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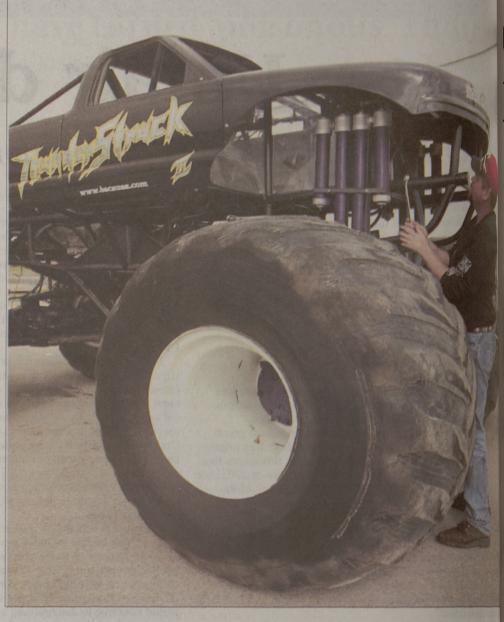
Visit the store at 522 University Drive E. (Between the Suit Club and Audio Video) Call 979-764-8786 for an appointment.

## THANK YOU BIG EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Julia and David Gardner truly support volunteerism especially for those of you giving your time to this year's Big Event. David Gardner's invites Big Event Volunteers to our Spring Bridal Event. When stopping by the store, be sure to ask about the special "Gift with Purchase" for Big Event Volunteers!

Friday, March 26, 2004

## **Thunderstruck**



Randal Ford • THE BATTAU

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Stone Cold Monster Truck and Alcohol Funny Car Racer, Donnie Collins, works on the Thunderstruck monster truck infront of Reed Arena Thursday afternoon. Collins, other racers and sponsers such as Lunati Cams, Quest

Racing and BDS Blowers, are all in town for the Extre Monster Truck Nationals which will be held at la Arena Friday through Saturday. The races will fest the top six monster trucks in the nation.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Medicare actuary tells of pressure to keep estimate from Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) - Medicare actuary Richard Foster was between a rock and a hard place. If he told Congress the Medicare bill could cost more than \$100 billion more than they thought, he could be fired. If he guit and went public, it would make a big splash but nothing likely would change for the next actuary. If he did nothing, Congress would pass a bill without having the best information, but he'd be around to fight another day.

Foster did nothing, and Congress last year passed what some people have called the most

sweeping changes in history to Medicare, government's main health care program older and disabled Americans.

But Foster now is telling lawmakers that it Bush administration's top Medicare official last year withheld from Congress the legislation actual estimated cost for political gain.

Since President Bush signed the bill December, the administration has acknown edged it believes the Medicare law will a \$534 billion over 10 years - more than all," he \$395 billion estimated by congressional but Aggie et analysts.

Keeping the bill's cost below \$400 billion work in considered crucial for winning enough votes someth conservative Republicans so it would pass the House.

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