for visitors 24 hours a day through noon, April 2. Guides will be on hand to help individuals find the name of a loved one, a friend or a fellow veteran who died serving this country. There is absolutely no admission fee.

We hope you'll be able to make your way to the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial grounds to visit The Moving Wall. It is an emotional experience, whether you served or not.

We realize that for some, it might bring back memories you aren't ready to face. We respect that.

For others, it's an opportunity for healing. For all of us, it's an opportunity to pay our respects, and whisper a "thank you" for a job well done.

"If you are able, save for them a place inside of you and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go."

Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always. Take what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own.

And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

Major Michael Davis O'Donnell
1 January 1970
Dak To, Vietnam
Listed as killed in action Feb. 7, 1978

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.
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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Israel's Osama: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

Imagine a world in which Osama bin Laden was free not only to order murderous attacks on American civilians and other targets with impunity but to be carried through the streets by adoring crowds and hailed everywhere as a "spiritual leader." Such was Israel's world until Monday, when its soldiers killed Israel's Osama bin Laden: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the terrorist organization Hamas.

For years, Yassin was able to order young men to murder Jews by blowing themselves up on buses, in crowded restaurants and markets, and most recently, at a port near Gaza, home to Yassin and his homicidal minions. Since September 2000 alone, Hamas has killed 377 Israelis and injured more than 2,000 others. After each attack for which Hamas has claimed responsibility, Yassin could be seen celebrating the deaths as he was paraded through the streets of Gaza aloft in his wheelchair, to which he has been confined since a sporting accident in his youth.

No one — certainly not his bloodthirsty followers — doubted Yassin's role in Hamas' campaign of terror. Yet Israel was supposed to sit by and watch its mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren torn apart by nail-laden explosives detonated by Yassin's troops, while he remained free to incite and order more killings.

World leaders have been nearly

unanimous in their condemnation of Israel's actions. British foreign secretary Jack Straw said the killing of Yassin was "unacceptable, it's unjustified, and it's very unlikely to achieve its objective."

"Such actions are not only contrary to international law, but they do not do anything to help the search for a peaceful solution," chimed in U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak called the killing "regrettable and cowardly," while Jordan's King Abdullah called it a "criminal act."

Even the White House weighed in with criticism, though mild in comparison to other governments. "We are deeply troubled," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said shortly after the killing.

Instead of criticism, the White House ought to be defending Israel. Why is Israel always held to a higher standard of restraint than any other nation in the world? Would we exercise the same self-control if Osama were in plain view and we could take him out with relatively little collateral loss of life? Exactly how many innocent Israelis must die before Israel is allowed to retaliate against the terrorist perpetrators?

Much of the blame for the decision to go after Yassin has been directed at Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, as if he were some demented outlaw. But Israel's Cabinet approved the decision, and Israelis themselves overwhelmingly support the action. According to a poll published in the daily newspaper Yediot Ahronot, 60 percent of Israelis approved of Yassin's killing. And why not? Yassin was no "spiritual

leader," the term almost universally used to describe him in the press worldwide. His spiritual direction amounted to nothing more than promising glibly young Palestinians a place in paradise if they would shed the blood of Jews.

Israel cannot end the terrorism directed at it by killing one man, any more than we can prevent future attacks on the United States by killing Osama bin Laden. But Israel was right to kill Yassin, just as we would be right to kill Osama if we were lucky enough to catch him in our crosshairs. The Israelis have already made clear that Yassin is not their only target.

Palestinian terrorists have launched war against Israel. They have promised to annihilate Israel and drive its people into the sea. Israel has no choice but to take these terrorists at their word and to hunt them down and kill them. To expect anything else of Israel would not only be hypocritical, but would be to condemn its people to certain extinction.

George W. Bush told the world that "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." On Tuesday, he reiterated Israel's "right to defend herself from terror." It should leave no doubt that his administration stands with Israel in its fight to defeat the terrorists, even if it means hunting them down one by one.

To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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LINDA CHAVEZ

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Ominous trend in war on terrorism

George Friedman, who runs the Stratfor private intelligence service, spotted a change in al Qaeda's outlook over the past year. The Islamist terrorist organization, which previously treated George W. Bush as largely irrelevant to its global designs, now has zeroed in on the president. Combining that change with the terrorist triumph in Spain points to an ominous trend in the war on terrorism — and in the U.S. presidential election.

Failure of the Arab "street" to rise in response to the U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq has led to questions in the Arab world about al Qaeda's relevance. The coordinated attack on Madrid commuter trains showed al Qaeda still can create havoc. However, the global significance is the electoral defeat of Spain's conservative party. Headed for victory against the weak socialist opposition, the popular regime was voted out after the terrorist attack because it sent troops to Iraq.

Al Qaeda's regeneration points to the risk of suffering Spain's fate for any government joining forces with President Bush. But Friedman believes the ultimate target is Bush himself, predicting an attempted use of terror to defeat him in November. And that intent puts Sen. John Kerry in an uncomfortable posture.

Kerry's claim that unnamed foreign leaders told him they hoped for Bush's defeat is regarded in Democratic circles as the senator's first major blunder as prospective

nominee. He cannot say who these leaders are, but the Bush-Cheney campaign has pointed to two overseas Kerry boosters that the senator did not have in mind: Kim Jong Il, North Korea's communist dictator, and Jose Luis Zapatero, Spain's socialist prime minister-elect.

Kim's propaganda machine lately has taken to boosting Kerry and playing the American's speeches on state radio, but that was no surprise to Japanese contacts who weeks ago were told of "Dear Leader's" preference. Zapatero stunned Spanish Foreign Ministry professionals Wednesday by noting with approval that "the Americans will do it (change governments as Spain did) if things continue as they are in Kerry's favor." The foreigner whose approbation Kerry surely disdains is Osama bin Laden, but counter-terrorism experts say the U.S. election has become an al Qaeda priority.

After last week's stunning Spanish election, a Stratfor report said, "given the use of planted explosives in Madrid rather than suicide bombers, al Qaeda is likely planning to carry on with this tactic, particularly given the tremendous success of the operation in Spain." Britain, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and Australia were listed as U.S.-aligned nations risking the Spanish punishment. Stratfor added: "A wave of attacks in those countries against soft targets... could shift the global balance."

A new al Qaeda strategy twist was hinted last Thursday when the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, which claimed responsibility for the Madrid bombings, offered a cease-fire if Spanish troops actually leave Iraq as promised by Zapatero. That first known possi-

ble al Qaeda offer to negotiate with the West pressures weak European governments who might prefer appeasement to the fate of Spain.

However, in Friedman's opinion, al Qaeda's big target will be the United States. He sees an attack earlier (in the summer) rather than later (in the autumn), when it might boost Bush's re-election chances. "The grand prize," said a Stratfor report, "would be triggering an election defeat for Bush — something that clearly would demonstrate the group's influence over Western powers."

The reaction from the left wing of the Democratic Party was sounded by Howard Dean, clinging to his national platform weeks after his presidential campaign collapsed. Feckless as ever, Dean said Bush "was the one who dragged our troops to Iraq, which apparently has been a factor in the death of 200 Spaniards over the weekend." Kerry, clearly appalled, was succinct in his reaction to Dean: "It's not our position."

Kerry is an experienced politician who has been uncharacteristically reckless in the euphoria of his party victory. He is sailing dangerous waters, supported by rogue dictators and leftist opportunists around the world and risking rejection at home. Climaxing over three centuries of defeat and decline on the world stage, Spaniards bowed to terrorism when they voted. Americans are considerably less likely to make that choice.

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

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ROBERT NOVAK

M3

BMW's performance-packed convertible

Some weeks, it's pretty cool being me.

Not always, mind you, but when you're forced to spend the week behind the wheel of a performance-oriented convertible, being cool just comes with the keys.

I absolutely loved my one-week test drive in the 2003 BMW M3 convertible, designed and engineered by BMW's M high-performance racing division.

The M3 is an awesome vehicle, and one of the best convertibles on the road today.

And yes, it even has "a" cupholder that will accommodate my Big Slam Pepsi bottle.

The best part was putting the top down and cranking up the premium Alpine sound system and hitting the open road.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how easy it is to lower and raise the convertible top. All you have to do is press one

button. No levers to flip, no storage lids to pull up and snap down. Just one button and a few seconds. (While easy to operate, you should avoid lowering and raising the top with passengers in the back seat).

And yes, the M3 is a blast to drive.

Powered by a 24-valve I-6 engine (333 horsepower/262 lbs.-ft. torque), this rear-wheel drive ragtop is designed for the driving enthusiast.

The high-performance engine come with high pressure double variable

cam shaft control for stepless variable intake and exhaust valve timing, and individual, electronically controlled throttle body for each cylinder.

In layman's terms, it's fast, efficient and flawless.

M vehicles also feature Dynamic Stability Control, designed for comprehensive traction control and stability during



The 2003 BMW M3 convertible. Cupholder included.

ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

high-performance driving.

The Getrag six-speed manual transmission is a honey, making a Sunday drive in the country an experience to remember.

For those who don't enjoy winding out the gears, BMW also offers a six-speed sequential shifter driver controlled automatic transmission (\$2,400 option).

As you would expect with any luxury vehicle, the BMW M3 convertible comes loaded with upscale amenities, including rain-sensing windshield wipers and automatic headlights, in-dash CD player, Nappa leather upholstery, and 10-way power sport seats, just to name a few.

The only negative comment that I can make about the M3 is they only

let me drive it for a week.

This is one vehicle I felt needed a much longer evaluation period — like maybe a year or two. It really is enjoyable — for every day driving to and from work, and the few opportunities I had to put the top down and drive just for the fun of it.

For those in the market for a luxury convertible, the M3 needs to be on your test drive list.

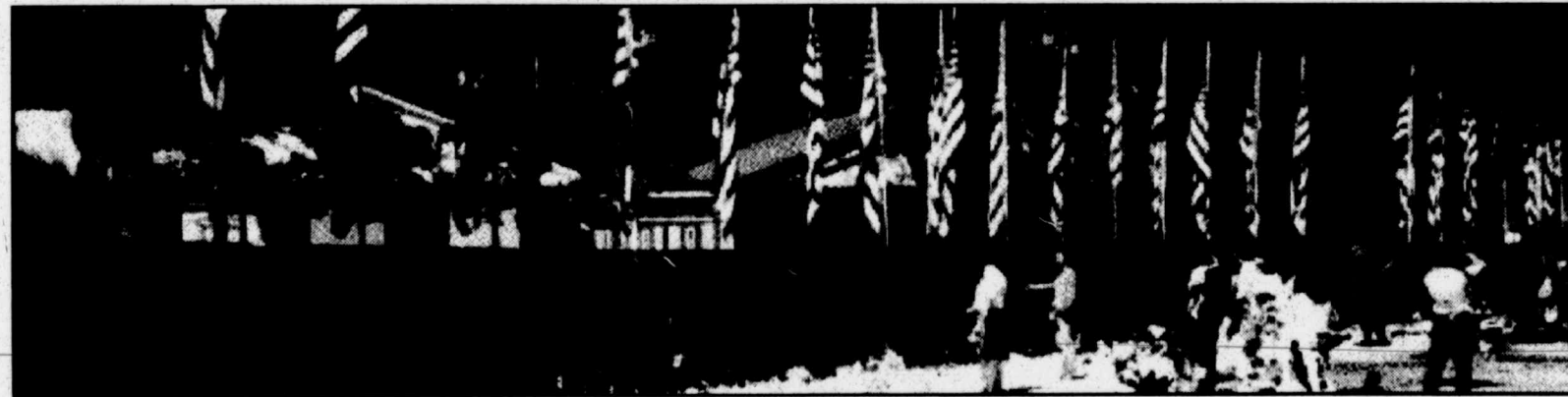
Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 10 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

MODEL:
2003 BMW M3
High-performance/luxury convertible
Rear-wheel drive
4-passenger seating
PRICE RANGE:
\$56,000 - \$63,000
ENGINE:
3.2-L I-6 (333 hp)
TRANSMISSION:
6-speed manual
6-speed auto with manual shift
0-60 mph: 5.4 seconds
TOP SPEED: 155 mph
EPA: 16 mph city/23 highway
BRAKES: Power vented disc
STEERING:
Engine speed sensitive rack-and-pinion
SUSPENSION:
BMW sport suspension system
LENGTH:
176.9 inches

WHEELBASE:
107.5 inches
WEIGHT:
3,781 pounds
WIDTH: 70.1 inches
HEIGHT: 53.9 inches
TIRES: 18-inch 19-inch (opt.)
FUEL TANK: 16.6 gallons
FUEL: Premium unleaded
CARGO CAP:
7.7 cubic feet
WARRANTY: 4-year/50,000-mile limited warranty with roadside assistance and BMW's full maintenance program.
SAFETY: Two-stage front airbags, height-adjustable safety belts, rollover protection system, front seat side airbags, battery safety terminal, central locking.
OPTIONAL: Automatic temperature control, tilt steering column, 6-way power seats.

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That's Racin'

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

All eyes on Bristol

Race spotters can't afford to blink at the Tennessee track

By DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If you're a NASCAR fan who can't take your eyes off the action at Bristol Motor Speedway, think about what it must be like to be a spotter for a driver at the track that features stock-car racing's quickest laps.

"The most amazing thing about Bristol is that nothing is more than 15 seconds away from where your car is," said Brett Griffin, who spots for Elliott Sadler's No. 38 Nextel Cup Ford. "At another track, if something happens a half a lap in front of him he's got time to react. At Bristol, if something happens five car-lengths behind him he needs to know about it as soon as it happens."

For the 43 sets of eyes in the sky who'll be working Sunday's Food City 500, Bristol offers unique challenges.

There's no problem seeing everything at the 0.533-mile track from their perch atop the luxury suites near the end of Turn 1. But seeing and reacting at a place where laps are run in about 15 seconds is another matter.

"Bristol is my least favorite track that we go to, and it's my favorite track we go to," said Mike Calinoff, who spots for Matt Kenseth. "It's like fighter jets flying in a bowl. There can be a wreck in Turn 1 and your driver can be in Turn 2 and there's still a chance he's going to get into it."

"You have to be on your toes all of the time. You have to think quick and talk fast. You have tenths of second to make decisions. There's no room for error because it's so tight, but I really get to work the hardest and that pumps my adrenaline up. It gives my job more significance."

Griffin said he also likes Bristol for all of



Ricky Craven recovers from a wreck in a 2001 race at Bristol Motor Speedway. Bristol has a reputation of being a tough place to race.

Bristol Motor Speedway

- Distance: 0.533 miles
- Degree of banking:
 - Turns: 36 degrees
 - Straights: 16 degrees
- Race record: Charlie Glotzbach, 101.074 mph, 2 hours, 38 minutes, 12 seconds.

Track diagram



those reasons.

"There's something going on all of the time; you don't get a break," he said. "You go to someplace like Atlanta or Las Vegas or California and those guys get spread out. That can lull you to sleep. They get 40 or 50 car-lengths apart and nothing's going on and you're just looking out in front of them."

"At Bristol, somebody's getting hit and knocked sideways on almost every lap. I work hard at Martinsville (Va.), and also at Daytona and Talladega (Ala.). It's the biggest tracks and the smallest tracks. But nothing compares to Bristol."

Retired driver Buddy Baker, who spots for Ryan Newman, said that when something happens at Bristol a spotter has to do as much predicting as reacting.

"You have to remember where the wreck started and guess where they're going to end up," Baker said. "Ninety percent of the time you just tell your guy to go low — or lower. There's only one place to go and that's the bottom of the racetrack."

Nearly 175,000 people come to Cup races at Bristol, but the spotters say they almost feel isolated.

"We're like 15 or 20 stories up there and you don't even feel like you're at a racetrack," Griffin said. "You feel like you're at a national championship college football game or something with the wave going around and the fans and everybody sitting right on top of the track."

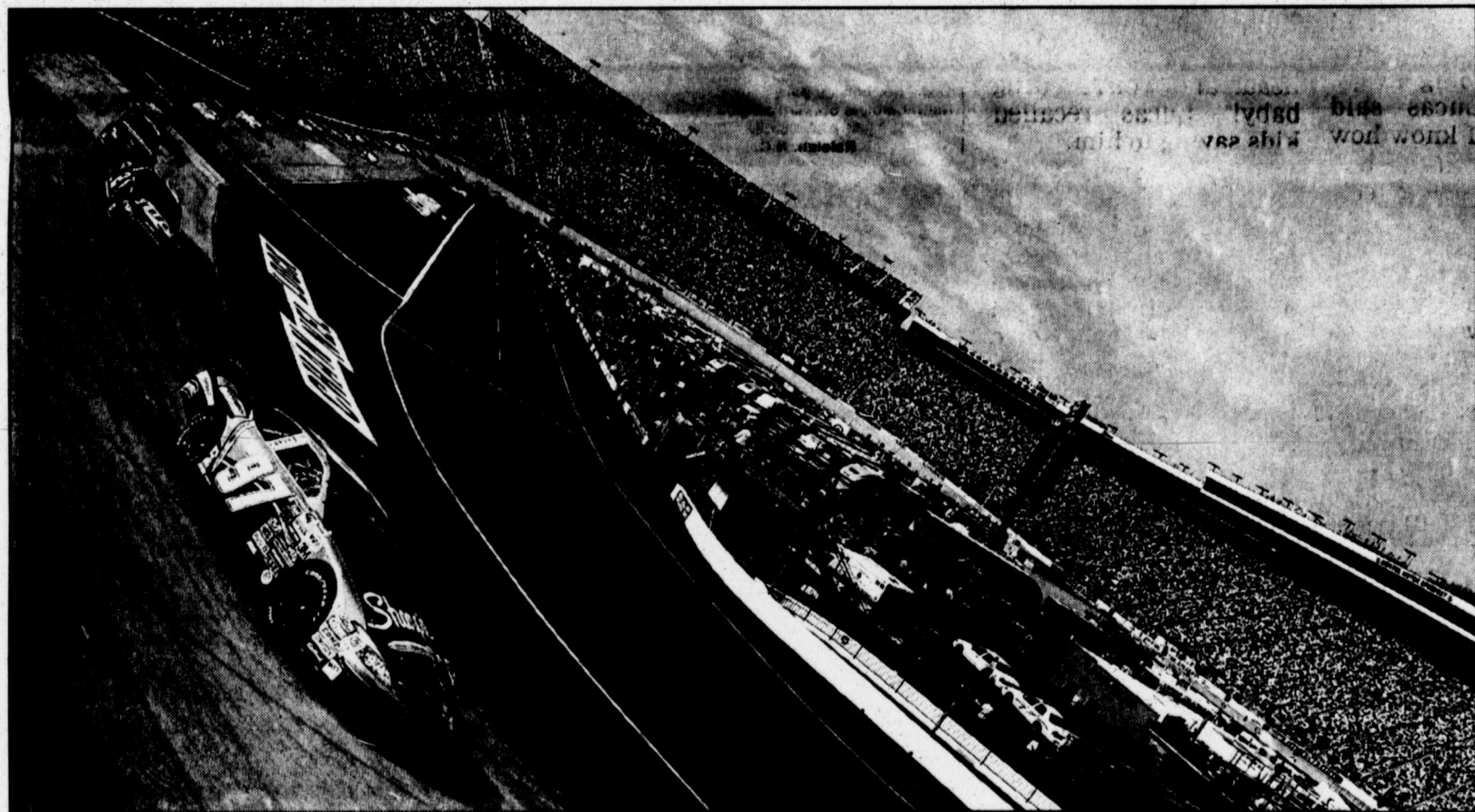
"Sometimes, though, you will hear the crowd react to something because it's so loud. The crowd can help you spot there because they make noise about something."

Griffin said another key element of spotting at Bristol is knowing the other guys on that roof with you.

"You have to trust the other spotters," he said. "If I know the guy running behind Elliott doesn't have a great spotter, I won't tell Elliott there's a wreck immediately because he'll back out and the guy behind him hasn't been told yet and will run over him."

Sometimes, Baker said, things happen too quickly and there's nothing even the best spotter can do.

"It's nerve-wracking," he said. "Something happens and they're in it before you can say anything. That's when the (driver) comes on the radio and says, 'Thanks a lot for telling me.'"



Nearly 175,000 people attend Nextel Cup races at Bristol Motor Speedway. The 0.533-mile track has been hosting Cup races since 1961.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

- Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Noses back to top spot by salvaging a top-10 finish on day they weren't great at Darlington. Last week: 2.
- Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** For once, this team wasn't able to pull a good finish out of its hat on a tough

day. Last week: 1.

3. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Pit crew stepped up when it counted, then Johnson brought home Darlington win. Last week: 5.

4. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Blew a tire and spun, then got hit and spun but never hit the wall. Impressive. Last week: 4.

5. Tony Stewart (car No. 14): Doesn't have the exclusive right to put his car anywhere he wants to on

the racetrack. Last week: 3.

6. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Fought back admirably at Darlington after driver made mistake coming onto pit road. Last week: 6.

7. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): He swept Bristol's races last year and has won three of the past four Cup events there. Last week: 7.

8. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Richard Childress Racing put two cars in Darlington top eight. Time to

build on that. Last week: 10.

9. Bobby Labonte (car No. 18): There's not much doubt he would've won last Sunday if last caution hadn't come out. Last week: 13.

10. Mark Martin (car No. 6): Building momentum with fifth at Vegas, seventh at Darlington in past three weeks. Last week: 11.

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

Sources say settlement a possibility in Ferko case

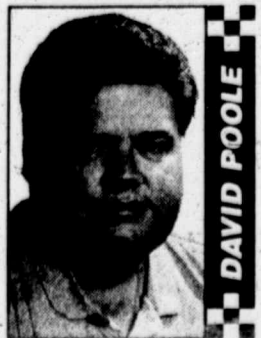
Settlement negotiations in a lawsuit over a second Nextel Cup date for Texas Motor Speedway have potentially major ramifications for two tracks in the Carolinas. The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer has learned.

A source close to talks in a suit against NASCAR by two Speedway Motorsports Inc. shareholders said Monday a settlement could result in International Speedway Corp. selling both North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham and Darlington (S.C.) Raceway to SMI.

If such a deal were made, two of three remaining Cup dates from Rockingham and Darlington would move — one to Texas Motor Speedway and the other to Las Vegas Motor Speedway, giving those SMI-owned tracks two dates each per season. The other date would alternate

between Rockingham and Darlington, with the Nextel Cup, Busch and Truck series racing at Rockingham one year then at Darlington the next.

"I am aware of the (settlement)



DAVID POOLE

talks," SMI chairman Bruton Smith said Monday. "I think that they have been going on for about two months, and they're further down the road than they ever have been. But there will have to be a written agreement among all of the attorneys before there's any done deal."

Smith said that in his mind any settlement of the suit would have to include a second Cup date for Texas. "That's certainly the key to it, that's why it was filed," he said.

Smith said, however, he doesn't consider the NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge at Lowe's Motor Speedway to be a bargaining chip in the settlement talks.

"The all-star race needs to stay where it is," Smith said. "Everyone connected with the sport should stand back and say, 'Thank goodness we have the biggest all-star event of all sports.' Then we should just settle in and see if we can make it bigger."

With races at SMI-owned Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway and Texas scheduled for the next two weekends, increased speculation about the lawsuit filed in Texas by SMI shareholders Francis Ferko and Rusty Vaughn seems inevitable.

The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday that its sources said the "sides are close to reaching an out-of-court settlement."

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter told the Dallas newspaper "there are some things on the table," and "the

process is in place," while Sam Cherry, Vaughn's attorney said, "All I can tell you is we are comfortable with where things are headed."

The lawsuit, filed two years ago by Ferko and later joined by Vaughn, seeks damages from NASCAR for reneging on a promise to give the Texas track a Cup race date to accompany one moved to the track after Smith bought 50 percent interest in a track in North Wilkesboro, N.C. It also alleges that NASCAR's relationship with ISC violates federal antitrust regulations.

NASCAR denies that a second Cup date has ever been promised to Texas and that SMI has benefited from the manner in which NASCAR has run the sport.

Officials with both companies have given depositions in the case, which is currently scheduled for trial in July in Sherman, Texas.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

FOOD CITY 500

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

When: Sunday at 1 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 3:10 p.m. Friday.

TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,292,816.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Also this week: Nextel Cup driver Kevin Harvick continues to lead the NASCAR Busch Series standings entering Saturday's Sharpie Professional 250 at Bristol. He has three series wins and two poles at the track. David Green is the highest series regular in points, 26 behind Harvick. The NASCAR Truck series is off until April 17 at Martinsville, Va.



Busch

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

A potential lawsuit settlement in Texas could mean two fewer races in the Carolinas. Darlington and Rockingham would share one race, with each track running every other year. What's the right thing to do?

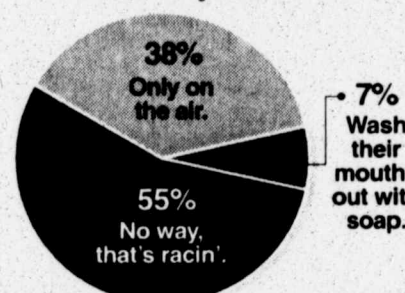
Cast your vote at:

www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Should NASCAR fine drivers for using profanity in media interviews or on their in-car radios?

Number of votes: 9,436



STOP 'N' GO

A LOOK AT BRISTOL

Stats to be aware of as the Nextel Cup circuit stops at Bristol Motor Speedway:

■ Three drivers have top-10 finishes in each of the past four races at Bristol: Kurt Busch, Kevin Harvick and Matt Kenseth.

■ Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin lead all active drivers with seven poles each. Wallace leads all active drivers with nine victories.

■ Terry Labonte leads all active drivers with 33 top-10 finishes races.

■ Jeff Gordon has a 5.18 starting average in 22 races, the best of active drivers.

■ Kevin Lepage (eight) and Harvick (six) are the only active drivers with five or more starts who have been running at the end of every race.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of March 21:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. M. Kenseth (17)	743	21. T. Labonte (5)	529
2. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8)	722	22. D. Jarrett (88)	512
3. T. Stewart (20)	708	23. R. Wallace (2)	490
4. K. Busch (97)	687	24. R. Gordon (31)	468
5. K. Kahne (9)	679	25. J. Sauter (30)	455
6. J. Johnson (48)	665	26. B. Gaughan (77)	452
7. J. Mayfield (19)	652	27. J. Burton (99)	451
8. B. Labonte (18)	644	28. B. Vickers (25)	449
9. R. Newman (12)	637	29. R. Rudd (21)	428
10. E. Sadler (38)	636	30. K. Petty (45)	418
11. K. Harvick (29)	608	31. J. Green (43)	401
12. M. Martin (6)	583	32. R. Craven (32)	397
13. J. Gordon (24)	583	33. K. Schrader (49)	374
14. J. Nemechek (01)	568	34. S. Riggs (10)	373
15. W. Burton (22)	568	35. K. Lepage (4)	353
16. S. Martin (40)	562	36. D. Cope (50)	347
17. C. Meares (41)	551	37. M. Waltrip (15)	322
18. G. Biffle (16)	543	38. D. Blaney (23)	248
19. J. McMurray (42)	542	39. J. Andretti (1)	205
20. S. Wimmer (22)	531	40. K. Shalmerline (72)	160

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of March 20:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. K. Harvick	620	11. T. Fedewa	490
2. D. Green	594	12. K. Busch	472
3. M. Waltrip	578	13. R. Hornaday	464
4. M. Truex Jr.	550	14. M. Bliss	458
5. R. Gordon	543	15. K. Wallace	457
6. B. Hamilton Jr.	532	16. J. Leffler	427
7. J. Keller	531	17. K. Kahne	424
8. D. Stremme	525	18. A. Lewis	418
9. G. Biffle	513	19. C. Atwood	417
10. J. Sauter	507	20. S. Compton	403

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of March 13:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. T. Kvapil	340	6. S. Hmiel	276
2. C. Edwards	336	7. T. Cook	269
3. B. Hamilton	320	8. M. Skinner	264
4. D. Reutimann	313	9. C. Chaffin	262
5. D. Setzer	285	10. M. Crafton	261

NEXT RACE: April 17, Kroger 250, Martinsville, Va.

Sports

IN BRIEF

Umpires needed for upcoming season

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is currently seeking individuals interested in umpiring games.

Parties interested in umpiring should contact Francisco Ramirez at (432) 466-3670.

CGA to hold 4-person event on Sunday

The Chicano Gold Association will hold its 4-Person Select Drive event on Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Teen League slates registration

The Big Spring Teenage Baseball League is holding registration at All District Screen Printing, 1005 E. 11th Place, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The league is open to all area youth ages 13-16, with sign-up continuing through April 16. The signing fee is \$65 and includes a team cap and shirt. For more information, contact Stan Parker at 264-2570.

Girls softball try-outs slated

Big Spring Girls Softball Association try-outs will be held on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Texas Peloteros Bash coming in April

Texas Peloteros' April Fool's Bash softball tournament will be held April 3-4 in Big Spring. Entry fee is \$125. First through third team trophies and T-shirts and a fourth place team trophy will be awarded.

For information, contact Manuel and Edna Gonzales at 263-8219 or 432-816-6159 or Pete Carrillo at 432 816-1179.

Umpires needed for Little League season

Umpires are needed for the Little League baseball season. Anyone interested in working with youth should call Jason Hester, president of the big Spring Little League Umpires Association, at 264-7777, or Don Booth, vice president, at 263-6597.

Ragball tournament set for weekend

A ragball tournament designed as a benefit for this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life has been scheduled for Friday through Sunday at Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

Event organizers say they are still in need teams to register to compete in the tournament.

Teams must consist of five men and five women. Entry fees are set at \$10 per player.

Anyone interested in registering a team or wanting additional information can contact Angel at the Big Spring Independent School District Bus Barn by calling 264-4108.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule Today
Event, Time, Station
Spurs vs. Detroit, 7 p.m., 1490

Robert Lee, Colorado City take Forsan Invitational wins

HERALD Staff Report

Robert Lee's Lady Steers and Colorado City's Wolves took the team championships at the Forsan Invitational Golf Tournament which was played Monday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The Lady Steers took the girls' championship with a 411 team total, 44 strokes better than host Forsan's Lady Buffs could muster at 455. Stanton's Lady Buffaloes finished third with a 456.

In the much more competitive boys' division, Colorado City posted a team total of 344, edging out Bronte by just one stroke.

Bronte's 345 was just three strokes better than the third-place finish of Robert Lee.

Colorado City claimed both the individual medalist titles, as Shasta Kreis took the girls' title with an 85, 10 strokes better than the rounds of 96 posted by Forsan's Shiloh Sanders and Colorado City's Shante Kreis.

Sanders took second place, winning a one-hole playoff over Kreis.

The Wolves' Nick Edwards claimed the boys' championship with a round of 77, three strokes better than the round of 80 posted by runner-up Travis McKiski of Forsan. Bronte's B.J. Hall finished third with a round of 81.

NCAA TOURNAMENT OSU's Lucas well prepared to battle Pitt

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — His body is wiry and his face has a youthful quality and smile. Oklahoma State point guard John Lucas doesn't look very tough.

Don't be fooled. Lucas has a certain toughness that developed while growing up as the son of an NBA star with a substance-abuse problem, and was further tempered while dealing with the recent tragedy at Baylor that left a teammate dead.

"Me going through that made me mentally tough — tough knowing that if I get beat down, I know I am always going to get back up," Lucas said Wednesday. "I know how it feels to be on the bottom. I know how it feels to be put down."

Lucas transferred to Oklahoma State in the wake of the Baylor scandal that followed the murder of Patrick Dennehy and the firing of coach Dave Bliss. Lucas averaged 15.3 points and 4.6 assists this past season.

The second-seeded Cowboys (29-3) will try to ride Lucas' resolve Thursday night when it faces third-seeded Pittsburgh (31-4) in the tip-off of the East Rutherford Regional semifinal at the Continental Airlines Arena.

St. Joseph's (29-1) will get a chance to stick it to CBS analyst Billy Packer for a third time in the tournament when the top-seeded Hawks take on fourth-seeded Wake Forest (21-9) — Packer's alma mater — in the nightcap.

While the St. Joseph's-Wake Forest game has much of the hype because of Packer's questioning of the Hawks' No. 1 seed and coach Phil Martelli's biting response, the Pitt-Oklahoma State game is just as good.

The Panthers of the Big East are a street-tough group that prides itself on defense. Pittsburgh finished second in the country, yielding 56.2

points a game. Eddie Sutton's Cowboys also can play defense, but are just as good on offense. Their 78.3 average is 19th in the country.

"It's going to be a brawl," Pittsburgh senior guard Julius Page said. "We're used to that, practicing everyday is almost a blood bath."

Lucas is ready for the fight. He had plenty in high school when his father, former Maryland and NBA player and coach John Lucas, was having problems.

Everyday the younger Lucas walked into school, his fellow students didn't spare his feelings.

"You're dad's a crack head!" and "You're a drug baby!" Lucas recalled kids saying to him.

Lucas occasionally still hears the taunts. He shuts them up by playing hard.

"I realized a lot of people who were picking on me, their parents also go through the same problems as my parent, but my dad was an NBA player out in the public," Lucas said.

The older Lucas now helps people with substance abuse problems.

"My dad didn't hide anything from us," Lucas said. "When I was young, I knew what was going on, but I didn't know what was going on. I always told him: 'Don't worry dad, I am always going to take care of you,'" Lucas recalled. "I was like 3 or 4."

Lucas also has been the player who gets the Cowboys up and down the court, something Pittsburgh will try to stop with its defense.

"We both play physical," said Lucas, who didn't have to sit out a year because of the circumstances surrounding the scandal. "You never know how the game will turn out. It may be a war. People may have busted lips. Anything is possible."

The game between St. Joseph's of the Atlantic 10 and the Demon Deacons of the ACC features of matchup of two

NCAA TOURNEY AT A GLANCE

EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 18 At HSCB Arena Buffalo, N.Y. Texas Tech 76, Charlotte 73 Saint Joseph's 82, Liberty 63 At RBC Center Raleigh, N.C. Manhattan 75, Florida 60 W. Forest 79, Va. Commonwealth 78 Friday, March 19 At Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo. Memphis 59, South Carolina 43 Oklahoma State 75, E. Washington 56 At The Bradley Center Milwaukee Wisconsin 76, Richmond 64 Pittsburgh 53, Central Florida 44 Second Round Saturday, March 20 At HSCB Arena Buffalo, N.Y. Saint Joseph's 70, Texas Tech 65 At RBC Center Raleigh, N.C. Wake Forest 84, Manhattan 80 Friday, March 21 At Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo. Oklahoma State 70, Memphis 53 At The Bradley Center Milwaukee Pittsburgh 59, Wisconsin 55 Semifinals Thursday, March 25 At Continental Airlines Arena East Rutherford, N.J. Oklahoma State (29-3) vs. Pittsburgh (31-4), 6:27 p.m. Saint Joseph's (29-1) vs. Wake Forest (21-9), 30 minutes after first game. Championship Saturday, March 27 At Continental Airlines Arena East Rutherford, N.J. Semifinal winners	Gonzaga 76, Valparaiso 49 Friday, March 19 At Nationwide Arena Columbus, Ohio Kentucky 96, Florida A&M 76 Ala.-Birmingham 102, Washington 100 At Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo. Pacific 66, Providence 58 Kansas 78, Illinois-Chicago 53 At The Bradley Center Milwaukee Boston College 58, Utah 51 Georgia Tech 65, Northern Iowa 60 Second Round Saturday, March 20 At Key Arena Seattle Nevada 91, Gonzaga 72 Sunday, March 21 At Nationwide Arena Columbus, Ohio Alabama-Birmingham 76, Kentucky 75 At Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo. Kansas 78, Pacific 63 At The Bradley Center Milwaukee Georgia Tech 57, Boston College 54 Semifinals Friday, March 26 At Edward Jones Dome St. Louis Alabama-Birmingham (22-9) vs. Kansas (23-8), 6:10 p.m. Georgia Tech (25-9) vs. Nevada (25-8), 30 minutes after first game Championship Sunday, March 28 At Edward Jones Dome St. Louis Semifinal winners
ATLANTA REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 18 At The Pepsi Center Denver Texas 66, Princeton 49 North Carolina 53, Air Force 52 At RBC Center Raleigh, N.C. Duke 96, Alabama State 61 Seton Hall 80, Arizona 76 Friday, March 19 At Nationwide Arena Columbus, Ohio Illinois 72, Murray State 53 Cincinnati 80, East Tenn. State 77 At TD Waterhouse Centre Orlando, Fla. Mississippi State 85, Monmouth, N.J. 52 Xavier 80, Louisville 70 Second Round Saturday, March 20 At The Pepsi Center Denver Texas 78, North Carolina 75 At RBC Center Raleigh, N.C. Duke 90, Seton Hall 62 Sunday, March 21 At Nationwide Arena Columbus, Ohio Illinois 92, Cincinnati 68 At TD Waterhouse Centre Orlando, Fla. Xavier 89, Mississippi State 74 Semifinals Friday, March 26 At The Georgia Dome Atlanta Texas (25-7) vs. Xavier (25-10), 6:27 p.m. Duke (29-5) vs. Illinois (26-6), 30 minutes after first game Championship Sunday, March 28 At The Georgia Dome Atlanta Semifinal winners	PHOENIX REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 18 At HSCB Arena Buffalo, N.Y. Connecticut 70, Vermont 53 DePaul 76, Dayton 69, 20T At The Pepsi Center Denver Maryland 86, Texas-El Paso 83 Syracuse 80, Brigham Young 75 At Key Arena Seattle Alabama 65, Southern Illinois 64 Stanford 71, Texas-San Antonio 45 Friday, March 19 At TD Waterhouse Centre Orlando, Fla. N.C. State 61, Louisiana-Lafayette 52 Vanderbilt 71, Western Michigan 58 Second Round Saturday, March 20 At HSCB Arena Buffalo, N.Y. Connecticut 72, DePaul 55 At The Pepsi Center Denver Syracuse 72, Maryland 70 At Key Arena Seattle Alabama 70, Stanford 67 Sunday, March 21 At TD Waterhouse Centre Orlando, Fla. Vanderbilt 75, North Carolina State 73 Semifinals Thursday, March 25 At America West Arena Phoenix Vanderbilt (23-9) vs. Connecticut (29-6), 6:10 p.m. Alabama (19-12) vs. Syracuse (23-7), 30 minutes after first game Championship Saturday, March 27 At America West Arena Phoenix Semifinal winners
ST. LOUIS REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 18 At Key Arena Seattle Nevada 72, Michigan State 66	FINAL FOUR At The Alamodome San Antonio Semifinals Saturday, April 3 East Rutherford champion vs. St. Louis champion, TBA Atlanta champion vs. Phoenix champion, TBA Championship Monday, April 5 Semifinal winners, TBA

Rockets squander lead, but rebound for overtime win

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets squandered a big lead, then made up for it by showcasing their newfound poise in tight games.

The Rockets led by as many as 12 points Wednesday night before holding off the Toronto Raptors 90-89 in overtime.

"I love the way we're playing right now," said Maurice Taylor, who had 16 points. "I love the way we're playing close games and winning. We were losing

those at the beginning of the season."

It was the fourth time in five games that Houston blew an early double-digit lead. But for the second straight game, the Rockets won anyway.

Houston led by 13 at Portland on Monday night before the Trail Blazers came back to lead by six late. The Rockets rallied to win that game 93-85, also in overtime.

"It's just a matter of playing good teams," Taylor said of losing

the leads. "When teams get ahead of us by double digits, we come back. You can only stop a good team so long."

Coach Jeff Van Gundy agreed. "It's a 48-minute game," he said. "We haven't had any letdowns. We wore down a couple of times, but we didn't have letdowns."

"(Toronto) played a good game. I just think sometimes we think more about how a lead was lost than how a lead was achieved. And you have to do some good

things to get a lead in this league. I think we all at times lose sight of how hard it is to win in this league."

Steve Francis had a follow-up dunk to give the Rockets an 88-86 lead with 1:04 left in overtime. Bostjan Nachbar hit two free throws with 51 seconds to play for a 90-86 advantage.

Francis missed a 17-footer with 4 seconds left in regulation. "We did a good job and executed when we had to," said Francis.

Pacers beat Mavs

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson reluctantly played zone defense in the fourth quarter against the Indiana Pacers, knowing that Reggie Miller was lurking on the other side.

"We didn't want to zone when he was in the game, but we really needed to and he got open," Nelson said of Miller.

Miller was just 1-for-6 from the field in the first 43 minutes, but made two crucial 3-pointers down the stretch to lift the Pacers to a 103-99 win over the Mavericks on Wednesday night.

"He lost us," Nelson said. "We tried to keep track of him, but he's pretty clever."

Miller's second 3-pointer gave the Pacers a 100-95 lead with 23.7 seconds to play, helping them overcome Jermaine O'Neal's absence.

As they've done all year, the Pacers used their superior depth to win with one of their starters out of the lineup.

O'Neal, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, bruised his left knee in Monday's win over Chicago. He expected to miss at least two games, but hopes to be back for Sunday's game against Miami.

Ron Artest had 20 points, eight steals and eight rebounds; Al Harrington had 17 points and eight rebounds; Austin Croshere scored 16; and Jeff Foster added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacers.

"They're one of the deepest teams in the league," Nelson said.

Dallas played without Michael Finley, the team's second-leading scorer, who was out with a strained right calf.

Dirk Nowitzki had 22 points, seven rebounds and five blocks for the Mavericks, who lost their composure, and the lead, while bickering with the officials in the third quarter.

The Mavericks shot 54 percent in the first half to jump to a 55-48 lead.

"We weren't happy at halftime with the effort we put forth out there," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.

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GARAGE SALE, 1310 Johnson. Saturday, 7:00 a.m.-? Furniture, womens and girls clothing (Name Brand). Lots of shoes, mens clothing, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE. Saturday, 8:00-? 2607 Rebecca. Over 30 years of items. Will sell husband, Real Cheap! Miniature Yorkie pups for sale.

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MOVING: EVERYTHING must go. Appliances, curio, beds, dishes, pans, TV, sofa, air conditioners...more. No reasonable offer refused. Border collies. Must all be gone by 6pm on 3-28-04. Call (432)264-1477. 504 N. Douglas, 8-6pm daily.

RAIN or Shine. Furniture, vacuums, birdhouses, linens, home Decor, jeans, lots of misc. I-20 & Midway Rd. - Follow Signs to 6105 Walter Rd. Fri.-Sat. 7-?.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER Garage Sale: 2000 W. FM 700 East Door, Saturday 8:00-12:00. Toys, furniture, clothes, glassware, dishes, too much misc. to name.

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CONVENIENT STORE taking applications for Sales Clerk. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at Texas Workforce Center, 300 Owens St.

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Big Spring bases Drivers wanted. Must have 2 years experience over the road. Must have class A with Hazmat and Tank Endorsements. To apply call Jack Murphy at Andrews Transport Inc. 800-364-2018 Lubbock, Texas. Call between 9am and 5pm Monday thru Friday.

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MARTIN COUNTY Road & Bridge Department has openings for Motor Grader operators, only experienced operators need apply. Applications may be picked up at the Martin County Courthouse in the County Treasurer's office for more information please call (432)756-363.

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1104 NOLAN Rear, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642

1205 PENNSYLVANIA. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A. \$495/ mo. plus deposit. Call (432)263-6997

1314 MT. Vernon. 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Screened porch. References Required. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

1404 TUCSON, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642

1605 KENTUCKY Way. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, CH/A, fenced backyard, washer & dryer connections \$425/month, \$295/deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 267-0833.

2 BEDROOM houses for rent. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Call 432-263-9963.

2004 SCURRY, Newly rmdl. office, CH/A, fenced backyard. Perfect for single/couple. References. \$300/mo, \$275/dpst. Call (432)267-5629

2210 LYNN 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CHA, garage fenced yard. One year lease required. No indoor pets. \$595. month, \$400 deposit. Call 432-263-6514 Owner/Broker.

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

806 EAST 12TH. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Water Paid. Stove & Refrigerator. \$150/dp. No HUD. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

ARE YOU looking for a quiet, nice neighborhood? 900 Scurry. 3 bedroom, 1bath, apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. No HUD. Please Call (432)213-2681.

AVAILABLE APRIL 1st. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. Double garage with electric doors, newly remodeled, landscaped, CH/A, fenced back yard. Furnished stove and ice box. NO PETS. \$550/month, \$500/deposit. Call (432)263-8569 or (432)267-4090.

AVAILABLE APRIL 1st. By appointment only! 1106 Birdwell Lane. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, huge laundry room, fenced yard. Close to school. \$585. month, \$500. deposit. No HUD. Call 432-263-1792, 816-9984

BRICK, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central air, fenced, trees, covered patio, panoramic view. Sharp!! Non-smoker, no pets. Credit quality. \$350. Agent, 432-263-1234, 263-4835.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT: SUITABLE FOR A VARIETY OF BUSINESSES. 2601 Wasson Road (next to The Design Place). Call Bill D. Brooks (432)263-2900 or (432)267-3251.

CUTE TWO bedroom house for rent. 1606 East 11th. Call 432-263-6922.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES for rent-1,500 sq. ft. office bldg. on courthouse square for rent. 3 Executive offices, 3 secretarial areas plus reception, conf. room, file storage, break room, 2 restrooms, phone system installed, wired for computer network, many built-ins. Call (432)267-2076.

Real Estate for Rent

EXTRA NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath with basement. Fenced yard. \$400. month + deposit. Call (432)816-1052 or (512)799-3177.

FOR RENT or Sale. 3 Bdrm 1 bath. \$500/mo. \$400/deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

FOR RENT: 4 Bedroom, 2 bath. Call for more INFO (432)270-3848.

GOOD LOCATION. Nice 1 bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. \$225 month. Call weekends and after 6:00 pm (432)268-1888

LARGE 1 Bedroom Duplex. All bills paid. Real nice. \$350/month, \$200/deposit. 1503 Scurry. Call (432)264-6611.

NEW OWNERSHIP 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment homes. Reasonably Priced. Management on site 24/7. ADVANTUS PL. APTS. 3304 W. HWY. 80 Call Sandra, (432)264-7641.

NICE FARM house. 2 miles north of Coahoma. Clean, carpet, view, garage, free water. 3 Bedroom (walk-in closet), 1 bath (tub-shower). \$375./month. Call (432)394-4284 or leave message.

Real Estate for Sale

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

2 GREENHOUSES and 2 Bedroom home w/three wells and outbuilding on 2.3 acres in Sand Springs. Small Cafe completely furnished on 3 lots in Forsan. Also in Forsan 2 Bedroom home, large yard and garage on 4 lots. Call (432)457-2345.

2303 ROBERTS. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Brick, attached garage, covered patio, work shop, water well, city sewage, CH/A. Excellent Condition. Worth Peeler. \$55,000. Call (432)264-0199.

3.26 ACRES, 3 miles south of city limits, corner of Garden City/Elbow Rd. Residential or commercial. \$14,670. Owner will finance with \$500/down. 1-361-877-2563

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, fenced \$7000; 4 bedroom, 2 bath, \$5000; 2 bedroom \$3000. Call (432)264-0510 or 270-2414.

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

ANDA EN busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hablemle al numero (432)413-0549 Annette Sanchez. Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 bano 705 S Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 bano 1811 State St.

ATTRACTIVE HOME for Sale by Owner. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, CH/A. \$29,500. Shown by Appt. Only. Call (432)268-9874 or 213-2124.

BY OWNER. 3-2, 2 car carport, large living area, inground pool, CHA, new patio. Coahoma School District. 69K. Must See! Call after 5:00 432-394-4037.

COAHOMA 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Beautiful master bath with walk-in closet, appliances, Handicapped porch. Like new MF Home. Land & Home \$42,000. 803 Atlantic. Call (432)661-5552

FOR SALE, 4207 Dixon, \$750. down, \$329.64 per month for 180 months plus taxes & insurance. 1-800-804-7110.

FOR SALE: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft., downtown office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. 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 Annette 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. 1306 Marijo. Call (432)520-9848.

VERY CLEAN 3 Bedroom 2 bath Manufactured Home on one acre. Lots of extra's asking \$65,000 or make me an offer. Great Investment property. Located in Forsan. Call 1-800-699-4039 or (817)456-3353 ask for Sandy Vosefski.

Why Rent when you can Own? 3 Bedroom 1 bath, CH/A. 608 Drake. \$29,900. With as little as \$3000 down. Payments \$311/month for 15 yrs. Easy qualifying. Easy financing. Call Roy Guerra (432)413-5404 or (432)445-1863.

Vehicles

'04 Expeditions \$3000 Rebate or 0% APR For 60 mos. Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7424

1987 Crown Victoria. 5.0 liter engine, 57k original miles. \$2500.00. Call (432)263-6922.

1999 GMC 4WD Suburban, loaded, leather seats, rear control AC, heated seats, CD & cassette, 80K, \$13,000. Call (432)263-7676.

2000 CHEVY Blazer. Red. 2 door, CD player, cruise control, 29k miles, new tires. Excellent condition. \$11,000. Call (432)263-3177.

2003 FORD F-250 XLT, Super Duty, supercab, long-bed, white exterior, gray cloth interior. 7K. Like New! Paid \$31,000. Asking \$24,315. Call 432-263-3959.

FOR SALE, 17 Ft. Bass Tracker boat, 50 hp Merc. Dolly trailer, loaded. Lake ready! \$3,100. Call 432-263-2254.

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Reduce for quick sale, \$24,500. Located 600 Main. Call 432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Wife's car 1994 Mercury Marquis LS, white, maroon interior, loaded, 105K miles. \$2200. firm. David Hodnett, 432-263-7434, 270-3213

Legals

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 8, 2004 for the following: ASPHALT used for paving and seal coating AGGREGATE used for paving and seal coating Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main Street, No. 202, Big Spring, Tx. or by calling (432)264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Commissioner's Court at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 12, 2004, for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Jackie Olson- Howard County Auditor, #4168 March 25 & 31, 2004

RFB 04-009 Advertisement for Bids The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

Medical Beds Specifications may be obtained from Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Sealed bids will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2004 in the Howard College, Administration Building, A2, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. Technical questions should be directed to Jessica Greni, Instructor, 1001 Birdwell, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5173, e-mail: jgreni@howardcollege.edu and bidding questions should be directed to Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu.. Howard College Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #4166 March 25 & 26, 2004

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL PERMIT NO 5542 APPLICATION Farmers Cooperative Gin of Knott, Texas has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 5542 which would authorize continued operation of the Cotton Gin located at 13100 North CR 9, Knott, Howard County, Texas. The Facility will emit the following air contaminants: nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter and unburned hydrocarbons. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on March 05, 2004. The application is available for viewing, and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Midland regional office, and the United States Post Office, 6011 West FM 846, Knott, Howard County, Texas. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Midland regional office of the TCEQ. The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met. PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. The

Legals

deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process. After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing. OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided. According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement (I/we) request a contested case hearing; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Request for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding. MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application. INFORMATION Written public comments and requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us. Further information may also be obtained from Farmers Cooperative Gin of Knott, Texas, 13100 North CR 9, Knott, Texas 79748-9862 or by calling Mr. Kelley Green, Director of Technical Services, Texas Cotton Ginners' Association at (512)476-8388. Issuance Date: March 12, 2004 #4155 March 25, 2004

Help Wanted

StarTek Outsourcing Solutions JOB FAIR Saturday, March 27, 2004 9am to 5 pm (Walk-ins welcome anytime) StarTek USA Inc. is currently sourcing for 25 English and Bi-Lingual (Spanish/English) Customer Service Representatives in our Big Spring call center. If you have a friendly voice, can type 20 w.p.m., and pass a general knowledge test you are just who we are looking for. StarTek offers great benefits including paid training, catastrophic medical coverage, paid time off after 90 days, local business discounts, medical/dental insurance, paid holidays, and incredible advancement opportunities. Apply at StarTek Inc., 501 Birdwell Lane Big Spring, TX 79720 or call (432) 264-2700.

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

Real Estate for Rent

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Increase the Power of your mind. READ! BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

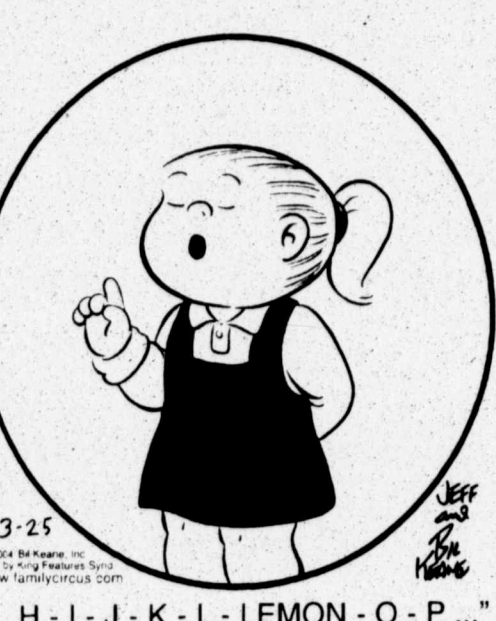
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	New York	
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill Raymond	College Basketball	Pason de Gavilanes	News Serfied (CC)	Serfied (CC) Friends (CC)	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lettr	New Detec-tives-Forensic		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	Sister, Sister Lizze McGuire	Figure Skating World	Timeless	JAG (CC)	(CC)
7	PM Primetime Thursday	Primetime Thursday	Mariana de la Noche	Tru Calling (CC)		Prisonera	Friends (CC) Will & Grace	Movie: Set It Off (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	New This Old House Hour	Kidnapped Climbers	Movie: Joe Kidd	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers The Parkers	Movie: Brink! (CC)	Championships	NHL Hockey: Detroit Red	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: Dracula II: Ascension
8	PM Figure Skating World	Figure Skating World	Bajo el Mismo Piel	70s Show	College	El Alma Henda	The Apprentice (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Frontline World (CC)	Is It a Boy or a Girl? (CC)	Movie: Stepmom	Movie: Stepmom	106 & Park: Prime	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Billiards: Seven-Ball	Wings at Colorado	Movie: GoldenEye	Movie: We Were Soldiers (CC)
9	PM Championships (CC)	Championships (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	70s Show Drama-Greg	Basketball	Mujeres Apasonadas	ER (CC)	10 Movie: Blade (CC)	To Be Announced	More Than Human	Movie: Theima & Louise	Movie: Theima & Louise	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Billiards: Seven-Ball	Billiards: Seven-Ball	Avalanche SportsCenter	(CC) (DVS)	Were Soldiers (CC)
10	PM News Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond		Noticias Laura	News The Tonight	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Kidnapped Climbers		Movie: Stepmom (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News Mead Sports	Kim Possible Proud Family	Billiards: Seven-Ball	Sportscenter Outside-Lines	Movie: Last Tango in Paris		
11	PM Ent Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	News Late Show	Al Rojo Vivo-	Show (CC) Late Night	40 Movie: Sam Peak Jesse Lee Pe	Sign Off	Is It a Boy or a Girl? (CC)	Movie: Joe Kidd	Movie: Joe Kidd	Stepmom (CC) (DVS)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Billiards: Garhenght	Sportscenter Outside-Lines	Movie: Danti's	Movie: Last Tango in Paris
12	AM Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Rencor Apasonado	Bind Date	(CC) The Late Late	Mana Celeste Corte-Familia	Fraser (CC)	Spawn (CC)	Update/Israel Derek Prince				Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	College Basketball	SportsCenter (CC)	Peak (CC)		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE A DOORBELL IF YOU DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO RING IT?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"... H-I-J-K-L-LEMON-O-P ..."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 25, the 85th day of 2004. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks.

On this date:

In 1634, Maryland was founded by English colonists sent by the second Lord Baltimore.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, in a tragedy that galvanized America's labor movement, 146 immigrant

workers were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York.

In 1913, the home of vaudeville, the Palace Theatre, opened in New York City.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centralia, Ill., claimed 111 lives.

In 1954, RCA announced it had begun producing color television sets at its plant in Bloomington, Ind. (The sets, with 12 1/2-inch picture tubes, cost \$1,000 each.)

In 1954, at the Academy Awards, "From Here to Eternity" won eight Oscars, including best picture, best director (Fred Zinnemann), best supporting actor (Frank Sinatra) and best supporting actress (Donna Reed). Audrey Hepburn won best actress for "Roman Holiday" and William Holden best actor for "Stalag 17."

In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community.

Today's Birthdays: Modeling agency founder

Eileen Ford is 82. Former astronaut James Lovell is 76. Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 72. Feminist author Gloria Steinem is 70. Singer Anita Bryant is 64. Singer Aretha Franklin is 62. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 61. Singer Elton John is 57. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 56. Singer Nick Lowe is 55. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 51. Actor James McDaniel is 46. Actor-writer-director John Stockwell is 43. Actress Lisa Gay Hamilton is 40. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 39. Singer-musician Jeff Healey is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle

POOH	TEETH	FANG
ALLY	RELEE	ALOE
WILD	TURKEY	TOWN
SNARES	END	CHAT
ANTS	SASHAYS	
ACT	EMIT	YEA
FLATTERY	SENATE	
AUTO	SIC	CUED
REAMED	NUMBERED	
CAR	GLUE	AMY
SHORT	OF	TYRO
PERU	PEA	BRIDLE
ALAI	PERSIAN	RUG
NETS	ELATE	KING
KNEE	DYLAN	SPAS

Newsday Crossword

WELL-OFF by Bob Frank Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 "She Lovely" (Wonder tune)
 - 5 Exclusive Toon duck
 - 14 Move smoothly
 - 15 Emcee Trebek
 - 16 Dragon of '50s TV
 - 17 Refund requirement
 - 19 Impels
 - 20 Well-off
 - 22 Kennedy Library architect
 - 23 Former California fort
 - 24 Coiffures
 - 27 Afts.
 - 29 Saratoga, for one
 - 30 Ginnie
 - 33 Tortoise-hare affair
 - 35 Well-off
 - 38 Newton or Hayes
 - 40 Bond rating
 - 41 Praise
 - 42 Well-off
 - 45 Skater Lipinski
 - 46 Mao -tung
 - 47 Slithery swimmer
 - 48 Large parrot
 - 50 Porker's pad
 - 51 Arthur or Lillie
 - 52 Printer's measures
 - 54 Well-off
 - 61 Big family
 - 62 Descendant of Jacob
 - 64 Thumper's pal
 - 65 Hammerhead part
 - 66 They may say "Welcome"
 - 67 Taking one's cuts
 - 68 A minor et al.
 - 69 Rock-concert gear
- DOWN**
- 1 Suppositions
 - 2 Deli side dish
 - 3 ___ contender
 - 4 Squirt
 - 5 Sushi partner
 - 6 Earthenware pot
 - 7 Eric's son
 - 8 World's fair
 - 9 Florida betting setting
 - 10 So all can hear
 - 11 Spanish custard
 - 12 Bona ___
 - 13 "Without a doubt!"
 - 18 Dance bit
 - 21 Cowboy gear
 - 24 Meaning
 - 25 Sahara sanctuary
 - 26 Ascend
 - 28 Traffic tie-up
 - 29 Crude dwelling
 - 30 King cursed by Dionysus
 - 31 To the left, nautically
 - 32 "Civil Disobedience," e.g.
 - 34 Chow down
 - 36 Mai ___
 - 37 Crude dwelling
 - 39 "Let's scram!"
 - 43 Slangy assent
 - 44 Donkey sounds
 - 49 Suffix for suffer
 - 51 Forrest Gump's pal
 - 53 Actress Hayek
 - 54 Animal House group
 - 55 Branch
 - 56 Candle cord
 - 57 Dot on a map
 - 58 Cafeteria carrier
 - 59 Thailand, once
 - 60 Web address start
 - 61 As yet unscheduled: Abbr.
 - 63 Curvy letter

