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BIG SPRING

HERALD



INSIDE
San Antonio
Spurs fall
in overtime
to T-Wolves

Page 1B

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 36

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2007

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Pay your property taxes now

To avoid some hefty penalties

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents who miss the Jan. 31 deadline to pay their property taxes may find themselves neck deep in penalties and interests, local tax officials warn.

According to County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles, area property owners can avoid the annual last-minute dash to pay their taxes by getting them out of the way early in the month.

"Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grow to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

Sayles said area residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that's due. So if you haven't received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call."

"They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

For taxpayers over the

See TAXES, Page 3A



Leticia Torres holds daughter Teresa at Scenic Mountain Medical Center this morning. Teresa became Howard County's first baby for 2007 when she was born Tuesday afternoon.

It's a girl! again and again and again and...

County's first baby of 2007 is couple's fourth daughter.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Adam Torres and son Ruben are just going to have to remain used to a house full of females.

Teresa Andrea Torres became Howard County's first baby born in 2007 when she made her debut at 3:26 p.m. Tuesday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The county's newest citizen weighed in at five pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 inches long at birth.

Teresa is the fifth child for Adam and Leticia Torres — and the fourth girl.

"My son was like, 'I'm getting older ... and I'd really like a little brother to play with,'" Adam Torres said. "We were kind of hoping for a boy, but we don't really care as long as she's healthy."

Ruben may have missed out on a baby brother, but the family did receive several gifts from area merchants, including Faye's Flowers, Jazzy's, Big Spring Bank, Regis Hair Salon, Human's Restaurant, The Movie Gallery, Serendipity Ice Cream and Coffee Shop, Subway, Cowboys' Steak House, Leonard's Pharmacy, Dakota's Flowers and gifts, Martha's Cafe, Blum's Jewelers, Comet Clean-

See BABY, Page 3A

RSVP Travel Showcase set Jan. 11

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents with a case of the gypsy foot will be able to plan out a full year of fun Jan. 11, as the Big Spring Retired Senior Volunteer Program prepares to unveil its annual Travel Showcase.

The 2007 RSVP Travel Showcase, which offers moder-

ately priced tours to area adults, will be unveiled at 2 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center, and according to Nancy Jones, director of the local RSVP office, there are plenty of destinations to choose from.

"I haven't even seen the full brochure yet, so it's still a secret from me at this point," said Jones with a laugh. "However, I know there's a cruise through



Jones

the Panama Canal planned, as well as stops in Puerto Rico, Acapulco and San Juan. The brochure for the tour is 16 pages, so I'm sure there will be plenty to choose from."

The showcase has the added attraction of bringing in extra revenue for the local

seniors program.

"It supplements our budget," she said. "It does allow me to do some special projects we ordinarily wouldn't be able to do."

The Big Spring, San Angelo and Abilene RSVP offices contract with Bilbrey Tours Inc. of Abilene to provide a variety of tour destinations, according to

See RSVP, Page 3A

Democrats poised to elect first female speaker of the House

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Jubilant Democrats prepared to elect Rep. Nancy Pelosi as the first woman to run the House of Representatives as the party takes control of both chambers of Congress for the first time in 12 years.

House Democrats planned quick action on legislative priorities that included boosting both the minimum wage and stem cell research. Democrats also said they would pressure President Bush to bring the troops home from Iraq.

The new Congress was convening at noon today, with Democrats still adjusting to the trappings

House Democrats planned quick action on legislative priorities that included boosting both the minimum wage and stem cell research.

of power, while Republicans grappled with their new role in the minority.

Pelosi, taking over as House speaker, promised immediate steps to ban gifts from lobbyists and to clamp down on travel funded by private interests. Democrats also planned to vote next week



U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), slated to become Speaker of the House today, meets with Italian Deputy Prime Minister Francesco Rutelli in her office at the U.S. Capitol.

to raise the federal minimum wage, increase federal support for stem cell research and allow the government to negotiate with drug companies for

lower prices on prescription drugs for Medicare recipients. On the other side of the Capitol, Nevada Democrat Harry Reid — a soft-spo-

ken but tough inside player — was taking the reins of the notoriously unwieldy Senate. He

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NOW THAT'S STARTING OVER

DYERSBURG, Tenn. (AP) — A Texas man wanted on an outstanding warrant turned himself in to police so he could start 2007 with "a clean slate," police said. Christopher Lee Torres, 29, was wanted on a probation violation warrant for assaulting a police officer in Kleburg County, Texas, in April 2006. Torres called police from a Dyersburg motel on New Year's Day and told them he wanted to be taken into custody. Torres said that he'd thought about this all night and decided he wanted to start the new year off on a clean slate, officers wrote in their report. He is being held for extradition to Texas.

HOPEULIKIT BACK ON MAP

ATLANTA (AP) — Po Biddy Crossroads will be back on the map. So will Hopeulikit and Doctortown. The 488 communities wiped from this year's version of the state highway map will be restored, the Georgia Department of Transportation said Wednesday. The towns were erased from the map after the transportation department decided it wanted a clearer, more legible version of the map to hand out for free at visitors centers and tourism hotspots. The move led to an outcry among some small-town officials, who said the erasure of places like Poetry Tulip and Chattooga-ville were an insult to rural residents.

THAT'S NOT THE DRIVE-THRU

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) — It wasn't quite the kind of deposit employees of the International Bank of Commerce were expecting Wednesday morning when Ramanbhai Patel showed up. Patel's car crashed into the bank's lobby, going through a window and part of a wall before stopping. No one was injured. Police Chief Robert Rodriguez said Patel, who lives on the island, apparently put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake while trying to park. "He stepped off the brake, panicked, and the next thing he knew, he was inside the bank," Rodriguez said.

Obituaries

Helen Lewis

Helen Lewis, 79, of Hughes Springs, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at a Linden nursing center. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with Fr. Richard Regan officiating.

Mrs. Lewis was born Feb. 18, 1927, in Topeka, Kan. She was retired from Sears and was a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Cheryl Muhle of Harwood; two daughters and one son-in-law, Kathy and George Modgling of Belton and Diana Cockerham of Hughes Springs; two brothers, Edward Bright of Kirkwood, Mo., and Michael Bright Jr. of Meriden, Kan.; two sisters, Dorothy Briggs of Topeka, Kan., and Kathy Fitzpatrick of Stanford, Fla.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom Lewis, a son, James Michael; a brother, Sylvester Bright; and two sisters, Matilda Keener and Lucille Nethery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Reeder-Davis Funeral Home of Hughes Springs.

Steven Howard Muse

Steven Howard Muse, 65, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at McNett Funeral Home in Andrews.

Laverne Wells

Laverne Wells, 83, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

William Higgins

William Higgins, 49, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Manuela B. Perez

Manuela B. Perez, 88, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

- THURSDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- FRIDAY**
- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.
- SUNDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.
- MONDAY**
- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

- HERITAGE MUSEUM IS WORKING** with Tumbleweed Smith to produce a video documentary on the life of Pat McCormick, the famous woman bull-fighter from Big Spring. If you have information to share about her, you are invited to come to the museum between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. Comments will be videotaped for use in the documentary.
- A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** at Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 503 E. FM 700, to help defray funeral expenses for Tory Mitchell. To contribute, make the donation in care of Annie Farr or simply request that it go to the Tory Mitchell fund.
- THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING** is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.
- CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

Police blotter

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

- JAMES CURTIS BROWN**, 40, 1102 S. Nolan, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 400 block of Owens.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID** was reported in the 2200 block of Gregg.
- CARRYING A PROHIBITED WEAPON** was reported in the 1600 block of Wood.
- THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa and the 1400 block of Tucson.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- DARIA EDEN JOHNSON**, 18, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- CRYSTAL COBLE**, 19, was arrested on a charge of assault on a public servant and resisting arrest.
- JESSICA GARZA**, 24, was arrested on a warrant charging theft by check.
- MORGAN LOPEZ**, 25, was arrested on a warrant charging possession of a controlled substance.
- JOSE T. CANTU**, 25, began serving sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
- RANDOLPH DEMOND ANDERSON**, 32, began serving sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
- WILLIAM FRANKS**, 30, began serving sentence for aggravated sexual assault.
- KATHERINE DELORES SCAGGS**, 35, began serving sentence for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- KCAJ JUSTIN GARTMAN**, 22, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of assault.
- JOSHUA LYNN OLIVAS**, 18, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, speeding and reckless driving.
- JAMES CURTIS BROWN**, 40, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.
- ARNULFO CHAVERA JR.**, 26, was arrested on charges of driving while license invalid and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- PAMELA LEFLER**, 44, began serving judgment for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of N. Main.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENCE INVALID** was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of West 17th. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA** was reported in the 1200 block of Sixth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

- ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.
- NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).
- ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.
- THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.
- FRIDAY**
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.
- SATURDAY**
- The Fifth Annual Chili Cookoff to benefit the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need fund begins at 8 a.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188, 703 W. Third. Judging is at noon. Chili available for \$5.
 - The Big Spring Evening Lions Club will hold an adult eyeglass clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St. This provides recycled eyeglasses for adults who cannot afford to pay for an eye examination or buy eyeglasses. For information, contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.
 - Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 - Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

Weather

Tonight—Clear. Lows around 40. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday—Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night—Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the northeast 20 to 25 mph after midnight.

Saturday—Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the morning then isolated showers in the afternoon. Much colder. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Sunday—Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Monday—Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Monday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Tuesday—Mostly sunny. Highs around 60.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-30-31-38-40-44. Number matching six of six: none. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$21 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-18-29-34. Number matching five of five: none. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-7

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World news briefs

Arrests reported in Saddam execution video, U.S. says former leader dignified to the end

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi authorities report the arrests of two guards and an official in the investigation into who taunted Saddam Hussein as he stood on the gallows and took cell phone pictures showing his body dangling at the end of a rope.

The unauthorized video has ignited protests by Saddam's fellow Sunni Arabs in various Iraqi cities and threatens to make a martyr out of the ousted dictator. Saddam was shown never bowing his head as he faced death, and asking the hecklers if they were acting in a manly way.

The Bush administration sent conflicting signals Wednesday about the conduct of the execution, with the White House declining to join criticism and the State Department and U.S. military publicly raising questions about it.

The second-guessing over the conduct of the execution came as a video turned up of four Americans and an Austrian abducted in November in southern Iraq. The hostages spoke briefly and appeared uninjured in a video believed to have been recorded nearly two weeks ago and delivered Wednesday to The Associated Press.

The men — security contractors for the Crescent Security Group based in Kuwait — appeared separately on the edited video, and three of them said they were being treated well. They were kidnapped Nov. 16 when suspected militiamen in Iraqi police uniforms ambushed a convoy of trucks being escorted by Crescent Security on a highway near the southern border city of Safwan.

Negroponte to quit as national intelligence director to become deputy secretary of state

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Intelligence Director John Negroponte, who has been closely involved with U.S. policy on Iraq, will trade in his job as top spy to become No. 2 to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Negroponte took over in April 2005 as the nation's first intelligence chief, responsible for overseeing all 16 U.S. spy agencies. He will return to his roots as a career diplomat to become deputy secretary of state, two U.S. government officials said late Wednesday.

One of the officials said the timing of Negroponte's departure was uncertain, but that it was expected soon. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because there has been no announcement of the move.

Negroponte, 67, is stepping down as President Bush develops a new strategy on Iraq. The president has ordered reviews from his own agencies and the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which recommended a series of changes to reverse a "slide toward chaos."

Negroponte has held a series of tough posts in the Bush administration and has been at the center of the Iraq debate since before the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003. He served as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. from 2001 to 2004 and ambassador to Baghdad until March 2005 before becoming intelligence chief.

New video shows 5 security contractors who were kidnapped in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four Americans and an Austrian abducted in November in southern Iraq spoke briefly and appeared uninjured in a video believed to have been recorded nearly two weeks ago and delivered Wednesday to The Associated Press.

The men — security contractors for the Crescent Security Group based in Kuwait — appeared separately on the edited video. Three of them said they were being treated well. They were kidnapped Nov. 16 when suspected militiamen in Iraqi police uniforms ambushed a convoy of trucks being escorted by Crescent Security on a highway near the southern border city of Safwan.

"My name is John R. Young," one captive in a blue and white sweat suit said in the video. "I'm 44 years old. I'm from Kansas City, Missouri. The date is 21 December, 2006. I'm well, my friends are well, we've been treated well."

Another man identified himself as Jon Cote of Buffalo, N.Y. Fidgeting and appearing uncomfortable,

he said: "I can't be released until the prisoners from the American jails and the British jails are released."

The captives were dressed in civilian clothes and spoke in a flat, impassive tone. Several had their hands folded in their laps.

Teen is shot to death in Washington school hallway; police arrest student hours later

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Some students who heard the gunshots or saw the victim crumple to the floor didn't believe what was happening was real. The screaming teachers and streaks of blood on the lockers quickly convinced them it was.

The shooting, which happened just before the first period bell rang on the day classes resumed after the holiday break, sent students scrambling as 17-year-old Samnang Kok lay dying in a hallway. The shooter bolted out a set of double doors.

About two hours later Wednesday, police arrested fellow student Douglas Chanthabouly, 18, a few blocks away from Henry Foss High School.

He was booked for investigation of first-degree murder.

The shooter and victim knew each other but detectives did not immediately know a motive, Tacoma Police Chief Donald Ramsdell said. He said the arrested boy was cooperative.

"Today we lost a nice young person in a Tacoma public school in an act of senseless violence," Ramsdell said. He vowed to work with the school district to "prevent this type of situation in the future."

President Ford laid to rest in Michigan; ceremonies capped 8 days of mourning

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum after eight days of mourning and remembrance that spanned the country, from the California desert to the nation's capital and back to Ford's boyhood home.

Wednesday's sunset service capped the official mourning for the 38th president, whose casket traveled more than 2,700 miles before reaching its final stop on a hill overlooking a river at the museum in Ford's hometown.

At a graveside service that included a 21-gun salute and a 21-aircraft flyover, Vice President Dick Cheney presented former first lady Betty Ford with the American flag that was draped over her husband's casket.

Earlier, Ford was remembered as a man not afraid to laugh, make tough decisions or listen to the advice of his independent wife in eulogies delivered during a funeral at the church the couple attended for six decades.

An honor guard carried the casket inside Grace Episcopal Church, where Ford's defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, and Ford's successor, Jimmy Carter, recalled his public service.

Authorities give the video of 'Crocodile Hunter' Steve Irwin's death to his wife

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Authorities gave the video of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin's fatal encounter with a stingray to his family and destroyed all copies to prevent the grisly footage from being made public, an Australian state coroner said Thursday.

Irwin, 44, died on Sept. 4 after being stabbed in the chest by the stingray's poisonous barb while filming a documentary on the Great Barrier Reef off the Queensland coast.

Queensland State Coroner Michael Barnes said authorities gave the original video to his wife, Terri, in late December and destroyed other copies.

"The footage has been the subject of widespread media interest and it was wholly appropriate that we took all possible steps to ensure something of such a personal and tragic nature did not fall into the wrong hands," Barnes said in a statement. "This is in line with the wishes of the Irwin family."

Police made a small number of copies of the video to assist their inquiry into the cause of Irwin's death, but they were kept under tight security throughout the investigation, the coroner's office said.

CONGRESS

Continued from Page 1A

invited both Democrats and Republicans to a rare closed-door conference Thursday in the Old Senate Chamber in hopes of setting a bipartisan mood after years of political rancor.

The Democratic-led Congress also opens a new chapter in the presidency of Bush, who faces divided government as he cements his legacy in his final two years in the White House. He said Wednesday that he soon would propose a five-year plan to balance the budget, and he challenged Democrats to avoid passing "bills that are simply political" statements.

"There is nothing political about finding a policy to end the war in Iraq, raising the minimum wage, achieving energy independence or helping kids afford college," Reid shot back.

"In fact, politics has prevented progress on these issues for too many years," added Reid, who was to become the new Senate majority leader.

Sen. John McCain, a prominent Republican and possible 2008 presidential candidate, said Thursday he was "very sad" his party had lost the majority but added: "We forgot why we came to Washington. We lost our way, we got engaged in earmarking and pork barrel projects, and we valued power over principle and we paid a heavy price for it." He spoke on NBC's "Today" show.

Pelosi was starting the day at a prayer service at a Catholic church on Capitol Hill before being sworn in as speaker in the afternoon by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., the longest serving member of the House. Pelosi then was to address the House — and the nation

— in a speech carried live on C-SPAN, which broadcasts all House proceedings, and on cable news networks.

Dingell administered the same oath to former Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., 12 years ago when Republicans seized the House after 40 years of Democratic control — and he's set to get back his gavel as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

House Democrats promise speedy passage of the first six bills on their agenda and a series of stiffer ethics rules. They said they would not allow Republicans the chance to amend any of the first half-dozen bills to be brought to a vote during the first 100 hours of the new Congress.

The first steps would take place by early evening on Thursday, and consist of several measures crafted in response to the ethics scandals that weakened Republicans in last fall's elections.

In addition to expanding restrictions on privately financed trips enjoyed by lawmakers, House Democrats said they would prohibit travel on corporate jets. A vote will come Friday to require greater disclosure of "earmarks," the pet projects inserted into legislation at the behest of individual lawmakers.

Current rules prohibit congressional travel paid for by lobbyists or foreign governments, and violations of the existing restrictions played heavily in the influence-peddling scandal involving Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

The Senate, as is typical, will get off to a slower start than the House, where rules and practice permit speedy debate and ensure tight majority power control over the agenda.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

age of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special installment plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest.

"There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said

Sayles. "You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and Aug. 1. This is for people 65 and older or are receiving disability.

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

RSVP

Continued from Page 1A

Jones.

"It's really a lot of fun," said Jones. "Some people will only sign up for one trip, while others will go on close to a dozen. It gives you a chance to pick and choose. We usually have about 100 local people participating in the

program.

"The cost of the trips has a pretty wide range. Last year, one of our shorter trips was approximately \$265 for two days, while an eight- to 10-day trip to Chicago was \$1,300 per person. It averages about \$100 a day when you figure in your hotel, travel and excursions."

She added that escorts will travel with participants to all destinations.

The biggest advantage, however, may be in simple peace of mind.

"There's great comfort and convenience," Jones said. "They'll pick you up at the front door, and drop you back off at the front door, and they take care of every little detail."

For more information, contact the local RSVP office at 264-2397.

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

BABY

Continued from Page 1A

hers, Allan's Furniture, HEB Grocery Store, SMMC Women's Service Staff and SMMC Volunteers.

Apparently, Teresa was in no rush to be born. Leticia said her water broke on New Year's Day, but she had to endure about 10 hours of labor before the newest family member decided to arrive.

Adam and Leticia will take little Teresa home today, where she'll join brother Ruben, 13, and sisters Elida (11), Hayley (6) and Angelita (2).

"It feels great to have the year's first baby ... but we're just happy that she's healthy," Leticia said.

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

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Get Fit and Healthy at the DRRC Wellness Center 2007 Class Schedule

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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Publisher

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Managing Editor

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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Do not muzzle our watchdogs

It's virtually automatic: New candidates for Congress inevitably pledge to stamp out those persistent government evils collectively known as "waste, fraud and abuse."

But when it gets down to the nitty-gritty of investigating and exposing those evils, the real work often is left to faceless government bureaucrats known as "inspectors general," or IGs.

There are, in fact, dozens of offices of inspectors general (known as "OIGs") charged with examining the operations of specific agencies of the U.S. government to help ensure that beleaguered taxpayers are getting their money's worth.

The mere presence of IGs probably helps keep many government officials from departing from the straight and narrow path of propriety. After all, who wants to be the target of a potentially embarrassing investigation by a nosy IG?

But now, according to an Associated Press report by writer Larry Margasak, it's the IGs themselves who "are increasingly under attack, as the top government officials they scrutinize try to erode the watchdogs' independence and authority."

"During 2006, several inspectors general felt the wrath of government bosses or their supporters in Congress after investigations cited agencies for poor performance, excessive spending or waste," Margasak reported.

As the most-prominent example, Republicans in Congress who are friendly to the Bush administration tried to do away with the job of Stuart Bowen Jr., the pesky IG for Iraq, who conducted high-profile investigations of how Uncle Sam spent money for the troubled reconstruction effort there.

As Margasak noted, Bowen "found dramatic examples of missing weapons, wasted billions and excessive overhead costs by Halliburton," a major federal contractor once headed by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Bowen's job was saved by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans who objected to efforts to eliminate it.

In another headline-making item, the board of directors of the Legal Services Corp., the federal legal-aid program for the poor, discussed earlier this year the possibility of firing Kirt West, the agency's inspector general, after he uncovered lavish expenditures of tax dollars by top agency managers on limos, upscale hotels and \$14 "Death by Chocolate" desserts.

It hardly should be surprising that efforts to can or muzzle IGs often come from those who have been embarrassed by the findings of their investigations.

Although some IGs occasionally might be overzealous or excessively critical of the agencies they are examining, we've generally found them to be effective public watchdogs who foster good government by helping ensure that taxpayers get more bang for their buck.

If there's anything harder to exterminate than cockroaches, it might be government "waste, fraud and abuse." The federal IGs help ensure that those banes of taxpayers are at least kept somewhat in check.

Shame on anyone who tries to muzzle these watchdogs.

— The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Democrats must address war now

Now that the Ford funeral is over, the celebrations in Washington are about to begin. The Democrats are taking over, Nancy Pelosi will be the country's first woman Speaker, and three days of parties are planned. It's not quite as fancy as what the Republicans did when they took over the House back in 1994, but it's the same idea.

And then there's legislation: The Democrats are planning a one-hundred hour burst, in the hopes of passing some crowd-pleasers like congressional ethics reform and an increase in the minimum wage. It's a far more modest agenda than the revolution the Republicans sought in the first days of their "Contract with America," but at least it's a plan. And, make no mistake, it's a Democratic plan. In order to avoid slowing things down, they're leaving the Republicans out of the party. All hail to Gerald Ford's bipartisanship, but not now.

All of which would be just fine (actually, ethics reform is better than just fine) except for one not-so-small thing.

What about Iraq? We're in the middle of a war. A wretched, failing, losing, killing war. A war in which every day's news brings new death notices. A war whose ugliness pervades even the execution scene, complete with taunts and ethnic antagonism. A war that represents the president's major vulnerability. And he still doesn't get it.

The president, turning an absolutely blind eye to what was without question the most important issue in the midterm election, is about to announce a troop INCREASE. And meanwhile, the Democrats are planning parties

and mini-bursts of extraneous legislation.

I have nothing against political celebrations. Enjoy. Having a woman on top is certainly a welcome change. There's even a tea planned. Who could be against that? Ethics reform is long overdue. The minimum wage should go up.

But the Democrats have to take on the Iraq war. They can't sit by and party while the president plans a troop increase. One-hundred hour bursts for popular pieces of legislation are all well and good, but 3,000 dead is the number to focus on, and a burst of minor bills is no substitute for a concerted effort to take on the president on the war.

What are the Democrats planning to do about the war in Iraq?

Is there a plan? Isn't that what we should be talking about?

From Day One, calling on the administration to account for its disastrous policy should be the Democrats' top priority. You can't leave it for later. You needn't let him go first.

Saddam Hussein is dead.

Does it matter? The country has turned against the war. But the country can't do anything about it. The Congress can.

What's

ly in the Democratic Party — still don't seem to get it. They can't quite get their arms around the reality that unappeasable evil exists in the world.

They believe we can reason with despots, negotiate with terrorists and tame tyrants through tepid sanctions. Even when Ahmadinejad mocks the sanctions and defiantly pronounces he is proceeding on course, full speed ahead, the appeasers refuse to yield to their lying ears.

How can this nation possibly consider turning over the reins to politicians with such a recklessly misguided mindset? How can it consider giving the Democratic Party control over both the legislative and executive branches in 2008, notwithstanding the Republicans' regrettable performance on domestic spending and immigration?

If we're smart, we'll treat the Democrats' approach to Iraq as instructive on how they would approach Iran and other aspects of the war on terror and how they can't be trusted with national security.

Democrats would have us believe they are bullish on national security and as tough on terror as conservative hawks. They tell us they are tough, but "smart," which is a clever rhetorical device to disguise their consistent softness on terror — opposing all the tools to prosecute the war and their absence of a plan on Iraq, other than empty criticism.

But why not? Through the miracle of modern propaganda, they have avoided accountability both for opposing the war in Iraq and supporting it. Who says they can't have it both ways?

Remember that Democrats were the last to believe (and probably never did believe) we should take action against Saddam Hussein. They opposed the war until the last minute, when they were coerced, through public opinion, to support the war resolution.

It's easy to dismiss their appeasement mindset now since we haven't confirmed Saddam had new stockpiles of WMD and because we've had so much difficulty in the post-regime-change phase of the war. But don't forget

the plan?

Corruption was certainly one issue in the last election, and addressing it should be a Democratic priority. But is there any doubt that Democrats wouldn't be in charge right now were it not for Iraq?

Democrats have had their problems in the past, coming up with a position on the war that all of them could agree on. Some voted for it, some against; some were willing to admit the mistake, others not.

But can unity still be a problem when there is a proposal for a troop increase on the table? Can't Democrats at least unite in opposition to the president's forthcoming expansion of our commitment? As Republican senators begin to

weigh in with their own reservations, why is this a hard issue for Democrats?

There will be more attention paid to the new Congress in the next three days than in the next three months.

That's just how it

works. New is news.

So why not put Iraq on the agenda at the time most people are watching?

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

that Democrats were initially opposed to the war even when they were thoroughly convinced Saddam had WMD and was pursuing more.

But after supporting the war, they didn't have the character to stand by their decision once things started going badly, or at least when they realized they could make political hay by reneging on their decision to support the war.

That's when they began their lies about Bush's alleged WMD lies. They were duped, they say, into supporting the war. But forget the alleged lie issue for a moment. What their statements imply is that they would have happily supported the war had we been correct (and we still might have been) that Saddam had WMD.

But haven't they also told us, in effect, that they wouldn't have supported the war no matter what we believed about WMD because their clairvoyance revealed to them we would be greeted not as liberators, but occupiers, and that the situation would deteriorate into civil war because of sectarian conflict?

Just going on the Democrats' words alone, then, we find they opposed the war when the evidence was clear Saddam was a WMD-wielding global menace, and they supported the war when the evidence was clear Saddam was a WMD-wielding global menace. They opposed the war believing we would be greeted as occupiers, not liberators, and they supported the war believing we would be greeted as occupiers, not liberators.

Through the Democrats' approach to Iraq and the war on terror generally, we know they are untrustworthy, unreliable and ill equipped to guide the ship of state through wartime waters. Even if they weren't duplicitous, they simply cannot grasp the evil nature of our enemy.

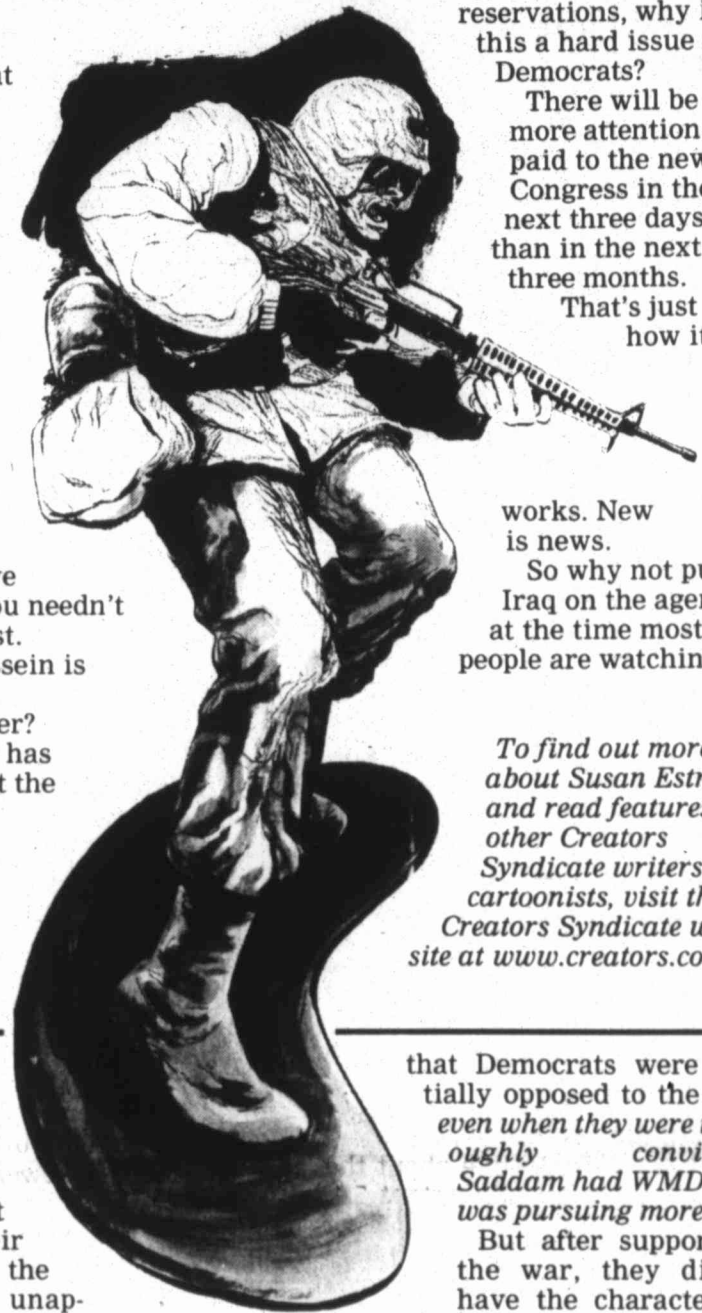
Among the many lessons we learn from Iraq, these should be at the top of the list.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. And to read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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SUSAN ESTRICH



Party unfit to lead during wartime

As the end of the year always occasions retrospectives, prospectives and resolutions, it might be a worthwhile exercise to consider our experiences with Iraq as a guide to what might happen with Iran, especially since Iran president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's saber rattling has reached a fever pitch.

While comparisons to Hitler (and the world's reaction to him) are painfully trite anymore, it's hard not to notice parallels between Hitler and his apologists and Ahmadinejad and the stubborn appeasers today.

We used to review the world's response to Hitler, uniformly condemn his Neville Chamberlain appeasers and smugly assure ourselves that we would never again ignore such clear signs of malignant aggression. "Never again" would we tolerate the type of infernal anti-Semitism that led to the Holocaust.

But the Iranian president is a professed anti-Semite dedicated to exterminating Jews, he's a devout enemy of the West and freedom, and is quite unapologetically clear about his sinister aims concerning Israel and America, though he mostly pretends he is pursuing nuclear technology for legitimate reasons.

Yet liberals in the State Department and elsewhere — most-



DAVID LIMBAUGH



2007 FORD EXPEDITION EL 4X4

Wheelbase: 131 inches
Length: 220.5 inches
Engine: 5.4-liter, 300-h.p. V-8
Transmission: 6-speed automatic
Fuel economy: Not available on vehicles over 8,500 pounds
Prices as tested: \$48,290

The sticker
\$41,125 Base
(Add \$820 for freight)
\$1,500 Rear-seat DVD entertainment system
\$1,095 20-inch all-season radials
\$950 Power moonroof
\$795 Second-row captain's chairs
\$675 Convenience package with reverse sensing system, power pedals, power rear quarter windows
\$625 Heated/cooled front seats
\$495 Power liftgate
\$485 Load-leveling suspension
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\$195 Sirius satellite radio with six-months free service

Pluses:
Redesigned and longer for more gear and goods, along with more space for occupants
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Big for those who need it.

Minuses:
Paying for gas.
Parking.

EL fills lots of bills, overfills parking spots

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

If big SUVs knot your shorts, please turn to the crossword puzzle now and come back to this space next week.

Today we review the 2007 Ford Expedition EL sport-utility. EL stands for extra long, with a 12-inch longer wheelbase and 14.8 inches greater overall length than the regular model, which is pretty substantial to begin with.

The full-size Expedition was redesigned for 2007 and an EL added now that the gargantuan Excursion is gone.

There's lots to like about the EL, even the really potent 5.4-liter, 300-horsepower V-8 with a new 6-speed automatic transmission. Touch the pedal and go, no waiting on- or off-road or up steep inclines where 18-wheelers and those tiny gas sippers gasp for breath.

But prepare for frequent stops. No government mileage rating is required because EL tops 8,500 pounds. The same 5.4-liter in the regular-length Expedition is rated at 14 mpg city/20 mpg highway, wishful thinking on the EL.

Pleasant ride and decent handling for a vehicle that sits high for great visibility as well as ample clearance for heavy snow or off-roading. Despite the size, braking is excellent; four-wheel anti-lock brakes plus stability control with rollover control are standard. Still, consider the length and weight and approach sharp turns with respect—and at fewer mph.

Nice touches include standard running boards—much needed for those shorter than 6 feet; dial-up 4WD with a low setting for off-road; power side rear windows; and a cargo hold parcel divider to keep items from sliding around.

Power third-row seats fold flat to expand the already huge cargo hold, and a power rear tailgate opens by touching a button in the dash or on the key fob.

First- and second-row seating is well cushioned with good lateral support for driver and passenger. But side bolsters in the second and third rows are marginal.

Getting into or out of the third row is easy thanks to second-row seats that flip and fold quickly (after lowering the headrests) to create a wide aisle.

Lots of third-row headroom, but seats are firm and bottoms short, so they offer little thigh support.

One nagging problem, slipping a vehicle 14.8 inches longer than the barge-size Expedition into a parking space—any parking space. You think that's bad? Try to get

back inside the vehicle when another vehicle—any size vehicle—parks too close to your doors. And don't forget, you'll still have to back out of the parking space without tattooing any nearby vehicle.

Gas prices and fears aside, Ford sold 16,225 Expeditions in October-November, up from 12,774 a year earlier. EL accounts for 61 percent of those sales, and 40 percent of trades-ins on EL are non-Fords, compared with 20 percent of trades on the regular-length SUV.

But Ford is realistic about the full-size SUV market.

"We aren't getting new buyers as we are getting those trading in an older full-size SUV," said George Pipas, Ford sales analyst.

"Sales have been strong since the new Expedition came out, but this segment accounted for industry sales of 1 million units two years ago, 880,000 a year

ago and will account for less than 700,000 this year, with further declines expected."

So, Ford's Michigan truck plant that assembles Expedition and Lincoln Navigator will go from two shifts to one in the second quarter to keep inventory in line with sales expectations.

Why keep building them? "There still are customers who need this size, space and towing capability, aren't concerned about gas prices and who use it as intended to haul a large family or pull a boat or trailer," Pipas said.

Base price: \$41,125, but prepare to tinkle if not top \$50,000 after adding \$1,995 for navigation system, \$1,500 for DVD entertainment system, \$495 for power liftgate, \$1,095 for 20-inch all-season radials, \$950 power moonroof, \$625 for heated/cooled front seats. All that's before tax.

Toyota's success drives U.S. companies' tactics

By RICK POPELY

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Auto sales were on a rocky road last year, on track to fall to their lowest level since 1998, and by most accounts 2007 will be no better.

Blame slower economic growth and sagging housing prices for keeping shoppers out of showrooms.

That is unless you are Toyota. Its U.S. sales were up 12.5 percent in 2006, the most among the major players.

"The (economic) fundamentals that really impact our business are pretty strong," Jim Lentz, executive vice president of Toyota's U.S. operations, said. "Overall, when you overlay all the positives and negatives, we think the market is going to be up over 2006."

Lentz has good reason to be optimistic. Toyota's performance last year follows 10 percent gains in both 2005 and 2004. It passed DaimlerChrysler AG for third place in U.S. sales and is closing in on No. 2 Ford. The company, bolstered in part by a reputation for reliability, experienced its 11th straight year of record sales in the U.S.

Toyota continues its offensive with new products, the holy grail in autos. In February, it launches a new Tundra full-size pickup, a full frontal assault on the industry's most profitable segment and a domestic

stronghold. Industry sales were down 2.5 percent through November and projected to finish around 16.6 million vehicles for 2006. That would be down from 17 million the previous year and the lowest since 15.6 million in 1998.

Gas prices that topped \$3 a gallon and a deteriorating housing market frequently are cited in discussing the decline, but Bob Schnorbus, chief economist of forecaster

J.D. Power and Associates, sees another reason: Manufacturers, particularly GM, have been stingier with incentives.

GM, formerly the incentive leader, spent \$3,011 per vehicle in November, down 9 percent from a year earlier, according to Autodata Corp. Ford spent \$4,231, Chrysler Group \$3,735 and Toyota \$914.

Without programs such as 2005's employee pricing for all, the industry has

lost "a couple of hundred thousand at least" in vehicle sales, Schnorbus said. If incentives retreat again in 2007, sales could fall more, he added.

"You've got to get GM in the game to stir up the big traffic," he said. "The consumer is just saying, 'No deals? I'm not buying.'"

"Cars today last 10 years, so the only reason you would want to trade in sooner is to get the latest gizmos. When you

take those incentives out, more people go back to a more normal buying cycle."

GM market analyst Paul Ballew said the automaker will stick to its plan to reduce incentives and rely on fresh products with lower sticker prices. Sales at GM were off 8.3 percent this year, falling 339,000, to 3.7 million, through November, but the company has reported operating profits for two quarters after losing \$10.6

billion in 2005.

Ford, however, says it won't make money until 2009 and expects to lose more market share in 2007 as it closes plants, trims jobs and cuts costs. It holds 17.6 percent of the market, down from 25.7 percent in 1995. Ford had not issued its industry forecast, but sales analyst George Pipas sees sales falling. Why? That one-two punch of slow economic growth and declining home prices.

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| <p>2001 Chevrolet Tahoe Third Row Seating \$11,950</p> | | <p>2003 Expedition XLT 2WD All Options GREAT BUY! \$15,950</p> | | <p>2001 GMC HD 2500 4x4 V-8 Automatic NEW CAR TRADE \$11,950</p> | <p>2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 2WD EXTRA CLEAN \$10,950</p> |
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State briefs

Saddam's execution cited in boy's accidental death

HOUSTON (AP) — Police and family members said a 10-year-old boy who died by hanging himself from a bunk bed was apparently mimicking the execution of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Sergio Pelico was found dead Sunday in his apartment bedroom in the Houston-area city of Webster, said Webster police Lt. Tom Claunch. Pelico's mother told police he had previously watched a TV news report on Saddam's death.

"It appears to be accidental," Claunch said. "Our gut reaction is that he was experimenting."

An autopsy was pending.

Candidate for House speaker backs other challenger

AUSTIN (AP) — One of two Republican state lawmakers trying to oust the speaker of the Texas House is dropping out of the race and throwing his support behind the other challenger, a state legislator close to the discussions said.

Republican Rep. Brian McCall of Plano will announce today that he's backing Rep. Jim Pitts in the race, lawmaker Bryan Hughes told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Hughes, R-Mineola, said the two would make the announcement at a news conference. Hughes previously withdrew his support from Craddick and pledged his vote to McCall.

McCall spokesman Roy Fletcher said the men met and realized they had a better chance of beating current Speaker Tom Craddick if they joined forces. He said McCall volunteered to step out.

Three dead in Kenedy County plane crash

NORIAS, Texas (AP) — A pilot and two passengers were killed when their small plane nosedived into South Texas' King Ranch shortly after taking flight, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board said.

"It was a non-survivable crash," NTSB investigator Bill Gamble said.

A Department of Public Safety spokeswoman in Corpus Christi identified the victims as 26-year-old Michael Joe Smith, of Jacksonville, and John Gartman, 14, and Robert Loughmiller, 16, both of New Summerfield.

The 1966 model Cessna 172H had left Weslaco in Hidalgo County and was headed to Jacksonville when it lost contact with an approach control service in Corpus Christi at about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Gamble said. Shortly after that, a Department of Public Safety helicopter spotted the wreckage, he said.

The fixed-wing single-engine plane, which was registered to Joe Smith Farms Inc. of Jacksonville, crashed near Norias in Kenedy County, about 60 miles south of Corpus Christi.

Gamble said Smith, a licensed pilot, was flying the plane. He said an autopsy, including toxicology tests, would be done on the pilot.

Did you awaken with a bewildered thought — what in the world happened yesterday? The day after a full moon isn't so different from the morning after a wild New Year's Eve party. Let the gumption of the Capricorn sun help you shake off the residue, assemble new information and get a running jump on those New Year's resolutions.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

A R I E S (March 21-April 19). Somebody is telling tall tales. You're tempted to draw a line in the sand, but wait until you get the full story. Ask for an explanation. If no offense was really offered, it's a waste of time to take it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Compassion is a form of unconditional love. You'll run into those who fake compassion to mask bad habits, like codependency or martyrdom. Keep it light and breezy with these types. Move quickly on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As a social creature, there are times when you need to touch the pulse of humanity without actually talking to a human. You're luckiest where you can anonymously observe life. Camp out at a coffee shop or stroll the mall.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Every day you make progress. It's crucial that you stay in the mix of people who are doing this, too. Beware of someone

who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Romance takes a front seat. A recent encounter has you intrigued, and you're wondering what will happen next. Remain confident and ready for anything. The best relationships happen with very little effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The stars highlight your need to be unique and to have room to express your individual point of view. Your freedom requires delicately sidestepping the person who is trying to control you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your career goals suddenly seem too ambitious. An ascending path stretches before you. It's easy to get discouraged and wonder, "When will I get there?" But you're already there. The rest is gravy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stephen Hawking once asked: "Why can we remember the past but not the future?" But if you could predict your future, it wouldn't look anything like what happens today. This day simply defies all time and reason.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's one of those times to read everything pertinent to your problem and then forget it all. But beware — there's a difference between ignoring the rules altogether and choosing to disregard them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). With the holidays ostensibly over, there's a slight void instead of that feeling of

relief you were expecting. It's the universe's way of telling you to start planning the next big event of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You hit the perfect note — you're in harmony with the universe. You're surprising, but not obvious. Spontaneous, but not impulsive. Given to romance, but nobody's fool.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This is a lucrative day if you play it right. Take your money seriously. Know how much you have — in your wallet, in your bank and in your near future. Balance out the numbers, and relationships balance out magically, too.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Sagittarian woman, born Nov. 30, 1961, who is in love with a Cancer man, born July 7, 1958. We've been involved for a year and a half. Is there any hope for the relationship to last? I don't have time to mess around."

You admire one another and have much in common, though not the obvious stuff. It's more of a meeting of the spirit and a sense of home that you find in one another when you connect on deeper levels. That said, this relationship isn't without complications.

You admire his outgoing charm (moon in Gemini; Mercury in Leo), and he's driven to make money, too, which he does proficiently. Ultimately, you know he'll be much luckier with you by his side in a marriage capacity. But sometimes you feel you just don't speak the same language.

Communicating well, consistently, calmly and tenderly is your ticket to making this relationship last. You should also know that he can be

intensely jealous. Your job is to convince him that you're true, that you hold his interest dear to your heart and are always thinking about him. Cancers are complex creatures who need plenty of security.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Capricorns prefer to be in charge. Not content with spectacularly supporting her fellow superstars in films like "The Break-Up" and "Beautiful," squeaky-voiced and adorable actress Joey Lauren Adams boldly took it

upon herself this past year to write, produce and direct the critically acclaimed "Come Early Morning." I see more female-driven scripts from this budding writing superstar.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Upping the Percentages

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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| NORTH | | EAST | |
| ♦ 7 5 4 3 | | ♠ J 6 | |
| ♥ Q 9 2 | | ♥ J 10 8 5 4 | |
| ♠ A 9 6 4 | | ♦ J 8 | |
| ♣ K 10 | | ♣ Q 8 7 2 | |
| WEST | | SOUTH | |
| ♦ Q 10 8 2 | | ♠ A K 9 | |
| ♥ A 6 3 | | ♥ K 7 | |
| ♠ Q 10 5 2 | | ♣ K 7 3 | |
| ♣ J 6 | | ♦ A 9 5 4 3 | |

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — two of spades.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a spade. You win East's jack with the ace, and the problem is what to do next.

Actually, there's only one correct way to proceed, and, if you find it, you get home safe and sound. You lead a low club at trick two and, after West follows low, play the ten from dummy. As the cards lie, this some-

what irregular finesse makes the contract. You eventually score four club tricks, two spades, two diamonds and a heart.

But if you lead a club to the king at trick two, instead of playing the ten, you are almost sure to finish down one.

The advantage of playing the ten from dummy is that you make four club tricks not only when the suit is divided 3-3, but also when the suit is divided 4-2 and West started with the Q-x, J-x or Q-J-x-x.

These possibilities cannot be lightly brushed aside. Thus, if you played only for the clubs to be divided 3-3 — by cashing the K-A and continuing with a third club — you would have only a 36 percent chance of finding the suit evenly divided.

But if you play the ten from dummy at trick two, your chances improve to about 58 percent because of the possibility of finding West with either a doubleton honor or both honors.

In essence, the outcome of the hand rests on whether or not you make four club tricks, and leading to the ten at trick two offers by far the best chance of achieving that goal.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|--|--|--|
| 5 | | 6 4 | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 9 6 | | 3 | | | | | |
| | | 8 5 | | 7 | | | | |

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borden County Independent School District (I.S.D.) in Gail, Texas, is presently accepting transfer students for the spring semester of 2007.

The Borden County I.S.D. is a "Recognized District," as named by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the 2005-2006 school year. This past year, the district also received ten (10) Gold Star Performance awards from the TEA for high percentages of "Commended" students on all five TAKS testing areas, completion of the Recommended/Distinguished Achievement graduation planes, college readiness in both mathematics and language arts, student attendance, and completion of advanced academic courses.

The Borden County I.S.D. also has a rich tradition in the following:

- Maintaining a high-qualified faculty and staff
- Offering concurrent college credit for juniors and seniors (27 on-site college hours available)
- Promoting high college and post-secondary attendance rates at various universities.
- Successful and competitive University Interscholastic League academic teams.
- Successful and competitive University Interscholastic League athletic programs (six-man football, cross-country, basketball, track, tennis, golf, baseball, & softball)
- Active FFA chapter with successful and competitive leadership/judging teams
- Providing a safe and drug-free school environment

Please contact Mr. Jimmy Thomas, Borden County I.S.D. Superintendent, at (806) 756-4313 or (806) 756-4316 if you are interested in transferring your child for the spring semester of 2007.

IN BRIEF

Sugar Bowl results

LSU 42
Notre Dame 14
See Page 2B

NFL first round playoff schedules

Saturday:
Kansas City at Indianapolis, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)
Dallas at Seattle, 8 p.m. (NBC)

Sunday:
New York Jets at New England, 1 p.m. (CBS)
New York Giants at Philly, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)

NFL names rookie of the year on offense

Houston native Vince Young was named the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year on Wednesday.

Young celebrated by throwing autographed footballs into the stands during timeouts at the Toyota Center in Houston, at the Rockets basketball game.

The former University of Texas star was wearing a Tracy McGrady jersey and a Houston Rockets baseball cap.

AP awards Jet's Chad Pennington

One rotator cuff injury often is enough to ruin a premier athlete's career. New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington overcame two in two years to win The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year award.

Old Spice Red Zone nominates Tannehill

Ryan Tannehill has been nominated as one of the Red Zone Players of the Year and is among a select group of football players who are eligible to be selected as a national player of the year.

For the sixth straight year, Old Spice is recognizing football players who go above and beyond the call of duty.

The program honors student athletes who are able to elevate their play and step up when the heat is on. These athletes embody leadership, performance and desire, and serve as examples to their teammates on and off the field.

Tannehill was selected through high school football coaches in the area.

Miami Heat basketball update

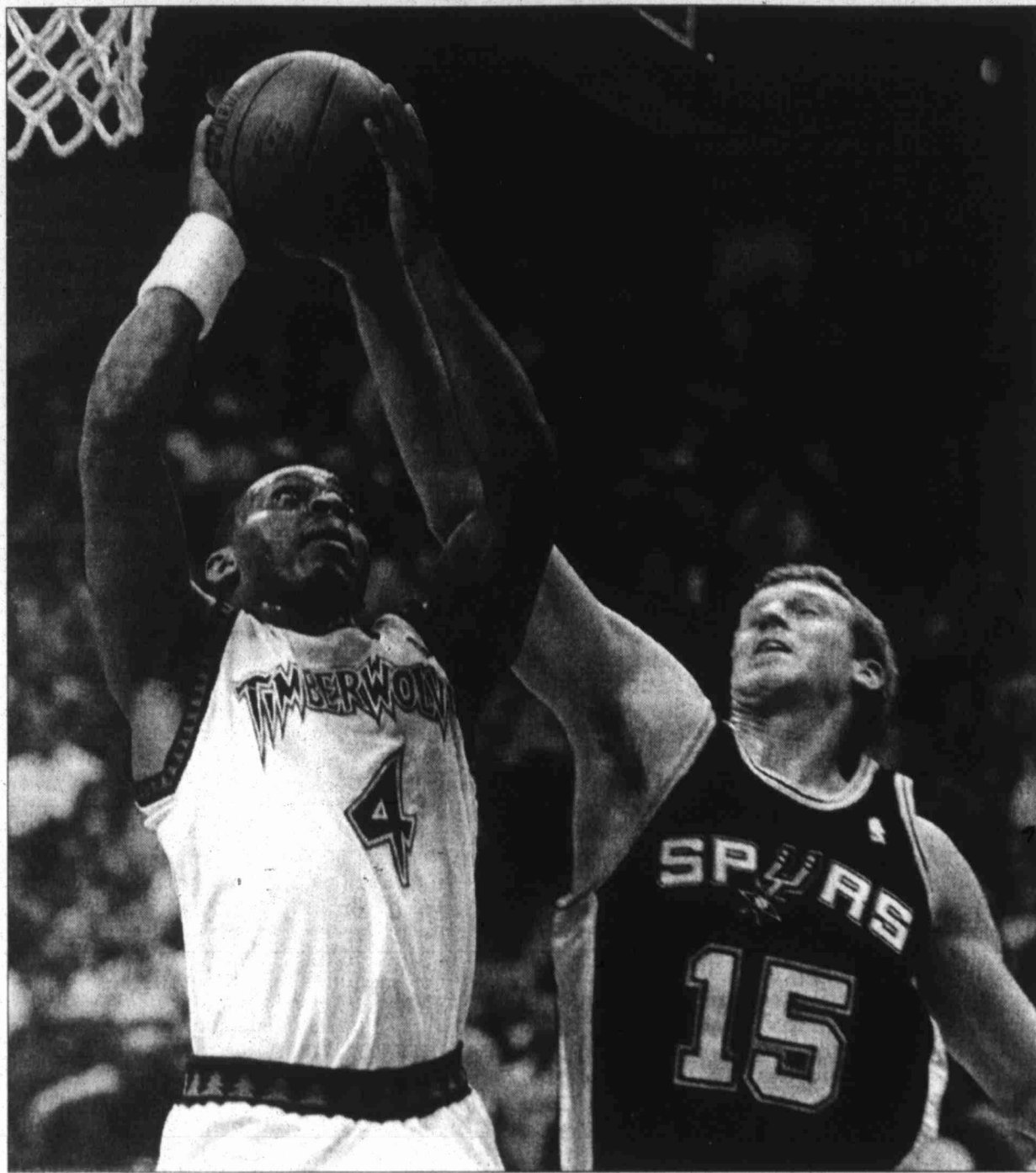
Pat Riley is taking a break from a season that has left him limping and in pain.

The Miami Heat coach began an indefinite leave of absence Wednesday because of hip and knee problems, choosing assistant Ron Rothstein to fill his spot on an interim basis.

Riley will have surgery Friday to remove floating chips in his right knee. Surgery on his hip, the malady that hurts him most now, is not yet scheduled. The 61-year-old coach doesn't know how long he'll be out.

"I'm going to be displaced for a while, but not disconnected at all," he said.

T-Wolves down Spurs in overtime



San Antonio Spurs' Matt Bonner fouls Minnesota Timberwolves' Mark Blount on the way to the basket in the first half at the Target Center in Minnesota, Wednesday night. The T-wolves won the contest in overtime, 103-101.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — This time the Timberwolves held on.

Mark Blount scored 28 points, Kevin Garnett had 27 points and 17 rebounds, and Minnesota beat the San Antonio Spurs 103-101 in overtime Wednesday night.

To earn its first win in six games against the Spurs, Minnesota made six straight free throws and Trenton Hassell grabbed a key rebound late in overtime.

"We showed a lot of resiliency in the fact that we lost the lead but the guys didn't fold up the tent," coach Dwane Casey said.

That was not the case Dec. 13 when Minnesota led San Antonio by 16 late in first half before being held to 26 points after intermission in a 95-82 loss.

Garnett said the Timberwolves are a more confident group now, especially after beating an upper echelon team. Minnesota also was coming off a 102-96 victory in Charlotte during which it trailed by 20 in the first half and 12 in the fourth quarter.

"I don't think the big question here is 'Can we do it?' It's how often and how consistent can we be," Garnett said. "It's something we have to face every night, and we have to be able to answer that question wholeheartedly every night to be that."

After Randy Foye and Blount each made two shots from the free-throw line, Garnett made two with 1:03 left in the extra period for a 103-98 lead, but Tony Parker made three of four for the Spurs.

Minnesota finished 28-for-29 from the line; San Antonio 21-for-25.

Ricky Davis missed a long jumper with just under 10 seconds to play, but Hassell grabbed his eighth rebound of the game and Minnesota was able to dribble out the clock.

"We gave ourselves a chance, made some great plays, but obviously, they made a couple more," said Tim Duncan, who had 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Parcells has plan for future with Cowboys

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells already has a plan for what he's doing to do after the season.

But he wouldn't say Wednesday whether he will return next season to finish his contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

The coach said he and owner Jerry Jones "have an understanding as to what's going to happen" and a timetable for it. "Without question, there's no doubt about what's in place, what we're going to talk about," the 65-year-old Parcells said, without elaborating. "We'll talk about it and then that will be that."

There are the same questions about Parcells' future as there were last January, when he still had a year left on his original \$17 million, four-year contract. Jones then gave Parcells a new two-year deal through 2007.

So does his understanding with Jones mean Parcells coaches the Cowboys next season if that's what he wants to do?

"Yeah, I think so, but I'm not

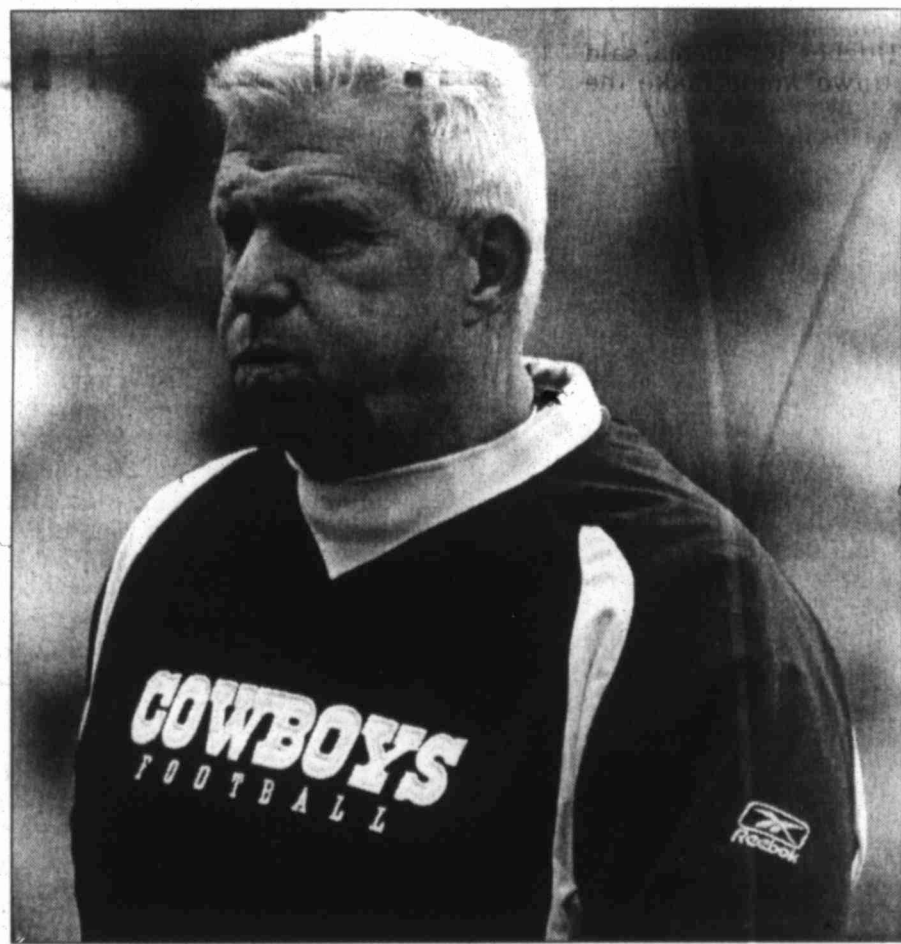
saying that. You have to ask him about that," Parcells said. "We'll see. I don't want to get too far into anything. I'll let you know exactly what the situation is after the season's over. I promise."

Jones has indicated several times publicly that he wants Parcells to come back. The owner wasn't available for comment Wednesday.

When the Cowboys lost 23-7 at home to Philadelphia on Christmas Day to lose control in the NFC East, Jones called it one of the most disappointing losses since he bought the team in 1989. But after the 39-31 loss to Detroit on Sunday to end the regular season, Jones tried to take the positive approach of being in the playoffs.

Dallas plays a wild-card game at Seattle on Saturday night.

Parcells maintained after past seasons that he needed time to decide whether he had the energy and desire to keep coaching. That apparently isn't changing now. And he said he won't be swayed by what his team has done the last month — or how the Cowboys do in the playoffs.



Dallas Cowboys head coach Bill Parcells makes his way off the field after the 39-31 loss to the Detroit Lions at Texas Stadium in Irving, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006.

"You've got to make a judgment based on whether you feel like you want to take on this task, you want to do it again, you want to muster up enough energy because you know you have See **COACH**, Page 2B



Former Miami Dolphins' Nick Saban is not happy during an NFL game this season. He has announced that he is taking over the Alabama coaching vacancy.

Tide celebrates Saban hiring

By **JOHN ZENOR**

AP Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Nick Saban landed to chants of "Roll Tide," then stepped off the airplane and made the long trek across the tarmac to greet throngs of screaming Alabama fans.

That feverish reception Wednesday kicked off a "new era" for the Crimson Tide under a coach they're hoping will finally restore the program to championship heights.

Alabama lured Saban from the Miami Dolphins back to the Southeastern Conference with a deal reportedly worth at least \$30 million over eight years, the most lucrative

in college football.

"When I set out on this search, I noted that I was seeking a coach who has a proven record of championship success and achievement," Tide athletic director Mal Moore said. "Coach Saban brings that proven record of accomplishment and leadership to our program."

Moore said the high-profile hiring "signifies a new era of Crimson Tide football." Alabama scheduled a news conference for Thursday to formally introduce Saban, who didn't field questions from reporters.

Saban was greeted by hugs, handshakes and pats on the back by some

of the several hundred fans celebrating the dramatic conclusion to a five-week search to replace the fired Mike Shula. Then the coach, wife Terry and daughter Kristen were driven away in a red Chevrolet Tahoe with Moore to the football building. He was greeted there by dozens more fans.

The Tuscaloosa News put out a special edition trumpeting the hiring, with the blaring headline: "SABAN TIME."

"Mal Moore didn't just hit a home run, he hit a grand slam," raved Tide

See **TIDE**, Page 2B

Notre Dame sets dubious bowl game record

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — JaMarcus Russell has a big decision to make. The way he played in the Sugar Bowl, it shouldn't be all that tough.

This guy sure looks ready to play in the NFL.

Russell was the star of a Cajun-style party that marked the Sugar Bowl's return to the Big Easy, leading No. 4 LSU to a 41-14 victory Wednesday night and leaving Notre Dame to wallow in another postseason meltdown.

The 11th-ranked Fighting Irish, with their undersized defense, simply couldn't find a way to stop this behemoth of a quarterback.

The 6-foot-6, 257-pound Russell threw for 332 yards and two touchdowns. He powered over for his first rushing touchdown of the season, pounding his chest after he landed in the end zone. He was unanimous choice as the game's most outstanding player.

"I really do think I'm one of the best in college football," Russell said. "You can't take that opinion away from me."

And what about the NFL? Russell now must decide whether to enter the draft or return to the Tigers (11-2) for his senior season, which would seem like a slam dunk.

"I'm not really thinking about leaving early right now," he insisted. "I've got a lot of time to sit down with my family and

coaches and talk about that. I'm just happy we got the victory."

Notre Dame (10-3) never seems to win at this time of year, a hideous burden for the nation's most storied program. The Irish lost their ninth straight bowl game, more than any other school in NCAA history; they had been tied with South Carolina and West Virginia for the longest drought.

"We've got to turn the corner," coach Charlie Weis said. "Right now, we're just a nice, solid team. That won't cut it. We want to be an upper-echelon team."

Russell thoroughly outplayed Notre Dame's more heralded quarterback, Brady Quinn, who finished third in the Heisman balloting and hopes to be the No. 1 pick in the draft, struggled to cope with the speed and size of LSU's defense. The senior completed just 15-of-35 for 148 yards, his two TD passes offset by two interceptions.

"I'm proud of my guys," Quinn said. "We laid the groundwork for these guys to do some great things in the future."

Russell sure seems destined for greatness, whether it's in the NFL or another year with the Tigers.

"He's got to make a very difficult decision," coach Les Miles said. "If he returns, he'll certainly be a Heisman Trophy

candidate."

"Then he looked around the room, trying to find the school's sports information director."

"Better get the mock-ups ready," Miles quipped.

Russell and LSU's feared defense took control after half-time, turning a tenuous 21-14 game into a laugher. The Tigers outgained Notre Dame by a staggering 333 yards to 30 over the final two quarters.

"Those guys were telling me, 'All you guys are big and fast,' and I told them, 'Welcome to the SEC,' and we started laughing," LSU receiver Dwayne Bowe said. "They're a great group of guys, but we're just bigger and stronger and faster."

After a pair of field goals by Colt David pushed LSU to a 27-14 lead, Russell blew it open with a 58-yard touchdown pass to Brandon LaFell in the final minute of the third quarter.

"I knew they weren't fast enough to cover us," Bowe said.

Notre Dame did bounce back from an early 14-0 deficit, tying the score late in the first half. But Russell took matters in his own hands — and legs — to put the Tigers ahead to stay before the teams went to the locker room.

First, Russell went deep to Early Doucet for a 58-yard completion. Then, Russell scored himself on a 5-yard keeper up the middle.

Notre Dame hasn't won a

postseason game since its 24-21 victory over Texas A&M in the 1994 Cotton Bowl. "O-ver-rated!" the Tiger-dominated crowd roared after freshman Kelland Williams ripped off his second touchdown of the game, a 20-yard run with just under 7 1/2 minutes remaining.

But the biggest cheers came on LSU's next possession. Russell made one handoff, then left the game to standing ovation.

Notre Dame was determined to get off to a strong start, but it sure didn't work out that way. Weis called a fake punt that backfired on the first possession, and the Irish looked just as tight and sloppy as they did at the beginning of blowout losses to Michigan and Southern Cal.

At least they didn't fold until the second half. The offenses had their way in the beginning, with three 80-yard scoring drives and another covering 82. The only exception came after the fake punt, called with the Irish facing fourth-and-3 at their own 34. Up-back Travis Thomas took a direct snap, only to get stuffed for no gain.

Two plays later, LSU had the lead. Russell hooked up with Doucet on a 31-yard pass and Williams powered over from the 3.

The Tigers made it 14-0 on their next possession. Russell broke off a 21-yard run on a

draw to get deep into Notre Dame territory, and finished off the drive with an 11-yard scoring pass to Bowe.

Notre Dame's next possession started ominously — Quinn was sacked for a 10-yard loss. But Darius Walker ran for 11 yards and turned a short pass into a 21-yard gain. Quinn finished it off with 24-yard TD pass to David Grimes.

Walker rushed for all but 3 of his 128 yards in the first half, the Irish shutting down the running game as they fell further and further behind.

Notre Dame pulled even when Quinn went to his favorite receiver, Jeff Samardzija, on a 10-yard TD pass with 2:25 left in the half. That was it for the Irish.

The game marked another step in New Orleans' rebuilding effort from Hurricane Katrina. The Sugar Bowl was played last year in Atlanta because of massive damage to the Superdome, but a \$185 million renovation got the stadium up and running in late September.

Thousands of Notre Dame and LSU fans descended on the Big Easy, which still has areas that look like a war zone from the flooding caused by Katrina more than 16 months ago.

But Bourbon Street sure was rockin' with purple and gold.

COACH

Continued from 1B

got another offseason, another draft, another preseason, another regular season," Parcels said.

"If you're ready to try to do that with the energy that you know it takes, then you go forward with it," he said. "But you can't B-S yourself either. I don't think I'm one that does. ... At least I hope I'm not."

Parcels has left his three previous coaching jobs in mid-con-

tract.

If Parcels comes back, will receiver Terrell Owens also return? Owens said Wednesday that he wasn't focused on whether he'd be in Dallas again next season.

"I hear all the speculation but that's not what is important to me," Owens said. "It shouldn't be a situation where I should be talking about whether I want to come back. You guys (reporters) should be focusing on the playoffs."

Parcels rarely calls Owens by name, instead referring to him

as "the player."

While Owens led the NFL with 13 touchdown receptions, the most for a Cowboy since Bob Hayes also had 13 in 1969, he also dropped more than a dozen passes.

The Cowboys just finished another 9-7 regular season. They missed the playoffs with that mark last season, but made it as a wild-card team this time despite losing three of their last four games — including three straight home games.

After losing the regular season finale against Detroit,

Parcels claimed to be at one of his lowest points in coaching. He sounded tired, and was obviously frustrated.

"You're judging me by a five-minute period after the game, when you experience a great disappointment," he said Wednesday.

Dallas has a 34-30 record under Parcels, and lost its only playoff game with him, a wild-card game at Carolina after he went 10-6 his first season. Over a 19-season career with four teams, he is 183-137-1, good for ninth on the career victories

list, with two Super Bowl wins.

The Cowboys haven't been to the Super Bowl since winning their fifth championship 11 years ago when Barry Switzer was the coach. They've won only one playoff game since, and that was the year after going to the Super Bowl.

Strangely enough, Switzer made a rare appearance at Valley Ranch on Wednesday. He was seen in a hallway not far from where Parcels was talking to reporters.

TIDE

Continued from 1B

fan Mike Ryan, sporting a Bear Bryant-style houndstooth hat and a T-shirt listing the program's national championship years.

The shirt said everything about Alabama's expectations for Saban, who won a share of the 2003 national title at LSU, then bolted from the NFL after two seasons with the Dolphins. He has a record of 91-42-1 as a college coach at LSU, Michigan State and Toledo.

Saban is the most high-profile coach the Tide has hired since Bryant's retirement after the 1982 season, a steady stream that has included such

names as Bill Curry, Shula and Mike DuBose.

Neither Shula nor DuBose — both former Tide players — had ever been a head coach.

"The last few hires were somewhat unknown going back to Mike DuBose," said Lee Roy Jordan, a former 'Bama and NFL star. "We knew him as a player at Alabama and as an assistant coach but he never had any experience when he got the job."

"We feel like we got a proven coach that can win an SEC and national title. That's the No. 1 thing for me."

Saban punctuated weeks of denials with this declaration two weeks ago: "I'm not going to be the Alabama coach."

He clearly had a change

of heart, leaving Miami with three years remaining on his contract at \$4.5 million a year.

Alabama lost to Oklahoma State in the Independence Bowl to finish 6-7, the team's second losing season in the four years since Shula's hiring.

The timing was significant since the NCAA's recruiting "dead period" ends Friday.

"We have been through a period of uncertainty the last month or so and we finally have some stability," Tide center Antoine Caldwell said. "Coach Moore said all along he was going to find us a proven coach with a winning record and he has done that with Coach Saban."

"I feel like he is the

right man for the job and he will be good in getting Alabama back on track."

The Tide's long search prompted questions about whether the program was still a coveted job, or if the high expectations and pressure put a damper on some coaches' interest.

"I was hoping he was the No. 1 guy on the target list from the beginning," Jordan said. "I hoped we'd be able to get him. The people at Alabama are real excited and feel like we hired a coach that can win a national championship. He's already proven he can do that. He's a hands-on coach who really works hard and demands the same from his coaches and players."

Former Tide kicker Van Tiffin said he initially

had doubts about the decision to fire Shula.

"The problem sometimes with getting a renowned coach is timing," said Tiffin, whose son Leigh is a current Alabama kicker. "I'm not sure we should have gotten rid of Coach Shula. I thought he just needed a little more time."

Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson believes Saban can win

quickly with the team Shula left behind.

"He has won a lot of football games and he won the national championship at LSU," Wilson said.

"We have a lot of guys coming back on offense and I think we have an excellent chance to make a run at it, especially with Coach Saban."

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THURSDAY

Table with 24 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCFI) and 6 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



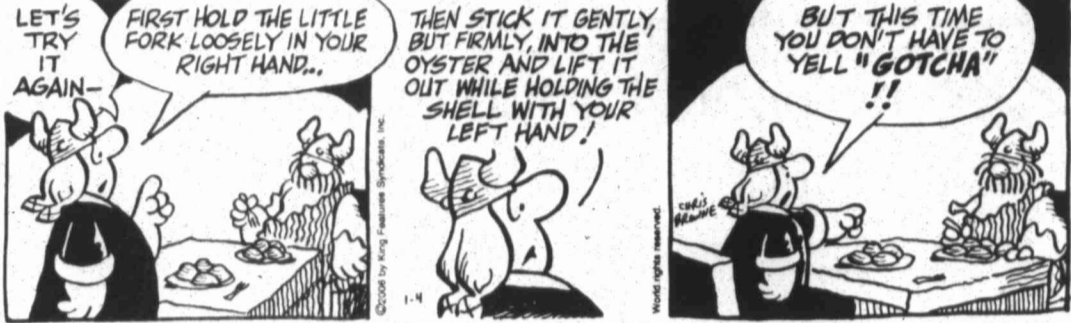
"I COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL TODAY, 'CAUSE MY MOM WAS AFRAID I'D GIVE SOMEBODY MY COLD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

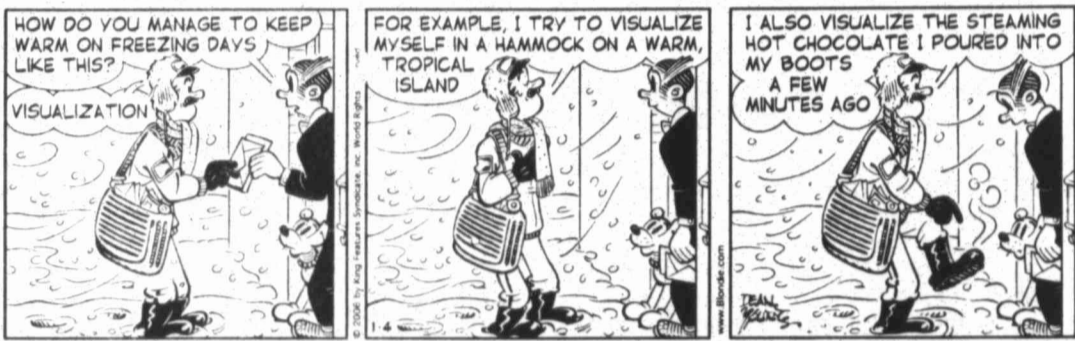


"I haven't sterilized PJ's bottles since I saw him gnawing on one of my shoes."

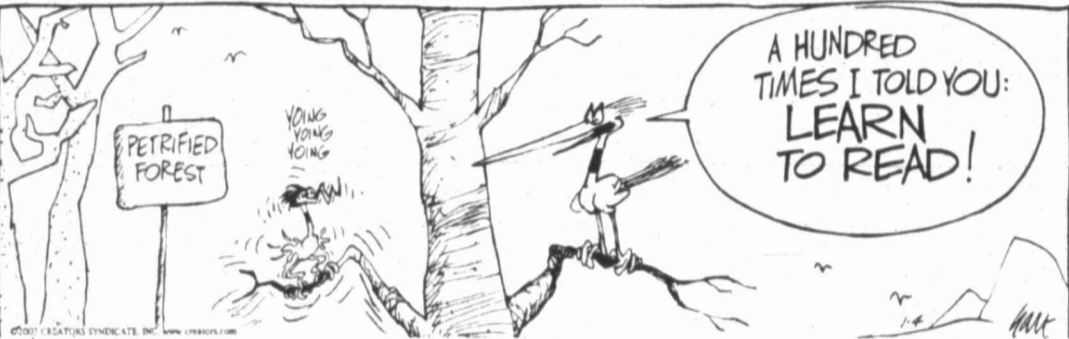
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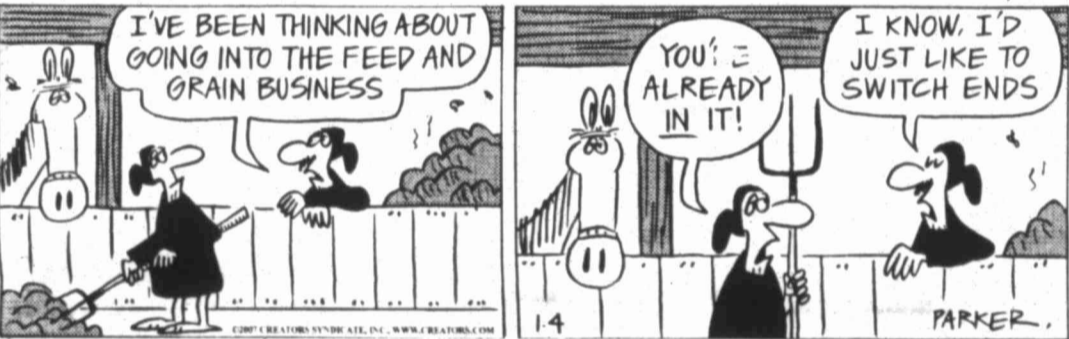
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BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2007. There are 361 days left in the year. Today's "Highlight in History": On Jan. 4, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson outlined the goals of his "Great Society" in his State of the Union Address. On this date: In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Md. In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state. In 1904, the Supreme Court ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. In 1948, Burma became independent of British rule. In 1951, during the

Korean conflict, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces captured the city of Seoul. In 1960, French author Albert Camus died in an automobile accident at age 46. In 1965, poet T.S. Eliot died in London at age 76. In 1974, President Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. In 1987, 6 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Md. In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era. Ten years ago: President Clinton, in his weekly radio address, took credit for policies reducing teenage pregnancy, and said he would work for even greater reductions over the next four years. Real estate

mogul Harry Helmsley died in Scottsdale, Ariz., at age 87. Today's Birthdays: Actress Jane Wyman is 93. Actress Barbara Rush is 80. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 77. Actress Dyan Cannon is 70. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 70. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 52. Actress Ann Magnuson is 51. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 51. Country singer Patty Loveless is 50. Rock singer Michael Stipe (R.E.M.) is 47. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 45. Actor Dave Foley is 44.

Answer to previous puzzle

NAMES MIRA WISP
EVILDE ORAL ALTO
WAGONWHEEL LOAD
TSO SASS UTTERS
STOWED TUROW
ASEA SEEHERE
GOBI RICES IRAN
ELAL NOS TINY
FRI SIOUT META
SONNETS PIMA
GYROS MENTAL
PEEWEE ORO UNO
ALTA WATERWORKS
DIAL ETTA EXILE
SELL DOOR DYNES

Newsday Crossword

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Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 "Ha ha," in a chat room; 4 It means "everything"; 8 Drive-in employee; 13 __ capita; 17 Sorry, Snuffy, Doc's busy right now!!; 21 Unused; 22 Thimble; 25 Fluid rock; 26 Gator's cousin; 27 Turn dov.n; 29 Air safety agcy.; 30 Airline sched. datum; 31 Little tyke; 33 '60s war zone; 35 Army address; 37 Willy Wonka portrayer; 38 Droxie competitor; 39 Olivier, for one; 40 Baton Rouge sch.; 41 Young fella; 42 Bizarre; 46 Spa facilities; 47 Indifferent attitude; 49 Summer sign; 50 Trip to the store, say; 51 Showed disrespect toward; 54 Pancake-house order; 56 Endymion author; 57 Pack it in; 58 __ Stanley Gardner; 59 Raise; 60 First Wives Club actress; 61 Bldg. unit; 62 Nixon in China character; 63 Spanish gold.

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