



INSIDE
District play begins this weekend, giving most teams a fresh start.
Page 1B

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Something to bark about: It's homecoming in Coahoma

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer
Queens, football heroes, bonfires ... it's all a part of Homecoming Week in Coahoma.

Activities are in full swing as Coahoma High School holds its annual homecoming celebration, officials said.

While the centerpiece of the

festivities will be Friday's football game between the Bulldogs and arch-rival Colorado City Wolves, students and school personnel have been busy all week getting the community ready for the celebration.

Wednesday evening, students held their annual pre-homecoming bonfire and community pep rally adjacent to First Street in the downtown area.

A mini-parade, led by the CHS Band, football team and cheerleaders, made its way from the high school to the bonfire site, organizers said.

Also this week, CHS students have been encouraged to get into the homecoming spirit by dressing according to a daily theme. For example, Monday was "The Wolves' Worst Nightmare" day, with students

allowed to wear pajamas to school.

An annual highlight of homecoming festivities is the naming of the queen. This year's finalists, all seniors, are Liz Conley, Sterling Gee, Latisha McCartney, Kali Roberts and Drew Wells.

Voting for the queen, conducted by the CHS student body, was held Monday. The

queen will be announced at halftime of Friday's game with Colorado City.

Just prior to the 7:30 p.m. kickoff Friday, the Football Hero and Football Sweetheart will be crowned, officials said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 231, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

Victim Services advocates are sought

□ Training classes begin Monday.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

If you have a desire to help those who have suffered because of crime, Victim Services needs you.

Victim Services of Big Spring, which provides support services for victims of domestic abuse and other violent crimes, is conducting its annual volunteer training Oct. 10-15.

Linda Perez, volunteer coordinator for VSBS, said the volunteers — or "victim advocates," as she calls them — are the backbone of the organization.

"They are the reason we're able to be here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," Perez said. "We call our volunteers the heart of our organization. Only through them are we able to offer our services around the clock."

The training will be conducted between 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Victim Services building just off Airbase Road.

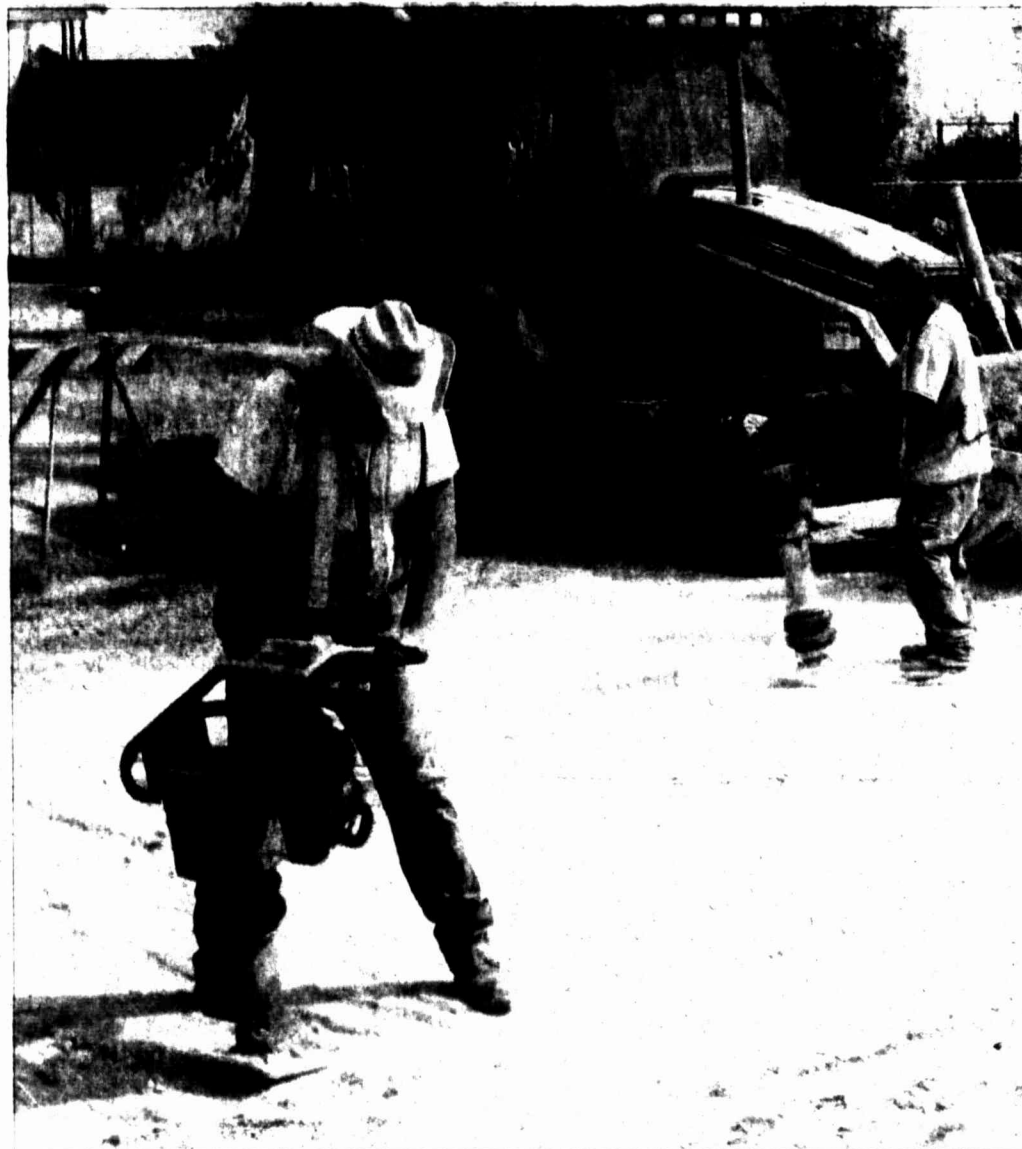
Victim advocates must be 18 years or older and must be able to pass the interview process and background check, Perez said.

Volunteers will work 12-hour shifts, manning the organization's crisis intervention hotline and, once they are fully trained, providing immediate help to crime victims, Perez said.

"We are there to help alleviate problems ... and provide immediate crisis intervention, so the police can concentrate on the crime scene," she said. "We want someone who is caring ... and who

See **ADVOCATE**, Page 3A

BROKEN WATER LINE



Herald photo/Steve Reagan
City water department employees Wade Roberts, left, and Abel Pesina use jackhammer-like equipment to level a section of Lancaster Street Wednesday afternoon. Crews had completed repairing a broken water line, and expected to have the street open to traffic by 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Forget-Me-Not

DAV plans annual drive Friday through Saturday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A little blue and yellow flower made of paper and wire may not seem like much, but it's a source of inspiration and hope for disabled veterans as volunteers get ready to hit the streets Friday and Saturday for the annual Forget-Me-Not drive.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 47 Commander Ed Meiser said the funds raised by the annual effort will go for a number of local DAV efforts.

"The money collected from the Forget-Me-Not drive is used to support service programs for the disabled veterans and for charities that are for veterans also," said Meiser. "That includes the ongoing initiative to get homeless vets off the streets and other service programs right here in Howard County."

DAV and auxiliary members will be accepting donations on the corner of Gregg Street and FM 700 and the Wal-Mart

"...if someone only has a penny or they have several dollars they want to give, we really hope it will come from the heart, because that's what really counts. It doesn't matter how much it is."

—Ed Meiser

DAV chapter commander

Supercenter from 8 a.m. until Meiser and his team of volunteers can hold out Friday and Saturday.

"We collected about \$2,000 during last year's drive," said Meiser. "We'd like to collect about \$2,500 this year. It's really hard to say how much we'll bring in until it's over, however."

Meiser said he hopes area residents will open their hearts and their

See **DAV**, Page 3A

Officials: Containing bird flu abroad critical to new U.S. flu pandemic plans

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration's top health official said Thursday that "no one in the world is ready" for a potentially catastrophic outbreak of Avian bird flu.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt also said that U.S. officials and their counterparts around the globe recognize that a pandemic is possible and are working hard on ways to protect people from it.

"The good news is, we do have a vaccine," Leavitt said on CBS' "The Early Show." But he cautioned that officials do not currently have an ability to mass

produce it or get it to people quickly.

"It's enough of a possibility that it demands our attention," he said. "We have to be prepared all the time ... for that type of problem and we need to improve."

Outlining the pandemic plan in an interview Wednesday with *The Associated Press*, Leavitt said U.S. health officials would rush overseas to wherever a bird flu outbreak occurred and work with local officials to try to contain it.

"If you can get there fast enough and apply good public health techniques of isolating and quarantining and medicating and vaccinating the people in



Associated Press photo
Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt says it is imperative U.S. officials help contain bird flu outbreaks outside the states.

that area, you can ... squelch it or you can delay it," Leavitt said in an interview with *The*

Associated Press

Leavitt is traveling to Asia to shore up international cooperation should bird flu mutate to easily infect people.

To further that goal, more than 65 countries and international organizations were to participate in discussions Thursday at the State Department about preparations for the possibility of worsening bird flu.

Next week, Leavitt plans to meet with leaders of the Southeast Asian countries that are the epicenter of the virus.

There have been three flu pandemics in the last century, the worst, in 1918, killed as many as

See **BIRD FLU**, Page 3A

INDEX

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



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BAND SETS FUND-RAISER

Paving the Road to Carnegie Hall Fall Festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 15, at Big Spring High School.

Proceeds from the concessions and rides will be used for the BSHS band trip to Carnegie Hall in June of 2006.

Band students have the \$10 tickets for the festival on sale now. Or, call 267-1325 for more information or to purchase a ticket.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: Rachael Ray has emerged as one of our nation's favorite cooks, as much for her relaxed, approachable demeanor as she is for her tasty 30-minute meals.

In addition to her popular Food Network shows, she has written several cookbooks and is launching a magazine. Despite her growing celebrity, she still lives in a cabin in the Adirondacks with her dog, who eats her "mistakes."

BOOK SALE SLATED

Friends of the Library of Howard County will hold their annual book sale Friday through Sunday in the basement of the Howard County Library, 500 South Main Street.

Sale hours will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday's hours will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The sale includes works of fiction, non-fiction, best sellers, westerns, mysteries, self help, textbooks and more.

There are titles to suit any taste, Staulcup said, and all are reasonably priced.

All proceeds from the sale go to benefit the Howard County Library.

Obituaries

Mildred Johnson Jones Dillard



Mildred Johnson Jones Dillard, 82, died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005, in an Arlington care center after a brief illness. Memorial services are at the Wade Family Funeral Home, 4140 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, at noon Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005, with the Rev. Bill Gathings officiating. Burial is in Union Cemetery in Hopkins County.

The family will receive friends Friday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Wade Family Funeral Home.

Memorials may be sent to the Union Cemetery Association in care of Sheila Funderburk, 157, County Road 1213, Sulphur Springs 75482.

Mildred was born Dec. 20, 1922, on the Jones family farm in the Union Community, south of Sulphur Springs. The family moved to Big Spring in 1928.

She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1941 and attended Texas Women's College in Denton. She married Sherwin William Agee March 1, 1942, in Pascagoula, Miss.

Mildred was a multi-talented, hardworking lady. She decorated beautiful cakes and created dance costumes. She worked at Big Spring State Hospital for several years.

After moving to Lubbock in the 1970s, she married Bruce Dillard. They opened several barbecue restaurants in Lubbock, where she served her famous potato salad. After Dillard's death, she worked at the education service center.

Mrs. Dillard had resided at Lakewood Retirement Village and Castlerock Assisted Living, where she was known for her friendliness and cheerfulness.

Mildred was preceded in death by her mother, Lillie Beatrice McKeown, her father, Samuel Paul Jones, and two brothers, James Chapman Jones and Omar Leland Jones.

Survivors include daughters, Sharon Lynn Morrow of Arlington and Karen Jane Dopita of Seguin; sons, David William Agee of Fort Worth, Michael Paul Agee and wife, Joy of Odesia and Patrick Wayne Agee and wife, Linda of Colorado Springs, Colo.; 12 grandchildren, Lori, Leigh, Sara, Lisa, Ryan, Lindsay, Kami, Robert, Amy, Jennifer, Renee and Elizabeth; 13 great-grandchildren, Lili, Hannah Aiden, Valerie, Jordan, Isaac, Nicholas, Aaron, Garrett, Cara, Sean, Elijah, and Ellis, and sister, Myrtle Stoutenburg of Yakima, Washington.

Paid obituary

Wynama 'Bobbie' Sealy



Wynama "Bobbie" Sealy, 91, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, 2005, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with the Rev. Floyd Jennings, retired Assembly of God pastor of San Angelo, and the Rev. Walter McCall, chaplain with Odyssey Hospice, officiating.

She was born Jan. 13, 1914, in Glen Rose and married Jake Sealy. He preceded her in death.

Bobbie had lived in Crane until moving to Big Spring 4 1/2 years ago. She enjoyed crafts and sewing and her fondest memory was riding in her father's spring seated wagon. She was a member of the First Assembly of God in Crane and was active in her church.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, June and Bill Minchew of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Cindy Shaver and husband, Jimmy of Brownfield, Buddy Stuteville and wife, Sheila, Jim Stuteville and wife, Sharon and Sherri Spurny and husband, Joe, all of Midland; and granddaughter-in-law, Robin of Big Spring, nine great-grandchildren, Russell Stuteville, Cody Adamson, Cory Stuteville, Chris Adamson, Jayme Stuteville, Casey Stuteville, Randy Adamson, Bradley Stuteville and Dalton Stuteville; four great-grandchildren; and a special neighbor, Ken Largent.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two daughters, Doris Stuteville and Jackie Lavelle Hightower, one grandson, Billy Joe Minchew Jr., one brother and one sister.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- CORY PAYNE, 17, of Coahoma, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- SONYA BIDDLE, 36, of 5203 Sterling Road was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license invalid, possession of drug paraphernalia and no liability insurance.
- ROY BIDDLE, 44, of 5203 Sterling Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MAURICE FRANKS, 26, of 1425 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- FABILA HERNANDEZ, 29, of 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- TEKIA WILLIAMS, 22, of 910 N.W. Fourth Street, was arrested Wednesday and held for the HCSO.
- KORI LEWIS, 23, of 904 E. 12th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 300 block of Benton.

Virginia Fuller

Virginia Fuller, 81, of Colorado City died Monday evening, Oct. 3, 2005, at her residence. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, 2005, in the First Baptist Church in Colorado City with the Rev. Dr. Larry Smith and Jim Baum officiating. Burial will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005, in the Stamford Highland Cemetery.

Mrs. Fuller was born June 10, 1924, in Stamford to Warren and Charlsie Haizlip Tayman. Until a recent illness, Virginia had been a permanent fixture in Fuller Foods, owned and operated by her and her late husband, Raymond Fuller.

She was known as a classy dresser and it didn't matter whether she was working in the store or getting ready for a trip abroad. Topping off her attire were hairstyles that never allowed one hair to be out of place. She also wore the finest jewelry, even at work.

Mrs. Fuller attended the University of Texas in 1932. Her first husband, Ted Myers Jr., was a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a prisoner of war in Germany. He returned to the United States after the war. They had met at the Doghouse in Stamford. They were married May 27, 1943 in Dallas. He preceded her in death June 11, 1955, at the age of 38.

She then married Raymond Fuller Jan. 8, 1961, and moved to Colorado City. By all accounts she was fond of maroon, but not particularly the cars he bought in that color. He was a dyed-in-the-wool Aggie and she quickly adapted to football trips each weekend during the season.

Raymond and Virginia traveled all over the world. He enjoyed the sights; she was known to buy more clothes. While her wardrobe was world class, she did have a pair of shorts, although no one can vouch for having ever seen her wear them. And she would never consider buying a pair of denim pants.

One of her favorite dresses was a long, flowing black gown; she wore it only on special occasions, such as the Mitchell County Centennial in 1981, when she attended all celebrations with her "girls" and played the town madam.

As her daughters grew up and advanced in school, Virginia gave up her role as housewife and started working in Fuller Foods. She took over the bookkeeping chores and promptly put herself on the payroll. She was very active in the community in all aspects and was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Physical exercise was a lifelong passion for Virginia. Her two daughters remembered when they were very young, she would do stretching exercises in the backyard. This love for working her muscles and mind continued until just a few years ago when she fell off her exercise bicycle because she was wearing her "Barbie Shoes."

She passed away peacefully last Monday. Her daughters, Terry and Judy rejoiced in being able to tell their mother they loved her and good-bye.

She is survived by two daughters, Terry and her husband, Larry Smith of Katy and their children, Joey Smith and Jamey Smith, both of Dallas, Jeff and his wife, Tara Smith of Lee's Summit, Mo., and their sons, Austin and Carson and the much anticipated arrival of a great-granddaughter, due in December; and Judy and her husband, Steve Honeycutt and their children, Tyler and Bradley Honeycutt, all of Austin; three nephews; and two nieces.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Reba Hicks Fortner



Reba Hicks Fortner, 63, of Brownwood, formerly of Big Spring, died Oct. 3, 2005, at the Brownwood Regional Medical Center after a lengthy illness. Memorial services are 6 p.m. Oct. 10, 2005, at the Salvation Army Citadel, 811 W. Fifth St.

Condolences should be directed to 2302 Carl, Big Spring 79720.

Take note

HOWARD COUNTY MUZZLELOADERS RENDEZVOUS is set for Oct. 13-16 on Old Gail Road in Vealmore. For more information, call 264-0024.

Sheriff's report

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

- ERIC ANTHONY VALENCIA, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a protective order - two counts.
- JULIE LACHELLE LAWSON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of theft by check - two counts and fraud - insufficient funds check.
- PAMELA HADORN, 44, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- GARY MONTEL STEPHENSON, 44, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while license suspended.
- LARRY DON HASS, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear - motion for enforcement, expired driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.
- ALAN CATON POWELL, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- DOUGLAS BRYAN TAYLOR, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of fraudulent possession of a controlled substance/prescription.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported near the 165 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.

Support groups

THURSDAY
• Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 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 p.m. until 6 p.m.

TUESDAY
• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m., a new time, the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Weather

Tonight—Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 60s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds.

Saturday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday—Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Columbus day—Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Monday night—Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Tuesday—Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Tuesday night—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 50s.

Wednesday—Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-17-19-28-40. Bonus Ball: 17.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$4 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 19-20-22-23-35. Number matching five of five: 0

Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night. The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-9-3

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 165 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$6.65 monthly; \$63.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.

REMEMBER! Find It In Big Spring First!



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NO Refill Dr. 1.

ONE-VEHICLE MISHAP



Roy Garcia of Big Spring looks at what's left of his pickup after a one-vehicle accident near the 166 mile marker of Interstate 20 Wednesday afternoon. Officials on the scene said Garcia lost control of his vehicle when a tire blew out, causing the truck to flip several times before coming to rest next to the service road. Garcia was uninjured.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Farm Bill

Producers, groups want 2002 bill intact

LUBBOCK (AP) — Without exception, farmers and commodity and livestock groups attending a listening session told U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and three Texas congressmen that the 2002 farm bill should be retained.

"If there's one thing we have said consistently it's keep the farm bill intact," Mark Williams, who grows corn, green beans, and cotton in Farwell, along the Texas-New Mexico border, said Wednesday.

"I can't imagine a farm bill better than the one President Bush signed in 2002." His comments and dozens of others came at a U.S. Agriculture Department listening session on the Texas Tech University campus. The event, which drew an overflow crowd, is one of a series the department is holding around the country before Congress takes up the farm bill in 2007.

The farm bill, which is actually a law renewed

regularly, provides billions of dollars in crop subsidies. Texas agriculture is one of the biggest beneficiaries.

U.S. Reps. Randy Neugebauer, Mike Conaway and Ted Poe joined Johanns to gather input from various sectors of agriculture and its associated businesses. Neugebauer and Conaway are from West Texas and Poe from East Texas.

David Cleavinger, secretary of the National Association of Wheat Growers, told the panel that failing to listen to what farmers say is needed is comparable to failing to listen to officials in New Orleans who have for years sought federal money to strengthen the city's levee system.

Some of the inadequate levees, built to withstand only a category 3 storm, broke during Hurricane Katrina. Katrina was a category 4 when it slammed into the Gulf Coast in late August and water poured into the Crescent City.

News at a glance

Veterans group to hold book protest of Montgomery County libraries

THE WOODLANDS (AP) — A veterans group plans to hold protests Saturday of Montgomery County libraries in an effort to remove about 70 children's books the group says contain explicit material.

Jim Cabaniss, president of American Veterans in Domestic Defense, said the books contain pornographic pictures or promote homosexuality.

"Our purpose is to deal with the excessive smut and pornography in the children sections of the library," he said.

Some titles include "It's Perfectly Normal," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" and "The Plastic Man."

Montgomery County Library director Jerilynn Williams said she is aware of the protests, but the veterans group has not contacted her.

Miers wealth shrank during her time in Washington, documents show

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harriet Miers came to the White House in 2001 from a major Texas law firm, boasting a nearly \$624,000-a-year salary and assets of as much as \$1.1 million.

More than four years later, as Bush's nominee for the Supreme Court and his White House counsel, Miers makes just \$161,000 and her holdings could be as little as half what they were.

A mystery since the president announced Miers as his pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is how someone who was a lawyer for 28 years at one of the South's largest firms — representing major corporate clients and including stints as the firm's president and co-managing partner — has come to have relatively little wealth.

The value of her holdings has steadily declined during her time in Washington, disclosure forms show. One explanation offered by the White House and Miers' backers lies in her devotion to her family and

her church.

Miers, 60, is single and has no children, but her 91-year-old mother, Sally Miers, has been ailing for about a decade and Miers has had the primary responsibility of paying for her care.

Trial pushed to December for two men in fraud case

SAN ANGELO (AP) — The trial of two Florida men accused of bilking suppliers and producers out of more than \$1 million after buying a Rowena sheep-rendering plant has been rescheduled for December.

Jon Walter Miller and Jeffrey Wayne Hooker each face 132 counts ranging from wire fraud to money laundering involving their management of Strube Packing Co.

The plant was the largest employer in Rowena before it closed in September 2004, the San Angelo Standard-Times reported in its Thursday editions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture shut the plant because of what it said were deceptive and unfair trade practices.

The federal indictment, returned in July, alleges the men "systematically looted SPC and defrauded suppliers of livestock and services to SPC."

The indictment alleges that after Miller purchased the plant from founder Al Strube III in May 2004, he and Hooker bought sheep and goats from producers, rendered them and sold the products but didn't pay the producers anything.

Hooker's attorney, Dennis R. Reeves, said his client denies the allegations. Miller's attorney, Shery Kime-Goodwin, declined to comment.

Miller has previously said that when or whether the plant was ever sold was "up in the air," the newspaper reported.

The indictment includes 71 counts of mail fraud, 43 counts of money laundering, 15 counts of interstate transportation of stolen property, two counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy.

BIRD FLU

Continued from Page 1A

50 million people worldwide.

Scientists say it is only a matter of time before the next worldwide influenza outbreak. Concern is rising that it could be triggered by the avian flu called H5N1.

That virus has killed or led to the slaughter of millions of birds, mostly in Asia, but also in parts of Europe. It has killed about 60 people because so far the virus does not spread easily from person to person.

The fear is that it will mutate to spread easily, a catastrophe because H5N1 is so different from annual flu strains that people have no natural immunity.

"The probability that the H5N1 virus will create a pandemic is uncertain. The signs are worrisome," Leavitt said. He added that the updated pandemic plan, due this

month, envisions other super-strains of flu, too.

Role-playing different outbreak possibilities over the past few months led federal health officials to broaden their focus on how to detect a bird-flu mutation in another country and quickly send overseas help.

If that fails, the pandemic plans' first draft last year called for closing schools, restricting travel and other old-fashioned quarantine steps, depend-

ing on how fast the super-strain was spreading and its virulence. Those steps are getting renewed attention after President Bush's comments Tuesday that troops might have to be dispatched to enforce a mass quarantine.

Typically, state and local authorities deal with quarantine decisions.

"They have to be prepared, and frankly they're not," Leavitt said.

The updated plan will

outline when federal health officials will take over for the locals, something that will depend on how the flu is spreading, he said. For instance, mass quarantines were needed in 1918, but not during the pandemics of 1957 and 1968, he said.

As for treatment, HHS last month began spending \$100 million for the first large-scale production of a bird flu vaccine. The department has been criticized for only stock-

piling enough of the anti-flu drug Tamiflu for several million people. The Senate last week passed legislation that would increase those purchases by \$3 billion.

A bigger gap is how to create quickly a vaccine to match whatever pandemic flu strain erupts, Leavitt said. That currently takes months. The new plan will focus on rejuvenating vaccine production to speed the process, he said.

DAV

Continued from Page 1A

pocket books this weekend.

"Every penny counts," said Meiser. "We're not selling the forget-me-nots, we're simply accepting donations. So if someone only has a penny or they have several dollars they

want to give, we really hope it will come from the heart, because that's what really counts. It doesn't matter how much it is."

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

ADVOCATE

Continued from Page 1A

wants to make a difference in someone's life."

With October being National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Perez believes this is the perfect time for VSBS to conduct its annual volunteer training.

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

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James Brady "Bud" Moore, 62, died Monday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Patsy "Pat" Warden, 64, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

He was one of the top six-man football coaches

"I played six-man football. I didn't play any 11-man football and don't know anything about it. Don't profess to."

Jonesboro is a little place near Hamilton. Larry Pruitt played six-man football for Jonesboro, graduated from high school there, and returned as a coach.

"It was kinda like going back home for me when I went back to Jonesboro," says Larry.

He was there from 1977 until 2001. "I guess that's 25 seasons at the same place. I stayed at Jonesboro my whole career. I raised a lot of kids."

He had an impressive record as a six-man football coach.

"Well, we had some kids that wanted to play and were dedicated enough to do what it took. My career record was 186 wins, 92 losses and 3 ties. We had a good run there. We made the playoffs 15 consecutive years, had nine straight district championships and at one time we had a 47-game district winning streak. We had eight seasons with 10-plus wins in them. We had a very good situation out there."

Jonesboro doesn't have a lot of students.

"K through 12 probably had 200 kids, sometimes less and few times more, but not many. It usually ran from 195 to 205. We'd have 60 to 70 kids in high school."

Larry says he always dreaded playing Christoval in the playoffs.

"They were a big six-man school. They would beat us, but they had a jinx on them, too, because they always met Fort Hancock in the state championship game and they never won state. Hancock beat them every time they played them, I guess. Some of the other schools in our district were Walnut Springs, Iredell, Cranfills Gap, Oglesby, Milford and Calvert."

Larry not only coached all sports, he taught some major subjects, like Texas History, economics and government.

"Whatever we needed to do, that's what we did."

Six-man football is different from 11-man football.

"For one thing, the field is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide. You have to go 15 yards for a first down. The ball has to be exchanged before it can cross the line of scrimmage, either with a handoff or a pitch or whatever. Everybody is eligible for a pass. Other than that, it's just blocking and tackling. There's more open field running in six-man."

Larry Pruitt lives at Pancake. He is now the attendance officer at Gatesville High School.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Thank you Lord for the many ways in which we have been blessed.

Disappointed, but still hopeful

I'm initially disappointed in President Bush's Harriet Miers Supreme Court nomination, but not quite ready to run out in front of the beer truck. Part of the problem with the commenting profession is that it sometimes pressures you to step out before all the facts are known. With that caveat in mind — and a few more to come — here goes.

I was counting on the president to nominate a well-known originalist scholar. Since he can pick whomever he chooses, why not select not only a strict constructionist, but someone well known to be among the very cream of the judicial crop?

More than a handful of potential nominees fill that bill, including Michael Luttig, Michael McConnell, Janice Rogers Brown, Priscilla Owen, Edith Jones and others. Few court watchers I know of considered Miers to be in that elite group.

To be sure, the fact that court-watching Bush supporters didn't anticipate the Miers nomination is no reason to oppose her. The question is not whether we all know Miers to be an ideal originalist appointment, but whether, in fact, she is.

Since President Bush knows her so well and professes to believe so strongly in originalism, shouldn't we trust that he wouldn't have appointed her unless she were a highly qualified originalist? But here's the rub. Many conservatives are uncomfortable accepting the wisdom of this appointment on blind faith.

Some may counter that this is hardly blind faith: The president has consistently appointed strong conservatives to the bench. For the most part I would agree, but the Miers appointment, on its face, at least appears compromised, and

that's troubling. (While Roberts was a stealth appointment concerning his originalism, there was nothing stealth about his legal credentials.)

On the surface, she is a very close friend of the president's. Friendship should certainly not disqualify a person, but the president has a duty to appoint the most qualified people to the highest court. While personal loyalty is admirable, the Constitution should never be subordinated to it.



DAVID
LIMBAUGH

I also hope the president isn't merely trying to avoid controversy. Is he so beleaguered that he has chosen to follow the path of least resistance — to appease the Left? If so, I strongly believe he is grossly misreading history and, more importantly, his conservative base.

To the extent that the president's popularity has waned, it is mostly because he has disappointed his base. He should never worry about avoiding the Left's hand grenades, whose pins are always pulled.

Of all things I thought he had learned in spades, it was that his father's overtures to the Left not only were unappreciated and rebuffed — they also deeply wounded his presidency and opened the door to eight years of Clinton.

Which brings me to the clincher. Part of me says, "Calm down, the issue — as I said above — isn't whether we conservatives know Miers is going to be a stellar, originalist jurist, but whether, in fact, she will be. It's the integrity of the Constitution that's paramount, not whether conservatives are molli-

fied. So if Mr. Bush knows she is going to be excellent, that's all that matters in the end."

On the other hand, I believe he had the power to accomplish both things: to appoint someone he knew to be a highly qualified originalist, and someone his conservative base knew to be as well — but he didn't do it — again.

While the Constitution and the Court are monumentally important, they aren't the only institutions in play here. The future of the presidency and conservatism itself are currently in the crosshairs as well. We are well into President Bush's second term, and sometimes he seems to be letting the liberal tail wag the dog.

By acting apologetic about conservatism in this and other recent actions, e.g., post-Katrina, he's sending the wrong signal at the wrong time. If the Republican Party's standard-bearer acts tentative about conservative solutions and fighting for them, how can we expect the base to be fired up, especially as we go into 2008 without a natural successor to replace him — given that Vice President Cheney won't be running?

I truly wish President Bush had seized this opportune moment to reenergize his base and his presidency by appointing a person on his list whose Scalian credentials are common knowledge.

But I would also be remiss if I didn't close with a confession. As I'm submitting this column, I'm hearing very good things about Ms. Miers from people who know her and whom I trust, like she's a strong, pro-life evangelical Christian, a conservative's conservative, an originalist and a very capable lawyer. If so, I will enthusiastically support her — and the Left will go to war against her. We should welcome that fight.

ADDRESSES

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Miers has many ties to the church

Uh-oh. Now we are in trouble. Doesn't take much to read the tea leaves on the Harriet Miers nomination. First, it's Bunker Time at the White House.

Miers' chief qualification for this job is loyalty to George W. Bush and the team. What the nomination means in larger terms for both law and society is the fifth vote on the court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Aside from that bothersome little matter, the Miers appointment is like that of John Roberts — could've been worse. Not as bad as Edith Jones, not as bad as Priscilla Owen — and you should see some of our boy judges from Texas.

Miers, like Bush himself, is classic Texas conservative Establishment, with the addition of Christian fundamentalism. What I mean by fundamentalist is one who believes in both biblical inerrancy and salvation by faith alone.

She is enrolled in the Valley View Christian Church of Dallas, which she attended for at least 20 years before moving to Washington five years ago. Among that church's other members is Nathan Hecht of the Texas Supreme Court, considered second only to Priscilla Owen as that court's most adamant anti-abortion judge.

According to Miers' friends, she was pro-choice when a young woman, but later changed her mind as a result of a Christian experience of some kind. Those who spoke of this did not know her well enough to say whether it had been a born-again experience or simply a different understanding of theology.

Miers had the support of feminists when she ran for office first

in the Dallas bar and later when she became the first woman president of the Texas Bar Association, even though the feminists were aware she was anti-choice.

At that time, the far more conservative TBA was at odds with the American Bar Association and sometimes threatened to withdraw from the national organization. Miers was considered a moderate in that she did not want to withdraw from the ABA, but favored a proposal to change the organization's stance from support for abortion rights to a position of neutrality.

One of Miers' key backers was Louise Raggio, a much-revered Dallas feminist lawyer. The women lawyers groups favored Miers despite her stand on abortion because she was a candidate acceptable to the Establishment, thus making her electable as a woman.

Miers sometimes took women judicial candidates through her very prestigious firm Liddell, Sapp for the obligatory meet 'n' greet and even donated to Democratic candidates. Both these behaviors were well within the conventions of Dallas city and judicial politics, particularly in the 1980s. Dallas city politics are nonpartisan, and rather like Texas tea ("sweet or un?") come in only two flavors — Establishment or less Establishment. Miers qualifies as ur-Establishment, despite "being a girl," as few of the old dinosaurs still put it. The slightly feminist tinge to her credentials is a plus, but she is quite definitely anti-abortion.

She ran for city council in 1989 as a moderate, but struggled during her interview with the lesbian/gay coalition. (At the time, it would have been considered progressive to even show up.) The Dallas Police Department did not then hire gays or lesbians, and when asked about the policy, Miers replied the department should hire the best-qualified people, the classic political sidestep

answer.

When pressed, she said she did believe one should be able to legally discriminate against gays, and it is the recollection of two of the organization's officers that the response involved her religious beliefs.

Miers' church states on its Web site that it believes in biblical inerrancy, full immersion baptism, original sin and salvation dependent entirely upon accepting Jesus Christ. Everyone else is going to hell.

I have said for years about people in public life. "I don't write about sex, drugs or rock 'n' roll." If I had my druthers, I wouldn't write about the religion of those in public life, either, as I consider it a most private matter.

Separation of church and state is in the Constitution because this country was founded by people who had experienced both religious persecution and state-supported religions. I think John F. Kennedy's 1960 statement to the Baptist ministers should stand as a model of how public servants should handle the relation between religious belief and public service.

Nevertheless, we are now beset by people who insist on dragging religion into governance — and who themselves believe they are beset by people determined to "drive God from the public square."

This division has been in part created by and certainly aggravated by those seeking political advantage. It is a recipe for an incredibly damaging and serious split in this country, and I believe we all need to think long and carefully before doing anything to make it worse.

As an 1803 quote attributed to James Madison goes: "The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe with blood for centuries."

World briefs

Draft constitutions distributed to Iraqi voters after parliament resolves standoff

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqis on Thursday began picking up copies of the draft constitution that they will vote on next week, after the country's Shiite-led parliament ended a bitter dispute with Sunni legislators about how the referendum will be conducted.

Lamia Dhyab picked up her copy at the small shop where she presents her ration card in south Baghdad each month to get government-subsidized food for her family.

"We are going to read the draft constitution. If we like it, we will vote yes. If we don't, we'll say no," Dhyab said.

Under U.S. and U.N. pressure, parliament on Wednesday reversed its last-minute electoral law changes, which would have ensured passage of the new constitution in the Oct. 15 referendum, but which the United Nations called unfair.

Sunni Arab leaders who had threatened a boycott because of the changes said they were satisfied with Wednesday's reversal and are now mobilizing to defeat the charter at the polls. But some warned they could still call a boycott to protest major U.S. offensives launched over the past week in western Iraq, the Sunni heartland.

Also Thursday, three bombings in Baghdad occurred. A suicide car bomb hit a police patrol near the Oil Ministry, killing nine Iraqis and wounding nine. Another exploded near a four-car convoy of foreign private security contractors, killing three Iraqi bystanders. And a roadside bomb hit a U.S. Army patrol, killing one soldier.

Senate bill would impose restrictions on treatment of prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate faces a confrontation with the House over a \$440 billion military spending bill that, despite White House opposition, would impose restrictions on the treatment of terrorism suspects.

Delivering a rare wartime slap at Pentagon authority and President Bush, the GOP-controlled Senate voted 90-9 Wednesday to back an amendment that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody, regardless of where they are held.

Sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the proposal also would require all service members to follow procedures in the Army Field Manual when they detain and interrogate terrorism suspects.

"This amendment strives to establish uniform standards for the interrogation of prisoners and detainees as a means for helping ensure our service men and women are well trained, well briefed, knowledgeable of their legal, professional and moral duties and obligations," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

The Senate was expected to vote on the overall spending bill by week's end. The House-approved version of it does not include the detainee provision. It is unclear how much support the measure has in the GOP-run House.

However, Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee on defense, who supports the measure, could prove a powerful ally when House and Senate negotiators meet to reconcile differences in their bills.

And the House could face immense pressure after such a mandate by the Senate.

DeLay and successor Blunt swapped donations between secretive groups

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reps. Tom DeLay and Roy Blunt, the deputy who succeeded him as House majority leader, orchestrated a political money carousel in 2000 that diverted donations secretly collected for presidential convention parties to some of their own pet causes.

When it all ended, DeLay's private charity, along with the consulting firm that employed DeLay's wife and the Missouri campaign of Blunt's son, Matt, who now is the state's governor, all ended up with a piece of the pie, according to campaign documents reviewed by The Associated Press.

Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist recently charged in an ongoing federal corruption and fraud investigation, and Jim Ellis, the DeLay fundraiser indicted with his boss last week in Texas, also appeared in the picture.

The complicated transactions are drawing scrutiny in legal and political circles after a grand jury indicted DeLay on charges of violating Texas law with a scheme to launder illegal corporate donations to state political candidates.

The government's former chief election enforcement lawyer said the Blunt and DeLay transactions are similar to the Texas case and raise questions that should be investigated regarding whether donors were deceived or the true destination of their money was concealed.

"It seems to be a pattern with DeLay funneling money to different groups, at least to obscure, if not cover, the original source," said Lawrence Noble, who was the Federal Election Commission's chief lawyer for 13 years, including 2000, when the transactions occurred.

None of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations DeLay collected for the 2000 convention were ever disclosed to federal regulators because the type of group DeLay used wasn't governed by federal law at the time.



In New Orleans' Lakeview area, Alayne Pregeant stands in the flood-damaged living room of her rental home with her mother, Debi Copes, right. Lakeview is on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

New Orleans residents return, but some say they won't stay

By MIRIAM HILL and CHUCK CRUMBO

Knight Ridder News
NEW ORLEANS — Residents returned Wednesday, many for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, to mold-covered homes and unanswered questions about how they'll rebuild their lives in a city broken financially and psychologically.

Although people have been trickling back into New Orleans for a few weeks, Wednesday was the first day the city allowed people in all areas except one — the hard-hit Ninth Ward. The most common answer heard to questions about what will happen to them and their city was, "No one knows."

In New Orleans East, which lies across a canal from the main part of the city, Gina Dupre, 43, and her mother, Beverly Dupre, 67, donned rubber boots and gloves to see

what Katrina had wrought at their home of 26 years. The stench of mold meant they could go inside only for a few minutes at a time. Mold covered the house so aggressively that the tile of their family-room ceiling appeared to be painted in camouflage.

"I'm devastated," Beverly Dupre said. "This house is going to be torn down." She and her daughter planned to retrieve family photos and return to friends in Lottie, La.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has urged residents to come back to help rebuild. But he's asking them to live in a city with minimal services. Most water still isn't safe to drink.

Some people believe they have no choice but to leave. Suzanne deBessonnet, 32, said she'll move to Oklahoma in two weeks after she helps her

parents clean their New Orleans home. She and her boyfriend worked at a veterinary clinic that Katrina destroyed. They since have found jobs in Edmond, Okla.

"It's prettier. It smells better. It's country, kind of green, and the money is better there," deBessonnet said.

Activity at a Red Cross center in Carrollton, slow on Monday and Tuesday, picked up dramatically Wednesday, said Red Cross spokeswoman Linnea Anderson. When the center opened at 10 a.m., about 175 people were lined up.

Workers handed out snacks, cleaning supplies, diapers, baby formula and towels.

John Ward, who owns National Art and Hobby in Uptown, said people had been coming to buy items for their children. He's living in his nearby home, but says he won't

bring his wife and children back to New Orleans until he believes it's safe.

Clark Theriot, who owns the vintage clothing store Pinky and Blue Boy, has reopened on Magazine Street, a fashionable shopping venue. But he wondered whether New Orleans could recapture the funky mix of people that made it great.

"No one has any clue," he said.

It was difficult to judge how many people came back Wednesday. Traffic on Interstate 10 slowed to a crawl into the city's neighborhoods. City police reported no major incidents. And people were easy to find in parts of the Garden District and Uptown, which weren't as hard hit and reopened to residents on Friday. But New Orleans East was largely deserted.

"We haven't seen anybody yet," Gina Dupre said.

Animal activist accused of freeing thousands of mink says he'd do it again

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — An animal rights activist who faces a potential two-year prison term for freeing thousands of mink from Midwest fur farms says he has no regrets.

Peter Daniel Young, 28, said serving time will be nothing compared to what caged animals suffer.

"As bad as it could get, it will never be as bad as it was for those mink," Young said. "I would do it all over again."

Prosecutors say Young and an accomplice were acting on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front when they broke onto farms and freed about 7,000 mink.

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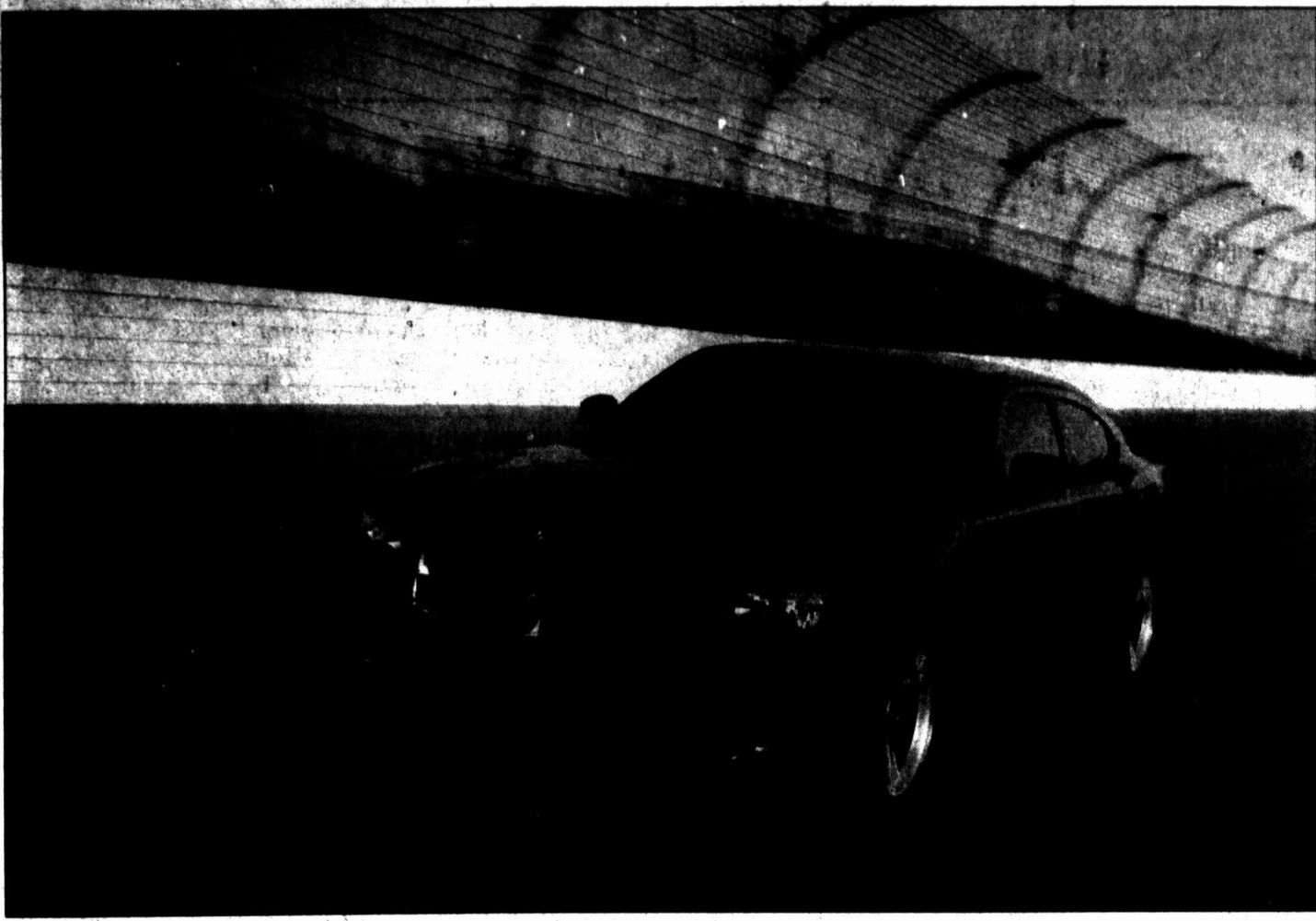
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"Remember...you deserve the best!"



Chrysler hopes Charger will help the bottom line

By TERRY BOX

The Dallas Morning News

Try as he might, Brad Buttermore of Dallas just doesn't see the link between his classic 1966 Dodge Charger and the innocuous 2006 sedan that now wears the storied nameplate.

The original Charger was one of the bolder cars of the '60s. "It's like one of those puzzles you just keep looking at, trying to distinguish the pattern," said Buttermore, 49, president of the Dallas Mopar Club.

Already controversial, the new Charger arrived recently at area dealerships bearing a heavy load: The Chrysler Group is relying on the Charger — its newest vehicle — to maintain the company's precious sales momentum.

While General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. grapple with billion-dollar losses, the Chrysler Group is Detroit's lone beacon of light, recording eight straight profitable quarters of sales increases.

In the most recent quarter, sales were up 5 percent. But the hot Chrysler 300 — the car that put the company back in the black 18 months ago — is showing signs of slowing.

In June, the 300's sales were 7.5 percent lower than in June 2004.

Despite some grumbling from enthusiasts because of its styling and four-door configuration, the Charger should be good enough to pick up the slack, some analysts say. The car is built off the same well-regarded platform that supports the 300 and Dodge Magnum, and it's available with Chrysler's powerful, popular Hemi V8.

"This one's a keeper," said Car and Driver magazine in a recent review that praised the car's power, poised suspension and able brakes.

More is at stake than sales numbers, said Jeff Brodoski, auto analyst for J.D. Power and Associates. The new-car market is so competitive these days that any loss of market share can quickly lead to higher incentives and lower profits. So far, the 300 and the Magnum have sold without any substantial incentives.

Some enthusiasts have complained that the new four-door Charger doesn't have much in common with the classic. "Having some constant momen-

tum, some constant fresh product is much more key than it was even five years ago because competition is so intense," Brodoski said.

"Fresh product sells," added Jim Sourges, automotive practice leader at Capgemini U.S. "They've got a couple of other new products coming out next year, but the Charger is important to them now."

The 300 and Magnum experiences aside, this has been the summer of big, effective incentives. On Aug. 2, General Motors reversed its earlier decision to end its employee-pricing discount plan and said it will continue the program through Labor Day. Ford and the Chrysler Group have adopted similar programs, which offer prices on many vehicles that are below the wholesale invoice. All have boosted sales substantially.

"The Charger is an integral part of our plans," said Judy Wheeler, director of Dodge marketing. "With the Charger, we are trying to get back into the car business on the Dodge side. Charger is extremely important to the Dodge brand."

Dodge dealers rely heavily on truck sales now. Although Dodge won't discuss its projections for the Charger, analysts say it should generate 80,000 to 100,000 incremental sales — which should keep Chrysler's sales numbers rising.

But because the car has stirred more controversy than the Chrysler 300 or Dodge Magnum, it could fall short. Dealers, for example, have ordered 35,000 to 40,000 Chargers but still must convince consumers to buy them. And some dealers say that hasn't been easy.

Dodge is marketing the sedan as a modern interpretation of the original two-door Charger muscle car, one of the bolder cars of the 1960s.

Ronald J. Kutz, for one, isn't convinced yet that the car will be a big success.

Early sales of the Charger at Dallas Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep have not been impressive, said Kutz, president of Kutz Automotive Group, a division of Houston-based Group 1 that includes Dallas Dodge and Courtesy Nissan in Richardson, Texas.

"Here's my take on it: You and I remember the Charger — those Hemis, those 383 Magnums, those

DODGE CHARGER

Base price: \$29,995
Length: 198 inches
Width: 74.4 inches
Height: 58.2 inches
Weight: 4,141 pounds
Engine: 5.7 liter V8
Horsepower: 340 at 5,000 rpm
Torque: 390 pounds-feet at 4,000 rpm
0-60 mph: 5.6 seconds
Fuel economy: 17 mpg city; 25 mpg highway, according to the EPA

—SOURCE: Car and Driver

Coke-bottle bodies," he said. "It was a wonderful statement for Chrysler. Now comes 2005, and we're waiting for all those guys who were 16 then and wanted a Charger. The problem is they're 55 now and driving a Lexus."

The Charger could still be a hit, he said, "but it's going to have to pick up some speed."

Some expect that to happen.

"I think the Charger has the right DNA," said Joe Barker, manager of North American sales analysis at CSM Worldwide in Farmington Hills, Mich. "We see the Charger attracting buyers from all different consumer groups, from people in their 30s who are intrigued with the horsepower to those with families and those who are just fans of the nameplate."

In addition, the Charger, Magnum and 300 occupy an unusual niche in today's market — they are affordable full-size sedans with rear-wheel drive and powerful V8 engines that have no real competition. The Charger R/T with a Hemi V8, for example, starts at \$29,995.

Most similar-sized Japanese or European cars either don't offer the power of the 340-horse Hemi or are more expensive.

"Until you get up into luxury vehicles, you're talking about the (Ford) Crown Victoria and (Mercury) Grand Marquis, and they aren't the same kind of car as a Charger," said Brodoski of J.D. Power and Associates.

Wheeler is confident that the Charger can meet expectations. The target buyers are mostly men about 45 who have some college education and a family income of \$75,000 or more.

"The Charger has researched well with every group," she said. "It researched well with men, with women, with NASCAR dads, soccer moms, everyone. People see different things in the car."

Ray Huffines, who owns Huffines Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge in Plano, Texas, thinks it will be a moderate hit. Although the Charger off to a sluggish start in Plano, "it takes time to cut through all the clutter today, and it will. It should do well," he said.

Like Buttermore of the Dallas Mopar Club, Ron Dillinger sees no family resemblance between his 1968 and 1970 Chargers and the new one — though he thinks the new car should sell fairly well. "Those of us who are purists just don't like the idea of its being a four-door," said Dillinger, 61, a Dallas accountant who owns 1968 and 1970 Chargers.

Even if the car is never viewed as striking, like the Chrysler 300, it's still probably good enough to keep the Chrysler Group's sales numbers spinning.

"I think they went far enough to attract enough buyers to get 80,000 to 100,000 sales," said Barker of CSM Worldwide. "And that's an achievement. The days of getting 200,000 units out of a full-size car are gone."

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Making school more rewarding for your children

The No Child Left Behind law has challenged educators to share ideas and strategies which parents can utilize to assist their children in being more successful in school.

I have been in Big Spring only a few months, but I have discovered that parents here are extremely interested in their children's success, and desire to help their children in every way they can.

With this in mind, we have developed a series of weekly articles that may be of assistance. These articles will be called the Parent's Corner.

From a child's point of view, school may often seem to last an eternity. But, on average, a child spends more than 120 hours a week at home and less than 40 hours at school.

As a parent, you have more time with your child than his or her teachers. Make sure your home is a learning environment that complements the classroom.

The following questions and answers may help you make sure that your child's time at home supports his or her success in school.

• How should I prepare my child for the school day? — Try to make sure your child goes to school fed and well-rested with all of his or her homework completed. Thanks to BSISD food services, a wonderful breakfast program for the elementary and intermediate grades has been established and is available to every child in those grades.

• What should I do to help my child with his or her homework? — Find out what your child's homework assignments are. Turn off the TV and create a study space for your child if he or she needs it, but do not do the work for your child.

• What habits should I practice at home to show my child the importance of school success? — Parents who read are more likely to have children who read. Try to take a little time each day to read a book or the newspaper.

Parent's Corner

Institute a special time for homework. You can read, pay bills or write letters while your child does his or her work.

• What should I do if work or other responsibilities limit the amount of time I can spend with my child? — It's not necessarily the quantity of time you spend with your child but the quality.

Try to make your time together special and engaging. Ask your child about his or her day, about what your child learned in school or about things that he or she is interested. Tell your child something about your day, maybe even about something you learned.

• Whom should I turn to for help if I believe my child is not making progress? — Your child's teacher is the person who should be able to help you most with the issue. If you believe your child is not making progress you should schedule a meeting to talk with the teacher.

Together you may be able to pinpoint the source of the problem and the teacher should then give you suggestions about what to do and with whom else to talk.

• Whom should I contact if I believe problems with my child's health or well-being are hindering his or her success in school? — First you should talk with your child and also someone who knows your child well. This may be someone in his or her school, a pastor, an after-school teacher or sports coach.

It is important to try to identify the nature of the problem before you try to solve it. Then you make an appointment to talk to the school guidance counselor. The counselor can give suggestions about further steps you and your child can take to resolve the problem.

Keep in mind, the school is your friend and your child is the concern of both you and the school.

Darrell Ryan is curriculum director for the Big Spring Independent School District. He may be contacted by calling 264-3600.



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No. 10 Garden City prepares for tough opener

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Garden City Bearkats open District 10-Six-man competition Friday against Robert Lee and both teams enter the game with winning streaks.

The Bearkats are 4-1 and have won four straight games, including a 44-7 rout of previously undefeated Midland Trinity last week. Robert Lee is 2-3, but has won its last two games and moved all the way up to No. 20 in the state rankings, according to sixmanfootball.com.

The Steers have had no

trouble scoring points in their five games, but have also given up a lot of points, too. They defeated Strawn 55-46 and routed Trent 46-0, but gave up 87, 72 and 61 points in their three losses this year.

"They are much better this year," said Garden City head coach Ken Hoskins. "They are playing with some confidence because they have won two games in a row."

Robert Lee is led by three good running backs on offense. Senior Brandon Soliz, sophomore Cameron Hodge and freshman Josh Gallegos

will all get a chance to carry the ball at Bearkat Stadium Friday. Gallegos and Hodge are also stars on the defensive side of the ball along with senior Josh Conner, who plays linebacker.

Hodge has intercepted four passes the last two games and taken three of them back for touchdowns.

Hoskins said the Steers will use a spread offense and try to create running lanes for their three backs and it is crucial for his 10th-ranked Bearkats to make sure tackles because all three runners run hard.

"We just have to be ready to play," said Hoskins. "This is a big rivalry game and it is the start of the district season so I plan on them bringing their 'A' game."

Besides containing the running backs and tackling, Hoskins also wants the defense to stay in position because Robert Lee runs a lot of misdirection plays. On offense, he wants to take care of the ball and catch the ball.

"I like what we are doing offensively to this point and our defense hasn't given up that many touchdowns either," said

Hoskins.

The Bearkat offense is averaging 380 yards per game. The defense allowed more than 300 yards in last week's win against Midland Trinity, but Trinity only scored one touchdown.

Depth may again play a factor as Garden City plans to play all 15 varsity players, while Robert Lee only goes about nine deep.

The weather is supposed to cool off Friday so the heat may not factor into the contest. Robert Lee should be well rested as the team is coming off an open week.

IN BRIEF

Coahoma sets booster club dates

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will meet each Monday at 7 p.m. in Coach Kim Nichols' classroom through the football season. The meetings after football season will take place only when needed.

For more information, contact Donna Wright at 267-6723.

Quarterback club sets remaining weekly meetings

The Big Spring football booster club (quarterback club) will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at the ATC through the football season.

For more information, contact Gene Piercefield at 816-1134.

Big Spring starts junior tennis league

Big Spring tennis pro Ted Olesen has announced the start of a junior tennis league. League play will take place every Monday at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trill Park and will last from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The league is for children in grades four through six (ages 8-12).

Participants should bring their own racket. Provided rackets will be limited.

For more information, contact Olesen at 806-236-8901 or visit bigspringtennis.com.

Hunter Education Class announced

The date for the next hunter education course will be Oct. 15 and 16 beginning at 8 a.m. in the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Building.

The cost is \$10 and each student will need his/her social security number and a parent or guardian if under 17.

Texas law requires this course to be taken if you want to hunt in the state.

For more information or to register, contact Steve Poitevint at 264-7033.

Softball tournament announced in B.S.

There will be a La Raza Unida softball tournament Oct. 14 and 15 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trill Park.

The entry fee will be \$110 per team.

There will be a team trophy, player trophies and T-Shirts awarded for first place, while second and third place will get a team trophy and T-Shirts.

The tournament is part of the La Raza Unida Celebracion. There will also be speakers, music, entertainers and booths and vendors at the Amphitheater. The festivities begin at 11 a.m. Saturday.

For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 263-635 or leave a message at 714-4185.



Big Spring senior linebacker Zac Chesworth got a chance to handle the ball last Friday against San Angelo Central as he fielded a short kickoff. The Steers have begun the season 0-5, but have lost each of their last three games by three points or less.

Have no fear, the district season is here as games start to count

• Struggling teams get second chance as "new" season begins

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Several area teams have a chance to wash away their slow starts this season as the slate is cleared away with the start of the district season.

Grady and Sands have both begun the year at 0-5, but the good news there is that two other teams in District 5-Six-man — Klondike and Dawson — are also winless. The other two teams — defending champion Wellman-Union and Loop — are both just 2-3.

Two of these teams will advance to the playoffs at season's end. The favorite to win the district is still Wellman-Union, but expect Grady and Sands to make a run for the other spot. Those two rivals meet in the final game of the season Nov. 3 and it looks like that game could have big playoff implications on the line.

Both Grady and Sands have been hit with injuries.

The Mustangs are missing three starters in Cevan Smithson, Dee Fryar and Garrett Nichols and are down to 12 on the active roster after starting with around 19 healthy bodies. Smithson and Fryar have said they will return some time this year, but Nichols is out for the season.

Grady is still waiting for Brody Pinkerton to return to the lineup this season after breaking his right ankle. Clay Mitchell also missed some time this season due to cracked ribs.

Sands will try to get off on the right foot at winless Klondike, while the Wildcats host Loop for homecoming.

Stanton and Coahoma will battle in the same district again this season. Last year saw the Buffaloes advance to the playoffs after winning five of their last six games. Stanton has begun this season 0-5, but has a chance to start the "new" season strong with a win at Anson Friday.

Coahoma had a season to forget last year, but has looked much improved this year under first year

head coach Ken Cates, especially on defense where long-time Big Spring defensive coordinator Jay Kennedy is running the show in the same position for the Bulldogs. Coahoma began the season with a win against Reagan County, but its brutal non-district season was not favorable as they take a 1-4 record into District 4-2A. Speaking of tough games, Coahoma starts the district year at home against arch rival and district favorite Colorado City. It is the team's homecoming game.

Friday's Area Football Lineup

Big Spring @ Lake View
Colorado City @ Coahoma
Forsan @ Bronte
Robert Lee @ Garden City
Stanton @ Anson
Loop @ Grady
Sands @ Klondike

All games are district games and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

*Weather permitting

Playoff race wide-open as District 4-4A begins Friday

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

If there is any good news to take from Big Spring and Lake View's 1-9 combined record, it could be that the District 4-4A season is here and the slate is wiped clean.

The Steers travel to San Angelo Stadium for the second straight week, but this time they take on the 1-4 Chiefs in the district opener.

Big Spring enters the game with an 0-5 record, but has lost each of its last three games by three points or less. The Steers could be 4-1, but, fortunately, their non-district record has nothing to do with a playoff berth.

The other good news to take from both teams' slow start is the fact that the bottom four teams in the district have a combined 1-19 record with Lake View defeating Class 3A Merkel last week. And one of these four teams will make the playoffs. Friendship and Plainview are both 5-0.

Besides their slow starts, Lake View and Big Spring have something else in common — they both have new head coaches and both are named Tim as Big

Spring's Tim Holt and Lake View's Tim Reid look to get their teams back to the playoffs this year.

Lake View's offense has struggled mightily all season long as they have been outscored 189-42. They scored 35 points in their win over Merkel last week, but reached the end zone just once in their first four games. The Chiefs average 108 yards per game and give up 381 yards on defense.

Donnell Harris has 104 rushing yards and one touchdown to lead Lake View. Ethan Reid has 304 passing yards and three touchdowns. The team's leading receiver is Chad Hill, who has 123 yards and two touchdowns.

Of the bottom four teams with just one win, the Steers have definitely looked the best if someone were to look at the scores. They lost to Odessa High by just seven points and then suffered losses of three points or less to Hereford, Lubbock High and San Angelo Central, but were in those games right down to the wire.

Friday's game begins at 7:30 p.m. The Steers host arch rival Andrews Oct. 14.

Area Football Standings		
District 4-4A	League	Overall
Frenship	0-0	5-0
Plainview	0-0	5-0
Lake View	0-0	1-4
Big Spring	0-0	0-5
Lubbock Estacado	0-0	0-5
Andrews	0-0	0-5

District 4-2A	League	Overall
Colorado City	0-0	3-2
Hawley	0-0	3-2
Anson	0-0	2-3
Coahoma	0-0	1-4
Stamford	0-0	1-4
Stanton	0-0	0-5

District 10-1A	League	Overall
Bronte	2-0	5-1
Sterling City	2-0	2-4
Roscoe	1-0	5-0
Winters	1-0	3-2
Roby	0-2	2-4
Forsan	0-2	1-5
Hermleigh	0-2	0-6

District 8-Six-man	League	Overall
Garden City	0-0	4-1
Water Valley	0-0	3-2
Robert Lee	0-0	3-2
Veribest	0-0	3-3
Blackwell	0-0	1-2
Paint Rock	0-0	0-3

District 5-Six-man	League	Overall
Wellman-Union	0-0	2-3
Loop	0-0	2-3
Grady	0-0	0-5
Sands	0-0	0-5
Dawson	0-0	0-5
Klondike	0-0	0-5

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ESTATE SALE: 208 Rocco Road off N. Service Rd. (Sands Spring), Sat. 8:00am-5:00pm & Sunday 12:00am-5:00pm.

Garage Sales

FAMILY GARAGE Sale: 2404 East 24th., Saturday 8:00-1:00. An abundance of clothing all ages, shoes, purses, jewelry, furniture, exercise equipment, cookware, linens, home decor., miscellaneous.

HUSBAND RECLAIMING Work Shop/ 2 Family Sale: 6708 Kyle Rd. (Tubbs Addition, South Hwy 87 to Jeffery Rd., stop sign right on Kyle Rd.), Fri. & Sat. 8:00am-6:00pm. Sleeper sofa, S.S. pool ladder, exercise bike etc., complete aquarium, horseshoe decor., books, cosmetics, jewelry, men's & women's- coats, clothing, shoes & boots, much more. CASH.

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Help Wanted

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

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Maintain drip irrigation inventory and physical plant. Functions include load/unload delivery trucks, labeling/stocking inventory, assisting customers, yard maintenance, forklift operation. Ability to lift heavy items, travel within West Texas area. Possess and maintain valid Texas Driver License. Irrigation, farming, mechanical or computer experience a plus, but will train. Opportunity for growth.

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Apply in person at Eco-Drip Irrigation
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263-5000

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3 BEDROOM, 2 bath Corner Lot with CH/A. Also have Large, Clean 1 room apartment. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Call (432)263-4528. (432)296-0277.

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807 ANNA- 2 bdrm- \$300.00. 502 1/2 Goliad- 1 bdrm Duplex- \$225.00. Also 3006 Cherokee- 2 bdrm- \$300.00 Call Moren (432)267-7380.

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2 - 6 Bedroom Brick Homes

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- Bad Credit OK
- 6 Month Warranty On Everything

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Ford Credit Bonus Cash - \$1,000
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Sale Price \$15,495⁰⁰
+TTL

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CD - Power Equipment Air Fold Flat - Rear Seat Pkg

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Customer Cash - \$5,000
Brock Discount - \$3,700

Sale Price \$24,995⁰⁰
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SALE/RENT: 512 East 15th. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, lg. kitchen, utility room, Ref. AC., large lot. Will Owner Finance. Sale \$19,500.00 Rent \$350.00. Call (432)816-1361.

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EXTRA NICE. One Owner. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath mobile home. Inside immaculate. \$9,500.00. For sale by owner. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

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DEALS OF THE MONTH

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1992 CHEVROLET Silverado short-wide bed. V-6, 5-speed. New custom paint. 90,000 miles. Must see to appreciate. (432)770-4574.

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

Vehicles

1996 LINCOLN Town Car (Maroon). Very good condition \$5,950.00. Also 1991 Ford T-Bird, will sell for parts. \$500.00 OBO. 1301 East 4th. Call Bill (432)213-0426.

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2004 GMC SLE Sierra 2500 Crew Cab. Red with tan interior. 17,500 miles. Factory warranty. 6.0 engine. (432)770-4574.

OLDS DELTA 88 Royale Sedan. One Owner. Bought here, always garaged. V8. 79,000 miles, radio, clock, A/C, all work, good battery, tires. \$4,000.00. Cash. (432)213-0646.

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QUALITY PRE-OWNED Vehicles for Sale. Financing Available with Approved Credit. Call Vanessa or Lynn for details at (432)267-6373, 686-1200 or (800)248-2328 or visit www.citizensfcu.com

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Don't even bother trying to cover up your self-interests. The Scorpio moon has a way of undressing our actions so the bare intention is apparent to all who witness the act. If your intention is pure, the response will be equally pure. If there's something you want, don't be embarrassed to ask for it outright. Everyone wants something!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You act as a buffer between warring parties. It's an unusual position for you to be in, as your usual modus operandi is to take one side or the other. Now you can appreciate how your parents used to feel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're still having some degree of difficulty being understood. Maybe you're not making yourself clear enough. Still, others would be wise to bet on you. A miraculous victory is in your near future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Lazier and more pampered individuals simply can't relate to how much you do in a day and how tough it really can be. But don't waste time thinking about it. You're too busy trying to put your master plan into effect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're driven —

hyper vigilant, in fact — when it comes to getting your prize. Now if everyone else would get out of your way — a loved one is being a real pest. It's time to call them out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being inconvenienced can be a good thing. With a little petulance, you can extract a contribution to your favorite cause (which may very well be yourself — there's nothing wrong with that).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your effectiveness is heralded, but perhaps not by those you would like to herald you. Rumors of your hard work will soon spread. The evening features a (deliciously) disruptive presence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll put up with a little bad behavior from people you like tremendously. But sometimes it's just time for someone to say sorry. Other times, like today, sorry isn't good enough. You want to see something tangible!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your relationship with the "money gods" is a unique and close one. You log in your request and are seldom disappointed. You could even receive a lump sum in the mail to expedite the purchase of your latest material want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's very important that you are ethical in all dealings now and that you make sure others are treating you with the same respect. Consider that what some would call a polite request, others would call distortion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You understand how the power is balanced in any given situation — and you know what to do to make it work for you. Generosity of higher-ups impacts you favorably if you can recognize that you are being given a gift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An audience is key to doing fabulous work. When you activate the creative part of your life, your love life thrives. In that light, you might even be grateful for past heartache for giving you so much to express.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're more successful because you set time limits that accommodate your process. Price your work higher though. Either that, or find another way to earn extra money — an upcoming opportunity to travel is too juicy to miss.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born on March 20, 1973 in Lemoore, Calif., (Lemoore Naval Station) at 2:44 a.m. I have been curious as to why another astrologer said: 'You have Cancer in your house of children — how interesting.' He made this remark after saying my chart showed that I was not supposed to have any. I am blessed with three, and one of them is a Cancer. This has been bugging me for a while. Could you please shed some light on this statement?"

By my calculations, Gemini, not Cancer, is ruling your fifth house of children. Are any of your

children twins? If not, I'll bet that they are close in age and two of them look very much alike. Saturn is in your realm of children, too. Your life's work is your children, and you learn more about yourself through their trials, tribulations, joys and victories than you do through your own! But about the statement that bugged you so ... it holds a gem of insight. Whenever we are faced with an inaccurate prophecy or opinion about us, our reaction can be very telling. Your identity as a mother is so strong that even the mention of a reality in which you are not a mother is alarming!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: TELEVISION personality Simon Cowell adores being the center of attention, but Libras like Cowell cannot deliver such a strong persona without a reliable support team around them. He will savor the spotlight some more this year and develop new television and musical projects both in the U.S. and abroad. A secret wedding could occur late in 2007.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My ex-husband and I share custody of two school-age children. They live with me primarily, and they spend one week per month with their father.

In the past few months, Dad has been removing the children from school for a few days so they can have "quality" time together. It's becoming more frequent, and I am concerned about it affecting their grades as well as their attitudes. My son quoted his father saying, "You will learn a lot more with me than you ever will at school."

I approached my ex and offered to have a set number of days when he can take the kids out of school. He brushed me off, saying I was worrying for nothing. This man likes to control things. I am hesitant to go the legal route because it would cause such animosity between us. Do I stand back and say nothing? — Frustrated in Canada

Dear Frustrated: Does your children's school have a policy on how many days the kids can miss? Your best bet is to enlist the principal's help in addressing the problem and make the issue between Dad and the school — and you stay out of it.

Sooner or later, excessive absences will affect the children's grades. If the kids don't want to do poorly, they might be able to get Dad to take their education more seriously. Otherwise, legal recourse may be your only other option. Please don't be afraid to go there.

Dear Annie: My also-single friend, "Judy," is very wealthy and recently asked me to take an expensive European trip with her, but it just wasn't in my budget.

Shortly after, Judy complained to me about paying upkeep on a resort condo I never knew about. She finally invited me to spend a week there instead of the Europe trip. She said I would need to pay half the gas, as we



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

would be driving her car. That was fine. I even purchased a lovely gift as a thank you.

Our first night, Judy told me that we'd split everything 50-50, and added, "That means that if I order a \$100 bottle of wine and you don't drink any, you still pay half because I pay upkeep on this condo." Then she told me I owed her for the wear and tear and insurance on her new luxury sedan. I was infuriated and flew home. I sent Judy a check for what she claimed I owed her and resolved never to see her again.

We didn't speak for three months, and then she called as if nothing had ever happened. I am moving soon to a city much closer to Judy, and she already is making plans to come visit. I'm usually willing to give someone a second chance, but I've never been treated like this. Should I tell her how I feel? — Dissed

Dear Dissed: Well, you could bill her for the upkeep on your home, but we doubt you are that mean-spirited or cheap. First decide if you want to remain friends with Judy. If so, forgive her, but don't plan another trip together. If you don't care about her friendship, feel free to air your grievances. You'd have nothing to lose.

Dear Annie: This is for "Heartbroken," who was hurt that her mother-in-law referred to her as an "outlaw."

I have been a happy "outlaw" for 50 years, having been inducted into the outlaw fraternity by my mother-in-law. Now into the third generation, we have "Outlaw" pins for us and "We Love Outlaws" pins for them. Great fun! Each new outlaw receives an official membership card signed by the president and secretary. At the top of the card is a sphinx, with the motto "Silence — Fortitude" beneath it.

I hope "Heartbroken" will turn her hurt into an opportunity for fun by forming an outlaw group for her family. — Happy Outlaw

Dear Happy: A perfect example of making lemonade out of lemons. Thanks.

Dear Annie: I am a teenage girl. I always thought I was heterosexual, but lately, I have been paying a lot more attention to girls. In the locker room, I always find myself staring at their breasts. While all my friends are ogling Brad Pitt, I'm looking at Angelina Jolie.

I don't really consider guys anything more than friends. I've had crushes on a few of them, but that's it. Whenever I hug my girlfriends, though, I feel all warm inside and linger for longer than necessary. I love to bury my head in their hair. Hugging guys is nothing special. I've also had a few erotic dreams about girls.

Girls turn me on, but guys turn me off, and I think muscles on guys are really ugly. I have never wanted to get married, and I think sex with a guy is nasty.

I currently have a crush on my friend, "Jocelyn." I have no idea what my sexual orientation is anymore. To top it off, my parents are not open-minded about gays and lesbians. I know that ultimately the decision is in my hands, but can you help me figure this out? Or am I too young to know my sexual orienta-

tion? — Girl Who Likes Girls

Dear Girl: Here's what we can tell you. It is not uncommon for teenage girls to have crushes on members of the same sex. It is not unusual for girls to be fascinated by women's breasts, to think sex is nasty, to find muscles unappealing and to discover that hugging their friends is enjoyable. Does this make you gay? No.

However, it also doesn't mean you're not. It means you are having powerful sexual feelings and hormonal surges, which is normal for a teenager. Your sexual orientation will solidify as you get older, one way or another. If you need more information, try PFLAG (pflag.org) at 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Dear Annie: Please let your readers know how much a simple card or phone call means to someone going through a difficult time. It was devastating and scary when I found out I had breast cancer. I had a mastectomy and went through five months of chemotherapy.

I was blessed to have many loving family members and friends who stood by me. Their phone calls, cards, meals, etc., kept me going. I am, however, having a difficult time getting over the hurt I feel from those family members and friends who were not there for me.

My husband says to forgive and move on, but this is difficult for me to do, and I have a hard time being around them. How do I get past this? — Hurt in New York

Dear Hurt: Many people have no idea how to respond when someone is seriously ill. Because of their own discomfort and awkwardness, they choose to do nothing. These friends and relatives no doubt feel guilty about their behavior. Work on forgiving them, but if you cannot, it's perfectly OK to limit your contact.

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THU 6:30 PM 7:30 PM 8:30 PM 9:30 PM 10:30 PM 11:30 PM 12:30 AM DENI I THINK GUILTY, BC WHY WE WE P HERE WIZ. HI A THE EEL WAS SNU TH' TO DO SC 'BOU LUKEY BEE I CAN HIM. AUTHC 10-6

THURSDAY

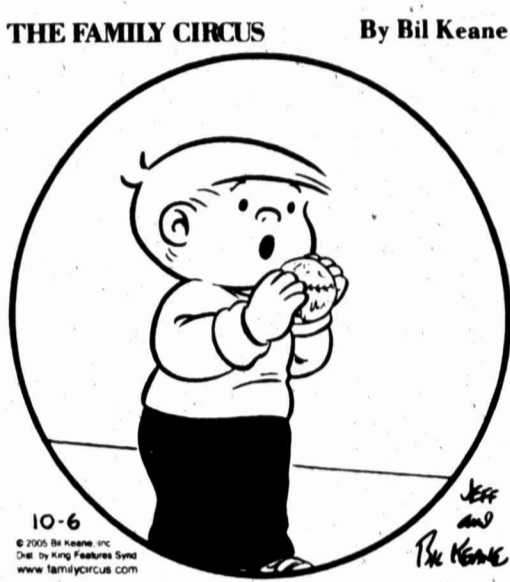
Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Thursday, October 6, 2005. Columns include WFAA, KMDL, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THINK I'M DONE HERE, MOM. I DON'T FEEL GUILTY ANYMORE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This baseball wasn't autographed by anyone embarrassing, was it?"

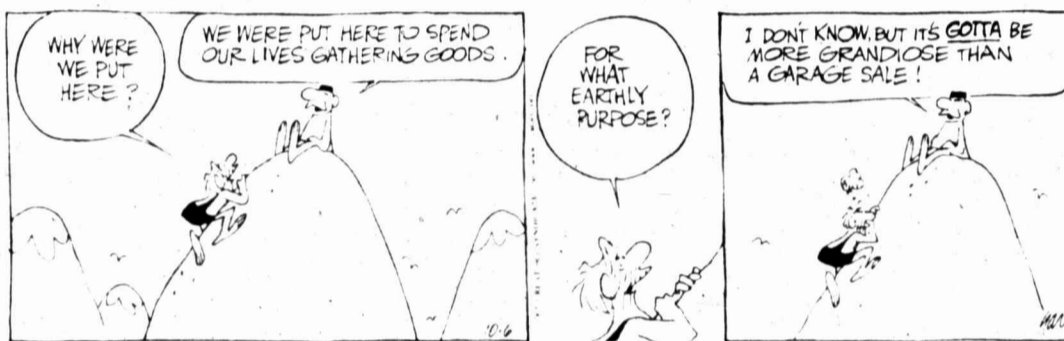
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 6, the 279th day of 2005. There are 86 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 6, 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer," a movie starring Al Jolson which featured both silent and sound-synchronized scenes.

sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison and fined \$10,000. (She ended up serving more than six years.) In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria attacked Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. In 1976, in his second debate with Jimmy Carter, President Ford asserted there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe."

Impressionist Fred Travalena is 63. Singer Millie Small is 59. Singer-musician Thomas McClary is 55. Rock singer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) is 54. Rock singer-musician David Hidalgo (Los Lobos) is 51. Actress Elisabeth Shue is 42. Country singer Tim Rushlow is 39. Rock musician Tommy Stinson is 39. Actor Ioan Gruffudd is 32.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with letters: JESU, CHER, HATCH, ABCS, LOGE, OMAHA, CORD, IMAM, SIXAM, ONEARMEDBANDITS, BVE, ABS, RBIS, NAGS, CAY, TSKS, SADAT, ERNST, TIA, TWHANDEDWORDS, ORO, GOEST, IRISH, PYRE, BLT, SNAP, KNEW, OLE, MAS, THREE, LEGGED, RACE, AEIOU, IOLA, ALTA, RECUR, SUEZ, KLUM, PLATO, SPRY, ESPY.

Newsday Crossword

MUSICAL NOTES by Adam Cohen Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Colorful Apple 5 Quarterback Brett 10 They may be liberal 14 "I know my ABC's..." 15 "Are you in?" 16 Sudden pull 17 "Ring of Fire" singer 19 Neuter 20 Bring out 21 Chinese dynasty 23 K-O connectors 24 Church cup 25 Bell town of fiction 27 "Am ___ brother's keeper?" 28 Anecdote filler 29 "Immediately!" in the E.R. 30 More amiable 32 Bumpo of fiction 34 George in Knute Rockne. All American "Quarter to Three" singer 37 Part of payments at the pump 39 "Ain't neither!" reply 40 Up and about 41 Fed. lending agency 42 Cheers for a torero 46 USPS delivery 47 Make ___ (strike it rich) 49 Right, in Rouen 50 Love Story composer 51 Business card abbr.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for words.

That's Racin'

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Love and racing

Wives play key roles in the lives of NASCAR drivers

By KATE HAIROPOLOS
The Dallas Morning News

When Krissie Newman met her husband, Ryan, she was clerking for a judge in Charlotte, N.C., and considered racing something you fell asleep watching on Sundays.

Now her life and year-old marriage revolve around the NASCAR circuit that used to flicker on her television. She travels to almost 40 races during NASCAR's 10-month season, at tracks from Las Vegas to Martinsville, Va.

Most NASCAR wives share their husbands' nomadic lives, joining them on the road. Some work actively in the business, some adopt more traditional roles. They all have one thing in common: They are racing fans, but they never forget how dangerous the sport is.

"You could drive yourself crazy thinking about it," says Stephanie Hamilton, Bobby Hamilton Jr.'s wife.

NASCAR'S NORMAL

People are always asking Newman what it's like to be married to a NASCAR driver.

"It's not different," she said. "He leaves dirty socks on the floor."

That might be typical, but their schedule isn't.

Everyone else's "normal" weekend is their busiest time. Shana Mayfield, wife of Jeremy, says, "You try to fit a normal life into three days."

The Mayfields have already given the world a glimpse of their version of normal. They appeared on a reality TV show, FX's "NASCAR Drivers: 360." It recorded them doing mundane things — driving around their North Carolina property in a truck, playing with their three dogs.

"They showed my closet, and what a wreck it was, and my shoes everywhere," Mayfield said.

Early in the week, wives squeeze in doing the laundry, paying the bills, running around with the kids and enjoying being home. Many of the drivers go to appearances and testing runs during the week. And it's not long before ...

"You're leaving again Thursday," Mayfield said.

BUSINESS SAVVY

DeLana Harvick's father was a racecar driver, and she grew up doing everything from sweeping the floors at the shop to keeping score at the races.

"From an early age, I was a pretty integral part of my dad's team," she said. "It was just a

natural progression when I met Kevin."

Harvick is heavily involved in Kevin Harvick Inc., which fields Busch and NASCAR Truck series teams. She focuses on the licensing and merchandizing work and the day-to-day management of 50-plus employees. When it comes to the actual racing decisions, she said, she and Kevin discuss everything.

"Do we talk about the personnel on the team? Absolutely," she said. "Do I have an opinion on that? Yep."

"I guess Kevin Harvick Inc. is our baby," she said.

Most NASCAR wives aren't involved in the business as much as Harvick. But they help with scheduling, appearances, charity events and bookkeeping. They often do that work using Internet connections in the motor coaches.

BIGGEST FANS



DORSEY PATRICK WIECK PHOTOS
DeLana Harvick, right, celebrates her team's victory in the 2005 Hershey Take 5 300 with driver Tony Stewart, left.

Above all, NASCAR is a business, though one inherent with the risks of competing at 190 mph. The drivers and their loved ones inevitably feel the pressure.

"NASCAR has gotten so huge, it's a lot of pressure and a lot of commitments and a lot of extracurricular stuff you have to do besides racing," Mayfield said.

"When he's in the race car, it's the most relaxed I see him."

Like all spouses, NASCAR wives provide the most crucial kind of support.

"I don't think people realize the pressure wives have to go through," Harvick said.

The time just before a race can be the hardest on the wives. They know full well the dangers of the sport. Many walk to the track with their husbands and stay close until the race begins.

Hamilton said part of her imagines Bobby as invincible during the races, but ...

"I'm there until 'Gentleman, start your engines,'" she said. "I'm there until the last second. I probably get teary-eyed every time I put him in the car."

Bobby Hamilton Jr. values the support he receives from his wife.

"I really couldn't do this without her," he said. "If something were to happen to me tomorrow, I would be so thankful I had her as my wife, and that we had such a beautiful daughter together."

Jody Wimmer, wife of driver Scott Wimmer, says the 20 minutes before a race is "our time to slow things down." They talk about what's ahead, and she always tells him, "be safe."

Andrea Nemecek, married to veteran driver Joe Nemecek, lost her brother-in-law to a racing accident. She always tries to get to Joe's car before a race and bless it.

"You always worry," she said. "It's one of those things in the pit of your stomach. You say a lot of prayers."

Dallas Morning News staff writer Terry Blount contributed to this report.



EZRA SHAW FOR NASCAR
Jeremy Mayfield gets a kiss from wife Shana after winning the 2005 GFS Marketplace 400.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20):** Dale Jarrett beat him at Talladega, but Stewart beat the guys who are chasing him. Last week: 1.

2. **Ryan Newman (car No. 12):** Three-for-three in top fives during the Chase so far. That's a winning formula.

la. Last week: 4

3. **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Five of the last seven races are on the kind of tracks he's been strongest on this year. Last week: 5

4. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** So bad in Alabama you'd have thought this was a football team from South Carolina. Last week: 2

5. **Rusty Wallace (car No. 2):** His 25th at Talladega was his worst finish in eight weeks. It needs to be his

worst in the Chase. Last week: 3.

6. **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Made up some ground with third-place finish — needs to keep going in that direction. Last week: 7.

7. **Carl Edwards (car No. 99):** Moves up because, like Biffle, the schedule the rest of the way suits him better. Last week: 9.

8. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** On the money at Talladega. Only the fans can shout down that racing trav-

esty. Last week: 6.

9. **Jeremy Mayfield (car No. 19):** Treading water OK, but if he's going to make any Chase noise it's time to start it. Last week: 8.

10. **Kurt Busch (car No. 97):** Finished in the top 10 and he's still further behind this week than he was last week. Last week: 10.

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

After drought, Jarrett savors turn in Victory Lane

The last time Dale Jarrett won a NASCAR Nextel Cup race, he's not sure he cherished the moment the way he should have.

That won't happen this time, the 48-year-old veteran from Hickory, N.C., vowed after breaking a 98-race winless streak with a dramatic victory Sunday in the UAW-Ford 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway.

"We were so used to winning in those days, I didn't see any reason we wouldn't just continue right on doing that at least a couple of times each year," Jarrett said of his victory at North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham in February 2003. "But over the past couple of years ... we haven't been in position to do that as much. I think we've got some more victories to go, but in case that doesn't happen, we'll make sure we enjoy this one."

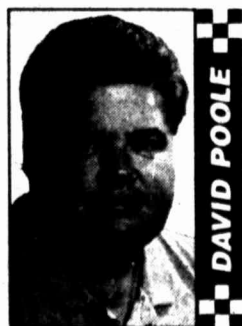
Jarrett will certainly have longer to appreciate this one than he did to anticipate it, for it wasn't until he'd

already run 500 miles Sunday that he found himself in position to surge by Tony Stewart and get his 32nd career win.

Jarrett was in the lead draft of a dozen or so cars as those who'd avoided or recovered from two major wrecks in the first half of the race pounded toward a finish. He'd purposely kept his No. 88 Ford back out of the swarm for most of the day.

"That time of the race doesn't pay anything," Jarrett said of the early laps, when the two multicolor metal storms culled many would-be contenders.

Jarrett was up to sixth by Lap 182 in a race scheduled for 188 laps, but it seemed at that point like all that he might get was a pretty good view as Jamie McMurray, Matt Kenseth,



DAVID POOLE

Tony Stewart and Ryan Newman duked it out ahead of him for the win.

"I was sitting there thinking, 'Good gosh, this is going to be wild,'" Jarrett said. "I have no idea what was going to happen at that point. But the opportunity was still there."

After Ken Schrader had a tire go down on Lap 185 to bring out a caution and set up a green-white-checkered finish, opportunity started knocking.

On the restart, Jarrett made a deal to help Stewart try to move past Kenseth and Newman, and he stuck to that plan.

"I did help (Stewart) by the 12 car (Newman) there as we got the white flag," Jarrett said. "But Tony dove to the inside of the 17 (Kenseth) and I couldn't make that move. I was on the outside and the 99 (Carl Edwards)

was pushing me. I got in front of the 17 and then he pushed me by the 20 (Stewart). It was just incredible."

Then, Kyle Petty spun on the backstretch and into the inside wall NASCAR lingered for a moment but finally had to put out the caution.

Since there's no racing back to the line, even to the checkered flag, the race was over.

NASCAR would have to use its computerized scoring loops and videotape to determine the final results, but Jarrett was convinced he'd won. Just for safety's sake, though, he didn't slow as much as he otherwise might have for the caution.

"I know you're supposed to slow down, and I know I saw the caution lights, but I was just making sure I was the first one that got back to the line," Jarrett said. "My emotions were going crazy. I wanted to get to the start-finish line as quick as I could before somebody changed their minds."

THIS WEEK'S RACE

BANQUET 400

Where: Kansas Speedway, a 1.5-mile paved, banked tri-oval located in Kansas City, Kan.

When: Sunday at 2:10 p.m. (all times ET).

Qualifying is 10:40 a.m. Saturday

TV: NBC

Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$5,860,750.

Last year's winner: Joe Nemecek.

Also this week: Martin Truex Jr. clings to a 26-point lead over Clint Bowyer in the race for the NASCAR Busch Series championship entering Saturday's race at Kansas.

Worth mentioning: Eight of the 10 drivers competing in the Chase for Nextel Cup have won at least one race this season. Five of the 10 have scored multiple victories, led by Tony Stewart and Greg Biffle each with five. Rusty Wallace is expected to make his 700th career Cup this weekend at Kansas. Wallace ranks 10th all-time in career starts.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Jimmie Johnson has apologized for igniting the Lap 20 "Big One" at Talladega. What do you think of his actions?

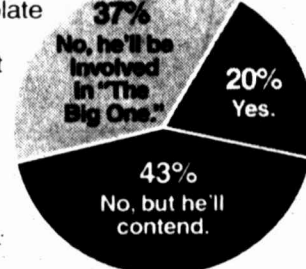
Cast your vote at:

www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Jeff Gordon needs one restrictor-plate victory to tie Dale Earnhardt for the most all-time. Will he get it this weekend at Talladega?

Number of votes: 7,531



STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ **Ryan Newman** (first at New Hampshire, fifth at Dover and fourth at Talladega) is the only driver to score top-five finishes in the first three races of the Chase.

■ **Kevin Harvick** has climbed from 16th to 11th in points in the last five races.

■ **Tony Stewart** has 14 top-five and 20 top-10 finishes in 2005, both the most of any driver. Rusty Wallace has 23 top-15 finishes this season, more than any other driver.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Jeff Gordon** has finished 14th or worse in seven of the last eight races.

■ **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** has led only 27 laps in 2005. One year ago he had led 1,005.

■ **Michael Waltrip** has finished 13th or worse in his last 14 races.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Oct. 2:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	5519	21. Kasey Kahne	3002
2. Ryan Newman	5515	22. Michael Waltrip	2901
3. Rusty Wallace	5443	23. Ricky Rudd	2860
4. Jimmie Johnson	5437	24. Bobby Labonte	2802
5. Greg Biffle	5421	25. Casey Mears	2721
6. Carl Edwards	5419	26. Jeff Green	2651
7. Matt Kenseth	5408	27. Sterling Marlin	2619
8. Jeremy Mayfield	5407	28. Mike Bliss	2608
9. Mark Martin	5381	29. Kyle Petty	2587
10. Kurt Busch	5339	30. Ken Schrader	2550
11. Kevin Harvick	3321	31. Dave Blaney	2544
12. Jamie McMurray	3307	32. Scott Riggs	2514
13. Elliott Sadler	3288	33. Scott Wimmer	2445
14. Dale Jarrett	3270	34. Travis Kvapil	2381
15. Joe Nemecek	3222	35. Mike Wallace	2059
16. Jeff Gordon	3202	36. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1828
17. Brian Vickers	3187	37. Robby Gordon	1750
18. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3112	38. Jason Leffler	1538
19. Kyle Busch	3064	39. Kevin Lepage	1201
20. Jeff Burton	3022	40. Terry Labonte	937

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Sept. 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Martin Truex Jr.	4063	11. Greg Biffle	3120
2. Clint Bowyer	4037	12. Ashton Lewis	3062
3. Reed Sorenson	3805	13. J.J. Yelley	3009
4. Carl Edwards	3733	14. Johnny Sauter	2951
5. Denny Hamlin	3496	15. Stacy Compton	2793
6. Kenny Wallace	3483	16. Randy LaJoie	2704
7. Paul Menard	3330	17. Jon Wood	2703
8. David Stremme	3194	18. Justin Labonte	2648
9. David Green	3193	19. Kevin Harvick	2493
10. Jason Keller	3147	20. Stanton Barrett	2252

NEXT RACE: Saturday, United Way 300, Kansas City, Kan.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Sept. 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Dennis Setzer	2877	6. Jimmy Spencer	2593
2. Ted Musgrave	2872	7. Bobby Hamilton	2577
3. Ron Hornaday	2677	8. David Starr	2507
4. Mike Skinner	2627	9. David Reutimann	2493
5. Todd Bodine	2593	10. Matt Crafton	2483

NEXT RACE: Oct. 22, Kroger 200, Martinsville, Va.

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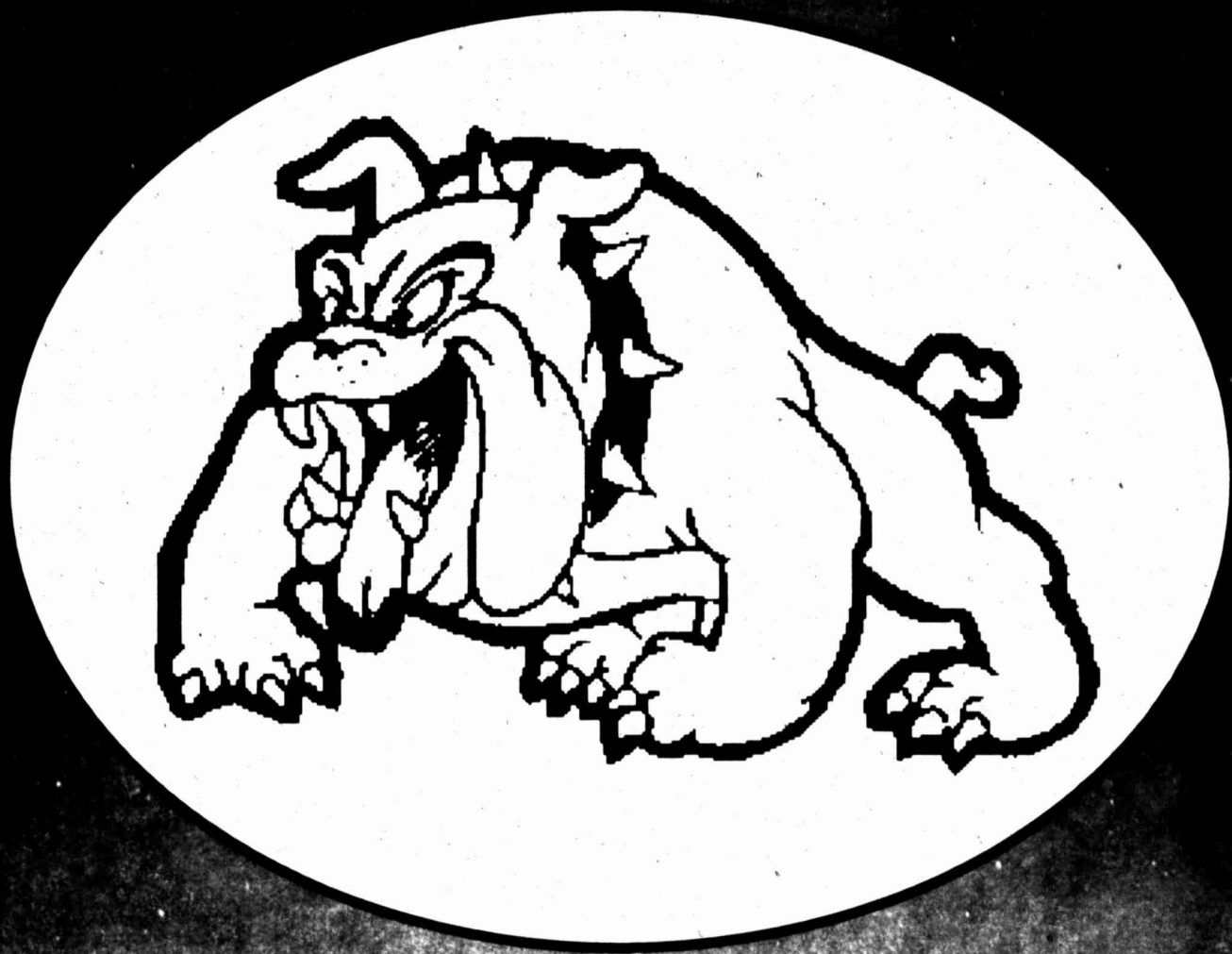

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