



Hangar 25 project to provide Valentine's for active military

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Everybody loves receiving Valentines. And if Hangar 25 Air Museum officials have their way, troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan will receive a lot of Valentines this year.

The air museum will hold its first-ever Valentines for Troops Youth Support Initiative, which

will give area youth the chance to make Valentine's Day cards and videos for troops stationed in combat zones.

The event will be held on two days — Jan. 13 and Jan. 20 — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the museum.

Individuals, schools, scouting or other youth groups unable to attend are encouraged to make cards at home and send them to the museum.

All items will be mailed Jan. 22, Wallace said.

"This is something new for us," said Heather Wallace, museum administrator. "We have to make the cards and videos in January to make sure they to the troops in time for Valentines."

Wallace said museum officials decided to break with the crowd in showing support to U.S. troops.



Wallace

"We were going to do something for Christmas, but decided not to," she said. "It seems like everybody does something for Christmas... and the other holidays kind of get overlooked."

The program shows youth they can make a difference in the world around them, Wallace

said.

The Valentines will be sent to units with Big Spring members.

"That way, this will be coming from home, so to speak," Wallace said. "So, any support we can get from their families, the better. If there's a soldier we don't know about, please get their addresses to us."

For more information, contact the museum at 264-1999.

Retired ump to revisit local VAMC

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

He's screamed and yelled with the best of them, but it's retired American League umpire Larry Barnett's softer and more humorous side area veterans are expected to see Wednesday.

Barnett, who umpired four World Series before his retirement from baseball in 1999, is expected to meet with veterans at the Big Spring VA Medical Center at 1 p.m., part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) VA Voluntary Service Program.

According to DAV Chapter 47 Commander Ed Meiser, Barnett has appeared at the Big Spring facility in the past.

"I met Larry at a DAV National Convention several years ago," said Meiser. "He's really involved with the DAV and helping veterans in general. I think what he's doing, coming back to the Big Spring VA Medical Center and entertaining the veterans, is just tremendous. He volunteers a lot of his time for projects like this."

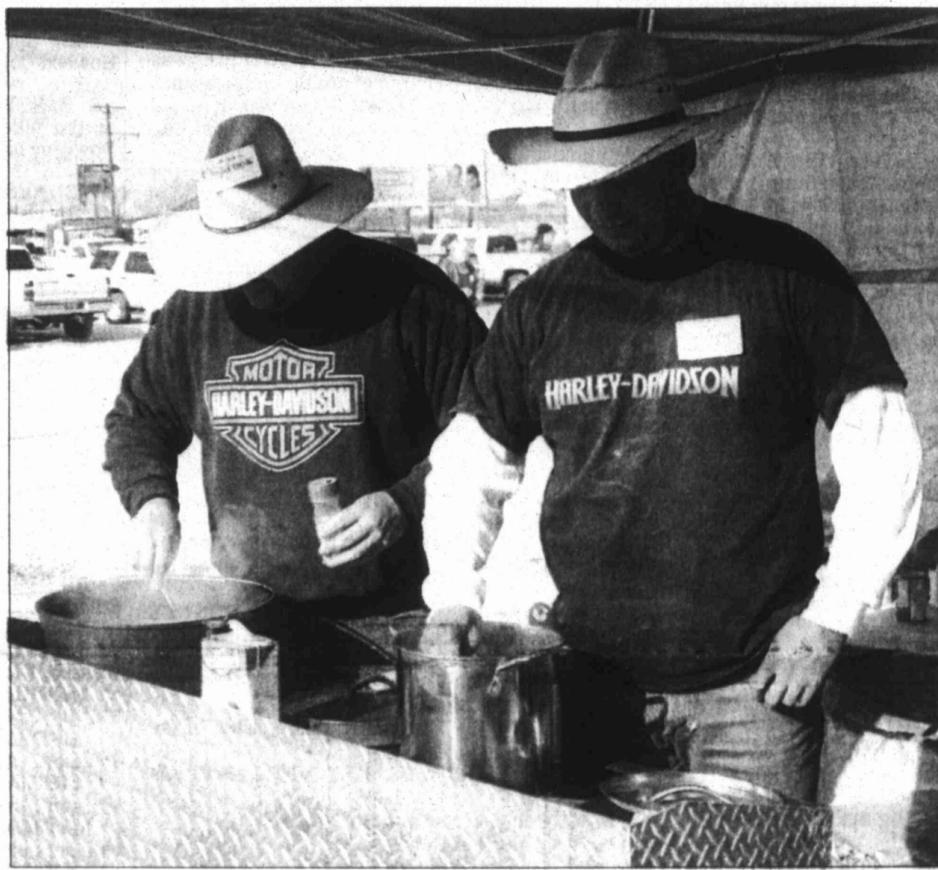
Barnett, who travels the nation visiting VA Medical Centers, said the stories he has to share with veterans are just a small slice of the humor that can arise when adults get together to play a game.

"The most interesting argument we have is when a manager or player stands this close to your nose, screaming as loud as he can with a mouth full of chewing tobacco," said Barnett. "You can imagine what you look like after that."

Barnett, who has been visiting hospitalized veterans since 1977, said the visits give him a sense of accomplishment.

"I feel warm inside when I leave a hospital," said Barnett. "If I've made

See BARNETT, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Mike Calvio, left, and Mike Ramirez prepare their food before the start of judging at the fifth annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 Chili Cookoff held Saturday. The event benefits the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund.

Mild temperatures, more cooks make Eagles cookoff a success

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Even the weather decided to give the fifth annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 Chili Cookoff a helping hand.

Milder than expected temperatures and a record number of cooks combined to make this year's event an unqualified success, supporters said.

"We had 27 teams enter,"

said Cecil Bynum, one of the event's organizers. "That's the most we've ever had... We just appreciate these people coming out and helping to raise money for kids."

Proceeds from the cookoff benefit the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund, which provides school supplies and other financial needs of children receiving services from WTCMHMR.

While the event was long on fun and short on actual competition, at least one cooking team was taking things seriously — at least, somewhat seriously.

Mike Calvio and Mike Ramirez are old hands at the benefit cookoff game, entering several such events a year.

"We'll cook chili, brisket,

See COOKOFF, Page 3A

Stem cell discovery met with optimism

By PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

Stem cell researchers reacted with enthusiasm and reservations to a report that scientists have found stem cells in amniotic fluid, a discovery that would allow them to sidestep the controversy over destroying embryos for research.

Researchers at Wake Forest University and Harvard University reported Sunday that the stem cells they drew from amniotic fluid donated by pregnant women hold much the same promise as embryonic stem cells.

They reported they were able to extract the stem cells from the fluid, which cushions babies in the womb, without harm to mother or fetus and turn their discovery into several different tissue cell types, including brain, liver and bone.

But Dr. Anthony Atala, head of Wake Forest's regenerative medicine institute and the senior researcher on the project, said the scientists still don't know exactly how many different cell types can be made from the stem cells found in amniotic fluid. The scientists said preliminary tests in patients are years away.

The cells from amniotic fluid "can clearly generate a broad range of important cell types, but

See RESEARCH, Page 3A

Pelosi: Democrats won't give Bush a 'blank check' for troop increase

By HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is cautioning President Bush to think twice before proposing a troop increase in Iraq, suggesting the new Democratic-controlled Congress could deny him the funding.

But the Senate's top Republican said he believed that Bush will get the money he needs and cast doubt that Democrats would — or could — block him. "Congress is incapable of micromanaging the tactics in the war," said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Bush was putting the finishing touches on a revised war strategy he planned to announce this week — perhaps on Wednesday. In addition to a troop increase, the proposal could provide more money for jobs and reconstruction programs in Iraq.

In issuing her warning, Pelosi

made clear that her party supported boosting the overall military size "to protect the American people against any threats to our interests" and would not cut off money for troops already in Iraq.

But Bush will not get a blank check for an open-ended commitment there, she said. Any

funding he seeks for additional forces in Iraq — Bush's expected plan could send as many as 20,000 more U.S. troops — will get the "harshest scrutiny."

"The burden is on the president to justify any additional resources for a mission," said

See BUSH, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B

Features 5A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



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WOULD-BE THIEF FOILED

DUBLIN, N.H. (AP) — A would-be thief found himself foiled, under gunfire — and without pants.

Police said a homeowner discovered an intruder one night two weeks ago.

The homeowner pulled a gun, fired what police described as warning shots, and told the intruder to shed his pants and shoes.

The two scuffled and the burglar ran from the home, barefoot and pantless.

The homeowner called police, who swarmed the area with search dogs. Police are still looking for the man, and it's not clear if anything was stolen.

The homeowner wasn't hurt.

PRODIGY NEEDS ASSISTANCE

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP) — Terence Candell Jr. works hard in college. He gets decent grades. But the California State University-East Bay sophomore needs to call his father to get a ride home.

Terence is only 11 years old.

The precocious Oakland resident started college when he was 10, hoping to become an astronaut. Now he's more interested in mass communications.

Terence was doing high-school level work by age 6 and would get in trouble at school because he was bored, he says. He started attending a private academy founded by his father in East Oakland and took the SAT when he was 9.

MASTER GARDENER CLASS

A Howard County Master Gardener class being offered, starting this month.

An orientation meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Howard County Library basement. During the meeting, potential students will learn what all the course entails.

Students become knowledgeable in soils and fertility, entomology, plant diseases, landscape design, native plants, xeriscape and a lot more. Guest speakers will include doctors and Extension agents who specialize in entomology, plant pathology and horticulture.

There is a fee of \$75. Class days are Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Obituaries

Wayne DeVaney



Wayne DeVaney, 77, of Lubbock, formerly of Coahoma, died Jan. 6, 2007. Wayne was born Nov. 16, 1929, in Coahoma to Ida Mae and Claude Truitt DeVaney. In 1946 he graduated from Coahoma High and in 1958 he received his masters degree in business from Texas Tech. Wayne was an Army veteran of the Korean War achieving rank of master sergeant. Wayne owned B-D Drilling and retired in 1998.

Survivors include his wife of 21 years, Jan DeVaney of Lubbock; son, Dennis DeVaney and daughters, Alicia Deutchmann and Tami DeVaney all of New Orleans; step-daughters, Marcie Gryder, Cherry Burk-Love, Connie Cagle and Tina Bland and step-sons, Robert and David Cagle all from Lubbock; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service will be held at Buffalo Springs Lake Church Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jack Thompson officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sanders Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials to Meals on Wheels of Lubbock or Texas Boys Ranch.

Willie Marie Christenson

Willie Marie "Billie" Christenson, 87, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, in a local nursing home. Graveside services will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham, minister at 14th & Main Church of Christ, officiating. The family will receive friends Monday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born Nov. 3, 1919, in Perryville, Ark. and married Russell L. "Chris" Christenson June 3, 1944, in Coleman. He preceded her in death Nov. 15, 1994.

Billie was a member of 14th & Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include one sister, Lometta Bell of Odessa and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials be made to the 14th & Main Church of Christ, 1401 Main Street, Big Spring 79720.

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

Ruth Grantham



Ruth Grantham, 87, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2006, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born May 31, 1919, in Howard County to Jenny and Dick Rigby. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She married Emmett Grantham, March 11, 1940, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Dec. 8, 1985. She was a beautician in Big Spring for over 70 years and was a member of Baptist Temple Church.

She is survived by one sister, Odie Thompson of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother; one sister; and one nephew.

The family suggests memorials to Baptist Temple Church, 400 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720 or Home Hospice, 1111 E. 7th, Big Spring 79720.

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

Rebecca "Becky" Cannon



Rebecca "Becky" Cannon, 59, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jess Colegrove officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Becky was born Feb. 5, 1947, in Beckley, W.Va. to Waneta and Paris Mitchem. She was an RN at the Veterans Administration Medical Center for 12 years. Becky owned the Water Shoppe for 11 years. She enjoyed shopping on TV and collecting roosters. "Nana" especially enjoyed her grandchildren. Becky had been a resident of Big Spring since 1982 and was a Baptist.

She is survived by one son, Lee Hancock and his wife, Cristie of Big Spring; one daughter, Sonya Faye Hernandez and her husband, Michael of Big Spring; one sister, Sherry Faye Adams and her husband, Henry W. of Big Spring; one brother, David Mitchem and his wife, Peggy of Big Spring; seven grandchildren, Jara Hester, Tyler Hester, Cameron Hancock, Kaitlyn Hancock, Hannah Hancock, Stevi Madry, and Mia Hernandez; three nephews, John M. Mudd, David Mitchem and Ricky Mitchem; and one niece, Debbie Franklin.

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

Paid obituary

Laura Sutphen

Laura Sutphen, 87, of San Angelo, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, in a San Angelo care facility. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

• **PAUL VIERA JR.**, 21, of 1907 S. Main, was arrested Saturday on a local warrant and a charge of public intoxication.

• **SHEILA EISENBACH**, 23, transient, was arrested Saturday on charges of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct - language.

• **GABRIEL MARTINEZ**, 27, of Mesquite, was arrested Saturday on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.

• **ADELAIDO MARTINEZ III**, 55, of 2110 Runnels, was arrested Saturday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.

• **THOMAS WELCH**, 36, of 3305 Maple, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **RANDY RAY MIER**, 29, of 1501 Runnels, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ADRIENNE REYNOLDS**, 17, of 301 W. Third, was arrested Sunday on a charge of failure to identify.

• **MICHAEL RAY LEWIS**, 45, of Arizona, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **RICKEY HOKES**, 46, of 1404 Wood, was arrested Saturday on a local citation and a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **GAMBINO ROSA**, 23, of Midland, was arrested Sunday on a local capias warrant.

• **KRISTEN FLORES**, 26, of 2505 March, was arrested Sunday on a local citation.

• **ALVIN ALLEN**, 42, of Dallas, was arrested Sunday on an Austin warrant and three local warrants.

• **CHRISTOPHER GONZALES**, 32, of Coahoma, was arrested Sunday on two local capias warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of Baylor.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 2300 block of Wasson.

- in the 1200 block of 11th place.

- in the 2500 block of Wasson.

- in the 900 block of Willia.

• **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 4800 block of Highway 80.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell.

• **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 700 block of Seventh Street.

- in the 2200 block of Lynn.

- in the 2500 block of March.

• **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported:

- in the 500 block of Westover Road.

- in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.

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

• **AUSTIN GEORGE SHERRILL**, 52, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.

• **ASHLEY DAWN SMITH**, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license, minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and violation of a promise to appear.

• **MANUEL ESCAMILLA JR.**, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated - open container and bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **VERONICA AVELINE CAMPOS**, 21, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **JESUS GARCIA**, 33, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **DONNIE GLENN WREN**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **RICKEY EARL HOKES**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ADELAIDO MARTINEZ**, 55, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Barnes. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4200 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of East FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Donley. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Ent. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Ridgeroad. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 13000 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-23-33-43-46-54.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$22 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 12-16-20-26-33.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$33,554.

Winning ticket sold in: Caney City.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-8-9

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Sunday...

Two injured at off-road track

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Two unidentified off-road riders were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center Sunday afternoon following an accident at the Outback Off-road track on West Interstate Highway 20.

According to Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen, Big Spring Emergency Medical Services received a call from the track, located approximately 13 miles west of Big Spring, at 4:26 p.m. Sunday.

Two unidentified victims were transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where one was transported by helicopter to a

Lubbock hospital, according to Jensen. According to officials with the Howard County Sheriff's Department, no accident report was taken by the sheriff's office or the Department of Public Safety following the incident because it occurred on private property.

According to unofficial reports, the injuries sustained by the two riders were the result of a rollover accident.

No other information concerning the accident or the condition of the victims was available at press time.

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

RESEARCH

Continued from Page 1A

they may not do as many tricks as embryonic stem cells," said Dr. Robert Lanza, chief scientist at the stem cell company Advanced Cell Technology. "Either way, I think this work represents a giant step forward for stem cell research."

Dr. George Daley, a Harvard University stem cell researcher, said the finding raises the possibility that someday expectant parents can freeze amnio stem cells for future tissue replacement in a sick child without fear of immune rejection.

Nonetheless, Daley said, the discovery shouldn't be used as a replacement for human embryonic stem

cell research.

"While they are fascinating subjects of study in their own right, they are not a substitute for human embryonic stem cells, which allow scientists to address a host of other interesting questions in early human development," said Daley, who began work last year to clone human embryos to produce stem cells.

Atala said the research reported in the scientific journal Nature Biotechnology expands far beyond similar work.

At a heart research conference in November, Swiss researcher Simon Hoerstrup said he managed to turn amniotic fluid stem cells into heart cells that could be grown into replacement valves. Hoerstrup has yet to publish his work in a scientific journal.

tific journal.

"Our hope is that these cells will provide a valuable resource for tissue repair and for engineered organs as well," Atala said.

It took Atala's team some seven years of research to determine the cells they found were truly stem cells that "can be used to produce a broad range of cells that may be valuable for therapy."

Atala said the new research has found even more promising stem cells with the potential to turn into many more medically useful replacement parts.

"We have other cell lines cooking," Atala said. The hallmark of human embryonic stem cells, which are created in the first days after concep-

Tonight—Clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Northeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Tuesday—Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon.

Tuesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night—

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the lower 40s.

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

Thursday night—Mostly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Friday night—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the lower 30s.

Saturday—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Much colder. Highs in the mid 30s.

Saturday night—Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

William "Willie" Mendoza, Jr., 63, died Thursday. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Rebecca "Becky" Cannon, 59, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Noe Blanco, 46, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruth Grantham, 87, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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tion, is the ability to turn into any of the more than 220-cell types that make up the human body. Researchers are hopeful they can train these primordial cells to repair damaged organs in need of healthy cells.

However, many people, including President Bush, oppose the destruction of embryos for any reason. The Bush administration has restricted federal funding for the embryo work since 2001, leading many scientists to search for alternative stem cell sources.

The advance is the latest in the so-called regenerative medicine field that has sprung from Atala's lab in Winston-Salem, N.C.

In April, Atala and his colleagues rebuilt bladders for seven young

patients using live tissue grown in the lab.

In the latest work, Atala's team extracted a small number of stem cells swimming among the many other cell types in the amniotic fluid.

One of the more promising aspects of the research is that some of the DNA of the amnio stem cells contained Y chromosomes, which means the cells came from the babies rather than the pregnant moms.

BARNETT

Continued from Page 1A

three veterans happy, I feel like I've accomplished something important. I might only have enough time to shake their hands and exchange a few quips before I have to move on to the next bed. But you can see in their eyes how happy

they are just to have someone visit them."

One of Barnett's favorite stories revolves around an exchange he had with catcher Thurman Munson at Yankee Stadium in New York. Munson had disputed nearly every ball and strike Barnett called, and by the third inning the umpire had heard enough.

"I went around to the front of home plate and as I bent over to dust it off, I said, 'I think if you don't shut your mouth, I'm going to bite your head right off your shoulders,'" Barnett recalled with amusement. "He looked at me and smiled and said, 'LARRY, if you did that, you'd have more brains in your stomach than you do in your head.'"

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

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COOKOFF

Continued from Page 1A

whatever," Calvio said. "We like the camaraderie of these events. We get together with good friends, good food and

good drinks."

The two Mikes, usually compete with two other friends, but were cooking short-handed Saturday. Even so, they admitted they wanted to earn some bragging rights as the top chili chefs.

"We do take it a little seriously," Ramirez said. "We're very competitive."

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

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

Pelosi, D-Calif. "Congress is ready to use its constitutional authority of oversight to question what is the justification for this spending, what are the results we are receiving." "There's not a carte blanche, a blank check for him to do whatever he wishes there," she added in an interview taped Saturday and broadcast Sunday.

Asked about Pelosi's remarks, White House spokesman Alex Conant said Bush welcomed any ideas on Iraq that "lead to success."

"We're glad the speaker wants us to succeed in Iraq," he said.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Congress has approved about \$500 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan and other terrorism-fighting efforts. The White House is working on its largest-ever appeal for more war funds — a record \$100 billion, at least. It will be submitted along with Bush's Feb. 5 budget.

While leading Democrats reaffirmed their opposition to a troop buildup, several did not

join Pelosi in suggesting it was possible Congress could deny Bush the money for the additional forces.

"I don't want to anticipate that," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

Sen. Joe Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a 2008 presidential candidate, said increasing troops would be a "tragic mistake." But he contended Congress was constitutionally powerless to second-guess Bush's military strategy because lawmakers had voted to authorize the commander in chief to wage war.

"As a practical matter, there's no way to say, 'Mr. President, stop,'" said Biden, D-Del., unless enough congressional Republicans join Democrats in persuading Bush that the strategy is wrong.

Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told Bush in a letter last week that Democrats oppose addi-

tional U.S. forces in Iraq and want him to begin withdrawing in four months to six months American troops already there.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., wrote in Sunday's Washington Post that boosting troops for an indefinite time was necessary to secure peace in the Mideast.

"When we authorized this war, we accepted the responsibility to make sure they could prevail," he wrote. "Even greater than the costs incurred thus far and in the future are the catastrophic consequences that would ensure from our failure in Iraq."

Pelosi spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation," McConnell and Hoyer appeared on "Fox News Sunday," and Biden was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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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.

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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
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OTHER VIEWS

Troop surge needs more critical look

President Bush is widely expected to unveil a new strategy for Iraq this week that will include a substantial increase in U.S. troops. If he does, he will face a formidable task in convincing Congress and the public that such a "surge" makes sense. It's well known that many senior American generals, including the outgoing commanders of American forces in Iraq and the Middle East, have resisted a troop increase. The Iraqi government of Nouri al-Maliki appears, at best, lukewarm. Mr. Maliki's own plan, like that of the Iraq Study Group, calls for Iraqi forces to take over most of the fighting in the coming months. A majority of the new Congress, and most Americans, favor a winding down of the U.S. troop commitment, not an escalation.

Mr. Bush's first challenge if he proposes a surge will consequently be to convince the country that the fresh troops would have a vital and achievable mission. Those who have been arguing for the move — notably, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz. and Joseph I. Lieberman, I-Conn. — say the purpose would be to pacify those sectors of Baghdad where sectarian fighting has been most intense. They argue that the main U.S. goal in Iraq, which is to forge a stable and sustainable government, can't be achieved unless there is a minimal level of security in the capital. The Iraqi army isn't yet able to impose order, they say; if the United States doesn't do it, the sectarian warfare will continue to escalate. Without a surge, Mr. McCain and Mr. Lieberman warn, the war will be lost.

This is a serious argument, and the two senators have been principled and even courageous in making it. But several questions give us pause. One is whether the administration and the Army will have the political and logistical capacity to carry out the sort of surge that the senators, and experts at the conservative American Enterprise Institute who support them, say is necessary: Total U.S. forces in Iraq would grow from fewer than 140,000 to as many as 175,000 and remain at that level indefinitely. Such a deployment would place severe new strains on the Army and probably require the alteration of Pentagon rules limiting the deployments of reservists. Some reports have said the administration is considering a more modest increase, both in numbers and in length of deployment. Mr. McCain says that would doom the strategy to failure.

There's no guarantee that the new American forces could stop the mayhem in Baghdad. But let's assume violence did plummet: The logic of the surge assumes that while U.S. soldiers ensured security, Iraq's Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish factions could be pressured into political accord. Yet given their recent behavior, it's hard to believe that the political leadership of any of Iraq's main factions is ready for compromise — or will be during the limited window created by the surge. While Mr. Maliki occasionally speaks of accord, his government has pursued a sectarian agenda. If U.S. troops pacify Baghdad, Shiite politicians in the government may feel less rather than more pressure to compromise.

The constructive alternative to a surge is not the abandonment of Iraq. Instead, it is the fashioning of a strategy that positions the United States to support the country's moderate forces over the long term — not just 18 months but the years that may pass before the country can be stabilized. That means a smaller and sustainable military force that can focus on training and backing up the Iraqi army and fighting al-Qaida, and an aid program that supports the elected government while seeking to marginalize its extremist elements.

The Iraq Study Group, the Maliki government and outgoing U.S. military commanders seemed to converge on this approach. Should he embrace it, President Bush would have a good chance of achieving a broad consensus on Iraq policy, something that is desperately needed if U.S. involvement — and the painful loss of American lives — is going to continue. If he chooses escalation, Mr. Bush will have to work a lot harder than he has before to explain the mission that justifies the risk and to build support in Congress and with the public.

—The Washington Post

Don't be fooled: Old habits die hard

Like Mom and apple pie, change is now a sacred cow. The public demands it, so the pols embrace it. President Bush is changing our Iraq policy. New House Speaker Nancy Pelosi promises Democrats will deliver ethics reform. New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer promises to change everything in Albany except the weather.

All of which prompts my first prediction for 2007: We're going to be disappointed.

Hold on — don't accuse me of being a cynic. I'm what one wag calls a "premature realist."

The changes we're expecting are not what we're going to get. Some promises will be broken. Some will be kept in the letter — a legalistic parsing of the promise — but not in the spirit the public expects. Only a very few will make a noticeable difference.

None of this means the pols are bad people. It's just that they have the bad habit of telling us what we want to hear. Telling us the truth would be inconvenient for them and us. Better we should all pretend to believe the big lie — that we are on the cusp of sweeping change in government and that, as a result, we'll all be on easy street. Pigs might even fly.

If the pols were honest, they would warn us not to expect too

much. Bush, for example, would have to concede that Iraq is looking more and more like a lost cause. His best and brightest, he would tell us, can't figure out either how to impose peace or get the hell out. There may be no "way forward," his placeholder phrase; The Decider would say when he finally decides.

Pols who favor big change, but who also want to be honest about the obstacles, would say there are good reasons why things are as they are. One reason is that most people, at least most important people, want them this way. Elections and opinion polls are great for expressing outrage. But the day-to-day grind of government is a more complete expression of who we are and what we want. The competing agendas and ambitions, the best and worst of human nature, get pureed into a glop of compromises. Slowly the glop moves, never equally spreading its benefits and pains. We have the government we deserve.

Nancy Pelosi proves the point, promising big change while perpetuating the problems. Pelosi, the first female speaker of the House, is turning her rise into a three-day party, with one event a fund-raising concert where tickets cost \$1,000. That's Congress' biggest problem — selling access. And Pelosi begins her term by hanging out a "For Sale" sign.

Even her promise to create an independent ethics panel faces opposition in her own party. Old-line members who spent years

waiting their turn at the trough, and are now ready to chow down, are not eager to be judged by unbought outsiders. The old way of doing business is fine with them, as long as they get to eat first.

The last truth pols will tell us is that government has its limits. A loved one gets sick, an errant child, a bad neighbor, frustrations and fate — they tower over the grandest promises of reform.

Spitzer missed a chance to tell us that truth in his inauguration speech. New York's new governor promised not just change, but divine intervention. Sayeth He: "No one any longer believes in government as a heavy hand that can cure all our ills, but rather we see it as a lean and responsive force that can make possible the pursuit of prosperity and opportunity for all — by softening life's blows, leveling its playing field and making possible the pursuit of happiness that is our God-given right."

Whoopie — but why did he promise only that we could pursue happiness? I want a government that actually delivers happiness. And not just for a while. Promise me eternal delight and you have my vote. I promise.

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Debating execution misses point

In the short time since Saddam Hussein went to the gallows, we have heard almost every variation on the theme that his death was all wrong. He was killed too soon, in the wrong way, by the wrong people, on the wrong day, following a flawed trial. In the opinion of some, he shouldn't have been executed at all.

What's really wrong here is the transmogrification of Hussein into a sort of Everyman, in whose fate we are all invited to read some portion of our own humanity — and whose execution becomes a prism through which to focus on our private preoccupations with the universe. This is Oprah for tyrants. In a dangerous world, it does us no service.

It was Hussein himself who made this execution necessary. He was a totalitarian killer, a man who murdered his way to power and kept it at grotesque cost by working the levers of terror, torture and war. Along with the basic demands of justice, there was also the matter of security. The only sure protection against a Hussein comeback was to kill him.

Hussein enjoyed a degree of due process unknown under his own regime and stunningly novel for most of the Middle East. His execution sent the vital message that we are serious about vanquishing terror-wielding fascists who, like Hussein, threaten the basic fabric of any civilized world order.

Unfortunately, the debate now going on suggests we may not so readily be serious again. The likes of Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Syria's Bashar Assad, and Osama bin Laden must be tuning in right now with fascination. What we

might regard as noble and sensitive discussion, they will read, correctly, as weakness — a sign that the free world has no stomach for this fight.

Part of the problem may be the nature of instant news, which brings great benefits, but also means the focus shifts constantly, at the expense of the big picture, to the latest detail. Hussein's atrocities have been recounted before, so in most accounts they take a backseat to what the hangmen wore, how the cell-phone video got out, and which opponents of the death penalty have latched onto this monster as their poster-child of the season.

Emblematic of all this was a story that ran earlier this week in Australia's Herald Sun newspaper. Headlined, "Saddam Hussein's Gentle Side," it cited the recollections of an American military minder who shepherded Hussein through part of his imprisonment. This fellow recounted how Hussein, in his humble detention cell, liked to reminisce about happier days telling bedtime stories to his children, and how Hussein used his "short visits outside" to feed bread crusts to birds and water "a dusty plot of weeds."

These details become less poignant if you consider that whatever Hussein's kindness to birds, he gassed to death thousands of Kurds. Whatever his affection for weeds, he defused dissent among Iraq's Marsh Arabs by turning their home turf into a wasteland. And however tenderly Hussein read bedtime stories to his children, he trained his two sons to become sadistic killers. And when his two little girls grew up and married a pair of brothers who in the mid-1990s tried to defect, he had those husbands murdered.

But instead of stories dwelling on such absolutely germane matters, we are treated right now to a steady diet of outrage that Hussein

— a celebrity, no less — was not handled with the etiquette due, say, a Belgian bank robber. At the United Nations, where there has still been no reckoning for any U.N. officials or for most of the member states that helped shore up Hussein's murderous regime by colluding in his oil-for-food graft bonanza, the focus has been mainly on a lofty disdain for all capital punishment. Never mind the wars launched, suicide bombers paid, and mass graves filled by the condemned. The big concern of U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, as Hussein went to the gallows, was that he be offered every possible chance of amnesty.

We are told that the Palestinians are angry and Iraq's Sunnis are upset. Of course they are (or at least some of them). Hussein was their patron; even in the world's worst totalitarian regimes, there are a few who benefit — at the awful expense of many. What actually needs questioning is why we should pander to those who wish to pose for the cameras around his grave — indifferent in their self-interest to the lives he took, and the agonies he inflicted on millions.

The strange and deadly inversion here is that we are fighting enemies — and Hussein was one of the worst — who count it an honor and a right to murder the innocent. Meanwhile, in our public debate we treat it as shameful to execute the guiltiest of the guilty. If this is the way of our future, better hope we never catch bin Laden.

Claudia Rosett (claudiarosett@hotmail.com) is a journalist in residence with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington. Her blog, *The Rosett Report*, is at <http://claudiarosett.pajamasmedia.com>. She writes a monthly column for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



CLAUDIA ROSETT

Don't wait until you are sick, stock up for health

By LISA GUTIERREZ
McClatchy Newspapers

Get in, get out at the drugstore? Not a chance now that cold and flu season has arrived.

Imagine standing in those lines while your throat is burning, your nose is running, and your head is pounding with fever. You're there because you had nothing in your medicine cabinet at home.

Who wants to do that? "Obviously during flu and cold season we need medications, and hopefully we look at those things and take stock before we're ill," said Karen Elliott, family and consumer sciences agent with Johnson County K-State Research and Extension in Olathe, Kan.

Here's how to get your medicine cabinet in shape for winter:

CLEAN IT OUT
Discard anything that's out of date or expired; they may not be as effective or safe anymore. If it doesn't have a date and you can't remember when you bought it, play it safe and dump it. That includes prescription medicines your doctor told you to stop taking, anything that has changed color or smell, and anything with a label you can't read anymore.

Don't flush medicines down the toilet, Elliott said. Throw them away in a trash container that kids or animals can't get into. Leave the medicines

in their childproof containers, or put them in used containers with childproof lids.

STOCK IT UP
Replenish any over-the-counter medications you may need in the months ahead to relieve ailments such as stuffy noses, fevers, aches and pains.

Make sure your thermometer is working. Buy a new one if it's not.

Stock up on other basics: tissues, activated charcoal for emergency treatment of poisoning, antibiotic cream, antacid, anti-diarrhea medication, cold packs, laxative, cotton balls and swabs.

AND THINK ABOUT ...

Consider whether the bathroom is the best place to keep your medicines. Sometimes the humidity can cause liquids and pills to break down more quickly and make them useless. Unless they require refrigeration, medicines should be kept in a cool, dry cabinet or closet, out of sight of children and in child-resistant containers. Some pharmacists suggest keeping medications in a locked, tackle-style box to keep them away from curious hands.

Stock your pantry with foods that will be comforting to you when you're sick - soups, fruit juices, bottled water.

Sources: Council on Family Health; Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, San Diego



It's good to have remedies on hand (medical and home) before you get sick. Don't wait until illness strikes you or your family.

Kansas City Star photo/G.L. Booker

Big breasts, big money and big risks

The Friday before Thanksgiving, all U.S. plastic surgeons received a congratulatory e-mail from the principal manufacturer of breast implants.

"Let's toast this monumental occasion," reads the subject line. Silicone implants are coming back on the market for the first time since they were banned in 1992.

Why not celebrate? It's big money for easy surgery — and a lot of women want to look like the thin but big-busted women they see in lingerie catalogs and on "reality" TV shows. I seem to be one of the few plastic surgeons who won't be getting out the champagne.

I have enlarged the breasts of thousands of women with silicone implants since they were introduced in the 1960s. I even wrote articles in favor of silicone. Then Paula S. came to see me in 1992. At age 32, she had had at least three breast surgeries, and each time her breasts became rock-hard and painful. She could not lie on her stomach. We replaced the silicone with smooth saline implants. Within a short time these too became hard, as did the next set.

Paula insisted on having her implants removed. She would not heed my warnings about deformity and scarring, which we had all been told inevitably follows removal without replacement. To my surprise, she looked terrific — normal, albeit smaller —

and she felt better. Paula's problem turned out to be common: Most breasts with silicone gel implants become hard with time. It's called capsular contracture. All foreign objects in the body get encapsulated — just as the tissue around a splinter gets hard — until the foreign body is removed. Women with capsular contracture often end up with disfigured breasts and pain.

Recently I saw Helen S., 71, who had implants 23 years ago. Her breasts also had hardened and become painful. In addition, an MRI showed rupture of the implants and calcification of the surrounding scar tissue. When I removed the implants, the cavity was filled with gooey, liquid silicone that had ruptured; there was virtually no implant wall left.

In the past 14 years, I have removed implants from almost 1,000 women. I have found roughly 50 percent of their implants have ruptured within 10 years, and more than 70 percent have ruptured within 15 years. We are still not sure of all the places where the microdroplets of silicone end up, though I have found it in lymph nodes.

Despite these known hazards, the Food and Drug Administration,

under pressure from implant manufacturers, plastic surgeons and patients, is allowing as of Jan. 1 a new generation of silicone implants in women age 22 and over. The new generations of implants, we are assured, are less likely to rupture. However, this claim has been made for every previous generation. To monitor women's health, the FDA will require women who receive implants to have regular MRIs and has recommended that the implants be replaced every 10 years.

It is a pity that women will become the experimental lab rats for these implants. They, not the manufacturers, will have to pay for the MRIs and replacements as recommended. Most plastic surgeons vehemently deny any connection between health complaints and leaking silicone implants. But I have seen a disturbing number of patients with symptoms, including fatigue, short-term memory loss, joint and muscle pains, skin rashes, disturbed sleep patterns, depression and hair loss, that clear up when implants are removed.

Last year, I completed a review of the last 500 gel implant removals I performed and found that

more than half the women had similar symptoms, ranging from mild to debilitating. According to the manufacturers' own literature, one in four women has additional surgery within the first year. Many women have multiple surgeries.

"Women deciding to have these implants need to be prepared to have additional surgery," cautioned Dr. Daniel Schultz, head of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the FDA.

The FDA is requiring manufacturers to spend 10 years studying 80,000 women who receive the implants. Apparently our government's policy has become, "Approve now, test later." At current implantation rates, these devices will be in the bodies of 5 percent of U.S. women within a decade. As I now see it, grossly oversized artificial breasts are a deformity that flouts medical standards and even the plastic surgeons society's own definition of "cosmetic" — all too often encouraged by the media that celebrate these water balloons for self-esteem.

Though I do approve of the use of implants for breast reconstruction, when there is no other option, I no longer per-

form cosmetic breast augmentation. But let's raise a glass of bubbly for the manufacturers and the plastic surgeons. This

will be a happy and prosperous year, for them.

Edward Melmed is a surgeon in Dallas.



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News in brief

'Language barrier' may have led to detentions of 3 men at Port of Miami, officials say

MIAMI (AP) — Three legal immigrants in a cargo truck were detained at the Port of Miami after a routine inspection raised concerns, but police say the incident may have stemmed in part from a language barrier.

The port's cargo area was shut down Sunday as the Miami-Dade bomb squad X-rayed the truck and scanned it for radioactive materials. Nothing unusual was found, officials said.

The men in the truck — two Iraqis and one Lebanese national — were still detained by local police Sunday evening, but authorities said no federal charges were expected. Officials initially said the men, all permanent U.S. residents, had been caught trying to slip past a checkpoint at the port's entrance.

A port security officer became suspicious when the truck driver could not produce proper paperwork in a routine inspection to enter the port about 8 a.m., Miami-Dade police spokeswoman Nancy Goldberg said.

The driver also indicated he was alone in the truck, though security officers found two other men in the cab, she said. The two passengers, ages 28 and 29, were a friend and a relative of the 20-year-old Iraqi driver, she said.

Court drops charges against Saddam for deaths of Kurds when trial resumes

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein's trial for the killing of 180,000 Kurds in the 1980s resumed Monday with the late dictator's seat empty, nine days after he went to the gallows. The court's first order of business was to drop all charges against Saddam.

Six co-defendants still face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for their roles in a military campaign code-named Operation Anfal during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

Shortly after the court reconvened Monday, a bailiff called out the names of the accused and the six men walked silently into the courtroom one after another.

Chief Judge Mohammed Oreibi al-Khalifa said the court decided to stop all legal action against the former president, since "the death of defendant Saddam was confirmed."

Saddam was sentenced to death for the killing of 148 Shiites and hanged on Dec. 30 in a chaotic execution that has drawn global criticism for the Shiite-dominated government.

14 survivors from Indonesian ferry sinking found alive after 9 days at sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Fourteen survivors of a ferry sinking survived for nine days on a life raft, drifting almost 370 miles before they were rescued, an official said Monday.

The survivors were scheduled to arrive in Makassar, a port city on Sulawesi island, on Monday evening, said Ketut Purwa, head of the search and rescue agency on Bali island.

A 15th person died soon after being rescued by a passing cargo ship late Sunday, said Purwa, who spoke to the captain of the ship by radio.

Indonesia's tropical waters are generally between 72 degrees Fahrenheit and 84 degrees Fahrenheit, and officials said people have been known to survive days at sea.

About 245 people have been found alive since the ferry sank, but around 400 are either dead or listed as missing. Only 10 bodies have been recovered.

NTSB begins investigation of subway derailment that sent 20 people to hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating what caused a subway train to derail near downtown Washington, sending 20 people to the hospital.

Witnesses said people started to panic when the six-car train began shaking, and some passengers began running to the back of the train as it approached the underground Mount Vernon Square station.

"I was in a cab that actually shattered — the front part of it — those windows in between the two cars," rider Lauren Sprigg said.

The accident on the city's Metro happened at about 3:45 p.m., Metro spokeswoman Cathy Asato said. There were about 150 people on the train.

One person had a serious but not life-threatening injury, Asato said. The other injuries were mostly "bumps and bruises," and one of those with minor injuries was pregnant.

Preliminary inquest hearings into Princess Diana's death resumes in London

LONDON (AP) — The long-awaited British inquest into Princess Diana's death in a 1997 car crash in Paris resumed Monday with two days of preliminary hearings at London's historic Royal Courts of Justice.

Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, a retired senior judge and member of Britain's House of Lords

presided over the preliminary hearings, which are expected to be mostly procedural. She will decide whether the case will be heard by a jury, and whether the deaths of Diana and Dodi Fayed should be examined separately or together.

Under British law, inquests are held when someone dies unexpectedly, violently or of unknown causes.

Diana's former private secretary, Patrick Jephson, said Monday that he hoped the inquest would put an end to conspiracy theories.

"At its best the inquest will show us that this sad matter is now settled and that we can concentrate on remembering the princess in an entirely positive light as Princes William and Harry obviously want us to," Jephson told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

About 75 people die of Rift Valley fever in Kenya, health official says

GARISSA, Kenya (AP) — About 75 people have died in Kenya of Rift Valley fever during the past three weeks and another 183 are infected with it, according to a senior health official.

The death toll from the hemorrhagic fever — a virus which spreads from animals to humans by mosquitoes and through contact with raw blood, milk and other bodily fluids — could be higher because the figures are only of adult victims.

The affected people in the Northeastern Province rarely record the deaths of their children, Dr. Ahmed Omar Ahmed, the province's chief medical officer, said Sunday.

The disease mainly affects animals, only occasionally jumping over to infect humans. People who get the virus show symptoms such as headaches, fever, stiff necks, vomiting, and a discomfort when exposed to light. The symptoms last for up to four days by which time the body clears them out and patients usually improve, according to the World Health Organization.

Only about 1 or 2 percent of those infected with the fever reach the hemorrhagic stage, where they get jaundice, vomit and pass blood. Up to 50 percent of patients at this stage may die, the WHO said.

Bangladeshi police clash with protesters demanding postponement of elections

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Riot police used tear gas and batons Monday in the Bangladeshi capital to disperse thousands of stone-throwing protesters demanding postponement of this month's elections and electoral reforms, witnesses said.

Civil suit to begin in case of husband run over by dentist

HOUSTON (AP) — Jury selection is expected to begin Tuesday in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the in-laws of the woman convicted of running over her cheating husband in 2002.

Pretrial motions were to be ruled on Monday in the case involving Clara Harris, a 48-year-old dentist convicted in 2003 of murder after running over her husband with a Mercedes-Benz. She had found him with his mistress at a hotel.

Harris was sentenced to 20 years in prison in the death of orthodontist David L. Harris.

Gerald and Mildred Harris of Pearland filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against their daughter-in-law in 2004 — two years after their son's death. The couple, which is seeking monetary damages, had stood by her during the murder trial.

The civil lawsuit is similar to a suit the couple filed in Galveston County in 2004 and later withdrew, according to a report in Monday editions of the Houston Chronicle.

"Clara Harris paid decedent's children millions of dollars to settle their claims but refused to accept responsibility to the other legal beneficiaries, David Harris' parents," the Harris' lawsuit says. "Therefore, they have been forced to ask a jury to compel her to pay the legal debt that she owes them."

Dean Blumrosen, an attorney for Clara Harris, said his client wanted to settle the lawsuit without a trial but her in-laws declined.

During the murder trial, Gerald and Mildred Harris testified on her behalf that "they knew this matter was an accident and that Clara would never do this intentionally," according to Clara Harris' response to the

civil suit.

"Plaintiffs testified that they had forgiven Clara for this tragic accident and that they would never turn their back on her," the response continues. "Plaintiffs further stated that they would never attempt to sue Clara or make any money from the loss of their son, David."

Tensions between Clara Harris and her in-laws increased after she was convicted of murder.

Former Texas House speaker Clayton dies

SPRINGLAKE (AP) — Former Texas House Speaker Billy Clayton, who served in the House for 20 years, has died in Lubbock. He was 78.

Clayton, who had been in ill health for some time, died in a Lubbock hospital on Saturday, said his daughter, Brenda Herrell of Littlefield.

Michael Phillips, a University of Texas professor who has written

about the history of the House speakership, said Clayton was among the first to really use the post of House speaker to wield power. Clayton served as speaker from 1975 until 1983, which was an unprecedented span then.

During his third term, he was indicted and later acquitted on federal bribery charges filed as part of an FBI sting called "BriLab."

He sponsored legislation in the next legislative session to establish the Public Servant Standards of Conduct Advisory Committee, according to the Handbook of Texas online. The committee's report led to new ethics laws in 1983.

In recent years, Clayton served on the board of "Campaigns for People," a group that lobbied for stricter campaign finance disclosure laws.

During his tenure as a representative, he also focused on water issues.

He served as a lobbyist

in Austin until retiring about two years ago.

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IN BRIEF

NFL divisional playoff schedule

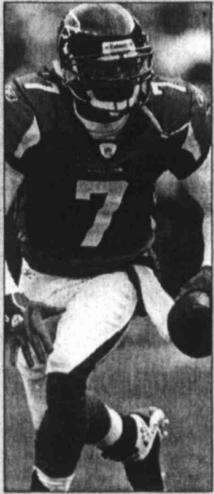
Saturday, Indianapolis at Baltimore, 3:30 p.m. (CBS).

Philadelphia at New Orleans, 7 p.m. (FOX).

Sunday, Seattle at Chicago, Noon (FOX).

New England at San Diego, 3:30 p.m. (CBS).

Falcons and Vick name new coach



Louisville coach Bobby Petrino agreed to become the new coach of the Atlanta Falcons, moving to the NFL less than a week after the firing of Jim Mora.

After firing Mora, who never seemed to get the most out of Michael Vick's enormous potential, the Falcons went with a coach who guided high-scoring Louisville to a 12-1 season, capped by a 24-13 victory over Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl.

See Page 2B

Mavericks lose game with Lakers



Coach Phil Jackson got his 900th NBA victory as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated Dallas 101-98 on Sunday night.

Jackson, who ranks ninth on the NBA's career wins list, became the fastest to reach 900, doing so in 1,264 games. Former Lakers coach Pat Riley accomplished the feat in 1,278 games.

See Page 2B

Arizona D'backs want Randy Johnson

Only a few details remain before Randy Johnson rejoins the Arizona Diamondbacks. Johnson agreed Sunday to a \$26 million, two-year contract with Arizona, leaving only physicals and final approvals to complete his trade from the New York Yankees.

Ohio State vs. Florida for 'Super Bowl'

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Ohio State and Florida are set to usher in a new era in college football, one where it doesn't take a bowl to produce a champion.

The top-ranked Buckeyes and No. 2 Gators meet tonight in the first BCS national championship game.

"It's the Super Bowl of college football and I think college football needed that," Gators coach Urban Meyer said Sunday.

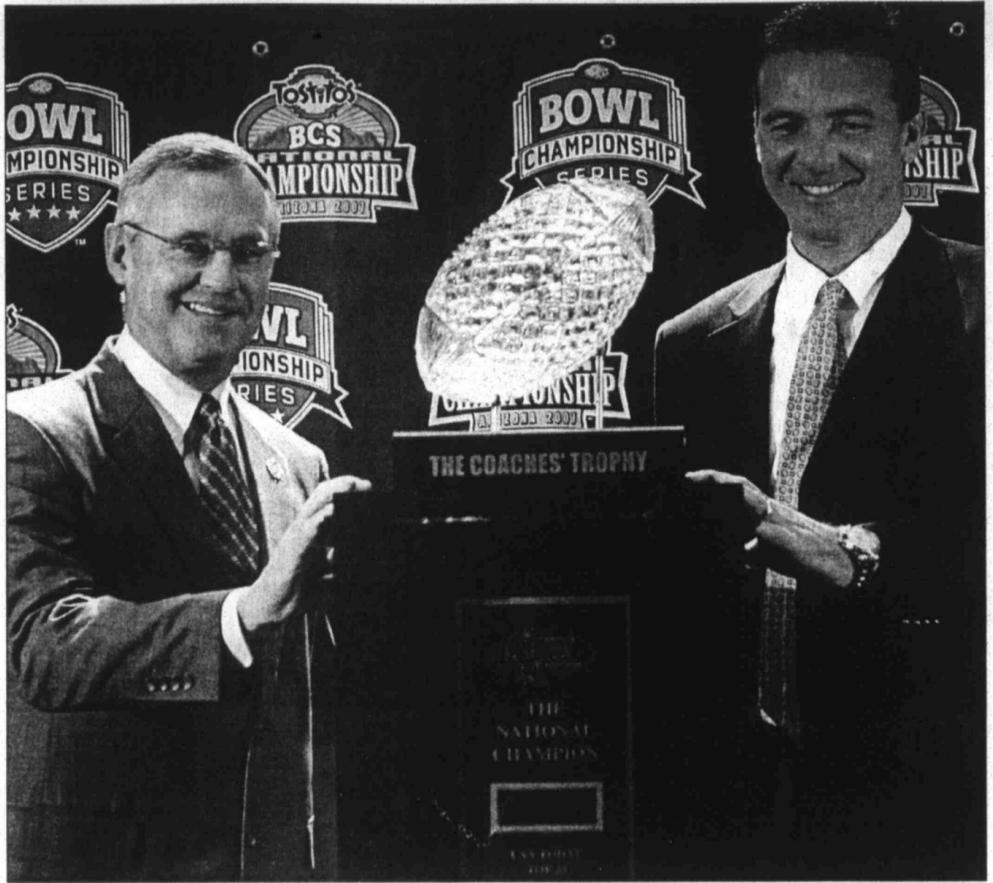
The Bowl Championship Series' new showcase event is a 1 vs. 2 matchup that had many skeptical at first about its legitimacy.

Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and the Buckeyes (12-0) were a no-brainer. The Big Ten champions have been No. 1 since the preseason, and already have a pair of victories against teams ranked No. 2.

"You know the only time we thought for sure that we were going to be in the national championship is when that game (against Michigan) ended Nov. 18 because we knew going in you have to win them all," said Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, seeking his second national title in his sixth season with the Buckeyes.

But Florida? The Gators (12-1) lived on the edge, navigating a brutal Southeastern Conference schedule by orchestrating several great escapes. Blocked kicks, late rallies and a healthy dose of trickery — Florida used it all. It's enough to make some say good fortune has been the Gators' best friend.

They see it another way. "We don't really believe in destiny," Florida's defensive tackle Ray McDonald said. "We believe



Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel (left) and Florida head coach Urban Meyer pose with the BCS National Championship trophy. Tonight one coach will be crowned the national champion and take home the illustrious trophy.

when your number's called you make that play."

Still, Florida needed help to get here.

Southern California's loss to UCLA on the last day of the regular season opened the door for

Florida, and a sea change among poll voters allowed the Gators to jump over Michigan in the final BCS standings — and into a matchup with the Buckeyes.

Then the USC Trojans helped out Florida again, pounding the

Wolverines in the Rose Bowl last week and removing any questions about whether the winner of tonight's game at shiny new University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale should be national champion.



Dallas Cowboys team owner and general manager Jerry Jones (left) and head coach Bill Parcells are together for a press conference, but the two have not decided on the future of the Cowboys.

Step 1 is finding out if Parcells remains

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — If Bill Parcells needs a reason to come back in 2007, he has plenty to choose from.

Can he really leave the Dallas Cowboys after getting this close to a playoff breakthrough?

Does he really want to end his career with the final memory being the botched hold of a short field goal?

And would he really trust someone else to help his new quarterback get over the most excruciating ending to a Cowboys playoff game since Dwight Clark make "The Catch" in 1981?

Maybe. Parcells was in no mood to discuss his future following a 21-20 loss to the Seattle Seahawks in a wild-card game Saturday night. Losing was tough enough, but the way it happened, — with Tony

Romo bobbling a snap, preventing Martin Gramatica from attempting the winning kick, then getting tackled just shy of both a first down and the goal line — has to rank among the toughest in his career.

"You got to finish the games," he said. "We just didn't do it."

The Cowboys remain without a postseason win since 1996, extending the longest drought in team history. Parcells hasn't won a playoff game since 1998; he's lost his last three (one with the Jets in '98, two with Dallas) after never even having back-to-back postseason losses.

His career record in Dallas is 34-32, but he's certainly made the franchise better, which was his initial promise when Jerry Jones lured him out of retirement in 2003.

See DALLAS, Page 2B

Eagles kick the Giants

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA

Some players watched the snap. Others focused on the hold. Few saw the kick.

The reaction of the fans let them know everything went smoothly on this one.

David Akers hit a 38-yard field goal as time expired to give the Philadelphia Eagles a 23-20 victory over the New York Giants in a wild-card playoff game Sunday.

Once the ball cleared the uprights, holder Koy Detmer hoisted Akers in the air and snapper Jon Dorenbos leapt into the stands to celebrate ex-

cuting a seemingly routine play that has cost teams important games in recent weeks.

"I turned around and prayed and listened for the crowd," Eagles cornerback Sheldon Brown said.

On the other side, Tiki Barber walked off the field for the last time while Tom Coughlin was left to ponder his future.

Though Akers is one of the best at his position, no kick is an automatic given recent events around the NFL.

One night earlier, Dallas lost to Seattle when quarterback Tony Romo fumbled the hold on what could have been a go-ahead field goal.

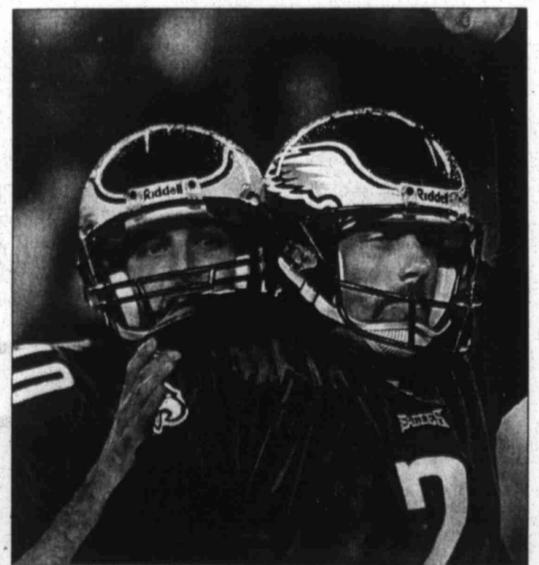
Akers got some encour-

agement from punter and former holder Dirk Johnson before he went out to attempt the kick on a sloppy field in a steady rain.

"Dirk said, 'Those posts look big, don't they?'" Akers said. "I said, 'Don't worry. We're going to be celebrating in a minute.'"

Counted out after a knee injury ended Donovan McNabb's season in Week 11, the Eagles (11-6) have won six straight games. They'll play at New Orleans (10-6) next Saturday night.

Brian Westbrook, playing through stomach cramps that often sent him to the sidelines, made sure Philly



Eagles holder Koy Detmer (10) celebrates with kicker David Akers (2) after his game-winning field goal against the New York Giants late in the game. The Eagles won 23-20.

See EAGLES, Page 2b

Dallas has winning streak snapped by LA

By JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer
LOS ANGELES — Sasha Vujacic scored nine of his career-high 16 points in the fourth quarter including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 28.5 seconds left, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Dallas 101-98 Sunday night to snap the Mavericks' 13-game winning streak.

Kobe Bryant had 26 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Luke Walton scored 21 for the Lakers, who presented coach Phil Jackson with his 900th victory.

Jackson ranks ninth on the NBA's all-time wins list, and became the fastest to reach 900, doing so in 1,264 games. Former Lakers coach Pat Riley accomplished the feat in 1,278 games.

Dirk Nowitzki's jumper with 42 seconds remaining gave the Mavericks a 98-97 lead, but Vujacic's long jumper put the Lakers ahead for good. A free throw by Walton with 10.6 seconds to play completed the scoring.

Devean George, a former Laker, missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer with four seconds

left, and Bryant got the rebound. Time expired before the Mavericks were able to commit a foul.

The win was the fourth straight for the Lakers (23-11), who played without injured starters Lamar Odom and Kwame Brown. The loss was just the fourth in the last 31 games for the Mavericks, whose 27-8 record is the best in the NBA.

Ronny Turiaf added 13 points and Smush Parker scored 11 for the Lakers.

Nowitzki had 29 points and 13 rebounds, Josh Howard had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Jerry Stackhouse scored 14 for the Mavericks.

The Lakers shot 39-of-71 (54.9 percent) to 38-of-90 (42.2 percent) for the Mavericks.

Walton outscored Dallas 7-2 by himself to move the Lakers within two points with five minutes left.

Two free throws by Jason Terry with 1:29 to play gave the Mavericks a 96-92 lead, but Bryant made a three-point play with 1:21 left and two free throws with 55.9 seconds to go, giving the Lakers their first lead since the second quarter.

Petrino leaves Louisville for Falcons

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — From his very first year at Louisville, Bobby Petrino's name kept coming up for other coaching jobs.

On Sunday, he finally decided it was time to go.

Petrino left the Cardinals to become head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, who needed less than a week to find a replacement for Jim Mora.

After firing Mora, who never seemed to get the most out of Michael Vick's enormous potential, the Falcons went with a coach who guided high-scoring Louisville to a 12-1 season, capped by a 24-13 victory over Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl.

"This is an exciting day for the Atlanta Falcons franchise," owner Arthur Blank said in a statement. "Bobby Petrino is an extremely talented football coach who has done some tremendously innovative things as both an offensive coordinator and head coach."

The 45-year-old Petrino met briefly with his Louisville players Sunday night to let them know he was leaving, said Kenny Klein, the school's sports information director. The Falcons planned a formal announcement Monday at the team's training complex in Flowery Branch.

Petrino said he took what "I truly feel is the best job in the National Football League."

"I am excited about the challenge that awaits me in Atlanta, and I'm equally excited about the potential that I see in this team," he said in the Falcons' statement.

His first order of business: Getting more production out of Vick, who became the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards but never seemed comfortable in the West Coast-style offense installed by Mora and his offensive coordinator, Greg Knapp.

This season, the Falcons were last in the league in passing and 25th in scoring with their average of 18.2 points.

Louisville never had any trouble putting up points under Petrino. In 2006, the Cardinals ranked second in the country in total offense (475.3 yards per game) and fourth in scoring with a 37.8-point average.

Petrino had a 41-9 record in four years at Louisville, leading the school to the Big East title and its first Bowl Championship Series appearance in the Orange. He had just completed the first year of a 10-year, \$25 million contract. ESPN.com said he agreed to a five-year, \$24 million deal with the Falcons.

Petrino's name repeatedly came up for other coaching vacancies, including an embarrassing episode in 2003 when Auburn set up a clandestine interview while Tommy Tuberville was still the Tigers coach.

Petrino met with LSU after the 2004 season and turned down the Oakland Raiders' job a year later. Louisville twice renegotiated Petrino's contract, giving him hefty raises in hopes of keeping him.

"This is where I want to be," he insisted.

That all changed after the Falcons fired Mora, just two years after he led the team to the NFC championship game. Atlanta missed the playoffs the past two seasons, going 7-9 mark in 2006.

Petrino's previous NFL experience includes three years with the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he served as quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator. He then returned to the college ranks, serving as Auburn's offensive coordinator in 2002 before heading to Louisville.

Petrino led the Cardinals to the Conference USA title in 2004, their final year in that league before moving to the Big East.

"Nobody thought this would happen, but nobody's complaining about it," Cardinals defensive lineman Earl Heyman said. "You can't fault him considering what he's done for this program."

The Falcons the past several days interviewing NFL assistants, including Pittsburgh offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt, Chicago defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, San Diego offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and San Francisco assistant head coach Mike Singletary.

Mora was the 49ers defensive coordinator when he was hired by the Falcons, and the rookie head coach got off to a rousing start. Atlanta won its division and came up one win short of the Super Bowl, losing at Philadelphia in the NFC championship game.

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

Still, without a playoff win, he hasn't truly restored glory to this once-proud franchise.

"I know we have a better team, competitively, than what we had in the past," he said. "I know that."

The 65-year-old Parcels has a year left on his contract. Jones has made it clear he wants Parcels to return.

"I'm going to take a look at things," Parcels said. "Take a look at what we need to do and see where we go."

One thing that is decided: Romo will be the starting quarterback in 2007. Parcels and Jones both said so.

Jones was among those trying to console Romo in

the locker room. Everyone seemed to pass along the same two thoughts: Dallas wouldn't have even been in the playoffs without him; and, as bad as it feels now, "living through highs and lows, that does and can make you better," Jones said.

After he was tackled from behind, Romo sat on the turf, legs extended and head down. He could hardly look up while on the sideline, then after a last-chance heave fell incomplete in the end zone, his helmet drooped again as he walked off the field.

Even in the refuge of the locker room, Romo was still too embarrassed to look up. For all the great plays he'd made this season, the backup-turned-Pro Bowl quarterback couldn't get over failing to make the sim-

plest play of all. "I don't know if I have ever felt this low at any point," a choked-up Romo said after staring blankly into his locker.

"You know, you are going to go through your ups and downs in this game, for sure. Obviously that has happened to us this year," said Romo, who started 5-1 but finished 1-4.

"For me personally, I just feel very disappointed that I let some of the guys down on this team and our fans and this organization."

"But at the same time, I would like to think that we are going to have a lot of opportunities to make a run here in the future."

Once Romo's spirits perk up and Parcels' status is cleared up, the next-biggest issue is Terrell Owens' future.

He led the NFL in touch-

down catches and was the Cowboys' top receiver. However, the weekly drama that surrounded him, and all the plays he didn't make could get him dumped by a second team in as many years, especially with a \$3 million bonus due in March.

Does Owens even want to return?

"Definitely," he said. "I see no reason not to. ... We can't do nothing now but regroup, come back next year and shoot for it again."

Parcels said last week the playoffs wouldn't impact his decision. Now, it seems hard to imagine that NOT being a factor.

Jones isn't giving Parcels a deadline.

"We might meet at some point, but we haven't got it scheduled," he said. "I'm going to think about it. We'll see."

EAGLES

Continued from 1B

advanced on a day when its offense was inconsistent. He had 141 yards rushing, including a spectacular, slashing 49-yard TD run in the second quarter. Westbrook's 65-

yard punt return for an apparent score in the third quarter was nullified by a penalty on rookie Torrance Daniels.

Jeff Garcia threw for 153 yards, one touchdown and played efficiently enough to win for the sixth time in seven starts since replacing McNabb.

Eli Manning threw two

touchdown passes to Plaxico Burress, including an 11-yard strike that tied it at 20 with 5:04 left.

As for the game-winning kick, "A lot of people take the snap, hold and kick for granted," Akers said. "It just shows you how technical that is."

Detmer, the longtime backup quarterback

signed this week specifically to be the holder, had no trouble putting the snap down for Akers. Dorenbos replaced injured long-snapper Mike Bartrum last month.

"Being a holder for the amount of time I've been, you realize there's nothing given," Detmer said

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

		7	4	5				
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	9			3			5	2
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Famous Hand

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♥A Q 3
♦Q 5 4
♠A J 4

WEST
♦J 3
♥K 10 5 4
♦A K 9 8
♠7 6 2

EAST
♦10 9 8 4
♥2
♦J 10 7 6 3
♠Q 10 8

SOUTH
♦A K 2
♥J 9 8 7 6
♦2
♠K 9 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 3NT* Pass
4♥

*Balanced hand with heart support. Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The 1995 Bermuda Bowl, held in Beijing, featured two firsts: the first time a world championship was held in China, and the first time Canada and the United States faced each other in the final round.

The U.S. squad (Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell and Bobby Wolff) downed their northern neighbors (Boris Baran, Fred Gitelman, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, Mark Molson and Joe Silver) by 43 IMPs in the 160-deal final, surviving a late Canadian surge that saw them close to within 13 IMPs with 14 deals to play.

Today's deal — No. 147 — helped stem the Canadian onslaught.

Both Souths reached four hearts, and at both tables the opening lead was a top diamond followed by the club seven, declarer winning East's ten with the king.

When Canada's Kokish was declarer, he led a heart to the ace at trick three and returned the queen. After East showed out, there was no way declarer could escape the loss of two trump tricks, a diamond and a club, and he finished down one.

Kokish's play in the trump suit would have limited him to one trump loser if the trumps had divided 3-2, or if East had held the singleton king or the K-10-x-x of hearts, but it did not guard against the K-10-x-x in the West hand.

At the other table, Rodwell adopted a different approach to the trump suit designed to overcome K-10-x-x in either hand. He led a trump and finessed the queen at trick three. When this held, he crossed to his hand with a spade, led the heart seven and let it ride!

Had the seven lost to the ten, that would have been South's only trump loser. As it was, West could not score more than one trump trick, and Rodwell finished with 10 tricks for a 10-IMP gain.

It would seem that Rodwell's line of play had more to recommend it than his counterpart's. Kokish's approach would have guarded against the singleton king in the East hand, but since East was three times as likely to hold a singleton small card as the singleton king, Rodwell's line appears to be superior.

Tomorrow: Pop goes the weasel.
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The ancient Greeks had two words for time. "Chronos" defines a certain quantity of time, while "kairos" refers to an opportune moment in which something special happens. The Virgo moon and Capricorn sun are in agreement for something special to happen, we must make it happen. Use your sensitivity to "kairos" to know exactly when. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your conversations crackle with wit and tension. You say what



HOLIDAY MATHIS

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

You think, but not all you think. The part you leave out is significant, and it keeps your audience coming back for more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You prize strength and competency, but no one can embody those qualities all the time. If you can't see the path, or are unable to walk it on your own, there is someone willing to hold your hand.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Researchers discovered that test subjects who switched back and forth while completing tasks took longer to complete them than those who stuck to one task at a time. They obviously weren't studying you!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just when you're

Feeling lethargic, someone irritating comes to your rescue. Knowing you'll have to beat out the one who doesn't deserve the prize, but will claim it just the same, is fuel propelling you toward the reward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're serious about your fun. If you use time efficiently, those you live with will be mindful not to make you wait. A few words from you is all it takes to make an arrangement final.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A loved one feels possessive of you, which could push you into better asserting your independence. However, it's even more important than usual to be a good listener tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your popularity is on the rise, but new people Jan.

aren't as true as those you've known for a long time. Keep your faithful friends in your inner sanctum where they belong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Opportunistic people pose a threat to your project, but none as great as the one you yourself pose. The hardest thing is to surrender your ego to the guidance of your higher self. Once you do, no one has power over you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no need to make a special person believe you're perfect. For starters, it won't work. Secondly, you're attractive because of who you are and the particular dilemma you're in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

19). You're so used to trying to save time or money that you haven't given a thought as to what you're going to do with it once it's saved. Today provides the answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Differences are ironed out through honest dialogue. It's the being honest part that's hard. Feelings won't be hurt as easily as you think they will. You'll be surprised how much better the truth is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sign up for the job that no one wants or knows how to do. You're alluring when you're learning something new - your vulnerability makes others want to hug you. And you're in a mood to let them, too!

FORECAST 2007 - ARIES: All years are not

created equal. This year outshines the last. So you may want to do a review, somehow documenting the highlights of 2006 just so it doesn't get eclipsed by 2007, and so you don't forget all that groundwork you did to allow 2007 to unfold so graciously. LOVE: You can't help but be gleeful when relationships are useful as well as emotionally satisfying. The right person can improve your living quarters and give you the career push you need, too. March and June are favored for hot dates and new connections. September is commitment time. CAREER: The second week of February brings the motivation you've needed to step it up.

There's a chance to move laterally in October, but this turns out to be a jump in pay and in power. ADVENTURE: July is your best vacation month. A getaway with friends in September is just as exotic, though it's rather local by comparison. FINANCE: A solid investment made in April enables you to have more choices. Don't let loved ones influence you in August. You're a maverick. What works for others won't work for you, and what works for you is unreachable to others.

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

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: On the surface, life is good. My husband's business is thriving, and we have two beautiful children. But inside, I am miserable. Our marriage is dying.

My husband is unable to compromise. Whenever we come to a major life decision, he gets his way. I wanted to live in New England, and he wanted to live in California. We live in California. I wanted to homeschool the children, and he wanted them to go to public school. They go to public school. Most recently, I wanted a third child, and he didn't. He got a vasectomy without my knowledge or consent. That was the straw that broke the camel's back. I am so angry, it is hard for me to continue in this marriage.

I am in agony. My parents divorced when I was young, and I don't want my children to go through that same pain, but I'm afraid if I stay with this man, I will never have control over my own life.

We are very distant with each other. We don't touch and have not been intimate for months. We have been to three different marriage counselors without success. The last one fired us because she was frustrated with our lack of progress. What should I do? - Still Married for the Kids

Dear Still Married: Good marriages are partnerships, and yours is not. If counseling has not shown your husband the importance of giving you a voice in major family decisions, please see a counselor on your own, so

you can decide what steps to take for yourself and your children.

Dear Annie: I need your expert advice. I have a big family, including brothers and sisters who do not get along with each other, although they do get along with me.

My siblings live in different states. When my son married last year, I invited all of them to the wedding. I hoped they would be civil to one another and respect my wishes not to make any trouble at the wedding, but there was a serious argument between them, and I was terribly upset with their behavior.

Another of my sons is getting married next year, and I'm considering not inviting my siblings to the wedding. I don't want to hurt their feelings - they were very close to my son when he was young - but I don't want another argument. I am thinking of enclosing a note in the invitation that says, "You are invited to the wedding, but if you cannot promise to be civil, you are not welcome."

How should I handle this situation? - No Name Please

Dear No Name: We'd give your siblings one more chance to behave like adults. Please don't put that note in the invitation, but feel free to give them the same information by phone or e-mail. Explain, nicely, that you were shocked by their disruptive argument at the previous wedding, and you hope they love your son enough to love

themselves and not ruin his wedding day. Do not seat them near each other, and, if possible, assign friends or spouses to keep the siblings separated. If they repeat their immature behavior, do not invite them to any future events.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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MONDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (29)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Heridas de Amor	King of the Hill Pregame	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Van Impe Pres	News-Laher	Mega Builders (CC)	Movie: Terminator 3	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Charmed (CC)	Live (CC) Movie Special	Phil of Future Thats-Raven	Figure Skating Grand Prix of	College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown	Star Trek: Enterprise
7	PM Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	La Fea Mas Beta	College Football	How I Met The Class	Marina	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Charles Scott	Antiques Roadshow	Dirt Jobs (CC)	Movie: Rise of the Machines	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Charmed (CC)	Lockdown	Movie: Stuck in the Suburbs	Figure Skating Final (CC)	College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown	Star Trek: Enterprise
8	PM Supremacy (CC)	Supremacy (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	Tostitos BCS National	Two-Half Men Old Christine	Amor Mio Amores	Heroes (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Blood Part II	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Soul Food (CC)	Phil of Future Thats-Raven	Figure Skating Final (CC)	College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown	Star Trek: Enterprise
9	PM What About Brian (CC)	What About Brian (CC)	Primer Impacto	Ohio State (CC)	News Late Show	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Family Guy	The Hour of Healing	Anti-Semitism in 21st Century	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Blood Part II	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody Thats-Raven	Figure Skating Final (CC)	College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown	Star Trek: Enterprise
10	PM News (CC)	News Nightline	Noticiero Univ	King of the Hill	Letterman Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	Movie: American Pie	CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Dirt Jobs (CC)	15 Movie: Commando	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	The X-Files (CC)	In Living Color	Phil of Future Thats-Raven	College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown	Star Trek: Enterprise	
11	PM The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife-Kids	Malcolm-Md.	Conan O'Brien Paid Program	Update/Israel John Hagee	Sign Off	Dirt Jobs (CC)	15 Movie: Commando	Star Trek: Voyager	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	The X-Files (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Pepperdine at Gonzaga	NFL Live Gamenight	Twilight Zone	
12	JAM Live (CC)	News (CC)	Mercury Media	Malcolm-Md.	Malcolm-Md.	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Paid Program	Update/Israel John Hagee	Sign Off	Dirt Jobs (CC)	15 Movie: Commando	Star Trek: Voyager	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	The X-Files (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Pepperdine at Gonzaga	NFL Live Gamenight	Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I DON'T NEED A SUBSCRIPTION TO YOUR WILDLIFE MAGAZINE. THE KID NEXT DOOR PROVIDES ALL THE WILDLIFE I NEED."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



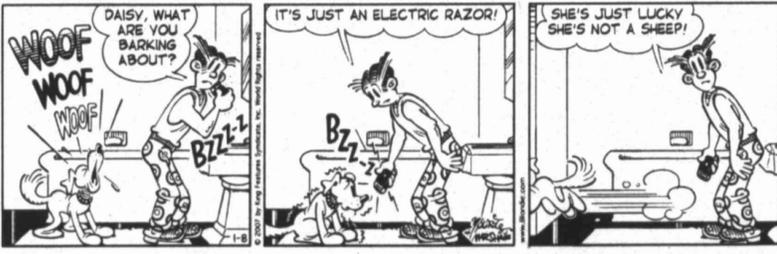
"Daddy wants to see this game and I'm in charge of not changing channels."

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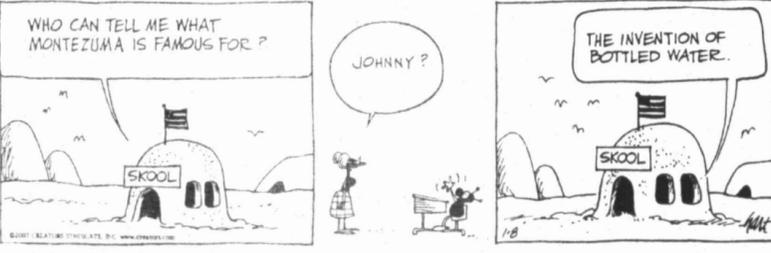
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2007. There are 357 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 8, 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.
On this date:
In 1815, U.S. forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans — the closing engagement of the War of 1812.
In 1918, President Wilson outlined his "14 Points" for lasting peace after World War I.
In 1959, Charles De Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic.

In 1964, President Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" in his State of the Union address.
In 1965, the Star of India and other stolen gems were returned to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.
In 1973, secret peace talks between the U.S. and North Vietnam resumed near Paris.
In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.
In 1987, for the first time, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 2,000, ending the day at 2,002.25.
In 2003, a commuter plane crashed at the Charlotte, N.C., airport, killing all 21 people on board; a Turkish Airlines jet crashed in

Turkey, killing 75 people.
Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 84. Actor Ron Moody is 83. Comedian Soupy Sales is 81. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 79. CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 74. Singer Shirley Bassey is 70. Country-gospel singer Crystle Lane is 67. Actress Yvette Mimieux is 65. Physicist Stephen Hawking is 65. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 61.
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Answer to previous puzzle

MOODS	PROJECTED
INPUT	EAUCLAIRE
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INHONOROF	PATTI
COOLFRONT	TRES
ANTECEDES	STASH

Newsday Crossword

THERE'S AN OPENING by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Will beneficiary
5 Gas-gauge reading
9 Extremely pale
14 M*A*S*H star
15 British exclamation
16 Treasure find
17 Underground plant part
18 Middle East ruler
19 Petroleum-carrying ship
20 TV display divided in two
23 Outcome
24 Baseball broadcaster's call
25 Amaz of I Love Lucy
27 TV collie
31 Concerning
34 Religious groups
38 Actor Sean
39 Kitchen or den
40 Mrs. Bush
41 Newspaper's classifieds, for example
42 Coffee-break hr.
43 Concerning
44 Strongly recommend
45 Foe
46 Money in Mexico
47 Do a slow burn
49 IRS-form experts
51 Glossy paint
56 "No talking!"

- 58 Begin to grin
62 Beau
64 Move like a butterfly
65 China's continent
66 Higher than
67 Hotel posting
68 Sign gas
69 Flag holders
70 Was in debt
71 _ and crafts
- DOWN**
1 Severe
2 Run off to marry
3 Fan-mail recipients
4 Mathematical comparison
5 Spanish celebration
6 Military org.
7 Lion's den
8 Ancient stringed instrument
9 Make amends
10 _ Lanka
11 Golfer's dream
12 Smooth out
13 Bookish one
21 Oklahoma city
22 Biblical paradise
26 Ambulance alarm
28 Extra tire
29 Marsh plant
30 Map-in-a-map
32 Wander
33 Television award
34 Open-handed hit

- 35 Make simpler
36 Play hooky
37 Group of Girl Scouts
42 Prom goers
44 Khrushchev's country: Abbr.
48 Prepared, as an oven
50 Ranchland measures
52 Frigidaire competitor
53 Tightwad
54 Author T.S. _
55 Tilts
56 Make a trade
57 Boxcar rider
59 Frizzy hairdo
60 Cat's weapon
61 Toy with a tail
63 Night before a holiday

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