

Fire destroys apartments on Eighth Street

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Several local families were left homeless early this morning after a fire — aided by high winds — ripped through an apartment building.

Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen said the fire broke out in an apartment building at the intersection of Eighth Street and Nolan at approximately 3 a.m.

"According to occupants of the building, there was a smell of burning plastic," said Jensen. "The fire started in the



Jensen

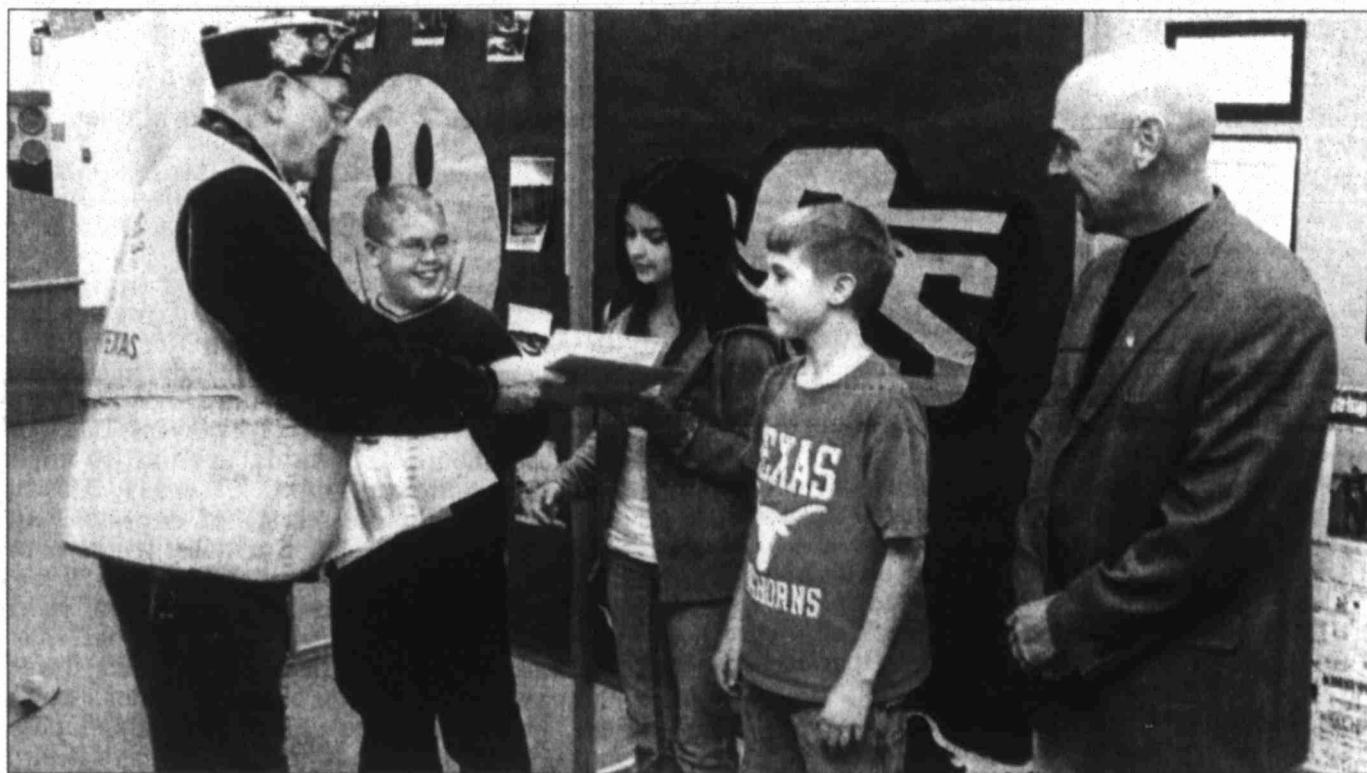
west part of the building, which was the windward side last night.

"Because of the high winds, by the time firefighters got on the scene the entire building was engulfed. At that point it became a totally defensive situation. All we could do was try to keep the fire from spreading to any of the nearby buildings."

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Firefighters clean up the remains of an apartment complex at the intersection of Eighth Street and Nolan after an early morning fire ripped through the structure.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
From left, local VFW deputy post commander Donald Scheiber congratulates Joshua Smith, Miranda Rodriguez and Will Currie for placing in the recent Patriot's Pen essay contest, while Big Spring Junior High Principal Coby Norman looks on. The three students won saving bonds and their essays advance to regional VFW competition.

Patriot's Pen

Lesson in citizenship rewards local students through savings bonds

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Three local junior high school students have learned that writing well has its perks.

Joshua Smith, Miranda Rodriguez and Will Currie, students at Big Spring Junior High, placed first through third, respectively, in the recent Patriot's Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

The nationwide contest gives students an opportunity to write essays giving their views on democracy with the prospect of winning savings bonds.

Smith, who placed first, won a \$100 savings bond, while Rodriguez and Currie received bonds worth \$75 and \$50, respectively.

The students' efforts now advance to regional competition. Eventually, they hope to qualify for national competition and a chance to win a \$10,000 savings bond and an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C.

Entries were judged on how well they presented the theme of "Citizenship in America," with points awarded for knowledge of the theme, development and clarity of ideas, VFW offi-

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Retired umpire scores with veterans he visits

Larry Barnett has been visiting VA facilities for 32 years

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

To call retired Major League Baseball umpire Larry Barnett a fan of American veterans would be a gross understatement.

Barnett, who umpired four World Series before his retirement from baseball in 1999, met with veterans at the Big Spring VA Medical Center Wednesday morning, part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) VA Voluntary Service

"If we can make one veteran have a little bit better day today, this is worth the trip. And that's where my reward comes from."

—Larry Barnett

Program. Barnett, who has been traveling the nation for the past 32 years visiting VA Medical Centers, said

when he was approached with the idea many years ago, he was pretty skeptical.

"In 1976, a good friend of mine was the national commander for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and asked me if while traveling around the American League I'd like to visit some veterans hospitals," said Barnett. "And quite frankly, I asked him how much fun could that pos-

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Retired American League umpire Larry Barnett, left, signs a picture for Al Jones, a resident at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. Barnett met with veterans at the facility Wednesday morning, part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) VA Voluntary Service Program.

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Administration works to sell troop buildup plan

By JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration worked today to persuade a skeptical Congress and American public to accept President Bush's troop buildup plan as the last best chance for reversing Iraq's slide. "We cannot afford to fail," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The plan that Bush unveiled the night before in a prime-time address to the

nation headed straight into a political gale in Congress, with Democrats, some Republicans and an organized anti-war movement lined up against it.

Bush's new strategy increases U.S. forces in Iraq by 21,500 and demands greater cooperation from the Iraqi government.

Lawmakers were quick to pounce as Rice, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other administration officials headed to Capitol Hill and

Bush planned to visit Fort Benning, Ga. to sell the plan.

But Democratic options were limited. Party leaders have mullied a resolution of disapproval, but that would be nonbinding, and there also has been talk of attaching a host of conditions to approval of a spending bill to cover the costs of the buildup.

Before her testimony at a congressional hearing, Rice

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KEY PROVISIONS

—U.S. would increase its troop presence from the current 132,000 to 153,500 at a cost of \$5.6 billion.

—The Iraqi government would take over security in all of the country's provinces by November.

—The Iraqi government would spend \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction.

Obituaries

J.T. Langley



J.T. Langley, 89, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, in Big Spring. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Walter McCall of Odyssey Hospice, officiating. He was born June 23, 1917, in Clyde and married Marguerite Smith July 28, 1945, in Lockhart. She preceded him in death July 15, 2003.

J.T. was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a farmer and rancher. He was a Baptist. Survivors include two daughters, Rita Duncan and husband, Jim of Dallas and Jamie Owen and husband, Mark of Clyde; three granddaughters; and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers, Leonard, Louie, Billy, Cleatus and Vernon Langley and two sisters, Geneva Reagan and Clara Mae Smith. The family suggests memorials be made to a charity of your choice. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Eldred (Rudy) Noble



Rudy Noble, 54, was called home to be with his Lord, Jan. 8, 2007, following a sudden illness. Memorial services are 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, at Cornerstone Church with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating. Rudy was born Feb. 6, 1952, in Fort Sill, Okla., the oldest child of Verda Lou and Eldred Allen Noble. The family moved to Big Spring in 1970. He had worked for 7-Eleven for the past 18 years.

Rudy was a believer in the Lord, Jesus Christ and seized the opportunity of working with the public to share the Gospel. He led many people to salvation and was well-known for his evangelical gifts. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his three children and their spouses, Ken and Jennifer Noble, Delana and Josh Eilenberger and Joseph Noble, all of Big Spring; his five grandchildren, Logan, Hannah and Isabella Noble and Allie and Ryan Eilenberger, all of Big Spring; his siblings and their spouses, Charles Noble, Dee and Johnnie Sevey, Deantha and Larry Cotton, Karen Thurman and Janet and Preston Daylong, all of Big Spring and Melinda and Jeff Murphree of Lubbock; and stepmother, Marjorie Noble of Clovis, N.M.

The family will be at 1201 Pennsylvania. Arrangements are under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

H.D. 'Doyle' Fowler

H.D. "Doyle" Fowler, 86, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• **ANGELFOOD MINISTRY ORDERS ARE BEING TAKEN** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Friday at North Birdwell United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell. For more information, contact Madeline Boadle at 267-2203.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM IS WORKING** with Tumbleweed Smith to produce a video documentary on the life of Pat McCormick, the famous woman bull-fighter from Big Spring. If you have information to share about her, you are invited to come to the museum between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. today. Comments will be videotaped for use in the documentary.

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

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

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

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month.

To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

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Police blotter

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

- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 42, of Colorado City, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ANGELA MCMULLEN**, 32, of 405 E. 10th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended, possession of drug paraphernalia, no insurance and a local warrant.
- **TAMMY SILEN**, 36, of 3224 Cornell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.
- **JOHNNY EDMONDSON**, 34, of 3224 Cornell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.
- **DOROTHY THOMAS**, 49, of 915 Ohio, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **CHASTITI MEDLOCK**, 18, of Livingston, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.
- **DON EDWARD ATKINSON**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license, ride not secured by a safety belt and no liability insurance.
- **DOROTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced.
- **DON RAY HENSON**, 47, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- **DEBRA ELAINE WALLACE**, 50, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of services.
- **ANGELA DENISE MCMULLEN**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **WILLIAM JEROME VANDERPOOL**, 45, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of no drivers license and displaying an expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- **KEVIN LEE DUNLAP**, 29, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of North 1st. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of West Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2500 block of Neill Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 400 block of E. Eighth Street.

Support Groups

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
• 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.
• 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.
• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St.
• DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

Weather

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows around 50. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the east after midnight. Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 50 to 55. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers...Thunderstorms and light freezing rain. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the lower 40s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows around 19. Martin Luther King jr day...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 17. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 18. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-15-16-19-24-51. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$24 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 11-17-19-21-32. Number matching five of five: 3. Prize per winner: \$9,697. Winning tickets sold in: Burleson, Canyon, Webster. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-3

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News briefs

Yvonne De Carlo dies at age 84

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yvonne De Carlo, the beautiful star who played Moses' wife in "The Ten Commandments" but achieved her greatest popularity on TV's "The Munsters," died Monday. She was 84. De Carlo, whose shapely figure helped launch her career in B-movie desert adventures and Westerns, rose to more important roles in the 1950s. Later, she had a key role in a landmark Broadway musical, Stephen Sondheim's "Follies."

For TV viewers, she will always be known as Lily Munster in the 1964-1966 slapstick horror-movie spoof "The Munsters."

While it lasted only two years, the series had a long life in syndication and resulted in two feature movies, "Munster Go Home!" (1966) and "The Munsters' Revenge" (1981, for TV).

De Carlo was able to sustain a long career by repeatedly reinventing herself. A longtime student of voice, she sang opera at the Hollywood Bowl. When movie roles became scarce, she ventured into stage musicals.

Her greatest stage triumph came on Broadway in 1971 with "Follies," which won the 1972 Tony award for best original musical score. She belted out Sondheim's showstopping number, "I'm Still Here."

De Carlo began her career with a parade of bit parts in films of the early 1940s. In 1956, she veered from her former image when Cecil B. DeMille chose her to play Sephora, wife to Charlton Heston's Moses in "The Ten Commandments."

House-passed legislation boosting federal minimum wage moves to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — House-passed legislation boosting the federal minimum wage moves to the Senate, where Democrats intend to add billions of dollars in tax breaks to make it easier for business to swallow.

"Let us raise the minimum wage. Let us help small businesses cope," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., helping craft a multi-billion-dollar package of tax breaks aimed at businesses who hire low income workers, the restaurant industry and others.

Moving on a top priority, House Democrats, with help from 82 Republicans, overwhelmingly passed legislation Wednesday that would eventually lift the minimum wage by \$2.10 an hour, the first increase in a decade. It didn't include any tax breaks to help temper the sting of higher labor costs to businesses.

"With the passage of this crucial legislation, we will reward work, paying America's workers a decent wage so they may join in our nation's prosperity," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

In the Senate, however, Democrats have only a fragile majority and many of them favor the tax breaks.

Parents of disabled boy sue city utility over power shut-off

ROBSTOWN (AP) — The parents of a 3-year-old boy who relies on a ventilator to breathe allege the city of Robstown jeopardized their son's life when its utility wrongfully turned off power in the family's home.

Frank and Ashley Tijerina say their son, Isaac, started gagging and gasping when the electricity was shut off for about 8 minutes on Jan. 4. They worked in the dark to install a backup power source to keep the ventilator working, said Frank Tijerina, 20.

"It was like the company came to my house, put their hands around my son and choked him," he said. "My son shouldn't have gone through that."

The Tijerinas are asking for unspecified damages in a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Ray Martinez, an attorney for city-owned Robstown Utilities, said Wednesday he hadn't yet seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment.

The day before the power was disconnected, Frank Tijerina said he paid \$605 to cancel the balance on their electricity bill. Tijerina covered the full balance in two payments made Jan. 3, the last just minutes before city offices closed.

Issac was born with his organs outside his body and requires several machines to live.

A document on file with the utility shows the Tijerina household has special needs, said Roy Gutierrez, superintendent of utilities for the city.

4 children killed in Hereford house fire

HEREFORD (AP) — Fire investigators say children playing with matches started a house fire that killed four siblings and sent their mother to the hospital.

"There is plenty of evidence for that," Hereford Fire Marshal Dean Turney said Wednesday. "It's terrible because that can be prevented."

One-year-old Oryan Xavier Duran and his 2-year-old twin sisters, Givonna Faith and Kaya Hope Duran, were killed Tuesday night by a fire that swept through their home.

Their sister, Mary Nicole Duran, 4, was taken to University Medical Center in Lubbock, where she died Wednesday. The children's mother, Danielle Marie Duran, 22, also was taken to the hospital.

Firefighters received a call about the fire around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. When they arrived, the house was completely engulfed in flames and Danielle Duran was outside the home, screaming that her children were still inside. Crews were able to control the blaze and brought the children out one by one, Turney said.

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FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

Jensen said no injuries were reported.

"Several families were in the apartment building when the fire started, but there were no injuries," said Jensen. "When firefighters got on the scene, all of the occupants were

already outside the building."

Jensen said the cause of the fire is under investigation.

"The fire marshal will conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire," said Jensen. "With the occupants saying they smelled burning plastic, however, I'd say there's a good chance it was caused

by an electrical problem. There's no way to know until the fire marshal completes his investigation, however."

The building was a total loss, according to Jensen.

"The entire top floor of the building was engulfed in flames. The wind really contributed to the amount of damage the fire did. If you look up there,"

said Jensen, pointing through a window to the charred remains of the second floor, "you can see the wind is trying to blow down the inside walls. There's not much left."

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

VETERANS

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sibly be. I started doing it 32 years ago this month, and I continue to do it even though I'm retired. I think I'm the only one that's been to all 172 VA facilities, and I've made more than 3,000 visits in 32 years. So I guess you'd have to say I'm gonna stick with it.

"The veterans and the staff are my favorite part of this," he added. "There are so many dedicated people at these hospitals that take care of these guys and gals. I think sometimes they don't realize just how lucky they are, but an outsider coming in can see the love and the care the staff at all of the VA hospitals give our veterans. And that's something that's richly deserved."

Having held a position steeped in American culture and controversy, Barnett said his visits are all about making the veterans laugh.

"When I was working in the American League and I was in places like Chicago or Kansas City,

I would go out to the VA hospital," said Barnett. "And sometimes I would have had a little controversy on the field the night before. Believe me, the veterans would let me know what they felt about me goofing around with their favorite team! If we can make one veteran have a little bit better day today, this is worth the trip. And that's where my reward comes from."

"I was down at the Medical Armory Hospital in Beaumont and I met a lot of the kids and the support staff for the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq," he said. "I call them kids. My God, they don't look old enough to shave. And they truly are the greatest generation of this time. Just like the World War II vets, the Korean vets and the Vietnam vets. I think I sorta' have a love affair with veterans, and I'm not ashamed to say that."

And while getting the chance to meet Barnett is a major focus for many of the veterans at the hospitals, Barnett said it's the humorous stories that really seal the deal and put a smile on the veterans' faces.

"When Yogi Berra retired from the Yankees, they gave him a huge dinner in downtown Manhattan at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel," said Barnett. "As a gift, they gave him a huge grandfather clock. It really was a mammoth clock, and rather than pay someone to carry it down and put it in his car, Yogi thought he'd save a couple of dollars and do it himself."

"He did well getting to the elevator and through the lobby of the hotel, but when he came to the exit, it was a revolving door. He finally negotiates his way through and gets to the sidewalk on Park Avenue, and he bumped into a gentleman that was slightly drunk. Yogi looked at the guy and said, 'Why dontcha' look out where you're going.' The gentleman looked at him and said, 'Why don't you wear a wristwatch like everyone else!'"

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

TROOPS

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defended Bush's new plan on morning television news shows. "The most important message is ... the enormous stakes we have in Iraq, that in fact we cannot afford to fail," she told CBS' "The Early Show."

She said that Bush considered many options "but believes that this is the best. First, we have to give it the best chance to work (and) we need the support of Congress, of the American people," Rice said.

Democratic opponents also made the rounds of morning shows. "We're not going to baby sit a civil war," Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., told NBC's "Today" Show. He said the Democratic-controlled Congress would not undercut troops already in Iraq but would explore ways to restrict the presi-

dent from expanding the mission.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., told CBS that since the new Democratic-led Congress convened last week, "questions are now being asked of this administration that haven't been asked for almost four years."

Democrats had few short-term options other than expressing their displeasure and forcing Democrats and Republicans alike to go on the record on a buildup.

Congress could cut funds or impose other restrictions, but that could take weeks or months. Furthermore, Bush could veto such legislation. And slim Democratic majorities make it unlikely that Congress could override such a veto.

Meanwhile, a coalition of labor, anti-war groups and liberal organizations was announcing a multi-

million-dollar advertising and grass-roots campaign against the commitment of extra troops.

A new AP-Ipsos poll found approval for Bush's handling of Iraq hovering near a record low — 29 percent of Americans approve and 68 percent disapprove.

In a 20-minute prime time speech, Bush took responsibility for mistakes in Iraq and outlined a strategy he said would pull it out of its spiral of violence. The plan would increase the U.S. troop presence from the current 132,000 to 153,500 at a cost of \$5.6 billion.

"If we increase our support at this crucial moment, and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home," Bush said. He said failure in Iraq "would be a disaster for the United States."

CINEMARK The Best Seat In Town CINEMA 4 1801 East FM 700 (432) 263-2232

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288 Rudy Noble, 54, died Monday. Memorial Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Cornerstone Church. H. D. "Doyle" Fowler, 86, died Thursday. Graveside services will be 2:00 P.M. Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

STUDENTS

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cialists said.

BSJH Principal Coby Norman said the contest provided a good civics lesson to students.

"This is an opportunity for our students to gain an understanding of the sacrifice of those who've gone on before them," Norman said. "Through writing these essays, they

gain a greater understanding of the messages this contest incorporates."

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

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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OTHER VIEWS

Chavez steers his country to socialism

Before his re-election as Venezuelan president last month, Hugo Chavez declared that his goal was to receive 10 million votes and thereby a mandate to greatly accelerate what he calls a 21st-century socialist revolution. In the end, despite a one-sided campaign that left a majority of Venezuelans believing they might be punished if they did not cast their ballots for him, Mr. Chavez received only 7 million votes; an opposition candidate won 4 million. The president's push to transform his country nevertheless is well under way — and the model looks a lot like Cuba in the 20th century.

In the past couple of weeks Mr. Chavez has shaken up his cabinet to eliminate quasi-independent voices, said he will form a single ruling party and announced plans to govern by decree in the coming year. He has said he will close down the country's most popular television network, which has been critical of his government, eliminate the independence of the Central Bank, and nationalize telephone and electricity companies — including one partly owned by Verizon and another by Alexandria, Va.-based AES. The commercial code will be changed; one minister said the intent is to place new limits on the profits of the remaining private companies. Though some private media will remain, Andres Izarra, the head of a state network and a close collaborator of Mr. Chavez's, declared that the regime's plan is "a communications and information hegemony for the state."

The flurry of activity has provoked understandable qualms among Latin America's democratic leaders, some of whom have bent over backward until now to give Mr. Chavez the benefit of the doubt. Jose Miguel Insulza, the Chilean who was elected secretary general of the Organization of American States with Venezuelan support, issued a statement last week saying Mr. Chavez's promise to revoke the license of RCTV "gives the appearance of a form of censorship against free expression" and "has no precedent in the recent decades of (Latin) democracy." The unfailingly vulgar president responded by publicly calling the OAS leader "pendejo," a Spanish word that could be translated as "idiot" but is not nearly so polite.

Some will see in Mr. Chavez's actions a threat to U.S. interests. Certainly, those who caution that it is unwise to count on Venezuela to continue supplying up to 15 percent of U.S. oil imports have a point. If assets of U.S. companies are seized without fair compensation, Venezuela should be subject to penalties. But the main threat posed by Mr. Chavez is to Venezuela's 26 million people. If he follows through on his threats, they can look forward to steadily diminishing freedom and — if the history of socialism is any guide — national impoverishment.

—The Washington Post

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

The stem cell merry-go-round

Here we go again. On stem cell research, that is. The House is poised to pass what is essentially the same bill they passed in the last Congress, easing the restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. There are even more votes for it this time than last, with the Democrats in control.

Then the bill will go to the Senate, where it will also pass.

Then it will go to the president, who will veto it.

Neither the House nor the Senate has the two-thirds majority necessary to override a presidential veto, and the bill will die.

So why go through the exercise?

Because the president is wrong. Because the research is important. Because change isn't easy.

George Bush is as out of touch with America on stem cell research as he is on the war in Iraq.

The latest news on stem cell research came last weekend with reports of promising work with amniotic stem cell, derived from pregnant women. What happened, predictably enough, was that opponents of the House bill seized on the new research findings to suggest that maybe it isn't necessary to do research on embryonic stem cells after all.

Not so fast.

"Some may be interpreting my

research as a substitute for the need to pursue other forms of regenerative medicine therapies, such as those involving embryonic stem cells. I disagree with that assertion," wrote Anthony Atala of Wake Forest University, the author of the amniotic stem cell study, in a letter released by the sponsors of the House bill. It is "essential that National Institutes of Health-funded researchers are able to fully pursue embryonic stem cell research as a complement to research into other forms of stem cells."

In short, so what if White House spokesman Tony Snow is hinting that the president doesn't have a problem with research on amniotic fluid (what problem could he have, I'm afraid to ask)? That's still no excuse for limiting other forms of stem cell research.

My friends who are activists in this area remember, in their early days, meeting with blank stares from Democratic leaders when they suggested that stem cell research could be a powerful political issue, even and especially in a presidential election.

No one looks at them blankly any more. What Democrats have discovered, and not only in Missouri where Michael J. Fox's much-discussed advertisement helped decide the Senate race, is that this is one of the wedge issues of the 21st century, uniting Democrats and dividing Republicans, precisely because support does cross party lines.

Anyone contemplating running for president needs a position on the issue, and for Republicans, taking

a position to court favor with the religious right by opposing stem cell research means taking on the majority of all Americans on an issue they care about. Keeping the issue in the headlines keeps the pressure on.

George Bush used the only veto of his presidency to stop stem cell research. By all reports, he's ready to do it again, and will. That can't be stopped.

But progress can be made. This isn't just about scoring political points. It's more important than that.

This time, the bill will get more votes than last time. Next time, it will get more still. Forcing legislators to confront the question, and stand up and be counted, is one step on the way to making change happen. Every time the issue is raised, more people get educated, more people get involved, and the support for lifesaving research that comes at no loss of life to anyone grows.

And one of these days, we might actually have a president whose views reflect those of most Americans, a president who will actually sign the bill. Democracy is messy and slow, but ultimately it does tend to work. Republicans beware.

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

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Democrats spreading misery

One of the first actions the new Democratic congressional majority took was to change legislative rules, implemented by the 1994 Republican-controlled Congress, that made it difficult to raise taxes. I suppose the Democrats' apparent plan to increase taxes on "the rich" won't count as a broken campaign promise not to raise taxes since "the rich" aren't entitled to any rights, only to scorn, jealousy and resentment.

The Contract with America provision required a supermajority or 60 percent to increase taxes, but the Democrats' rule change will now permit a tax hike on a simple majority vote. It will also give the Democrats an advantage in preventing Republicans from extending the Bush tax cuts, which are set to expire in a few years. Democrats removed any doubt that this was an accidental development when they rejected a motion by Minority Leader John Boehner to bar the rule change.

It would be one thing if Democrats were solely motivated here by fiscal concerns: balancing the budget, eliminating the deficit and reducing the national debt. But we know better than that because they understand that the president's tax cuts, like President Kennedy's and President Reagan's, increased federal revenues.

Moreover, they can't help but realize that President Bush's tax-cut-driven economic boom has now caused dramatic reductions in the deficits. But to admit such things would be to forfeit class warfare as a demagogic weapon, one of their best remaining tools

to bludgeon heartless Republicans.

The very idea that upper income producers are undertaxed is ludicrous on its face. Democrats can't possibly believe that the rich don't pay their fair share of the revenues when the top 1 percent of income producers — according to 2004 tax data cited by economist Larry Kudlow — pays some 37 percent of federal income taxes and the lowest 40 percent pays virtually no taxes and is even subsidized.

But it's not the inequitable distribution of the tax burden that really bothers liberals. If so, they'd be carping at the lower-income earners for not paying their fair share.

What bugs them is the "inequitable" distribution of wealth. But if they were candid in confessing this, they would be hard-pressed to explain their supposed affinity for economic freedom.

Liberals insist they believe as strongly in the American dream as the rest of us, but routinely demonize those who succeed in attaining it. They loudly profess their allegiance to capitalism, but resent the inequitable monetary results it produces. Isn't that what John Edwards' two-America's theme is all about?

Even robust economic growth resulting in across-the-board increases in income doesn't satisfy the glass-half-empty liberal mindset. It doesn't matter how prosperous we are, it doesn't matter that how much better people are doing across the board. As long as significant disparities exist among income producers, the system, according to liberals, is failing. To them, you see, the system is not supposed to guarantee freedom or equal opportunity, but equal outcomes.

They say they believe in equality of opportunity — I heard no less a

liberal lion than Ted Kennedy claim recently that "opportunity" was a hallmark of liberalism — but strongly object when that opportunity yields unequal outcomes.

The unvarnished truth is that you don't really believe in equality of opportunity if you feel compelled to empower Big Brother to alter the results, after the fact, that equal opportunity makes possible. You are not a free-market enthusiast if you believe the tax code is a vehicle for redistributing wealth.

Besides, hasn't history repeatedly demonstrated that governmentally enforced schemes to equalize outcomes result in suppressing both freedom and prosperity? Didn't some of the earliest English settlers in America learn, the hard way, that socialism destroys the incentive to produce, dampens the human spirit and results, ultimately, in less for everyone?

One is entitled to wonder when enough is enough or if there exists a point beyond which Democrats would not go, if they could get away with it, to equalize the distribution of wealth in this country. In a similar vein, one might reasonably wonder whether any amount of failed results would cause liberals to reevaluate the wisdom — and even fairness — of their proposals.

The answer is "no." Just look at education and the war on poverty. For liberals, supposedly good intentions always trump results.

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

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Chili cook-off to benefit children's fund a success

Members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 raised more than \$6,500 for the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund during Saturday's Fifth Annual Chili Cook-off.

Eagles Lodge members collected the money through the 27 chili cook's entry fees, gate receipts from taste testers, and massages given by Wilson Money, RMT. All proceeds were donated to the Children In Need Fund.

"These funds that are raised go toward helping WTCMHMR children who might need school supplies or clothing or tuition for a child with a disability to attend a camp," said West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith.

"Overall, the event was a huge success and we are excited to be

able to help those in need and especially the children of our community," said Landon Sturdivant, West Texas Centers for MHMR associate CEO and a member of the Eagles organization.

Winners of the Chili Cook-off were: First place chili, Mike Calvio and Mike Ramirez, known as the Shake 'N' Bake Team; second place, Alan White, Wild Texans; third place, Robert Aaron, Wild Texan Cooking Team; fourth, Tommy Tilley, House Chili; fifth, Austin Darden and Mike Lindsey, Drunk Hell Chili.

West Texas Centers for MHMR serves 2,200 children and adults with mental illness and mental retardation in 23 rural West Texas counties.



West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith (left) presents first place chili honors to Mike Ramirez and Mike Calvio, who placed first in the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 Chili Cook-off benefiting the WTCMHMR Children in Need Fund. Assisting Smith with the presentation are Jillian Jones (front), a chili cook-off attendee and daughter of a WTCMHMR employee, and WTCMHMR Assistant CEO Landon Sturdivant (right).

WHEELS



Ford's concept sedan, the Interceptor has plenty of room but performs like a sports car.

A four-door Mustang? Better hold your horses

By JIM MATEJA

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — What if? Or maybe why not?

That's what Ford was hoping to learn when it unveiled a concept sedan "with an attitude" at the Detroit Auto Show last Sunday. The Interceptor is built off a stretched version of the rear-wheel-drive Mustang platform with a 13-inch longer wheelbase, at 120.8 inches, and 14-inch greater overall length, at 201.6 inches, than the pony car.

In keeping with the performance image, it packs a 5-liter, 400-horsepower V-8 with a 6-speed manual transmission. But in keeping with a trend toward energy conservation, it burns E85, the ethanol/gasoline blend.

"Interceptor is a car with the room and function of a sedan, the performance heart and soul of a sports car for the person who wants both," said Freeman Thomas, director of North American strategic design at Ford.

But don't go opening your wallet with the hopes of ordering a four-door Mustang.

"It's not a Mustang, and not a four-door Mustang. That's not the intent. It's a car with the soul and spirit of a Mustang," Thomas emphasized in an interview. "Interceptor is very tough, very bold and very American. With it, the Ford muscle-car bully comes to life in a bold machine with a powerful V-8."

The jury is still out on production.

"We'll see about the interest in it," Mark Fields, president of the Americas for Ford, said at a media preview. "We

think there's room for more rear-wheel-drive cars at Ford and will gauge reaction with this concept as we do the rounds of the auto shows."

"Will we pursue it further? That's why we do concepts, to test the waters, and that's why we did Interceptor and the Lincoln MKR (concept performance coupe also being unveiled in Detroit)," Thomas said. "A great response would have a huge influence, and we hope for lots of applause."

Thomas also said Interceptor is not a response to the rear-drive Chevy Camaro, due out in

2008. But, he added, "They (Chevy) won't be alone in RWD performance cars. You'll start to see people wearing Ford and Chevy hats and the rivalries return again."

Interceptor sports the same wide three-bar chrome grille as the Ford F-250 Superchief concept pickup from last year's show circuit.

"We took the tough look of the truck into a large American car to see if people say it's a Ford and to celebrate American muscle," said Peter Horbury, executive director of design for Ford.

Interceptor also features LED bars placed strategi-

cally in the cabin that light in any of seven colors to illuminate controls, door handles or cupholders; headrests that slip out of the roof; and an audio and climate-control panel that pops out of the dash.

One feature expected to see the light soon in a variety of Fords is the four-point safety belts that fasten across the waist and down the chest — like belt and suspenders — to better hold occupants in place in a collision.

In back, the belts inflate like air bags. Ford also is weighing those to better cushion occupants' upper torsos.

Local artist to have one woman show at Scurry County Museum

Linda Rupard will exhibit her oil, acrylic collages and watercolor paintings in a one person show this Sunday through Feb. 15 at Scurry County Museum, 6200 College Ave., in Snyder.

An opening reception will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The reception is free and open to the public.

Linda paints in her Big Spring studio, Touch of Color Gallery. Her work has been featured in the last two Texas Artist magazines. Her paintings are in many collections nationwide.

Rupard teaches workshops and gives demonstrations for art clubs.



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Bragging rights on the line at Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off
By TOMMY BROWN
The Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off is a tradition in Big Spring, Texas. It's a day where the community comes together to enjoy a delicious meal and watch the chefs compete for bragging rights. The event is held at the Big Spring Convention Center and is one of the most popular events in the area.

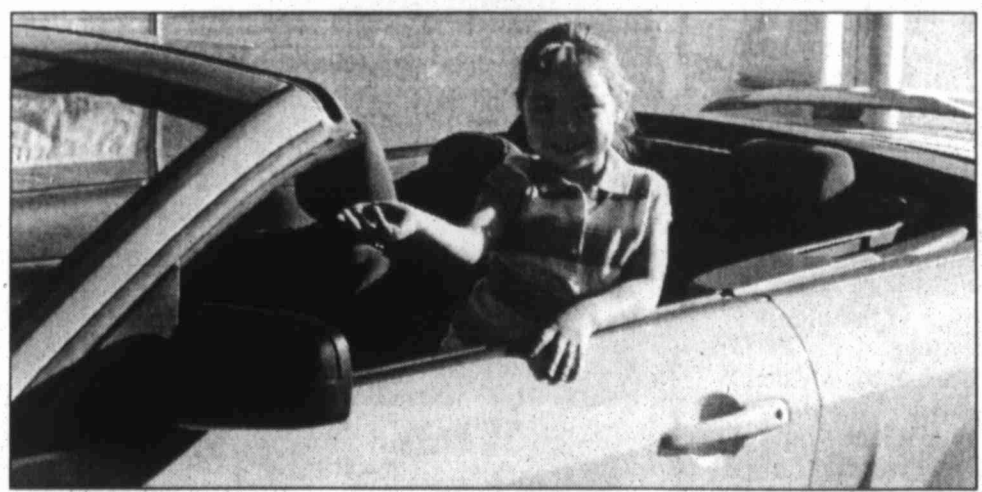
VAMC will honor King legacy Friday
The Big Spring Veterans Affairs Medical Center will honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, Jan. 12. The center will hold a special service at 10 a.m. to celebrate the life and work of the civil rights leader. The service will be held in the main auditorium of the center and will feature a reading of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Sen. Hutchison to tour VA hospital, autograph her book
U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan Hutchison will visit the Big Spring Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Friday, Jan. 12. Hutchison will tour the facility and meet with staff and patients. She will also be autographing her book, "The Heart of a Hero," which is a collection of stories about the lives of veterans.

Family values
Learning life's lessons is an important part of a child's education. At GCHS, students are encouraged to explore their own values and learn from the experiences of others. The school's curriculum is designed to help students develop a strong sense of family and community values.

Lexie Gee
Lexie Gee is a young girl who has a passion for cars. She is often seen sitting in the driver's seat of her mother's car, pretending to drive. She loves to go to the car wash and to see new cars at the dealership.

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IN

Howard Midland

The Hawks squads Midland Chaparral Saturday are 5 women the men This WJCAC for the attempt Garrett everyone will be a

Big Spring power

On Feb powerlift tion in V be held Training Spring H There athletes pete in t On Ma school regional be held a This powerlift be havin car hop Gregg St to 5 p.m. All pa Spring asked to support t team.

Barry B a drug

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Moren hit a ju left Wed give No. a 49-47 Texas Te The Ag scoreless minutes. Lenka 11 poln Starks a the Agg 12). A team's l had five rebounds game s her fo December

Baylor basketball

Court 21 of her halftime Oklahoma came a and wen victory o

Sports

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

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

Thursday, January 11, 2007

IN BRIEF

Howard Hawks host Midland Saturday

The Howard College Hawks basketball squads will host the Midland College Chaparrals this Saturday, game times are 5 p.m. for the women and 7 p.m. for the men.

This will be the WJCAC home opener for the Hawks. In an attempt to pack Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, everyone wearing RED will be admitted FREE.

Big Spring to host power lifting meet

On Feb. 10, the biggest powerlifting competition in West Texas will be held at the Athletic Training Center at Big Spring High School.

There will be over 300 athletes invited to compete in the meet.

On March 3, the high school girl's state regional meet will also be held at the ATC.

This Saturday the powerlifting team will be having a celebrity car hop at the Sonic on Gregg Street from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

All parents and Big Spring Steer fans are asked to come out and support the powerlifting team.

Barry Bonds failed a drug test in 2006

Bonds failed a test for amphetamines last season and originally blamed it on a teammate.

See Page 2B

Texas lady accused of extorting QB Starr

An 81-year-old Texas woman is scheduled to appear in federal court Thursday on her indictment on extortion charges in what prosecutors have described as a scheme to get \$2 million from Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr.

Ruby Y. Young of Kerrville was ordered to appear at a hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Harwell Davis III on the two extortion counts.

Starr, 72, who played at Alabama, was MVP of the first two Super Bowls for the Green Bay Packers.

Texas Tech Lady Red Raiders update

Morenike Atunrase hit a jumper with 1:04 left Wednesday night to give No. 19 Texas A&M a 49-47 victory over Texas Tech.

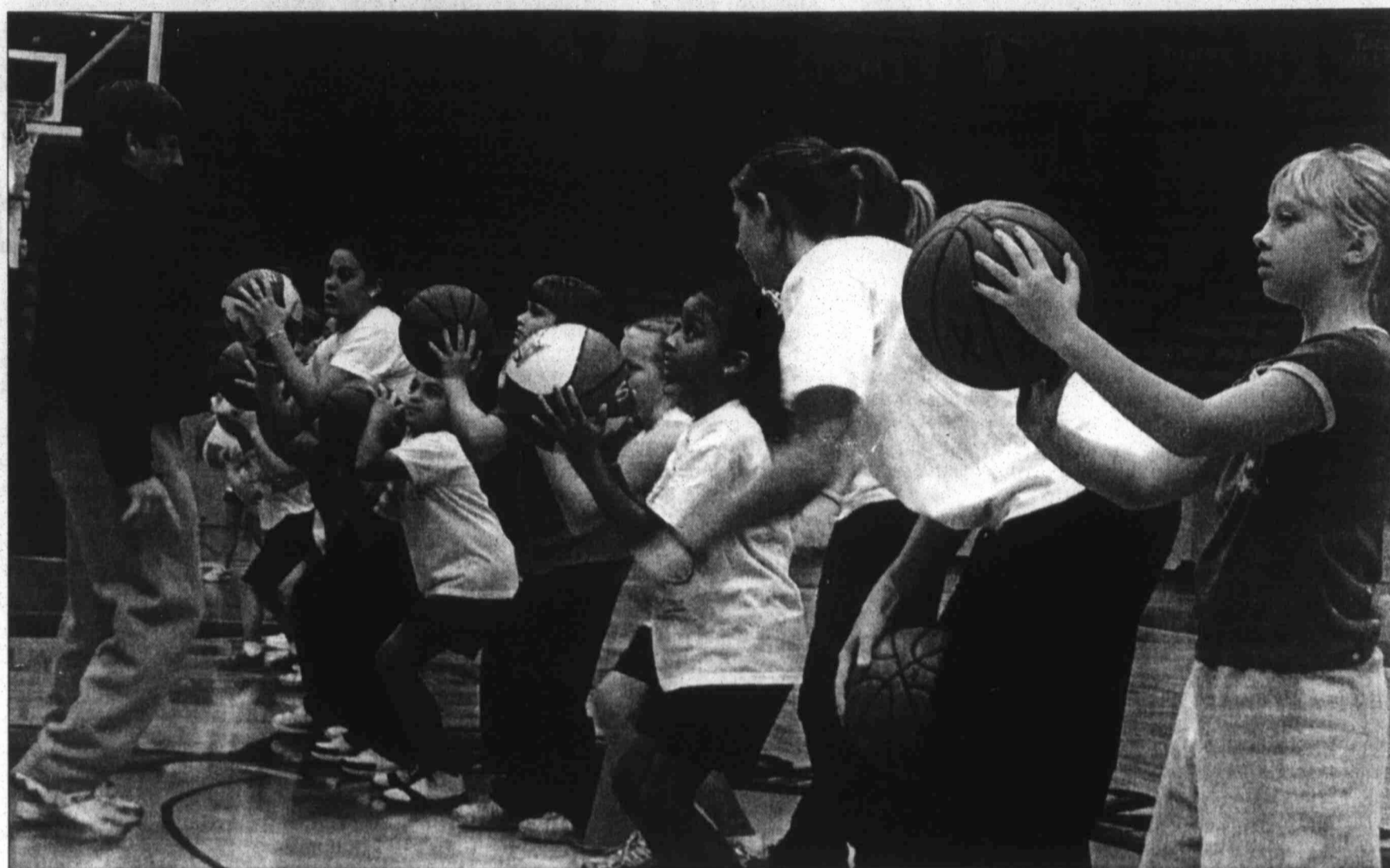
The Aggies held Tech scoreless for the final 3 minutes.

Lenka Zimova scored 11 points and Takia Starks added 10 to lead the Aggies (10-3, 1-1 Big 12). Atunrase, the team's leading scorer, had five points and four rebounds in her second game since breaking her foot in early December.

Baylor Lady Bears basketball update

Courtney Paris scored 21 of her 32 points after halftime when the Oklahoma Sooners overcame a 10-point deficit and went on to a 76-63 victory over Baylor.

Howard coach Earl Diddle instructs the Little Hawks



Mutombo forgets his age and leads Rockets past LA

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Dikembe Mutombo swatted the shot by the kid half his age, then wagged his index finger to the crowd's delight.

Mutombo stuffed another shot by Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum 3 minutes later to move past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and into second place on the all-time blocks list.

The 40-year-old Mutombo had five blocks in all and matched a season high with 19 rebounds in the Houston Rockets' 102-77 win over the Lakers on Wednesday night. He now has 3,191 blocks, two more than Abdul-Jabbar on the all-time list.

"When I came into the league 16 years ago, I told myself that I just want to be remembered for one thing," Mutombo said, "just to be one of the great defensive players to ever play this game."

The Rockets have won seven of nine games since Yao Ming broke a bone in his right leg and much of it is due to the suddenly spry Mutombo, who's had double-digit rebound totals in eight consecutive games.

"It's amazing, just the way I'm playing," said the 7-foot-2 Mutombo. "Even to myself, I'm sitting down like, 'Whoa, is Mutombo really playing like that?' I haven't seen myself jumping for a rebound like that for a while."

Mutombo's three children — ages 9, 5 and 3 — have nagged him lately about when he was going to pass Abdul-Jabbar. He had only one block in each of Houston's last four games.

"Now, they're going to leave me alone," he said. "No more asking, 'Daddy! When are you going to block all the shots and break the record?'"

Mutombo is still 639 blocks from all-time leader, former Rocket and fellow African Hakeem Olajuwon. Mutombo hasn't said when he'll retire, but promises he won't stick around long enough to threaten Olajuwon's mark.

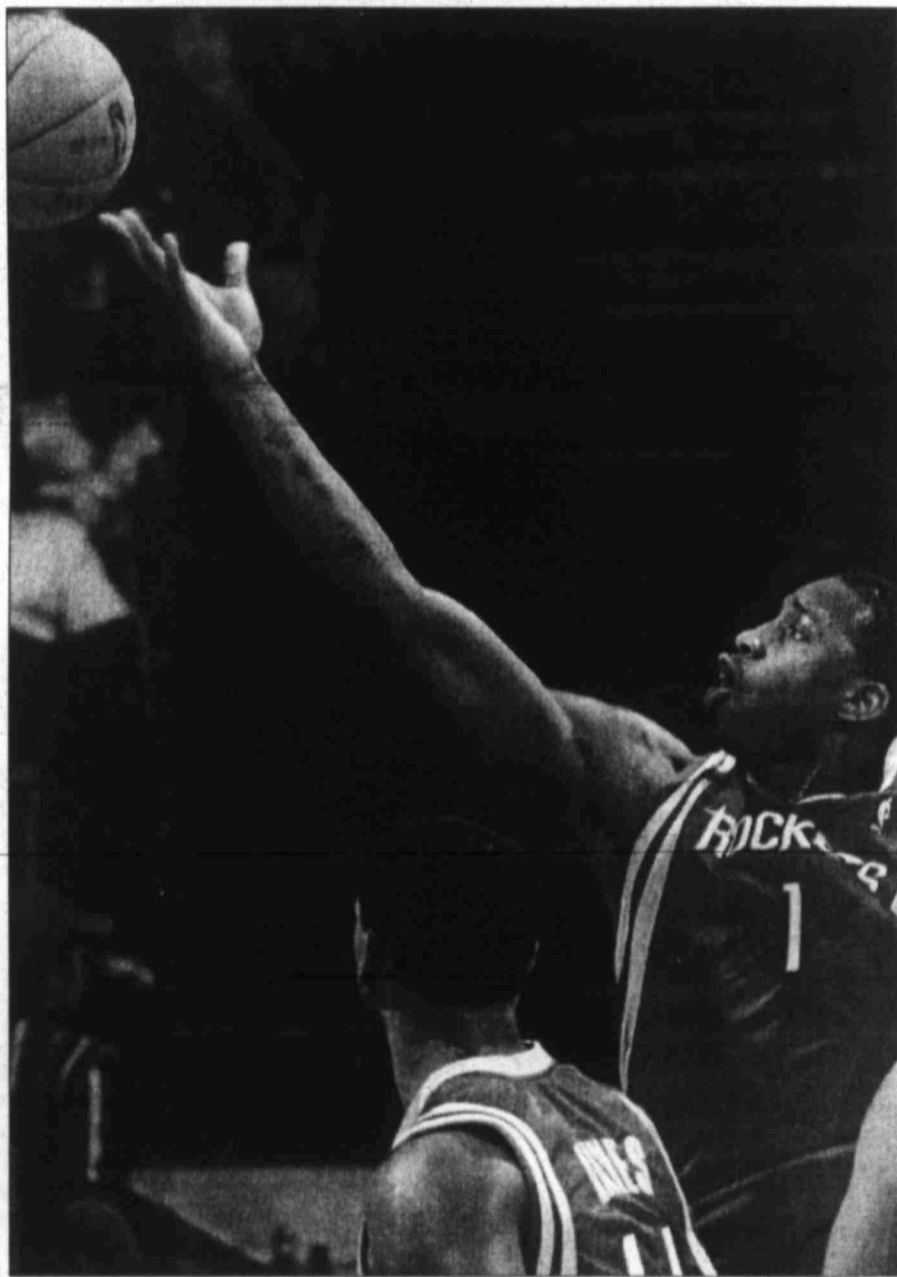
"I will leave that to my brother," he said. "He can keep that torch for the next generation."

While Mutombo led the Rockets' stifling defense, Juwan Howard scored a season-high 23 points and Rafer Alston added 20.

Houston also snapped a four-game losing streak to the Lakers with little scoring help from Tracy McGrady, who'd topped 30 points in each of his last six games. McGrady had only eight points and appeared to aggravate his troublesome back late in the first half. He also had 12 assists.

Kobe Bryant scored 20 points, but went 6-for-18 from the field, for the Lakers, who were held to a season-low point total. Bryant suffered a minor groin strain in

See ROCKETS, page 2B



MCT photo/Gary W. Greer/Orlando Sentinel
Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady drives to the basket in early season action. With the resurgence of Dikembe Mutombo, the Rockets have won 7-of-9 without Yao Ming on the court.

Barbaro suffers significant setback on the road to recovery

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — Doctors were "pulling out all the stops" to save Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, who suffered a significant setback in his recovery from laminitis after months of upbeat reports.

Chief surgeon Dean Richardson removed damaged tissue from Barbaro's left hind hoof, and co-owner Gretchen Jackson said Wednesday that the colt was lightly sedated and back in a protective sling in his ICU stall at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center.

"They're taking extreme measures," Jackson said. "They're treating it very aggressively. They're really pulling out all the

stops to help him."

Jackson said she brought Barbaro grass on Wednesday morning and said the colt's appearance was "not as bright." But she added her husband, Roy, visited Barbaro later in the day and his appearance had visibly improved.

Barbaro was being treated aggressively for his discomfort and is in stable condition, according to a statement released Wednesday morning by the Center. The tissue was removed Tuesday night.

"Things were marching along pretty smoothly until this," Jackson said. "We've been there before with him. He's a horse that wants to live."

Barbaro had become uncomfortable with his

left hind foot, and a cast was removed after some new separation on the inside portion of his hoof was found. The cast had been on a week to help realign a bone.

The cast change could have caused some inflammation, said Dr. Kathleen Anderson, Barbaro's attending vet when the horse was racing and stabled in trainer Michael Matz's barn at the Fair Hill Training Center in Elkton, Md.

Anderson said Barbaro has proved he was strong enough to overcome his latest medical obstacle.

"We all know most horses don't get this far," she said. "The bottom line with Barbaro is the fractured leg is the one that

See BARBARO, page 2B



MCT photo/Philadelphia Inquirer
Jockey Edgar Prado greets Barbaro at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. Barbaro, the Kentucky Derby winner, has now developed laminitis.

Durant and Abrams leads young Longhorns past Missouri

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Kevin Durant and the young Texas Longhorns are making Big 12 play look easy. They have to know tougher games are sure to come.

Durant scored 34 points and No. 25 Texas won another Big 12 blowout Wednesday night, an 88-68 victory over Missouri that left yet another opponent befuddled on how to stop the long and lean freshman forward who seems to score at will.

Durant had already tied Texas and Big 12 freshman scoring records with 37 points a few days earlier against Colorado.

"Send him to the league. He needs to go to the league, man," said first-year Missouri coach Mike Anderson, who dropped to 0-2 in the Big 12.

Most expect Durant to jump to the NBA after one season. For now, he's a defender's nightmare in a conference that might have hoped for a Texas drop-off after the Longhorns lost all five starters from last season's co-championship team.

Durant leads the league in scoring and rebounding and like everyone else, the Tigers had no way of keeping him from scoring from just about anywhere on the court. He hit 10 of 14 shots, two 3-pointers and was 12-of-13 on free throws. He also grabbed 13 rebounds.

But the kid seems to know that two easy wins don't set up Texas to win a championship.

"Games are going to get harder and harder," Durant said. "We've got a long way to go. It's not about me, it's about everybody."

Texas (12-3, 2-0) ran its winning streak over Missouri to nine. The Tigers (11-4) haven't beaten the Longhorns since 1999, when Norm Stewart coached his last regular-season game at Missouri, which also happened to be his final career victory.

A.J. Abrams added 16 points for the Longhorns, who hit 12 3-pointers.

Marshall Brown led Missouri with 24 points, 22 in the second half.

Texas starts four freshmen and Missouri came out with a burst that made it look as if the Tigers could be more physical.

If Texas lacks anything, it's muscle in the post, and Leo Lyons scored Missouri's first eight points — most of them from right under the basket.

But it didn't take long for Texas to find the right defense to shut him down and for Durant to start heating up. Lyons never scored again, and Durant had 15 points in the first half.

Missouri's tough halfcourt pressure forced Texas into 11 turnovers in the half but couldn't stop the Longhorns from finding wide-open shots on the perimeter. Texas hit eight 3-pointers to take a 44-26 lead into halftime.

"We moved the ball and we didn't try to dribble through traps. We got to our spots and knew where each other were," said Texas point guard D.J. Augustin, who had 13 points and six assists.

Durant hit a 3-pointer early in the second and the Longhorns built the lead as high as 65-38.

But just when Texas was starting to make it look too easy, the Tigers found a way to make it interesting.

Missouri's constant ball pressure finally started forcing Texas into bad shots. Brown hit a pair of 3-pointers and a 17-4 Missouri run cut the lead to 69-55 with 7 minutes left.

The rally didn't last. Texas got the lead back over 20 when Abrams hit a 3-pointer and Durant snatched up a loose ball and loped to an easy layup for a 76-55 cushion.

Missouri forced 15 turnovers in the game but only managed to convert them into seven points.

"We think we can handle pressure," Texas coach Rick Barnes said.

su | do | ku

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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

9		3	5		1
	2	8	1		9
	5		9		3
3					7
		9	1	8	6
8					3
	9		5		7
	3		4	7	1
5		9	6		2

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Wrong Way to Run a Railroad

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South 1♦ Pass North 2♦ Pass East Pass
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

One tends to become a victim of habit in certain situations because they seem to be similar to others encountered previously. This tendency can prove costly at times, as witness what happened to South in this deal.

West led the jack of clubs against South's four-spade contract. Declarer won with the queen, crossed to dummy with a trump and led a heart

to the jack, losing to the queen. West made the fine return of a second trump, which declarer took in dummy to lead another heart. When the king lost to the ace, West returned a third round of trumps.

Declarer was now at the end of his rope. He could not avoid losing a diamond and another heart, and so finished down one.

The odd part of the hand is that if declarer had been dealt three small hearts instead of the K-J-5, he would surely have made the contract! In that case, given the same opening lead, he would have arranged to ruff one of his heart losers in dummy.

After winning the club, he would have returned a heart. Then, regardless of what the defenders did next, he would play another heart, putting him in position to trump his third heart in dummy.

But the presence of the K-J-5 of hearts induced declarer to cross to dummy with a trump in order to lead toward his heart honors. This in turn opened the gate for repeated trump leads by the defense and eventually brought about South's downfall.

To avoid this pitfall, declarer should have led any heart from his hand at trick two, and 10 tricks would have been assured.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Barry Bonds failed amphetamine test

NEW YORK (AP) — Barry Bonds failed a test for amphetamines last season and originally blamed it on a teammate, the Daily News reported Thursday.

When first informed of the positive test, Bonds attributed it to a substance he had taken from teammate Mark Sweeney's locker, the New York City newspaper said, citing several unnamed sources.

"I have no comment on that," Bonds' agent Jeff Borris told the Daily News on Wednesday night.

"Mark was made aware of the fact that his name had been brought up," Sweeney's agent Barry Axelrod told the Daily News. "But he did not give Barry Bonds anything, and there was nothing he could have given Barry Bonds."

Bonds, who always has maintained he never has tested positive for illegal drug use, already is under investigation for lying about steroid use.

A federal grand jury is

investigating whether the 42-year-old Bonds perjured himself when he testified in 2003 in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative steroid distribution case that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. The San Francisco Giants slugger told a 2003 federal grand jury that he believed his trainer Greg Anderson had provided him flaxseed oil and arthritic balm, not steroids.

Under baseball's new amphetamines policy, which went into effect before the 2006 baseball season, players are not publicly identified for a first positive test. A second positive test for amphetamines results in a 25-game suspension. The first failed steroids test costs a player 50 games.

Bonds did not appeal the positive test, according to the Daily News, which made him subject to six drug tests by MLB over the next six months.

"We're not in a position to confirm or deny, obvi-

ously," MLB spokesman Rich Levin told the Daily News.

According to the newspaper, Sweeney learned of the Bonds' positive test from Gene Orza, chief operating officer of the Major League Baseball Players Association. Orza told Sweeney, the paper said, that he should remove any troublesome substances from his locker and should not share said substances. Sweeney said there was nothing of concern in his locker, according to the Daily News' sources.

An AP message for Sweeney was not immediately returned late Wednesday.

The Giants still are working to finalize complicated language in Bonds' \$16 million, one-year contract for next season — a process that has lasted almost a month since he agreed to the deal Dec. 7 on the last day of baseball's winter meetings.

The language still being negotiated concerns the left fielder's compliance

with team rules, as well as what would happen if he were to be indicted or have other legal troubles.

Borris has declined to comment on the negotiations. He didn't immediately return a message from the AP on Wednesday night.

Bonds is set to begin his 15th season with the Giants only 22 home runs shy of surpassing Hank Aaron's career record of 755.

Bonds, considered healthy again following offseason surgery on his troublesome left elbow, has spent 14 of his 21 big league seasons with San Francisco and helped the Giants draw 3 million fans in all seven seasons at their waterfront ballpark.

After missing all but 14 games in 2005 following three operations on his right knee, Bonds batted .270 with 26 homers and 77 RBIs in 367 at-bats in 2006. He passed Babe Ruth to move into second place on the career home run list May 28.

ROCKETS

Continued from 1B

the second quarter and left the game with 3:33 left after playing 34 minutes.

Bryant said after the game the injury was "tight," but said he would be ready to play on Friday against Orlando.

"I will let it chill and I should be fine," he said from the visiting locker room.

The Lakers shot 34 percent (26 of 76) and mustered a season-low 31 points in the second half.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Mutombo was only part of his team's offensive strug-

gles.

"The Rockets just played good defense and Mutombo had some big blocks and we couldn't shoot the ball in the second half," Jackson said. "Our passing failed us and we didn't shoot the ball well."

The Rockets built an early seven-point lead despite McGrady's 2-for-6 start. Bryant scored 10 points in the second quarter during an 11-4 spurt to pull to a 41-41 tie.

McGrady, who missed seven games last month with back spasms, was fouled on a drive by Brian Cook in the final minute of the half and winced in pain as he walked to the

free-throw line. He missed both shots and had only six points at the break, though he also had six assists and played solid defense.

Alston, coming off a 2-for-14 shooting night against Chicago on Monday, sank a 3-pointer, then drove for a layup early in the third quarter as the Rockets rebuilt their seven-point lead.

McGrady badly missed his first three shots of the second half, but Shane Battier swished 3-pointers to keep Houston in front.

After Mutombo's blocks on the 19-year-old Bynum, Alston scored on two drives as the Rockets finished the third quarter

with an 8-0 run and led 72-58. In the closing seconds of the quarter, Jackson got ejected by referee Tony Brothers for protesting a no-call.

McGrady went to the bench with 10:14 left, but the Rockets still pulled away. Howard scored twice inside, then hit a 20-footer to boost the lead to 80-60.

Luther Head drove for an unlikely dunk over Ronny Turiaf with 4:44 left, putting the Rockets up 88-66 and finishing off the Lakers.

BARBARO

Continued from 1B

would have been the end of most horses. He won't be getting to the big green field any time soon, but I don't think this is insurmountable."

It was the first bad news after months of progress. The owners and Richardson even talked about releasing Barbaro from the hospital, perhaps by the end of the month.

"It's sad that he's had a setback because he was marching along toward living outside the hospital," Jackson said. "The only thing we care about is that he's not in pain."

Barbaro shattered his right hind leg in the Preakness on May 20. In mid-July severe laminitis, a potentially fatal disease caused by uneven weight distribution in the limbs, resulted in 80 percent of Barbaro's left hind hoof being removed.

"I was there yesterday and it was obvious he was not comfortable in that foot," Jackson said. "The easiest and best way to work on Barbaro is when he's laying down. They had to wait until he was laying down and when they removed the cast, they discovered some reason for him feeling pain."

Just over a week ago, Richardson said Barbaro's right hind was getting stronger and should eventually be healthy enough to allow the colt to live a comfortable, happy life.

But he also warned: "Barbaro's left hind foot, which had laminitis, remains a more formidable long-term challenge. The foot must grow much more for him to have a truly successful outcome."

The disease, called laminitis or founder, involves inflammation and structural damage to tissue that bonds the horse's bone to the inner wall of the hoof. Richardson said in July that Barbaro's laminitis was "basically as bad as laminitis as you can have. It's as bad as it gets."

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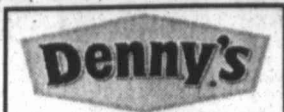
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MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE is accepting applications for the following opening: CNA's, 6-2 and 2-10 shift. Monday through Friday. Contact Jay at (432) 263-1271.



NEED AN experienced HVACR technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.

NEED BACKHOE operator w/CDL. Good driving record. Need one year experience. Must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.

NEED WEEKEND Breakfast Host. Also need housekeepers for everyday. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylford

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NIGHT OWLS - child care position 5:30 p.m.-midnight. Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.



Now hiring Bilingual Customer Care Representative. StarTek offers great benefits and competitive pay.

Come by 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 30 or call 432-264-2700

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a late night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. 16 hours part time. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th. Street.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a late night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. Full time. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th. Street.

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

Help Wanted

PART TIME clerical worker for busy office, 9:30 to 3:30 Monday through Friday. Phone, computer and customer service skills required. Send resume to P.O. Box 2157, Big Spring, TX 79721.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

POLICE OFFICERS/ FIRE FIGHTERS Are you the Best? Can you make the grade? Wanted only the top 10%. If so come apply. **Firefighters** \$26,499.00 to \$35,162.00 DOEC Deadline for Applications 5:00 p.m., Wednesday January 24, 2007 Testing 8:00 a.m., Saturday January 27, 2007 **Police Officer Certified/ Non-Certified** \$14.40 Deadline for Applications Friday December 29, 2006 **Utility Service Worker** \$9.94 **Contact:** Human Resources City of Big Spring Phone: 432-264-2346 Fax: 432-264-2387 www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PF/FT. USWA Ref#P6901.

ROSE DRYWALL & Acoustical Const. now hiring and taking applications for const. helpers, journeyman drywallers, and metal bldg installers Must pass drug test and have transportation. Starting pay at \$10 to \$15 per hr. depending on experience. We are looking for men to run crews, pay negotiable. Call 432-570-1259 or come by #12 East Industrial Loop, Midland, Texas between 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WIS INTERNATIONAL is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager. All who are interested please call Natasha, (806)543-1778, (806)793-2598.

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

TRANSIT MIX CONCRETE MATERIALS COMPANY is now hiring MIXER TRUCK DRIVER. Starting pay \$12. hour, after 6 months, \$12.50 hour. CDL license is required. We offer competitive wages along with an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, 401(k) profit sharing and a pension plan. EOE/AA Please apply in person at the following location: Transit Mix Concrete 605 North Benton St. Big Spring, TX 79720

TRIO FUELS A UNITED FUEL & ENERGY COMPANY **EXPERIENCED DRIVER NEEDED!** We have developed a new compensation structure and we are willing to pay for your experience. Our Drivers are important to us. In addition to competitive pay you will also receive an excellent benefit package. It's not just a job, it's your career.

Come join our TEAM today! Apply in person at 3112 N. HWY 87, (432)267-9434.

TRUCK DRIVING instructor for Howard College. 3 years experience. Call 1-800-725-6465.

Help Wanted

TRUCK DRIVER Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment background drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

VACUUM TRUCK driver needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL & tanker endorsement. Please call JD's Services (325)575-0851.

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.WorkNowNotLater.com

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

Auction

SURPLUS AUCTION 10 A.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007 209 E. 57th ODESSA, TEXAS **PICKUPS, DUMP TRUCK, TRAILER, GANG TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TOOLS & SUPPLIES, RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT FOR BROCHURE GO TO** www.hanwayauctioneers or call 432-561-9992 **HANWAY AUCTIONEERS LIC.#7753 P.O. BOX 14768 ODESSA, TEXAS**

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord & \$150.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

KITCHEN-AID 36" black built-in gas cooktop \$150, sofa \$100, round coffee table & end table, antique armoire w/mirror. Call 432-264-0645.

ONE ONLY! 12'x24' White Barn, \$99.00 a month. Will deliver. 432-563-3108.

SLIGHT DAMAGE - 14'x24' Barn/ Workshop. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

WANT TO buy - paintings by deceased New Mexico and Western artists. Call 505-986-1095.

Jobs Wanted

NEED A Personal Nanny or Baby Sitter. Many years experience and references available. Call Amber at 432-663-9634 for more information.

Lost and Found

REWARD TO anyone providing information to the whereabouts of a 2002 Polaris 4 wheeler stolen from 101 Broken Bow in the early hours of December 24, 2006. ID #4XACB32A02B77481. Your name will be kept confidential. Call (432)263-1847 or 267-2851 after 4:00pm. Ask for Vergie.

Miscellaneous

2001 CAT D5M, 3 way blade on front, rippers on back. Air conditioned, new belts and pulley. Sell price \$75,000. Call (432) 267-3126.

250 GALLON butane tank, two 15,000 gallon each fuel tanks and a Polaris 4 wheeler 400 model. Call (432) 353-4242.

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

BEAUTIFUL CHERRY solid wood sleigh bed with mattresses, Brand new from factory. \$379. 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$149.00. 432-349-4043.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

CIGARETTE MEMORABILIA collected since 1989 for sale. Call Yvonne at (432)264-0796 after 5 p.m.

DEMO HOT-TUB - 5 to 6 person, \$79.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

Miscellaneous

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

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

LARGE OAK Dining table, 6 chairs, hutch, buffet, New, Boxed! List \$2990, Sell \$999. 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS CLOSEOUT Brand New Still in Plastic Twin Set \$99.00 Full Set \$119.00 Queen Set \$139.00 King Set \$239.00 432-416-0261

MICROFIBER SOFA, loveseat, Matching table set. \$499. ALL BRAND NEW. 806-549-3110.

MUST SELL King pillowtop mattress and box. \$210. Never used, warranty. 806-549-3110.

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

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

SACRIFICE COMPLETE all wood Bedroom set. Beautiful \$699. Still boxed. 806-549-3110.

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

SPECIAL PURCHASE - 8'x12' Storage Buildings. \$39.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

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

Pets

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

Real Estate for Rent

1507 AUSTIN, 1 bedroom 1 bath. \$325, \$150 deposit. Call (432) 263-1792 or 816-9984.

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

608 HOLBERT, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Required one year lease, application, references, first & last months rent, \$475.00 month. Contact information at location.

706 GOLIAD, clean 2 bedroom. CH/A, stove and refrigerator furnished. \$325 a month, \$150 deposit. Call (432) 267-1543.

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

FOR LEASE 40x120 Building with 2 offices. Rent per head doors included land. 1514 Hwy 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE: Large Building. Beautiful Location. Perfect for Home Health or Medical Supply Company/ Store. Call (432)263-4528 or 296-0277.

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BARCELONA APARTMENTS \$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. ALL BILLS PAID 538 Westover 263-1252 1-866-265-4104 Housing Assistance Accepted

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Real Estate for Rent

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN One bedroom + upstairs studio. Near Church/ Grocery. Central air, refrigerator and stove. Smoking and pets prohibited. Credit and background check required. Call McDonald 432-263-7615 or 263-4835.

Real Estate for Sale

10 ACRES with 2 bedroom 2 bath mobile home on North Service Rd. 1-20 East. Coahoma School District. Also several pieces of small acreage on Gail Hwy. Call (432)263-2345.

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

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

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

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bedroom, two bath, one acre, water well, remodeled. \$32,000. Call (432)213-4460.

FORSAN ISD, 3 Bdrm brick home. Excellent condition. CH/A, 2 sided fireplace and RV parking. Home Realtors. Call Linda Barnes (432) 270-0062.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMEMLAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

LAND for Sale - 32.41 Beautiful acres near Country Club. Good water well. \$95,000.00 Call (432)816-3927.

NICE 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace with CH/A. Call (432)268-1375 for appointment.

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

OWNER FINANCE Properties Call Janet @ Home Realtors 432-263-1284 or 213-5454.

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

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, large living room w/ fireplace, CH/A, corner lot. 811 Rannels. \$40,000. Will owner finance with \$5,000. down. Call (432)263-2361 or (432)816-5757.

Vehicles

TOYOTA AVALON XLS 1995 premium Pkg., leather, moon roof, all power, 12CD changer, one owner, runs great, 258,000 miles. \$3,000. Call (432)264-0645.

1999 CHEVROLET Suburban 1500 LT, 4-wheel drive, 109,600 miles, leather, very nice! \$8,500. Call (432)264-0008.

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From **Huge Discounts!** Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7424

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9	4	8	3	2	5	7	6	1
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Apply at 710 Scurry, or send resumé to:

Rick Nunez Advertising Manager P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring, TX 79721 or fax: (432) 264-7205 email to: advertising@bigspringherald.com

TRIO FUELS A UNITED FUEL & ENERGY COMPANY

EXPERIENCED DRIVER NEEDED! We have developed a new compensation structure and we are willing to pay for your experience. Our Drivers are important to us. In addition to competitive pay you will also receive an excellent benefit package. It's not just a job, it's your career.

Come join our TEAM today! Apply in person at 3112 N. HWY 87, (432)267-9434.

TRUCK DRIVING instructor for Howard College. 3 years experience. Call 1-800-725-6465.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Libra moon has a well-honed aesthetic and wants us to look at the potential loveliness in all things, but especially things thought of as utilitarian, ugly or mundane — like wastepaper baskets, strip malls, the lids of jars and odd things cast to the side of the road. Let your inner artist emerge to find beauty in your everyday world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Conversation is easy. Communication is difficult. The closer you are to a person, the more difficult it becomes. Because

of your history together, the present is impossibly layered with innuendo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have trepidations about some friends. Are they keeping a secret from you, or is it just your imagination? Be honest about your feelings. If they're true friends, then they'll be honest also.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When it comes down to survival of the "fittest," it's about being the most adaptable to the environment. Although things are changing rapidly for you right now, you'll thrive if you're flexible.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stars give you an extra dose of self-discipline. Use it to be proactive. Tonight, you're being rushed into a decision. Be strong. Friends

are sounding boards when you need an objective opinion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It may be a workaday world, and though you're not averse to working in it, this by no means defines you. Your creativity emerges to get some air. Then evening brings sudden, irrational joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're expecting to be buoyed by something big. However, happiness doesn't occur only after events of consequence — it's the unexpected snapshot of life that revives your spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone you've been at odds with is now ready to make reasonable concessions. Are you willing to compromise, too? Singles find love at the bookstore, library or an institution

of learning. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your reputation for delivering the goods brings positive P.R. your way. Friends refer you to a job or romantic connection. This evening favors reconciling your financial records.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A strange disorder rules your house. Distraction leads to clutter. Somewhere among the business cards, coupons and random bits of mail there's a clue about where you left your heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in a powerful cycle, and there are people nearby who desperately want your respect. You may have to walk cautiously to avoid stepping on the names they'll drop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The personal work you've done lately brings social benefits. The thing or person you're waiting for is waiting for you, too. One terrific new person can open an entire world of adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're inventive and sharp, but be careful not to overdo things. It's the simple idea that takes off like a rocket. A Gemini or Sagittarius person can help you fill a tall order the easy way.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: She's graced the big screen alongside luminaries such as Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton, and now gracious Capricorn Amanda Peet is holding her own in "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip." A stage-trained New York City actress,

Peet utilizes her Capricorn discipline and drive to craft a consistent and successful career. I see her recent marriage to David Benioff and the pending arrival of their first baby as the culmination of a well thought-out balance on all sides of Peet's life.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been in a serious relationship with "Clark" for over two years. He's the man of my dreams, and I love him more than words can say. We are open, honest and loyal to each other, and we get along great. We get through hard times better than I ever imagined.

Here's the problem: Lately, I've had trouble keeping my eyes on only him. I have this feeling inside that makes me want to run off and have random intimate relations with complete strangers.

I have never cheated in my relationship and don't ever plan to, but a part of me wants to, even though I love Clark completely. I don't want to come off as a promiscuous person, because I'm not. Is there any way you can help me? — Confused Canadian

Dear Confused: Sometimes, out-of-control desires can indicate medical problems such as hormonal imbalances. It's also possible that you are simply scared of the depth of your commitment to Clark. It can be frightening to fall so completely in



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

love, and finding "the one" means there won't be any others. This can create a sense of panic and, in some cases, a subconscious need to wreck the relationship, partly to get out and partly because you don't feel you deserve such a great guy. First see a doctor for a complete check-up, and then talk to a therapist. You need to sort this out before you do something you will regret.

Dear Annie: A friend of ours who was recently widowed is now dating a woman we do not like. My husband and I have tried to be supportive of

"Thomas" and patient with his new girlfriend, but she is so difficult to be around.

"Lulu" has lied about her past employment. She's lied about attending a nearby college. She brags and exaggerates every experience. When she opens her mouth, we don't know what to believe. She also repeats herself, interrupts others and is petulant when attention drifts away from her. We are amazed Thomas has not confronted her about all this, but we chalk it up to his need for companionship and the residual effects of a stroke some time ago.

Others in our group see Lulu as a gold digger. Thomas' children are trying to be polite, but, like us, their patience is wearing thin. So far, we have refused a lot of invitations, but should we intervene? Should we be honest with Thomas about our feelings? — Cape Cod Friend

Dear Cape Cod: Here are the only things you need to be concerned about: Is Lulu taking advantage of

Thomas financially? Is she abusing him? His children should look into the former, and you don't present any evidence of the latter. Thomas gets to pick his own companions, even if they are annoying, petulant and untruthful. Don't bad-mouth Lulu, but if Thomas asks why you don't socialize as much as you used to, you may tell him that you haven't warmed up to his girlfriend.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Still Young," whose 71-year-old mother got a part-time job, causing concern among her older siblings.

My 75-year-old mother still works full time. She loves it and feels it keeps her alive and young. I also have an aunt in her 70s who has severe emphysema, and she works as a crossing guard. Her doctor believes this is slowing the progression of the illness because it makes her happy.

If Mom wants to work, let her. It keeps her engaged, and she is not sitting around the house waiting to die. — M.L.

Dear M.L.: We heard from plenty of readers who continue to work well into their 70s and 80s and see no reason to stop.

Dear Annie: I have a son who is nearly 26. "Jack" has a good job and lives in his own apartment about 100 miles away, but he has no social life and has never had a girlfriend.

Jack insists on coming home every other weekend to see his mother. He brings two weeks' of dirty clothes for my wife to wash. She also cuts his hair. He won't get his own mailing address, so he picks up his mail here. Jack unhooks my computer and puts his hard-drive online to play computer games and watch cartoons. He does this for two days. For the entire time he is here, he never calls or visits anyone else.

If his mother gets in the swimming pool or hot tub, Jack wants to join her. My wife never objects to this activity, and this has caused great

friction in our marriage. We have gone for counseling, and the counselor told her this is an unhealthy relationship between son and mother and she needs to say "no" to him. Instead, she quit going to counseling, and this is where we are today.

I love my son, but I love my wife more. We have been married for 32 years, but I am soon going to tell my wife that I cannot share my marriage with Jack any longer. I've tried talking to my son, and he told me that his mother owns 50 percent of the house and that's that. What should I do? — Desperate in Florida

Dear Desperate: We don't think this merits a divorce. Some of Jack's behavior is not unusual and indicates immaturity or a lack of funds. But following his mother into the pool or hot tub is iffy. And when a therapist says the apron strings are pulled a little tight, Mom ought to pay attention. Explain to your wife that she is being selfish. Encouraging her son's dependence prevents him from growing up and finding healthy relationships with other women. Also ask friends to introduce Jack to some available females. He needs to get into the hot tub with someone else.

Dear Annie: My daughter and son-in-law just celebrated their first wedding anniversary. My daughter acknowledged all her wedding gifts except one: a beautiful taupe handmade afghan. The afghan package was brought to the reception, and in the transfer of gifts to vehicles, the tag or card was lost.

We tried to find out who brought it, matched gifts to our guest list and even called people, but were unable to identify the giver. My daughter felt terrible about being unable to express their thanks. Gift tags can come off, so please tell your readers to put a tag or card inside the package. — Tallahassee Mom

Dear Tallahassee: Actually, the best solution

is for gifts to be sent to the home before or after the wedding. Carting packages home from a reception is always an extra burden for the bridal couple or their parents, and often things are lost — including cards that are taped to the tops of presents. So, if you are the person who has been complaining that the wedding couple never sent you a thank-you note for that lovely afghan, now you know why.

Dear Annie: Please suggest Big Brothers Big Sisters as a resource for single parents whose children miss absent mothers or fathers. This organization partners an adult with a child and monitors the progress of the relationship on a regular basis.

My son and I work as Big Brothers and find it most rewarding. At a "Bigs" meeting, I heard one Big Brother talk about a former Little Brother who is now married with children. Their relationship has continued over the years.

Please encourage your readers to contact Big Brothers Big Sisters (www.bbbsa.org) at 230 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. — A Caring Big in Kentucky

Dear Caring: Thank you for the opportunity. We hear from many readers who worry their children are missing out on the benefits of a relationship with the parent who is no longer there. We hope they will keep this organization in mind.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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THURSDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 24 rows representing different time slots (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) with program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WHEN MR. WILSON WAS SKINNY AND HAD HAIR, WAS HE STILL A GROUCH?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Dagwood will be jealous. I'm making a cookie sandwich."

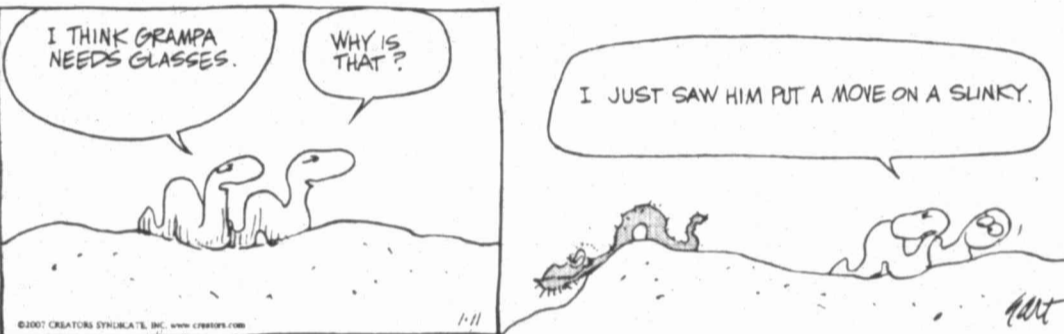
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This Date In History

B1306 History Jan 11, Adv11 Today in History

By The Associated Press

Copyright 2006 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Today is Thursday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2007. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

On this date:

In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created by an

act of Congress.

In 1807, Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University, was born in Westchester, N.Y.

In 1815, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union.

In 1913, the first sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th Automobile Show in New York.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif., that made her the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

In 1942, Japan declared war against the Netherlands, the same day that Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies.

In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relinquishing extraterritori-

al rights in China.

In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1995, 52 people were killed when a Colombian airliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena; a 9-year-old girl survived.

Ten years ago: President Clinton summoned top administration officials to a daylong planning session for his second term. An earth-

Answer to previous puzzle

A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in: PAST, BERG, BASTE, OMAR, OVAL, ETHEL, SODA, MEGA, ALARM, TRAILBLAZER, DIS, SETTEE, ENERO, ORSO, TRAWLS, OFTEN, CZAR, IBIS, WEAR, LOOSE, SORT, EMIR, OWNS, SEXES, SALONS, ETNA, GREET, AMANDA, MIA, TRACKRECORD, ONTAP, CHAR, TWOD, ARENA, KENO, EAVE, NERDY, STEW, DYED.

Newsday Crossword

GET THE POINT? by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Nightclub performer 6 Kindergarten study 10 Walk heavily 14 Walled Spanish city 15 Exhausted 16 Freight-train rider 17 Bit of Christmas-tree debris 19 Similar 20 A person 21 Paul Bunyan's tool 22 Piano, so to speak 24 Chilean poet Pablo 26 Like cacti 27 Bobby Darin tune of '59 32 Carbonated drink 35 Noncarbonated drink 36 Crowd-scene actor 37 Letter after epsilon 38 Row (Steinbeck novel) 41 Trig. ratio 42 Children's song refrain 44 Alphabet finale 45 "Good heavens!" 46 Asterisk kin 50 "The Highwayman" poet 51 Rock variety 55 Hoppy brew 58 Consume

- 59 Seaweed-wrap site 60 British essayist 61 Clipper's target 64 Twin in Genesis 65 Eye layer 66 Slacken off 67 Cowhand's pal 68 Improper, in a way 69 Shows impatience DOWN 1 Poultry purchase 2 Sheeplike 3 Shaft worker 4 Suffix for percent 5 NATO nation 6 "... sting like ___" 7 Stream bottom 8 Ottoman leader 9 Wonder of song 10 Tonsils' neighbor 11 Norse god of mischief 12 New York theater award 13 Wears 18 Pimlico play 23 Perfectly pitched 25 Thurman of Tinseltown 26 Sonnet divisions 28 Author Kesey 29 Hankering 30 Born in 31 Effortless 32 Made tracks 33 Kentucky neighbor 34 "Mon ___!"

- 38 Digital-clock punctuation 39 Hosp. readout 40 Jamaican music 43 King Abdallah's father 45 Assay candidate 47 Breathtaking sight 48 Infer 49 Lure into lawbreaking 52 Author Asimov 53 Ill will 54 Presidents' Day events 55 Nest noise 56 Casablanca role 57 Fact fudger 58 Quaint oath 62 Straight from the factory 63 Nuggets' org.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 67 indicating starting positions for the words listed in the adjacent sections.