

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Even as temperatures tried desperately to rise above freezing Monday afternoon, these icicles managed to keep a cold grasp on one of the pavilions at Comanche Trail Park. Temperatures are expected to reach the low 30s this afternoon before giving way to the low 20s tonight, with a 20 percent chance of snow.

## Icy weather moves across Texas

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Wintry weather provided some Texas students with an extended break from classes as a frigid surge dropped freezing rain and iced roads across parts of the state.

Road crews in South Central

Texas and the Hill Country braced for the possibility of a treacherous morning commute resulting from a mix of precipitation and temperatures that dipped below freezing.

"There's some icy spots, but they've all been treated," Travis County Sheriff's Maj. Darren Long said early today. "Right now, all of

our roadways are clear. That could certainly change if all of a sudden it started getting colder and ice fell."

Interstate 35 through Austin was open after sections had been closed Monday night to sand the roads

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## Annual HC stock show set to begin

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Tomorrow's farmers and ranchers will put their best foot forward this week when the Howard County Junior Livestock Show begins.

The annual event, which showcases area 4-H youth and their animals, begins Wednesday and runs through Saturday at the County Fairbarns adjacent to the Rodeo Bowl.

Lambs and goats will be the first animals exhibited at the show. Lambs will take the stage at 3 p.m., followed by goats 30 minutes after the end of the lamb show.

The tiniest creatures in the livestock circuit take center stage Thursday, when the rabbit show is held at 6 p.m., while the show's largest animals — steers and barrows — will be judged Friday (steers at 10 a.m., barrows at 1 p.m.)

The annual awards reception and buyers sale will conclude events at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Amanda Toerck, the county 4-H extension agent, said this is one of the top events of the year for 4-H members.

"This is one of their biggest goals — to come to the livestock show and compete against other kids," Toerck said.

But the show is about

### 2007 Howard County Junior Livestock Show schedule

• **Wednesday**  
10 a.m. — Lambs/goats in place.

1 p.m. — Lamb weight cards due.

2 p.m. — Goat weight cards due.

3 p.m. — Lamb show.

4 p.m. — Goat show (30 minutes following lamb show).

• **Thursday**  
9 a.m. — Steers in place.

1 p.m. — Steers weighed.

4 p.m. — Rabbits in place and weighed.

6 p.m. — Rabbit show.

6 p.m. — Barrows in place.

8 p.m. — Barrows weight cards due.

• **Friday**  
10 a.m. — Steer show.

1 p.m. — Barrow show.

• **Saturday**  
11:30 a.m. — Buyers' barbecue.

1 p.m. — Awards reception followed by auction sale.

more than competition, she added.

"They learn responsibility — taking care of something that can't take care of itself," she said. "And they learn communication skills ... and how

See SHOW, Page 3A

## Forsan ISD trustees extend Johnson's contract

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — School trustees here gave their top administrator a contractual pat on the back during their regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Forsan Independent School District trustees voted to extend the contract of Superintendent Randy Johnson during the



Johnson

meeting, which was held at Elbow Elementary.

Johnson's contract was extended through June 30, 2010. In addition, he was given a 4.5 percent increase in salary.

Johnson is nearing the end of his third year as superintendent. Before that, he was prin-

icipal at Elbow Elementary for two years.

In other business Monday, trustees approved a tardy policy update for Elbow Elementary that officials hope will eliminate confusion between parents and teachers.

"At the secondary campus, tardies are usually a student issue," Johnson said. "At Elbow, however, it's more of a transportation issue ... so we're

working with parents to help make sure the kids get to school on time."

To cut down on lateness at the elementary, trustees approved a policy that calls for a four-step process.

After the first tardy, the student's teacher will send a note home to the parents. That graduates to a phone call to the parents, a formal letter from the principal and, finally, after-

school suspensions.

In other business, trustees: • Named Stallings and Herm of Stanton as the district auditors for next school year.

• Approved the textbook adoption committee and the district technology plan.

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

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**CHILLY CEREMONIES**

AUSTIN (AP) — Ice and bone-chilling temperatures forced Gov. Rick Perry to start his second full term, the one that could make him the longest serving governor in state history, in the warmth and safety of the Texas House of Representatives chamber.

Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst were to be sworn into new four-year terms this morning in ceremonies originally scheduled outside at the state Capitol.

But a winter storm that has glazed much of the state with ice dumped freezing rain on the area, forcing officials to move the traditional ceremony inside, said spokeswoman Glenna Bruun.

**SORE RECORD-HOLDER**

HINSDALE, Ill. (AP) — A man who set an apparent record by riding a stationary bike for 85 hours finished the feat by checking into a hospital.

After two days of recovery and lots of fluids and sleep, 49-year-old George Hood of Aurora pronounced himself almost back to normal Monday. His bid for a record was still awaiting certification for a place in the Guinness World Records book.

"I've got a few aches in my left leg, but it's nothing that I can't handle," he said by phone shortly before ending what he called a precautionary stay at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital.

**VALENTINES FOR TROOPS**

Because of the wintry weather, Hangar 25 is reminding individuals that the air museum is open until 4 p.m. each day for those who want to come in after school or during the day to participate in the Valentines for Troops project.

"We are extending beyond the original time frames and will accommodate anyone who comes in to work on the project during operational hours," said Heather Wallace, Hangar 25 director.

The museum will be placing the Valentines in the mail after lunch Monday, Jan. 22. Anyone having any questions about the project or the Hangar 25 Air Museum should call 264-1999.

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## Obituaries

## Margaret Marstrand



Margaret Frankie Marstrand, 99, died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 at her daughter's home in Midland. A long-time Big Spring resident, she moved to Midland almost four years ago to live with her daughter, Charlotte. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring with Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Frankie was born Nov. 24, 1907, in Sabanno to Margaret Agnes and John Hollis. Frankie graduated from Abilene High School and then attended Hardin Simmons University, pursuing a degree in Music (piano).

She married Charles Edwin Marstrand, March 24, 1933, in Abilene. They came to Big Spring in 1944. He preceded her in death on Aug. 12, 1975.

Frankie and Charles were both very active in the First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring, both serving as elders. She was in the choir for many years and also played the piano at church. Frankie taught at Elbow School and at several elementary schools in Big Spring.

She retired from the Big Spring Police Department, having served as the corporation court clerk for 17 years. Frankie also taught piano.

Her hobbies were square dancing, round and ballroom dancing, bridge, working crossword puzzles, and especially the Dallas Cowboys. Frankie was very proud to have talked on the telephone to former Dallas Cowboy Walt Garrison.

Frankie is survived by two daughters, Frankie Alice Bartol and her husband, Leo, and Charlotte Marie Meeks, all of Midland; four grandchildren, Alice Marie Bledsoe and Cindy Bledsoe, both of Midland, Valeri Marie Meeks of New York City, and Tommy Meeks Jr. of Colorado City; two great-granddaughters: Laurant Marie Meeks and Samantha Margaret Meeks, both of Colorado City; a sister-in-law, Doris Hollis of Orlando, Fla.; a niece, Mary Frances Thrash of Euless, as well as several other nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Frankie was preceded in death by a grandson, Harold Gene Bledsoe, Jr.; a sister, Alice Richardson; and five brothers, Carl Hollis, Brent Hollis, Jacy Hollis, Col. William N. Hollis and Billy Hollis.

Pallbearers will be Stanley Bogard, Claude Jewett, Tommy Meeks Sr., Tony Meeks, Mark McCraney, Scott Akard, and Mark Stephens. Honorary pallbearers will be Billie Miles, Mary Ellis, Libby Dirks, Marj Carpenter, Margaret Cooper, Margareta Durand-Hollis, Gypsy Gulley and Leo Bartol.

The family suggests memorials to the First Presbyterian Church, 701 Runnels, Big Spring 79720, or Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas Street, Midland 79701.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Support Groups

## TUESDAY

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at 263-0027, ext. 236 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## 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.

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## Police blotter

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

- **RICKY LEE TATE**, 18, of 1904 E. 25th Street, was arrested Monday on charges of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and theft.
- **JACOB MICHAEL DICK**, 17, of 2612 Langley, was arrested Monday on charges of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and theft.
- **RICKY RICARDO LOPEZ**, 17, of 1509 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Monday on charges of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and theft.
- **JOHNN CARLOS LOPEZ**, 19, of 1509 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Monday on charges of theft and driving under the influence by a minor.
- **CHRISTOPHER OCTAVIO GUTIERREZ**, 20, of 1600 E. Fifth Street, was arrested Monday on charges of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and theft.
- **APRIL MCGEE**, 25, of 606 Robin, was arrested Monday on four local warrants and a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 49 inmates at the time of this report.
- **LORENZO TORRES RAMIREZ**, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention.
- **JODIE LYN MILLS**, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- **JOHN MANUEL RIOS**, 40, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on an Austin parole warrant.
- **BRAULIO BENTANCUR**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a Guadalupe County warrant for failure to appear.
- **JOSEPH SAENZ**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on Midland County warrants for forgery and theft and an Austin parole warrant.
- **ANGEE GLYNN JAMES**, 32, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of no insurance (four counts), unrestrained child, failure to appear (three counts), displaying a fictitious motor vehicle inspection certificate and displaying a fictitious motor vehicle registration certificate.
- **ROBERT REED JR.**, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

## Take Note

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

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

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

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

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

Call 264-0771 for more information.

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

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

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

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## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Village Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of Cherokee. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Canyon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 168 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of Timothy Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of N. Highway 87 and County Road 48. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of E. County Road 34. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 5300 block of Ash in Ackerly. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2700 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 179 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported near the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Howell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of E. Third Street. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2900 block of Stonehaven. Service refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported approximately 16 miles north of Big Spring on N. Highway 87. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of W. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of E. 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 17000 block of County Road 33. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening. Then periods of flurries after midnight. Lows in the mid 20s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Highs in the lower 30s.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 1-4-5-21-23.  
Number matching five of five: none.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 3-10-18-26. Bonus Ball: 32.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.  
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$350,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-7-0

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# Aggressive breast cancer gene identified

By DELTHIA RICKS  
Newsday

A protein that signals the onset of the deadliest form of breast cancer has been isolated by a team of New Hampshire scientists who say their discovery paves the way for screening and better therapies.

The protein is found in tumor specimens of an aggressive form of breast cancer that often carries an extremely poor prognosis. Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School say the protein — a biomarker they've named nestin — signifies the presence of a difficult-to-treat malignancy called basal epithelial breast cancer.

"These patients are at very high risk of recurrence," said James DiRenzo, a Dartmouth assistant professor of pharmacology involved in the research. This form of cancer, he added, is noteworthy for the presence of stem cells, which are believed to play a role in the cancer's unruly behavior.

The cancer is more common in younger women and is most prevalent in premenopausal black women, DiRenzo said. Discovering nestin's link to the cancer marks the first time anyone has been able to find a signpost for the disease. Indeed, nestin was discovered serendipitously, DiRenzo said.

He and his colleagues had embarked on a search for a stem-cell process called self-renewal and happened upon nestin's role in breast cancer. What leapt out, DiRenzo said, was that any tissue with an abundance of self-renewing stem cells also turned out to be a potent site for tumor generation. Such is the case for basal epithelial breast cancer.

lial breast cancer.

"It is definitely important to have a marker for basal epithelial breast cancer," said Dr. Janice Lu, director of medical breast oncology at Stony Brook University Medical Center in New York. "That means we can screen for it and eventually develop a target therapy specific to the marker."

Historically, there has been no direct way of determining whether a patient has basal epithelial breast cancer. DiRenzo said doctors rule out other forms of the disease before concluding patients have the basal epithelial subtype.

Lu added that the only genuine tip-off that patients have the subtype is their tendency to be "triple negative." That means tumor cells lack estrogen and progesterone receptors and the telltale molecule called HER-2. Presence of the two receptors indicate a patient's cancer is driven by hormones. Drugs that intervene or quash hormone activity can prevent recurrence. HER-2 is yet another marker of an aggressive breast cancer but effective drugs exist to counteract its activity.

Chemotherapy and radiation can treat patients with basal epithelial breast cancer but when those fail — as they often do — Lu said doctors have nothing left to offer.

Despite nestin's discovery, DiRenzo said more work must be conducted to confirm the discovery before moving forward on a commercial test.

"I don't think you'll see large-scale screening until there is a larger validation study," said DiRenzo, whose work is outlined in the current issue of the journal Cancer Research.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Visitors at Comanche Trail Park got the chance to see a winter wonderland Monday, as ice covered the majority of the facility's attractions.

## ICY

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and deal with collisions, Long said.

The prospect of freezing rain, sleet and snow prompted officials in the Austin and San Antonio areas to close public schools today. The University of Texas was also closed, along with city of Austin offices, Municipal Court, public libraries, recreation centers and year-round swimming pools. Garbage and recycling pickup was expected to be delayed at least one day.

The weather also caused officials to cancel Gov. Rick Perry's inauguration parade and move his swearing-in from outside the Texas Capitol indoors.

Meteorologist Robert Blaha of the National Weather Service office in New Braunfels said about a half inch of precipitation fell in Austin and San Antonio on Monday,

some in the form of freezing rain.

"We'll have a freezing rain risk that will work its way well into the morning hours, given that the sunrises are late in the middle of January," Blaha said.

He said rain was a possibility for much of today.

"It's not going to get dryer. It's just going to be wet," he said. "It will be a wet week. It's going to be a wet January."

A winter storm warning was issued for South Central Texas and the Hill Country until Wednesday.

Dozens of flight delays and cancellations at Texas airports on Monday were attributed to the icy conditions in Texas and other states.

At a Blockbuster video store in south Austin, long lines snaked through the store Monday as customers prepared to stay in for the night. At a nearby grocery store, soup shelves were nearly empty after shoppers had stockpiled provisions.

The latest weather system brought the possibility of snow to West Texas, prompting forecasters to issue a winter storm

watch through Wednesday. Four inches or more of snow could fall over the Big Bend area and the Interstate 10 corridor, said Hector Guerrero, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in San Angelo.

Forecasters upgraded the winter storm watch to a winter storm warning for parts of the region, stretching along the I-10 corridor from Junction to Sonora to Ozona.

The frigid weather moved from North Texas into the Austin area early Monday, with drizzle and freezing rain causing cancellation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day events in Austin. A Fort Worth parade also was canceled.

The weather and de-icing efforts caused 166 flight cancellations Monday at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, spokesman David Magana said. Flight schedules had returned to normal by Monday evening, said DFW spokesman Ken Capps.

"It could have been much, much worse, especially when you see what is happening around the rest of the country from this weather system tonight. Our preparations paid off," he said.

There were no weather-related delays at Austin Bergstrom International Airport Monday, except for some originating in other cities, said spokesman Jim Halbrook.

"We're ready. We're just wet and cold," Halbrook said. "We've got everything we need to go through a winter storm."

Conditions should begin to improve by Wednesday, forecasters said.

At least three people

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Margaret Frankie Marstrand, 99, died Saturday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ronnie Carter, 60, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Texas will consider death penalty for sexual predators

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers are talking tough about cracking down on sexual predators who prey on children. Some propose the death penalty for repeat offenders, potentially creating hundreds more death row inmates in a state that already executes more than any other.

Other ideas include mandatory long sentences for first-time offenders or eliminating probation.

But opposition is flaring from unexpected sources: prosecutors and victim advocates.

They fear some of the proposals would make it harder to get convictions and, perhaps, put children in even more danger by giving molesters incentive to kill the only potential witness to their crimes.

And there's the question of whether the death penalty in sex offenses is

even constitutional.

"We support the intent," said Torie Camp of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. "We're concerned about the unintended consequences."

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a Republican who won a second four-year term, has led the charge for tougher penalties for child molesters, calling for a 25-year minimum sentence after the first conviction when a victim is less than 14 and the death penalty option for repeat offenders.

"The idea is to prevent these kinds of crimes,"

said Dewhurst spokesman Rich Parsons. "It sends a clear signal and maybe these monsters will think twice before committing a crime."

Dozens of sex offender bills have already been filed for the 140-day legislative session that began Jan. 9.

Proponents want Texas to join states cracking down with tough "Jessica's Laws", named after a girl who was abducted and killed in Florida, and become one of a handful that could put some repeat offenders to death.

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## SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

to act in front of a judge and an audience."

Senior livestock exhibitors also are eligible for one of five scholarships awarded during the show. Two scholarships are provided by the Herald, while the others are provided by Slick Boatler, Aubrey Langford and the Richard Christey family.

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.

Ronnie Cupstid  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Support our youth through stock shows

It's that time again. The time when hard-working boys and girls see visions of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in their heads.

Both the Howard and Martin county junior livestock shows are this weekend and young participants will be anticipating moving on to the next — and larger — show.

The Howard County Junior Livestock Show opens Wednesday. The Martin County Junior Livestock Show gets under way Thursday. Both will run through Saturday.

We hope you can find time to go out and watch some of the individuals shows — lambs, goats, rabbits, steers and barrows. However, one of the best ways to show support for our local youth is by participating in the auction at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show this Saturday. Each year, many local businesses and some individuals take this opportunity to reward these young men and women for their efforts.

Through programs such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America, our youth are provided hands-on instruction, not only in animal care but in responsibility and teamwork.

Those who are unfamiliar with the Howard County Junior Livestock Show and auction may not realize that the bidders are not actually purchasing the animal; rather, they are supplying the student with a premium for his or her efforts. By doing this, the students stay eligible for future shows.

Buyers can make the "purchase" by themselves or they can participate as an "addon," whereby they pay a portion of the bid and someone else pays another portion.

The annual buyer appreciation luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the county fairgrounds with an awards program to begin at 1 p.m. and the sale to follow immediately after.

There is no sale after the Martin County Junior Livestock Show, rather, students receive cash awards depending on how their animal placed and will receive awards during a Saturday banquet at 7 p.m.

We hope you or your business will consider participating in these very worthwhile activities. It's our youth. It's our future.

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, help us wade through the problems of life.

Amen

## No place like Home Depot

Here's one lawsuit you have to root for: A group of stockholders have filed a restraining-order request to stop Home Depot from paying a \$210 million golden parachute to reward exiting CEO Bob Nardelli for not working there anymore. If more shareholders did more to curb cushy compensation packages, the American public would have more faith in the marketplace.

The American dream used to be: Work hard, make good and get rich. In this economy, make good, then don't make good, get richer. Nardelli's example shows that the real money comes when you're so underwhelming as a CEO (at least in relationship to your pay grade) that the company will pay big bucks to have you leave.

The story shows the rot behind excessive executive pay: Board members tend to be executives who think that paying other executives top dollar is the key to success in business. Hence a compensation package on steroids for Nardelli — even as Home Depot moved to get rid of skilled, experienced employees and replace them with cheaper, less-skilled part-timers.

MarketWatch reported that Nardelli's severance deal — the parting purse for one man — was seven times the \$30 million that Home Depot set aside last June to reward productive stores and employees for good customer service.

As The Wall Street Journal reported, Nardelli's excessive pay led to his excessive exit pay. In the six years he worked at Home Depot, Nardelli was compensated about \$240 million, including stock options. Last year, the "You can do it, we can help" board awarded Nardelli with a \$7 million bonus and \$14.7 million in stock — when his contract didn't require it.

That's an odd reward for a CEO, considering the company stock price declined 8 percent during his tenure, while the stock for its big, bad competitor, Lowe's, the Journal reported, rose by 188 percent. As Rep. Barney Frank, D-

Mass., new chair for the House Financial Services Committee, noted, the argument used to be that CEOs enjoyed mega-pay for boosting their stock sales.

In this case, Nardelli's compensation doesn't even make market sense.

Which is why the Do-It-Yourself giant's board members had begun to bristle, and Nardelli's gravy train was heading toward its final destination. Home Depot hired a consultant that found Nardelli was making more than his industry peers. As the Journal reported, the board asked Nardelli to give up some perks. He was willing to give up use of six corporate jets, but reportedly didn't want a reduction in bonuses, so he relinquished his orange apron.

The big irony is that, as The New York Times revealed, the contract Nardelli signed with Home Depot when the company recruited him in 2000

is the reason he walked away with a \$210 million goodbye kiss. The CEO cut a good deal when he was hot, and cashed in when he was not. You know you've

arrived in America when you get paid more not to work than to work.

Too bad some creative corporate lawyer didn't figure out a way to pay Nardelli his excessive salary only, while making him the CEO of coffee and doughnuts or something.

Frank wants the U.S. House of Representatives to get into the act, but there are elements to this

story that show the problem is taking care of itself.

Last year, shareholders revolted. Nardelli didn't help himself when, at a shareholder meeting, he stonewalled questions that malcontents directed toward his pay package. Angry shareholders fought back — 30 percent withheld their votes for 10 of the 11 Home Depot board directors. The love was gone.

As The Associated Press reported, a group of shareholders is suing Home Depot to pull the cord on the golden parachute — arguing that the company "will suffer additional irreparable harm if Nardelli gets the whole package. Already, the Home Depot board voted to require that hereafter two-thirds of its independent directors — instead of a majority

— approve a chief executive's compensation.

New Securities and Exchange Commission rules will make it harder for boards to hide

what they are paying their top guns. As Martha Stewart would say, that's a "good thing." If you believe in the free market, you should be rooting for an end to the welfare state for CEOs.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@-



sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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## Fighting the battle at home

The action I have taken tonight is indispensable for the continuing success of [the] withdrawal program," Richard Nixon said in 1970, in announcing his decision to invade Cambodia and increase American involvement in a failed war.

It was five years before that "withdrawal program" was complete.

How many years will this failure take? The president looked awful and sounded worse last night. Other than admitting he had been wrong not to send more troops in the first instance — his version of his mistake in this mess — the president had nothing new to say and nothing new to offer.

So what if the country is against him?

So what if the Congress is against him? So what if Iraqi leaders, whom he claims he is relying upon, don't want the additional troops?

George Bush is going to send them anyway.

How do you stop a president who has lost touch with reality?

The president's plan is likely to lead to more of precisely what it is we are supposed to be trying to avoid: American involvement in street fighting, sending our kids to die in an urban jungle, putting them in harm's way in someone else's civil war. "Young men and women of U.S. forces and coalition forces should not be caught in the crossfire of a civil war prompted by who should have succeeded Mohammed in — what is it? — 650 AD?" said Senator John Warner, a Republican from Virginia. The

president said merely that we should expect more casualties. But why should we accept them?

The president's plan places all of its reliance on the government in Iraq that could not get it together to execute Saddam Hussein without turning him into a martyr in the Arab world, and that would supposedly (according to Bush himself) collapse right now without our support. Too weak to stand, but strong enough to send Americans to die for? Come again? Turning Saddam the war criminal into a sympathetic figure is an accomplishment of Herculean incompetence. And this is what George Bush is putting his trust in? Why?

The president's plan assumes there can be a military solution to what is essentially a political problem. You don't have to be a Democrat to see how ridiculous a notion that is. Having just met with the Iraqi leaders we are supposed to be depending upon, Senator Sam Brownback issued a statement saying: "I came away from these meetings convinced that the United States should not increase its involvement until Sunnis and Shiites are more willing to cooperate with each other instead of shooting at each other." He's a Republican who voted with the president more than 90 percent of the time in the last Congress.

Consider Republican Gordon Smith's frank assessment: "This is the president's Hail Mary pass," he said after the speech. "We are extending an ineffective tactic to further the status quo."

What about Vietnam veteran and Republican Senator Chuck Hagel, who called the president's proposal "the most dangerous foreign policy blunder in this country since Vietnam"? "This is sectarian violence out of control, Iraqi on Iraqi," Senator Hagel told

Secretary of State Rice in a post-speech hearing. "We will not win a war of attrition in the Middle East."

The harder question is how to win the war at home against George Bush.

Democrats have danced around a number of possible ideas for putting the president's failed policies to a vote. There is talk of non-binding resolutions, even of putting the speech itself up for a vote. Other ideas, with slightly sharper teeth, include putting conditions on continued funding or caps on overall war expenditures. None of them will stop Bush, which is all the more reason to consider them all.

This is no time for timidity. Subtlety won't work with George Bush.

A president who isn't listening must be made to hear. Democrats have to stop worrying that people may think they aren't supporting the troops, which was the Democrats' Vietnam problem. You don't support the troops by sending more of them to die in a war over who should have succeeded Mohammed. The country must be mobilized, as well as the Congress.

The top Republican in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, has threatened a filibuster of even a nonbinding resolution disapproving the president's action. Let the fight begin. It won't be easy, and it won't be short. But with this president and this war, there is no alternative to a long battle at home, as well as abroad.

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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# Software developer offers bounty on Vista flaws

When "hacking" first reared its head in America, it was done mainly with a telephone, a few wires and a computer the size of my Jeep.

And, as much as the equipment has changed over the years, so has the goals of hackers. Somewhere along the way, the concept of hacking strictly to promote anarchy and chaos — or just get free long distance — faded away in favor of the great commercial machine and, of course, money.



Thomas Jenkins

That's the card many third-party software developers are playing now, throwing down challenges to hackers to exploit programs and systems.

VeriSign's iDefense Labs has placed an \$8,000 bounty on remote code execution holes in Windows Vista and Internet Explorer 7.

The Reston, Va., security intelligence outfit threw out the monetary reward to hackers as part of a challenge program aimed at luring researchers to its controversial pay-for-flaw VCP (Vulnerability Contributor Program). The launch of the latest hacking challenge comes less than a month after researchers at Trend Micro discovered Vista flaws being hawked on underground sites at \$50,000 a pop and illustrates the growth of the market for information on software vulnerabilities.

And just think, you probably used to call hackers geeks and nerds.

iDefense isn't the only brand-name player in the market. 3Com's TippingPoint runs a similar program, called Zero Day Initiative, that pays researchers who agree to give up exclusive rights to advance notification of unpublished vulnerabilities or exploit code.

The companies act as intermediaries in the disclosure process — handling the process of coordinating with the affected vendor — and use the vulnerability information to beef up protection mechanisms in their own security software, which is sold to third parties.

"Both Microsoft Internet Explorer and Microsoft Windows dominate their respective markets, and it is not surprising that the decision to update to the current release of Internet Explorer 7.0 and Windows Vista is fraught with uncertainty.

Primary in the minds of IT security professionals is the question of vulnerabilities that may be present in these two groundbreaking products," iDefense said in a note announcing the bounty.

The company said the motive of the challenge is to "help assuage this uncertainty."

The rules are straightforward: iDefense will pay \$8,000 for each submitted vulnerability that allows an attacker to remotely exploit and execute arbitrary code on either of the two Microsoft products.

Only the first submission for a given vulnerability will qualify for the payout, and iDefense will award no more than six payments of \$8,000.

That's a possible \$48,000, for those of you that didn't want to do the math.

"If more than six sub-

missions qualify, the earliest six submissions — based on submission date and time — will receive the award," the company said, stressing that the iDefense team at VeriSign will be responsible for making the final determination of whether or not a submission qualifies for the award.

To qualify, the vulnerability "must be remotely exploitable and must allow arbitrary code execution in a default installation of Vista or IE 7.0. It must also exist in the latest version of the two products, with all available patches/upgrades applied."

Flaws in release candidate or beta versions do not qualify — you didn't think it would be that easy, did you — and iDefense's rules make it clear that the vulnerability "must be original and not previously disclosed either publicly or to the vendor by another party."

In addition to the \$8,000 award for the flaw, iDefense will pay between \$2,000 and \$4,000, based on reliability, quality, readability and documentation, for working exploit code that exploits the submitted vulnerability.

"The arbitrary code execution must be of an uploaded non-malicious payload. Submission of a malicious payload is grounds for disqualification from this phase of the challenge," the company said.

Not to mention legal action. That's the equivalent of calling up Blockbuster and asking them what's the best way to copy movies. Needless to say, someone will do it sooner or later.

Microsoft typically frowns on the broker market — along with any other endeavor that doesn't bear the Microsoft logo — for flaws in its products.

"We do not believe that offering compensation for vulnerability information is the best way [researchers] can help protect customers," the company said during the last iDefense hacking challenge.

"Microsoft believes that responsible disclosure, which involves making sure that an update is available from software vendors the same day the vulnerability is first broadly known, is the best way to protect the end user," a Microsoft spokesperson, in Redmond, Wash., said at that time.

That's right. You should just wait around until their experts get a chance to check it out. Of course, by that time, your identity will have been stolen, your bank account emptied and your computer will be an intricate part of Dante's Inferno.

As the battle to head-off Vista and IE 7.0 exploits continues, the battle to keep Big Brother at bay by five New York teens took a giant leap forward last week.

The Pentagon has agreed to new limits on the use of student information contained in a massive database used for military recruiting.

The rule changes, reported in the Federal Register, settle a lawsuit by the New York Civil Liberties Union on behalf of five high school students who said the data-

base violated their privacy rights.

Ellie Healey, 17, a senior at Trinity High School in Manhattan, said she added her name to the lawsuit after fielding repeated letters and e-mails from military recruiters.

"I'm glad that we were able to get DOD to follow the laws already in place concerning military recruitment," she said.

Oh, dear Ellie. If you only knew. The database, known as JAMRS for Joint Advertising and Market Research Studies, contains some 40 million names culled from various sources, including lists purchased from marketing firms.

DOD agreed not to disclose student information to law enforcement or credit agencies, to keep personal information for three years instead of five, and to stop collecting student Social Security numbers.

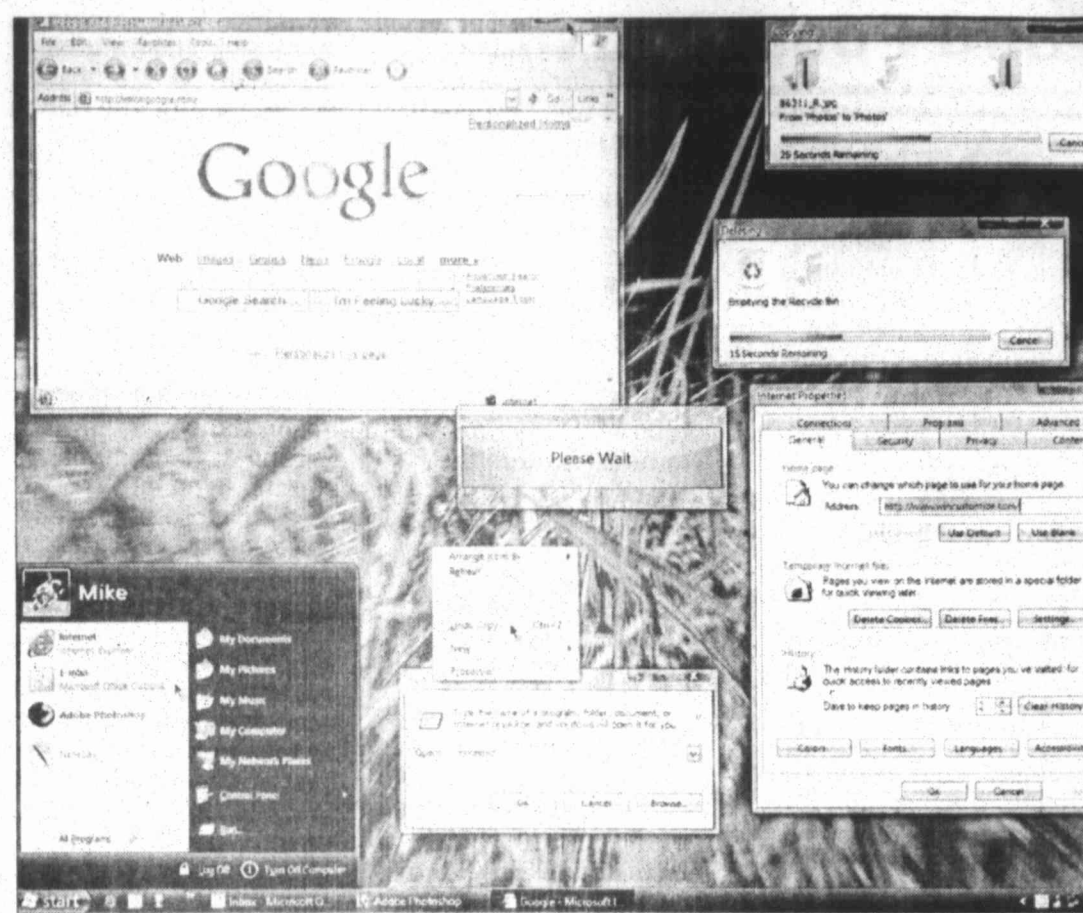
Now, if we can just keep them from losing laptops with that sort of information on them.

The rules also clarify procedures allowing students to block the military from including their information in the database.

"Today's changes to the JAMRS database represent an acknowledgment by the military that they do not have carte blanche to recruit without respect for the privacy of students and their families," said Corey Stoughton, lead counsel in the case.

A Pentagon spokesman said the changes came following a public comment period after the rules regarding JAMRS were first published in 2005.

"Changes were made to respond to the comments previously received and to clarify what the data-



base is, its purpose, and how it is used," said Maj. Stewart Upton, a Pentagon spokesman. "The JAMRS Database is maintained in a manner that is consistent with the Privacy Act and other statutes and regulations."

Upton said Social Security numbers were collected to exclude people already enlisted in the armed services.

The lawsuit, Hanson et al. v. Ruhsfeld et al., was filed in federal court in Manhattan last April and claimed that the Pentagon ignored provisions of a 1982 federal law intended to protect students' privacy.

The settlement does not prevent the Pentagon from collecting information on the race and ethnicity of students, which has drawn criticism from the civil liberties organization as well.

"I think it's unfair for the military to use a person's ethnicity as a

means to get a person to join the army," said Healey, a volunteer at NYCLU who plans to attend Wesleyan University in the fall.

To keep their names out of the database, students must send a letter to the JAMRS offices, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste. 200, Arlington, VA 22203.

Hopefully the letters will make their way to their target quicker than my military records made it to me.

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

## Contract Bridge

### A Switch in Time Saves Nine

East dealer  
Both sides vulnerable  
NORTH  
♠ 8 5 3  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ Q J 10 7 3  
♣ A 7 2  
WEST  
♠ J 10 9 7  
♥ K 5  
♦ 9 6 4 2  
♣ A 7 2  
EAST  
♠ 6 4 2  
♥ A J 10 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ 10 9 5 3  
SOUTH  
♠ A K Q  
♥ 9 8 7 3  
♦ A K  
♣ J 8 6 4

The bidding  
East South West North  
Pass 1NT Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — jack of spades.  
Assume you're West and lead the jack of spades against three notrump. Your partner plays the deuce and declarer — the ace. South's ace play doesn't fool you a bit, because he's sure to have the A-K-Q, considering East's low spade play.  
Declarer now cashes the A-K of diamonds before leading a club. You win with the ace and, as a steady reader of this column, shift to the king of hearts! Again your partner plays the deuce (he can't afford a higher card), but you continue the suit anyway. Your partner thereupon cashes three more heart tricks, and

the contract quickly goes down one. High-class defense, but not very difficult when you are looking at all four hands, you might say. Nevertheless, that's the correct defense, even if you see only the West and North hands.

The suggested line of defense is right because, on the first three tricks, it becomes clear that South started with the A-K-Q of spades and A-K of diamonds. He may not have any more than these 16 points for his 16- to 18-point notrump bid. In any case, he can't have the ace of hearts also, which would give him 20 points, so you know your partner has that card.

Furthermore, you realize that declarer has at least nine tricks — three spades, five diamonds and a club — if you make a "safe" return after taking the ace of clubs. So, after saying to yourself that necessity is the mother of invention, you play the king and another heart.

While it is granted that you are very lucky to find East with four hearts to the A-J-10, it is also true that East might have held five hearts headed by the A-J, in which case you would have been even luckier. The point is that unless partner has one of these two holdings, you can't set the contract, so you have no choice but to switch to the king and hope for the best.

Tomorrow: Solving a diamond dilemma.

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## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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# Belted Kingfishers fall victim to crude spill

## Bird Poop

**P**erched at the top of an old dead tree, the crested bird watched and waited as the waning rays of sunlight highlighted the river. Diving into the water, it was after its last catch of the day.



Bebe McCasland

Early the next morning, the phone rang. Not exactly the time one wanted to be wised, "Happy New Year." Thinking someone had better have a very good reason for calling, I answered the insistent ringing. When he heard me say "oiled birds," Art hurried to get ready for what he dreaded.

Standing on the banks of the Pecos River, a game warden asked if he could bring us two birds. A pipe line had spilled 5,000 barrels of crude oil that covered a mile and a half of the waterway. If we could meet in Stanton, the warden would rush the birds to us. After alerting South

Plains Wildlife Center in Lubbock, we hastily dressed, threw what we thought was needed in the vehicle, and headed west.

By the time the warden met us, one of the birds had died. The other, a belted kingfisher, was in an open box lined with rags. Coated with crude, it needed to be surrounded by fresh air. Otherwise, the fumes would be fatal to the bird. Placing a protective collar around its neck to keep it from preening, we knew its chances were slim. Toxic chemicals, absorbed through the skin, could have damaged internal organs. From the time the officer had raised the kingfisher from the deadly waters, until we arrived at the Center, a little over three hours had elapsed. In rescue work, however, there were times when the only thing we could save was evidence.

As we headed north, the drive was therapeutic as I thought back to other encounters with kingfishers. Vacations to far West Texas and the Rio Grande had given us the opportunity to see the birds "fishing" in ponds created by leaks along a dike down river from

Presidio. After catching small fish, the kingfishers would fly to a nearby perch. Beating the fish to death, the birds would flip their kill into the air, and swallow them head-first.

Another time, one of these blue-gray birds with long, pointed beaks, was brought to us from the city park. Its lackluster feathers and poor condition indicated that its fishing days might be coming to an end.

Never more surprised were we when a call came from our old neighborhood. Having found a kingfisher in his driveway, the homeowner described the bird as "all head and no tail." When he brought it to us, we first noticed the mud stuck to its bill. This was an indication that the bird had been creating a tunnel and burrow that would be the nest site for future generations. For five days the kingfisher had to be force-fed bites of fresh fish. By the time it was ready for a wildlife center, my fingers had been scraped into pulp by the razor-sharp edges of its beak.

Our rush in an effort to save the kingfisher failed. Agreeing that nothing could have been



Courtesy photo

While both male and female kingfishers have a blue-gray band across their chests, the female also sports a rusty belly sash and flanks. Preferring fish, the birds will also consume small birds, insects, and as a last resort, berries.

done for the bird, including bathing, the volunteers and staff were concerned about other wildlife at the spill site. The game warden, in our brief conversation, had indicated that it seemed as if half of Midland was assisting in the cleanup. Every federal, state, and county agency had been notified. Appropriate personnel were present. A

federal agent of U.S. Fish & Wildlife said the company operating the pipe line assumed full responsibility, and was helping to coordinate the removal of the oil.

Although the crude had done its worst, it could not remove the distinctive shape and characteristics of the belted kingfisher. The large crested head, long bill, short

neck, stocky body, short legs and tail, and small feet were notable to only one family of birds. The dominate, ruling presence of one unequaled, and a name describing its livelihood, were aptly brought together in its regal name of kingfisher.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

## 'Babel,' 'Dreamgirls,' win Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (MCT) — It was a refreshing night of upsets, fresh faces and lots of Helen Mirren at the Golden Globes, which were broadcast on NBC Monday.

"Babel" won as best dramatic film, Sacha Baron Cohen won as best actor in a comedy for his unconventional "Borat," and "Ugly Betty," a comedy that was originally relegated by ABC to a Friday-evening death slot, won both best television comedy and best actress in a comedy for star America Ferrera.

In the tradition of the Golden Globes, Cohen gave a salty speech when he won as best actor in a comedy for "Borat."

He referred to the arduous nature of shooting with his co-star, Ken Davitian. In a speech that one just frankly can't put into a family newspaper, to this writer's eternal regret, Cohen referred to having to stare at a certain part of Davitian's anatomy — the actor's

"golden globes," as it were.

As he pondered that sight, Cohen said, he thought "I better win a bloody award for this."

"Dreamgirls" was another big winner, picking up the best musical or comedy film award. Chicago native Jennifer Hudson was exultant in picking up her supporting actress award.

Did she have words for Simon Cowell, who famously disparaged her talents when she was on "American Idol"?

"You like my award, Simon?" she cackled to the journalists backstage at the Globes ceremony.

Say what you will about the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, their choices in the television arena were impeccable: Alec Baldwin won for "30 Rock," Hugh Laurie won for "House" and "Grey's Anatomy" won as best drama. Kyra Sedgwick was over the moon when she won as best dramatic television actress in the savvy TNT series "The Closer."

"You know, I think you get better as an actor as you get older. I definitely

believe that," Sedgwick said backstage. "But everything else is pretty much luck and being at the right place at the right time."

Another big winner was Mirren who won for the film "The Queen," and for HBO's historical epic "Elizabeth." They are the first of the no doubt many statues she's no doubt due to collect this awards season. Meryl Streep also won for her role as the quietly terrifying title character in "The Devil Wears Prada."

Clint Eastwood spoke for a few minutes to the assembled journalists backstage, speaking eloquently and seriously about his win for best foreign language film for "Letters from Iwo Jima."

When he was done, the public relations man from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association asked him to pose for the cameras with the Globe he won for directing the film. Then a smidge of Dirty Harry came out.

"I'm not going to pose. What am I, Paris Hilton?" he growled.

In an upset, "Ugly Betty" was one of the big winners of the night. The unconventional freshman drama, which was as much of an underdog on the fall TV schedule as Betty is at the slick offices of Mode magazine, won as best TV comedy. When it did, the entire cast of the show crowded onto the Globes stage and were visibly vibrating with excitement.

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## Golden Globe winners

In major categories:

- Drama**
- Best movie**  
"Babel"
- Best actress**  
Helen Mirren  
"The Queen"
- Best actor**  
Forest Whitaker  
"The Last King of Scotland"
- Best director**  
Martin Scorsese  
"The Departed"
- Best television series**  
"Grey's Anatomy"
- Musical or comedy**
- Best movie**  
"Dreamgirls"
- Best actress**  
Meryl Streep  
"The Devil Wears Prada"
- Best actor**  
Sacha Baron Cohen  
"Borat"
- Best television series**  
"Ugly Betty"

© 2007 MCT  
Source: Hollywood Foreign Press Association  
Graphic: Earl Pull

If you think you're too young for a heart attack, here's some important news. You're not.

**er.** When experiencing the symptoms of a heart attack, time is critical. Get to the Emergency Room for diagnosis and treatment. Because knowing the symptoms of a heart attack is important and knowing what to do about them could save your life.

**SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK:**

- Chest pain or pressure
- Pain in the back, neck or jaw
- Pain in one or both arms
- Nausea, vomiting or fatigue
- Lightheadedness or cold sweat
- Shortness of breath

**SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER**  
www.smmcares.com

**News in brief**

**Spanish paper: Castro in 'grave' condition after 3 failed operations**

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Ailing Cuban leader Fidel Castro has had at least three failed operations and complications from an intestinal infection and faces "a very grave prognosis," a Spanish newspaper reported today.

A Cuban diplomat in Madrid said the reports were lies and declined to comment.

"It's another lie and we are not going to talk about it. If anyone has to talk about Castro's illness it's Havana," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of official policy.

The newspaper *El Pais* cited two unnamed sources from the Gregorio Maranon hospital in the Spanish capital of Madrid. The facility employs surgeon Jose Luis Garcia Sabrido, who flew to Cuba in December to treat the 80-year-old Castro.

In a report published on its Web site, *El Pais* said: "A grave infection in the large intestine, at least three failed operations and various complications have left the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, laid up with a very grave prognosis."

**Pakistan army hits suspected al-Qaida hideouts near border**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's army destroyed suspected al-Qaida hideouts in an airstrike near the Afghan border on Tuesday, killing 10 people, officials said.

The army and a senior local official said the dead were militants, and included some foreigners, but a resident said the slain men were Afghan laborers.

The raid in South Waziristan came days after the U.S. intelligence chief said leaders of both al-Qaida and Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban militia were finding shelter in Pakistan's lawless frontier areas.

An army statement said intelligence sources confirmed the presence of 25 to 30 foreign terrorists and their local facilitators occupying five compounds in the area of Zamzola — a village about two miles from the frontier.

Pakistani forces backed by helicopter gunships attacked them, destroying three of the compounds.

**Military gear bound for Iran, China traced to Pentagon surplus sales**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military has sold forbidden equipment at least a half-dozen times to middlemen for countries — including Iran and China — who exploited security flaws in the Defense Department's surplus auctions. The sales include fighter jet parts and missile components.

In one case, federal investigators said,

the contraband made it to Iran, a country President Bush branded part of an "axis of evil."

In that instance, a Pakistani arms broker convicted of exporting U.S. missile parts to Iran resumed business after his release from prison. He purchased Chinook helicopter engine parts for Iran from a U.S. company that had bought them in a Pentagon surplus sale. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, speaking on condition of anonymity, say those parts made it to Iran.

The surplus sales can operate like a supermarket for arms dealers.

"Right Item, Right Time, Right Place, Right Price, Every Time. Best Value Solutions for America's Warfighters," the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service says on its Web site, calling itself "the place to obtain original U.S. Government surplus property."



Lexington Herald-Leader/MCT/Janet Worme  
**A collision between four runaway train cars and two engines caused a spectacular explosion and led authorities to evacuate some homes and businesses in Estill County in Ky.**

**Runaway train cars cause explosion**

IRVINE, Ky. — It sounded like something from a movie, but it was real: Four runaway train cars rolled from near Winchester almost to Irvine Monday, covering 20 miles before they hit two engines and caused a spectacular explosion.

Authorities evacuated some homes and businesses in Estill County, and tensions were high because one of the cars was carrying a dangerous chemical, but there were no reports of fatal-

ties or injuries.

There also were no answers on why the cars started their wild ride, and confusion on how they came to hit the engines.

Police at the scene originally said the engines were moved into the path of the runaway cars to stop them.

Chris Lanham of the Kentucky State Police said that after the cars started moving, the railroad contacted a station near Irvine and had engineers pull the engines away from the station and into the line of the breakaway cars. The engines were then abandoned, he said.

"CSX actually sent that engine to stop those cars. They did not want that collision to occur in Irvine itself because of the populace," Lanham said.

Gery Williams, a CSX official who spoke at a late-afternoon press conference, could not confirm that account and said it was not standard operating procedure.

"We don't know if there was really a conscious decision" to place the engines in the path of the wayward cars, Williams said. "At one point the crew was taking action to do that. We told them no, they had to get off ..."

**Winter storm battering Northeast now; death toll stands at 41**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — A winter storm that slathered the Midwest and Plains under a thick coat of ice crashed into the Northeast, downing power lines, making roadways treacherous and chasing away spring-like temperatures. The six-state death toll stood at 41.

The weight of the ice snapped tree limbs, popped transformers and made electricity cables sag, knocking out current to about 145,000 customers in New York state and New Hampshire on Monday.

The heaviest snowfalls were predicted for western and northern Maine, where the weather service was calling for up to 12 inches before the storm was expected to wind down on Tuesday morning.

The storm provided a stark contrast to recent weeks in the East, when temperatures have been far above normal and the ground has been bare because of a lack of snow. The unseasonable weather has drawn out golfers and bicyclists this month.

Icy roads cut into Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observances from Albany, N.Y., to Austin, Texas, where officials in both states canceled gubernatorial inauguration parades Tuesday.

**Secretary of State Rice lobbies Arab allies for backing in Iraq**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's appeal for Arab allies to help support

the fragile government in Iraq drew only a tepid endorsement Tuesday from the administration's strongest ally in the region.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said Saudis hope President Bush's plans to turn around the situation in Iraq is a successful, but was plainly skeptical that the Iraqi government is up to the task of doing its part.

"We are hoping these objectives will be implemented, but the means are not in our hands," he said. "They are in the hands of the Iraqis themselves."

Al-Faisal spoke at length about the centuries old civilization in Iraq where Sunni and Shiite Muslims have been living together for years, but are now threatened by sectarian violence that has killed thousands.

"I cannot for the life of me conceive that a country like that would commit suicide," said al-Faisal, adding that he prefers not to speculate about he called the "dire consequences" of a Sunni-Shia civil war.

**Boy in Mo. kidnapping case had Web access, apparent profiles**

KIRKWOOD, Mo. (AP) — Internet postings and online profiles overlooked during teenager Shawn Hornbeck's four years in captivity may become clues now that he's free.

While his alleged kidnapper was at work, Shawn or someone pretending to be him put photos of him online and posted a chilling message on a site created by his desperate parents: "How long are you planning to look for your son?"

The postings, along with others, came to light after Shawn's rescue from an apartment in Kirkwood last week. Since then, Web users have discovered a profile at mindviz.com, and online comments have flooded in.

"Welcome home Shawn," wrote one of the nearly 40,000 visitors to Shawn's site on Monday. "I have prayed for you and I know many others have as well. Glad you are safe and healthy."

**Korean prosecutors demand 6-year term for Hyundai chairman**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Prosecutors demanded a six-year prison term against Hyundai Motor Co. Chairman Chung Mong-koo for embezzlement and other charges today, adding to the woes of the largest South Korean automaker.

Chung, 68, has been on trial since June on charges of illegally raising a slush fund from affiliates from which authorities say he spent 69.3 billion won (\$74 million) for private and other purposes, including payments to lobbyists for government favors.



**FREDDIE FRAIDY CAT**

Even when Freddie Cat was a little kitten, he was afraid of anything and everything. It seemed. He was afraid of the dark. He was afraid of the daytime, for when it was daylight, he could see even more things to be scared of. He didn't like being afraid all the time. He just couldn't seem to overcome his fears. Let's help Freddie!

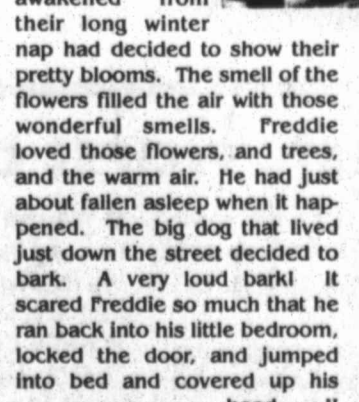


Do you want to? When he was very little, all of the other kittens would ask him to come out and play. Most kittens love to play, but not Freddie. One day, his little kitten friends found a big ball of yarn and played and played with that ball of yarn almost all day long. Freddie was watching them through his window in his little bedroom, wanting so much to go outside and play with them. But he couldn't! He was afraid of the ball of yarn. Poor Freddie. Would he ever be a happy little kitten?

As Freddie got a little older, his kitten friends did something that some kids do at that age, even though it is not nice. They started calling him names. The name they called him the most was Fraidy Cat. Would he always be called that name? You don't ever call anyone names, do you? I didn't think so. You know that calling someone a name is not nice, don't you? I knew that was true because you seem so nice.

Are you ready to help Freddie yet? Not yet? Okay, let's talk about some of the other things that scared Freddie Fraidy Cat. He was scared of all the dogs that lived in his neighborhood. He could never be friends with them for he would never give himself the chance to get to know them. That's too bad, for the dogs would have loved Freddie. He was a very nice cat. One day, Freddie decided to walk outside and relax in the

bright sunshine. He didn't go very far from his house, because he was afraid he would get lost. The sun was bright. It was so warm. Wintertime had just left. Springtime was here. Everything looked beautiful. All of the fresh flowers that had awakened from their long winter nap had decided to show their pretty blooms. The smell of the flowers filled the air with those wonderful smells. Freddie loved those flowers, and trees, and the warm air. He had just about fallen asleep when it happened. The big dog that lived just down the street decided to bark. A very loud bark! He scared Freddie so much that he ran back into his little bedroom, locked the door, and jumped into bed and covered up his head. 'I guess I will never be brave,' he thought. 'I will never be able to go outside and play with my friends. I will never be able to go outside and smell the flowers, or climb those big trees.' He started crying. Now, do you want to help poor little Freddie Fraidy Cat? Okay!

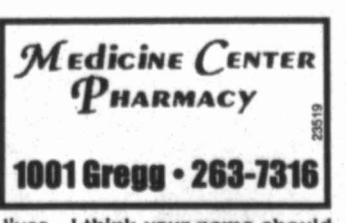


Freddie had decided that he would just sit by his window and look outside, watching the flowers grow, and watch his friends playing, and wishing he could climb that big tree in the front yard. He would miss the smell of those flowers. He would love to play with his friends. He would love to hear the wind blowing through the branches of his favorite tree. He was feeling so sad!

Just a little time had passed when Freddie saw something that would change his life, forever. He didn't know it at the time, but it would. Freddie was sitting by his little bedroom window, watching all of his friends playing with that ball of yarn. The ball of yarn slipped out of one of the other kitten's paws and rolled out into the street. All of the little kittens ran after it. Then, Freddie saw it. The other kittens did not see the big truck. You never play in the streets, do you? I don't either! It is too dangerous. Freddie yelled and screamed to his friends. They did not hear him because his window was shut. His window was shut because he was afraid something would get into his little

bedroom if he opened it. He shouted louder. He screamed. They did not hear him. The truck was getting closer and closer. Closer and closer! Freddie could not wait any longer because the truck was now very close to his little kitten friends. He didn't know what he was going to do. He didn't have time to call the police and ask them to help. He didn't have time to call the firemen and ask them to help. He had to do something himself, and he had to do it right away!

Just as the big truck was so close that it would not be able to stop, Freddie forgot all of his fears and ran outside, shouting at the truck driver. Freddie was also shouting at his friends at the same time, trying to warn them of the big truck and the danger they were in. The truck driver saw this little cat running right in front of his truck and tried to stop. All of the other kittens finally heard Freddie screaming and scrambled for the safety of their yard. All made it safely, except Freddie. The big truck finally came to a halt. The truck driver jumped down from his truck, looking for this brave cat. He saw Freddie, smiling! The brave cat was safe. The driver picked up little Freddie and carried him over to the yard and sat him down under Freddie's favorite tree and said, 'I see on your collar that your name is Freddie. Well Freddie, I have never seen a braver cat than you. You just saved all of those other kittens



lives. I think your name should be Fearless Freddie! I come this way every week. When you hear my horn toot, it will be my way of saying, hello to you, Fearless Freddie.' The truck driver did toot his horn at Freddie, every week after that. Freddie always looked forward to the sound of the horn. He was not afraid of it. Freddie was not afraid of anything anymore. He had done one of the bravest things a cat can do and this helped him with all his other fears. Soon, he was climbing his favorite tree. His friends let him play with the ball of yarn all he wanted. The other kittens never did call him Freddie Fraidy Cat again. They still called him names, though. One of them is Fearless Freddie Cat. Would you have helped Freddie this way? How would you have helped him overcome his fears in a different way? Freddie Cat is now playing outside, not scared of anything. Soon he will come inside. It is getting dark. He is not afraid of the dark anymore. He just wants to tell you, 'Good Night.'

Wacky Facts

■ The history of snowboards goes back to 1965, when Sherman Poppin produced a "Snurfer" — two skis bolted together with a rope on the front to hold.  
■ Garnet is January's birthstone.  
— World Almanac for Kids

# KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."  
— Coretta Scott King, thinkexist.com.



In The News

## Another panda, and she's a 'beauty'

**TIME For Kids** The youngest giant panda cub in the United States recently got a name. Mei Lan, which means "Atlanta beauty," was the top vote-getter in an online poll sponsored by the Atlanta zoo in Georgia.

GROWING FAST

Mei Lan was born Sept. 6, weighing about 4 ounces. Now Mei Lan weighs about 12 pounds and is 26.5 inches long! She is the fifth giant panda born at a U.S. zoo in the last six years.



COURTESY OF ZOO ATLANTA  
**Mei Lan gets a checkup in late December.**

In early December, Mei Lan stood up on her own, and she is starting to learn to walk. Soon, the public will be able to meet her. Until then, Mei Lan and her mother, Lun Lun, can be seen on the zoo's online panda cam at [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org) or through a live video feed shown on monitors at the zoo's panda habitat.

The father, Yang Yang, is being kept apart from mother and baby, which is normal when a giant panda cub is so young.

Giant pandas are an endangered species. There are only 1,600 to 3,000 remaining in the wild today. Most pandas in the wild live in the mountains, where they are safe from development that threatens their habitat. Another 185 pandas live in captivity, mostly in China.

In the United States, pandas also live at zoos in San Diego; Memphis, Tenn.; and Washington, D.C.

— Jill Egan

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# Looking back

## From calorie counting to school shootings, events in 2006 had a big impact on kids

By EMILIE LE BEAU  
Chicago Tribune

Major events grabbed our attention on a regular basis in 2006. The war in Iraq raged while battles brewed between other Middle East countries.

At home, American schools struggled with violence while beloved heroes died. Scientists made important discoveries and big changes came on the political scene.

Kids met big challenges, too. All in all, it was a busy 12-month period filled with news of importance to kids. Here's a look at some of the year's biggest stories.

**Jan. 2:** Farris Hassan, 16, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., arrives home after cutting school and sneaking off to Iraq. The high school junior was inspired by an English class about immersion journalism and wanted to report from Iraq. He contacted the Associated Press in Baghdad, but the news agency notified the U.S. Embassy. American soldiers were sent to pick up Hassan and send him home.



**Jan. 31:** Coretta Scott King, civil rights leader and wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, dies at the age of 78.

**Feb. 10:** The Winter Olympics begin in Turin, Italy. Favorite U.S. figure skater Michelle Kwan pulls out of the competition and is replaced by Emily Hughes, 17, above.



**May 3:** Major soft-drink manufacturers Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Cadbury-Schweppes agree to sell only low-calorie beverages to American schools. Under the contract, the beverage industry has until autumn 2009 to make the changes.



**June 1:** The Scripps National Spelling Bee airs on network television. It's the first time a spelling bee is aired on a major network during prime time. Katharine Close, 13, of Asbury Park, N.J., wins the bee by correctly spelling "ursprache."

**June 23:** Harriet, a 175-year-old tortoise, dies at the Australia Zoo. Harriet first was discovered in the Galapagos Islands in 1835 by Charles Darwin. She lived briefly in England, then was transported to Australia. In 1987, late "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin and his family began overseeing Harriet's care at the Australia Zoo.



HARRIET PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIA ZOO; LONELYGIRL15 IMAGE FROM YOUTUBE.COM; ALL OTHER IMAGES ARE MCT

**July 12:** The deadly conflict begins between Israel and Hezbollah, a political group in Lebanon. More than 1,100 Lebanese civilians are killed, including many children, and 200,000 civilians are displaced. Forty-three Israeli citizens are killed.

**Aug. 24:** Poor planet Pluto, bottom left. Astronomers redefine "planet," and Pluto doesn't make the cut. It gets demoted to "dwarf planet."

**Sept. 4:** "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, far left, dies when a stingray spine pierces his chest. Irwin was filming a program about stingrays for Animal Planet.

**Sept. 12:** The real identity of lonely-girl15 is revealed. Since June, YouTube.com viewers watched ongoing video clips of "Bree," a sad teenager with strict parents and their "occult" religion. Viewers think it's real, but Bree really is actress Jessica Rose. All the videos were staged.



**Sept. 27:** In less than a week, six students and one principal are killed in three separate school shootings. It begins in Colorado after a gunman walks into a high school and takes female students hostage. Police storm the school, and the gunman shoots a student and himself. Two days later, a Wisconsin teen shoots and kills his high school principal. The student later tells police he was upset for getting in trouble at school. Then, on Oct. 2, a gunman shoots and kills female students at an Amish school in Pennsylvania.



**Oct. 16:** So long, sugary snacks. The Walt Disney Co. announces new guidelines for using its characters on food packages. The company no longer will let food companies use its characters to market unhealthy foods to kids.

**Oct. 18:** News outlets begin reporting a ban on the game of tag at Willet Elementary School in Attleboro, Mass. According to reports, students are banned from playing tag or any unsupervised game that involves chasing during recess. School employees say the story is "blown up" and refuse to speak to KidNews about the ban.

**Nov. 12:** Saul Arellano, 7, travels from Chicago to Mexico to persuade Mexican officials to support his mother, Elvira Arellano. While Saul is a U.S. citizen, his mother is in Chicago illegally. In August, she defied a deportation order by taking refuge in a Chicago church.

Help!

## I can't sleep!

**DEAR AMERICAN GIRL:** I can't fall asleep. I read every night and listen to music, but nothing works. I even tried going to bed at all different times. Sometimes I'm awake after my parents have fallen asleep. What should I do? — Sleepyhead

■ There are lots of things you can do to help you drift off to dreamland. Go to bed at the same time every night and get up at the same time every morning, even on weekends. Music and books are good, but choose wisely — blasting rock music or getting caught up in a thrilling mystery won't relax you. If you're restless because something is bothering you, you'll sleep a lot better if you talk about it with a friend, parent or counselor. Sweet dreams!



**DEAR AMERICAN GIRL:** I love horses. My room, locker and notebook are covered with them. I want to ride horses and be around them, but I have one problem — my parents won't let me! What should I do? — Born to ride

★ **American Girl** ■ Horses are wonderful, but it's not always easy to spend a lot of time with them, especially if you don't live in the country. Riding can be expensive, too. Ask your parents about why they won't let you ride. Maybe they'll let you take a ride as a gift for a special occasion. No matter what, with books and movies, you can always spend time with horses in your imagination.

Visit [americangirl.com](http://americangirl.com) to get or give advice.  
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## THE HIP LIST: best, worst of '06

Whether young people were rocking the vote, rocking to iTunes, or just wanting to throw a rock at Britney's car window, 2007 is going to have a lot to live up to. So let's take a final glance at the highs and lows of 2006.

**MOST POWERFUL EVENT**  
● **Highest voter turnout for youths in 20 years:** Young voters rocked the vote around the nation in this course-changing election. Suffrage never felt sweeter.

**BEST PLACES TO HELP YOU AVOID HOMEWORK**  
● **MySpace.com:** The big kahuna of social Web sites continues to dominate young people's lives.  
● **Homestarrunner.com:** Everybody! Everybody! Everybody



loves this site that's both funny and family-friendly.

**TOP TV SHOWS**  
● **"Heroes":** Normal people with superpowers, more realistic than "X-Men": a childhood dream come true.

● **"The O.C.":** Two words: Marissa died.

**TALK THE LINGO**  
● **Truthiness:** Merriam-Webster's Best Word of 2006, coined and defined by Stephen Colbert as "truth that comes from the gut, not books," is useful in both partisan politics and arguing about your curfew.

● **PWN'D!** This exclamation originally sprang out from the gaming community, shouted during the utter defeat and humiliation of an oppo-



nent. Today it can be happily applied to any form of social embarrassment.

**BEST PLACES TO SPEND YOUR ALLOWANCE**  
● **Target:** The heaven of all things retail with everything you want and need (like there's a difference) at prices that even the most meager allowance can manage.

● **The Apple Store:** With its cool computers and gadgets, it's the teen version of a toy store.

**MOST INSPIRING PEOPLE**  
● **Chris Gardner:** A life-time of hardships couldn't stop Gardner from becoming a self-made millionaire. His new biopic, "The Pursuit of Happiness," is the American dream come to life.



● **Warren Buffett:** He made a fortune and then let it go. Buffett's lesson in generosity is something all teens can learn from.

● **Katie Couric/Nancy Pelosi:** These two remarkable women smashed through their respective ceilings in broadcast news and Capitol Hill. Role models for both girls and guys.

**TOP GADGETS AND GIZMOS**  
● **Sidekick 3:** Making text messaging in class much more convenient.

● **PS3:** Admit it: Your friends cut nearly half a week of school to wait in line for one.

● **Wii:** Nice try, Nintendo. The concept of wireless gaming was catchy, but couldn't get Nintendo back to its N64 glory days.

**MOST ANNOYING CELEBS**  
● **O.J. Simpson:** Hypothetically speaking, we don't want to hear from you again.

● **Britney Spears:** Cranking out two little ones and then deciding on a split, not to mention tabloid rumors of party binges with Paris. How's that for a role model?

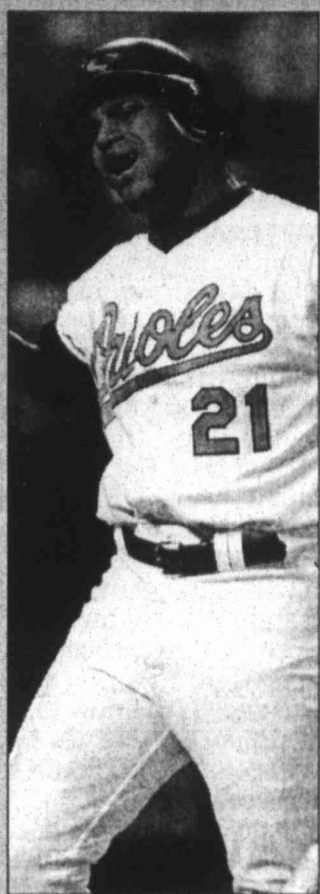
**BEST FASHION STATEMENTS**  
● **Dunks:** As close to bargain shopping as you can get with Nike: big variety without a price tag to rival a pair of Jordans.

● **Leggings:** While JT was bringing sexy back, we brought the '80s back, complete with legwarmers.  
— Brian Mertens and Victoria Conlu



### IN BRIEF

#### MLB area update



#### Rangers negotiate with Sammy Sosa

Outfielder Sammy Sosa worked out again Monday for the Texas Rangers, the team he began his career with, before meeting general manager Jon Daniels and other club officials. "The workouts and subsequent conversations have been positive, mail late Monday night. "We had good baseball discussion about our club, where he's at in his career, and whether there's a fit."



#### Astros sign Mike Lamb to a contract

Infielder Mike Lamb and the Houston Astros agreed Monday to a \$2.7 million, one-year contract, a \$1 million raise. Lamb hit .307 with 12 home runs and 45 RBIs in 126 games last season, his third in Houston. The 31-year-old was acquired from the New York Yankees in March 2004, less than two months after the Yankees got him in a deal with Texas and planned to put him at third base. He became expendable when the Yankees traded for Alex Rodriguez. Lamb's teammate the previous three years with the Rangers. Lamb is a career .280 hitter with 57 homers and 273 RBIs in seven seasons. He can earn \$300,000 in performance bonuses: \$100,000 each for 500, 550 and 600 plate appearances.

## Hawks losing streak continues

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

The Odessa Wranglers (1-1 conference) led the Howard Hawks (0-2 conference) for two seconds in last night's conference matchup — the most important two seconds — as they sent the Hawks home with a stunning 65-63 defeat at the buzzer.

Early on, the game looked like many others. The Hawks jumped out to an early lead and tinkered and toyed with running away with the game. At the break the Hawks were up 32-24 and had held a brief double digit lead as Corey Allmond scored 13 first half baskets and Sean Watson added 8.

Everything appeared in order for Howard's men, but a closer look showed that in the first half the Hawks were outrebounded 20-8 on the boards.

The start of the second half was a prelude of what was to come.

Odessa got hot from the field and knocked down three straight jumpers while its defense refused to allow the Hawks enough room to get into their offense. Turnovers and missed free throws allowed the Wranglers to outscore the Hawks 11-3 in the opening minutes and to close the gap to 35-32.

"We just turned the ball over quite a bit tonight," coach Mark Adams said, after the 0-2 conference start.

With 13:13 to play Odessa grabbed an offensive rebound



Hawk's guard Terrence Hill made only one of three free attempts in Monday night's loss to the Odessa Wranglers. The 65-63 defeat is the third loss in a row for the Howard Hawks.

and put in back in the basket to tie the score at 36-36.

On the ensuing possession Terrance Hill drove to the basket and hit a pull up jumper for two-

of-his season low three points. Hill, coming off the bench, only attempted two shots after leading the team in scoring two nights ago.

"We're just trying different chemistry and we're looking to mix it up a bit to see what we

See MEN, Page 2B

## Howard women drop another one

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

Less than seven minutes into the conference game between the Odessa Lady Wranglers and the Howard Hawks, coach Earl Diddle of Howard was hit with his first technical foul of ... maybe of his career.

Odessa (14-1) had jumped out to a 7-0 lead and made everything look pretty easy as they rolled to a convincing 77-47, conference win.

"I don't know that I have ever had a technical foul called on me," Diddle said when asked about the technical. "All I said was, 'they are hand-checking us all the way down the court' and to the best of my knowledge that is still against the rules in this conference."

The turnovers early in the game did not help, but the Lady Wranglers really didn't need any.

Over the course of an

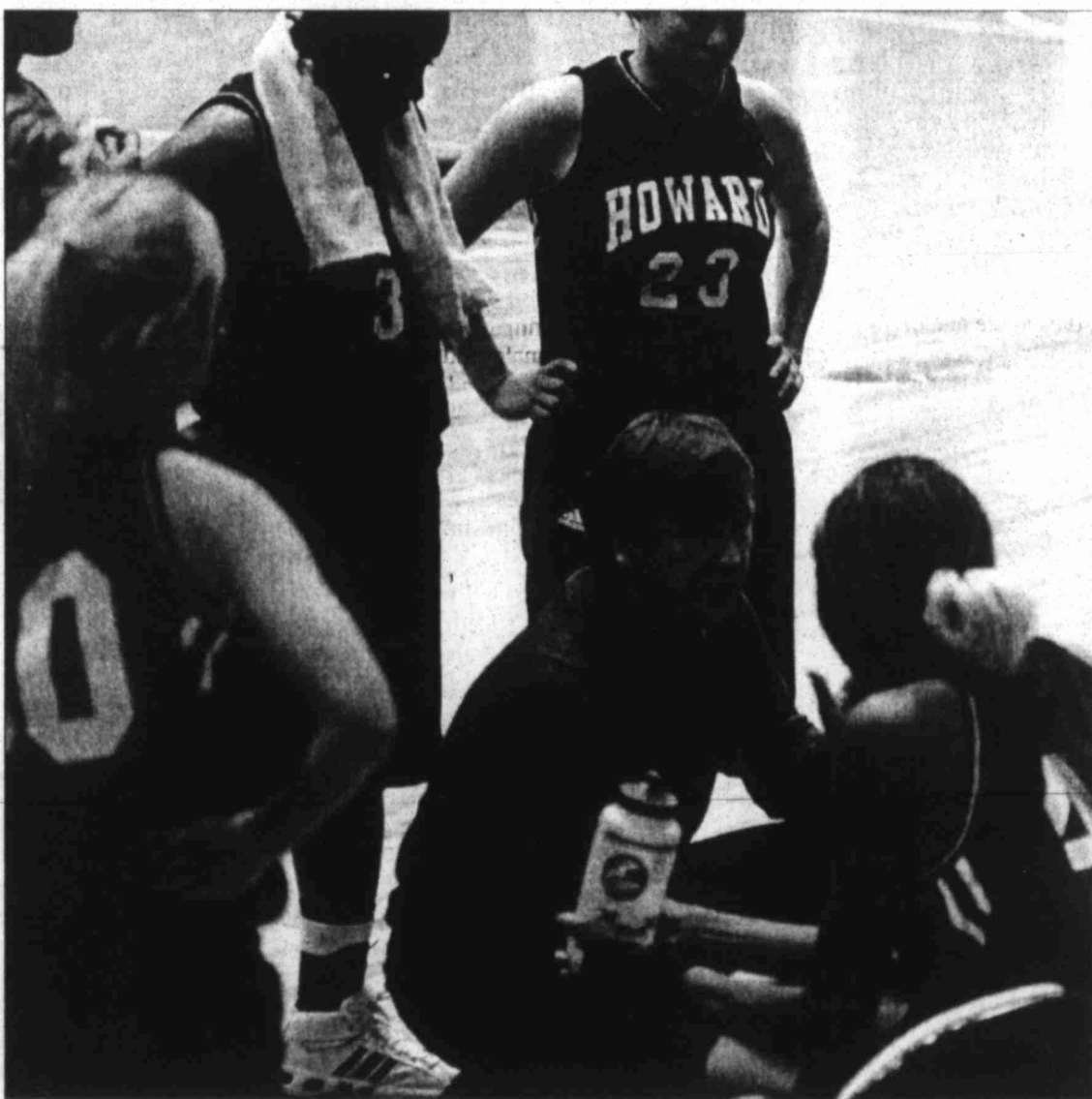
eight minute span in the first half Odessa outscored Howard 15-0 and took a commanding 30-15 lead.

"We were a very good basketball team last season," Lady Wranglers coach Nate Altenhofen explained. "We went 34-1 last year, but this team right now is playing the best basketball since I have been here ... that's saying quite a bit. I just don't think there is anybody out there right now that can play with us."

Coach Altenhofen stopped short of saying whether or not he meant anybody in the country or anybody in the conference.

Heading to the locker rooms the Lady Wranglers had two players, Dina Piterniece and Chandra Jones, who scored 11 points in the half. That would be more than any one

See HAWKS, Page 2B



Howard College coach Earl Diddle continues to give instructions late in the second half the Hawk's 30 point loss to Odessa College. The women's basketball team in now 0-2 in conference play.

## Sharapova survives

### Heat and opponent challenge tennis star

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — A rash of errors and a broiling sun had top-seeded Maria Sharapova drained, ailing and on the ropes.

But the Russian lived up to her reputation for fortitude, overcoming stomach cramps and an opponent who returned like a wall to advance Tuesday to the second round of the Australian Open on a day when organizers had to impose the Extreme Heat Policy.

The heat — 97 degrees at midday and rising above 100 throughout the afternoon — was even worse down on the

courts, where Sharapova held on to beat France's Camille Pin 6-3, 4-6, 9-7.

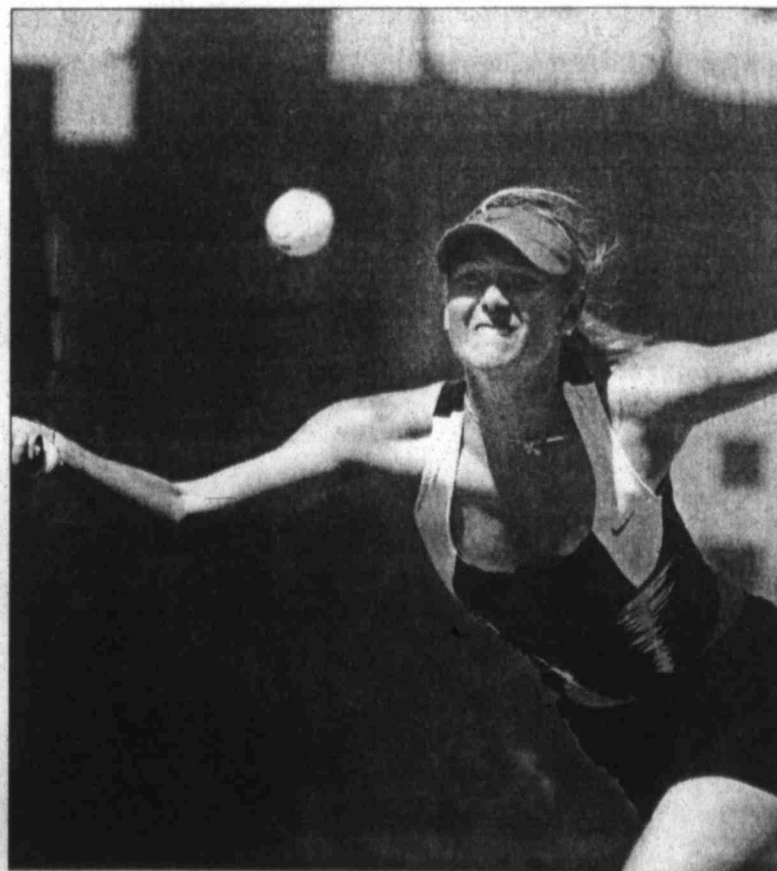
"It's inhumanly possible to play three hours in that kind of heat," said Sharapova, seeking her third Grand Slam title and second in a row. "I don't think our bodies were made to do that."

"I was so delusional I couldn't think."

The heat policy, which measures conditions by combining the air and court surface temperatures, was invoked halfway through her match. No new matches were allowed to start on outside courts, and the two show courts once the ongoing matches were finished.

Eighth-seeded David Nalbandian grew stronger in the heat as Janko Tipsarevic wilted, but was critical of the decision to keep some matches going while others were delayed. Tipsarevic retired with heat exhaustion in the fifth — more than 90 minutes after he wasted his chance at serving for the match — with Nalbandian leading 6-7 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-0, 2-1.

Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean, a quarterfinalist or better at four of the last six Australian Opens he has competed, led Christophe Rochus 6-2, 4-1 when the Belgian retired because of unexplained breathing difficulties.



Maria Sharapova hits a forehand in the third set as she goes on to defeat Maria Kirilenko earlier in the tennis season.

# Oklahoma's Peterson to enter NFL draft

NORMAN Okla. — Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson will skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

"In the end, I think I just realized that this is a business decision and that it is time for me to take that next step," Peterson said in a statement released by the university Monday, the deadline for underclassmen to declare themselves eligible for the draft.

"It wasn't easy," he said. "I haven't been sleeping much. I just put it all in God's hands."

Peterson returned from a broken collarbone to run for 77 yards and two touchdowns in Oklahoma's 43-42 overtime loss to Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl. He had been sidelined for seven games with the injury, suffered Oct. 14 on a touchdown run against Iowa State.

Peterson's final carry in an Oklahoma uniform was a 25-yard touchdown run that put the Sooners ahead 42-35 on the opening play of overtime in the Fiesta Bowl.

Peterson opted not to hold a news conference to



Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson (28) gets airborne and slips away from Jeremy Modkins (28) of TCU during game action in 2005. Peterson announced Monday he will enter the NFL draft.

announce his decision, but said in the statement that he considered his relationships with teammates as a reason to stay at Oklahoma.

He said his parents and

Sooners coach Bob Stoops were among the people that advised him.

"The last few days have been stressful," Peterson said.

"I've been pondering a

lot of things and looking at it from all the different angles, weighing the good and the bad."

Peterson ran for 4,045 yards in three seasons, ranking behind only 1978

Heisman winner Billy Sims (4,118) and Hall of Famer Joe Washington (4,071) on Oklahoma's career rushing list. His 1,925 yards in 2004 were a school rushing record and

the most by a freshman in NCAA history.

He started that season with an unprecedented nine straight 100-yard games. Peterson also finished second to Matt Leinart in voting for the 2004 Heisman Trophy, the highest showing for a freshman.

Peterson had shoulder surgery in the offseason after his spectacular freshman season, then sprained his ankle and missed parts of four games as a sophomore.

"There were some things that we didn't accomplish," Peterson said.

"I didn't really do all of the things I set out to do. Those things, the guys and the love for college football were things I thought about."

He still finished the season with 1,012 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns.

"I know this has been a trying time for him and he just needs to know that we support him wholeheartedly," Oklahoma's Stoops said.

"Adrian has been a great individual player and he has been a great teammate."

## MEN

Continued from 1B

can do," coach Adams answered when asked about Hill not starting.

The Hawks leading scorer was Brandon Sampay — going 6-for-8 from the floor and dropping 18 points on Odessa.

Sampay also led the Hawks with 8 rebounds and added 1 blocked shot.

Over the next three min-

utes the Hawks outscored the Wranglers 12-0 and seemed to answer the wake-up call.

After Odessa converted 2-of-4 free throws, the Hawks turned the ball over when the Wranglers went to a full-court press.

Another basket by the Wrangler's leading scorer, Deluis Ramirez, and the lead had dwindled to five, 58-53.

Ramirez ended the night by scoring 15 points, 3 rebounds and 1 assist.

With under 30 seconds to play Allmond was whistled for a traveling violation in the backcourt and Odessa's DeWayne Hall nailed a 3-pointer to cut the lead to two.

"It was a very aggressive game," Adams stated outside of the Hawks locker room. "We're just a team that didn't handle pressure very well and we have to get better and work on that."

After a Howard timeout the Hawks attempted a

long inbounds pass that was intercepted with less than 15 seconds and the clock ticking away — Odessa scored again and the game was tied, 61-61.

With the Hawks set for a win at the horn, Hill was surrounded by Wrangler defenders and lost the ball trying to advance it over the time line. The result was another lay-up and a two point advantage for Odessa, with only two seconds remaining on the

game clock.

It was the first lead of the night for the Wranglers.

After double technical fouls were called on both benches and the floor was evacuated by the Odessa student body that rushed the court, the Hawks desperation 3-point attempt from mid-court fell just under the basket.

"Turnovers and not hitting our free throws hurt us tonight," said Sampay. "We're extremely disap-

pointed. I mean we were up by 13 points with eight minutes to play and we let our guard down. We just can't do that in this conference."

The Howard Hawks will return to action Thursday, when they travel to Borger to face Frank Phillips College.

## HAWKS

Continued from 1B

Hawk would score for the game.

Howard's leading scorer, Kandace Griffin, was not on the floor for the opening tip-off, but she was inserted into the lineup at the sound of the first horn.

"Kandace has not been playing particularly well lately and we have some other girls who were playing pretty good," Diddle answered after the loss. "It was nothing more than a change to get some other players some experience at different positions — it's not who starts the game — it's who finishes the game."

By the time Griffin broke a sweat the game was out of reach. Griffin went 0-for-6 from the floor and had 1 point at the break.

At the half the Lady

Wranglers led 37-19.

The second half of the contest saw the Odessa lead grow to 30 points, but the Hawks offense was not turning the ball over — they were just facing more talent.

Despite not starting the game and having trouble getting her shot off, Griffin ended the night tied with Candace Lambert as the leading scorer for Howard. Both players had 8 points and combined for 5 rebounds in the loss.

Joy Ikechukwu, Howard's 6-foot-2 center, led the Hawks with 5

rebounds.

In comparison, Lady Wrangler's Ladesha Stoudemire, sister of Phoenix Suns all-star Amare Stoudemire, had a game high 14 rebounds.

"Odessa has four or five Division I players on that team," Diddle added, as he stood outside of the locker room with his assistant coaches. "They were hitting on all cylinders tonight and they showed us that they are a national team — capable of winning a national title."

"I really think we got a lot out of this game. I

know we lost by 30, but we played tough — didn't turn the ball over — ran our offense well... there were some very positive signs in this loss."

The Howard Hawks women's basketball team will travel to Borger to play Frank Phillips College Thursday. Howard will be return to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Jan. 22, when they host Western Texas

College. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

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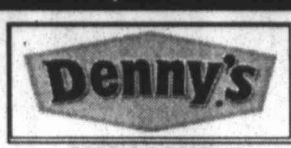
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**PART-TIME INFANT** caregiver position. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

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

**PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION**  
Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

**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.

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

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Are you the Best?  
Can you make the grade?  
Wanted only the top 10%.  
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Deadline for Applications  
5:00 p.m., Wednesday  
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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

Pollard Chevrolet is seeking an **ACCOUNTING CLERK.** Accounting experience required. Pay based on experience and ability. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

**POST OFFICE NOW HIRING.** Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PF/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Ref#P6901.

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**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.

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

**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:  
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Big Spring, TX 79720

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

**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 drug screen required.  
EOE M/F/V/H

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

**Help Wanted**

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

**WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY**  
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**WATER QUALITY** Technician The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Water Quality Technician in Big Spring.  
District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE  
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's Office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

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**CAMPER 1988** Prowler Trailer, 28 ft Self-contained. Excellent condition. \$4,250.00 Cash. 1800 N. Birdwell, 432-263-6292.

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

**Items for Sale**

**FOUND FEMALE** Irish Setter behind Wendy's. Call (432)816-3629 or 268-9214 to identify.

**LOST ON 1/12/07** 16th & Birdwell. Female black & white & male brown (like) cow dog, both have no tails. Good around kids. Call (432)268-9973.

**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.

**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.

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**Jobs Wanted**

**NEED A Personal Nanny** or Baby Sitter. Many years experience and references available. Call Amber at 214-663-9634 for more information.

**Lost and Found**

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**LOST ON 1/12/07** 16th & Birdwell. Female black & white & male brown (like) cow dog, both have no tails. Good around kids. Call (432)268-9973.

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*"Caring People - Caring For People", is exactly what we're about. We value each caregiver for the contribution they make to our success.*

We are interviewing for a few "Caring People." If you are interested in the following job opportunities, please stop by to complete an application or call for an application to be mailed to you.

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A commercial construction company seeking a full time project expeditor, carpenters and general laborers.

Inquiries regarding the position for project expeditor may be directed to Bill Baker at (432) 697-2282 or by email at [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK) "mail to:bill@midtex-ofmidland.com" [bill@midtexofmidland.com](mailto:bill@midtexofmidland.com). You may also send your resumes by email or by mail to 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas 79707.

Inquiries regarding positions for carpenters and general laborers may be directed to Billy Mays at (432) 697-2282. You may also pick up and/ or complete an application in our Midland office at 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas.

**Red Tag Event Sale**  
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*Best Deals In Town!*

**2003 Chevrolet Suburban**  
37K, One Owner, Red w/Tan Interior, Heated Seats, Extra Clean.  
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MSRP \$25,205  
**SALE PRICE \$21,500**

**2006 Buick Lucerne CX - 4**  
Door Sedan, White w/grey Cloth Interior, All Power, 17K.  
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**2006 Pontiac Vibe - White**  
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MSRP \$20,070  
**SALE PRICE \$17,500**

**2001 GMC Sonoma X-Cab - V6**, Auto, Power Windows & Locks, Air, 72K.  
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We are interviewing for a few "Caring Nurses" both full-time and PRN. If you are interested in the following nursing opportunities, please call.

**RN - Med/Surg 7p-7a**  
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**RN - Emergency Dept 12p-12a**  
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SMMC offers competitive salaries and an excellent benefits package. We are currently offering a \$2000 sign-on bonus to all full-time RNs with a commitment of 12 months.

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Big Spring, TX 79720  
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robbi\_banks@chs.net

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**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.

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

**BRAND NEW** double/full size mattress set. \$119. TWIN mattress set. \$99. Both new with warranty. 806-549-3110.

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**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.

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

**2005 NITRO** Bass Boat. 150 Mercury, dual console, C.D. player, radio. Will sell for Pay-Off. Call (432)935-2011 if no answer leave message.

**INCOME TAX** Refund Buys MORE Furniture & Mattresses Here. 806-549-3110.

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

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**MATTRESS CLOSEOUT**  
Brand New  
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Pets

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

**YORKIE FOR Sale:** Health guaranteed, shipping is available, delivery. Contact for more information: petsbreed01@yahoo.com

Pets

**I CURRENTLY** have Two Beautiful AKA Male and Female English Bulldog puppies available for adoption, Champion bloodlines and come with health certificate, wormed, updated shots, small baggie of puppies food and full AKC Registration and 1 year health guarantee. The puppies available now is for \$550 only. Viewable pictures available. Puppy available now for more information please contact Anita Smith Email: anitabulldogfarm@yahoo.com

Real Estate for Rent

**1507 AUSTIN** 3 Bedroom 1 bath. \$399.00 deposit. Call (432) 267-8191 or 816-9984.

**1998 COLORADO** City Home 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. No Qualifying Lease / Purchase. 100% Owner Finance. \$495.00 per month. 907-240-8382.

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**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.

**712 GOLIAD**, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$550. month, +deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

**FOR LEASE** 207 North Gregg, 40x100 Building with offices. \$600.00 Month plus 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.

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

**SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN** One bedroom + upstairs studio. Near Church/ Grocery. Central air, refrigerator/ stove. Smoking/ pets prohibited \$285.. Credit/ background check required. McDonald 432-263-7615 or 263-4835.

Real Estate for Sale

**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 BEDROOM** 2 bath home on 1 acre in Sand Springs. Water well. \$69,500. Call (432)625-2876, leave message or call after 5.

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

**CITY - LIVING/ COUNTRY FEELING** on almost an acre of land. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath in Kentwood Elementary School District. Call for details Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

Mars enters Capricorn, and he's just in the nick of time. This is like the second wind to push us over the finish line. Unfortunately, it can only come once we've crashed through the proverbial "wall." So if you're tired, keep going. If you're exhausted, really keep going. The turnaround is near. It would be a shame to miss it by stopping now. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You meet someone who pleases your eyes and delights your ears. Showing it, however, isn't wise. Keep a cover on your emotions and your mysterious allure is ever so attractive. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're around people who can help you advance your personal and professional interests. How can you show initiative, ambition and restraint all at once? You find a way, which takes couth. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have all the skill you need to do a job masterfully. And if you make mistakes, only you know about them. It's almost time to take on another discipline, starting from square one again. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You already have a mentor - someone who



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

really cares and will be there for you. All you have to do is figure out who that is. It's easy. Whom do you love and trust the most?

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Though there is meaning in your connection with a loved one, it's not something you can state in a few words. But try anyhow. Those close to you want to know how you really feel.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You stand up for people who aren't able to stand for themselves. You don't mind taking the heat for someone who isn't as strong, as long as you know you're not enabling his or her weakness.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You get such a kick out of weaving your stories now that even you may not realize how much of it is accurate. Your audience doesn't mind, as long as you're entertaining. Tonight you're particularly funny, too.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love is a mirror held up to your soul. When you're irritated with a partner, you're really irritated with yourself. Realizing this may not reduce your irritation, but at least it empowers you to do something about it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Are you giving someone too much opportunity and motive to please you with lovely lies? If so, a sudden, bold and unexpected question will bring up the truth.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It doesn't have to

be a contest for you to want to win. Everyday life stimulates your competitive edge. Victory goes not to the most talented, but to the most persevering.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The explorer in you wants to shed all responsibilities and wander into the vast universe. You can always resume your responsibilities tomorrow. Don't forget your toothbrush.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There's absolutely no reason to fear coming off as foolish. Fault-finders find fault whether you dance or lean against the wall of life looking cool. So you may as well dance.

**FORECAST 2007** - **LIBRA:** This year features your sensational rise to a position or state of being you've wanted to inhabit for several years now. Before the winter is over, the information you needed clicks into place, and, for the first time, you know how to get there.

**LOVE:** The changes that occur in this area of your life are remarkable. It doesn't always take a revolution to change someone's mind or handle a squirrely situation, but if revolt seems necessary, you'll go there. A sweeter, softer, easier side of you emerges in May. You'll be taking care of people who need you. **CAREER:** You're going about business in a politically savvy manner and therefore find yourself in favor with fellow diplomats. It's who you

know, and you leverage those relationships in March. **ADVENTURE:** April is your wild time. Unpredictable circumstances land you in the most unusual places. The last week of October is also a highlight. You'll never look at the world the same way after this excursion. **FINANCE:** A well-constructed financial plan is your ticket to higher earnings. The worst thing you can do, though, is project too low. You're capable of attracting the big numbers, especially in June. Expert help is recommended.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** The original waif supermodel, Kate Moss is a classically beautiful Capricorn. When she first broke into the modeling scene she was one of the shortest on the runway - but then again, a Capricorn's ambition is usually taller than her body. Her depth penetrates every camera lens she meets. Though Moss' spirit sometimes leads her astray, she always seems to find her way back.

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

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Real Estate for Sale

**FORECLOSURE!** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, only \$41,200! Spacious Must See! For listing Call 800-544-6258 ext F906.

**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, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

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

**NEW HOUSE:** 517 Foster Ave. (Coahoma), 2400 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, study. Den & kitchen open concept, large master, 1g closets & utility, FP/Custom Cabinets, stained concrete floors. All Electric. Call (432)517-0604, 517-0515. \$174,000.

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

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

**RUSTIC PROPERTY** with Massive Native Rock Work. Spacious 4/3 Home. 30X60 & 32X48 shops on acreage. So many amenities! For details call Janet @ Home Realtors (432)263-1284 or 213-5454.

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

Vehicles

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From **Huge Discounts!**

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**FORD 1990 F250** extended cab. Auto, air, new tires. 65K \$4800.00. Call (432) 263-4536.

**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.

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ANSWERS

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I'm going to try to make this short, but with all the spare time I have, it could get tricky. I am a 39-year-old domestic goddess (it sounds better than homemaker).

I am engaged to a great guy who works 12 hours a day, seven days a week. We have a wonderful home and do many things together when he is not working. But I am bored. Every day I clean my already-clean house and volunteer at my children's school, but that's it.

I have asked my fiance several times about getting a part-time job, but he says no. He wants the house clean and dinner on the table when he gets home. I understand that, but I could work a few hours a day and still take care of our home. Am I asking for too much? - Bored in the Country

Dear Bored: Whether or not a spouse works should be a joint decision, and we don't understand why your fiance is such a dictator. Perhaps you could take on additional volunteer work at hospitals or shelters to fill your time and do some good. But if he still won't permit it, we'd worry about being married to this guy, no matter how "great" you think he is.

Dear Annie: The other day, I was talking to my 14-year-old granddaughter, and out of the blue, she said that when they pledge allegiance to the flag in school (she's in ninth grade), hardly anyone stands up, and no one puts their right hand over their heart. In fact, she said she just stands there while the teacher says the pledge.

At first, this statement stunned me. Then I told her that she should be ashamed of herself, that if our soldiers hadn't gone to



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

war to fight for our freedom and our flag, her classmates wouldn't be free to do what they do to dishonor it. If she was trying to get a rise out of me, she sure did it.

My daughter says my granddaughter is "just a kid and that she'll figure it out someday." I am incensed that this behavior is condoned by the parents. There just doesn't seem to be any respect in this world. I think the worst thing they ever did was take prayer out of the schools, and now they might as well take the pledge out, too. - Patriotic Grandma

Dear Grandma: Try not to get your blood pressure up. Current rulings say schools cannot demand that children recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Most kids who do say the pledge are reciting from rote and have little feeling for it, regardless of whether or not they stand and put hands over hearts. If you want your granddaughter to learn about the sacrifices of soldiers, don't chastise her for what her school does or doesn't do. Instead, make a point of teaching her at home. It could be a good bonding experience for the two of

you. Dear Annie: "Still Young" said her sisters objected to her 71-year-old mother working. You missed a chance to say something about seniors.

Where would our country be without the continued contributions of "elders"? Both senators from our state are 82, and one of them was just re-elected. Many others in government and other leadership roles are near that age. There's nothing odd about seniors working. It keeps us healthy and alert, as well as contributing the wisdom of age to the community.

I "retired" at 64, earned a third master's degree, and then taught part time until I was 75. I now volunteer three afternoons a week at a local middle school. There's nothing remarkable about what I do. We shouldn't categorize people by their ages or any other characteristic. Look at the individual person. Aloha. - Tom in Honolulu

Dear Tom: Absolutely. We think people who want to work, at any age, should do so. It's healthy for mind and body.

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

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

TUESDAY

|    | WFAA (2)                               | KMID (3)                            | UNI (4)                        | KPEJ (5)                      | KOSA (7)              | KTLN (8)              | KWES (9)                     | WTBS (11)                 | KMLM (12)                 | KPBT (13)                   | DISC (20)                   | AMC (21)                           | SPICE (22)                 | TNT (23)                       | BET (26)                     | DISN (27)                                   | ESPN2 (28)                                    | ESPN (29)                                      | SCIFI (34)              |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------|
|    | Dallas                                 | Midland                             | Spanish                        | Odessa                        | Odessa                | Telamundo             | Midland                      | Atlanta                   | Odessa                    | Odessa                      | Discovery                   | Classics                           | Spike TV                   | Atlanta                        | Black Ent.                   | Disney                                      | Sports  | Sports   | Science Fic.            |
| 6  | PM News (CC)                           | News Wheel-Fortune                  | Duelo de Pasiones              | King of the Hill The Simpsons | News Entertainment    | Vida de Blanco        | News Be a Millionaire        | Raymond Raymond           | Dr. Young John Hagee      | News-Lahrer                 | How It's Made How It's Made |                                    | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | Without a Trace (CC)           | Live (CC) Hotwired           | Phil of Future Zack & Cody                  | College Basketball: Connecticut at Pittsburgh | College Basketball: Iowa at Indiana (CC)       | Dead Like Me (CC)       |
| 7  | PM America's Funniest Home Videos (CC) | America's Funniest Home Videos (CC) | La Faa Mas Bella               | American Idol (CC)            | NCIS (CC)             | Marina                | Detective NBC (CC)           | Raymond Raymond           | Update/Israel Booker      | Nova (CC) Really Big Things | Really Big Things           | Movie: Back to the Future Part III | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | Without a Trace (CC)           | Movie: Juice (CC)            | Movie: Eddie's Million Dollar Cook-Off (CC) | College Basketball: Texas at Oklahoma St.     | College Basketball: Kentucky at South Carolina | Dead Like Me (CC)       |
| 8  | PM Boston Legal (CC)                   | Boston Legal (CC)                   | Ver Para Creer                 | Becker (CC) Friends (CC)      | 48 Hours Mystery (CC) | Amor Mio Amor Mio     | Law & Order: Criminal Intent | Sex and-City Sex and-City | Light of the Southwest    | Frontline (CC) (DVS)        | Dirty Jobs (CC)             | Ill                                | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | Without a Trace (CC)           | Comickview (CC)              | Life Derek Phil of Future                   | Texas at Oklahoma St.                         | College Basketball: Kentucky at South Carolina | Eureka (CC)             |
| 9  | PM News (CC) Nightline                 | News Nightline                      | Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ. | 70s Show Raymond              | News Late Show        | Noticias 12 Corazones | News Tonight Show            | Friends (CC) Movie: Big   | The Hour of Healing       | Lens Charlie Rose           | Dirty Jobs (CC)             | Blues Brothers (CC)                | Bigg Snoop Dogg's Youth    | Cold Case (CC)                 | Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx        | Zack & Cody That's-Raven                    | Tennis: Australian                            | SportsCenter (CC)                              | 35 Movie: All Souls Day |
| 10 | PM The Insider Jimmy Kimmel            | Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)              | La Hora de la Risa             | King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid. | Letterman Late Late   | W! Rojo Vivo!         | Late Night                   | Bully (CC)                | Joe McGee Biblical Israel | Sign Off                    | Really Big Things           |                                    | CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. | NYPD Blue In Living Color (CC) | In Living Color Kim Possible | Phil of Future Phil of Future               | Open - Early Round - Day                      | NFL Live NBA Fastbreak                         |                         |
| 11 | AM Live (CC) News (CC)                 | Extra (CC) Mercury Media            | El Privilegio de Amar          | My Wife-Kids Malcolm-Mid.     | Show The Insider      | Pagado                | Conan O'Brien Apex           | Movie:                    | Update/Israel John Hagee  |                             | Dirty Jobs (CC)             | Movie: The Singing                 | Star Trek: Voyager         | NYPD Blue (CC)                 | Comickview (CC)              | Proud Family Sister, Sister                 | 3 (CC)  | SportsCenter (CC)                              | Twilight Zone           |

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT, MOM, YOU SAID TO CORRECT YOU IF YOU WERE WRONG."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It won't show up for a few weeks, but I'm growin' a goatee like our cousin Max has."

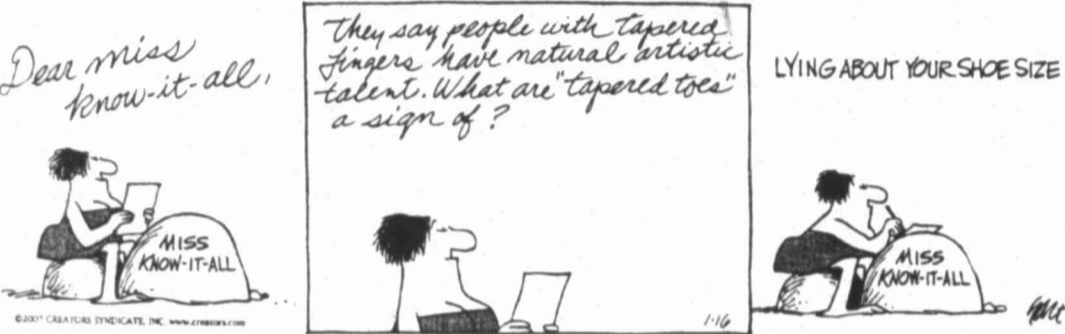
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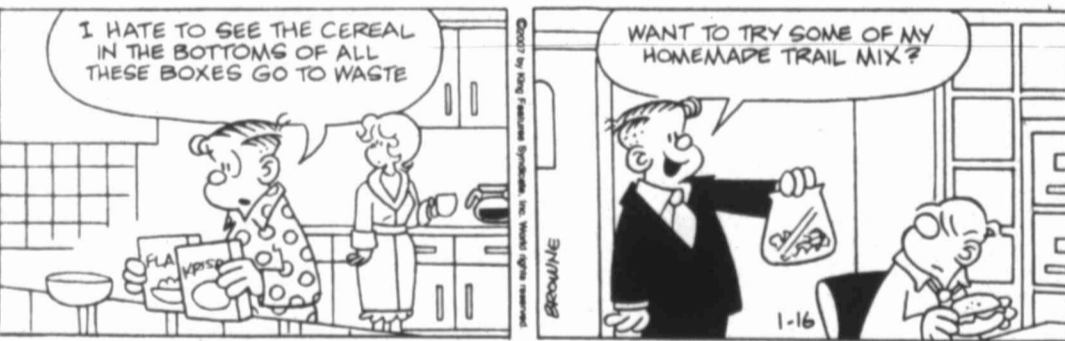
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2007. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
On Jan. 16, 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

On this date:  
In 1547, Ivan IV of Russia (popularly known as "Ivan the Terrible") was crowned Czar.

In 1883, the U.S. Civil Service Commission was established.

In 1944, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower took command of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in London.

In 1957, three B-52's (accompanied at first by two spare aircraft) took off from Castle Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, round-the-world flight

by jet planes, which lasted 45 hours and 19 minutes.

In 1967, Alan S. Boyd was sworn in as the first secretary of transportation.

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off with Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon. (The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle burned up during its return, killing all seven crew members.)

One year ago, Africa's first elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was sworn in as Liberia's new president.

Today's Birthdays: Author William Kennedy is 79. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 77. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 73. Auto racer A.J. Foyt is 72. Singer Barbara Lynn is 65. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 64. Country singer Jim Stafford is 63. Talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger is 60. Movie director John Carpenter is 59. Actress-dancer-choreog-

rapher Debbie Allen is 57. Singer Sade is 48. Rock musician Paul Webb (Talk Talk) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxine Jones (En Vogue) is 41. Actor David Chokachi is 39. Actor Richard T. Jones is 35. Actress Josie Davis is 34. Model Kate Moss is 33. Rock musician Nick Valensi (The Strokes) is 26. Actress Yvonne Zima is 18.

Thought for Today: "A fanatic is a man that does what he thinks the Lord would do if He knew the facts of the case." - Finley Peter Dunne, American humorist (1867-1936).

Answer to previous puzzle

|            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| OPAL       | OCTET   | SIZE   |
| WACO       | USAGE   | TOON   |
| LUMBERJACK | ROUND   |        |
| SLEEK      | PURSES  |        |
| EAR        | PONY    |        |
| SKIS       | VISITS  | CPA    |
| ANNA       | ONTO    | ATLAS  |
| LOGGING    | ON      | ATWORK |
| TWAM       | OWES    | IISIEE |
| SIST       | CAUSES  | NEED   |
|            | HOST    | RINS   |
| ANGELS     | SCHOOLS | HONES  |
| BOARDING   | SNEER   | PATIN  |
| TEEN       | TEENY   | SIES   |

Newsday Crossword

NASTY BUNCH by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Sign of the future</p> <p>5 Trade</p> <p>9 Family auto</p> <p>14 Female horse</p> <p>15 Walk in water</p> <p>16 Hosiery shade</p> <p>17 Poet Pound</p> <p>18 Guitarist</p> <p>19 Clapton</p> <p>19 Away from port</p> <p>20 American labor leader</p> <p>23 Recipe abbreviation</p> <p>24 In dreamland</p> <p>25 Brand-new</p> <p>27 Sketched</p> <p>29 Large striped cats</p> <p>32 High-school math course: Abbr.</p> <p>35 Build, as a building</p> <p>38 Warship-related</p> <p>39 Well-behaved</p> <p>41 Corn portion</p> <p>42 Female opera star</p> <p>43 Made eyes at</p> <p>45 Nonpoetic writing</p> <p>48 Admit, with "in"</p> <p>49 Lose air, as a tire</p> <p>51 Spill the beans</p> <p>53 Important exams</p> <p>56 Made happen</p> <p>60 Hawaiian necklace</p> <p>62 Large lizard</p> <p>64 Something perfect</p> <p>66 Actor Alda</p> <p>67 Ripped</p> <p>68 Yard barrier</p> | <p>69 Gelatin shaper</p> <p>70 Director Kazan</p> <p>71 Finished</p> <p>72 Household pests</p> <p>73 Wind-instrument insert</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Last Greek letter</p> <p>2 Confusing pathways</p> <p>3 Flynn of films</p> <p>4 Got closer to</p> <p>5 Street cleaner</p> <p>6 Less than hot</p> <p>7 Farewell, in France</p> <p>8 Southern pie ingredient</p> <p>9 Remains at home</p> <p>10 Munch on</p> <p>11 Desert whirlwind</p> <p>12 Chimps and orangutans</p> <p>13 Half-moon tide</p> <p>21 Richard of Chicago</p> <p>22 8 Down, for one</p> <p>26 Old-time oath</p> <p>28 Sob</p> <p>30 Speak wildly</p> <p>31 Venetian blind part</p> <p>32 Highly excited</p> <p>33 Company emblem</p> <p>34 One who loves to play courses</p> <p>36 Tourist's rental</p> <p>37 Horse's gait</p> <p>40 Supermarket section</p> <p>44 Hung down loosely</p> <p>46 Additional helpings</p> <p>47 Pizazz</p> <p>50 Mai (cocktail)</p> <p>52 Sheen</p> <p>54 South American mammal</p> <p>55 Hair stylist's shop</p> <p>57 Fur wrap</p> <p>58 Hair-raising</p> <p>59 Fearful anticipation</p> <p>60 "Not on your ___!"</p> <p>61 Biblical paradise</p> <p>63 Soda-fountain order</p> <p>65 Top poker card</p> |
|--|--|