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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 31

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE

Not  
Knight's  
night.  
Record will  
have to wait

Page 1B

## Howard College to face challenges in 2007

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

From expanding services to improving facilities, Howard College officials will have a lot on their plate in the next 12 months.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said Thursday that 2007 is shaping up to be a very important — and chal-

lenging — year for the college.

Those challenges range from offering new or expanded services to students, improving an aging infrastructure and, of course, securing the necessary financing for those plans.

On the financial front, Sparks and other HC officials will be watching the new session of the Texas

**The challenges range from offering new or expanded services to students, improving an aging infrastructure and, of course, securing the necessary financing for those plans.**



Legislature very closely when it convenes early next year.

"A few years ago, the

state had a budget shortfall, and that forced a reduction in funding for community colleges,"

Sparks said. "Last session, they played catch-up, and we made significant headway, but there's still some ways to go before we reach restoration of funding at previous levels."

Talks with various legislators has Sparks feeling "optimistic" on the financial front.

"We're encouraged by what they indicate at this

point," she said. "Of course, until we get into the session, we won't know anything for sure."

The biggest wish-list item college officials are hoping to secure with state funds is a new workforce training center at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

Brick-and-mortar issues

See HC, Page 3A



Local architect Phil Furquerson presents a special gavel and plaque from the West Texas Pachyderm Club for retiring Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart to his daughter, Kelly Lockhart, during a special retirement party Thursday afternoon. Lockhart will step down from the bench after 16 years of service to Howard County.

## Judge Lockhart remembered as kind, fair man at reception

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart may not have been able to attend his retirement party Thursday afternoon, but that didn't stop area officials and residents from swapping stories about his 16 years on the bench.

According to family members, Lockhart was unable to attend the retirement party because he's currently being treated at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

However, as County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said, the show must go on.

"We really wanted Ben to be here today. We wanted him to be able to



Lockhart

"We go back years and years, even back when I was in grade school," said Kilgore. "I even knew him through high school. I knew him when he was a city policeman here and then he went with the highway patrol."

"Judge Lockhart was very even-

tempered the entire time he was county judge. I've seen him aggravated a time or two — maybe even ready to throw some things — but he was almost always very calm. He has always been very fair, as well, something I really appreciate. Even when you didn't agree with one another, you were still friends."

Commissioner Gary Simer, who has served several years with Lockhart on the commissioner's court, said he and Lockhart didn't get off to such a great start many years ago, a beginning he will always cherish.

See LOCKHART, Page 3A

## No more ... fore!

Front nine to be closed for renovation at city course back nine to follow in April

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Area golf enthusiasts may find their game cut unusually short after New Years Day, as city officials prepare to close the front nine holes at the Comanche Trail Golf Course to make way for nearly \$2 million in renovations.

"The front nine holes will be closed beginning Jan. 1," said Todd Darden, director of public works for the city of Big Spring. "The back nine will remain open until April, when the entire course will be shut down for approximately one year, re-opening in April 2008."

According to Mayor Russ McEwen, the reno-



McEwen

vation will include changes to several of the course's holes and placement of the tee boxes and paths, representing a complete "reworking." Changes and renovations made to four of the courses over the past several years will also be worked into the remapping.

McEwen said the pros of closing the entire facility for a year versus closing nine holes at a time outweigh the cons considerably.

"If you open nine holes

See COURSE, Page 3A

## Space heater blamed for fire that destroys home

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A space heater was the cause of an early morning blaze in the 500 block of N.E. Second Street that destroyed a home, according to local emergency officials.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said the fire, which was reported at approximately 1:37 a.m. Thursday, was caused by a space heater located in the bathroom of the residence at 511 N.E. Second Street.

"The building was an old storefront and warehouse that had been converted into a residence,"

said Condray. "The fire started in the bathroom when the heater ignited the carpet. Smoke detectors warned the family living in the home, giving them time to get everyone out safely."

Although no injuries were reported as a result of the fire, Condray said the home was a total loss.

"It was a complete loss. Clothes, toys... The family lost everything," said Condray. "There were between five and six people in the home at the time of the fire, which did rekindle later in the

See FIRE, Page 3A

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### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Jan. 6, Fifth Annual Chili Cookoff benefiting West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund, to be held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188.
- Jan. 11, RSVP Travel Showcase, Doris Roberts Community Center.
- Jan. 17-20, Howard County Junior Livestock Show.
- Jan. 18, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet.
- Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20, 18th Annual Boss Hogg Chili Cookoff, Harley Davidson Shop.
- Jan. 25, Hangar 25 Air Museum annual membership meeting.

### FULFILLING HER DESIRE

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — When J.D. Fuller decided to exhibit his love for Lucy Baxter Nichols, he chose the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The 22-year-old college student placed an engagement ring and a card on a pedestal in the "Objects of Desire" exhibit room.

When Nichols, 21, toured the exhibit, she spotted the ring. She then spotted Fuller coming out of a nearby room and screamed with joy, racing toward him and jumping into his arms.

Fuller got on his knees and asked Nichols to marry her.

"Yes," she answered.

### CONFUSED CARJACKER

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — A carjacking suspect called 911 and turned himself in to police after he crashed a stolen sport utility vehicle twice and got lost while fleeing the crime scene, authorities said.

Claude King, 31, called police from a Palm Springs pay phone and confessed to stealing the SUV on Tuesday night.

"Um, I committed a crime," he told the police dispatcher. "I stole a vehicle."

He asked for officers to respond to his location, but when the dispatcher asked where the vehicle was, King didn't know.

"I couldn't even tell you," he said. "I don't even know where I'm at."

Police found King waiting on a curb.



## Obituaries

## Tory Deon Mitchell



Tory Deon Mitchell, 26, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 24, 2006, in Big Spring. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at 14th and Main Church of Christ with the Rev. Holston Banks officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Tory was born May 21, 1980, to Mary Magnum and Bobby Earl Williams in Big Spring. Tory graduated from Big Spring High School in 1999, where he was a champion athlete, which included football and track. Tory set the sophomore age group national record. In the course of four years he received over eight state medals and two national titles in which he was asked to participate in track in Europe. He attended Miami University and Texas Tech University. His life was filled with many adventures and humor. He enjoyed being around others and making them laugh, but more than anything he loved his children.

In addition to his parents Tory leaves to cherish his memory three handsome sons, Tory Deon Mitchell, Jabari Mitchell, and Omari Mitchell, all of Denton; two brothers, Jerome Mitchell of Big Spring and Charles Magnum of Sweeney; one sister, Erica Mitchell of Big Spring; his loving grandmother, Almonia Mitchell and Bobby Jones of Big Spring; grandfather, Buster Williams of Midland; six aunts, Annie Farr and Louis Green, Brenda Cole Martin and her husband, Dennis, Doris Johnson and her husband, Gerald, Linda Banks and her husband the Rev. Holston, all of Big Spring and Laverne Williams of Midland; uncles also include Roy Williams, Danny Williams and Walter Williams, all of Midland; his companion, Lisa Lopez of Big Spring; and a host of cousins and friends.

Tory was preceded in death by his grandfather O.T. Mitchell; grandmother, Dorothy Sue Williams; and a beloved aunt, Josephine Mitchell.

The family will be at 1213 Ridgeroad.

Pallbearers will be Marchello Williams, Chad Warren, John Smith, Timothy Banks, Tyrone Banks, and Ben Moore. Honorary Pallbearers will be Lehebron Farr, Randy Farr, Marcus Cole, Holston Banks III, and Michael Eugene Menifield.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Doris Wilkerson

Doris Wilkerson, 78, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2006, in Hot Springs, Ark. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Weather

Tonight...Cloudy with a chance of rain or snow likely. Colder. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Storm total snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows in the mid 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow in the morning...Then a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Storm total snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 30.

New years day...Sunny. Highs around 50.

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

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 40s.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

## Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-16-20-28-29.

Number matching five of five: none.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-11-19-20. Bonus Ball: 6.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Winning ticket sold in: Allen.

Prize per winner: \$200,000.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-6-2

**We Will Be Closed**  
**December 30th.**  
**And January 1st.**  
**Have A Safe And**  
**Happy New Year**

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## Police blotter

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

- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 2300 block of Scurry.
  - in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3200 block of Rickabaugh.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 500 block of Aylesford.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 43 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ALEXANDER ROBERTS**, 62, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **JIMMY V. CAIN**, 40, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of failure to identify - giving false information, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 500 block of N.E. Second Street.

## Take Note

- **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** at Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 503 E. FM 700, to help defray funeral expenses for Tory Mitchell. To contribute, make the donation in care of Annie Farr or simply request that it go to the Tory Mitchell fund.

- **SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH** is giving away 19 10-inch particleboard pews. Pews must be picked up by early January. If interested, please call 432-263-3382 or 432-263-1444.

- **THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING** is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

- **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them.

To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

- **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

- **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free.

Call 264-0771 for more information.

- **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

- **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

- **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

- **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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## Bulletin Board

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

## TODAY

- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

## TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
- Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

## WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

## THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

## Support Groups

## MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

## TUESDAY

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

## Correction

A pair of poems in the Weekend Edition of the Herald — "A Different Christmas Poem" and "A Real Soldier's Creed" — indicated the authors were Melissa Walker and Robert James Walker. They are not the authors but the works were submitted to the Herald because their messages meant a lot to the family. The Herald regrets any misunderstanding publication of the poems may have caused.

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## AT&T concessions expected to lead to merger approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — AT&T Inc. has offered a new set of concessions that are expected to satisfy the two Democrats on the Federal Communications Commission and lead to approval of the company's \$85 billion buyout of BellSouth Corp.

Approval by the full commission could happen as soon as Friday.

AT&T filed a letter of commitment with the agency Thursday night that adds a number of new conditions to the deal, including a promise to observe "network neutrality" principles, an offer of affordable stand-alone digital subscriber line service and a promise to give up some wireless spectrum.

Final approval still requires a vote of the commissioners, which can happen at any time via computer. The proposed deal is the largest telecommunications merger in U.S. history.

AT&T offered the concessions after a little more than a week of marathon negotiations with lawyers who work for the two Democrats on the commission, Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, documents show.

Consumer advocates are praising the compromise. Gene Kimmelman, vice president of federal and international affairs for Consumers Union, who has worked closely with the Democrats, said AT&T's new concessions are "an enormous improvement from where we were a month ago."

The agreement came together 10 days after Republican Commissioner Robert McDowell announced that he would not vote on the deal, despite being authorized to do so by the FCC's general counsel.

Among the promises made by the company:

—An offer of stand-alone, high-speed Internet service to customers in its service area for \$19.95 per month for 30 months. The "naked DSL (digital subscriber line)" offer would allow those who live in AT&T and BellSouth's service areas to sign up for fast Internet access without being required to buy a package of other services.

—A greater commitment to network neutrality, or nondiscrimination involving Internet traffic.

## HC

Continued from Page 1A

exist at Howard's Big Spring campus, as well, but, unlike at SWCID, facility improvement and construction there can't be financed through state money. That means college officials are looking at a variety of possible funding methods.

"We're going to continue to look at revenue opportunities for our master plan needs at the Big Spring campus," Sparks said.

Officials are hopeful that energy management contracts can alleviate much of the cost of needed improvements to the campus' heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Construction and building renovation needs are another story. Sparks said the college will look at the possibility of secur-

ing grants or possibly issuing revenue bonds to address those needs, while considering the possibility of a bond election a last resort.

At the San Angelo campus, renovation of the West Texas Training Center continues. Sparks said completion of that project will allow officials to locate more college services at that site.

But there's more than just money matters on Sparks' mind when she looks at the next 12 months.

Dual enrollment, which allows high school students to take college classes while still enrolled in secondary schools, is a potential major growth area for the college, she said.

Howard currently offers dual enrollment classes through 26 public school systems in its service area and is hoping to expand that even further

in the near future.

Locally, the college hopes to expand workforce training courses. A new course in commercial truck driving is on tap for the spring, as are plans to further expand classes in welding, Sparks said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Tory Mitchell, 26, died Sunday.

Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at 14th and Main Church of Christ. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## COURSE

Continued from Page 1A

the first year and then the second nine holes the second year, you have an inferior product — a nine hole course — for two years in a row," said McEwen. "You also have uneven grow-in on your greens, and one thing golfers like is the ability to play on consistent greens."

"From a revenue standpoint, we're going to cut off the revenue stream completely for one year, as opposed to severely hurting it for two years. This will also allow us to have one grand opening for the entire facility, and we feel that's what's best."

The decision to close the facility for a full year, which was made in May by the city council, was met with a great deal of skepticism from local golfers. However, McEwen said he's confident the closure is what's best for everyone.

"There are some people who say the golf course we have right now is the golf course they love and they don't ever want anything to change. There are people who say we should leave it alone because they love it the way it is. Don't bring any new restaurants into Big Spring. Don't make any renovations. Don't do anything," said McEwen.

"But the fact of the matter is you don't leave anything the

same. You're either growing or you're regressing, and our choice is to try to grow what we're doing and be progressive. We're doing this for the golfers. We're trying to make a difference that's beneficial to them. Everyone's not going to be happy, and we recognize that."

McEwen said funding for the renovations will come from the new guaranteed energy plan the city recently signed with Siemens, keeping the cost off the shoulders of the golfers and city taxpayers.

"We're going to take those savings and we're going to put a portion of them into this golf course. We're also going to use our city crews to do some of the renova-

tions, and we're able to multiply the benefits we have," said McEwen. "If we bought those services, this project would cost about \$2 million dollars, and we're able to do it for about \$1.3 million."

"There will be no increases in fees to the players or increases in taxes to the taxpayers as a direct result of these renovations. In future years there may be increases in trail fees and other areas, but they would have been necessary even if we didn't renovate the course."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## LOCKHART

Continued from Page 1A

"When I was younger we had a ranch at the west end of Lake Thomas," said Simer. "I had a siren on the front of my truck that I used to call cows. Round about Westex Wrecking, someone pulled out in front of me and I just sat down on that siren. I didn't see Judge Lockhart, who was with the highway patrol at the time, sitting right down the road."

"He came up behind me and pulled me over and said, 'Gary Simer, I'm the law around here. When you get back out there you take that siren off your pickup!' I'll never forget that day."

Simer said he has seen his share of ups and downs since being elected to serve on the court, but it was encouragement from Lockhart that made a lot of it bearable.

"We've been through a lot of hard times together," said Simer. "Since I started (as a commissioner) oil has gone down to

\$9 a barrel and we didn't have any money. People would throw rocks at us while we were going down the street. Ben would tell me not to let it get to me, that it would be all right. It gets better, it always does."

While many area residents may have found themselves at the wrong

end of Lockhart's gavel during his 16-year tenure, Commissioner Emma Brown said it was his kindness that made him such a great county judge.

"His kindness always touched me. He has helped so many people," said Brown. "He tried to help as much as he could. He's always been a very

happy person to be around. When you are sad or had a problem, he was there for you. He was there for everyone, and he was a very good county judge. We're certainly going to miss him around here."

Newly elected county

judge Mark Barr is expected to take office shortly after the new year.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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8		5	3		9
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## FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

evening. Firefighters were again called to the scene at approximately 7:23 p.m.

Condray said a fund has been established for the displaced family at Cosden Federal Credit Union under the name Aguirre.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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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  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill 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:

- Bauer Elementary students on their very successful Pennies for Pets project in which they raised funds — and food — for the animals at the Howard County Humane Society.

- Ben Lockhart, on his 16-year tenure as county judge, as well as his career as a law enforcement officer with the Big Spring Police Department and the Department of Public Safety.

- A salute, too, to longtime state representative and former Speaker of the House James E. "Pete" Laney, who will be stepping down after being first elected in 1972.

- Everyone who donated to the Salvation Army Food Drive. Some 14,000-plus cans of food were collected.

- Also, the students at Goliad Intermediate School, who raised the most cans for the aforementioned Salvation Army Food Drive.

- The city of Big Spring on its tree recycling program. Don't toss your tree in some ditch. Take it to the landfill off FM 700, the compost facility at the airport or the site at Coronado Plaza and the city will turn it into mulch.

- And of course to Santa Claus, who managed — once again — to guide his sleigh from house to house all over the world without being seen.

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

## 'Tis a season for pardons

Last week, President Bush commuted the prison sentence of Phillip Emmert, who was convicted on methamphetamine charges and sentenced to 22 years, followed by five years of supervised release in 1992. May a new era of compassionate conservatism be upon us.

Bush has used his commutation powers before. With Emmert's commutation and the 16 pardons issued on Dec. 21, Bush has issued 113 pardons and commutations while in office. This is, however, the first time that Bush has cut years from an offender's sentence, and a drug offender at that.

Margaret C. Love, who was the pardon attorney under the first President Bush, said of the Emmert commutation, "This appears to be exactly the kind of case where the president needs to intervene, and he is to be commended for doing it. But why only one after all these years? Given what we know about federal drug sentences, it is hard to believe that this case is the only one that merits a sentence reduction."

I, too, have criticized Bush for not commuting more sentences, but there is no denying how politically risky pardons can be. When he was Texas governor in 1995, Bush pardoned a man who had been convicted for growing marijuana in his back yard, only to see the man, who had become a

deputy constable, arrested for stealing cocaine from a suspect within four months of his pardon.

In Emmert's case, Bush has put off his release until Jan. 20, and required Emmert to fulfill his five years' supervised release.

As a conservative, I think it is important that Bush is clear-eyed and has smart standards. I've seen those who would turn convicted cop-killer Mumia abu Jamal into a martyr. Ditto the executed Stanley Tookie Williams. Their most ardent advocates made excuses for their criminal actions and never seemed to care that these men took innocent lives.

According to the *Washington Post*, the Bush administration gives weight to a prisoner's "acceptance of responsibility and showing remorse" — as well as the seriousness of the crime, how long ago it was committed, compelling need, post-conviction conduct and whether criminal-justice officials involved in the case support clemency.

Emmert's story fit those criteria. His history, provided to me by Families Against Mandatory Minimums, tells how Emmert rehabilitated himself in prison so that he was moved from a medium-security facility to a minimum-security camp.

One other aspect of Emmert's story — the disproportionate and unduly severe sentence he received — should be among Bush's criteria. Emmert had one prior conviction for driving without a license. A 22-year sentence for a low-level function in a first drug offense is insane.

America would be a better country if Bush were to commute sen-

tences for other nonviolent drug offenders. Clarence Aaron was sentenced to life without parole for a first-time nonviolent drug offense in 1992, when he was 22, and will die in prison without intervention. That sentence is positively medieval.

This is not a drug case, but next month, two Border Patrol agents, Jose Alonso Compean and Ignacio Ramos, will begin serving 12- and 11-year sentences for shooting a fleeing drug smuggler in the buttocks, not filing the necessary reports and depriving the smuggler of his Fourth Amendment right to be free from illegal seizure. Bush should commute their sentences before they report for prison. These two men have paid enough for their mistakes.

Readers frequently ask me what they can do to help win commutations for those serving draconian federal drug sentences. The time to act is now. Write the White House and let the president know you support his commutation of Emmert's sentence and you would like to see more. Show Washington there is political benefit in showing mercy.

To comment, e-mail [comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov), or mail the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0260.

## Back from Cuba, with nada

A U.S. congressional delegation just went to Cuba, got absolutely no concessions from the Castro communist dictatorship, and still they had the gall to come back and tell us that the next move is up to Washington.

Excuse me? Why?

Did the Cubans promise to hold elections, release political prisoners, consent to a free press, let the Cuban people express themselves freely, allow dissidents to protest without being harassed and physically abused? Did they promise to be a little less evil or a bit more democratic?

The answer is no, zilch — nada. So why is the next move up to Washington?

Is it because this group is made up of bleeding-heart liberals who see civil and human rights violations only when they are committed by right-wing dictators? Or is it because the group consists of Republicans who have traded their party's historic posture against communism for their capitalist greed?

Their answer is yes, both.

Headed by Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., the 10-member bipartisan delegation that went to Havana last week is composed of people who obviously care very little about the suffering Cuban people. If they did, they would not be throwing a lifeline to a regime that is about to finally collapse.

We have been waiting for almost 48 years for Castro to cease to exist. And now that he is reportedly near death, now that he is about to go meet Hitler and Pol Pot in hell, some Congress members are trying to keep his bankrupt ideology on a respirator. They were in Havana for three days of talks with some high-rank-

ing government officials, but they were snubbed by Raul Castro, who has been the acting dictator since his brother Fidel took ill in late July.

Raul, who is obviously trying to consolidate his authority in an effort to sustain Cuba's one-party, authoritarian system, had recently indicated that he would be open to negotiations with the United States. And so, these naive fools went running to kiss up to the new dictator.

But when Raul refused to meet with them, the delegation had to come back empty-handed. In fact, they said the other Cuban officials insisted that there is no change of policy in Cuba.

And although at least one delegation member observed that the Cuban ministers he met were "markedly uninterested in human rights, a free press and free elections," some are still insisting on holding hearings of legislation to begin dismantling the U.S. embargo against the communist island.

The Bush administration has rightfully said there will be no dialogue with Cuba until the regime frees political prisoners and holds free elections. In fact, the administration has intensified the embargo in order to promote a transition to democracy by squeezing the Cuban economy and leadership.

But now that there is a light at the end of Castro's dungeon, some lawmakers want to reverse those restrictions by allowing Cuban-Americans to visit the island more often and to remit more dollars that would help sustain the Castro regime.

This congressional delegation may be bipartisan, but it is definitely anti-embargo — at any cost — even if it means making concessions to Cuba without getting any in return. They didn't even meet with Cuban dissidents in Havana — never mind the suffering endured by 11 million people some 90 miles away from our shores.

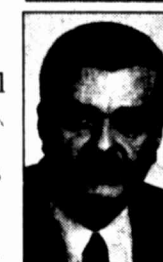
Instead of waiting to see what happens after Castro dies, especially when there is a strong chance of a power struggle in which many of Castro's henchmen will eliminate one another, these Congress members are in a hurry to turn Cuba into another China. Instead of waiting to see if the power struggle leads to democracy and freedom for the Cuban people, these lawmakers want to cut a deal that will allow Cuba to maintain its system of repression — just as long as American tourists are free to vacation there and American businesses are free to trade with the communist island. For the Democrats, the motivation is simply the naive belief that lifting the embargo would somehow turn Cuba into a free society. Trade with China has not made the Chinese people any freer, but that's their illogical logic.

For the Republicans, it's all about the all mighty dollar — pure, unabated American greed. U.S. farmers need to sell more food and our pharmaceutical companies need to sell more drugs, and their strong lobby in Washington has convinced even the traditionally anti-communist Republicans that they should put their principles up for sale.

These Republicans see big bucks for American businesses if they are allowed to export their goods to Havana. Never mind that Cuba has no money to pay for those goods and no plans to stop violating human rights. American taxpayers can always subsidize loans — never to be repaid — for the Cuban government to buy U.S. products and keep repressing its people.

To find out more about Miguel Perez, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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MIGUEL  
PEREZ



# Third man arrested in connection with laundromat robbery

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

A 25-year-old Big Spring man was arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery during the holiday weekend, the third arrest following the robbery of a local laundromat.

Jerome Edwards Mitchell, of 1213 Ridgeroad, was arrested Sunday and charged with

aggravated robbery for his alleged part in the Dec. 17 robbery of the 11th Place Automatic Laundry, located at 208 11th Place.

"One of the suspects produced a hand gun, pointed it at a 66-year-old female clerk and demanded money, said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "The clerk

complied and the three males fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

"Witnesses provided a vehicle description and approximately an hour later a patrol officer spotted a vehicle matching the description at a shopping center in the 100 block of East FM 700."

Terrance Lewis, 20, of 2612 Ent, and his brother, Daniel

Ray Lewis, 18, also of 2612 Ent, were arrested and charged with aggravated robbery.

"One subject fled on foot and was caught after a brief foot chase. The second subject was detained at the scene," said Everett. "Follow up investigation led to both subjects being charged with aggravated robbery. The weapon used was recovered."

Terrance Lewis was also charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Mitchell was transferred to the Howard County jail, and has yet to bond out.

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

## Texas briefs

### Sheehan arrested outside Bush's ranch

CRAWFORD (AP) — Peace activist Cindy Sheehan and four other protesters were arrested Thursday for blocking a road near President Bush's ranch, authorities said, briefly delaying state troopers who were to serve in escort motorcades for government officials meeting with Bush.

Sheehan and the others lay or sat in the road and didn't heed requests to move.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers carried each of the protesters, their hands bound with flexible nylon ties, off the roadway and into a ditch, the *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported in a story for its Friday editions.

"They weren't going unless they were arrested," Lt. R.T. King told The Associated Press. He said troopers arriving to ride in escort motorcades were among the people delayed by the demonstration.

Deputy White House press secretary Scott Stanzel said none of the top advisers who attended the meeting at the ranch, including Vice President Dick Cheney, was delayed.

### Galveston County joins program to scan children's irises

GALVESTON (AP) — Galveston County became the first in Texas to purchase eye-scanning equipment as part of a national program to keep track of children by recording unique characteristics of their irises, officials said.

Sheriff Gean Leonard introduced the program Thursday along with representatives of Massachusetts-based Biometric Intelligence & Identification.

The company, which sold the county two biometric scanners for \$35,000, is working to build a national database dubbed the Children's Identification and Location Database, or CHILD Project.

Biometric President Sean Mullin said a person's iris is unique, like a fingerprint. The system can scan an eye and match an iris in 3 to 5 seconds after comparing it with stored images in the database, he said.

### Deputies seize tons of marijuana in Houston warehouse

HOUSTON (AP) — Deputies arrested a trucker after finding marijuana and cocaine in his tractor-trailer rig, then went inside the warehouse he was leaving and recovered up to 10 more tons of pot, authorities said Thursday.

The 502 bales estimated to be worth \$25 million were recovered Wednesday night after Harris County sheriff's deputies received a tip.

Louis Mendez, 29, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana with intent to sell, Sgt. Dana Wolfe said.

Deputies were staking out the warehouse when Mendez began driving away. After pulling Mendez over because the rig didn't have its lights on, deputies found marijuana and cocaine in his possession.

Authorities must still determine the exact weight of marijuana, but estimate it to be around 15,000 to 20,000 pounds. Ten pounds of marijuana has a street value of about \$16,000, Wolfe said.

Mendez was being held at the Harris County Jail on Thursday on \$1 million bond for the trafficking charge and \$2,000 for the possession charge, Wolfe said.

### Craddick draws new challenger in speaker race

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Rep. Jim Pitts threw his name into the race to unseat Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick on Thursday, heightening intrigue in the already heated speaker's race just two weeks before the legislative session convenes.

Craddick, a Midland Republican, publicly maintained that he has enough support to win his third term as speaker.

Pitts is the second Republican to announce his candidacy for speaker of the 150-member chamber. Republican Rep. Brian McCall of Plano and Democratic Rep. Senfronia Thompson of Houston also have announced their candidacies.

Pitts billed himself as the "consensus candidate."

## Funds presented to family of veteran stationed in Iraq

The family of a Big Spring service man has been presented with cash and a gift card through the Veterans Families Fund.

The family of Army MP Sgt. Cruz Martinez, stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, wife Rebecca, 4-year-old son C.J. and 2-year-old daughter Celeste, were presented with \$200 in donations from the people of Big Spring and a \$300 gift card from the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

"We thank all the people and Wal-

Mart for helping out the veterans' families in our area," said J. Gale Kilgore, who often helps raise money for veterans' causes.

Anyone who would like to donate to the veterans fund can do so under account number 5901848 at Woodforest National Bank in Wal-Mart or mail them to Veterans Families, P.O. 3358, Big Spring 79721-3358.

"It's our way of saying thank you to our veterans," said Kilgore.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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## News in brief

### Officials say Saddam still in U.S. custody, met with brothers a day earlier

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein's half brothers visited him in his jail cell and he gave them his will, Iraqi officials said Friday, indicating his execution may be approaching. But they said he had yet to be transferred to Iraqi custody.

The former president is being held at Camp Cropper, an American military prison where he is expected to remain until the day of his execution, at which point he is to be transferred to Iraqi authorities.

On Tuesday, an Iraqi appeals court upheld Saddam's death sentence for the killing of 148 people who were detained after an attempt to assassinate him in the northern Iraqi city of Dujail in 1982. The court said the former president should be hanged within 30 days.

"Nothing and nobody can abrogate the ruling," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in comments released by his office Friday.

"Our respect for human rights requires us to execute him, and there will be no review or delay in carrying out the sentence," Al-Maliki said.

### Taliban chief pledges to drive out foreign forces as 10 of his fighters die in clash

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Fugitive Taliban chief Mullah Omar pledged in a statement released Friday to drive foreign troops out of Afghanistan, as NATO and Afghan forces killed more than 10 of his fighters in the volatile south.

The message from Omar — the authenticity of which couldn't be immediately confirmed and which was received by The Associated Press in an e-mail from purported Taliban spokesman Mohammed Hanif — urged the Taliban to "sacrifice" their lives and "never submit or accept defeat."

"I am confident that blood of innocent people and mujahideen will yield results," said the statement, timed for the Muslim religious festival of Eid al-Adha. "The enemy will have to quit the region with humiliation and disgrace."

Afghans have a history of "expelling their enemies as no enemy and invader has quit Afghanistan willingly," the e-mail continued.

### Islamic leader vows to stay in Somalia, continue the fight against Ethiopia

KISMAYO, Somalia (AP) — Somalia's Islamic leader vowed Friday to continue the fight against Ethiopia.

"We will not leave Somalia," Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the executive leader of the Council of Islamic Courts told The Associated Press. "We will not run away from our enemies. We will never depart from Somalia. We will stay in our homeland."

He spoke from the southern coastal port of Kismayo, where his forces retreated after abandoning the capital Mogadishu, which they had held for six months.

The Islamic movement had taken control of much of southern Somalia, often without fighting, after defeating a coalition of warlords to capture Mogadishu in June. But its fighters collapsed when Ethiopia, which has the most powerful army in the region, sent reinforcements across the border to help Somalia's internationally recognized government.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had vowed Thursday to crush fighters he described as extremists in the Islamic movement and their foreign allies, predicting it would take a few weeks longer.

### National mourning for Ford begins Friday with private prayer service at California church

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP) — The formal mourning for Gerald R. Ford begins Friday with a public viewing at a church pulpit just feet from where he and his wife sat every Sunday after their White House years — "The President's Pew."

Ford's family was to have a private prayer service at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Friday before the start of a public viewing expected to draw thousands of people to the desert resort town 110 miles east of Los Angeles.

Former first lady Betty Ford, 88, and her four grown children were to receive his casket from a military honor guard at the church, where the couple began worshipping in 1977. Former President George H.W.

Bush and his wife, Barbara, among others, joined the Fords there over the years.

Mrs. Ford will then accompany her husband's body across the nation for a series of ceremonies that includes two funeral services in Washington, D.C., and another in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he will be entombed Wednesday.

Ford died Tuesday at age 93 with his family at his bedside.

### Snowstorm threatens to close Denver airport for 2nd time in week

DENVER (AP) — A second storm in a week pounded Colorado, dumping more than 2 feet of snow in the foothills and forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and the closure of highways and government offices on Friday.

The storm covered an area stretching from the Rocky Mountains into the western Plains. The National Weather Service said it could buffet the region with wind gusts up to 45 mph, whipping heavy snow into blinding whiteouts. Denver could get 18 inches of snow by Friday morning.

Areas west of Denver got 28 inches of snow Thursday, with about 8 inches falling in the city. Up to a foot could fall on the eastern Plains before the storm moves out of Colorado by Sunday.

While last week's blizzard dumped nearly 2 feet of snow in about 24 hours, the new storm was expected to bring snow over three days, leaving airlines and city officials confident they can avoid the clogged streets and airport runways that brought the city to a standstill.

"Right now we're planning to operate a full schedule starting at noon," Robin Urbanski, spokeswoman for United Airlines, said early Friday.

Light rail trains, buses and public transit in the metro area planned to run a regular weekday schedule.

### Ancient ice shelf snaps and breaks free from the Canadian Arctic

TORONTO (AP) — A giant ice shelf has snapped free from an island south of the North Pole, scientists said Thursday, citing climate change as a "major" reason for the event.

The Ayles Ice Shelf — all 41 square miles of it — broke clear 16 months ago from the coast of Ellesmere Island, about 500 miles south of the North Pole in the Canadian Arctic.

Scientists discovered the event by using satellite imagery. Within one hour of breaking free, the shelf had formed as a new ice island, leaving a trail of icy boulders floating in its wake.

Warwick Vincent of Laval University, who studies Arctic conditions, traveled to the newly formed ice island and couldn't believe what he saw.

"This is a dramatic and disturbing event. It shows that we are losing remarkable features of the Canadian North that have been in place for many thousands of years," Vincent said. "We are crossing climate thresholds, and these may signal the onset of accelerated change ahead."

The ice shelf was one of six major shelves remaining in Canada's Arctic. They are packed with ancient ice that is more than 3,000 years old. They float on the sea but are connected to land.

### Poll: Most Americans love our TVs — just not the same shows as our spouses or partners

NEW YORK (AP) — As you sink into your couch to watch a favorite TV show this holiday weekend, take comfort in the knowledge that you're not alone. Nationally speaking, at least. Unity within your own home is another matter entirely.

A majority of Americans got hooked on a TV show this year, an AP-AOL News poll shows. But some say they watch their favorite shows alone: Their spouse or partner is into much different fare.

Is it nature, or nurture? All Betty Cave knows is that while she's into those attractive young doctors on "Grey's Anatomy," with their interweaving social and professional lives, her husband likes "Star Trek," "Battlestar Galactica" and some other things that I've never heard tell of.

The poll found that 71 percent of American adults saw at least one movie in a theater this year, and the average was about five movies.

Young adults went more often than older adults, and those in the West saw more movies on average — seven — than in other regions.

As for TV, most Americans felt there was nothing special about the shows out this year — yet 58 percent said they got hooked on one. For women, the top show was "Grey's Anatomy," which often tops the weekly Nielsen ratings.

For men, it was "House," with the curmudgeonly Hugh Laurie, on Fox. High on the overall list were "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "CSI: Miami."

## Contract Bridge

### Bidding Quiz

You are the dealer, both sides vulnerable, and have opened One Heart. Partner has responded One Spade. What would you now bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠AK75 ♥AQJ83 ♦62 ♣A4
2. ♠95 ♥AJ842 ♦KQ5 ♣KJ7
3. ♠92 ♥KQ984 ♦AJ ♣KQ97
4. ♠843 ♥AKJ962 ♦K7 ♣A5
5. ♠J6 ♥KQ853 ♦AKJ ♣AQ3

1. Four spades. A game contract must be reached once partner responds with one spade. Only an avowed pessimist would think that the combined hands might not provide a satisfactory play for game.

Whether the basis for this evaluation is point count — you have 18 high-card points plus two doubletons — or simply that it would be extremely unlikely to lose four tricks, a game must be undertaken.

A raise to three spades would be wrong, as this would not compel partner to bid again, but would merely invite him to go on.

2. One notrump. This rebid identifies a balanced hand of the minimum class, which is exactly what you have. It would be wrong to rebid your hearts with such a weak suit.

3. Two clubs. Hands with 5-4-2-2 distribution usually play better in a suit, so you should show your second suit rather than rebid one notrump. Although the two-club bid is by no means forcing, and might even be

made on a minimum hand, it can be based on more than a minimum and is therefore to be preferred to one notrump, which is a limited rebid. This hand should not be treated as though it were a weak opening bid.

4. Three hearts. Your additional values above a minimum opening can be shown by jumping to three hearts, indicating 16 to 18 points. Partner is not required to bid again and may pass with six or seven points.

It is important to recognize that this 15-high-card-point hand is worth substantially more because of the length and strength of the heart suit and because partner's spade response helps cover your weakest suit. But it is not worth more than a three-heart bid because game is not likely to be made if partner's hand is so weak that he passes.

5. Three notrump. You should assume that partner has at least six points for his one-spade response. Since this brings the combined point count to at least 26, a game contract must be undertaken. The only question is how best to tell partner about the size and shape of your hand.

The jump-rebid to three notrump fills the bill perfectly. It indicates balanced distribution, approximately 20 points and strength in the unbid suits. It lays the foundation for a slam if partner has the type of hand that could produce a slam opposite this one.

Tomorrow: Think first, play later.

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## A d

By RICHARD

For The A

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## Church News

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### First United Methodist Church

Sunday, Dr. Shane Brue will close 2006 with a look forward to new beginnings. Services will be at their regular times of 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes meeting at 9:45 a.m.

On Monday at 9 a.m. the Senior Adult Ministry will have their annual New Years Day Brunch in Garrett Hall. The complete breakfast buffet will include the traditional blackeyed peas as well as fun and fellowship for all in attendance.

Regular Bible study and luncheon will resume Wednesday, Jan. 3, in Garrett Hall.

First Methodist would like to especially welcome you in January and February for inspiring worship and to hear God's Word regarding the family. The first of this sermon series will be held Sunday, Jan. 7. Dr. Brue's topic on that date will be Family; Our First Community. This very timely series will continue through Feb. 18.

A nursery is available

for all services as well as the Sunday school hour. First United Methodist Church is located at 4th and Scurry in downtown Big Spring; telephone 257-6394.

### Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The members invite you to worship with them Sunday at 10:55 a.m. and 8 p.m. To usher in the new year we will have preaching, singing, fun, games and blackeyed pea fellowship from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. For further information or a ride to Church call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

### North Birdwell Lane United Methodist

The Angel Food Ministries outreach mission of North Birdwell UMC will accept orders for January on Friday, Jan. 5, and Friday, Jan. 12, at the church between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Orders must be paid for with cash at the time

they are placed. The cost is \$25 for a box. The purchase of a regular \$25 box entitles you to select one of three specials ranging from \$18 to \$16. Menus may be obtained from any church member or by calling 267-2203 or 267-4082 or by checking the Web site at [www.angelfoodministriesofbigspring.com](http://www.angelfoodministriesofbigspring.com). Delivery day will be Saturday, Jan. 27, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

In an effort to serve the community of Big Spring and surrounding areas, North Birdwell UMC is planning to expand its facilities in the near future. A building fund has been started toward this goal. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Rev. Joel Miller at 267-4082. The need for this expansion has been made evident by the increasing success of the Angel Food Ministry as well as other ongoing outreach programs.

You are invited to join in any of the programs or services offered by North Birdwell. Regular Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school is

offered for all ages at 10:30 a.m. The Bible study group meets on the first and third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and United Methodist Women meet at 4:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday.

### East Side Baptist Church

End the year in God's house Jan. 31 at East Side Baptist Church. Our service times are 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. We would love to have you join us for a goodbye to 2006. Wednesday, Jan. 3, our guest speaker will be James McDowell. Tuesday, Jan. 30, The Dart Family will be in concert.

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school will not meet until Jan. 7. For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web

site at [www.stmarysbst.org](http://www.stmarysbst.org). St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

### 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.

Bible studies during the week continue. Call the church office for times and locations.

The Wednesday noon ladies Bible study meets at our parish hall with a new study beginning on Jan. 10. Workbooks for "The Patriarchs" can be ordered through the church office. Childcare will be provided. All ladies are welcome. Call 267-7163 for more information.

### Friends of Unity

World Healing Day is Sunday and is observed around the world each year. Friends participate and support this endeavor with concentrated prayer

with others at 6 a.m.

Unity stands for peace in the presence of conflict; for love in the presence of hatred; for forgiveness in the face of injury. Unity honors the many names for God, the many paths to God, the many ways to worship God; for there is only one power and presence of God and that God loves each one of us equally.

### First Christian Church

This Sunday, you are invited to ring in the new year with worship at First Christian Church, 911 Goliad. Services begin at 10:50 a.m.

The Rev. Ken McIntosh's sermon, "A Year that Called for Forgiveness," will be based on Colossians 3:12-17 and will focus on the top religious stories in 2006.

Twenty tickets for Christian Youth Night at the Rodeo have been reserved for young people and adult sponsors who would like to go to the rodeo in Odessa on Jan. 10. Contact the church at 267-7851 if you would like to attend.

## A distinctive textbook on U.S. history gives religion its due

By RICHARD N. OSTLING  
For The Associated Press

In 1776, the first draft of the Declaration of Independence protested that Britain's supposedly "Christian king" had "waged a cruel war against human nature" and violated "sacred rights of life & liberty" by enslaving Africans.

Further, it said, slaves often suffered "miserable death" in transit to America and King George had suppressed every attempt "to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce."

The Continental Congress quickly deleted this moralistic language from a slave owner, Thomas Jefferson.

Students of history are regularly rewarded with such surprises. They'll discover this one and many more in the college textbook "Unto a Good Land: A History of the American People" (Eerdmans). The 10-year production from six historians and 50 consultants covers Indian life before Columbus through the 2004 election and war in Iraq.

No dry academic exercise, the flowing narrative makes this an enjoyable read for anyone seeking a broad overview of American history.

Historian A.J. Scipino at Central Connecticut State University says it's "a splendid work of social and cultural history wherein religion earns its proper place."

That religion aspect distinguishes "Good Land" from competitors. One cannot understand America and ignore its ever-present piety, so different from Europe. This textbook also fits the trend to treat the arts, science, minorities, women's history and popular culture alongside the usual political and military power games.

Though "Good Land" is carefully nonsectarian and notes religion's influence for both good (civil rights) and ill (witchcraft trials), it may prove a tough sell at secular universities.

Other discoveries: —Though Columbus believed his explorations were divinely ordained, he nearly lost royal sponsorship because a committee of clergy, Spain's

only educated scholars, opposed him, but he was backed by a Franciscan friar who had Queen Isabella's ear.

—Ever wonder why Brazil became a Portuguese colony while Spain claimed the rest of South America? That division was worked out in response to the pope's carving up of the world map the year after Columbus sailed.

—In the early 1600s, King James denounced users of the "filthy novelty" of tobacco for "sinning against God, harming your selves both in persons and goods." Virginia's governor fretted that farmers endangered their health by raising profitable tobacco instead of needed vegetables.

—Up in Massachusetts, meanwhile, pioneer colonists were declaring that American Indians held property rights to any land they cultivated and maintained. The basis cited for this law? Genesis 1:28 and 9:1, and Psalm 115.

—"The first individual to bring some degree of unity to the colonies was not a politician," we're told, but evangelist George Whitefield. He drew huge audiences from Boston to Georgia beginning in 1739.

—The states approved the U.S. Constitution by a mere eyelash, and there was considerable opposition to the rule that "no religious test shall ever be required" to hold public office.

—As of 1827, the U.S. South had 106 anti-slavery societies compared with only 24 in the North, and Southern agitators outnumbered Northerners nearly four to one. Later, abolitionism swelled in the Northeast and "the primary motivation was religious."

—FDR's New Deal was a big deal. But many of its ideas originated in prior decades with fervently Protestant presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan and the 1919 social reform platform from America's Roman Catholic bishops.

Back to Jefferson. As a public official he championed freedom of conscience but personally held fervent religious opinions.

He literally took scissors to the New Testament to delete miraculous parts he disliked while leaving moral teachings.

He decided to establish the University of Virginia because the College of William and Mary refused to abandon its

Episcopal Church ties.

He predicted with wishful thinking that there wasn't a youth living in America "who will not

die a Unitarian," oblivious to the emerging evangelical movement that has persisted in various forms to the present day.

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# Sports

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Friday, December 29, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### Mavericks shoot past Suns

After their first meeting in November, the Dallas Mavericks and Phoenix Suns both had only one victory.

Now, they're resembling the teams that played each other in the Western Conference playoffs the past two seasons.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a 19-footer with 1.3 seconds left to give the Mavericks a 101-99 victory.

The Mavericks (22-7), with the best record in the NBA, won their eighth straight game.

### Oklahoma State wins one for Big 12

Oklahoma State tried to give away the Independence Bowl to Alabama. Dantrell Savage and Jason Ricks took it back for the Cowboys.

Ricks kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8.9 seconds remaining to give Oklahoma State a 34-31 victory over Alabama on Thursday night.

Savage ran for 112 yards and a touchdown.

Alabama (6-7) was playing in its NCAA-record 54th bowl game and looking for its 31st bowl victory — another NCAA record — but for much of the night the Crimson Tide's vaunted postseason history seemed a distant memory. Bama played flat until late in the fourth quarter.

### Spurs blow past Utah Jazz, 106-83

Just two days after watching the Spurs give up more points than they had all season, San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich saw something he was more accustomed to Thursday night.

Tony Parker scored 22 points and the Spurs played smothering defense to beat Utah 106-83, San Antonio's 15th consecutive home victory over the Jazz. "I recognized the team that was out there tonight," Popovich said.

San Antonio gave up 114 points in a loss on Tuesday to Milwaukee.

### Ethics charges filed on Duke prosecutor

Ethics charges were slapped against the prosecutor at the center of the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case might constitute a conflict of interest that forces him off the case, legal experts said.

"It's hard for me to imagine how he can be effective as an advocate, with either the court or a future jury, when he has ethics charges pending against him," said Joseph Kennedy, a University of North Carolina law professor.

The North Carolina bar filed the ethics charges Thursday, charging District Attorney Mike Nifong of violating four rules of professional conduct by making false statements to the court and the public.

## UNLV prevents Knight from record

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

LUBBOCK — Bob Knight won't be making any more history in 2006.

Having started this season third on the men's Division I wins list, Knight was ready to take over the top spot all by his sweater-wearing self Thursday night — except his Texas Tech Red Raiders hardly gave him a chance.

Tech got behind early and never recovered, losing 74-66 to UNLV and leaving Knight tied with Dean Smith at 879 career wins.

His next chance for the milestone comes on New Year's Day. Considering how much Knight detests the hoopla, there's no doubt his resolution for 2007 is to get this over with.

"I haven't been interested in it from Day 1," Knight said. "All I'm interested in is playing well. We've got a lot of work to do."

Steve Alford, John Havlicek, Jerry Tarkanian and Fuzzy Zoeller were among roughly 30 Knight pals who traveled to cotton country in hopes that he'd make history.

Instead, they saw him whiff on his first try — just like he did in chasing milestone wins 300, 400, 600, 700 and 800.

The good news? He got all of them on the second try. So if those guys don't mind sticking around for a few days, or flying back in, he might make it worth their while Monday against New Mexico.

Alford, who coaches Iowa, said he'll do his best to return.

Havlicek seemed like he'll be in. "Anything special that happens, we're there for each other," Havlicek said.

Just to be safe — and to be crusty, cranky Bob Knight — he told his buddies "they might have to stay here three weeks."

"That would be a boon to the economy," said Knight, who is in his sixth season living in Lubbock, the hub of the largest contiguous cotton-growing region in the world.

Knight came into this season with 869 wins. After getting to 875, he needed two tries to match Adolph Rupp for second (876), then passed the former Kentucky coach in his next game.

A couple wins later, he matched Smith, the former North Carolina coach, on his first try. Five days later, folks were so giddy about Knight possibly breaking the record that 15,098 fans showed up, one of the largest crowds in school history.

They were into it from the start, too, giving Knight a standing ovation when he emerged for pregame introductions, with some chanting "Bob-by!" Three students painted their bodies red and spelled out 8-8-0 in black on their chests.

But Knight's motion offense and man-to-man defense both let him down.

Tech (10-4) came in as the nation's most-accurate 3-point shooting team, but made only one of 12. UNLV (12-2) was 11-for-25 from behind the arc.

Tech got to 66-55 on a layup by Jay Jackson with 3:54 left when Knight drew his first technical of



Sharon M. Steinman/Fort Worth Star Telegram

Texas Tech head coach Bobby Knight and Texas Christian head coach Nell Dougherty take time to visit before a game this season. Coach Knight is 1 win away from Dean Smith's all-time winning record.

the season. It seemed like he was arguing a non-call, but he said it was problems with the ensuing inbounds pass that set him off.

"I thought they stepped over the line twice — once when they threw it in and once when the guy caught it," Knight said, laughing and adding: "I (also) thought Jackson had been fouled on the play, but that wasn't my comment."

The Red Raiders eventually got to 68-62 with 1:38 to go, but the Runnin' Rebels protected their lead by making six straight foul shots.

"We used a lot of really good energy at a time when we

should've been tired," Knight said. "Where was our energy earlier?"

Led by former NBA coach Lon Kruger, who improved to 8-2 against Knight, the Runnin' Rebels obviously didn't want to be firsthand witnesses to history. Every big basket or exciting play was punctuated by guys jumping up off the bench, high-fiving and spinning around, as if this was an NCAA tournament game.

"I'm very happy for him," Kruger said of Knight's pending feat, "yet I'm not displeased that we delayed the celebration for at least a game or two."

## Rutgers captures first bowl win

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Moments after Rutgers won a bowl game for the first time, coach Greg Schiano was already looking ahead to loftier goals.

"We have a firm foundation now to take the next step," Schiano said. "There are still many things this program can do for the first time and we're all looking forward to it."

For now, Schiano will have to settle for celebrating another milestone victory that ended the school's most memorable season.

Ray Rice ran for 170 yards and a touchdown, Tim Brown caught two TD passes on Thursday night as the 16th-ranked Scarlet Knights beat Kansas State 37-10 in the

Texas Bowl.

Linebacker Quintero Frierson returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage of the second half and Rutgers (11-2) cruised from there, earning an 11th victory for the second time in 137 mostly forgettable seasons. The Knights were 1-11 only four seasons ago and the freshmen on that team are now outgoing seniors.

"There was a focus tonight to make sure those seniors went out with No. 11," Schiano said. "That makes me more proud than anything. They were very focused and you could see that in the way they practiced (for the game). I didn't leave the field frustrated, not once."

Rice was named the Most Valuable Player

after topping 100 yards for the 10th time this season and the 15th time in 25 career games. The 6-foot-9, 195-pound sophomore went over 150 yards for the fifth time this season.

"We've tasted it, tasted the water and it's a great feeling," Rice said. "We know what it took. We have tasted the victory in a bowl game and anything else will not be as successful."

Rutgers lost its two previous bowl appearances — both against Arizona State — 34-8 in the Garden State Bowl in 1978, and 45-40 in the Insight Bowl last year.

The Scarlet Knights' seventh-ranked defense manhandled Kansas State's offense, holding the Wildcats to 162 total yards and six first downs.



MCT photo/Bo Rader/Wichita Eagle

Kansas State wide receiver Yamon Figurs runs back a punt return in the second quarter against Rutgers during the Texas Bowl in Houston.

## California thumps Aggies in Holiday Bowl

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — There could very well come a time when the California Golden Bears end their Rose Bowl drought, which has now reached 48 years.

For this year, at least, they were happy to be playing in the Holiday Bowl.

Two years after a BCS snub led to an uninspired trip to San Diego, the No. 21 Golden Bears dominated the No. 21 Texas A&M Aggies 45-10 on Thursday night behind Marshawn Lynch, who ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns.

Nate Longshore threw for a touchdown and ran for another, and Lynch's backup, Justin Forsett, ran for 124 yards and one score.

Just as important, the Golden Bears' defense showed a Big 12 team that the Pac-10 can be tough, too.

Cal (10-3) put an

emphatic final touch to its second 10-win season in three years. The Golden Bears lost to Arizona and Southern California in disheartening fashion before beating rival Stanford and then the Aggies (9-4). The loss to USC cost the Bears a chance to play in the Rose Bowl for the first time since Jan. 1, 1959.

In 2004, Cal was in position to finally be in Pasadena on New Year's Day but was leapfrogged in the final Bowl Championship Series standings by Texas. Although the fourth-ranked Golden Bears claimed not to be bothered by the snub, they couldn't even hang with No. 23 Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl and were humiliated 45-31.

"There were a lot of things surrounding the Holiday Bowl last time," Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "Obviously this was a different experience. Last time we were here

we felt slighted by a computer ranking. This year we were where we deserved to play."

The Golden Bears heard a lot of talk about how physical Big 12 teams are.

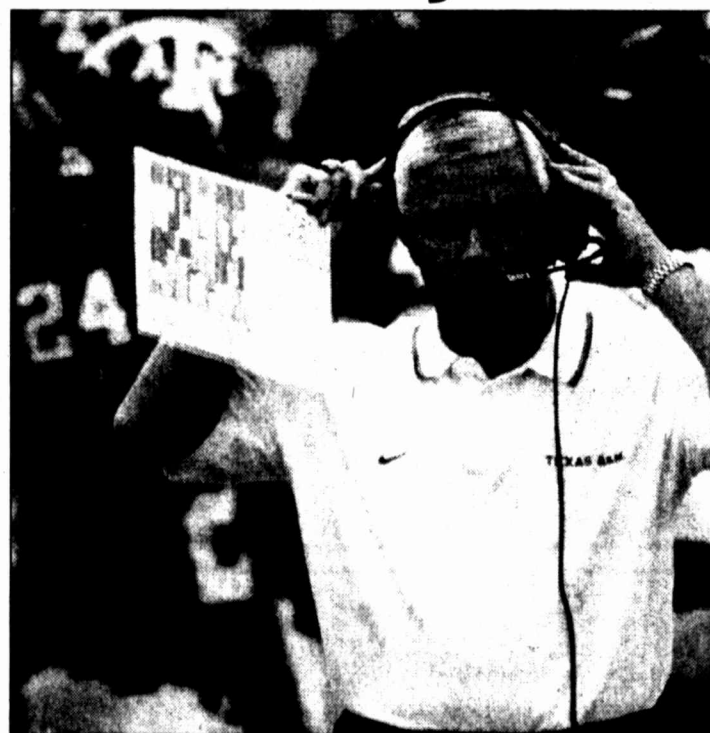
"We wanted to prove our brand of football and I think we showed ourselves well," Tedford said. "I think we played pretty physical football in the Pac-10."

Aggies coach Dennis Franchione agreed.

"Cal played a great game," Franchione said. "We were not up to the task. They controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball."

Lynch, the Pac-10 offensive player of the year, scored on a 2-yard run in the second quarter to give Cal a 14-7 lead. While Longshore lined up at wide receiver, Lynch was in the shotgun formation, took the snap and bulled into the end zone.

While the Golden Bears moved up and down the field, their defense came



MCT photo/Smiley Pool/Dallas Morning News

Dennis Franchione puts on his headset before the opening kickoff of the Texas A&M Aggies football game. A&M lost 45-20 in the Holiday Bowl.

up big, too.

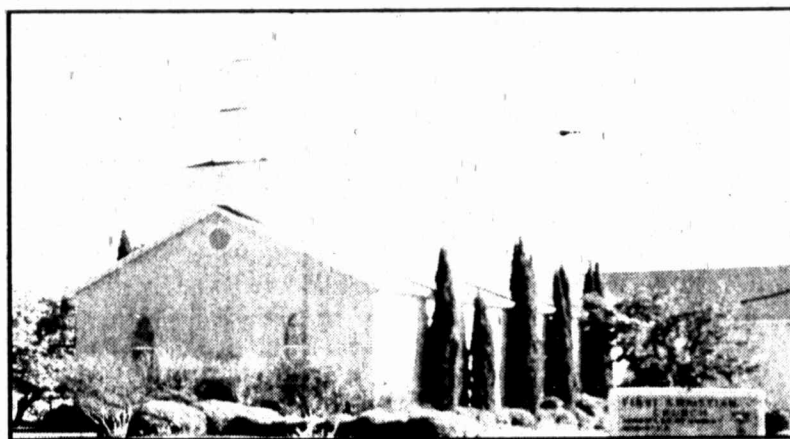
Jorvorskie Lane, Texas A&M's 274-pound tailback, wasn't much of a factor after tying a 79-year-old school record

with 19 rushing touchdowns this year. He was held to 36 yards and no touchdowns on seven carries.



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# Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

## BIRDIES AND BOGIES

### Sun spots

It was a tiny white spot just to the left of my nose, slightly indented but hardly noticeable before the doctor pointed it out. Since I spend so much time in the sun teaching, I have two checkups a year, and in this case the biopsy confirmed cancer.

The operation to remove it was a success, leaving only a 3-inch scar that will fade with time, but my point here is that I had taken great care to prevent skin cancer. I did everything the experts tell you to do.

I slopped on 50 SPF like it was barbecue sauce, and every two hours I lathered up again until it looked to my students as if they were taking lessons from a mime. I wear a wide-brimmed hat right off the head of the outlaw Josey Wales plus long sleeves, sunglasses and, when necessary, an umbrella.

But the thing that saved me was something you always read in articles on skin cancer, but it's usually at the end, almost like an afterthought: "Make regular visits to your dermatologist."

Note that it says "dermatologist," not just doctor. A student of mine had a tiny hard-feeling pimple just below his lip. Again, hardly noticeable and not bothersome. His regular doctor said it was nothing. A year and a half later, they had to remove a third of his face, including most of the jawbone.

I asked my surgeon what would have happened if I had let it go another year, and his matter-of-fact answer was chilling: "It would have been a real mess."

So definitely take all the precautions the experts prescribe and make sure you see a dermatologist at least once a year.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The reason I stopped drinking was not because I was a bad drunk. On the contrary, I was a magnificent drunk, but once you have beaten the game, you retire gracefully."*

**David Feherty**, former European Tour and PGA Tour golfer, who now works as a writer and broadcaster.



## GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

### \$525,000

Question: What does \$525,000 buy you?  
Answer: a golf tournament.

When Greensboro, N.C., was in danger of losing its spot on the PGA tournament roster, it turned to Mark Steinberg, an agent at IMG (he's Tiger's agent), to put in a good word with the tour, and it worked. The cost of his services, according to the Greensboro News and Record: \$525,000. A small price to pay to be part of the FedEx series.

### 5 years

It's well-known that Larry Nelson didn't take up the game until late in life; he was 21, just back from Vietnam. But most don't realize that just five years after he hit his first shot, he made the PGA Tour, where he won two majors during his hall-of-fame career.

## SCHEDULE

### MEN

#### PGA TOUR

- Mercedes-Benz Championship, Jan. 4-7, Kapalua Resort, The Plantation Course, Kapalua, Hawaii.
- Sony Open in Hawaii, Jan. 11-14, Waialae Country Club, Honolulu.

#### 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.

### WOMEN

#### LPGA TOUR

- Women's World Cup of Golf, Jan. 19-21, Gary Player Country Club, Sun City, South Africa.

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## IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME

# 6 steps to a slice-free swing

### 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: [TJInsider@aol.com](mailto:TJInsider@aol.com).

### Matchup 2: Body Line and Target Line

Arrange your body correctly, paying particular attention to your shoulders. The arms swing on the shoulder line, and if your shoulders are too open at address, you'll cut across the ball at impact.

### Matchup 3: Spine Angle and Shoulder Tilt

Since the shoulders work perpendicular to the spine, how your spine is angled at address holds the key to what kind of slicer you are. If your spine is too upright, your shoulders will swing on too level a plane, trapping the club behind you so you have to come over the top. This causes what's called a boomerang slice. If you exaggerate enough, your slice turns into a right-to-right slice.

### Matchup 4: Ball Position and Shoulder Position

A ball that's too far forward in your stance causes the shoulders to open; a ball set too far back creates closed shoulders. Use the ball position that will allow you to align your shoulders parallel to your starting line. It will vary according to your body build; you can find yours by experimentation.



Here the player has increased his back-foot flare for a bigger turn while de-flaring the front foot to promote a draw.

## THE GOLF DOCTOR

### Drug testing comes to golf

The LPGA is going to test its players for drugs, and the PGA Tour can't be far from a testing program either, but the question is which drugs and in what concentrations will be illegal. A case in point is caffeine.

Most likely, the LPGA will follow the lead of the International Olympic Committee, which currently lists caffeine as a restricted drug. Urinary levels above 12 mg/liter are viewed as doping. Caffeine gets into your system within minutes, peaks at about an hour, but stays in your system six to 10 hours.

Approximately 1,000 mg of caffeine equals about 8 cups of coffee, which would exceed the current IOC limit, but people metabolize caffeine at very different rates. Some athletes have come close to flunking the drug test after ingesting only 350 mg, which means that a golfer could flunk after drinking three cups of coffee.

Why would a golfer get hyped on caffeine when putting takes such a fine touch? First, nobody really knows if it hurts or helps short-game touch since no

studies have been done. Second, because caffeine increases endurance, it might be used for marathon practice sessions, which means players would have to be tested at odd times when they're off tour.

How, then, would the tours effectively enforce the ban on caffeine? They would have to surprise players with random tests or rely on somebody turning in offenders. This creates an atmosphere of suspicion that could undermine the spirit of the game.

And what about the other part of the team, the caddy, who by rule is deemed part of the player's equipment and so must conform to the rules? Eliminate caddies based on banned substances and there wouldn't be anyone left to carry the bags.

Informants, surprise tests, what's next — will Juan Valdez wear a wire?

Before you start your slice eradication program, here are six easily learned anti-slice matchups (pairings of positions and swing mechanics) you must put in place for your no-slice swing.

### Matchup 1: Target and Clubface

Aim your clubface correctly so it's pointing where you want the ball to start. First select an intermediate target, then use the vertical aiming lines that are a part of every clubface to line up the face with the intermediate target.



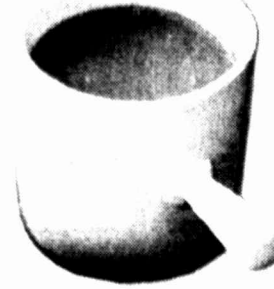
Aim the clubface first, then align the body.

### Matchup 5: Grip and Clubface Position

Positioning of the hands must allow either a flat left wrist, or a bowed one. Stay away from the slice-causing cupped wrist.

### Matchup 6: Foot Flare and the Release

The front foot should be adjusted by experimenting with less flare. The flare of the front foot controls the release of the clubface: the less flare, the sooner the front leg straightens, causing an earlier release by squaring the face more aggressively.



## TEERING OFF

### Unwritten rules for beginners

It's all too easy to be intimidated by the nuances of a sport that has been the domain of the elite for centuries. To the uninitiated, golf is a complicated game, and its complexity is made worse by its unwritten rules of decorum both on the course and around the clubhouse. But the subtleties of the game are easily learned.

If possible, arrange to play your first few rounds with experienced players. Don't worry about playing as well as they do. You're a beginner, and therefore you have a perfect excuse.

Another choice is to schedule a playing lesson with your golf professional. In both cases, you'll have someone to answer your questions and show you around the course.

If you decide to play your first round with other new golfers, be sure each of you makes some advance preparations. First, make a tee time (an appointment to play) when the course is less crowded.

Next, be sure to watch a few rounds of golf on TV beforehand. Though your shots probably won't look like the pros', you can watch how they move around the course and how they handle themselves under different circumstances.

Most important, be sure you have taken a lesson (a series is best) and spent some time on the practice range before you venture onto the golf course.

On the first tee, the common reaction is to rush things, but try to slow yourself down, evaluate your target and go through your preshot routine. (See my book "The 30-Second Golf Swing" for more on establishing a preshot routine.)

Most golfers don't care how badly you play as long as you play fast. Especially during your first few rounds, move your ball from difficult lies (heavy rough, bare ground, difficult stance) onto good lies. If others tell you you're breaking the rules, explain to them in a patient voice that you're trying to learn the easier shots before you tackle the more difficult ones.

On the putting green, putt out and enjoy yourself, but if you've already taken four putts, do yourself and your companions a favor and "hit the silk" (put it in your pocket).

### Safety tips

- Engage the parking brake on your cart before leaving it unattended.

- Avoid sharp turns in carts. Just last month, NASCAR Nextel Cup champion Jimmie Johnson broke his wrist when he was ejected from a golf cart after its driver took an unannounced sharp turn.

- Never drive a cart on steep, wet slopes or drive too fast for the terrain. In a tragic accident, trick shot artist Dennis Walters ([www.denniswalters.com](http://www.denniswalters.com)) was paralyzed from the waist down when a golf cart he was driving flipped on a steep slope and landed on him.

- And please don't dangle one foot out of your cart. That's a good way to break an ankle, as did Champions Tour player Jim Albuz.

- Walking around in an open field with a metal rod in hand makes golfers an easy target for lightning. If you hear thunder or see lightning, leave the golf course without hesitation so you can live to play another day. Lee Trevino, Jerry Heard and Retief Goosen are among a lucky minority who survived being hit by lightning.

- Many courses provide lightning shelters, so be sure to ask where the shelters are before you start your round. And remember, a covered golf cart is not a shelter, since you're mostly in the open, and the battery in the cart can actually attract lightning.

## ASK THE PRO

**Q:** I hit a lot of my chips fat, and I'm wondering what's wrong. I use my wedge to chip, but it's not working too well. — N.A.

**A:** Normally, wedges are 34 to 35 inches long with lie angles of approximately 64 degrees, but since you stand closer to the ball when you chip, the wedge you use should be flattened 2 to 3 degrees. If the lie angle isn't flattened to compensate, the chance of the toe striking the ground increases. Basically, just like the tour players, all your wedges should be flatter than the rest of the iron set.

(To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: [TJInsider@aol.com](mailto:TJInsider@aol.com).)



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## GOLF SPOKEN HERE

### PGA of America vs. PGA Tour

The PGA of America is an association made up of club professionals, while the PGA Tour is an association of golf professionals who play for a living. Until 1968, the two were one and the same, and the Tour was run by the PGA of America. Then, touring pros formed their own autonomous unit. The two do interact on a limited basis: The PGA of America runs the PGA Championship each year and the Ryder Cup every four years, when it is played in the United States.



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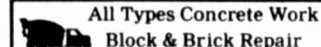
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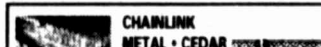
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**KING PILLOWTOP** Mattress Set. Brand New still in Plastic. Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

**LARGE DINING** room table, 6 chairs, buffet, hutch, still boxed \$999. 806-549-3110.

**MOVING!!! QUEEN** mattress set \$125. Twin mattress set \$99. NEW, CLEAN. Washer \$225. 806-549-3110.

**NASA MEMORY FOAM** Mattress Set. Conforms to body. New in plastic. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$399.00. 432-349-4043.

**QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC** Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/Warranty. \$129.00.

**SACRIFICE;** 6 pc sleigh bedroom set. Still boxed. \$499. 806-549-3110.

**URGENT SELL** -- King mattress set \$210. Full mattress set \$109. PERFECT CONDITION Microwave \$225. 806-549-3110.

**ZERO ACHES,** NASA memory foam mattress set. List \$1599. Sell \$399. Warranty. 806-549-3110.

## On the Farm

**FOR SALE,** fence posts, 8" diameter, treated wood, 70" tall. Call (432)935-6699 or (623)606-5898

## Pets

**FREE** to good home, sweet lap cat. 2 year old female Calico. Declawed, spayed and current on shots. After 5p.m. please call (432)263-3400.

**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

## Real Estate for Rent

**104 WEST 13th.** Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. \$300.00 month or \$550.00 with All Bills Paid, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

**BUILDING FOR** Rent on West Hwy. 80. Great for storing your RV, boat, etc. or use for a workshop. Call 432-935-6699 or 623-606-5898.

## Real Estate for Rent

## South Plains Apts

**Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms**  
New Appliances & Fixtures  
Dish Network w/ 300+ Channels incl 34 Latino  
Hi-Speed Wireless Internet  
Picnic/BQ Area  
New Laundry & Vending  
Ask about our Move-In Special  
3304 W. Hwy. 80  
(432) 714-4840

**1111 SETTLES,** 1950 square feet. 3/2, large living, dining and breakfast area. No pets. Credit check. \$725 monthly. First and last months rent. Call (432)816-9484.

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

**2210 LYNN.** 3 Bedroom 2 bath, garage, fenced yard. One year old. No indoor pool. \$650. month plus deposit. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE** at 421 Main for rent. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. includes executive offices, reception area, file storage and break room. Call (432)263-7676.

**FOR LEASE** 207 North Gregg. 40x100 Building with offices. \$600.00 Month plus deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

**FOR LEASE** 40x120 Building with 2 offices, 4 over head doors on 2 acres, fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

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

**VERY NICE** 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home for rent. Many recent upgrades with central AC and Heat. \$550 plus deposit. Call Yolanda at 432-267-2771.

**WANT TO** rent in Big Spring. Three bedroom house. Two adults and one child. \$850.-\$950. range. Have references. (432)352-9721.

## Real Estate for Sale

**1518 VINES.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas. Owner finance available. Call for information, Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty (432)213-2842.

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

**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.

**ABSOLUTELY DARLING** 1211 Lloyd, \$44,900.00 OBO. Owner Financing Available. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully decorated. Just waiting for the right family. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

**CUTE LITTLE** Cottage w/backyard playhouse. \$39,900 OBO. 1108 Mulberry. Owner Finance Available. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

**OWNER FINANCE** 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring. Newly Remodeled. \$3,950.00 Down, flexible terms. Must Sell. Call 866-999-8499.

**SMALL PARTIAL** land for sale. 5 miles south of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance or Texas Veterans. (432)263-8785.

## Real Estate for Sale

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

## Vehicles

**(2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans**  
**\$9,500 Off!**  
**Bob Brock Ford**  
500 W. 11th 267-7121

**1981 FIAT Spider** Convertible. Must sale do to Military Transfer to Cuba. 80% Complete. Good running car. Needs little work. \$4500 OBO. Call (432)394-4352.

**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.

**2006 MITSUBISHI** extended cab pickup. Has CD player and aluminum tool box. \$200 down and take over payments of \$508.68. Call (432)935-6276.

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## ANSWERS

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## Legals

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed proposals until 4:00 P.M., January 10, 2007, for the following area:

**Auctioneer Services**  
Specifications and proposal documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Proposals will be received in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District until the above listed date and time. Proposals received after the above deadline will be returned unopened. Proposals will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on January 18, 2007, at 5:15 P.M., at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. #5189 December 22 & 29, 2007

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive proposals for the following services through the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) until February 1, 2007:

**Internet Services**  
**Local Telephone Service**  
**Long Distance Telephone Service**  
**Cellular Telephone Service**  
**WAN Service**  
Specifications and documents may be secured from the school district's Technology Coordinator, Corey Wood, located at 3600 East 11th Place Ext., Big Spring, Texas 79720, phone number (432)264-4155. The goods and services requested must qualify for E-Rate funding under the guidelines of the School and Libraries Division (SLD). Vendors submitting responses for the goods and services that qualify for E-Rate funding must be in full compliance with SLD requirements and follow all the policies and procedures set forth by the SLD for a service provider. The eligibility and purchases requested above are contingent upon funding from the E-rate program. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. #5203 December 29, 2006 and January 19, 2007

Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss?  
**Read!**

## EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

## BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Taurus moon is pleasure-centered, and Capricorn's influence over the sun and Mercury finds the most practical ways to fulfill the quest for gratification. So while the message is

to eat, drink and be merry, Capricorn adds the caveat — don't eat too much, drink anything strong or laugh at anyone's expense!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's been a battle going on in your work life: product vs. process. The connection clicks today. You can't consistently get a fine product if you're unhappy with how you got it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your vision is evolving. What you once saw as a tedious task is now an opportunity for you to

stretch your spirit, increase dignity and practice integrity. Perhaps a Libra person is involved in the change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do your best to avoid conformity. But sometimes conforming is the best choice. If you're asked to follow the rules today, you can do it without taking things personally. The big picture is grand.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Like the shape-shifting moon that's your ruling body, you're always able to reinvent yourself. Others see you in a new and flattering light. Accept your props with grace — you earned them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Karma zings back in fast motion — and it's so obvious that you'd have to try hard not to get the message. You can always tell what you're giving judging by what comes back. Adjust accordingly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in the mood to reach unprecedented heights. You see the

obstacles in your way, and all signs are go. The question is: Who are you going to take along on this flight of fancy?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because all humans share the same DNA, no matter where we come from or what we look like, we're all from the same race. Remembering this helps you find a way to get along with that incorrigible someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An old story has a new slant. You're smarter this time around and won't make the same mistake twice. Everything culminates tonight. Enjoy the finale with a Leo person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As a fire sign, you'd rather take a chance and blaze a new path than follow that same old narrow road. And when people say, "What about plan B?" you can laugh.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some accuse you of being a workaholic. What they don't under-

stand is that your business is more than a moneymaking venture. It's also a way to get more out of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may be aware of others' dark secrets or personal business, but you were never the type to gossip. You do your best to understand what makes people tick and use the information to be more sympathetic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your responsibilities get weighty. Relatives offer whatever kind of support is easiest for them — that is, if you ask. Unfortunately, hinting probably won't be enough in this astral climate.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: It's the perfect time to mentally design your dream relationship for 2007. ARIES: Libra is your touchstone. Scorpio challenges everything you believe about love. TAURUS: Activities that require courage will build your self-esteem and have a positive impact on your love life.

GEMINI: An equally ambitious partner can keep up with you and understand your drive to succeed. CANCER: Be open to seeing someone you've known forever in a brand new light. LEO: Sagittarius and Aries rev up your vitality. VIRGO: Your awareness of who you really are and what you really want is your single most attractive quality. LIBRA: You're willing to share an adventure, even if it means appearing silly and out of place in the process. SCORPIO: Let natural curiosity drive you toward people with potential. And trust that people who are worthwhile will see the potential in you. SAGITTARIUS: Practice your talent and find love in the process. CAPRICORN: It's not necessarily comforting to know that you are the center of someone's world. It's a lot of responsibility, too! AQUARIUS: Candid discussion leads to a change — new couples could decide to take it to the

next level. PISCES: New dates will be more impressed by imagination than they will by how much money you spend.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Leo and Pisces people have a special intimacy now. Pisces may feel overshadowed by Leo, but this is only an illusion. Pisces actually has more power because he or she can make Leo go all soft. The passion is absolutely rare if these two can cut through their own self-consciousness and truly give to the other person. This weekend features serious conversation about commitment.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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## Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am 15 years old. When I was in eighth grade, I started dating a sophomore in high school. I thought it was the coolest thing to do. I mean, words cannot express. My parents knew I talked to upperclassmen, but they didn't know we were dating. I never thought people would make such a big deal out of it. Now that I am in high school, though, I have a reputation, and a bad one at that.

When I broke up with the guy, he started a whole bunch of lies about me, saying we had sex, and it made me look like the biggest slut. Just to make it clear, I never did anything with him, because I didn't think it was right.

Every time I start to like a guy, he tells me he's heard stuff about me. Most of them say they don't think they can date someone who's had more experience than they've had. Which I haven't, but they don't believe it.

What do I do when I like a guy and he turns me down because of my "past"? How do I stop picking losers? — Young and Confused

Dear Young: When an eighth-grader dates a high school boy, others assume it is a sexual relationship. And at any age, if you pick the wrong guy, he can damage your reputation in order to protect his status, as you have sadly discovered.

Some of the guys who tell you they don't have experience may be looking for you to supply it, and when you protest that you didn't have sex with High School Boy, they are no longer interested. Time and exemplary behavior will repair your reputation, and boys who are worthwhile will treat you with respect. Hang in there. Things will get better.

Dear Annie: "Katie" and I have been friends for 25 years. We've always gotten along well and have been each other's support through many hard times. However, as guilty as I feel saying this, if I have to listen one more time to her whining and crying about how hard her life is, I'm going to scream.

Katie does this every time we talk. "Why did my husband leave? I'm 56 years old, no one will ever want me. My kids don't respect me. My job is horrible." Then the crying starts. She's a broken

KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

record that's been scratching for 10 years.

I have completely run out of things to say to comfort her, and regardless of what I say, she becomes angry that I'm not supportive enough. I once mentioned she should try counseling and possibly medication, and she about bit my head off.

Maybe she will see herself in this letter and snap out of it. — Katie's Friend

Dear Friend: Chronic complainers need more sympathy and attention than any friend can provide. You can listen to Katie without comment and allow her to vent, you can tell her she obviously is too depressed to enjoy life and you care enough to hope she will talk to a professional, or you can be honest and say her constant kvetching is not an endearing trait. If she bites your head off again,

there's nothing more you can do.

Dear Annie: You told "Worried" that you wonder why he knows so much about his girlfriend's menstrual cycle. I, too, learned all too soon about my girlfriend's menstrual cycle when she didn't show up for college classes. Told by her roommate that she had cramps, I was worried and suggested she see a doctor. Bingo! Very soon I learned more than I wanted or needed to know, all without my asking.

In time, we married. Now I expect to know lots about our granddaughters' menstrual cycles just as I was told about our daughters'. Apparently the generous sharing of such detailed information is intended to help us males cope, whether we want it or not. — Been There

Dear Been There: While it's personal information, there's no reason husbands and fathers should be kept in the dark. Consider it medical training.

Dear Annie: I am a 23-year-old woman, finishing my last semester at college. I have made some valuable friendships during these last few years, but I cannot tell my friends everything.

I have Crohn's disease and have had an ileostomy bag since I was 13. In

other words, I have no colon and I poop into a bag on my abdomen. I almost died before this surgery was done, I was so ill. To make matters worse, this drastic surgery was by no means a cure. My Crohn's can, and has, returned.

As you can imagine, this is hard to talk about, especially with potential dating partners. I have had long periods of time when I literally could not even look at my waist in a mirror. I have a great support group at the United Ostomy Association ([uoa.org](http://uoa.org)), but I have not yet been able to figure out how to tell people about my condition without grossing them out completely.

You would think, after 10 years, I would know what to say, but it's never gotten any easier. Any insight you can give would be very appreciated. — Nina in New York

Dear Nina: We sympathize with how difficult this must be for you. You do not need to give the details of your illness to friends. You can simply tell them that you have a chronic illness involving your digestive tract. When you meet someone with whom you may become intimate, however, you will need to talk about the specifics. Be honest without being overly graphic, and

approach the subject with as much confidence as you can muster.

There are Internet dating sites for people with Crohn's, IBS and other such conditions at [www.irritatedbeingsingle.com](http://www.irritatedbeingsingle.com); [www.meetanostomate.com](http://www.meetanostomate.com); and [www.dating.crohnszone.org](http://www.dating.crohnszone.org). (Take the same precautions meeting people at these sites as you would any other.) For additional help and information, try the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America at 1-800-932-2423 ([www.cffa.org](http://www.cffa.org)).

Dear Annie: Our son, a single, well-employed homeowner in his late 30s, lives about a two-hour drive from us. If we visit him, it is expected that we will get a hotel at our expense, even though he has a three-bedroom home. We alternate paying for meals at restaurants. When he visits us, he expects to get our spare bedroom, plus all meals, either home-cooked or in restaurants.

When I tell him his hospitality needs improvement, I get only a blank stare in response. His mother doesn't want to cause a fuss and is content with the status quo. Any comment? — Hotel Dad

Dear Hotel Dad: Children often consider their parents' home their own, so it doesn't surprise

us that your son expects free room and board when he visits. It would be nice if he reciprocated, but you can't force him. You can turn the tables and insist he stay in a hotel, but your wife is not likely to go along. Try to be content that he pays for half your meals. Frankly, that's more than a lot of kids do.

Dear Annie: I read your response to "Indianapolis" regarding gifts for people who don't really need one. I would like to suggest that givers consider a donation to charity in the person's honor. At my age, I am regularly invited to 50th wedding celebrations, late second marriages, etc., and find that the honorees are quite pleased to know a donation has been made. Heaven knows, they don't need another set of glassware. — C. from Tallahassee, Fla.

Dear C.: Thanks for a great suggestion — and just in time for the holidays.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

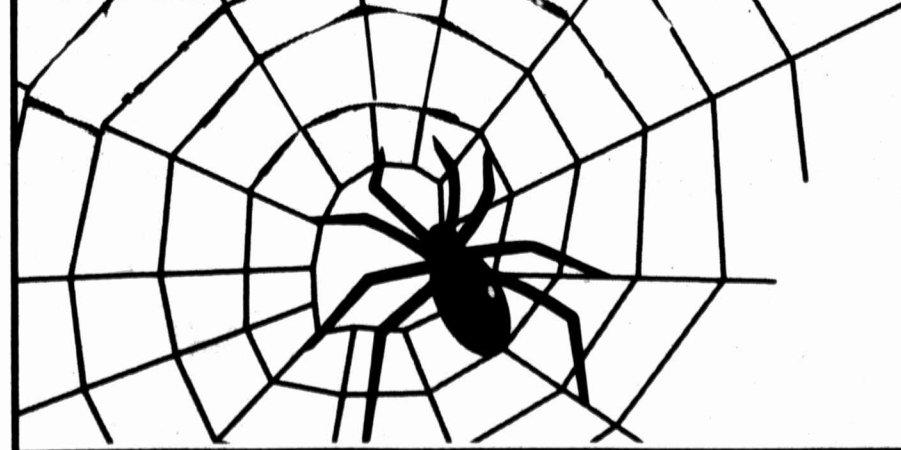
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## The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

Advertise to keep the spider away from your door.

Call today

(432) 263-7331



## FRIDAY

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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6	News (CC)	News	Heridos de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Vida de Blanco	Be a Millionaire	Raymond	John Hagee	News	Dirty Jobs		CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Han, Montana	College Basketball	South Carolina	Eureka (CC)
7	Entertainment	Funnest Home	La Faa Mas Bella	Movie: The Runaway	Ghost Whisperer	Maria	Dateline NBC (CC)	Fing King	Updates/Israel	Wash. Week	Man vs. Wild: The Rockies	Movie: Gothic	CSI: Crime Scene	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Lockdown	Han, Montana	College Basketball	College Football	Eureka (CC)
8	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	Becker (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Amor Mio Amores	Las Vegas (CC)	Movie: Ghost	Light of the Southwest	Window to the Sea (CC)	Man vs. Wild	UFC Unleashed	Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers	Movie: The Fifth Element	Cometview (CC)	Movie: Freddy Friday (CC)	College Basketball	Champs Sports Bowl	Eureka (CC)
9	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show	News	Not-Telemundo	News	Funnest Home	The Hour of Healing	The Journey of Sacagawea	I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	Movie: Deep	James Fox	Zack & Cody	College Basketball	Maryland vs. Purdue (CC)	Eureka (CC)
10	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show	News	Not-Telemundo	News	Funnest Home	The Hour of Healing	The Journey of Sacagawea	I Shouldn't Be Alive (CC)	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	Movie: Deep	James Fox	Zack & Cody	College Basketball	Maryland vs. Purdue (CC)	Eureka (CC)
11	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	Incognito	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Late Late	Letterman	Late Late
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Guerra y Algo	My Wife Kids	Show	The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien	Futurama	Movie: Scary									

## DENNIS THE MENACE



\*If I still worked for the postal service, I'd stamp this kid "RETURN TO SENDER."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Could you click on this page and read me the next page?"

## HAGAR



## BLONDIE



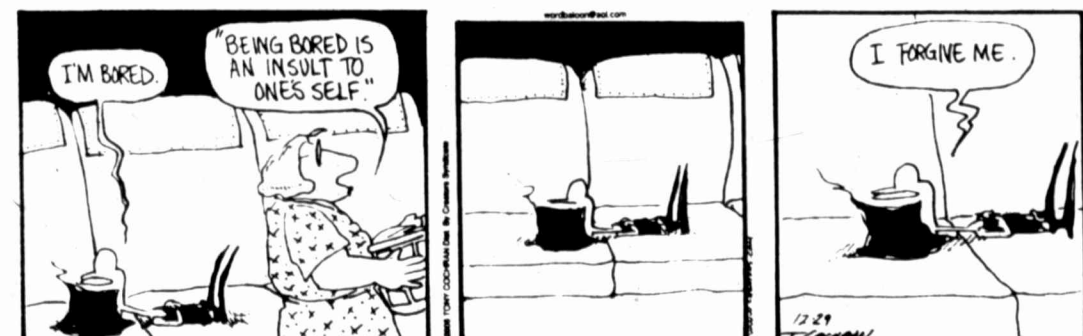
## BC



## WIZARD OF ID



## AGNES



## HI AND LOIS



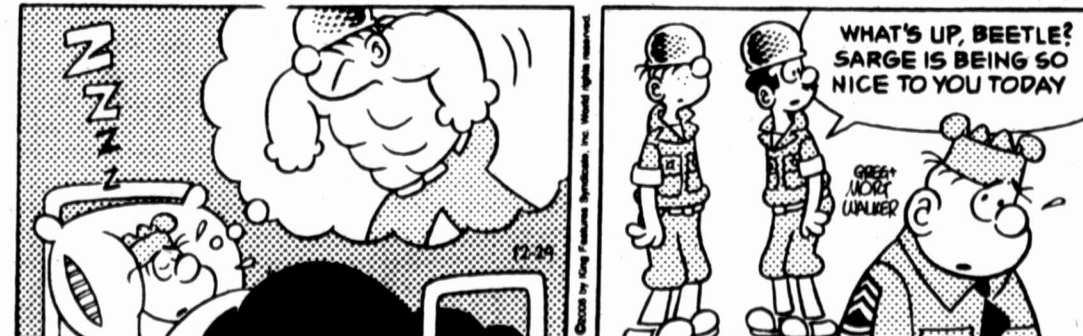
## THE OTHER COAST



## SNUFFY SMITH



## BEETLE BAILEY



## This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2006. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 29, 1916 (according to the New Style calendar; Dec. 16th by the Old Style), Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who had wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was murdered by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

On this date: In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Boston.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm

them. In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

In 1989, playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia by the country's Federal Assembly, becoming the first noncommunist to attain the post in more than four decades.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Inga Swenson is 74. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 72. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 69. Actor Jon Voight is 68. Country singer Ed Bruce is 67. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 60. Actor Ted Danson is 59. Actor Jon Polito is 56. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 47. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 45. Actor-

comedian Mastro Clark is 40. Actor Jason Gould is 40. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 37. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 36. Actor Jude Law is 34. Rapper Pimp C is 33. Actor Mekhi Phifer is 32. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 31. Actor Diego Luna is 27. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 23.

Thought for Today: "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." — Rachel Carson, American biologist (1907-1964).

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Answer to previous puzzle

SAGS	SCALP	ACTS
PURE	LOUIE	TOIL
ATIT	ANDRE	TATI
ROTARY	DIAL	ASHE
SOSO	LITER	
ARTIS	RESTING	
LAUDED	LOOP	USE
MIRE	OPINE	BAIL
ANT	PLEA	SCORNS
LOUTISH	LODGE	
ADEPT	UMOM	
WIDE	IVORY	TOWER
AXON	RILLE	OILY
RIVE	ALIEN	ERIE
DEER	QANDA	DYES

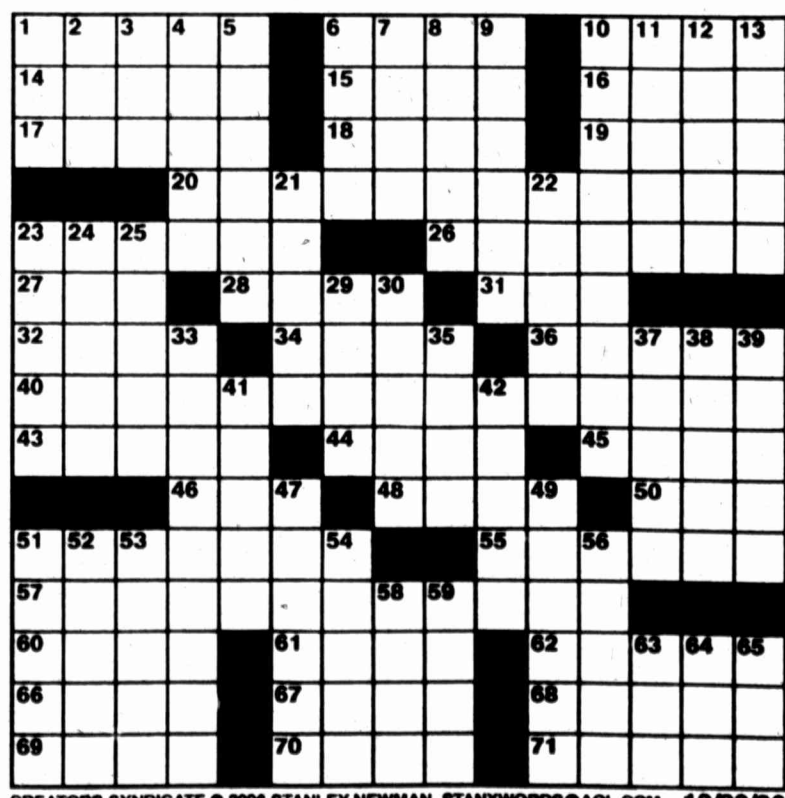
## Newsday Crossword

COMMON BOND by Doug Peterson

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Barnum's elephant  
6 Sketch  
10 Study all night  
14 On the whole  
15 Sioux City's state  
16 Opera that premiered in Cairo  
17 Spoil  
18 Practice fisticuffs  
19 One-sided contest  
20 Mir visitor  
23 Curls one's lip  
26 Attribute of Abe  
27 Wisecracker  
28 Conductor Klemperer  
31 Fleur-de-  
32 Need relief  
34 57 Across, e.g.  
36 Keep busy  
40 Early Hamlet venue  
43 Andrew Wyeth model  
44 Mentally sound  
45 Microwave  
46 DX divided by V  
48 Be specific about  
50 Scouting unit  
51 Trade prohibition  
55 Boots out  
57 Cycling event  
60 Trace  
61 Spots for soaks  
62 Satellite circuit  
66 Sacramento's Arena
- DOWN**
- 67 Mother of Horus  
68 Nary a soul  
69 Gas in some signs  
70 Quiz  
71 Part of 20, 40, or 57 Across
- 10** Type of coordinate system  
**11** Knee-slappers  
**12** Fully developed  
**13** Sailor's chum  
**21** Jetsons' dog  
**22** Join forces  
**23** Mowed strip  
**24** Recess  
**25** Sister of John and Lionel  
**29** Page-layout components  
**30** Where the buoys are  
**33** Supermarket container  
**35** Sicilian volcano  
**37** Piano exercise
- 38** Family Matters kid  
**39** Hammer ends  
**41** Scottish nobleman  
**42** Macho guys  
**47** "No need to explain"  
**49** They're out now  
**51** Hawke of Training Day  
**52** Silk fabric  
**53** Con game  
**54** Valuable  
**56** '90s presidential candidate  
**58** MLB stats  
**59** prof.  
**63** Fluffy scarf  
**64** Gerund ender  
**65** Summer shirt



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