



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Larry Knight, owner and operator of the Downtown Barber Shop, stands his ground outside his Scurry Street business. Knight told Howard County commissioners Wednesday he has no intention of selling his property to make way for a new jail facility on the corner of Scurry and Third Street.

Longtime barber concerned he may lose his shop

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The use of eminent domain may be a strong likelihood if Howard County commissioners decide to locate a new jail facility on the northeast corner of Scurry and Third Street, as a property owner in that area told the court he has no intentions of selling.

Larry Knight, owner and operator of Downtown Barber Shop — located in the quarter-block currently being eyed by commissioners for the proposed jail facility — made it very clear to everyone in attendance during Wednesday morning's special meeting concern-

"Selling is not a consideration for me. And I will not go quietly, I can assure you of that."

—Larry Knight, barber shop owner

ing the project that he has no intentions of "going quietly."

"Selling is not a consideration for me," said Knight firmly. "And I will not go quietly, I can assure you of that."

Knight, along with See BARBER, Page 3A

Consultant: Jail will fit west of the courthouse

Rough estimate:
\$5.5 million cost,
a year to build

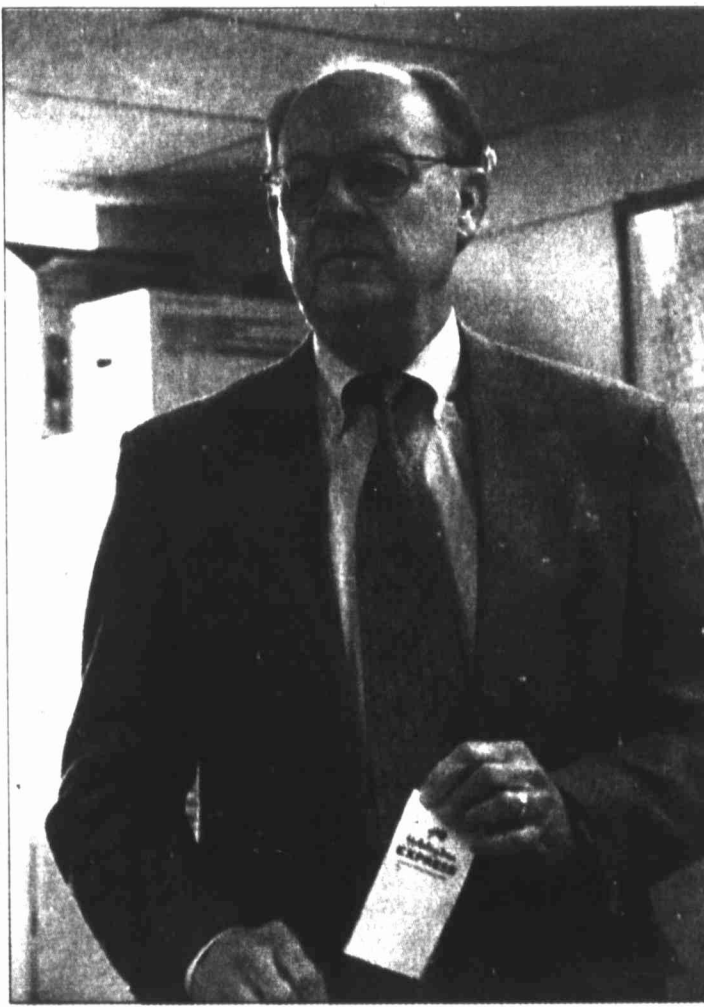
By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The quarter-block located at the corner of Scurry and Third Street got the thumbs up as a possible location for a new Howard County jail from Houston-based general contract company Tribble & Stephens during a special meeting Wednesday morning.

James Stephens, a former Howard County resident and representative of Tribble & Stephens, presented commissioners with a set of plans which described a one-story facility located adjacent to the district courthouse.

"Without going into all of the details, it's a 96-bed facility," said Stephens. "It has everything that is required to operate that facility, and nothing more. This is what I would say is the beginning of the thought process that should take you from here to yonder. This would be the minimum you would need to build to satisfy the requirements that have been previously discussed, and you can go up from there."

"This answers the question of whether or not you can build on the north-



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
James Stephens, part of the Houston-based general contract company Tribble & Stephens, describes his vision of a county jail facility to Howard County Commissioners during a special meeting Wednesday morning.

east quadrant of that block on the southwest intersection of Third Street and Scurry. And the answer is we think you can do that."

Stephens was quick to remind the court the design was only a rough draft, and didn't take a

number of things — including dedicated parking for the facility — into account.

"It would go from Third Street, all the way down to right up against the district court building," said Stephens. "There's a concept that you could

have an entry-way from this facility (the jail) to the district court building for moving folks from one area to the other without having to go outside.

"The requirements are met for your state jail standards... To build this facility, we estimate a good budget to begin at this point in time is somewhere around \$5.5 million. It's impossible to be specific at this point. The total time to deliver the facility would be somewhere between 12 to 13 months."

The design does not call for use of the property currently occupied by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building, but according to Stephens, may require it in the future if an expansion becomes necessary.

Commissioner Gary Simer said he sees the Tribble & Stephens plan as a step in the right direction.

"They came up with a good plan and showed us it will work across the street just fine," said Simer. "I think that's an

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Simer



Crooker

Mouton reflects on unsuccessful state House bid

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

As an attorney, Drew Mouton is used to jury votes going against him.

But when a "jury" comprised of voters across District 85 denied him the Republican state representative nomination, that didn't make the experience any less disappointing.

Big Spring resident Mouton, in his first-ever run for political

office, lost to Plainview insurance agent Jim Landroop Tuesday in the GOP state representative primary election.

Mouton did very well in his home area, carrying Howard and Glasscock counties by convincing margins, but those totals were not enough to overcome Landroop's edge throughout the rest of the district.

"As an attorney, I'm used to working hard on a particular matter and getting either a

thumbs up or thumbs down from the jury," Mouton said Wednesday morning. "The 'jury' came back (Tuesday) night and voted against me."

"I feel very disappointed for my supporters," he added. "Many of them feel worse about the election than I do... but we did the best we could."

A big key to Landroop's victory, Mouton said, was how well the respective candidates did in their home counties.



"I can't imagine a circumstance where I'd want to run for office again. But it surely hasn't dampened my love for this community."

—Drew Mouton, District 85 candidate

Landroop earned 70 percent of the votes in Hale County, while limiting Mouton to 63 percent in Howard County.

"I had wished to do better in

my home town," Mouton said. "I thought I'd do better in Big Spring than my opponent did in

See MOUTON, Page 3A

Rice urges passage of \$91 billion bill for wars

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice today urged quick passage of a \$91 billion spending bill that includes money to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying that despite a surge in sectarian violence in Iraq, the process of creating a stable government

is proceeding satisfactorily.

Appearing with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Rice said most Iraqis are convinced that their hopes for a stable and secure nation will succeed despite the persistent insurgency.

"They still face a very deter-

mined enemy, an enemy that would like to see that political process halted so that Iraq might devolve into chaos and conflict," she said.

Rice also criticized "a terrible human rights record" in Iran, urging the Congress to approve a proposed \$75 million plan to increase U.S. cultural outreach to Iranian citizens. "We do not

have a problem with the Iranian people," she said, adding that the problem is with the Iranian government and its nuclear ambitions.

Rumsfeld told the panel he was disappointed that the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday trimmed by \$1 billion the Pentagon's request for \$5.9 bil-

lion to continue training Iraqi and Afghan security forces.

"In my view that is clearly an enormously important thing for our country to be doing," he said.

Rumsfeld said such training is at the heart of a broader Pentagon strategy to build reli-

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RICHARDS HAS CANCER

Former Gov. Ann Richards, who announced she will soon undergo treatment for cancer of the esophagus, is telling family and friends she feels "great," a spokesman said.

Richards, 72, announced Wednesday she would enter M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for consultation on treatment, which could include surgery, radiation or chemotherapy or a combination of all three. Esophageal cancer is among the more deadly cancers.



See Page 3A

MARCH BLOOD DRIVES

United Blood Services will be conducting several drives in Howard County this month.

Today, a drive is being held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Star Tek. Coordinator is Anna Osborne, 264-2700.

March 11, a drive will be at the Eastside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. To reach coordinator Troy McClendon, call 267-6025.

March 29, the UBS Bloodmobile will be at Coahoma ISD from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

All of the drives are open to the public. To donate blood, a person must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be 17 or older.

HEALTH FAIR BOOTHS

It's not too late to reserve booth space for "Don't Gamble With Your Health," the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce health fair scheduled April 8.

The annual event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

Limited booth space is still available at \$80 with a deadline of 5 p.m. March 17. After the deadline, booths will be \$100 through March 31.

For more information, contact Nancy Newell at 263-7641 or e-mail nnewell@bigspringchamber.com or go by the chamber office on the corner of Gregg and Third Street.

Obituaries

Dealva Lee Patton

Dealva Lee Patton, 92, of Fredericksburg, died Tuesday, March 7, 2006. She had been a resident of Live Oak Care Center for several years.

Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 9, 2006, at Live Oak Care Center in Fredericksburg conducted by her pastor of the Assembly of God Church.

Dealva was born July 8, 1914 in Kansas, moving to Texas at a young age. Dealva had resided in Big Spring and numerous other places in Texas.

During World War II, she worked in a defense factory and considered herself a "Rosie the Riveter," being proud to serve her country.

Dealva loved to help others and enjoyed assisting the Activity Director at Live Oak Inn, singing and entertaining the residents as well as visiting with them and seeing to their needs.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Herbert Patton, her father and mother, J. W. and Addie Kilpatrick, three sisters, one brother and a niece.

Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Carroll Choate of Big Spring; nieces and nephews, Mary and Bill Jennings, Laurie Churchwell and Dusty Choate, all of Big Spring, Marvin Hall of San Angelo, Ken Yeats of Arkansas, Julie Johnson of Houston, Karen White of Oregon, and Putt Choate of Dallas; and many friends.

Paid obituary

Ester Mary Collins

Ester Mary Collins, 76, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 5, 2006 following an auto pedestrian accident. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 10, 2006 at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born May 10, 1929, in Hamilton to Asberry Collins and Estella Butler Collins. She had been a resident of Big Spring for 12 years.

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

Mae Nell Cave Barclay

Mae Nell Cave Barclay, 86, of Brownwood, died Wednesday, March 8, 2006, in a Brownwood hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Moore Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 4000 block of Wasson. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of Willia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Marshal. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 600 block of East 12th Street. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3300 block of Fordham. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1100 block of North Aylesford. Service was refused.

Take note

• **UNITED WAY ANNUAL MEETING** is 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. March 16 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. New officers and board members will be installed. RSVP by March 14 to 264-5201.

• **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** for 21-month-old Madysyn Hillger, in care of her grandmother, Debra Hillger. Madysyn has been diagnosed with a rare neurological-genetic disorder, Rett Syndrome. Donations will be applied to travel, medical and lodging expenses. For more information, call 264-7340 or 816-1024.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at Star Tek Today until 5 p.m. Call Anna Osborne at 264-2700 for more information.

• **CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY**, a community-wide memorial service, is set for noon until 12:45 p.m. March 15 at Comanche Trail Lake, presented by Odyssey Healthcare. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the Old Settler's Pavilion. Call 263-5999 for more information.

• **LIFE AFTER LOSS**, presented by Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., continues Monday and is scheduled for the next five weeks from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. each Monday. The workshop is free. Call 264-7599 for more information.

• **SPRING CRAFTING** creating mini spring blossoms at the Spring City Senior Center March 16, sponsored by Mountain View Lodge. Call 267-1628 to enroll.

• **LIMITED BOOTH SPACE FOR THE ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR**, with this year's theme, "Don't

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Police blotter

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

- **VERONICA GONZALES**, 35, of 2410 W. 16th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.
- **ANSELMO HILARIO JR.**, 21, of 1708 W. Third Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local citations and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **RODNEY KELEMAN**, 21, of 3702 Dixon, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **WILLIAM WELLS**, 33, of 3383 County Road 3901, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- **MARK ROMINE**, 33, of 1606 E. Highway 350, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **PRISCILLA DELEON**, 34, of 1410 Benton, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JAMIE ATKINSON**, 37, of 4202 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Thursday on two Howard County warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of Highway 87.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Sycamore.
 - in the 200 block of Second Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 300 block of 10th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2000 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of 17th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 100 block of Tubb Loop Road.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesborough.
- **DOMESTIC DISPUTE** was reported in the 2900 block of Collins Road.

Note: An arrest log was not available at press time.

Around Town

- **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.
- **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.
- **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
 - American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
 - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
 - Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
 - Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

- SATURDAY**
- Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.
 - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

- MONDAY**
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
 - Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
 - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
 - Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
 - Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
 - Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
 - Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-8-27-29-34.
Number matching five of five: 1.

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-9-10-11-27. Bonus Ball: 33.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-2

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Form

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press
AUSTIN — Forni Ann Richards, announced she will undergo treatment for cancer of the esophagus, a friend of the family told friends she feels a spokesman said Richards, 72, at Wednesday she entered M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for consultation and treatment, which may include surgery or chemotherapy.

Bush looks to WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush hopes to announce a deal with the Senate over a deal to take control of the White House by a 62-2 majority on the committee on which he is running for re-election. The ports provision is sure funding for the hurricane relief. In the Senate, by trying to attach legislation designed to travel, gifts and Senate Republican vote on the port could occur as likely to fail, a temporarily pul floor in order to ports measure.

Iran threatens VIENNA, Austria — United States will use the U.N. power to impose sanctions on Tehran for its nuclear program. Washington nuclear materials after Wednesday, so took up the issue in the permanent nations. The rhetoric of a meeting of the international board of Iran's nuclear program Wednesday, for Council action and urging of primary measures. potential struggle harsh measure advocates a soft

MOUTON

Continued from P. Plainview, but case. That was I was in trouble Mouton said h ticular issue the the edge, but c nent for his h

FUNDING

Continued from P. able security globally. "When other and partners ca greater security around the globe less likely that will be called (is always co greater cost in and treasure." Gen. John A. Central Comm mander who with Rice and told the comm the \$5.9 billion successfully (the developme and Afghan military forces "In both A and Iraq, loca forces take on of the fightin brunt of the c Abizaid said. Rice's open ment to the was interrupte in the audience and shouted, "

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Former Gov. Richards diagnosed with cancer

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Former Gov. Ann Richards, who announced she will soon undergo treatment for cancer of the esophagus, is telling family and friends she feels "great," a spokesman said.

Richards, 72, announced Wednesday she would enter M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for consultation on treatment, which could include surgery, radiation or chemotherapy or a



Richards

combination of all three. Esophageal cancer is among the more deadly cancers. It is three to four times more common in men than women.

Richards went in for tests Monday at an Austin hospital and got the results Tuesday, spokesman Bill Maddox said. She is waiting to learn from officials at M.D. Anderson when she

can check in there.

Maddox said she was diagnosed with squamous cell cancer, which is found in the upper area of the esophagus.

"She's facing this challenge," he said, noting Richards has told family and friends in phone conversations, "I'm feeling great. I just have cancer."

Richards told *The Dallas Morning News* that she visited the doctor after returning from a trip to India to address a lingering unpleasant feeling in her chest. She said

she's not feeling bad.

"The really great news is that I have a very treatable kind of cancer," she told the newspaper. "They know what to do. So I'm really pretty sanguine about it."

Richards, who announced her condition through a written statement to *The Associated Press*, was Texas' 45th governor, serving from 1991 to 1995. She also served two terms as state treasurer from 1983-1991.

Silver-haired and silver-tongued, Richards first

grabbed the national spotlight with her keynote address to the 1988 Democratic National Convention. Using humor to make her points, she won the cheers of those delegates when she reminded them that Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, "only backwards and in high heels."

She sealed her partisan reputation with a blast at a fellow Texan, the elder George Bush, then vice president, saying "after listening to George Bush

all these years, I figured y'all needed to know what a real Texas accent sounds like." Four years later, she chaired the Democratic convention that nominated Bill Clinton.

She lost a re-election bid to the younger George Bush in 1994. Since 2001, she has been a senior adviser at Public Strategies Inc., a public relations and lobbying firm.

Richards is thorough about receiving medical checkups, Maddox said.

Bush looks to Senate to save ports deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — After an election-year repudiation by a GOP-led House committee, President Bush hopes to avoid getting steamrolled in the Senate over a deal allowing a Dubai-owned company to take control of some U.S. port operations.

By a 62-2 margin, the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday voted to bar DP World, which is run by the government of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, from holding leases or contracts at U.S. ports.

The ports provision was added to a must-pass measure funding the war in Iraq and providing new hurricane relief.

In the Senate, Democrats moved for a vote as well by trying to attach a measure blocking the deal to legislation designed to overhaul rules governing travel, gifts and their dealings with lobbyists.

Senate Republican leaders were trying to block a vote on the ports deal through a procedural vote that could occur as early as Thursday. That tactic was likely to fail, which could prompt Republicans to temporarily pull the lobbying reform bill from the floor in order to avoid an immediate defeat on the ports measure.

Iran threatens U.S. over nuclear program

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iran threatened the United States with "harm and pain" if the U.S. tries to use the U.N. Security Council — which has the power to impose sanctions — as a lever to punish Tehran for its suspect nuclear program.

Washington warned that Tehran has enough nuclear material for up to 10 atomic bombs.

Hours after the Iranian and U.S. exchange Wednesday, some members of the Security Council took up the issue for the first time, with the five permanent nations holding consultations in New York.

The rhetoric reflected the intensity of the debate at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy's 35-nation board in Vienna over a critical report on Iran's nuclear program. The meeting ended late Wednesday, formally opening the path to Security Council action that could range from a mild statement urging compliance to sanctions or even military measures. The meeting also set the stage for a potential struggle between Washington, which seeks harsh measures against Tehran, and Moscow, which advocates a softer line.

MOUTON

Continued from Page 1A

Plainview, but that wasn't the case. That was the first sign that I was in trouble (Tuesday)."

Mouton said he knew of no particular issue that gave Landtroop the edge, but credited his opponent for his head-start in running the campaign.

"He ran a good campaign. He had a good start, and an early start, and I couldn't overcome that," said Mouton, who did not file for the race until late December, some months after Landtroop declared. "I don't know if it was so much that I had a late start as he had an early start."

Campaigning throughout the far-flung district was an education, he admitted.

"One of the things that struck me was the similarities of the communities in this district, socio-economically speaking," Mouton said. "I was somewhat surprised by that."

Mouton complimented Landtroop on his victory.

"Jim's a fine young man," Mouton said. "I had some issues

with his support ... but I have hope that, if he's elected, he will do a fine job of representing this district."

And Mouton added that his future plans do not call for running for political office again.

"I can't imagine a circumstance where I'd want to run for office again," he said. "But it surely hasn't dampened my love for this community."

FUNDING

Continued from Page 1A

able security partners globally.

"When other nations and partners can shoulder greater security burdens around the globe it is far less likely that U.S. troops will be called on at what is always considerably greater cost in both blood and treasure," he said.

Gen. John Abizaid, the Central Command commander who appeared with Rice and Rumsfeld, told the committee that the \$5.9 billion is vital to successfully completing the development of Iraqi and Afghan police and military forces.

"In both Afghanistan and Iraq, local security forces take on the brunt of the fighting and the brunt of the casualties," Abizaid said.

Rice's opening statement to the committee was interrupted by a man in the audience who stood and shouted, "How many

of you have children in this illegal and immoral war? The blood is on your hands and you cannot wash it away." As he was escorted from the room by security officers the man also shouted, "Fire Rumsfeld."

The future of the \$91 billion spending bill has been threatened by a move in the House to block a Dubai-owned company from taking control of some U.S. port operations. President Bush has said he would veto the bill if such a proposal was included.

Also appearing at the hearing was Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Peter Pace. It was the first time those four leaders have appeared together in front of Congress since Rice joined the Cabinet in January 2005.

The emergency spending bill includes about \$65 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as about \$20 billion for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

avenue we need to look at really closely. It could save the taxpayers a lot of money.

"Since we started the pre-trial bonding program, we couldn't even fill a 44-bed jail, much less a 144-bed facility," he added. "Our population has been just over 30 inmates, that's about it."

Commissioner Bill

Crooker wasn't as quick to give Wednesday's meeting the "thumbs up."

"I think there has been perhaps some progress made today, but it's hard to tell," said Crooker. "I appreciate Mr. Stephens coming today and making a presentation to the commissioner's court. It gives us something else to consider and think about."

And while location and size seem to be major points of conflict on the venture, commissioners briefly addressed the

BARBER

Continued from Page 1A

local attorney Josh Hamby, both occupy buildings located on the Scurry Street side of the block, a location Knight said commissioners should set aside in favor of other downtown locations that don't already house businesses.

"I own the barbershop. I did own the property between myself and Josh Hamby, but I sold that to him so he could expand," said Knight. "He has spent a lot of money on his building getting it to the point where he felt he could be there for the rest of his life or the rest of his practice."

"And now, they seem to want to ignore the fact that there's a very buildable lot north of the courthouse. We're still two

viable businesses downtown, and there's not a lot of us left here. And they want to take us out and build it there."

Despite Knight's no-nonsense stance on the issue, commissioner Gary Simer, who has been one of the supporters of a 96-bed facility next-door to the district courthouse, said he believes the local barber will eventually come around.

"We'll definitely take that into consideration, but I'm sure whatever will be good for the taxpayers is something he'll probably go along with," said Simer. "He may be getting ready to retire, and that would definitely help him out. I don't know exactly what his position is, whether it's saving the taxpayers money or not."

Commissioner Bill Crooker, who has largely

supported a joint law enforcement center in addition to a 144-bed jail, said the fate of Knight's property will ultimately be left up to the decisions made by the court.

"It just depends upon the commissioners and whether they wish to go forward. If they feel this is what we should do, then it becomes a matter of eminent domain," said Crooker. "If we were to take the property by eminent domain, that would be another consideration of the commissioner's court."

Consideration of a new jail facility began more than a year ago when Howard County commissioners identified jail overcrowding and non-compliance with state jail laws as an ongoing and long-term problem.

Commissioners tabled the jail issue in July 2005

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Ester Mary Collins, 76, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Prayer to the Virgin Mary
Pray nine Hail Mary's during nine days with a lit candle and ask for three favors, one economic, two impossible and on the eighth day publish. On the ninth, let the candle be consumed. Even without faith they shall be fulfilled.

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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.

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OUR VIEWS

Congress should deal with 'flood cars'

The last thing we need coming out of the post-hurricane mess along the Gulf Coast is another horror story. But it seems thousands of flood-damaged vehicles are finding their way into the hands of unscrupulous dealers who are peddling them to unsuspecting buyers.

This has prompted automobile and consumer groups to call for a federal database on car titles to track such vehicles. This is a good idea and one that should be expanded beyond cars and trucks damaged in Hurricane Katrina.

Auto dealers joined consumer groups this week in bringing the issue to the attention of the House Commerce and Energy Committee. A vehicle's title lists its history, including damage, but because states use different language to describe the damage and some require less specific information, an unscrupulous dealer or wholesaler can easily mask the background, according to dealers and consumer representatives.

They said less reputable dealers and "chop shops" can rebuild damaged vehicles, then obtain titles in states with more lenient title information laws. As a result, Katrina vehicles with corroded wiring, faulty brakes and air bag systems stuffed with rags are finding their way to buyers.

A national title system was set up in 1992 as a result of car thefts, but only 28 states, including Pennsylvania, participate.

As noted by those who appeared before the House committee, while Katrina "flood cars" are of immediate concern, this issue really extends beyond that. Rather than the sort of voluntary system now in place, Congress should establish a federal system requiring all titles to be entered.

This issue clearly falls within interstate commerce, and it would be of great advantage in protecting consumers from vehicles that are both a financial rip-off and pose serious safety threats.

—The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa.

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

It might take endurance, but knowing You, Lord, is everything.

Amen

An MP3 player for the teacher

Colorado high-school sophomore Sean Allen couldn't convince his father that his geography teacher was as over-the-top as he contended. So Allen taped one of his teacher's rants on his MP3 player. Too bad for Jay Bennish: His 20-minute lecture ended up on talk radio.

As aired on Mike Rosen's show, Bennish said Bush talks like Hitler: "I'm not saying that Bush and Hitler are exactly the same," but that the two share "eerily similarities." Peruvians and Iranians arguably have "a right to bomb North Carolina" because the state grows tobacco. On Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida operatives were "attacking legitimate targets, people who have blood on their hands, as far as they're concerned." Oh, and capitalism violates "human rights."

The Cherry Creek School District placed Bennish on paid administrative leave as it investigates whether the teacher failed to provide a balanced look at the issues. They won't find balance. I listened to the rant, and what I heard was a semi-educated self-impressed petty tyrant using the classroom as a soapbox, secure in the knowledge that a bunch of teenagers couldn't out-argue him. Still, I hope the district allows

Bennish to return to the classroom. The school district policy sounds reasonable. The school board recognizes, "Each teacher has the right and the obligation to teach about controversial issues." The district also notes the teacher's obligation to present various views on issues. And, "Although he has the right to express his own viewpoints, he does not have the right to indoctrinate students to his views."

The problem is, there is no good way to enforce that policy. The line between passionate argument and indoctrination is a thin divide. When I was a kid, some of my best teachers were highly opinionated. They didn't necessarily provide balance when they talked about literature or history, but they did provide passion, and that fired up their students.

In an age when many teens mainly are absorbed with going to the mall and text messaging, it's better to have a teacher who instills passion — Amole tells me Bennish is a "passionate" teacher — than a teacher who provokes yawns. Do I see this episode as a typical educator romp — with a liberal teacher forcing his ideology down the throats of students, willing or not? Yes, but any rule used to silence Bennish can and will be used against another teacher who is actually informative. It can and will be used against conservative teachers.

So let Bennish back in the classroom. Even Allen's parents don't

want to see the teacher fired. They want the district to admonish Bennish, and they want Bennish to learn a lesson.

Perhaps in time, Bennish will grow into a teacher who appreciates geography — and social studies, which he also teaches — to the extent that he can get excited about topics, even if they don't readily pass through his heavy filter of America-hating.

In the meantime, he's likely to educate a small army of future conservatives. A few years ago, I heard from a teacher whose class was reading Sophocles' "Antigone." He had assigned his students to write about how the play's characters — and my columns — dealt in "false dichotomies."

I was enraged. First, my column is not in the league of Sophocles. More important to me: It was clear this teacher did not appreciate or understand a jewel of Western literature — if he did, he would have stuck to the play. False dichotomies? Please. That's academics for: I don't understand it.

Well, at least it beats being compared to Hitler.

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

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SOS: We should not sink our sovereignty in a sea of globalism

Editor's Note: A House panel voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to block a Dubai-owned firm from taking control of some U.S. port operations.

To be or not to be? That is the question about American sovereignty in the wake of the tempest over port security. Quite unexpectedly, port security has become the critical issue at the intersection of national interest and globalism. The issue has captured national attention and united public opinion as nothing else has since Sept. 11.

The immediate problem concerns the \$6.8 billion sale of a British firm to Dubai Ports World (DPW), a state owned entity located in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

But, in all of the furor, the key issue of maintaining U.S. sovereign interests tends to be neglected. Making a distinction between British and UAE operation of our ports misses the mark. In this post-9-11 period, no foreign entity should operate our ports. They should be managed by American firms.

Trade and commerce are vital national interests. Relinquishing aspects of control over them to foreign operators (or governments) is a negation of U.S. sovereignty.

New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez, the emerging leader of the opposition to the deal, is on record stating that "Turning over control of operations at our ports to a foreign government is an abdication of our responsibility to protect this nation's critical security assets."

The Constitution of the United States requires our sovereign government to provide for the com-

mon defense. How can this be done properly and efficiently if the federal government turns over port operations to foreign entities or governments in these perilous times?

With 30 percent of all American port operations run by foreign firms, it is time to review the entire situation relating to control of our infrastructure. We should look at who runs our various utilities (gas, electric, water) and communication systems (telephone and cable TV). Foreign investment in these operations is fine, but foreign control/management is not in our national interest.

A second infringement of our sovereignty is implied in the global corporate deal now under scrutiny and delay.

Indeed, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff has cited U.S. obligations in the global economy as a reason to honor the agreement. But the global economy, as currently structured, includes international treaties, free-trade agreements and trans-national corporate adventurism that may frustrate our national ambition as expressed in federal, state and local laws.

Although the general public doesn't know it, America may have to rescind laws that may give American entities an advantage over European firms in contract bidding. Such "unfair advantage" might involve: 1) Inappropriate use of U.S. laws assisting women or minority-owned businesses, 2) Local tax incentives given to a U.S. business that wants to relo-

cate, 3) Tax exemptions given to a university or non-profit agency if it happens to bid for a contract against a foreign competitor without benefit of such exemption.

In this global economy, who knows what actions might be taken against U.S. laws and what repercussions may extend to each and every hometown in the land?

American citizens simply have had no clue as to how the global economy can work. The port controversy has provided the public with a smoking cannon for a clue!

Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey will sue the federal government, contending that his State's sovereignty is infringed by the federal government's forcing it to comply with the new port operations agreement.

A question comes to mind. Can citizens sue our federal government for impairment of national sovereignty? We may have to do this to recover our rights, which we have vested in our government.

At the very least, the American people are now alerted to the dangers to national sovereignty implicit in the current form of the global economy. Henceforth, we must continually impress upon Congress our desire to Save Our Sovereignty, for it is the legislature that most closely embodies the popular will in our system.

If we lose our national sovereignty for posterity, the fault will not lie in cruel fate or outrageous fortune, but with us.

Silvio Laccetti is a professor of humanities at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. He can be reached by e-mail at slaccetti@stevens.edu.

FAMILY FEATURE

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FAMILY FEATURES

With a simple addition, you can add a flavorful, healthy boost to many everyday recipes. "One hundred percent orange juice is one of the most popular and naturally healthy beverages, and it enhances a recipe's nutrition and taste," said Chef Michel Nischan, a healthy-cooking expert and author of "Taste Pure and Simple" and "Homegrown Pure and Simple."

Adding 100% orange juice to recipes can have many benefits, from boosting antioxidants to providing daily fruit servings. Most importantly, using pure orange juice when cooking and baking adds essential vitamins and nutrients such as potassium, folate and vitamin C.

Try these juicy recommendations from Chef Michel Nischan:

- To reduce salt and add flavor, replace half the soy sauce called for in a marinade with 100% orange juice.
- Substitute 100% orange juice for the water in your oatmeal for a nutrient boost.
- Use pure orange juice instead of water or milk in quick bread or muffin recipes for added antioxidants.
- Try pure orange juice as a sodium-free marinade or glaze and take advantage of its meat-tenderizing abilities.

Look for more of Chef Nischan's healthy recipes using orange juice at www.FloridaJuice.com/Nischan.



Zesty Shrimp and Orange Fajitas With Whole Wheat Tortillas

Wake-Up Recipes With 100% Orange Juice

Orange, Almond and Buckwheat Pancakes

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 50 minutes
Makes: 6 servings, 2 (4-inch) pancakes each

- 1 cup sliced almonds*, divided
- 1 whole orange
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup 100% orange juice
- 1 cup 2% reduced fat milk
- 2 tablespoons grapeseed oil or canola oil
- 3/4 cup buckwheat flour
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Spread almonds over a cookie sheet and bake 5 to 7 minutes until nicely browned. Remove and cool at room temperature.

Grate zest of orange, being careful not to grate into white pith. Peel remainder of skin and slice between membranes to separate each orange segment. Set aside for garnish.

Combine egg, orange juice, milk and oil in medium bowl and mix well. In large bowl, combine both flours, baking powder and salt with reserved orange zest. Add liquid to dry ingredients and mix thoroughly, being sure to leave some lumps. Set aside 1/4 cup almonds for syrup, then gently mix remaining 3/4 cup into batter until ingredients are combined, but still lumpy. (Do not over-beat or stir until smooth, as this will make pancakes tough.)

Ladle batter onto hot, non-stick skillet coated with cooking spray and cook until some bubbles begin to appear on top, about 3 minutes. Flip cake over and cook 2 minutes. Serve immediately with Orange-Almond Syrup (recipe follows), and garnish with orange segments.

*Note: While almonds provide a healthy fat, this ingredient may be removed to reduce the recipe's fat content by 18 grams.

Orange-Almond Syrup

- 1 cup 100% orange juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/2 cup light maple syrup
- 1/4 cup reserved roasted almonds

Simmer orange juice and cinnamon stick in small saucepot over medium heat until reduced to 1/2 cup, about 15 minutes. Add maple syrup. Remove cinnamon stick, stir in reserved roasted almonds and serve warm.



Orange, Almond and Buckwheat Pancakes

Nutrients per serving: 530 calories (41% calories from fat), 15g protein, 65g carbohydrates, 7g fiber, 25g total fat (sat 3g, mono 14g, poly 6g), 600mg sodium, vitamin A 6% DV, vitamin C 100% DV, calcium 45% DV, iron 25% DV Analysis from Genesis R&D by ESHA Research, Inc.

Zesty Shrimp and Orange Fajitas With Whole Wheat Tortillas

Prep time: 30 minutes
Total time: 2 1/2 hours (2 for marinating)
Makes: 6 (14 1/2-ounce) servings

- 1 cup 100% orange juice
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 medium onion, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 2 medium red bell peppers, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 2 medium yellow peppers, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch strips
- 3 oranges, peeled and cut into segments
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ancho chili powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 24 10- to 15-count shrimp (about 1 1/2 pounds), peeled and de-veined
- 2 tablespoons grapeseed or canola oil, divided
- Non-stick cooking spray
- 12 6- to 8-inch whole wheat tortillas
- Large cloth napkin or dish towel to keep tortillas warm

Combine all ingredients, except shrimp and oil, in medium mixing bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Toss shrimp into marinade and refrigerate 2 hours.

To cook, remove shrimp from marinade and let drain 5 minutes. Drain vegetables from marinade through large colander over saucepot. Bring reserved marinade liquid to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes; set aside.

Heat large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add half of oil to skillet. Add shrimp and sauté until lightly browned and cooked through. Remove shrimp from skillet and keep warm. Add other half of oil to skillet, followed by drained vegetables. Cook until onions are translucent, about 5 minutes. Turn heat up to high and spread vegetables evenly throughout skillet. Vegetables will start to brown on bottom of skillet. Arrange shrimp over vegetables and add reserved marinade.

Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Lightly spray one side of each tortilla with non-stick cooking spray. Place tortilla, sprayed-side down, into hot skillet. Cook until tortilla begins to expand, about 1 minute, then flip and cook another minute. Place tortilla on large napkin. Repeat until all tortillas are cooked. Stack tortillas as cooked, then wrap with napkin and place on serving plate.

Serve immediately with side of your favorite guacamole and plate of warmed whole wheat tortillas.

Nutrients per serving: 500 calories (22% calories from fat), 28g protein, 67g carbohydrates, 10g fiber, 12g total fat (sat 0.5g, mono 7g, poly 4g), 607mg sodium, vitamin A 45% DV, vitamin C 70% DV, calcium 10% DV, iron 35% DV Analysis from Genesis R&D by ESHA Research, Inc.

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2006

Can you say tax break? Mariner Hybrid comes with perks

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press
Get a new Mercury Mariner Hybrid this year, and get a tax break.

The estimated \$1,950 hybrid vehicle federal tax deduction for the Mariner isn't the only perk that comes with this compact sport utility vehicle with gasoline-electric power.

With only a standard four-wheel drive, the Mariner rates a bit better in gasoline mileage — a combined 31 miles a gallon for city and highway travel — than Toyota's hybrid SUVs, according to the federal government.

The purchase also can be satisfying for shoppers who prefer a domestic vehicle, because the 2006 Mariner Hybrid is built alongside its twin, the Ford Escape Hybrid, at a Kansas City, Mo., assembly plant. Toyota's hybrid SUVs come from overseas plants.

But the price for this Mariner isn't low.

A five-passenger Mariner Hybrid, which uses a four cylinder engine mated to an electric motor, starts at \$29,840, including delivery charge. That's nearly \$6,100 more than a base four-cylinder-powered, gas-only Mariner with four-wheel drive.

Competitors include the 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid, which starts at \$27,515, and the 2006 Toyota Highlander Hybrid, which starts at \$33,635 for a two-wheel-drive model. All Highlander Hybrids have a V6 engine.

The Mariner Hybrid is basically an upscale version of the Escape Hybrid, which is in its third year on the market.

The interior appointments are ritzier in the Mariner.

On the outside, styling



2006 Mercury Mariner Hybrid

is attractively mainstream. But my neighbors said they had no idea that I was driving a hybrid because the styling differences between the hybrid version and the regular, gas-only Mariner are so minor.

They didn't notice the hybrid badging but they sure noticed the difference during the drive. The Mariner was often quiet at stoplights as the gasoline engine shut down to conserve fuel. The engine started right up when it was time to get going again.

As in the Ford Escape Hybrid, the Mariner Hybrid uses a 2.3-liter inline, four-cylinder engine mated to a 70-kilowatt electric motor for its power. The matching and mixing of the power sources are all controlled electronically, and the driver doesn't do anything but drive.

The electric part of the

system is monitored and replenished via regenerative braking and onboard power production. The power is stored in an onboard nickel metal hydride battery pack.

Maximum horsepower is 155, which is nearly the same as the 153 horses in the base, gas-only Mariner with 2.3-liter four cylinder.

But where the gas-only Mariner with four-wheel drive is rated at 21 mpg in the city and 24 mpg on the highway for a combined 22.5 mpg, the fuel-conscious Mariner Hybrid is rated at 33 mpg in the city and 29 mpg on the highway for a combined 31 mpg.

Plus, a driver enjoys some decent get up and go right after starting from a stop. Indeed, the Mariner Hybrid tester at times seemed to burst forward. This is because electric motors can provide top torque right from the

start — as opposed to gasoline engines working their way up to peak torque.

But driving the Mariner Hybrid wasn't as satisfying on the highway as it was in city traffic.

On freeways, the Hybrid's four cylinder seemed to reach its limits and keep straining, with a buzzy sound, when I wanted quick passing power. The electric power assist helped some during these instances, to be sure. But the lack of noticeable shifts from the continuously variable transmission and the noisy engine sounds weren't comforting.

I enjoyed sitting up a bit from the road in the Mariner Hybrid and having good views over cars ahead. But the vehicle's seats weren't so high that I had to hoist myself up. I could easily open a door and just slide onto the seat. It helped that the

seats in the test vehicle had optional premium leather trim.

At nearly 3,800 pounds, the Mariner Hybrid is the heaviest of all Mariners, including the top Mariner with V6.

The weight isn't noticeable in slow speed traffic. But on twisty mountain roads, a driver can feel how the added weight changes this small SUV's driving and handling dynamics.

Inside the hybrid, the optional navigation screen seems a bit small in size compared with those found in other vehicles. And I wished the buttons at each side of the screen were a bit larger, too.

The hybrid's compact size helps make parking maneuvers easy.

But I was surprised that a full complement of airbags wasn't standard on this near-\$30,000 SUV. Curtain airbags and side-

2006 Mercury Mariner Hybrid
BASE PRICE: \$29,225.
AS TESTED: \$33,635.
TYPE: Front-engine, four-wheel-drive, five-passenger, compact, hybrid sport utility vehicle.
ENGINE: 2.3-liter, double overhead cam Atkinson cycle four cylinder mated to a 70-kilowatt electric motor.
MILEAGE: 33 mpg (city), 29 mpg (highway).
LENGTH: 174.3 inches.
WHEELBASE: 103.2 inches.
CURB WEIGHT: 3,787 pounds.
BUILT AT: Kansas City, Mo.
OPTIONS: Premium package (includes premium leather seat trim, heated and power outside mirrors, retractable cargo cover, navigation system, side airbags and curtain airbags) \$3,795.
DESTINATION CHARGE: \$615.

Pedestrians, watch out: Quiet hybrids are here

By Gary Richards

Knight Ridder Newspapers
SAN JOSE, Calif. — Jenny Sant'Anna was so excited. She had waited months for just the right hybrid, choosing a Toyota Highlander because, though she wants great mileage, she also needs space to cart around her two elementary school kids and three classmates.

It was during her first trip out of the driveway on a warm August morning that Sant'Anna learned about one of the dangerous drawbacks of driving a hybrid: It's so quiet that pedestrians can't hear it when it's starting up or idling, and they often walk right into the path of the moving vehicle.

As hybrid sales skyrocket, there's a growing concern that the battery-powered vehicles pose a risk because they aren't as noisy as gas-powered engines.

When idling, hybrids run on the quiet electric battery. Most, with the exception of GM and Honda hybrids, can also operate on the battery until the car reaches higher speeds, when the gas engine kicks in.

What follows is silence at locations where drivers are likely to tangle with pedestrians and bicyclists, crosswalks, turning lanes, and parking lots.

In Sant'Anna's case, an elderly man enjoying a morning walk didn't hear her coming as she backed into the street. She lunged for the brake, stopping just short of hitting him.

"He was in my blind spot on one side," said Sant'Anna, 41. "Then I turned to look back on the other side and saw him clearing the corner of my car. I don't think he heard me and my heart almost stopped."

Tom Battle recalled his own near-hit as he walked to his car in the parking lot at Symantec in Mountain View, Calif., where he is the director of engineering.

"I had to jump out of the way of a hybrid, which suddenly, and completely silently, moved toward me," he said.

"The car was a brand new Prius, which I remember because it was still very shiny."

Local traffic officials and police do not know of any cases in which pedestrians were harmed by the popular hybrids. Collision reports don't have a provision for considering whether the quiet nature of the car is a factor.

But Bond Yee, San Francisco's parking and traffic director, said his city may start indicating such causes.

"It could become an issue as hybrids become more popular," Yee said.

Sales of hybrids in the United States are expected to grow to 277,642 this year, up 31 percent from a year ago when 211,875 were sold in this country.

A hybrid emits less than three decibels of noise when starting up, a level hard to pick up with the human ear.

A hybrid clipping along at 35 mph emits 75 decibels — quieter than a vacuum cleaner.

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IN BRIEF

KBSB golf tournament announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Spring Country Club. The tournament start at 9 a.m. cost \$60 per person. The tourney is a four person scramble.

For more information, contact the country club at 267-5355.

C.G.A. announces scramble for March

The Chicano Association will host its annual Membership Drive a four-person scramble — at Comal Trail Golf Club Sunday.

The tournament begins a shotgun at 10:30 a.m., teams must be entered by 10 a.m. There will be refreshments served after the tournament.

For more information, contact Pineda at 264-7111.

Big Spring Softball Association set date for signups

The Big Spring Softball Association will be holding signups to register the upcoming season each Saturday through March 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women 4 and up. The registration fee is \$30. There is a \$5 discount for a second child. For more information, contact Shafer at 432-2131.

Umpires needed for B.S. softball season

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming season. Anyone interested in umpiring girl's ball games, contact Luci Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma sets date for alumni contest

The Coahoma Bulldogs will be holding their first alumni baseball game March 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma ball field.

For more information or to play contact Donna Barr at 432-394-453 or Barr at 432-965-3.

Coahoma sets date for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will be holding registration for divisions in softball and T-ball Thursday, March 16, at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups also take place on March 17, March 21 and March 23 and day will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The fee is \$30. For more information, contact Robinson at 393-1111.

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

IN BRIEF

KBSB golf touney announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club. The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$60 per person. The touney is a four-person scramble. For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

C.G.A. announces scramble for March

The Chicano Golf Association will be hosting its annual Membership Drive — a four-person scramble — at Comanche Trail Golf Course Sunday.

The tournament begins a shotgun start at 10:30 a.m., but teams must be registered by 10 a.m. There will be refreshments served after the tournament.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season each Saturday through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women ages 4 and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Umpires needed for B.S. softball season

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming season. Anyone interested in umpiring girl's softball games, contact Luci Ramirez at 432-466-3670.

Coahoma sets date for alumni contest

The Coahoma Bulldogs will be hosting their first-ever alumni baseball game March 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma baseball field.

For more information or to play, contact Donna Mansfield at 432-394-453 or Dutch Barr at 432-965-3408.

Coahoma sets dates for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will begin registration for all divisions in softball and T-ball Thursday, March 16, at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups will also take place March 17, March 21 and March 23 and each day will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The fee is \$30. For more info, contact Pat Robinson at 393-5622.

Hawk rodeo team begins CNFR quest this weekend

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

After four successful rodeos during the fall season, the Howard College rodeo team is ready to get the spring season going as the Hawks travel to Weatherford this weekend for the first of six spring rodeos.

Several members of the team are already in good position to make a run at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR), and others could be in the mix with a fast start to the

spring season.

"There's not an event that has been decided at this point," said Howard head coach Greg Kernick. "There are still a lot of points to get."

Sophomore Jed Headley finds himself in the best position among Howard members at making a run at the CNFR. He is currently in the top 10 of both the bareback riding and steer wrestling events.

Three other steer wrestlers, with good early

runs, could get into the mix quickly as well. Cody Heiner, Juan Alcazar and Laramie Hall all had pretty good fall seasons, but a little work is needed to move into CNFR contention.

"If any one of these three guys hit some points early they can move into a good spot in the event," said Kernick.

Shelly Combs, Kasey Kramps and Kendra Watt all have good chances in their events on the women's side of things.

Combs placed in a few rodeos early on in the barrel racing competition and, according to Kernick, a few more places could move her into contention.

"That event is far from over because things can change every single day," said Kernick.

Kramps and Watt have both placed a time or two in the goat tying competition, said Kernick.

"If they can put some big points and add them to them the points they

have already gotten, they'll be right in the hunt," he said.

The revival of the women's team can be mostly credited to Jennifer Driver, who took over as an assistant coach last year, said Kernick.

"She has really boosted the women's program," said Kernick.

The Howard rodeo team features several other members, including locals D.J. Allen

See RODEO, Page 2B

Region V Tournament

No. 1 Howard enters regional as favorite



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard sophomore Charles Burgess goes hard to the basket during action against Frank Phillips at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum last month. The Hawks open the regional tournament with a first-round game against Grayson tonight at 7 p.m. at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Top-ranked Howard's quest at a trip to the National Tournament begins tonight in Lubbock at the Rip Griffin Center as the Hawks take on Grayson in the first round of the Region 5 Tournament at 7 p.m.

The first round matchup is a rematch of last year's first round game won by Howard.

"We aren't concerned with specific players on Grayson's team and have put most of our focus on what they do as a team," said second year Howard head coach Mark Adams, who returns for another shot at the National Tournament after reaching the Region 5 championship game last year. "Grayson is very well coached and they are very structured."

The Hawks, who enter the tournament with a 29-1 record, have had a week to prepare for the tournament, but did not know they were playing Grayson until Saturday. Howard also enters the tournament with a bad

taste in its mouth after losing on the road to Clarendon in the team's regular season finale.

"When you come off a loss it's very normal to focus on yourself," said Adams. "We made some mistakes in that last game and we concentrated all week on fixing them before this tournament. We went back to just getting the fundamentals down."

Last Thursday's loss to the Bulldogs meant nothing as far as the postseason goes, but prevented the Hawks from being the first team in Howard history to go undefeated in the regular season. They went into last Thursday night's game having already clinched the conference title and the No. 1 seed for the regional tournament. Now, a loss will end the season sooner than expected.

"It's a new season now and our record doesn't mean much at this point," said Adams. "I don't know how the kids are doing mentally after the loss and I won't know until the game

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Region V Tournament

Men's basketball @the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock

W2 Midland (25-5) vs. N3 Collin County (21-9), 12:30 p.m.
W4 Odessa (19-11) vs. N1 McLennan (22-8), 2:30 p.m.
W3 South Plains (23-7) vs. N2 Temple (24-6), 5 p.m.
W1 Howard (29-1) vs. N4 Grayson (18-12), 7 p.m.

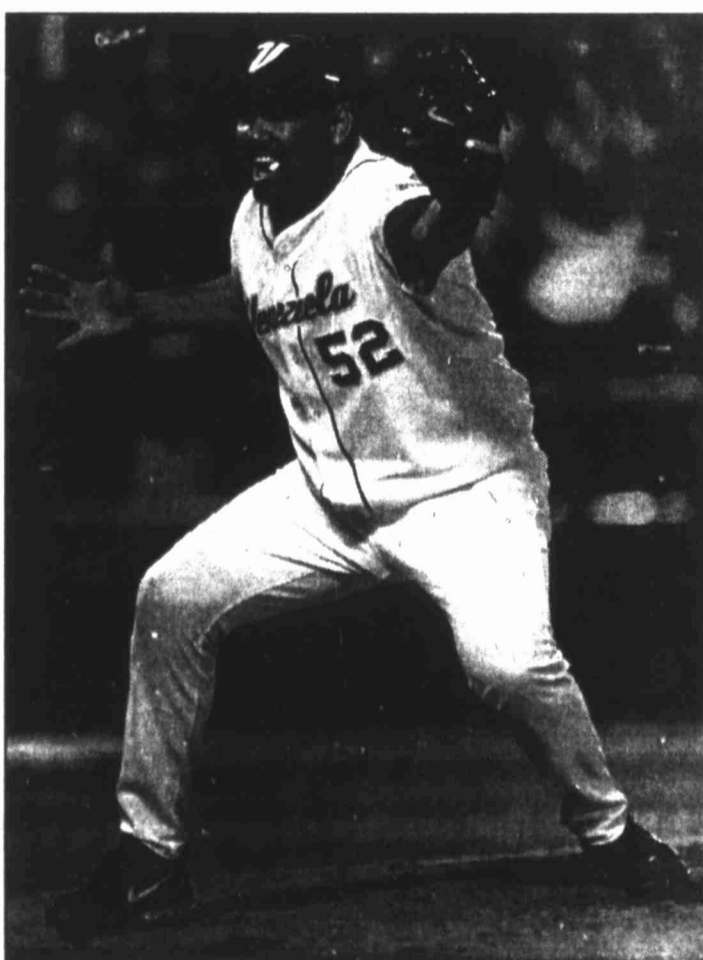
Howard is the top seed in the tournament
W=Western conference; N=Northern conference

Canada shocks U.S. at Classic

PHOENIX (AP) — Adam Stern hit an inside-the-park homer, drove in four runs and made two sensational catches in center Wednesday, leading Canada to a surprising 8-6 victory over the United States in the first round of the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

Adam Loewen, a 21-year-old left-hander, gave up three hits and walked three but didn't allow a run in 3 2-3 innings and got the victory for Canada (2-0).

See CLASSIC, Page 2B



KRT photo/Walter Michot, Miami Herald
Venezuela's Carlos Silva reacts after striking out Italy's Mike Piazza in the World Baseball Classic in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday.

Garden City golf teams get sweep at Lamesa

• Medrano, Niehues win medalist honors at Sands Invitational

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

LAMESA — Both Garden City golf teams took home first place at the Sands Invitational Tuesday.

The Lady Kats defeated second place Dawson by 19 strokes, while the Bearkats defeated the host Mustangs by 99 strokes.

The Garden City girls shot a 469 and were led by Kayla Medrano, who stroked a 100 and finished first overall. Macy Schwartz came in fifth

with a 116, while Julie Hirt and Melissa Hirt shot a 125 and 128, respectively. Kaci Coates was the fifth Garden City golfer. She shot a 142.

"I am really proud of these girls," said Garden City boy's head coach Ken Hoskins. "For four of these girls this was their first tournament. They competed hard and did their best. I thought all of our team members handled the tournament pressure well."

Naomi Salinas of Dawson finished second individually with a 102. Ashley Nichols of Loop took third and Christina Soto of Borden County was fourth.

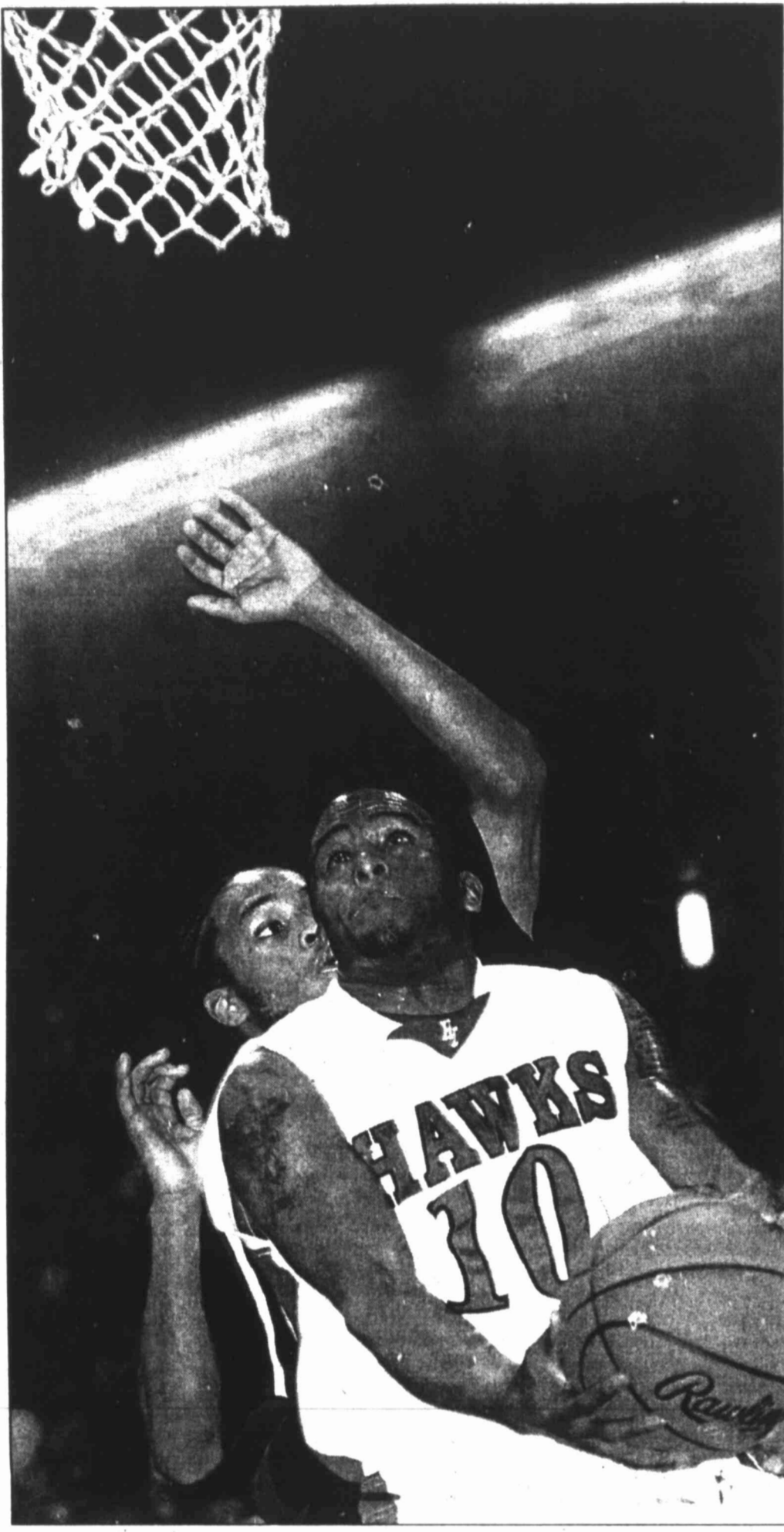
Dawson finished second with a score of 488 and Loop came in third with a 494.

See GOLF, Page 2B

MAR

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HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Howard freshman Benny Valentine ducks under the defense during action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Feb. 27. The Hawks open the Region 5 Tournament against Grayson tonight at 7 p.m. at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock. Valentine is one of the team's leading scorers.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

gets going (tonight). We are hoping the loss makes our guys more determined, but we also hope the confidence of winning games has not gone away."

Last year, the Hawks' incredible run to the regional title game was highlighted by a second-round victory against then unbeaten and third-ranked Temple. The Hawks then fell to arch rival Midland in the title game after defeating the Chaps twice during the regular season.

This year, the Hawks enter as the favorite to win the tournament and advance to Hutchinson, Kan., to take part in the National Tournament.

Midland, which Howard has defeated three times this year including a convincing win at the Chap Center, is back this year as the conference's No. 2 seed. The Chaps will face Collin County in first-round action and then will meet the winner of Odessa College and McLennan, which is the tournament's No. 2 seed, in the semifinals if they win.

Temple is also back for another run at the regional title. However,

this year they are not undefeated and not ranked third in the nation. Temple will face South Plains in the first round. The winner of that game will take on either Howard or Grayson Saturday night at 7 p.m.

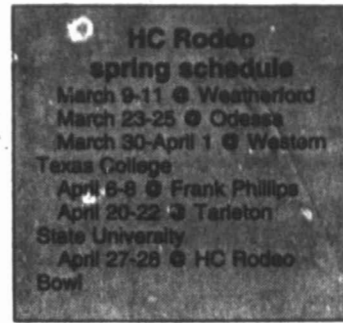
The Region 5 championship game will take place Sunday at 5 p.m.

"We've had a successful season, but our concern right now is not overlooking anyone," said Adams. "We know we are good enough to win this thing, but we also know that anyone can beat us on any given night. And from now on, if you lose, you're done."

RODEO

Continued from Page 1B

(Coahoma), Britt Clark (Big Spring), Kyle Earhart (Stanton), Matthew Hillman (Big Spring) and Tyrell Paul (Big Spring). Lance Jowers, Cash Kerner, Wayne Schaffeld, Sloan Smallwood, Dustin Specht, Chase Winkler, Tanner Winkler and Paul Young are others who should score points this



spring. "The team tries hard and good things will come to those who try hard and don't make mistakes," said Kernick. After this weekend at

Weatherford College, the rodeo team travels to Odessa College (March 23-25), Western Texas College (March 30-31 and April 1), Frank Phillips College (April 6-8), Tarleton State University (April 20-22) and will hold its hometown college rodeo April 27-29.

"I think we've made the transition through practice of how to win," said Kernick. "We've developed some practice techniques to help get us over the hump as well."

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

The Bearkats shot an impressive 343 and had four of the top five individual performers.

Taylor Niehues won the tournament with a 79, while Chase O'Brien shot an 86 and finished third. Eric Hirt was fourth overall with an 87 and Sam Long's 91 resulted in a fifth-place finish. The

Bearkats did not use a fifth golfer.

"Our guys played great and shot well for it being just the second tournament of the year," said Garden City boy's head coach Koby Abney. "It's pretty easy to win when all four guys shoot like that."



HOSKINS

"You can tell Taylor has had some practice since basketball ended. He is starting to get his touch back."

Jacob Froman of Borden County took second overall as he shot an 85.

Sands finished second as a team after shooting a 442. Dawson was third.

The Lady Kats will golf at the Crane Invitational March 15, while the Bearkats will try to win another team title at McCamey March 14.

NFL owners reach new CBA deal, salary cap increased

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

GRAPEVINE — At the end, even the NFL's maverick owners decided that labor peace was better than the uncertainty of working without a salary cap.

They didn't especially like doing it, though, after two days of meetings that sometimes got quite contentious.

"No one hit anyone," Oakland's Al Davis said after the owners finally agreed Wednesday to accept a deal that will add close to a billion dollars to the players' pool in return for six years of labor peace. "Yeah, people were yelling a little bit, you know, but it's part of life. The idea is to go and get something done."

Davis, the NFL's most conspicuous antiestablishment owner, turned into a league supporter for this one. The agreement will add \$850 million to \$900 million to the player revenue pool, contributed each year on a sliding scale by the 15 teams that earn the most from non-television and ticket income.

And while those teams aren't happy to be throwing so much cash in the pot, they said they would rather do that than deal with the uncertainty of a 2007 without a salary cap and perhaps a work stoppage in 2008.

"The proposal was really a mean mother from the union," said Dallas'

Jerry Jones, the leader of a faction of owners who for two years resisted the additional revenue sharing.

"We had a time today that we probably got into the Is and Mes a little bit. That's what we were all looking to stay away from. You get that kind of stuff started, that's kind of like drawing that line in the sand. Then everybody got ahold of it, looked back at it and said, 'Let's get in here to straighten this out.'"

And they did, barely meeting a union-imposed 8 p.m. EST deadline to agree to its final proposal. In fact, they may not have met that deadline, announcing it at about 8:40, but no one seemed to care.

The deal will carry the NFL through the 2011 season. Two low-revenue teams, Buffalo and Cincinnati, cast the only votes against.

The agreement increases the salary cap from \$85.5 million last season to \$102 million, saving some veteran players who would have been cut and providing more money to free agents — either with new teams or by re-signing with their old ones.

And it's \$7.5 million higher per team than the \$94.5 million they would have had in the final uncapped year of the current contract if they had not accepted the union's last proposal.

Now the league's free agency period, put off

twice by protracted negotiations, will start Saturday to give teams additional time to get under the newly elevated salary cap.

The cap will increase to \$109 million in 2007, which would have been an uncapped year that would have widened the spending gap between teams even more.

"We want teams to get additional money to resign players, rather than cutting them," commissioner Paul Tagliabue said.

The deal was put together by nine teams who began on different sides of the revenue debate, including such high-revenue teams as New England and Dallas. The Patriots and Cowboys, who are in the top five moneymakers along with Philadelphia, Houston and Washington, were both involved in putting together the deal.

"Some of us had to give and take a little more than others, but things have a way of working out," said Washington's Daniel Snyder. "Some of us are contributing a little more than others, but we've been doing that in the past. We just wanted to get this done for the sake of the league."

The agreement comes after a week of on-again, off-again negotiations, culminating in a two-day owners meeting. Tagliabue predicted it would come down to the 11th hour.

CLASSIC

Continued from Page 1B

Jason Varitek's 448-foot grand slam helped bring the United States back from an 8-0 deficit, but a Canadian team made up largely of minor leaguers held on.

Chase Utley thought he had given the United States the lead in the eighth, flipping his bat and raising both arms in triumph after he hit a long drive to center with two on.

But Stern made leaping catch at the wall near the 407-foot sign to end the inning.

The United States (1-1) must beat South Africa on Friday, when 43-year-old Roger Clemens starts for the Americans, or have Mexico lose one of its remaining games to stay alive in the 16-nation

tournament.

Cuba 8, Panama 6

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Panama scored twice in the ninth to force extra innings, but pinch-hitter Yoandy Garlobo had a tiebreaking single in the 11th that led the Cuba to victory in its World Baseball Classic opener.

Yuliesky Gourriel drove in four runs for the Olympic champions with a two-run homer, a double and a sacrifice fly.

Ruben Rivera hit a three-run homer for Panama (0-2), which trailed 6-4 in the ninth against winner Yunieski Maya before Olmedo Saenz blooped an RBI single and Sherman Obando was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Michel Enriquez started Cuba's go-ahead rally with two outs in the 11th

against Jorge Cortes when he was hit by a pitch for the third time in the game. Gourriel walked, Garlobo singled to center and Frederick Cepeda followed with another RBI single.

Puerto Rico 8, Netherlands 3

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Javy Lopez, Ivan Rodriguez and Carlos Beltran each hit solo home runs in Puerto Rico's 8-3 win over the Netherlands in the World Baseball Classic.

Puerto Rico qualified for the second round with the win, improving to 2-0 in Group C, and will face rival Cuba Friday.

Jose Valentin put Puerto Rico ahead for good in the sixth with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Rodriguez and Beltran hit-back-to-back homers in the seventh.



Members of the Cuban team celebrate a victory over Panama in the World Baseball Classic in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wednesday.

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All Your Security Needs
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2006

THURSDAY

Time	WFAA(2) Dallas	WFAA(2) Dallas
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News (CC)
7:30 PM	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight
8:30 PM	Movie: <i>Bringing Down the House</i> (CC)	Movie: <i>Bringing Down the House</i> (CC)
9:30 PM	Primetime Live (CC)	Primetime Live (CC)
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News (CC)
11:30 PM	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight
12:30 AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)
12:30 AM	News (CC)	News (CC)

DENNIS TH...



*HOW COME I NEVER...

BC



WIZARD O...



AGNES



HI AND LO



THE OTHER



SNUFFY S...



BEEBLE B...



Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Jupiter, otherwise known as "Mr. Big," has been transiting retrograde since March 4. He's now in such a favorable aspect to the sun that it seems almost anything good can be made better if you throw your resources into it. Double your bets. Put in your overtime. Tip like crazy. It's all coming back to you in a new and bountiful form.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't help thinking back to a happier time, although whether or not it really was happier is questionable — hindsight is romantic. Tonight, make it your mission to create a joyful memory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Funny? Your life? No. Other people's lives are funny. Yours is hilarious. Thank goodness, because it's the laughter that helps you roll with the changes and events facing you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are underwhelmed by your reflection in the mirror. Others see you in a more favorable light than you see yourself. Even if you can't recognize this just yet, it's true. You're beautiful.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Space travel will be commonplace in the future, but for now, plan plenty of time to get there. Traffic affects everyone and is not really a good excuse for being late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Choose to err on the "glass is half full" side of things. People and situations will work out favorably because you refuse to see them as less than perfect. A Sagittarius has an eye on you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Silliness improves your life. Pursuits deemed "frivolous" are not necessarily shallow. For instance, the way you choose to style yourself should reflect your wisdom and position in the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're gracious even when you don't feel like being gracious. As a direct result, good things happen for you. Progress in love is linked to tough choices. You are brave and ready to do what it takes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An agreement made in haste needs reexamining. Your loyalty is evident, but is it misplaced? You have a giving nature, which is attractive. Don't forget yourself in the equation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Inactivity is not always rest — sometimes, it's just being stuck. Make "movement" your mantra. You find the path of genius soon after you start walking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The stars smile on your negotiations. Better arrangements are had with very little effort. All you have to do is understand where the other person is coming from. Business and finance are woven with emotional threads.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friendship brings financial opportunities. Because you are consistent, those around you are reassured by dependability. Hidden costs come out of hiding. Deal with this now, and save hundreds by the year's end.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Imagine how much richer you'll become when you're forced to use your creative talent instead of your wallet to express your affection. You'll be the one to introduce someone to new art or music.

Real Estate for Sale

EXTRA CLEAN 2 Bedroom, 2 bath Brick Home near College. Den w/fireplace, util. room, single garage, new carpet. Call (432)263-6887 or 270-1743.

FIXER-UPPER BARGAINS- 1 Bedroom \$2000, 4 bedroom, 2 bath \$7000, 2 bedroom, 2 story \$3000. Apt. furnished with utilities paid \$300 per month. (432)264-0510.

Vehicles

Several New 2006 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings

Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7121

AUCTION PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION REPOSSESSION SALE LIVE BIDDING SALE MARCH 18, 10:00 AM RICK FAULK'S AUCTIONEER
Tx. 00012368
PH. (806)777-6370
Sale to satisfy lienholders interest, inexpensive cars, trucks, vans, suvs. Bring cash or approved check.
6145 E. Hwy 80 Odessa, Texas
call for info (432)337-3344

AUTOS YES is now open in Fort Stockton to provide inexpensive transportation to drivers in the surrounding West Texas area.
WE FINANCE.
2603 W. Dickinson (432)336-6529 (432)559-8585

Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to Polly Lancaster, Manager of Administrative Services of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 East 24th Street, PO Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721, on **Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 3:00 PM** for the furnishing of the following items:

Request for Proposals for Depository Banking Services
At this time and place, the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

Specifications are on file and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 East 24th Street, PO Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721, telephone (432)267-6341. Specifications may also be procured from the District at the above address without charge.

In case of ambiguity in stating proposal prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous bid thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities.
COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
John W. Grant, General Manager
#4884 March 2, 9 & 16, 2006

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HOWARD KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William C. Winters, Deceased, were issued on February 28, 2006, in Docket No. P-13388, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas to Texas State Bank, San Angelo, Texas, Independent Executor.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Paul H. Millican
Gossett, Harrison, Reese, Millican & Stipanovic, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 911
San Angelo, TX 76902
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED: March 6, 2006
Respectfully submitted,
GOSSETT, HARRISON, REESE, MILLICAN & STIPANOVIC, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 911
San Angelo, TX 76902
(325)653-3291
Facsimile No. (325)655-6838
By Paul H. Millican
State Bar No. 14146700

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM C. WINTERS, DECEASED
#4897 March 9, 2006

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of DAVID YANEZ, Deceased, were issued on February 16, 2006, in Cause No. P-13,374, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to KIM VORE, Independent Administrator, whose residence address is 2804 Verde, Odessa, Texas 79762.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, in care of the Executor.
DATED the 6th day of March, 2006.
COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON
A Professional Corporation
By: JERRY D. ZANT
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
#4898 March 9, 2006

Miscellaneous

THREE CUSHION sofa, greyish-blue fabric, nearly new, \$100.00. Call (432)213-3691.

Pets

FREE TO good homes. 6 weeks old puppies. Part Chihuahua, part Dachshund. Call (432)816-1495.

FULL BLOODED female Dachshund, one year old, \$75. Puppies, part Chihuahua, part Dachshund. Parents full-blooded. \$50. Call 432-264-8939.

Real Estate for Rent

1516 WOOD Large Three bedroom, one bath. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

446 Armstrong 4 bedroom, 1 bath. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Water Paid. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

South Plains Apartments
432-714-4840
Efficiency Apt. • \$175*
One Bedroom • \$225*
Two Bedroom • \$300*
w/6 Mo. Lease (\$300 Deposit)

- All Utilities Except Electric Paid
- Free High Speed Wireless Internet
- On-Site Manager
- Security System In Place
- Laundry & Vending Facility
- Housekeeping Assistance Accepted

3304 W. Hwy 80

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

4001 DIXON. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

4223 HAMILTON. Three bedroom, one bath. \$450. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

611 GREGG. Office building for lease. Large storage building. \$800. month. References required. Call (432)213-2319.

BUILDING FOR LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. 408 E. FM 700 \$500.00 Mon. Elec, gas, and water paid. 650 square feet. For more info call (432) 267-9455

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

Real Estate for Sale
2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

Now LAST!
20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY home for sale by owner on 1 acre. Three bedroom, two bath. Newly painted inside, skylights & more. Call (432)264-1469.

TOO SETTLE AN ESTATE
The South East Quarter, 160 acres of Section 40 Block 35. Bauce and Cockrell Survey in Howard County. Call (432)399-4348.

Help Wanted

WAITRESSES NEEDED
Split Shift
Must be 18
Monday-Saturday
Apply in person,
Red Mesa Grill
2401 Gregg

WANTED; RETIREES with own RV for summer employment at Fun Valley Family Resort, South Fork, Colorado for office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance and RV parks. Write Personnel Director, 6315 Westover Dr., Granbury, TX 76049.

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

Items for Sale

BarB Que equipment for Sale. Commercial 6' cooker, 8' rotisserie cabinet, 6' walk in refrigerated meat locker. All or any. Call (432)336-6529, (432)559-8585 Ft. Stockton.

FOR SALE: 4-Wheeler 2005 Polaris Sportsman 600 less than 50 hrs. & 2000 Polaris Scrambler 500. Good condition. Call Mike at 213-0589.

HUGE SAVINGS on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

OAK BEDROOM Set (5 pieces), queen size mattress boxsprings, TV stand with glass doors, baby bed with mattress, 8 large framed Kim Anderson (432)267-6937.

SLIGHT DAMAGE - 12'x16' Barn. Will Deliver. (432)563-3108.

SPECIAL! MUST sell 12'x24' Barn. Will Deliver. (432)563-3108.

Lost and Found



REWARD for Lost HUSKY on Snyder Hwy. at "STAR STOP FOOD MART". Call (432)288-1438, (325)573-0315.
REWARD! LOST! "Shadow" female chocolate toy poodle from 1709 Purdue, Saturday night. Call (432)213-1435. Please help me find her. She means the world to me!

Miscellaneous

\$145. **NEVER USED** Full size mattress and box. In plastic from manufacturer, Warranty. 806-549-3110.

2 PIECE Queen Mattress Set, Brand New, Factory Plastic Wrapped, Factory Warranty, Only \$165. 806-549-3110.

3 REMAINING 8'x8' Display Storage Buildings. \$28.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. (432)563-3108.

BASEBALL BATTING cages equipment- 3 machines, netting, helmets. Office Bldg. 14x14. Pipe & fencing. Priced to Sell. Make Offer. 1210 E. 4th. Bill Chrane (432)213-0426.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

CHERRY Solid Wood Sleigh Bed, NEW IN ORIGINAL BOX, Asking \$359. Call (806-549-3110).

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

REDUCED TO Sell! 2 Remaining Hot-Tubs 2005 Models \$79.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. (432)563-3108.

TO GIVE away Free Computers. Call (432)264-0910.

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x16' Storage Building \$59.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. Call (432)563-3108.

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Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
\$299 Such As **ALL BILLS PAID**
MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. 263-1252
538 Westover Housing Assistance Accepted

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Big Spring's finest affordable rental community is now offering two month's free rent on a 12 month lease.
1 bedroom - \$386.00 2 bedrooms - \$459.00 3 bedrooms - \$516.00
Please call for an appointment today!
1401 North Hwy. 87 HUD ACCEPTED (432) 263-7300

Help Wanted

NEED MATURE person for part time. Must work evenings & weekends. Experience helpful. No Phone Calls! Apply in person, O'Reilly Auto Parts, 2003 S. Gregg.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation We are now increasing our Certified Nurse Aid staff. Qualified person will be a friendly and compassionate team player. If this sounds like you, please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

PIZZA INN
Drive for the Best. Our Delivery Drivers earn \$10-\$12 per hour. Up to \$100 hiring bonus. Must be 18 yrs. old with clean driving record. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St.

PIZZA INN
Now Hiring wait Staff Must be dependable, hard working. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No phone calls.

Pollard Chevrolet is seeking an **ACCOUNTING CLERK.** Accounting experience required. Pay based on experience and ability. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON willing to learn installation of gasoline dispensing equipment, computerized cash registers, electronic card systems, mechanical background, electrical, and plumbing experience helpful. Drug free, high school diploma, good driving record, background check. Call (432)935-1124.

RESTAURANT MANAGER needed. Experience preferred. Call Mary for appointment, (432)213-0828.

ROUTE SALESPERSON Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. requires individual to complete a drug screen and work assessment test. Possess or able to obtain a Class A CDL. Beverage sales experience a plus. Comprehensive benefit program. Please apply in person: Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Tx 79720 EEO/AA Employer

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full and part time cashiers, Assistant Managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

SNYDER OAK Care Center in Snyder, Texas is now taking applications for Director of Nursing. Call Ray Turner, (325)573-9377 or apply in person at 210 East 37th St. Must be an RN. Some long term care experience is preferred, but will train the right person.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs students to work all types of jobs. Housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen and maintenance. Salary, room, board & bonus. For information and application write Personal Director, 6315 Westover Dr., Granbury, Tx. 76049.

THE MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT OF STANTON IS SEEKING FULL TIME RN'S FOR NIGHT SHIFT 7P-7A AND FULL TIME LVN'S FOR NIGHT SHIFT 11-7. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF VIDAL, DON AT 610 N. SAINT PETER, STANTON, TEXAS OR CALL (432)756-3345 EXT. 228.

TUBING TESTER operator/derrick person. Must pass drug test. Good wages. Call Jesse, (432)213-0739 after 7:00 p.m. only!

Help Wanted

HIRING
Experience Required
Welder

Must be able to fabricate (Must have 2 yrs plus experience)
Service Person With CDL A or B (must have HazMat endorsements)
Drivers Class A CDL (With HazMat and Tanker endorsements)
Belly Dump Driver Class A CDL Salary D.O.E.

Apply at:
Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving
1401 S. Grandview
Odessa, Texas 79761

IF YOU enjoy a teamwork approach to nursing & have a passion to ensure high quality care to the elderly, we want to meet you!
Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Charge Nurse position. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway.

LIKE WORKING with Seniors? Looking for flexibility in your schedule? We are a small home-like Assisted Living looking for an RN to work 15 to 20 hours as our Wellness Director. Responsibilities include coordinating the health care needs of our residents, training staff, communicating with families, MDs and discharge planners. To learn more about this unique, exciting opportunity, please call 432-268-9041 or fax resume to 432-268-9092.

LOOKING FOR (3) Part-time Personal Banker/Teller. Experienced preferred but not required. Apply at www.woodforest.com

MARTIN CO. Hospital Home Health is looking for a full-time RN and a PRN to join their energetic staff. Must be willing to travel to surrounding areas. Bilingual preferred and salary DOE. Interested parties may call Allison @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

MIDWAY BAPTIST Church is seeking a part time secretary. Telephone and Computer skills are essential. You may apply in person thru March 24th. 6200 South Service Road. Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

NATIONAL FOOD Service Company seeking associates. Hourly and salary positions available, experience preferred. Great starting wage, benefits available. Will be taking applications & interviewing Thursday March 9 & Tuesday March 14 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Holiday Inn Express, Big Spring, Breakfast Room.

NEED A maid for one day a week. Basic cleaning duties. Trusting and caring person. Please fax resume to (440)232-1384.

NEED EXPERIENCE drillers & roughnecks for Big Spring oil company. Must be able to pass drug test. Call (432)238-3832.

NEED MATURE front desk person. Computer & phone skills a plus. Also need fast pace housekeeper. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express.

EXTRA! EXTRA!
Newspaper Carriers NEEDED!
Earn spending cash, have fun and meet new people. We are looking for energetic people to deliver the news to homes in many areas...
For more information call
Duane McCollum
Big Spring Herald
(432) 263-7331

THURSDAY

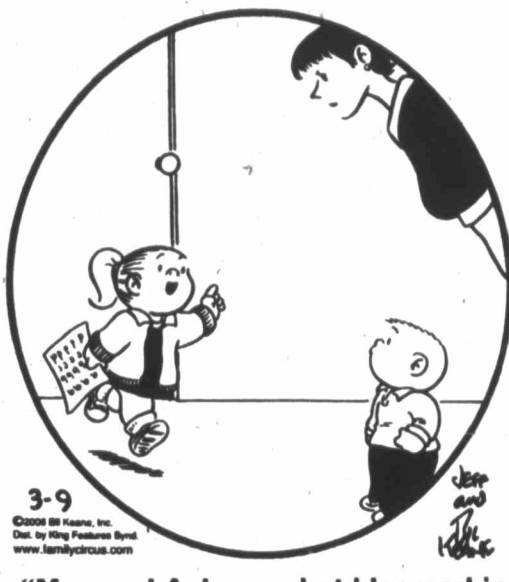
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
6:30	News (CC)	News	News	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormenta	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Later	America's	Classics	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Phil of Future	College	College	Ghost Hunters
7:30	Ent. Tonight	Wheat-Fortune	Persepolis	Survivor	News	Tierra de	News	Friends	Update/Israel	TX Merry Talk	Search-Loch	Melrose	CSI: Crime	NBA	College	College	Big East	ACC First	Ghost Hunters
8:30	Movie: Bringing	Movie: Bringing	Contra Viento	American Idol	Survivor	Tierra de	News	Friends	Update/Israel	TBA	Search-Loch	Melrose	CSI: Crime	NBA	College	College	Big East	ACC First	Ghost Hunters
9:30	House (CC)	House (CC)	Alfonso y	The O.C.	CSI: Crime	Corazon Part	News	Friends	Update/Israel	Artiques	Search-Loch	Melrose	CSI: Crime	NBA	College	College	Big East	ACC First	Ghost Hunters
10:30	Primetime	Primetime	Aqui y Ahora	My Wife-Kids	Without a	Decisiones	News	Friends	Update/Israel	Chinatown	A Haunting	Mask	UFC	NBA	Emperor New	Emperor New	Big 12 First	Big East	Ghost Hunters
11:30	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	Traces	Decisiones	News	Friends	Update/Israel	Charlie Rose	A Haunting	Mask	UFC	NBA	Emperor New	Emperor New	Big 12 First	Big East	Ghost Hunters
12:30	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	TBA	Letterman	Letterman	News	Friends	Update/Israel	Sign Off	Search-Loch	Gun (CC)	CSI: Crime	Real TV (CC)	College Hill	College Hill	Mountain West	Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"How come I never get caught bein' good?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy! Ask me what I learned in school today before I forget it!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



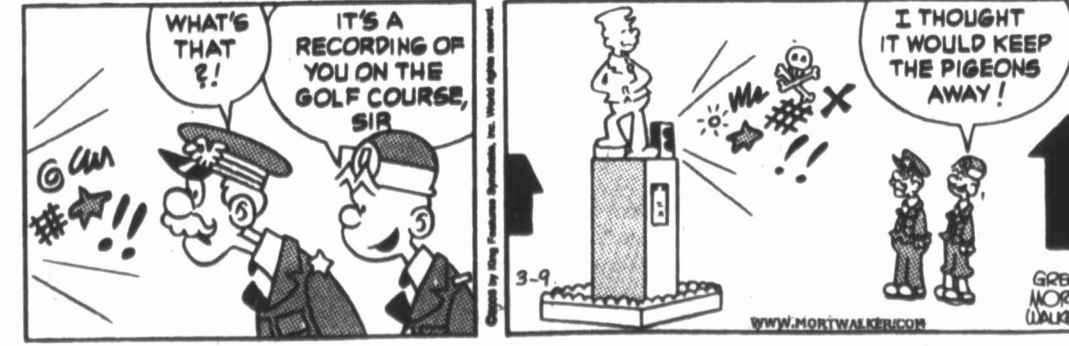
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 9, the 68th day of 2006. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 9, 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on an episode of "See It Now."

On this date:
In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.
In 1860, the first Japanese ambassador to the United States (Nimi Buzenokami) and his staff arrived in San Francisco.
In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads Monitor and Virginia (formerly Merrimack) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.
In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing more than a dozen people.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.
In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington, killing one person and taking more than 130 hostages. The siege ended two days later.
In 1981, Dan Rather made his debut as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."
One year ago: Dan Rather signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."
Today's Birthdays: Author Mickey Spillane is 88. Singer-actress Keely Smith is 74. Singer Lloyd Price is 73. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 72. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 70. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 70. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 64. "Good Morning America" host Charles Gibson is 63. Chess player Bobby Fischer is 63. Rock musician Robin Trower is 61. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 58. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 58. Actress Jaime Lyn

Bauer is 57. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 55. Newscaster Faith Daniels is 49. Actor-director Lonny Price is 47. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 46. Actress Juliette Binoche is 42. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 38. Rapper C-Miller (formerly C-Murder) is 35. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 35. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly is 34. Actor Kerr Smith is 34. Rapper Chingy is 26. Actress Brittany Snow is 20. Rapper Bow Wow is 19. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 14.

Thought for Today: "Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion."
— "Parkinson's Law," by C. Northcote Parkinson (1909-1993).

Answer to previous puzzle

P	O	L	S	S	A	P	S	O	F	T	E	N
A	T	I	T	O	R	E	O	B	L	A	D	E
S	T	A	V	E	N	E	D	R	I	N	G	S
T	O	M	A	T	O	P	T	I	C	K	E	T
A	B	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
B	E	G	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S
B	L	I	T	O	W	O	M	E	N	R	A	P
Q	V	E	S	A	P	E	R	E	R	E	T	A
S	I	T	O	N	E	S	H	A	N	D	S	
A	R	E	A	R	E	P	A	Y				
S	C	A	R	E	S	C	L	O	D	E	G	O
N	O	V	E	L	S	H	A	K	E	A	L	E
O	D	O	R	S	R	O	V	E	L	I	A	R
T	E	N	S	E	S	P	A	N	P	A	R	E

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Johnny Reb's color
 - Mental vagueness
 - Song of David
 - Run the show
 - Patron
 - Foil maker
 - Jazz singer James
 - Tiny bit
 - Flushed
 - Slight possibility
 - Street sealer
 - Celery serving
 - Slumber-party duds
 - Rival of Skippy
 - Popeye's girlfriend
 - Protrude
 - Feedbag morsels
 - German coal region
 - Ornamental wood
 - Newsworthy craft of '27
 - Permanent place
 - Fr. holy women
 - In the matter of
 - Adjective suffix
 - Pouch
 - Yank hard
 - Lacrosse team count
 - Wall Street figures
 - de guerre
 - Hitchcock film of '43
 - 5% of a ream
 - Economist Smith
 - Lion King villain

- DOWN**
- Diver Louganis
 - Teammate of Gehrig
 - Palo
 - Baker's supply
 - Twain, for one
 - "In your dreams!"
 - Greek consonants
 - Kid's construction kit
 - Line of latitude
 - Moved warily
 - Like some appliances
 - Prospector's bonanza
 - Wall-calendar page
 - Mahal
 - Bale material
 - Riders after rustlers
 - Godzilla's stomping grounds
 - Winged wader
 - Upscale toy store
 - Take part in a tilt
 - Join forces
 - Actress Cicely
 - Overflow letters
 - Toward the rudder
 - Feathery wrap
 - Behind-the-scenes group
 - Devastating waves
 - In the past
 - Thor or Odin
 - Muslim palace area
 - Words of agreement
 - Walk slowly
 - Diamonds, for example
 - Raise
 - Viper tooth
 - Golden State sch.
 - Musket projectile
 - Bring to bay
 - NFL VIPs

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

MAR

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2006

That's Racin'

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

"I think racing in Mexico will prove to be a great move for our sport in the future."

— Kevin Harvick, on NASCAR's second foray to Mexico to race the Busch series Telcel-Motorola 200 in Mexico City on March 5.



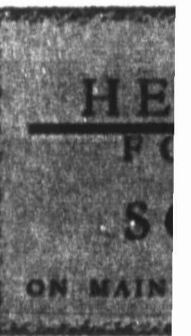
BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER

KEY
A. ARCHITECTURAL
B. ENTRY SIGNAGE
C. ENHANCED ENTRY
D. UTILITY/SCAPE
E. PARK PLAZA
F. PEDESTRIAN MAIL
G. AUTOMOBILE PAI

A
pl
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LANDSCA



Devel
Work exp
soon afte
various p

BY STEVE REAGA
Staff Writer

Downtown Big once a vibrant c the city and now an eyesore, will be an \$8 million sh arm.

Officials an today an extensi vation project a revitalizing the town Main Street Backed by \$8 m private inve developers unveil for Heritage which will inclu block section o town Big Spring Runnels and streets.

Renovation on the buildings is s to begin soon at closing on the p in late May.

Big Spring nati Mahoney, a d with BCDM, saic tion efforts will with an eye on cc

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Opinion 4A
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To reach us:
Please call 263- a.m. to 5 p.m. If you miss your 263-7335 before noon Sunday.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

UAW-DAIMLERCHRYSLER 400

Where: Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile slightly banked paved tri-oval located in Las Vegas.

When: Sunday at 4:35 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: Fox.

Radio: Performance Racing Network.

Purse: \$6,255,298.

Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.

Also this week: Kevin Harvick, the 2001 NASCAR Busch Series champion, leads the series standings again heading into Saturday's race at Atlanta. In the series' first three races, he's finished fifth, eighth and third.

Worth mentioning: There have been six different pole winners in six races at Las Vegas. Only two of the eight Cup races at Las Vegas has been won from a top-10 starting position: the inaugural race in 1998 and 2005. Roush Racing drivers have won five of the eight races at Las Vegas.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Dale Earnhardt Jr. is currently fifth in the Nextel Cup driver standings and Jeff Gordon 15th. Where will they be when NASCAR's Chase playoffs begin?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

NASCAR held its biggest race of the year first, at Daytona, then put on a snoozer at California Speedway. For the third weekend, we were treated to a Busch Series road race in Mexico City, albeit with more Nextel Cup drivers entered than you could whack with a stick. What do you think of NASCAR's scheduling?

Number of votes: 7,162

Response	No. of votes	Percent
The scheduling is suspect.	3,964	55%
It is what it is.	2,928	41%
Good scheduling.	270	4%

STOP 'N' GO

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Say what you want about Jack Roush, but the guy gets the job done. New points system? No problem. New drivers? No problem. No better place than Las Vegas to ride the Roush wave of success.

Homestead's racing was less than spectacular, and it fixed the track. Las Vegas officials would like to spice up the racing at their place, so what are they doing? Fixing the track. Why does it seem a logical a move everywhere else except Daytona and Talladega, where one would think it most necessary?



Roush

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 26:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	355	21. Carl Edwards	199
2. Casey Mears	318	22. Tony Stewart	199
3. Matt Kenseth	308	23. J.J. Yeley	187
4. Casey Kahne	295	24. Reed Sorenson	176
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	287	25. Kurt Busch	174
6. Mark Martin	275	26. Dave Blaney	170
7. Ryan Newman	273	27. Michael Waltrip	164
8. Clint Bowyer	271	28. Brent Sherman	152
9. Brian Vickers	260	29. Jeremy Mayfield	152
10. Elliott Sadler	259	30. Kevin Lepage	151
11. Dale Jarrett	246	31. Terry Labonte	148
12. Kyle Busch	233	32. Joe Nemechek	146
13. Martin Truex Jr.	233	33. David Stremme	143
14. Jeff Burton	227	34. Kyle Petty	134
15. Jeff Gordon	219	35. Jeff Green	128
16. Ken Schrader	217	36. Bobby Labonte	128
17. Robby Gordon	209	37. Sterling Marlin	128
18. Jamie McMurray	207	38. Greg Biffle	122
19. Kevin Harvick	202	39. Bill Elliott	111
20. Denny Hamlin	200	40. Scott Riggs	106

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of March 5:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	467	11. Todd Kuever	340
2. J.J. Yeley	453	12. Kyle Busch	333
3. Denny Hamlin	445	13. Johnny Sauter	332
4. Jamie McMurray	409	14. Ashton Lewis	327
5. Clint Bowyer	400	15. Reed Sorenson	323
6. Burney Lamar	379	16. Paul Menard	321
7. Jason Leffler	359	17. Kenny Wallace	291
8. Carl Edwards	358	18. Mark McFarland	288
9. Jon Wood	351	19. Tim Sauter	287
10. Jason Keller	350	20. John Andretti	266

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 24:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Mark Martin	380	6. Rick Crawford	289
2. Todd Bodine	350	7. Mike Skinner	282
3. Paul Mays	335	8. Erik Darnell	280
4. Jason Speck	328	9. Jeremy Benson	298
5. David Reutimann	303	10. Jon Wood	258

NEXT RACE: March 17, TBA, Hampton, Ga.



Kurt Busch, left, congratulates brother Kyle, right, for winning the pole position for the 2005 Auto Club 500 at California Speedway.

BROTHERLY COMPETITION

BY DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch are not twins. There are differences between the sons of Tom Busch, who raised his boys in Las Vegas where they'll race in Sunday's UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

But, beginning with the strong family resemblance, there's a lot more about them that's the same.

Both, of course, have demonstrated their talents at an early age in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series.

When Kyle won the first of his two Cup races in 2005 on Sept. 4 at California Speedway, he became the youngest driver to win a Nextel Cup race.

He was 20 years, 4 months and 2 days old — four days younger than Donald Thomas when he won a race in 1952.

Kurt now has 14 career victories. Seven of them came before his 25th birthday, the same number the legendary Richard Petty won by that age. Only Jeff Gordon, who had 15 wins before turning 35, had more.

But it's not only success that the Busch brothers share. Controversy seems to follow them both, too.

Already this season, Kyle Busch has felt singled out for criticism about his driving style in the season's opening events at Daytona. Then, last weekend in a Busch Series race in Mexico City, he drew the ire of fans there for an incident with Michel Jourdain.

"There have been some instances where I've put my car in situations where maybe I should have thought a little bit differently about," Kyle Busch said. "But that's any driver. ... It's all about trying to gain respect, that's something that's important to me. I hope I've done a great enough job on that. I'm only in the start of my second year, so there's still a little bit more to do."

Kurt, the older brother by nearly seven years,

Kurt and Kyle Busch balance respect with a healthy rivalry



Kyle Busch, car No. 5, races Kurt, car No. 2, during the 2006 Daytona 500.

has his own situation to deal with. Roush Racing suspended him for the final two races of 2005 for an incident near Phoenix International Raceway in which he got a traffic citation. Kurt agreed to do community service as a result of that incident, but also finds himself dealing with the public relations backlash of that now that he's in his new ride, the No. 2 Dodges owned by Penske Racing South.

"I've tried so hard to try to fit in but I have kept kicking my own self in the shin," Kurt said. "I'm just trying now to develop relationships."

"I was just here to race race cars. I came up through the ranks so fast that I never really developed relationships with people because I bounced from one series to the next. Now that I'm here (in the Nextel Cup series), I realize that this isn't just about racing anymore. It's about the relationships around you."

The one relationship Kurt doesn't have to worry about, though, is the one he has with Kyle.

"Kurt and I have a tremendous amount of respect for each other," Kyle Busch said. "But there is always a sibling rivalry there, of course. The younger brother always wants to go out and outdo the older brother, so I've had that on me for a long time."

"Kurt kind of paved the way for me to get up here and knocked down a bunch of trees for me. Now that I am (racing in the Nextel Cup), I have to be able to make sure that I can do the job at hand as well as anybody else can."

In November 2005, as Kurt sat out, Kyle won at Phoenix International Raceway and in victory lane dedicated his performance to his brother and his family's name. Later, he walked out of a post-race media session when questions about the incident that led to Kurt's suspension ticked him off, although he later returned to complete the interview.

With wins at Phoenix and California, nothing would please Kyle Busch more than to complete a sweep of the West Coast ovals by winning on his hometown track this weekend.

"It means a lot to us that Kurt and myself came from basically nowhere," he says. "Nobody has ever heard of a race car driver who was born or grew up in Las Vegas. It's a little different story from the older NASCAR days were, where everybody was on the East Coast. I think it's cool."

One of the pictures that Kurt has kept from his adolescence shows him and his hobby stock car sitting in a gravel parking lot outside a short track on the grounds of what is now Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Behind him, you can see the construction cranes and part of the shell of the 1.5-mile super-speedway's grandstands going up.

"Las Vegas is a unique town to represent," Busch says. "It has a different feel. Everybody knows about Vegas, but the tough part with it is that everybody is shipped in from different areas. Nobody's 'from' Vegas. But I am."

Charlotte earned hall selection; it wasn't a given

Told you so. Right from the start of the process by which NASCAR selected Charlotte, N.C., as the site for its hall of fame, I said the winning city would be the one that came up with the best deal.

"Having the NASCAR hall of fame (in Charlotte) does make sense," I wrote in August.

"... But this whole process isn't necessarily about what makes sense. It is, in fact, entirely about what makes cents, as in dollars and cents."

OK, so I did also write that practically everybody in the racing world thought that deal would come from Kansas City, Mo. Here, in a sense of fairness, is the passage by which I hung myself out on a limb that officially got sawed off Monday.

"Maybe I am wrong, and I really hope I am," I wrote. "Maybe the people I talk to about this process have become jaded. ... But what those peo-

ple tell me is that this is, and has been from the start, a done deal. The NASCAR Hall of Fame? Kansas City, here it comes."

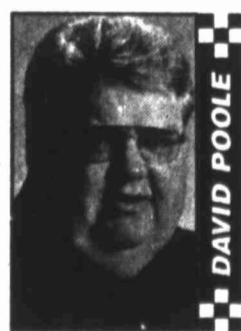
So, yes, I was wrong about the outcome.

I also apparently was wrong when I said I feared it was a rigged game, but I reserve the right to take that back if something fishy comes at us down the road.

And no, I won't claim that declaring Kansas City the favorite was some kind of ruse. I wrote what I was hearing and what I was convinced was the case.

But I was not wrong about how this decision was made.

NASCAR had five cities, three of which were in the final cut, and picked the best deal. The surprise is that it was Charlotte



DAVID POOLE

that came up with that deal.

I'm just a sports-writer who owes everybody money, so I'll let people who're a lot smarter than me pass judgment on the financial aspects of the deal. In a big-picture sense, though, I agree with what H.A. "Humpty" Wheeler, president of

Lowe's Motor Speedway, said the other day.

"The thing that pleases me is how the leadership of Charlotte and this area have come through on this thing," Wheeler said. "Everybody in the motorsports industry should

pull the deal together, said after Monday's news conference that

he believes the city leaders worked harder and more effectively to bring the NASCAR hall to the city than they did back when Charlotte got its first pro sports franchise, the Charlotte Hornets.

Despite the misery the Hornets eventually caused, that was a watershed moment for Charlotte. It put the city in the national sports consciousness.

Some say Charlotte should have been a clear winner from the start of this race, but that's an oversimplification. Had either Atlanta or Daytona Beach, Fla., the other two finalists, been selected, I believe the hall would have been a success in either place.

Charlotte did not win this race by default. The people who worked on it did. They deserve credit and congratulations for that.

And from me, an apology.