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BIG SPRING

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INSIDE
Cowboys' Jones feels forgotten these days

Page 1B

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 37

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Employers step up hiring in December

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Employers stepped up hiring last month, boosting payrolls by a brisk 167,000 and keeping the unemployment rate steady at a still historically low 4.5 percent. Workers' wages grew briskly. The latest snapshot of the nation's employment climate,

released Friday by the Labor Department, showed that the jobs market ended 2006 on a strong note and provided fresh evidence that the troubled housing and automotive sectors aren't dragging down employment across the country. The tally of new jobs added to the economy last month exceeded analysts' forecasts for a gain of around 115,000 and was the

best showing since September. Analysts were predicting the politically sensitive jobless rate would remain unchanged from November, which it did. For all of 2006, the nation's unemployment rate dropped to a six-year low of 4.6 percent. In 2005, the unemployment rate averaged 5.1 percent.

With the economy losing momentum, though, many economists predict the jobless rate will climb this year and average around 4.9 percent. Employers showed not only a greater appetite to hire in December but also more willingness to boost compensation to workers. Workers, many of whom had seen their paychecks eaten by inflation, saw wages grow robustly last month. Average

hourly earnings jumped to \$17.04, a sizable 0.5 percent rise from the prior month. Analysts were forecasting a more modest, 0.3 percent increase. Over the last 12 months, wages grew by a strong 4.2 percent. That matched the annual gain registered in November and was exceeded only by a 4.3

See HIRING, Page 3A

WARM WEATHER PROMPTS SANDY FUN



Sisters Justyce, left, and Harley Little took advantage of warm temperatures Thursday afternoon to have some fun in the sandbox at the Kids Zone in Comanche Trail Park. Temperatures are expected to reach into the 70s today before cooling off over the weekend.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

It's not too late to register at Howard College

Special to the Herald

Although Howard College is coming down to the home stretch for Spring 2007 registration, there is still time left to register for spring classes.

Regular registration at the Big Spring campus will continue through next week while late registration will begin Jan. 16 when classes begin.

Registration numbers are once again a critical issue for Howard College. "We are at the end of our base year that will serve as our funding basis for the next two years beginning September 2007," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, president.

"We'd like to see a repeat of our record enrollment from the fall

semester." The implementation of Campus Connect has made online registration simple and hassle free for students and parents. However, on-line registration will be stopped Sunday, Jan. 7, at midnight.

"Although it is a convenience, we have some computer upkeep that is required with online registration and we have to shut it down in order to get that work done before classes begin," said Sparks.

In order to accommodate the last-minute push, on-campus registration will be available during the following dates/times:

Monday, Jan. 8: Cosmetology Program registration only

Tuesday, Jan. 9: Lamesa campus registration; 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 10: Big Spring campus extended

See REGISTER, Page 3A

Tax-Aide volunteers still needed at Senior Center

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As millions of Americans prepare to wade into the jumble of numbers and red tape that is our tax code, local AARP officials are getting ready to lend a helping hand through the organization's annual Tax-Aide program.

However, the effort is still in need of one very important ingredient: volunteers.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those who don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins, who serves as the site coordinator for the effort.

"Being a volunteer is very

easy. You don't have to be a number whiz or have any experience in accounting. You just need to be computer-literate and have a basic understanding of the tax forms and how to fill them out. Everything else is going to be covered in the training classes."

Classes will be Jan. 16-26, and will cover both tax law and the software volunteers will use to prepare the tax forms.

"It's going to be very important that our volunteers be computer-literate this year," said Hopkins.

"Next year we're hoping to eliminate the paper forms completely and just utilize the software. However, if someone wants to help and isn't comfortable operating a computer, we also have work for them, including a receptionist and greeter position. Our volunteers are important to us, in all

Purchasing a hybrid vehicle can result in tax break, IRS reminds

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Could buying a new car in 2007 amount to a healthy tax break? It could if the vehicle was a hybrid.

Americans who purchased hybrid vehicles — cars or trucks with drive trains pow-

ered by both an internal combustion engine and a rechargeable battery — could find a rather healthy one-time tax deduction waiting for them when they file their returns this season.

"The Energy Policy Act of 2005 replaced the clean-fuel burning deduction with a tax

credit," reads a press release from the Internal Revenue Service. "A tax credit is subtracted directly from the total amount of federal tax owed, thus reducing or even eliminating the taxpayer's tax obligation. The tax credit for hybrid

See HYBRID, Page 3A

positions they fill.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns," she said. "These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any

refunds that may be due them.

Hopkins said tax-help will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon, beginning Jan. 29. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 9. Electronic filing will be available.

For more information on the program, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

GM PLANS TO STAY No. 1

DETROIT (AP) — If Toyota Motor Corp. has eyes on taking the title of world's largest automaker from General Motors Corp. next year, it won't happen without a fight.

In an interview Thursday, GM Chief Executive Rick Wagoner said his company has room for growth worldwide and will forcefully defend its title.

"I like being No. 1, and I think our people take pride in it," he told a small group of reporters at GM's headquarters. "It's not something we're going to sit back and let somebody else pass us by."

Toyota has announced a global production target of 9.42 million vehicles for '08.

SHOOT BASKETS, NOT GUNS

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A poster promoting a girls' high school basketball team has been shot down because it shows the players holding toy guns.

The "Mission: Impossible" themed posters were yanked this week before they hit businesses.

Al Graziano, principal at Des Moines Lincoln High School, said the image of the 10 varsity players holding guns was unacceptable.

"They posed as 'Mission: Impossible' agents and if it stopped there, it would have been OK, but each held a toy revolver in their hands and that's what's objectionable," he said.

TURN RIGHT, COP-COP

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Norman Rattliff Jr.'s cell phone gave him away. Authorities were able to arrest Rattliff on Wednesday night by using the global positioning system in his cell phone to track the fleeing suspect, Sheriff Chuck Wright said.

Rattliff, who was wanted in West Virginia for forgery and failing to register as a sex offender, ran from officers.

"The GPS locator on his cell phone told us about where he was, so we went and started knocking on doors," Wright said. Deputies found Rattliff in the back bedroom of one of the homes and arrested him, the sheriff said.

Obituaries

Michael L. Bowersox



Midland.

Michael was born May 21, 1957, to Jean and Dolores Bowersox in Oklahoma City. He married Peggy Lynch on April 10, 1990, in Las Vegas.

Michael especially loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed clay shooting, going to the lake, riding his Harley and working in his shop.

Mike became active in the oil industry at the early age of 17. The last 25 years were spent working for Clint Hurt & Associates and Patterson-UTI, where he was a drilling superintendent.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy of Midland; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Denise Hickman of Harlingen; a son, Ky Hickman of Midland; two grandchildren, Saxon and Korbin Hickman of Harlingen; his mother, Dolores Bowersox of Lubbock; a sister and brother-in-law, Deanna and Brent Repstine of Lubbock; several nieces, nephews and cousins; and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his father.

The family suggests memorials be made to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center of Houston, Home Hospice of Midland, 901 W Missouri Avenue, Midland 79701 or Dominion Outreach Ministries, 7909 Highway 307, Midland 79706.

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

Paid obituary

Charles Ray Wright



Charles Ray Wright, 74, of Odessa died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006. He was born Oct. 16, 1932, in Seymour. He is preceded in death by a son, Doyle Ray Wright and parents Jack and Velma Wright.

Charles was a carpenter and a wonderful daddy. The type of man who would give you the shirt off his back. He was a hard-core Democrat and a member of the union. Charles was a disabled veteran who served in the Korean War. He enjoyed drinking coffee and telling stories of the good ol' days.

Survivors include two daughters, Amanda Morrow and husband, Bobby of Big Spring, Vida Pernell and husband, Richard of Odessa; a brother, Joe Doyle (Doat) Wright and wife, Mildred of Monahans; a sister, Reba Horton of Phoenix; and five grandchildren, Samuel Oseas Wright, Milagro Faith Wright, Charly Rae Dorton, Victoria Pernell and Raemond Pernell. Family memorial services will be held at a later date.

Paid obituary

Laverne Wells

Laverne Wells, 83, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2007, at the Newman Cemetery north of Trent.

She was born May 4, 1923, in Jones County and married H.B. Wells in 1955 in Lovington, N.M. He preceded her in death in March 1998.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Eddie and Margaret Barber of Big Spring; one sister and brother-in-law, Juanita and T.L. Dickerson of Sweetwater; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Fran McCollum of Sweetwater; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

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

Calvin Baker

Calvin Baker, 71, of Big Spring, formerly of Tye, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at a local nursing home. Graveside services will be 9 a.m. Friday at the Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery in Dallas.

He was born June 21, 1935, in Coleman to Mae and Edward Baker. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Korea. He was a retired truck driver and construction worker.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Maria Davila

Maria Davila, 83, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

William Mendoza Jr.

William "Willie" Mendoza Jr., 63, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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"Remember...you deserve the best!"

John Dorton



Sept. 18, 2004, he married Carolina.

John graduated from Coahoma High School in 1988. He worked as and Instrument and Electrical Technician at Alcoa and was a member of the United Steel Workers of America.

He is survived by his wife, Carolina Dorton of Port Lavaca; parents, Carl and Sheila Dorton of Waco; sisters, Tracy Dorton of Pflugerville, Darby and husband, Patrick Ehlers of Riesel; brother, Dusty Dorton of Waco; grandparents, Wanda Collier of Big Spring and Luther and Ollie Steele of Whitney; mother and father-in-law, Clyde and Francis Smith of Port Lavaca; sisters and brothers-in-law, Charlotte and husband, Jr. Gonzalez of Port Lavaca, Travis and wife, Shae Smith of Katy, Chelsea Smith of Port Lavaca; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Online condolences can be made at www.mem.com. Memorials may be made to Hope Fellowship, PO Box 497, Port Lavaca 77979.

Arrangements are under the direction of Richardson-Colonial Funeral Home.

Vicki Turner

Vicki Turner, 81, of Colorado City, died Thursday in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside services will be 1 p.m. Saturday in the Colorado City cemetery with the Rev. James Edwards and Jim Baum officiating.

Vicki was born March 24, 1925, in Brasted, Kent, England to Charles and Doris Hyland. She married Dewey Turner July 14, 1945, in Swindon, England and had been a resident of Colorado City since 1946. She was a homemaker, a member of the "Pink Ladies" at Root Memorial Hospital in its early years and a WWII veteran of the medical branch of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force of Great Britain.

She is survived by three daughters, Cheryl and husband, Larry Johnson and Elizabeth and husband, Rick Bullard, all of Colorado City, Bridget and husband, Charlie-Sanchez of Snyder; three sons, David and wife, Marilyn Turner of Lubbock, Colin and wife, Glenda Turner of Colorado City and Dean and wife, Marilyn of Big Spring; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one-sister, Jeane and husband, John James of England.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one sister. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

The family requests memorials to Mitchell County Hospital Auxiliary, "Pink Ladies" or the charity of your choice.

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

Manuela B. Perez



Manuela B. Perez, 88, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil service will be 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Manuela was born April 6, 1918, in Shafter to Vincenta and Vincente Bustamante. She had been a resident of Big Spring for over 60 years. Manuela married Preciliano L. Perez Aug. 30, 1942, in Stanton. He preceded her in death Dec. 21, 1991. She was a homemaker and had also worked as a housekeeper in motels. Manuela worked a number of years at Walls Industries. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She is survived by two sons, Ireno Perez and his wife, Irene and Stacey Perez and his wife, Lucy, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Janie Valdez of Big Spring and Lucy Gonzales and her husband, Ben of Abilene; two brothers, Francisco Bustamante and his wife, Rosa and Pio Bustamante, all of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren, Michael Perez, Ricky Perez, Elizabeth Perez, Alma Perez, Jay Edward Valdez, Gina Valdez, Jaime Castillo, Raymond Gonzales, Jermaine Gonzales and Jodi Gonzales; and 13 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by nine brothers and two sisters.

Pallbearers will be Michael Perez, Ricky Perez, Jermaine Gonzales, Jay Edward Valdez, Raymond Gonzales, and Phillip Bustamante.

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

Paid obituary

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William Higgins

William Higgins, 49, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma.

He was born April 24, 1957, in Lumberton, North Carolina.

William attended school in Coahoma and enjoyed classic cars. He was a member of the Assembly of God. Survivors include two brothers, Michael Hogg and Greg Hogg both of Big Spring; one sister, Janie Baker of Granbury; one half-brother, John Colvin of Ft. Polk, La.; one half-sister, Laura Colvin of Ft. Polk, La.; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Nawlin Teel

Nawlin Teel, 84, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in a Beaumont hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. today:

• **JOSE LIONEL CERDA**, 37, of 510 S. Benton, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **BENTURA SALDANA**, 58, of 1209 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon.

• **LUKE COLLINS**, 41, of 1201 Sycamore, was arrested Thursday on charges of theft (two counts) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 900 block of Willia.

- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

• **FORGERY** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 53 inmates at the time of this report.

• **PAMELA LEFLER**, 44, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• **VIDAL CHAPA JR.**, 35, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **MICKEY LYNN KENNEDY**, 46, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• **JOSE LIONEL CERDA**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended.

• **BENTURA GAYTON SALDANA**, 58, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon.

• **ROCKY R. YANEZ**, 24, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• **ROBERT WESLEY RIFFE JR.**, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

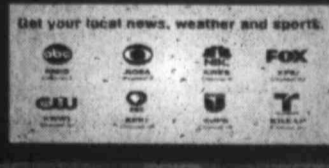
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Todd Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2700 block of Apache. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

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HYBRID

Continued from Page 1A

vehicles applies to vehicles purchased or placed in service on or after January 1, 2006."

And while it may be too late for many area residents who are considering purchasing a hybrid to cash in on the tax break this year, IRS officials say the earlier in the year you purchase the vehicle, the more money you can save.

"Consumers seeking the credit may want to buy early since the full credit is only available for a limited time," say IRS officials. "Taxpayers may claim the full amount of the allowable credit up to the end of the first calendar quarter after the quarter in which the manufacturer records its sale of the 60,000 hybrid or advance lean burn technology.

"For the second and third calendar quarters after the quarter in which the 60,000 vehicle is sold, taxpayers may claim 50 percent of the credit. For the fourth and fifth calendar quarters, taxpayers may claim 25 percent of the credit. No credit is allowed after the fifth quarter."

According to the IRS, even though a manufacturer has certified a vehicle, a taxpayer must meet the following requirements to qualify for the credit:

- The vehicle must be placed in service after Dec. 31, 2005 and purchased on or before Dec. 31, 2010.

- The original use of the vehicle must begin with the taxpayer claiming the credit. The credit may only be claimed by the original owner of a new, qualifying, hybrid vehicle and does not apply to a used hybrid vehicle.

- The vehicle must be acquired for use or lease by the taxpayer claiming the credit. The credit is only available to the original purchaser of a qualifying hybrid vehicle. If a qualifying vehicle is leased to a consumer, the leasing company may claim the credit.

For qualifying vehicles

2006 Hybrid tax breaks

These models have been certified for the 2006 hybrid vehicle tax credit in the following amounts:

Model Year 2007

- Chevrolet Silverado 2WD Hybrid Pickup — \$250
- Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Hybrid Pickup — \$650
- Ford Escape Hybrid 2WD — \$2,600
- Ford Escape Hybrid 4WD — \$1,950
- GMC Sierra 2WD Hybrid Pickup — \$250
- GMC Sierra 4WD Hybrid Pickup — \$650
- Honda Accord Hybrid AT — \$1,300
- Honda Accord Hybrid Navi AT — \$1,300
- Honda Civic Hybrid CVT — \$2,100
- Honda Civic GX — \$4,000
- Lexus GS 450h — \$775†
- Lexus RX 400h 2WD and 4WD — \$1,100
- Mercury Mariner 4WD Hybrid — \$1,950
- Saturn Vue Green Line — \$650
- Toyota Camry Hybrid — \$1,300
- Toyota Prius — \$1,575
- Toyota Highlander Hybrid 2WD and 4WD — \$1,300

Model Year 2006

- Chevrolet Silverado 2WD Hybrid Pickup — \$250
- Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Hybrid Pickup — \$650
- Ford Escape Hybrid 2WD — \$2,600
- Ford Escape Hybrid 4WD — \$1,950
- GMC Sierra 2WD Hybrid Pickup — \$250
- GMC Sierra 4WD Hybrid Pickup — \$650
- Honda Accord Hybrid AT w/updated calibration and Navi AT w/updated calibration — \$1,300
- Honda Accord Hybrid AT and Navi AT without updated calibration — \$650
- Honda Civic Hybrid CVT — \$2,100
- Honda Insight CVT — \$1,450
- Lexus RX400h 2WD — \$1,100
- Lexus RX400h 4WD — \$1,100
- Mercury Mariner Hybrid 4WD — \$1,950
- Toyota Highlander 2WD Hybrid — \$1,300
- Toyota Highlander 4WD Hybrid — \$1,300
- Toyota Prius — \$1,575

Model Year 2005

- Ford Escape 2WD Hybrid — \$2,600
- Ford Escape 4WD Hybrid — \$1,950
- Honda Accord Hybrid AT and Navi AT — \$650
- Honda Civic Hybrid MT and CVT — \$1,700
- Honda Insight CVT — \$1,450
- Toyota Prius — \$1,575

Note: The deduction is only available to the original purchaser of a new, qualifying vehicle. If a qualifying vehicle is leased to a consumer, the leasing company may claim the credit.

Information provided by www.irs.gov

used by a tax-exempt entity, the person who sold the qualifying vehicle to the person or entity using the vehicle is eligible to claim the credit, but only if the seller clearly discloses in a document to the tax-exempt entity the amount of credit.

- The vehicle must be used predominantly within the United States.

According to the IRS, these vehicles qualify for the deduction:

- Ford Escape Hybrid — Model Year 2006
- Mercury Mariner Hybrid — Model Year 2006
- Lexus RX 400h — Model Year 2006
- Ford Escape Hybrid — Model Year 2005

- Toyota Prius — Model Years 2001 through 2006
- Toyota Highlander Hybrid — Model Year 2006
- Honda Insight — Model Years 2000 through 2005
- Honda Civic Hybrid — Model Years 2003 through 2005
- Honda Accord Hybrid — Model Year 2005

For more information on the hybrid vehicle tax credit, visit www.irs.gov or call 800-829-1040 for individuals and 800-829-4933 for businesses.

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

Take Note

A NEW HOWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CLASS will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9 in the basement of the county library. It is an orientation meeting and classes will be outlined along with requirements for certification.

Class days will be set for Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost for the course is \$75, which covers materials and supplies. Students become knowledgeable in soils and fertility, entomology, plant diseases, landscape design, native plants, xeriscape and more.

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.

REGISTER

Continued from Page 1A

hours registration; 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11: Big Spring campus registration; 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) campus registration; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11: Concurrent enrollment at Big Spring High School will be held from 10 a.m.-noon

Friday, Jan. 12: Big

Spring campus registration; 8 a.m.-noon

Monday, Jan. 15: Big Spring campus extended hours registration; 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16-Thursday, Jan. 18: Late registration at Big Spring campus; 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 19: Late registration at Big Spring campus; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

A \$10 late registration fee will be assessed for each person registering Jan. 16-19.

Students who have already registered but now would like to add or

drop a course can do so beginning Monday with a \$10 fee per change.

Howard College offers a wide variety of courses for both the traditional and non-traditional student.

"Howard College looks forward to meeting the needs of all learners in our service area, no matter what their basic motivation is for taking courses," said Sparks.

For more information on registration and class opportunities, call (432) 264-5000 or visit www.howardcollege.edu

HIRING

Continued from Page 1A

percent annual increase in November 2000.

Growth in wages should support consumer spending — a force that helps drive the economy. But a rapid and sustained advance — if not blunted by other economic forces — can stoke concerns about inflation.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says the central bank will be on close watch for any signs that wage growth might be spurring an unwanted pickup in inflation.

The Federal Reserve, which has boosted rates 17 times since June 2004 to fend off inflation, has been on the sidelines since August. Analysts believe the Fed will keep its finger on the interest-rate pause button when it

meets next on Jan. 30-31.

The latest employment snapshot comes as the new Democratic-controlled Congress, which convened Thursday, will now play a lead role in shaping policies for workers and businesses.

A top priority for Democrats is boosting the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour. President Bush said he supports such a move as long as it is paired with business-friendly provisions, which would soften the

sting to employers who would have to dole out more in labor costs.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Calvin Baker, 71, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 9:00 AM Friday at the Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery in Dallas.

Manuela B. Perez, 88, died Wednesday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be at 1:00 PM Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

William "Willie" Mendoza, Jr., 63, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-5-16-18-32. Number matching five of five: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-9-30-31 Bonus Ball: 10.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 2. Prize: \$225,000. Winning tickets sold in: Deer Park, San Antonio.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-8-3.

Weather

Tonight—Increasing clouds. Windy. Lows in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph after midnight.

Saturday—Mostly cloudy. Much colder. Highs in the upper 40s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Light and variable winds becoming southwest around 10 mph after midnight.

Sunday—Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.

Sunday night—Mostly

clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Monday—Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

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

Tuesday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Tuesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Wednesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday—Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

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Nell Burgess
Enjoys eating the Sliced Beef Plate.

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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.

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Adam and Leticia Torres on their fifth child — Teresa Andrea — the first baby born in Howard County in 2007.

- All the youth and hard working adults at the Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show, which is going on through Saturday in Garden City. Don't forget, the Howard County show is Jan. 17-20 and the Martin County show is Jan. 18-20.

- The staff at the local Texas Department of State Health Services on giving flu shots from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday as well as 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

- Big Spring High School graduate the Rev. Robin Hoover, son of Freda and the late Russell Hoover. He recently received the Mexican Human Rights Award, presented by the newly inaugurated president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon. The Rev. Hoover and the non-profit organization he started, Humane Borders, will be the subject of our Life! cover in this weekend's Herald.

- Ret. Col. Harry A. Spannaus, on being named the Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month for January 2007. Col. Spannaus served for 28 years in the military and was the last wing commander of the 78th Flying Training Wing at Webb Air Force Base.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Death casts a strange spell

The official video that aired on Iraqi state television of Saddam Hussein's execution and the surreptitiously taken cellphone images of the hanging have once again caused mainstream U.S. media to publicly muse over whether their audiences can tolerate graphic images of violence and death.

But our own history shows rather clearly that people want to see photographic evidence of cataclysmic events, and although there certainly may be some who turn away from the most graphic renditions, many feel the need for an unvarnished documentation.

Almost a century and a half ago, at 1:26 p.m. on July 7, 1865, Lewis Paine, David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt were hanged on the grounds of the Washington Arsenal — today the site of Ft. Lesley J. McNair. They had been sentenced to death by a military commission for conspiracy in the assassination of President Lincoln. (The assassin, John Wilkes Booth, had been killed by a Union soldier while trying to escape capture.)

Thousands wished to witness the execution. Tickets were issued to about 1,000 people who watched as two soldiers below the gallows knocked away the supports for the trap doors. The four, with hoods over their heads and nooses around their necks, dropped about five feet. Two struggled for a time. After 25 minutes, the bodies were cut down and examined by doctors, then buried in shallow graves next to the gallows using crude gun boxes as coffins. Outside the prison, a large crowd celebrated the news with lemonade and cake.

Photographer Alexander Gardner — already well-known for his

images, made with Mathew Brady, of dead soldiers at the bloody battles at Antietam and Gettysburg — was the only photographer present at the execution. Limited by the slow cameras of the 1860s, with their large glass-plate negatives, Gardner carefully selected his vantage point. He took a series of pictures; the first shows the empty scaffold and the last shows the four lifeless bodies hanging in midair.

The many daily newspapers of the era hurried into print tales of the execution, but there were no images to accompany the accounts. The technology of the half-tone, which allowed photographic prints to be reproduced for publication, would not be invented until 1888, and there was not enough time for the daily press to create woodcuts from Gardner's photos, a standard form of periodical illustration at the time. Two weeks later, however, on July 22, Harper's Weekly did publish woodcuts of many of the shots, including one titled "Adjusting the Ropes," which showed soldiers fitting the nooses around the necks of the condemned.

But woodcuts, which have the look of black-and-white line drawings, didn't sate the demand to see what really happened. Photographic copies of Gardner's images were rushed into mass production. They appeared as cartes de visite, cards about 2 1/2 by 4 inches with a photograph mounted on them — more or less the iPods of their day. The photographs were also translated into glass slides that could be projected onto walls and into stereo cards that could be viewed through a binocular-type device that made them appear in 3-D.

Those technologies, cutting-edge in their time, could not, of course, reproduce color or create moving images of the action. The fidelity of the sepia-toned Civil War-era stills can't compare to digital videos, complete with audio, that are common today.

Yet the photographs of Civil War dead — and from the evidence of their popularity, those of the hanging — were utterly compelling. Wrote a New York Times reporter in 1862 of a gallery show of Brady's war images: "There is a terrible fascination ... that draws one near these pictures, and makes him loth to leave them. You will see hushed, reverent groups standing around these weird copies of carnage, bending down to look in the pale faces of the dead, chained by the strange spell that dwells in dead men's eyes."

We share that fascination. It is not just an unwholesome prurience that makes us desire to see the photographic evidence of Saddam's death, it is the rightful interest in our own times.

Lincoln's 1865 assassination, coming five days after the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ended an era — not just of the Civil War but of the belief that a reconciliation of the warring states could occur "with malice toward none." Who was responsible for it? What exactly was done to the guilty? Americans wanted to see for themselves.

So too do many the world over want to see photographic evidence of the hanging of Saddam. More than 1 million views of the Iraqi state video have been recorded on YouTube alone; the even more graphic cellphone video has logged more than 350,000 views.

Rightly or wrongly, many Americans consider Saddam the reason for the position the United States finds itself in today. We still want to see the guilty, just as we need to know — and see — what's happening in the war.

Susan Moeller is the director of the International Center for Media and the Public Agenda at the University of Maryland and the author of "Shooting War: Photography and the American Experience of Combat."

Smarter kids, brought to you by TV

The digital divide used to separate rich from poor; now it separates parents from their children.

Whether it's infants watching the new 24-hour "Baby's First TV" channel, or teen-agers instant messaging while they watch last night's "Daily Show" on their iPods, television is an enormous presence in the lives of kids today. The average American child spends three to five hours a day watching it. And they start their viewing careers much earlier than ever before: In 1961, the average child began to watch television at age 3; today it is 9 months.

Yet, for all the television kids are watching, much of what parents think they know about television's impact on their children is wrong. For instance, in the early 1970s, it was common knowledge that television was bad for your eyes: My own parents were convinced that my bad eyesight was the result of sitting too close to the screen, and they therefore made me stay at least six feet from it. Today, most people know that television viewing does not cause vision problems, but a host of new myths have emerged, still ripe for debunking:

1. TV makes kids dumb. Actually, high-quality TV shows such as "Sesame Street" and "Blues Clues" improve children's cognitive abilities. Study after study has shown that children 3 to 5 years old who watch "Sesame Street" for an hour a day are better able to recognize numbers, letters and shapes than those who don't. When 500 kids who had participated in some of those studies were followed up as teen-agers, those who had watched educational programs as preschoolers had higher grades, were reading more books, placed more value on achievement and were more creative than those who had not.

2. TV makes kids violent. The real story is more complicated. In 1994, researchers reviewed hundreds of studies involving thousands of children and concluded

that there was clear evidence that watching violence on TV makes children more aggressive. Similarly, preteens and teen-agers exposed to sexual content on television are more much more likely to engage in the kinds of activities they see on the screen.

But a study of more than 5,000 children also found that "pro-social" programs (think "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood") make children kinder and more tolerant. In fact, the linkage between good behavior and watching good programming is as strong as the link between bad behavior and bad programming. The problem is that kids are increasingly watching shows with violence and sex instead of programming that is appropriate for their age.

3. Educational videos make infants smarter. The names — such as Baby Einstein and Brainy Baby — suggest one thing, but the data suggest otherwise. According to a 2005 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, no program targeting children younger than 2 has demonstrated any educational benefit.

Evidence from studies my colleagues and I have done suggests that early viewing (under age 3) may be harmful to children's cognitive development. We found that children who watch TV before age 3 score worse on tests of letter and number recognition upon entering school than those who do not. And for each hour of television a child watches on average per day before age 3, the chances that child will have attention problems at age 7 increase by 10 percent. A 2005 University of Pennsylvania study found that even watching "Sesame Street" before age 3 delayed a child's ability to develop language skills.

4. Sitting around watching television — instead of playing outside — makes kids overweight. In fact, being a couch potato is not what causes obesity. Kids sit around to read, too, but no one suggests that reading causes obesity. A 1999 Stanford University experiment found that when elementary school children watched less television, they did lose excess weight; however, reducing their television time did not make them more active.

What that suggests is that television-watching itself — unlike other sedentary activities such as reading, block-building or working on art projects — encourages overeating. Snacking in front of the tube is a widespread habit (for kids as well as adults) and the barrage of junk food advertisements only heightens that temptation. About 70 percent of the ads children see on television are for food products, and virtually none of them are for healthy choices. A 2005 Harvard University study found that, on average, children eat about 170 more calories per day for each hour of television they watch, and all of those calories are derived from foods commonly advertised in television commercials.

5. Television helps kids get to sleep. The opposite is true. In a 2005 study of more than 2,000 children, my colleagues and I found that the more television children watch, the more likely they are to have irregular sleep and nap patterns. As common as it is — about three-fourths of children had television as part of their bedtime ritual, according to a national survey — allowing kids to watch television because they can't sleep is part of the problem, not the solution.

6. Kids watch too much television. Actually, the bigger problem is what they watch and how they watch it. In what some consider the halcyon days of television, families used to gather around a single centrally located set and watched high-quality, family-centered programming together. Nowadays, the typical U.S. household has multiple television sets; family members (including young children) sit alone and watch programs that too often are violent and sexualized. When parents watch with their children, the value of the best television programs is enhanced — and the harm of negative programming can be curtailed.

Dimitri A. Christakis, a pediatrician and researcher at Children's Hospital in Seattle, is coauthor of "The Elephant in the Living Room: Make Television Work for Your Kids" (Rodale).



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Church News

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Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The members invite you to worship with them at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. A nursery is provided.

For more information or a ride to church, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages meets at 9:30 a.m. Fr. James Liggett's sermon for Sunday is, "The Baptism of Jesus."

St. Mary's Vestry will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, in the library.

For more information about St. Mary's, call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church starts the new year with an inspiring series regarding the family. This Sunday, Dr. Shane Brue will begin with a sermon entitled "Family: Our First Community."

This is a very special time for new beginnings and you are cordially invited to attend these

very timely and meaningful sessions. Our Sunday worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m. A nursery is available for all services as well as the Sunday school hour.

A new 12-week Beth Moore Bible Study on the prophet Daniel is scheduled to begin Jan. 24 and will be held each Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 through April 11. Cost of the study books is \$15. Sign up for the class by calling the church office at 267-6394 by Jan. 15. There is a possibility of an evening classes being available; be sure to let the office know if you are interested.

Regular activities will be back on schedule following the holidays. Wednesday noon Bible study and luncheon will continue and the Children's Day Out Program will resume this next week on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you don't have a church home we have a special place for you at First United Methodist Church, located in downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry streets.

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church invites you to join us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning service and Young People's Church at 11 a.m. and

evening service at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available at all Sunday services. Our Wednesday evening service is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Salem is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters and is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. Please call 394-4655 for information.

Friends of Unity

Friends will meet this first Sunday of the New Year for their annual Burning Bowl Ceremony. This is a service during which aspirations for the coming year are written on paper and symbolically released to God's guidance.

The Rev. Jim Sims and Carol will assist in this symbolic act of burning the papers at 1 p.m. Guests are welcome to participate.

Christs Community Fellowship

Your friends at Christs Community Fellowship want to pray for each of you a happy, prosperous 2007. May God bless you each and every day of 2007. If you're looking to turn your life back over to Christ or over to Christ for the first time and need some encouragement, come join us. Our services are Sundays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Sunday school at 10 a.m.

Wednesday at 7 p.m. is our youth night. We have home groups throughout the week. Please call our new pastor, Nick Portocarrero at 263-5683 or come by 1008 Birdwell Lane (across from Howard College).

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church is pleased to welcome to its pulpit this Sunday Dr. Ken Lyle, who is a professor at the Logsdon Theological Seminary in Abilene. He will preach for both services. Our morning worship begins at 10:50 a.m. and the evening worship is at 6 p.m. (Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Mark it on your calendar - Friday, Jan. 26. At 7 p.m., The Stamps Quartet will be here in concert. No tickets will be sold. They are coming for a love offering. You are cordially invited to attend this concert with your friends and neighbors. Let's all come and have a wonderful time enjoying one of Southern Gospel's

favorite quartets.

As we enter a new year, First Baptist Church would like to extend to you an invitation to come and join us as we seek to serve the Lord and our community.

May God bless you in 2007.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul Lutheran Church is at 810 Scurry Street. Pastor is Wayne Frost.

Sunday worship services are 9 a.m. with Sunday school and adult Bible classes at 10:15 a.m.

There are Bible classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday night. Please call the church for details.

The Wednesday noon ladies Bible study at the parish hall starts Jan. 10 with Beth Moore's study of "The Patriarchs." Childcare will be provided.

Christians in a Postmodern World Bible study starts Jan. 7.

Grapple with your ques-

tions in a supportive small group and deepen your awareness of the principles of being a Christ-follower. Call the church at 267-7163 for more information.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Coahoma United Methodist Church is located at 401 N. Main in Coahoma. The pastor is the Rev. Donita Lea.

Please join us Sunday as our regular worship service. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. followed by the worship service at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, the youth will meet at 6 p.m. at the church for worship and study to be followed by Praise Band worship at 7 p.m.

Ministry Team will meet Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. at the church fellowship hall. Please continue to be in prayer for this newly formed team that will be working to share the message with our community.

Life story of first recognized black U.S. priest unknown to most Catholics

By MARTHA IRVINE
AP National Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — There are only small signs that Augustine Tolton was here.

A few buildings, including a home for senior citizens, carry his name. But the Roman Catholic church where he preached his sermons to flocks of adoring parishioners on Chicago's South Side is long gone.

And few know the story of the man himself — a slave who grew up to become the first acknowledged black Catholic priest in the United States.

"When he was alive, his life would probably not have been considered that newsworthy. He lived at a time when to be a person of color automatically meant that you were not a person of significance," says Atlanta Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who served from 2001-2004 as the first black president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "So the very fact that he was able to accomplish what he accomplished under severe limitations was to his credit."

Even Gregory, a native Chicagoan, did not know Tolton's story until he was well into adulthood.

"We need to find vehicles to make him better known today," he says.

To that end, a book about Tolton's life — "From Slave to Priest" — is being published by San Francisco-based Ignatius Press. The biography was written by Sister Caroline Hemesath, who first published the work in 1973. Ignatius Press hopes it will now find a wider audience.

Tolton's story is one of struggle and perseverance.

The second of three children, he was born in 1854 to Catholic parents who were slaves in Missouri, just a few years before the

start of the Civil War. His father, Peter Tolton, was one of many slaves who escaped to join the Union army and fight for black freedom — and who died battling for that cause, according to Hemesath's book.

Augustine, along with



See TOLTON, Page 7A

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Pastor

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Air bases brought winds of change to our lives

In West Texas the winds certainly blow. Through the many winds of the past, change has come from gust after gust — some good, some bad, others somewhere in between.

With the New Year begun we have dawned the doorstep of history as we begin a celebration of 65 years of history in the making. With the opening of Big Spring Bombardier School in 1942, Big Spring was forever changed. Today, only memories kept alive at the Hangar 25 Air Museum and in the hearts of those who remember remain; however, back in the day, economic growth outweighed the hardships of housing shortages.



HEATHER WALLACE

The influx of individuals brought developmental benefits to schools, hospitals and small businesses. On a larger scheme, the Big Spring Bombardier School trained roughly 6,000 pilots. The training planes had flown approximately 400,000 hours and more than 60 million miles, impacting the military advances of World War II. This was the equal of taking a 100-plane formation and scheduling them for a trip around the world 20 times over.

Positive change had blown our way. The history and heritage of the Bombardier School is something to be proud of. The men who arrived won the hearts of local women, creating generations of family connection. Civilians became employees, media circulated around events, ultimately jobs were found, homes were shaped, hope for a better tomorrow was created and all the while the winds of

change were blowing. At the end of the war the base closed and things were prosperous. In fact, things were prosperous enough to bless Big Spring with a reopening from Army Airfield to Air Force Base in 1951. Sadly, in 1977 things were not so upbeat as the local economy was devastated with the closure of Webb AFB. In an interview the late President Gerald Ford said it was not his decision or a decision of the executive branch, but that of Congress, one he was not happy with. But the days of Webb are a separate story.

Some may wonder what benefits we ever really reaped from the two bases after 30 years of emptiness and economic hardship. All over town we are reminded by empty downtown spaces, empty homes and deserted properties that prosperity does not last forever, that with a change in wind direction things may disappear.

What hope comes from that? The hope comes from what we must not forget. Over the next few weeks I will talk about the impact of Big Spring Bombardier School and Webb AFB, not just on a local level but nationally during the most influential wars of the Twentieth Century.

Hopefully with this, a clear understanding will develop on our significant contribution to the world around us, not just in our lifetimes but also for the preservation of the memories created for generations to come. This is why the mission of Hangar 25 is so important. We serve as a reminder of the Golden Days of Big Spring that yes, with the right wind can return.

What we once were we can once again be, but until then take a moment to reflect, reacquaint yourself with the roots of Big Spring. Visit the Hangar and the Heritage Museum. In observing and recognizing World

War II the Hangar serves as a safehouse to the Norden Bombsight, an AT-11, the nose of a B-52 Bomber and many display cases, telling the stories of training to overseas service.

Following the railroad, aviation and military provided the next push phase for growth for the place we all call home, the next gust must come from us as individuals

supporting community efforts such as small businesses, community improvement organizations and museums — as these gusts build a storm can develop with the influence and strength needed to change the lay of the land.

Heather Wallace is director of the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

TOLTON

Continued from Page 5A

his mother, Martha Jane, and his two siblings, escaped across the Mississippi River to Illinois, frantically rowing a boat while ducking Confederate gunfire.

Eventually, they landed in Quincy, Ill., where Martha Jane, Augustine and his brother Charley worked in a tobacco factory.

Tolton met priests and nuns throughout his life who helped him, including some who taught him to read. Others, however, were angry that a black boy was being educated with whites and they tried to stop him from realizing his dream of becoming a priest.

After years of rejection by U.S. seminaries, pleas on his behalf from sympathetic Catholics finally allowed Tolton to study in Rome, leading to his ordination in 1886, when he was 31.

Tolton had hoped to become a missionary in Africa as an escape from American racism. Instead, he was assigned to a church in Quincy and later Chicago — a bitter disappointment that he nonetheless dutifully accepted. He went on to face more hardship and resentment, and little financial support for the black churches he oversaw.

"If anybody had an excuse to leave the Catholic Church, it was him," says Harold Burke-Sivers, a deacon in a Portland, Ore., parish, who is also African-American and who wrote the introduction to the newly issued biography.

But Tolton recognized that Catholics who discriminated against him were violating church teaching on the dignity of all people and he dedicated himself to changing that, says Burke-Sivers.

"He saw what the church could be," he adds.

Tolton was credited with becoming a unifying force for black Catholics, especially in Chicago. "Good Father Gus," as his parishioners often called him, was known for his eloquent sermons, his beautiful singing voice and his gift for playing the accordion.

Upon his arrival in Chicago in 1889, some of the black parishioners who came to see him "knelt at his feet and murmured words of glad-

ness or wept for sheer joy because they had a pastor, 'one of their own,'" Hemesath wrote in her book. He spent much of his time attempting to raise funds for the now-defunct Saint Monica's Church in Chicago.

"These dear people feel proud that they have a priest to look after them. Even Protestants, when sick, will send for me in preference to their preachers, and they treat me with the greatest respect," Tolton wrote in a letter to one philanthropist. "That makes me feel that there is great work for me here."

By 1893, however, Hemesath wrote that Tolton was beginning to be plagued by "spells of illness," though he shrugged them off, preferring to focus on his work and his parishioners.

That work was cut short when he collapsed and died during a brutal Chicago heat wave in 1897. He was 43.

Burke-Sivers believes it is a story that is still relevant — not only for black Catholics.

"Young people can look to Father Augustine's legacy and be inspired — and be able to say, 'If he could do it, so could I,'" Burke-Sivers says.

At the same time, some wonder what Tolton would think about the struggles black Americans still face inside and outside the church. Only about 4 percent of the nation's 64 million Catholics are African-American, according to an estimate by the Center for Applied

Research in the Apostolate. Just last month, New Orleans Archbishop Alfred Hughes issued a wide-ranging pastoral letter decrying racism and acknowledging the problem still exists in the church.

"After all these years, nothing really has changed. We're faced with the same issues in the church — needing churches we can go to that feed our needs, and education we can afford,

and still facing racism in the church," says Adrienne Curry, managing editor of the Black Catholic Chicago Web site, who also works for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"I think Father Tolton would be saddened but hopeful at the same time — just like we are."

On the Net: Tolton history: <http://www.quincy.edu/information/history/tolton.html>

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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

	4	7		8
6	1			
2		5	9	
	8	2		7
5				1
	3		6	5
		7	1	9
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Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA

HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive \$15,694.00 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government; 2) have an accounting system; 3) practice nondiscrimination; 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Cynthia Scott at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201 or come by 808 Scurry for an application.

The deadline for the submission of applications is January 15, 2007.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

West North East South
1♣ Dble 1♥ ?

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠A83 ♥Q6 ♦K652 ♣QJ74
2. ♠K754 ♥KJ853 ♦Q92 ♣6
3. ♠QJ8652 ♥7 ♦Q64 ♣A53
4. ♠96432 ♥5 ♦AJ93 ♣J85

1. Two notrump. When your partner doubles for takeout, he usually has at least the minimum values for an opening bid. If the next player passes, you must bid regardless of the relative strength of your hand.

In today's problem, East's bid has relieved you of the obligation to respond, and with a poor hand you would definitely pass. A voluntary bid at this point would show at least moderate values, while a jump-response would suggest game-going possibilities.

This 12-point hand might easily produce a game in notrump opposite a double, and a jump-response is therefore in order. The absence of a heart stopper should not deter you from bidding two notrump, as partner is virtually certain to have some heart strength.

2. Double. East is probably hors-

ing around, and the best way of exposing his iniquity is by doubling. If the bidding takes a new turn, which is highly likely, you can next bid spades. Partner will thus be apprised of your heart and spade length as well as the moderate strength necessary for such bidding.

3. Four spades. Game in spades is extremely likely opposite a double, and the simplest way of transmitting this message is by bidding it. You would have thought game probable had partner opened the bidding as dealer, and you should feel even more bullish here, as he has implied support for spades as well as opening values.

East's interference bid should not affect your outlook in any way. Your hand is worth about 12 points, counting distribution, and there should be little doubt in your mind that four spades is the right spot.

4. One spade. With six high-card points and a singleton, you have enough strength for a voluntary bid, so you should act at this point. Of course, your spades are nothing to brag about, but bidding them is much better than not bidding at all. Remember that you're leaning on an opening bid by partner with some support for spades.

Tomorrow: All's well that ends well.

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Bush puts finishing touches on Iraq plan

NATION, WORLD BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is putting the finishing touches on his new Iraq plan, reshuffling his national security team and scheduling private briefings with lawmakers.

The president also planned to replace his two top generals in Iraq, according to media reports.

Bush next week will unveil his strategy, which is expected to entail new political, military and economic steps to win the war. The military approach, which has attracted the most attention and skepticism from Congress, is expected to include an increase in U.S. forces, possibly 9,000 additional troops deployed to the Baghdad capital alone.

"One thing is for certain: I will want to make sure the mission is clear and specific and can be accomplished," Bush said Thursday.

Before the president provides more details, however, he is putting in place a new team to help oversee his Iraq policy.

Sailor rescued after three days adrift

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — An American sailor was rescued early Friday after three days adrift on a disabled yacht off the southern tip of South America, the Chilean navy said.

Ken Barnes, 47, was picked up shortly before 6 a.m. EST by the Chilean trawler Polar Pesca 1, the navy's Operations Department reported in Punta Arenas, 3,200 miles



President George W. Bush speaks after meeting with his Cabinet at the White House in Washington, Wednesday. Left of Bush is Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

south of the capital Santiago.

An officer who asked not to be identified in line with the department's rules, said by telephone that Barnes was in good general condition except for a small wound in his right thigh.

Barnes' attempt to sail around the world was interrupted when his 44-foot ketch hit a storm that broke both its masts and soaked the sailor's supplies and food.

Al-Qaida No. 2 urges suicide attacks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Osama bin Laden's deputy has called on Somalia's Islamic militants to carry out suicide attacks on Ethiopian troops fighting in their country, according to a taped message posted on the Internet Friday.

Al-Qaida's No. 2 also implores Muslims worldwide to support Somalia's Islamic fighters with money and expertise.

"I speak to you today as

the crusader invader forces of Ethiopia violate the soil of the beloved Muslim Somalia," Egyptian-born Ayman al-Zawahri said in the recording.

Ethiopian-backed government forces have driven the militants from the capital Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia, ending their six months in power. Many Islamists have retreated to the southern tip of the country where they have vowed to keep fighting, raising the specter of an Iraq-style guerrilla war.

Bush statement may allow gov't to open mail without warrant

WASHINGTON (AP) — A signing statement attached to postal legislation by President Bush last month may have opened the way for the government to open mail without a warrant.

The White House denies any change in policy.

The law requires gov-

ernment agents to get warrants to open first-class letters. But when he signed the postal reform act, Bush added a statement saying that his administration would construe that provision "in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent permissible, with the need to conduct searches in exigent circumstances."

"The signing statement raises serious questions whether he is authorizing opening of mail contrary to the Constitution and to laws enacted by Congress," said Ann Beeson, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "What is the purpose of the signing statement if it isn't that?"

Beeson said the group is planning to file a request for information on how this exception will be used and to ask whether it has already been used to open mail.

White House Press Secretary Tony Snow said there was nothing new in the signing statement.

Texas briefs

Mother begs jury for son's life

HOUSTON (AP) — Several jurors wiped away tears as a mother begged them to spare her son a death sentence for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

"He's a good man. He's a good friend. He's a good husband. Please don't take the life of my son," said Dorothy Williams, whose son Tyrone Williams was convicted last month for his role in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants.

Tyrone Williams cried as his mother broke down on the witness stand. His attorneys also wiped away tears after her emotional testimony.

Dorothy Williams was one of several relatives who testified Thursday in the punishment phase of his retrial. Testimony was to resume Friday.

Williams was convicted last month on 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting immigrants in his sweltering trailer, which he abandoned near Victoria on the way from South Texas to Houston in 2003. Jurors must decide whether to sentence Williams to death or up to life in prison.

Mulch fire continues in Helotes

HELOTES (AP) — The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is setting up additional air quality monitors and temporary transfers are being offered to some students to avoid the smoke from a massive pile of mulch that continues to smolder on the outskirts of Helotes.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Health District in San Antonio issued a health advisory late Thursday recommending people limit exposure to the smoke. The advisory covers Helotes and the surrounding area.

Helotes is about 15 miles northwest of San Antonio. A fire has been burning since Dec. 25. Workers from H.L. Zumwalt Construction Inc., which owns the land, have been using backhoes to pull the mulch pile apart.

The company has had the mulch pile, which is about 400 feet long and 80 feet high, for 15 years. The company has a permit for the pile as part of a recycling operation.

A contractor has said that the fire could burn for more than a year if it is left to burn itself out.

Because of concerns about smoke and ash from the fire, officials of the Northeast Independent School District said they would approve temporary transfers for students at O'Connor High School and Helotes Elementary School if parents feel it is necessary.

Lost manatee recovering at aquarium

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Officials nursing a rescued manatee were pleased Thursday that the mammal was swimming and eating lettuce at the Texas State Aquarium's Sea Lab.

The manatee was found clinging to a shallow area of warm waters near a Citgo refinery and hoisted from the water with a net and crane. It was the first of the endangered animals to be rescued by wildlife officials off the Texas coast.

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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.
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- 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.

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

NFL first round playoff schedules

Saturday:
Kansas City at Indianapolis, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
Dallas at Seattle, 7 p.m. (NBC)

Sunday:
New York Jets at New England, noon (CBS)
New York Giants at Philly, 3:30 p.m. (FOX)

Tomlinson (L.T.) named NFL's MVP

Record-setting LaDainian Tomlinson of the San Diego Chargers ran away with The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award.

Tomlinson, who broke Shaun Alexander's league record for touchdowns by scoring 31 (28 rushing) and also threw for two scores, had one of the greatest seasons in NFL history. He rushed for a league-high 1,815 yards on 348 carries, had 56 receptions for 508 yards and was 2-for-3 as a passer, both completions for scores, giving the Chargers running back six in his six-year career, tying him for second among non-quarterbacks.

Oakland Raiders replacing Art Shell

Art Shell's second stint as coach of the Oakland Raiders ended after just one season, the franchise's worst in more than four decades.

Shell met with owner Al Davis, and afterward the team announced that he would not return as coach for the final season of his contract.

Shell's departure from the sideline marks the third coaching change for Davis in the past four years.

Houston Astros sign all-star infielder

Infielder Mark Loretta and the Houston Astros agreed to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract, a deal that allows him to make an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses.

The 35-year-old, who is likely to play at several infield positions, has a .299 career average and was an All-Star in 2004 and 2006. He hit .285 with 33 doubles, five homers and 59 RBIs last season with the Boston Red Sox. In 2004, he set career bests when he hit .335 with 16 homers and 76 RBIs with the San Diego Padres.

Darrent Williams investigation update

Investigators scoured a spray-painted 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe impounded earlier in the day for clues that might lead them to Darrent Williams' killer.

Police said they believe the SUV might have been used in a New Year's Day drive-by shooting that killed the Denver Broncos' cornerback and wounded two other people. Passers-by spotted the vehicle, parked south of Denver International Airport, and called police anonymously.

Jones ready for breakout game

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer
IRVING — Julius Jones was tempted this week to dig up the game tape of his breakout performance as a rookie and slap it on a coach's desk, maybe even with a note saying, "Keep your eyes on No. 21."

That would show his bosses what he's capable of doing in Seattle.

And it would remind them about him, period.

Jones feels like a forgotten man these days, his role reduced by the emergence of Marion Barber and some lopsided scores against the Dallas Cowboys lately.

"The coaches know what I can do," he said. "I'm just looking for the opportunity to prove it."

He hasn't shown much lately.

Although Jones played every game for the first time in his three-year career and ran for a career-best 1,084 yards, he's been in a big slump the last six games, topping 40 yards only once.

Over the last three games, he's gained a total of 91 yards. Sure, he hasn't had more than 13 carries in any of those games, but maybe that's because he's averaging a measly 2.8 yards per carry during this span.

The low point came in the second half of the season finale, when he was stopped for no gain on the second play — and never got another try.

One game might be all it takes to change everything, especially the next one: A wild-card playoff game Saturday night in Seattle.

In his only other game in Seattle, Jones ran 30 times for a career-best 198 yards and three touchdowns in December 2004. He hasn't come close to those numbers in a game since, but



Cowboy's running back Julius Jones gains yardage against the San Francisco 49ers in the first quarter of a game earlier in the season. Jones said he is expecting a big playoff game this weekend.

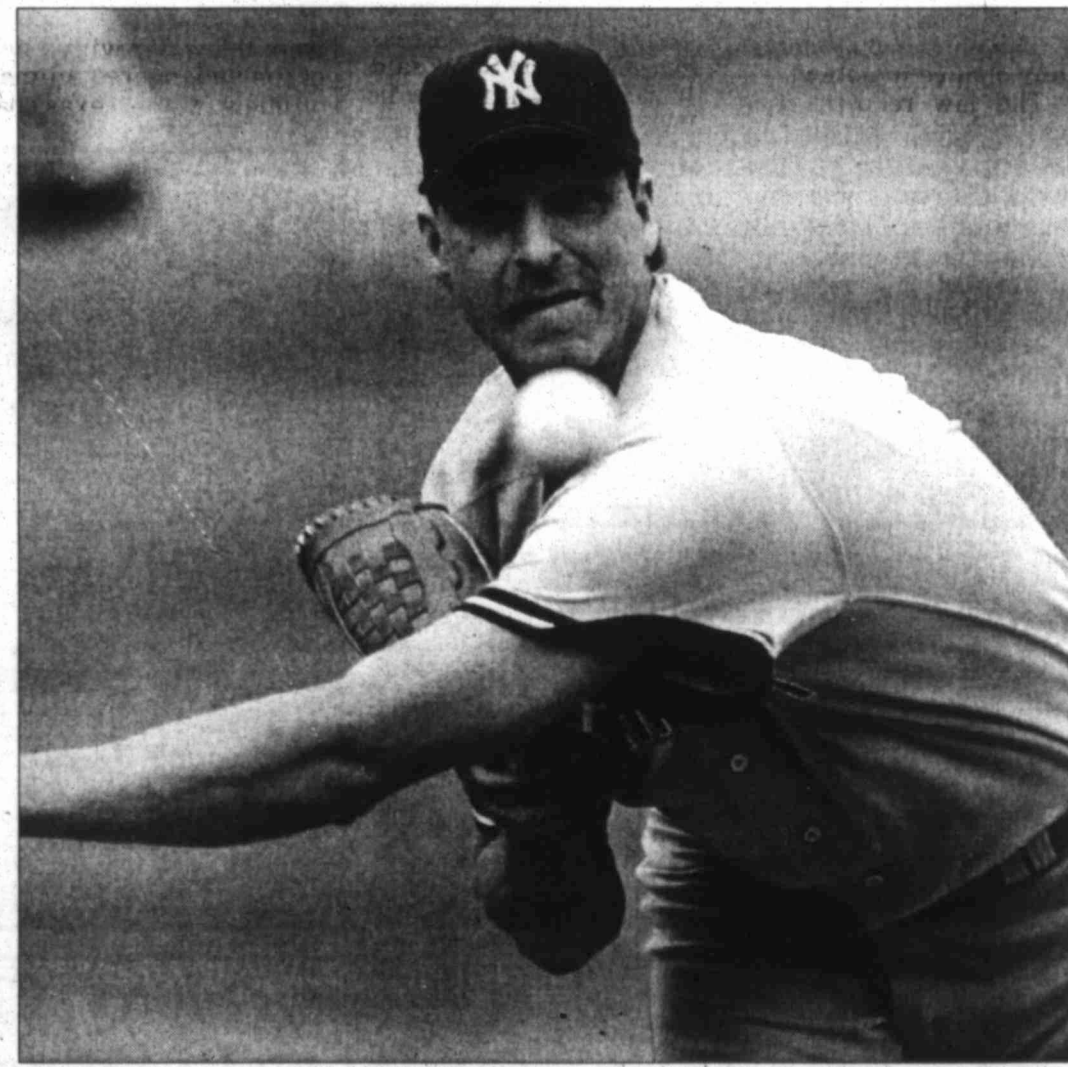
thinks he could if given a chance back at Qwest Field.

"I feel really good about that stadium," said Jones, who will

be playing in his first playoff game. "They have really good FieldTurf, the best out there, I think. It's just a fast track. I can't

wait to get out there. ... Hopefully the team can have a performance

See DALLAS, Page 2B



New York Yankees' Randy Johnson was traded back to the Arizona Diamondbacks where he was once a world champion for the National League expansion team.

Johnson never fit

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer
NEW YORK — Randy Johnson never fit. Turns out the biggest city in the United States didn't have room for a 6-foot-10 left-hander.

He arrived two years ago with an angry snarl, pitched with a grimace and left as only a footnote in the century-plus history of the New York Yankees: no World Series rings, no postseason wins. When he trimmed his facial hair, it was almost as if he lost a little zip on his fastball.

Yes, he pitched through pain, won 34 games over two regular seasons and never complained. But he was a stoic in a city that loves style, an outsider in a clubhouse where pedigree is preferred.

So now he gets returned to sender, like a desk ordered online that didn't look right, off to enjoy the sunset of his career in the sunset of the Arizona desert where he had his

greatest success and makes his offseason home.

Derek Jeter is New York. So are Mariano Rivera, Bernie Williams and Jorge Posada, who have spent their entire major league lives in the craziness of the Bronx. Andy Pettitte is being welcomed back as if he were a returning pilgrim, and the Yankees hope Roger Clemens follows him back.

Clemens struggled to gain acceptance and find comfort. Like Johnson, he arrived with a big reputation. But unlike the Big Unit, he left with a pair of Yankees World Series rings. The Rocket became a Yankee only because he helped them to championships Nos. 25 and 26.

There is no bigger burden in baseball than playing for the Yankees — just ask Alex Rodriguez. For the fans, anything

See YANKS, Page 3B

Steelers searching for coach

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH — Bill Cowher is walking away from the most stable coaching job in the NFL — leading the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Cowher called owner Dan Rooney on Thursday to tell him of his decision, and the team announced a Friday news conference not long after that. Cowher is expected to be there to say goodbye.

Pittsburgh will immediately begin a search to replace the retiring coach, a person familiar with Cowher's status said Thursday night, speaking on condition of anonymity because the retirement had not been officially announced.

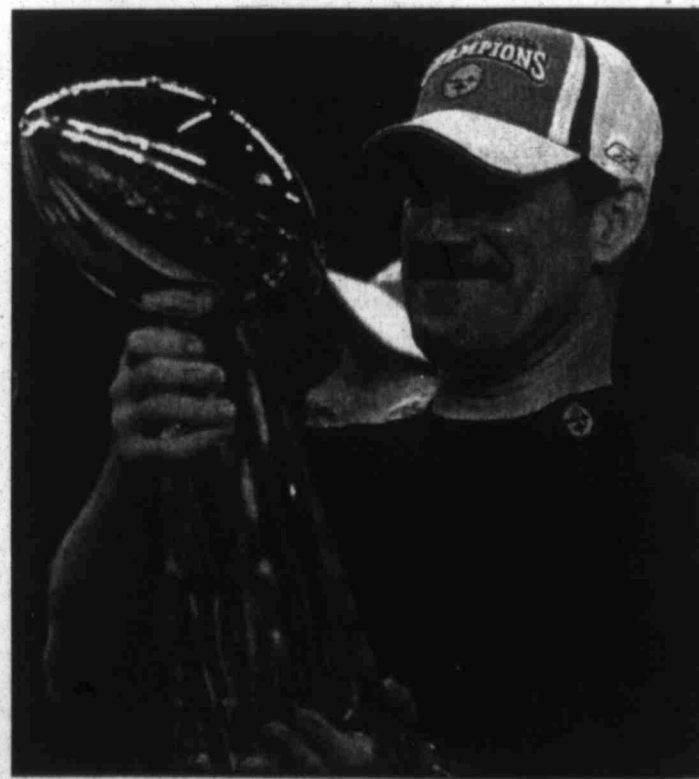
The 49-year-old Cowher, one of the NFL's most recognizable faces and most successful coaches for 15 seasons, has weighed resigning since shortly after his Steelers finally won the Super Bowl in February following numerous near misses.

Cowher has talked of wanting to spend more time with his family, especially now that they are living in a new home in Raleigh, N.C., where he and wife Kaye attended North Carolina State. Cowher's two oldest daughters are at Princeton and the youngest has only 2 1/2 years of high school remaining, time Cowher apparently doesn't want to spend away from her.

While Cowher would be resigning with one season left on his contract, there is no indication he would retire from pro football. He said recently he is not close to being burned out, and still likes coaching and dealing with players.

Cowher, who led the Steelers to the playoffs 10 times, the AFC title game six times and the Super Bowl twice, met with Rooney and team president Art Rooney II on Tuesday and asked for several days to weigh his plans. There was an understanding a decision would be made quickly because the Steelers don't want any top candidates accepting other jobs

See COWHER, Page 2B



Former Steelers head coach Mike Cowher holds the Lombardi Trophy after a 21-10 victory over the Seahawks last season.

Expectations, muddled NFC provide hope to underachieving Seahawks

By GREGG BELL

AP Sports Writer

KIRKLAND, Wash. — At first glance, the Seahawks' logic seems flawed.

They've lost three of their last four games, and they'll be missing two starting cornerbacks — plus perhaps a leading receiver and three starters on the offensive line — in Saturday's play-off game against Dallas.

So why do the Seahawks (9-7) feel they are as close to their 2005 Super Bowl form as they did back in August, before starters began falling like rain?

Three middling letters: NFC.

"Some of the things I think you need to get into the playoffs and keep going are kind of there for us," coach Mike Holmgren said. "A couple of the other things, though, aren't.

"I think you can say that about a number of the teams in the NFC."

The flawed, defending conference champions find themselves in a muddled mess of a tournament. From quarterback issues with Chicago (13-3), to the Cowboys (9-7) also losing three of their last four games, to whether the New York Giants (8-8) even belong here, the NFC would give the Tampa Bay Devil Rays hope.

The Seahawks think

they are an unusually lethal fourth seed. They seem to almost expect to be the first team from that position to reach the Super Bowl since the 2000 Baltimore Ravens.

"Just a feeling, I think," said quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, who has recovered from a sprained knee — but remains bothered by a bruised hand.

"It's just a feeling how we're starting to move in that direction," he said.

Two huge reasons Seattle thinks that time has finally come, despite never-ending injuries: Hasselbeck, the Pro Bowl starter in 2005, and league MVP Shaun Alexander are healthier and playing better.

Last Sunday, Hasselbeck had his first turnover-free game since he returned seven weeks ago from his knee injury.

Alexander has a career-high six fumbles this season, and has lost three. But he has rushed for 232 yards in his last two games, his most consistent production since returning Nov. 19 from missing six games with a broken left foot.

Holmgren said Alexander's 140 yards on 31 carries in a last-minute loss to mighty San Diego on Dec. 24 came from perhaps the hardest running he's ever seen from his seventh-year back.

The week before Christmas was the first

time since September that Alexander didn't sleep with a bone stimulation machine wired to his foot, which he badly bruised in the season opener Sept. 10 and then broke Sept. 24.

"Shaun is healthy. He's back," offensive coordinator Gil Haskell said. "Same thing with Matt. Matt took his brace off last week, and all of a sudden he has a twinkle in his eye. He wasn't dragging his leg. So he's coming back. So those are things (to be optimistic about). Two of our best players are getting better."

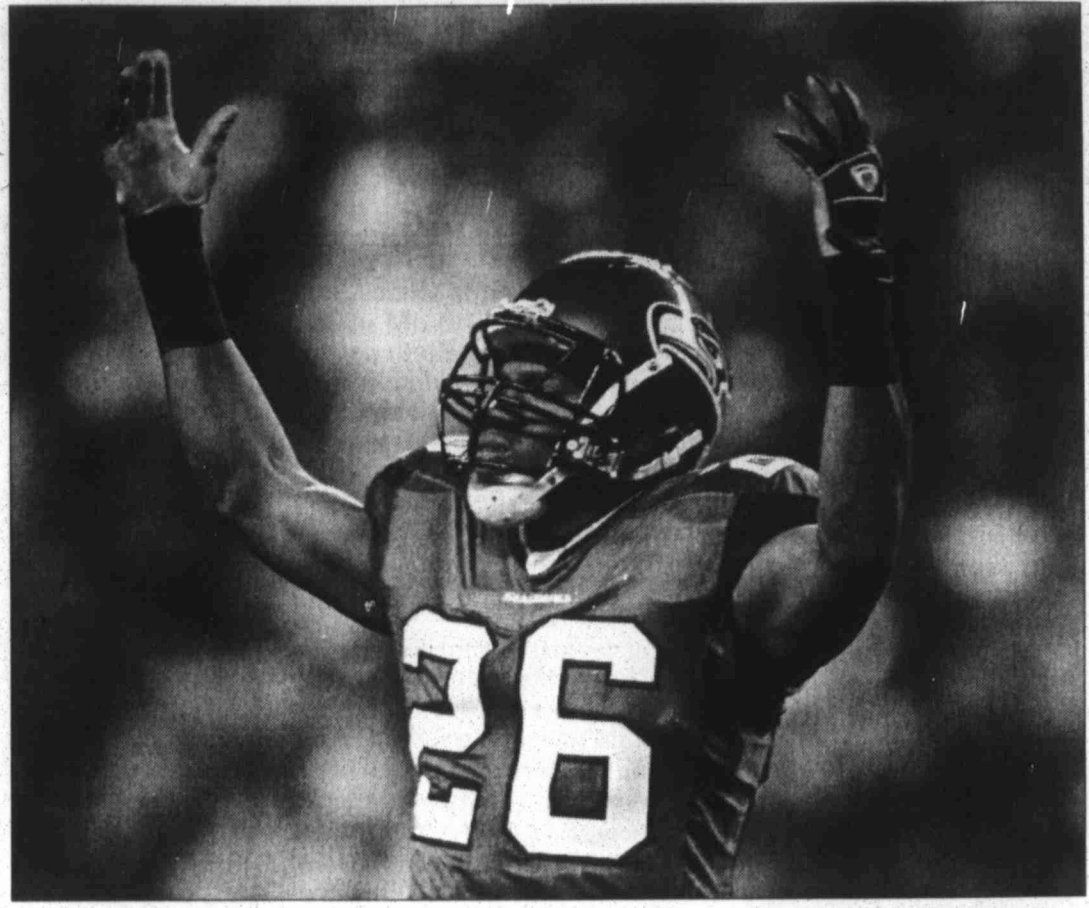
But Haskell said Hasselbeck remains bothered by a badly bruised — or perhaps broken — bone in his left, non-throwing hand. Haskell said it gives Hasselbeck pain on each snap and almost every time he gets hit.

"You know what? It bothers the (heck) out of him," Haskell said.

So has being without Darrell Jackson for the last three weeks. Jackson, who was leading the NFL in touchdown receptions a month ago, has a hyper-extended toe on his left foot.

But he, too, sounds primed for a playoff resurgence.

"I want to prove everybody wrong," Jackson said. "Everybody's coming back off injury. ... We're just starting to get



MCT photo/Dean Rutz/Seattle Times
Seattle Seahawks' Seneca Wallace celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass to Deion Branch in the first quarter against the Oakland Raiders at Qwest Field in Seattle.

on a little roll." Except along the offensive line. It may be missing starters Robbie Tobeck, Chris Gray and Floyd Womack on Saturday. Seattle may start its ninth different interior blocking combination this season against the Cowboys.

Yet the Seahawks still see the postseason as their time of Super Bowl expectations finally fulfilled.

"We just feel like it's finally time, that those bumpy days are just over

with," Alexander said. Then he chuckled. "At least we're hoping that."

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

— and me, too, individually — like I did last time."

Dallas won that game 43-39. That's also the kind of score many are expecting this time around.

The Seahawks have a patched-together secondary featuring safeties converted to cornerbacks, which could be a problem going against Terrell Owens, Terry Glenn and Jason Witten. Although Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo has struggled lately, this might be the kind of game that could help him snap back to Pro Bowl form.

As for the Dallas defense, the unit is healthy in a physical sense but its performance has been sickly.

The Cowboys allowed 33 points and 433.5 yards per game over the last four outings. They have the league's worst defense on first downs and aren't much better on third downs, allowing foes to convert on more than half their attempts the last six games. By comparison, Seattle allowed more than

50 percent only once all season.

So Bill Parcells and the rest of the Dallas staff face an interesting dilemma: How much do they throw? Quick drives, points or not, result in the Seattle offense (and Cowboys defense) getting back on the field.

And the Seahawks might take their time to keep their defense on the sideline. Having Shaun Alexander healthy and back in top gear makes that highly likely, too.

Alexander led the NFL in rushing last season, but missed six games this fall with a cracked bone in his left foot. He's gained 232 yards in his last two games, marking his most consistent production since returning Nov. 19. He's also no longer sleeping with a bone stimulation machine wired to his left foot.

"I feel a lot better," Alexander said. "I've got my legs up under me."

Hmm. Maybe Dallas will need Jones and the entire ground game more than ever.

In losing three of their last four games, the Cowboys went away from their backs. Their three

fewest rushing attempts (16, 19 and 21) of the season came in those games. Jones wasn't the only one letting them down, either. Barber has only 17 yards and one touchdown on 15 carries in those games.

"The game just unfolds a certain way," Parcells said, blaming big deficits and turnovers for the lack of a run-pass balance to the play-calling. "That doesn't create running opportunities. I still think we can run the ball."

"I would hope we can run the ball some," he

added. "I don't know what the weather is going to be this time of year up there. I know you have to expect wet conditions."

At least Jones should be well rested. And stepping onto his favorite patch of FieldTurf should bring back fond memories, ones he planned to stoke this week by watching the replay of the 2004 game for the first time in more than a year.

"Just to reminisce a little bit," he said. "Maybe I'll pop it in to get some motivation."

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COWHER

Continued from 1B

before talking to them.

While the Steelers would have given Cowher until next week to make up his mind, he decided not to make them wait and called Dan Rooney on Thursday.

A Steelers head coaching search is one of the NFL's rarest events. This would be only the second time since 1969, when Hall of Famer Chuck Noll began a 23-season run, they have sought a coach; they haven't fired one since Bill Austin in 1968. By contrast, the Baltimore/Indianapolis Colts have had 15 coaches since then, including interim coaches.

Two strong contenders to replace Cowher — Steelers offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt and offensive line coach Russ Grimm — already

are in place and are interviewing with other teams. The team would interview at least one minority candidate, possibly more, and talk with several candidates outside the organization.

The Steelers were willing to give Cowher some time following a disappointing 8-8 season to get away from the team, but felt they couldn't wait much longer with the Falcons, Cardinals and Dolphins already seeking coaches. The Falcons interviewed Whisenhunt on Thursday, and the Cardinals plan to interview both Whisenhunt and Grimm.

Cowher, if he coaches again, has signaled he wants to be one of the league's highest-paid coaches. His current \$4 million-plus salary is about half that of Mike Holmgren, whose Seahawks lost to the Steelers in the Super Bowl last season.

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HENRY BACKES

A windy beginning for the PGA 2007 season

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Some of the 34 players at the winners-only Mercedes-Benz Championship talked about a grueling day, how they had to stay patient, and that the first round was a test of survival.

It's the kind of commentary often heard the third week of June at a U.S. Open.

This was the PGA Tour's season opener at Kapalua, which usually makes everyone feel as though they are on vacation.

Hardly. Raging trade winds started before K.J. Choi hit the opening tee shot of the 2007 season (a 3-wood that found the fairway) and never let up until three-time defending champion Stuart Appleby missed a 5-foot birdie putt that left him four shots behind at even-par 73.

Davis Love III, who has been coming to this rugged coast of Maui for 20 years summed it up best.

"I don't think if we were here on vacation we would have played today," Love said after a 70. "I would have stayed at the pool."

When the round ended,

five players were tied for the lead.

Vijay Singh had the best chance to be alone atop the leaderboard until his 4-iron found a bunker on the par-5 18th and he had to settle for par, leaving him at 4-under 69 with Choi, Stephen Ames, surfer dude Will MacKenzie and Ryder Cup rookie Brett Wetterich.

Singh knows Hawaii well. He has only missed this tournament once since it moved to Kapalua in 1999, and he hasn't finished outside the top 10 in his last seven starts at the Mercedes-Benz Championship.

So when he said the wind was as tough as he had ever seen, believe him.

The gusts were up to 35 mph, strong enough to turn the Pacific Ocean below the Plantation course into speckles of white caps, strong enough that tournament officials told the kids carrying the scoreboards to stay inside.

It was strong enough that only 12 players broke par.

"Some guys get pretty frustrated when the wind blows this hard," Love said. "You have to be very, very patient. Maybe

that's good for some guys who have not been playing a whole lot. You're not really having to go out and hit precision shots. It's more hit the ball solid, keep it into the wind and not make mistakes."

Looking at the leaders, it didn't matter if they were playing a little or a lot coming into the first tournament of the year.

Singh is a guy who rarely takes a day off. He is coming off a pedestrian year by his standards, winning only one tournament and falling to No. 7 in the world ranking. But he was aware of his flaws, and spent the tail end of the '06 season and his off-season correcting them. He was ready to go when he arrived.

"I came prepared here," he said. "I don't like coming into a golf tournament trying to find my game. I had a good practice and felt good about my game. I know the golf course pretty well. But this wind was something else. Just go out there and pick a spot and hit it."

He missed only two fairways, one green and made six birdies. His only regret was not making birdie on the 18th. Then there's Ames.

The Players champion has been hampered by a bad back that kept him from playing a full round of golf from August until the end of November, when he played in the Skins Game and joined his brother in representing Trinidad and Tobago in the World Cup.

Then he played two practice rounds at Kapalua and teed off.

"I didn't expect anything," Ames said. He sure didn't expect to rip a 5-iron from 152 yards on the 13th hole into a ferocious gust. Nor did he expect to pile up five birdies and only one mistake — a gust caught his tee shot on the par-3 eighth for the lone bogey — to share the lead.

Ames is excited to be on Maui. If not for that day job ...

"Oh, yeah. Real sharp. Maybe sharp this way," he said, lifting his arm to his mouth, "lots of Mai Tais. The last time we were here, I basically felt the same way. Golf kind of gets in the way of my vacation."

Choi played remarkably well in the wind, no shot more impressive than the 13th. From the bottom of the hill, in a mangled lie in the rough, he hit a mid-iron that never got higher than 10 feet off the ground, penetrating the wind, as it ran up the slope to about 15 feet away. After coming up short of the 16th, he hit another punch shot that stopped 2 feet away for a nifty up-and-down.

Others weren't so fortunate.

Dean Wilson, the first player from Hawaii to play the Mercedes-Benz Championship in the nine years it has been on Maui, became the first player of 2007 to post an 80. Former British Open champion Ben Curtis joined him a short time later at 81. Eric Axley waited until the 18th hole to make his first birdie of the year, giving him a 78.

Singh played with Curtis, and told them as they walked up the ninth fairway, "If we had to play golf in this weather, I think I'd quit."

It's only the first round of the year, and they're just getting started.

Thursday also launched the new FedExCup competition, a season-long points race that awards \$10 million to the winner. The trophy was next to the 18th green, and officials asked each player to drop an autographed golf ball into the cup when they finished the round.

There also were about a dozen FedEx officials positioned behind the first tee as everyone started their round.

Asked about it after his 69, Singh had heard enough.

"There's so much going on about FedExCup, I'm tired of listening to it," Singh said. "Yeah, I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be a good year. There's still tournaments out there that we have to focus on, and not focus on the FedExCup itself. Right now, my focus is going to be on winning golf tournaments."

As always, this would be a good place to start.

YANKS

Continued from 1B

less than a 162-0 regular season and an 11-0 postseason leaves room for improvement. They'll be paying \$150 for the best box seats this year, and they behave as if unlimited success were a birthright.

Johnson could be jovial at times, mostly during spring training, talking about his love of heavy metal music — even remembering a since-closed store in Manhattan that carried concert bootlegs of "Led Zepplin" and other bands. But after the regular season began, he often turned dour, treating the frequent questions of the media corps as a necessary pain to endure in order to earn his \$16 million annual salary.

Even before he officially was a Yankee, he got into a sidewalk con-

frontation with a television cameraman while walking from his hotel to his physical. He had his privacy out west, driving to the ballpark and disappearing into the night. At Yankee Stadium, if you hang around long enough, every part of your character becomes known. Greatness under pressure is rewarded like nowhere else. But, there is also the dark flip side that magnifies missteps and flaws into banner headlines.

With 280 wins, Johnson is one of the great pitchers in baseball history. He went 3-0 as Arizona beat the Yankees in the 2001 World Series.

But pitching for the Yankees is different. In addition to great stuff on the mound, you need skin as thick as an elephant's and the patience to explain each pitch you've thrown in painstaking detail. You are expected to immediately confess all failures and deflect credit for success to your teammates.

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Bedtime Stories

LITTLE BUNNY BERT AND HOWARD HAWK GO FISHING

Little Bunny Bert had a problem! One of the creatures that lived in the forest near him was a hawk. We all know that hawks just love to have bunnies over for dinner. In fact, they love to have bunnies FOR dinner! We know that. Bert Bunny knows that, too! This was always a problem for Bert Bunny, until—!

It all happened just about two years ago. How old were you two years ago? How old are you now? Are you old enough to read this story all by yourself?

Bert Bunny wasn't very old then, either. But he was old enough to know that Howard Hawk would just love to eat him. Bert's mommy and daddy had warned him to watch out for Howard. And, Bert did, most of the time.

That old hawk would eat just about anything. He would eat mice, rats, snakes, fish, and bunnies. Bert did not mind the hawk eating all these things, but he was not very happy about Howard loving to eat bunnies, too.

He would have to be very careful when he was outside of his hole in the ground he called home. He was careful—most of the time.

The very time that he wasn't careful, guess who was flying overhead, looking very hungry, and wanting a nice little bunny for lunch? Did you guess that it was Howard Hawk? Yes, it was. Howard hadn't eaten all day and he was very hungry by now.

It was a very nice day. The spring flowers were blooming. The birds were chirping. Everything beautiful that Mother Nature had to offer was showing up that day. It was a very nice day for everyone, it seemed. Bert Bunny decided that this would be the perfect day to go fishing. Did you know that bunny rabbits love to go fishing? I didn't either. But this is a bedtime story, and if Bert Bunny wants to go fishing, I suppose it's alright. Don't you? Have you ever been fishing? Have you ever caught a big fish?

Bert Bunny didn't have a fishing pole so he would have to make one. He found some nice tall, slender plants that looked like they would make a very good fishing pole. The plants were called—? Do you know the type of plant that most fishermen use for fishing poles? Did you say Bamboo? You are right. Bamboo shoots make very good fishing poles. Bert picked out the nicest one for his pole. Then he tied some string onto the end of it. And, then he made a fishing hook out of a bobby pin that his mother had given him long ago. Have you ever seen a bobby pin?

What else would Bert need? Worms! Big, fat, juicy fishing worms. Where would he find them? Did you say in the ground? You were right again. He dug and dug until he had found enough of those worms, then he headed off to the little pond that was nearby, with his new fishing pole and big fat worms in his paws. He was hop-

ping to catch a big fish that day.

As he sat on the bank of the pond, with the fishing line dangling in the water, he was not being very careful about watching for Howard Hawk.

Suddenly, the fishing line jerked very hard. It almost scared Bert, until he saw that he had a very big fish on the fishing hook. It was a beauty. A very big fish, indeed. He was so excited about the big fish that he did not see Howard Hawk looking at him from way up in the sky. Howard dove for Bert just as fast as he could go. He caught Bert in his talons. What is a talon? Bert Bunny is in big trouble. He did not want to join Howard for dinner because he did not want to BF Howard's dinner! What could he do?

"Wait before you have me for dinner," Bert cried. "Look at this big fish I have caught. He would taste much better than me. I am tiny and full of fur. He is big and already washed and ready to eat. Please

eat him instead of me."

Howard thought about what Bert had said and told Bert that the fish did look like he would make a much better dinner than a furry little bunny rabbit.

So Howard dropped Bert to the ground and flew over to the big fish and scooped him up into his talons and started flying away to his nest in the treetops so he could enjoy this fresh fish for dinner. He did not notice that the fish was still stuck to the fishing hook on Bert's fishing line that was still tied to the new fishing pole, made from a shoot of the bamboo.

Just as soon as Bert was completely safe from Howard Hawk, he grabbed his fishing pole and with all his strength, jerked the big fish right from Howard's talons. The sudden jerk caused the big fish to come loose from Howard's talons AND the fishing hook that Bert had made from his mommy's bobby pin. The fish fell back into the water, where he was safe again.

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Bert Bunny had already gotten back to the safety of his burrow before Howard even knew what had happened. Everyone was safe again. But Howard Hawk was still hungry, wasn't he?

This is a bedtime story as I have mentioned before and bedtime stories must have a happy ending for everyone. And even Howard Hawk has to eat, too. In this story, he went back home, opened his cupboards, found his favorite cereal, and decided that having cereal with milk was pretty good for a dinner, and much easier than catching a bunny rabbit or fish! Howard Hawk just looked up at me, winked, and said to tell you, "Good Night!"

Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGIES

Hide and seek

Although they may be sitting right in front of you, targets on a golf course may be difficult to locate accurately because the course architects create optical illusions designed to fool you.

Legendary architect Dr. Alistair MacKenzie was a camouflage expert during World War I, so he knew a good bit about fooling the eye. His colleagues, past and present, are all practitioners of the same art. Using disguise and deception, it's almost as if a skilled golf course architect can hide a target in plain sight.

Well, now scientists have devised a way to literally hide objects in plain sight. It's a cloaking technique that can shield objects from visible light. Here's the principle of the cloak:

You are able to see things because light is reflected off objects; the cloak blocks these reflections. To make cloaks, scientists developed "metamaterials," thin metal sheets that can bend light in precisely the right way.

Research shows that a small object surrounded by rings of metamaterials can, in effect, disappear. The rings deflect the microwaves of light around the object and restore them on the other side, as if they had passed through empty space.

While the technology is in its infancy, in the future it could be possible to control the cloak with a software program, turning it off and on so the pin would disappear from time to time — giving new meaning to the term "blind shot."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I'd like to thank God, because I prayed on every hole.
I'd like to thank my caddie; he was cash.
I'd like to thank my opponent.
Today you just brought it on.
I'd like to thank the 18th hole for letting my ball go in."*

Kimberly Kim, 2006 U.S. Women's Amateur champion. She's 14.



SCHEDULE

MEN PGA TOUR

- Mercedes-Benz Championship**
- **Site:** Kapalua, Hawaii.
 - **Schedule:** Thursday-Sunday.
 - **Course:** Kapalua Resort, The Plantation Course (7,411 yards, par 73).
 - **Purse:** \$5.5 million. Winner's share: \$1.1 million.
 - **TV:** The Golf Channel (Thursday, 6-10:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, midnight-4:30 a.m., 6-10:30 p.m.; Monday, midnight-4:30 a.m.).
 - **Field** (2006 PGA Tour winners): Stephen Ames, Stuart Appleby, Eric Axley, Aaron Baddeley, Chad Campbell, K.J. Choi, Chris Couch, Ben Curtis, Luke Donald, Joe Durant, Jim Furyk, J.J. Henry, Tim Herron, J.B. Holmes, Trevor Immelman, Davis Love III, Will MacKenzie, Jeff Maggert, Troy Matteson, Arron Oberholser, Geoff Ogilvy, Rod Pampling, Corey Pavin, Carl Pettersson, John Rollins, Rory Sabbatini, Adam Scott, John Senden, Vijay Singh, David Toms, D.J. Trahan, Kirk Triplett, Brett Wetterich, Dean Wilson.
 - **Notes:** Tiger Woods, the 1997 and 2000 winner, and Phil Mickelson, the 1998 champion, are skipping the tournament.

CHAMPIONS TOUR

- **Wendy's Champions Skins Game**, Jan. 13-14, Wailea Resort, Gold Course, Wailea, Hawaii.
- **MasterCard Championship**, Jan. 19-21, Hualalai Golf Club, Kahuku, Hawaii.

NATIONWIDE TOUR

- **Panama Championship**, Jan. 25-28, Panama City Golf Club, Panama City, Panama.
- **Jacob's Creek Open**, Feb. 15-18, Kooyonga Golf Club, Adelaide, Australia.

WOMEN LPGA TOUR

- **Women's World Cup of Golf**, Jan. 19-21, Gary Player Country Club, Sun City, South Africa.
- **SBS Open at Turtle Bay**, Feb. 15-17, Turtle Bay Resort, Palmer Course, Kahuku, Hawaii.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME

How to CURE the right-to-right SLICE

The right-to-right slice starts to the right of your target (left for left-handers), then inexorably moves more to the right until it disappears from sight. Of all the slices, this one can leave the playing field the quickest.

Your task is to start the ball left of target and let it fade back to target. Once that's done, deflare your front foot until the ball draws away from the target. Then adjust your aim/alignment until the ball flies directly at the target.

Here's the progression:

1. Aim slightly left of the target and align your body parallel left.
2. Move the ball forward in your stance one ball-width.
3. Incline your spine more than you're used to by bending more from your hip joints.
4. Increase the flare of your back

ABOUT THE WRITER
Dr. T.J. Tomasi is a teaching professional at Nantucket Golf Club on Nantucket Island, Mass. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: T.Jinsider@aol.com.



Cock your wrist without cupping it by pulling the shaft straight back toward your head.

foot to promote turn.

5. Cock your wrists correctly as follows:

Stand with your left arm and the club shaft extended in front of you in a straight line. Now hook the shaft with the fingers of your right hand, as I'm demonstrating in the photo above, and pull it directly toward your head just as you would cock the hammer of a pistol.

Any cupping of the left wrist opens the clubface, so you want a square wrist in line with your forearm at the top of your swing.



Do this one-handed drill to get a feel for how "the club comes down before it goes around" in your swing.

Down-Then-Around Drill

From the top of your swing, the club comes down before it moves around. This is an important anti-slice sequence to remember. To get the feel for it, try this drill:

Get to the top of your swing, stop and remove your trail hand. Drop that arm down to waist high without turning your upper body. Then slowly bring the clubface to the ball with your body turn, as I'm doing in the photo at left.

Next, still gripping the club with one hand, start back to the top but stop halfway back in your take-away. Pump your arm to the top then back down to halfway. Do this twice, and on the third pump, take your normal two-handed grip and hit the ball.

Once the ball is drawing away from target (remember you're still aiming left), adjust the ball position and aim/alignment until the ball goes to target.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Rub it in

David Katz, M.D., of the Yale University School of Medicine, and a group of associates has completed a study that touts massage as a new weapon in fighting arthritis.

The study, published in the Dec. 11, 2006, issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine, reports that pain is decreased and range of motion increased for people suffering from osteoarthritis of the knee. Study participants received a one-hour Swedish massage twice a week for four weeks, then once a week for four weeks.

A Swedish massage utilizes long, flowing strokes designed to increase circulation and blood flow,

which in part, could be the analgesic property that makes your knee feel better. When done on the arms and legs, the massage strokes are often made toward the heart to aid blood and lymphatic flow.

The technique uses five main strokes, and many variations, but its origin is actually Dutch rather than Swedish. Perhaps "Dutch massage" doesn't have the same ring to it.

According to Dr. Katz, the benefit of the technique stays with you: "The very significant therapeutic response over eight weeks of therapy persisted eight weeks later."

While the sample is small and a larger study is planned, Swedish massage is probably like chicken soup — it can't hurt, and it might help, so what's not to like if it keeps you playing golf?

GOLF SPOKEN HERE

Feel vs. real

This distinction is an important concept in learning the golf swing. The brain is set up to retain patterns of movements engrained by repetition, such as tying your shoes, typing and swinging a golf club. Once learned, the pattern is protected by a warning system that gives you bad feelings — a "no" signal — when you deviate from the pattern.

Basically, when you make a swing correction and perform a

new move, you'll get a "no" signal from your brain. The good learner must realize what's happening and continue repeating the new move until it replaces the old pattern and the warnings stop.

Thus "feel" — the system warning you that the move is bad — and "real" — the instructor telling you the move is good — are at odds during the early stages of learning. Knowing that allows you to forge ahead with the changes.

TEING OFF

PGA Teaching Summit covers 'Four Cornerstones'

The PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit held last month in Port St. Lucie, Fla., is the association's largest educational event. It was attended by over 700 golf professionals and instructors from all around the world.

The summit theme, "The Four Cornerstones of Golf Instruction," was designed to provide attendees with a foundation to improve their teaching expertise.

The cornerstones of instruction are:

- Physical Motion
- Equipment
- Skill-Based Instruction
- Transferring Skills to the Course

The presenters in each area were experts in their field. Listening to these experienced instructors and watching them directly interact with students provided everyone in attendance with valuable insight into all aspects of the learning experience.

One such experience was provided by Dr. Jim Suttie, PGA Teacher of the Year in 2000 and co-author of "The LAWS of the Golf Swing," and Dr. Christian Marquardt, a neuroscientist specializing in the field of motor behavior.

The good doctors analyzed the putting strokes of 250 professional tour players and made two important discoveries:

1. Consistency, Thy Name is Repetition:

The most important characteristic of a good putting stroke was consistency.

Almost no one among the players aimed dead straight at the hole — although they thought they were. On average, the pros aimed slightly right (for right-handers), but they developed compensations through practice (repetition) that allowed them to make putts. The key is that they performed the compensation the same way every time, i.e., they were consistent.

2. No Pure Pendulum:

The other interesting finding, which will no doubt upset one famous teacher who has made a living extolling the virtues of a pure pendulum putting stroke, was that not one of the 250 pros had a pure pendulum stroke. Even though some of them were trying to take the putter head straight back and through without any opening and closing of the face, none of them actually did it.

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

2.4 MILLION REASONS WHY PAR IS GOOD

The next time you miss a birdie putt and tap in for the par, don't be too upset. Just reframe the situation as follows: If you made 18 of those, you shot even par and, according to Alistair Tait, a Golfweek senior writer, if you did that on the PGA Tour in 2006, you would have earned in excess of \$2.4 million — 25th place on the money list. All we ever hear about are those 64s and 65s, numbers that can unbalance our golfing sense of proportion. But par is good, very good.

DON'T MISS IT

A head — just in case

Know someone who's a golfing "head case"? Then Don't Miss HeadBobble, one of the season's most unusual golf products.

These custom bobblehead dolls are individually made to look like anybody you choose. They're made of commercial-grade polyresin and there is a wide variety of body styles to choose from, including four types of golfers, a priest, a mermaid, a beer lover and the ever-popular man-on-a-toilet.

All you do is:

1. Prepare two pictures of yourself — straight front and side profile.
 2. Choose the type of bobblehead (male, female, boy, girl, etc.).
 3. Find the body style you like.
 4. Select the hair, eye and skin color.
- Check them out www.headbobble.com.



Here's a special gift for the golfing "head case" in your life.

ASK THE PRO

I get a lot of questions about how to change a golf swing. Here's my take on swing changes.

Many professional golfers make dramatic changes in their swings. Among the most well-known are Jack Nicklaus, who made a change when he realized that he needed a more shallow swing plane to play better in the wind. Nick Faldo underwent a complete swing overhaul, as did Nick Price and Mark O'Meara.

But the most famous is Tiger Woods who, after winning the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, spent over a year working on an improved swing. Then, after one of the best years any player ever had in 2000, he decided to change his swing yet again.

His reason: "I'd like to play my

best more frequently and that's the whole idea. That's why you make changes. I thought I could become more consistent and play at a higher level more often."

These changes were not knee-jerk reactions to a few bad shots. Champions plan their swing changes after thoughtful, in-depth analysis of their game and their goals. They create a step-by-step blueprint for change, and those changes occur under the watchful eye of an expert instructor.

They accept that their performance will suffer during the learning process, and they're prepared to pay the price. "Achieving trust is always the final step with a change," Woods says. "That's the hardest thing, tak-

ing Ranger Rick to the course."

Most important, the champion is fully committed to his changes in order to give the learning process enough time for his brain to be completely retrained.

If you're going to change your swing like a champion, follow these guidelines:

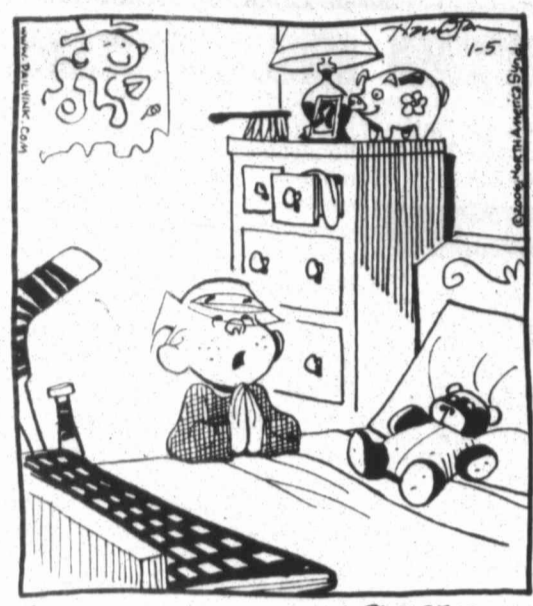
1. Develop a detailed blueprint for change, including a time line.
2. Understand that you probably will get worse before you get better.
3. Be committed to the changes.
4. Find yourself a teaching professional to help you.

(To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: T.Jinsider@aol.com.)

FRIDAY

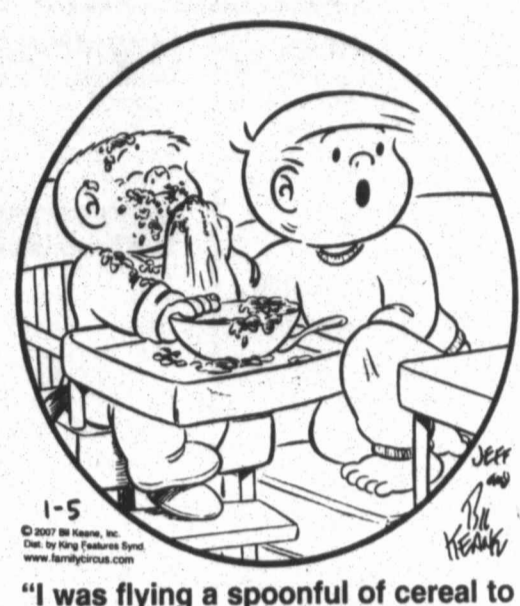
Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2007. There are 360 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: Fifty years ago, on Jan. 5, 1957, President Eisenhower, in an address to Congress, proposed offering military assistance to Middle Eastern countries so they could resist Communist aggression; this became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine. On this date: In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69. In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va. In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.) In 1925, Nellie T. Ross suc-

ceeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming, becoming the first female governor in U.S. history. In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60. In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal. In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at his Clarksville, Pa., home. UMW President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings. In 1972, President Nixon ordered development of the space shuttle. In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81. In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing

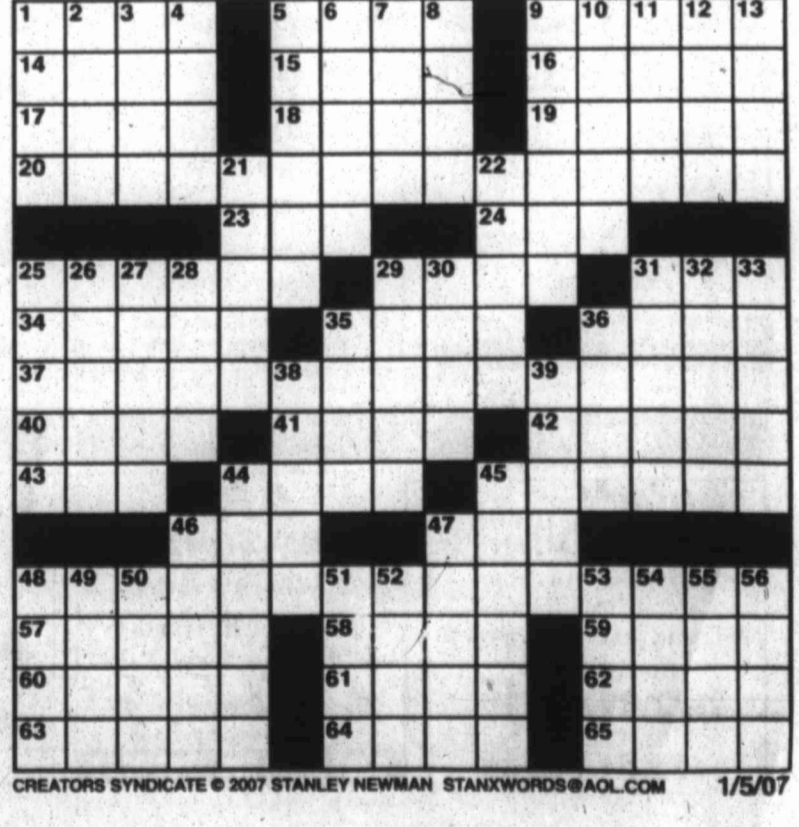
in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; he was 62. Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 79. Actor Robert Duvall is 76. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 75. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 69. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 65. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 61. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 58. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 57. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 54. Actor Clancy Brown is 48. Singer Iris Dement is 46. Actor Vinnie Jones is 42. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle: LOL OMNI CARHOP, ERE NEON OTOOLE, ADA LOAD TOTTER, PENNYWHISTLE, SATE AWOL LCD, LOWFAT ENSNARE, AROSE AVON, DOLLAR DIPLOMACY, EROS DREAD, PERUSAL ADDLED, POD APES ERIK, QUARTERHORSE, AMOUNT AREA ASA, PARIAT CLAW NET, TOOTSY KERN DDS

Newsday Crossword

GIVE OR TAKE A FEW by Richard Silvestri Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Great time, 5 Opening foursome, 9 Richard Roundtree role, 14 Pat on bread, 15 Alto, CA, 16 Covers with concrete, 17 Rise dramatically, 18 Party to, 19 Something from the oven, 20 It lasted from 1337 to 1453, 23 Much less than cordial, 24 Utmost, 25 Downgrade, 29 Start of a Terhune title, 31 Swab, 34 Make amends, 35 Curly cabbage, 36 Light topper, 37 Group of about 1,800 in the St. Lawrence River, 40 Smorgasbord dish, 41 Sing cheerfully, 42 1987 Peace Prize winner, 43 Mexican Mrs., 44 Judge, 45 Make a fold in, 46 TV witch, for short, 47 It's heard in the herd, 48 1995 event attended by some 830,000, 57 Smith, perhaps, 58 Hacienda, 59 Hoffmann offering, 60 Enjoy the rink, 61 Like the Gobi, 62 Face shape, 63 Gave a darn, 64 Away from port, 65 Hang in the balance, 9 Athens rival, 10 Severe, 11 Acknowledge openly, 12 Disaster-relief org., 13 Romanov ruler, 21 Sacraments, 22 Alpaca's habitat, 25 Goes with, 26 Old number?, 27 Bucks, 28 Burden of proof, 29 Soup scoop, 30 Landed, 31 Extreme enthusiasm, 32 the hills, 33 Oater group, 35 Mend, 36 Krishna, 38 Memorable mission, 39 Former Anaheim athlete, 44 Set upright, 45 NAFTA signatory, 46 Shade of gray, 47 Musical Count, 48 Fem. opposite, 49 Chase on the screen, 50 Polygraph victim, 51 Final Four letters, 52 Scratches up, 53 Resting on, 54 Rant, 55 Highland group, 56 Maintained



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LVNs
NEW HIGHER PAY SCALE!
Full time openings! Benefits available. Must have Texas state license. EOE/MFHV.
For information, call (325)573-6332, or apply to Debbie Collier, RN, DON, or Priscilla Barrera, LVN, ADON, at SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder

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Now hiring for Laundry position. Experience preferred but not necessary. Great working environment. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehab., 3200 Parkway Rd.

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Now hiring for Charge Nurse 2-10 shift. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, TX 79720.

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Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Looking for reliable and caring CNA's to join our team. Apply at 3200 Parkway Rd.

POLLARD CHEVROLET is taking applications for the parts department. Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred. Some heavy lifting. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply at 1501 East 4th St.

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PART TIME position available for truck driver. Apply at The Salvation Army, 811 West 5th.

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Fax: 432-264-2387
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TEMP HELP Needed - Howard College Bookstore is hiring temporary cashiers and floor help to work spring rush. Prior cashier experience preferred and the ability to lift 65 lbs required. Apply in person at the bookstore on weekdays between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

THE MARTIN County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

TRUCK DRIVER
Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, as an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company
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Pre-employment drug screen required.
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WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT.
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WANTED: EXPERIENCED electrician/ instrument tech @ natural gas plant NE of Big Spring. Mail resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or Fax to: 432-399-4290 or email to: mwcol@crcom.net.

WANTED: EXPERIENCED operators, mechanics and field personnel for natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or Fax to: 432-399-4290 or email to: mwcol@crcom.net

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
Full time position. Benefits: Paid vacation, retirement, health insurance. Must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record. Apply at The Paint And Safety Store, Inc., 201 S. Benton St.

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. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WESTSIDE DAY Care needs (2) FT Workers. Call (432)263-7841 for more information. Must be 18 yrs. GED/Diploma, 1 year DC experience, Child Development a plus.

Items for Sale

12'X16' WORKSHOP/ Storage Building. \$69.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

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SLIGHT DAMAGE - 12'x24' Workshop/ Storage Building. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

Lost and Found

FOUND Small black female dog between Coahoma & Foran on FM 821. Call 432-394-4492.

LOST In Kentwood area a very old small gray cat. Please call 432-267-8769.

Miscellaneous

ALL NEW Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.

BLACK IRON canopy bed with Night table. In boxes. \$179. 806-549-3110.

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DINING ROOM table, 4 chairs. Cherry mirror finish. NEW in box. List \$779, Sell \$229. 806-549-3110.

GUNS - 1903 REM - 30.06 bolt action, cleaning kit in stock & 1890 12g. D/B Shotgun. Excellent Condition. \$10,000.00 or trade for land. (432)935-4345.

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QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/Warranty. \$129.00. 432-349-4043.

SELLING QUEEN pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, warranty. \$125. 806-549-3110.

SPECIAL REDUCTION - 6 Remaining 8'x8' and 8'x10' Storage Buildings. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x12' Storage Buildings \$49.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

Pets

AN ADORABLE female bulldog for sale. She is AKC Registered and has all shots up-to-date. She is in good health condition, vet check and ready for her new family home. Email me at mercy_jenson@yahoo.com for more info.

FREE TO good home 1/2 Pointer & 1/2 Shepherd puppies. Call 432-263-6358.

LOST IN Tubbs Addition. Black/white Healer Border Collie mix. Partial left blue eye. Call (432) 263-7909.

WELCOME TO Lake Ridge Bulldogs! We Raise top quality AKC Registered English Bulldogs. All of our Bully Babies are raised with Personal Care, Love and Attention. We are nestled right on the edge of Lake. It is an Absolute Beautiful Place to raise our Wonderful Bullies. Feel free to contact us at stevensonpet@yahoo.co

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

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

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A commercial construction company seeking a full time project expeditor, carpenters and general laborers.
Inquiries regarding the position for project expeditor may be directed to Bill Baker at (432) 697-2282 or by email at HYPERLINK "mailto:bill@midtex-ofmidland.com" bill@midtexofmidland.com. You may also send your resumes by email or by mail to 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas 79707.
Inquiries regarding positions for carpenters and general laborers may be directed to Billy Mays at (432) 697-2282. You may also pick up and/or complete an application in our Midland office at 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas.

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2600 CARLETON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Central H/A, clean, new fence, & covered carport. Corner lot, quiet neighborhood, a must see. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688 for more info.

3/2 PLUS office and laundry room in Ackerly. 4 Acres, lrg workshop, livestock barn and corral, well water. By appt. only. Call 432-353-4731.

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THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A, 1224 sq. ft. Close to Goddard school. Nice covered patio and yard. \$46,500. Call (432)264-8983, (432)263-0118.

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1978 FORD Ranchero. Body in good condition, needs a starter. \$1500 OBO. Call 432-816-4193 Robert or (432)264-1691.

2006 HARLEY SPORSTER 1200. Color is black cherry, 7,000 miles. Samson pipes, custom seat, windshield. Asking payoff or best offer. Please call (432)816-9567.

Vehicles

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ANSWERS

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Leo moon is a storyteller who needs inspiration. This she gets by drawing people out with her insatiable curiosity and then listening to their tales of tragedy and triumph. Eventually she puts her own twist on



HOLIDAY MATHIS

all she's learned. Consider what your own story is. Exaggerate and expand it. Take pleasure in the drama of it. You're unique.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A worthy opponent is all it takes for you to become caught up in the competitive spirit. And you have to admit, the fun of it is derived from the struggle. The tougher the game, the better the game.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Humans are sometimes able to think one another's thoughts. It's alarming to find out that what you thought was your opinion is actually the opinion of another person. But you can always change your mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're naturally at ease with others — something you didn't have to formally learn. However, your success at work could be augmented with structured lessons in communication and interpersonal skills.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Could there be a little magic in the air? People

are particularly open to your ideas, and you're feeling like you could take on just about anything. It's your day!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you're feeling topsy-turvy, blame it on the planets. You're working extra hard to maintain your footing, and concentration is sketchy, but don't worry. You'll be back to your usual, focused self tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In a creative mood, you'll be further inspired by both the perfection of nature and the vivid pictures in everyday life. Do something with this sizzling energy! Tonight your dreams are prophetic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Are you starting to wonder how healthy your closest relationship is? If so, take a step back and examine it. The pain-to-pleasure ratio may be off — time to address the issues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some days you mosey along your way, barriers parting before you like the Red Sea. This isn't one of those days. However, your challenges are what keep your journey vibrant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Looking for love? Look in your own back yard. There's buried treasure there. Someone you never considered has feelings for you and is worthy of consideration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People gravitate toward your strength, and you're asked to do some-

thing that makes you feel uneasy. In the words of spirited rocker Janis Joplin (a fellow Capricorn), "Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't like asking for help, but do it anyway. People like you even more when they know they've helped you. Those younger than you are the best teachers, happy to share their knowledge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Travel is in your forecast. The road is open and the sky is clear. Do be sure your traveling companions are compatible. Just because you get along with them doesn't mean they'll get along with each other.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: The Leo moon has a generous and playful approach to love. When in doubt, give. It's almost impossible to "give until it hurts," because the hurting never comes. **ARIES:** Promises are dangerous. Only say you'll be there if you know you can swing it. **TAURUS:** Approach a romantic problem from every possible angle; answers are available. **GEMINI:** You're adored whether you want to be or not. **CANCER:** A casual relationship strengthens when you travel together. **LEO:** Time spent with a partner's family is much more rewarding than you anticipated. **VIRGO:** Follow a hunch and enjoy the love you find. **LIBRA:** New romantic prospects are met by joining a club

or foundation. **SCORPIO:** How you see things makes all the difference in your personal life — choose to see the positive side of people. **SAGITTARIUS:** On the lesser issues, it's better to be wrong and having a good time than to be unhappily right. **CAPRICORN:** Make your intentions widely known. **AQUARIUS:** You let loved ones see whom you really are and request the same of them. **PISCES:** Romantic excitement involves someone who's mad about you — possibly a Capricorn.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Leo and Capricorn are both feeling powerful this weekend — in fact, they could struggle over the question of who's going to call the shots. Once a tone and a manner of interacting is set, they fall into an exhilarating rhythm. They make an especially effective partnership while exploring places neither would go before. Together they're the team that's stronger than the sum of its parts.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 15-year-old female, and I'm addicted to porn. Not so much the porn in pictures, but porn in stories. I know I shouldn't be reading this kind of stuff, but I can't seem to stop. Sure, for a month or two I can go without, but then I get back into the habit. I read these stories on the Internet. Everyone thinks I am



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

such a good girl. I don't want to spoil the image or disappoint my parents. I know I should tell them, so they can help me overcome this addiction, but I'm afraid I'll lose their trust (and my Internet access).

Things are starting to get worse because lately, I've been looking at pictures and want someone to touch me. The desire is getting stronger every day. Do you have any suggestions about how to tell my parents that their good daughter may not be as good as they think? I feel so guilty and untrustworthy. — Bad Good Girl

Dear B.G.G.: You don't sound addicted. You sound like a 15-year-old girl whose hormones are on overdrive. You are having perfectly normal sexual feelings that are new and exciting, and you are looking for an outlet. The problem is, because it's so easy to find images and stories on the Internet, it's harder to control these urges and learn self-discipline.

Your parents will not be angry to know that you are having sexual feelings, and it's always best if you can talk to them. You also can discuss this with your school counselor or a trusted adult relative or friend. Meanwhile, next time you are on the computer, check out one of our favorite websites at kidhealth.org. You'll learn a lot about your body and your feelings, and it will keep you away from the

porn. Dear Annie: Is there any etiquette for whether or not to attend a funeral? I saw a death notice for the father of a high school friend. We were just casual friends back then (the '60s) and had only seen each other at a few reunions since, but I decided to attend anyway. My friend got very upset when she saw me and accused me of invading her privacy. I never thought of it that way. Was I wrong? — Sorry For Being Sorry

Dear Sorry: Unless a death notice states that the funeral is private, most mourners appreciate having others attend. It shows respect for the deceased, and they often are gratified to know that old friends remember the family. If there is no bad blood between you, we have no idea why your friend was so angry. We'd chalk it up to grief and let it pass.

Dear Annie: "Outlaws in Iowa" said her children were being snubbed by her mother-in-law. That letter could have been written by my daughter-in-law. Maybe she should ask herself how well-behaved her children are.

Our grandchildren shove their way through the front door and run yelling through our home. They whine, tattle, argue, cry and beg. They snoop through drawers, take cushions off the sofa, leave their clothes everywhere and jump on the beds. Things are borrowed without asking, then forgotten or lost. They eat like pigs and spill food at every meal. By the time they leave, I have a splitting headache.

My son and daughter-in-law are oblivious to the commotion and become defensive when I mention it. Loud, unruly children are not welcome, even if they are grandchildren. Maybe Grandma is a mean-spirited old crab, but maybe she has her reasons. — Another Grandma With Favorites

Dear Grandma: We know it's hard to be with grandchildren who are unruly, but that's no excuse to indulge some of the kids with time and gifts, while ignoring the others. If you want the grandkids to behave better in your house, insist on rules. If you can't enforce them, arrange to see the children elsewhere. Don't punish the grandchildren because their parents never taught them manners. YOU teach them.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Stressed-Out Parents in Virginia," whose grown daughter is a drug addict.

My oldest son started using drugs at the age of 12. By 17, he had been arrested more times than I care to count. The next 18 years were sheer hell. He was sent to some of the toughest prisons in the state and spent years living on the streets. During that time, he would take a bus to my home every two weeks to ask for food, a shower and a bed for the night. How could I turn him away? Unfortunately, during those visits, he would steal jewelry, money and whatever else he could fence.

Finally, I joined Al-Anon. It gave me the tools and courage I needed to detach from him with love. I was able to tell him not to come see me until he had his life in order. This was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. In the end, he sobered up through the Salvation Army's program and is now living in a halfway house, one day at a time, as a healthy, happy, 36-year-old man. — Addict's Mother

Dear Mother: We're glad your son was able to pull his life together. It gives hope to other parents. And thanks for another testimonial for Al-Anon and the Salvation Army, both wonderful organizations.
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