



## School officials to address track in near future

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials want a first-rate track and field facility.

Where that facility may end up is still a matter of debate.

District officials have been seeking renovation of the exist-

ing track at Blankenship Field for the past several years, but budget shortfalls continually forced them to delay any action in that regard.

Now, erosion and other facility problems make repairs at Blankenship an expensive proposition. Initial estimates to bring the track up to competition standards range between

\$300,000 and \$500,000, Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said.

Those kind of costs have school officials eyeing the possibility of building a track at Memorial Stadium, the site of the high school football team's games.

But that possibility is not without concerns, either.

For starters, the property is owned by Howard College, although BSISD is responsible for scheduling and general upkeep of the facility, which raises the question as to whether the school district can legally fund construction at the site.

The two entities currently share the facility under a joint

resolution that has been in effect since 1956.

Superintendent Michael Downes addressed that issue at the most recent school board meeting, saying that recent state attorney general opinions allow such construction, with conditions.

See **TRACK**, Page 3A

## I-20 ROLLOVER



Deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, along with emergency medical personnel with the Big Spring Fire Department, prepare to transport individuals involved in this one-vehicle rollover near the 164 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 Saturday afternoon.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

## Immigration debate heats up in Texas

By **APRIL CASTRO**

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — The last time illegal immigration flared up as a national hot-button issue, then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush made his intentions clear: Immigrant bashing would not be tolerated in his state. And he vowed to use his political clout to quash it elsewhere, too.

No angry demonstrations filled the streets of Texas cities, the way they did in California. Politicians offered no tough-on-immigration campaign rhetoric nor harsh proposals to deny state benefits to the children of illegal immigrants.

But Bush is long gone from Texas, and so is the notion that the state sharing the longest border with Mexico was somehow immune from the divisiveness. Instead, the president's home state is gripped in the same anti-immigrant fervor spilling

— **HOUSE BILL 28:** Would bar the babies of illegal immigrants from receiving state benefits such as food stamps, health care or public housing.

— **HOUSE BILL 29:** Would impose an 8 percent fee on money transfers between Texas and Mexico or Central and South America and use the proceeds to pay for indigent health care.

— **HOUSE BILL 104** and **HOUSE BILL 141:** Would amend a law that allows immigrant students to pay in-state tuition at public universities to exclude anyone in the country illegally.

— **HOUSE BILL 127:** Would require state agencies to ask each recipient of a service or benefit whether that person is in the country illegally, prohibited by law.

out across the country.

See **DEBATE**, Page 3A

## Fire marshal: Use extra care with space heaters

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

As temperatures continue to dip around and below freezing in the evenings, many area residents are relying on space heaters and fireplaces for extra warmth, a practice that could turn tragic without the proper precautions.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said secondary heaters play a heavy role in home fires

all across the Lone Star State and the nation.

"On the average, there were more than 49,000 heating equipment related home fires in the United States," said Condray. "These fires resulted in more than 388 people, 1,445 injuries and more than \$515 million in property damages. Space heaters accounted for two out of every three heating related fires, and for three out of every four related deaths."

Condray said there are many different types of secondary heating, ranging from portable electric units to wood-burning stoves, but the most common causes of fires involving them are avoidable.

"There are a lot of different type space heaters out there," said Condray. "There are portable electric heaters, portable kerosene heaters, stoves, fireplaces and room gas heaters.

**"Portable space heaters need a 3-foot clearance from anything that will burn. Keep them far away from drapes and bedding materials, and make sure they have a 'tip-over' safety switch that will shut them down in the event they are upset."**



Condray

"There are many common causes of home heating fires. In wood burning appliances, a lack of proper cleaning can lead to excessive build up of cre-

osote in the chimney and connectors. Also, a lack of safety enclosures or poor design

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## Rep. Heflin files bill to restore CHIP program

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN — State Rep. Joe Heflin has filed a bill to restore health coverage to hundreds of thousands of Texas children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

In 2003, the Texas Legislature reduced state funding for CHIP and made enrollment in the program more difficult. Since the policies were enacted, almost 200,000 children across the

state have lost their health coverage, Heflin said.

Joining dozens of other House members to advocate and raise awareness for the repeal of the restrictive CHIP policies, Rep. Heflin said, "In District 85 alone, between 2003 and 2007 the CHIP enrollment numbers dropped by more than half. Children should be a number one priority, and that is why we need to refund CHIP, so children can have the access they need to health insurance."

Restoring the CHIP program to pre-2003 enrollment levels would not cost the state any additional money, Heflin said. According to data collected for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, during the 2006 budget year the State of Texas left unspent \$400 million in state funds dedicated for CHIP and Children's Medicaid.

"Those dollars could easily cover every child that has lost CHIP coverage since

2003," said Heflin. "The money is there to do the right thing and to help working families who cannot afford private health insurance. CHIP gives the children of those hard working families health insurance, so they can grow up happy and healthy."

Heflin's district includes Howard and Glasscock counties. He can be reached at the Capitol at P.O. Box 2910, Austin 78768-2910 (Tel. 512-463-0604).



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## Obituaries

### Wynell Wilkerson



Wynell Wilkerson, 66, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Raford Dunagan, officiating. Interment will follow at Colorado City Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

She was born Nov. 22, 1940, in Colorado City and married Ralph Wilkerson.

She was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. Wynell worked as a bank teller for State National Bank for 30 plus years. She enjoyed traveling, shopping and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Tracie Lindsey of Big Spring; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Wanda Fortenberry of San Angelo; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law; and one aunt.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Wilkerson; one son; one brother; and her parents.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Allison Cancer Center, 301 North N, Midland 79701.

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

### Euletha Spears

Euletha Spears, 90, of Coahoma, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, in Odessa. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take Note

• **THE 5TH ANNUAL RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 24, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at KBST and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Entry deadline is Feb. 20.

• **SAY IT WITH CAKE FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT RELAY FOR LIFE** orders are being taken until Feb. 9. Personalized heart-shaped cakes in either 8-inch size for \$5 or 5-inch size for \$3.50. Your choice of chocolate or vanilla. Delivery is available. Contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

• **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH?** Amparo Snipes will be offering free lessons at Baptist Temple Church, 11th and Goliad. For more information, contact her at (432) 267-6885.

• **THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOCIATION** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the TravelCenters of American truck stop.

• **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.

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## Police blotter

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

- **EUJENIO CEBALLOS**, 31, of 813 W. Sixth Street, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants and held for immigration.
- **JERMAINE EVANS**, 34, of 2524 Albrook, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **GEORGE KOSTELAZ**, 47, of 411 Edwards, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JUAN MATA**, 42, of 2511 W. 18th Street, was arrested Sunday on a local warrant.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 100 block of Second Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 33 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JEREMIAH COKER**, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **SHEILA FAY RICHARDSON**, 41, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.
- **VANESSA DAWN HOLLIS**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **JAMES WALTER USSERY JR.**, 47, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of interfering with an emergency phone call and aggravated assault of a date/family member.
- **TONY MONROE GAMBLE**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **HOLLY PAGE CLUCK**, 23, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- **MICHAEL STEVEN MARQUEZ**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **GUADALUPE RODRIQUEZ GONZALES**, 23, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN**, 27, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of service.
- **MARGARITA OLIVAREZ RAMIREZ**, 24, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of ride not secured by a safety belt, no valid motor vehicle inspection certificate, violation of a promise to appear and issuance of a bad check.
- **ANASTACIO S. ESPARZA**, 41, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1200 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3900 block of Gail Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2500 block of Langley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 164 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported near the 179 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3100 block of Sherrod Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 3-5-7-27-41-43.  
Number matching six of six: 0.  
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$32 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-13-16-28.  
Number matching five of five: 0.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-2-5

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## Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21** meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
  - **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756** meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
  - **Prospector's Club work night** begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

**TUESDAY**

- **Big Spring Rotary Club** meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

**WEDNESDAY**

- **Optimist Club** meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- **Senior Circle** meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- **Downtown Lions Club** meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- **Duplicate Bridge Club** meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

**THURSDAY**

- **LULAC Chapter 4791** will meet at 5:15 p.m. For meeting location or more information, contact Jennifer Patton at (432) 213-6904 or lulac\_jennifer@cox.net

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs near 40. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.  
Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.  
Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the mid 30s.  
Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 40s.  
Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows around 30.  
Friday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s.  
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.  
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs 35 to 40.  
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.  
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs near 40.

## Support Groups

**MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

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

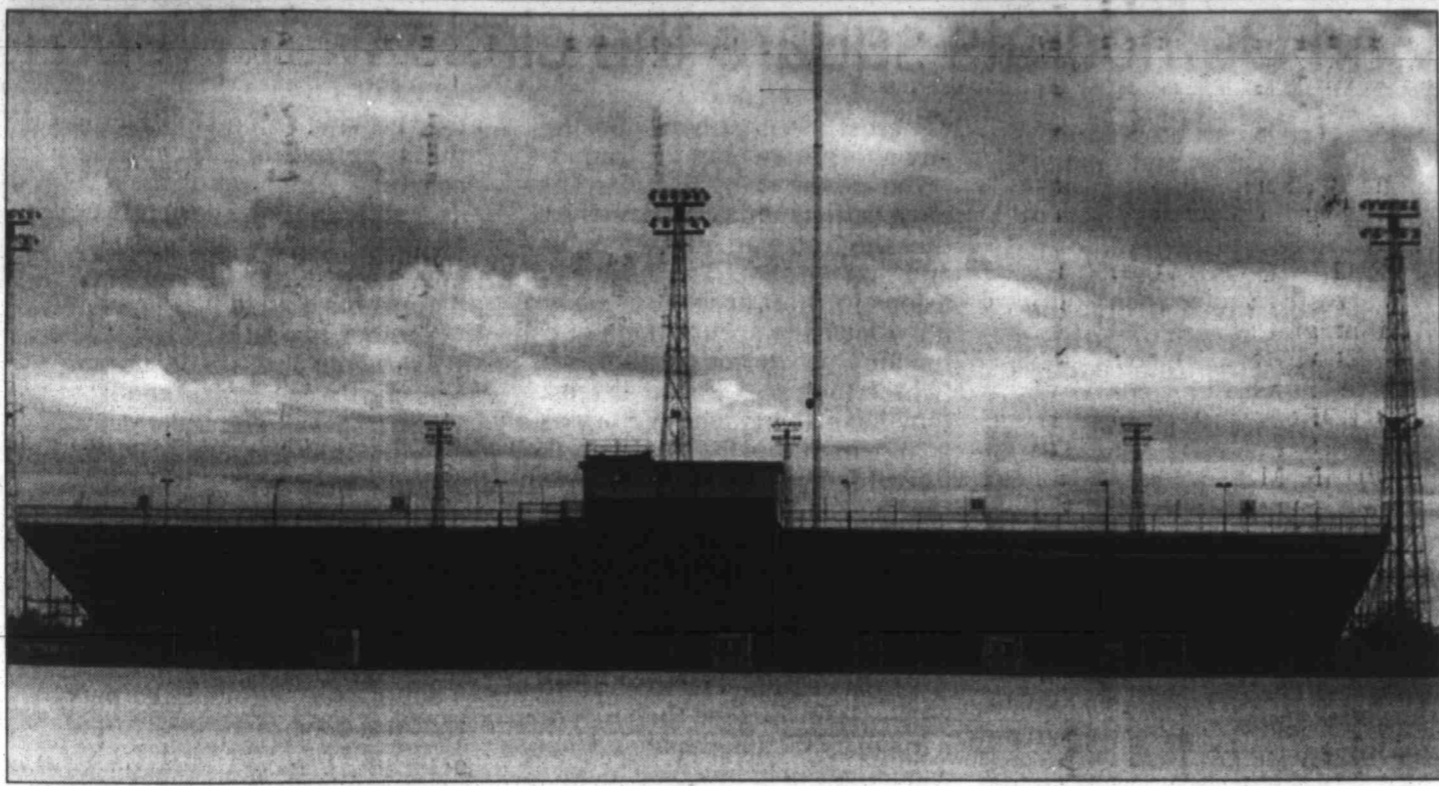
- **Al-Anon**, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

- **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.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring Independent School District officials would like to build a track at Memorial Stadium.

**TRACK**

Continued from Page 1A

"We may (finance renovations) at the site if we have a long-term lease with Howard College," Downes told trustees. "Our idea is to sign a 50-year lease and keep the same provisions as before (under the joint resolution)."

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks was receptive to a new lease agreement between the two schools.

"We have reviewed (the joint resolution) and are looking at the possibility of a lease," Sparks said. "I don't anticipate any issues with it."

The college and school district have worked with the existing agreement very well for more than 50 years."

Sparks said improvements to Memorial Stadium would benefit both the college and school district.

"Certainly, when you get students on the college campus for track meets (or other activities at the stadium), it would give us the opportunity to show those students what we have to offer," she said.

The second concern about building a track at Memorial Stadium would be accessibility issues. Any renovation work done at the facility would have to comply with Americans With Disability Act reg-

ulations. The district would likely have to have quite a bit of work done to make the stadium more handicapped-accessible, officials concede.

How much the project would cost is very up in the air, as well. Downes said officials would not even try to get architectural estimates until a lease is signed with the college.

"In all likelihood, we'll have a proposal (for a lease) for the board to consider at its Feb. 8 meeting," Downes said.

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

**CARE**

Continued from Page 1A

accounted for many fires. For space heaters, the single largest cause was failing to maintain a safe distance from combustibles followed closely by improper fueling practices."

Condray said a common misconception is it's harmless to use a stove or oven for extra warmth, an idea that can turn deadly extremely fast.

"Never use cooking appliances to heat your home or a room," said Condray. "Modern cook stoves are designed to operate under certain conditions. Ovens need to have their door closed to vent properly and open flames from burners are as dangerous as any other form of open flame."

"Wood burning fireplaces and stoves need their flues and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by qualified personnel. Make sure you have a sturdy screen or enclosure to keep sparks from entering the room."

Fires involving portable heaters can be avoided by exercising some simple precautions, said Condray, including checking to be sure the unit has been tested.

"Space heaters need space," said Condray.

"Portable space heaters need a 3-foot clearance from anything that will burn. Keep them far away from drapes and bedding materials, and make sure they have a 'tip-over' safety switch that will shut them down in the event they are upset."

"Also, don't stand so close to a space heater that your clothes could come in contact with it. Never leave one burning while you're asleep or away from the room. Also, always make sure your heater is approved by one of the independent labs, such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual."

For heaters requiring a fuel, Condray said it's vital to follow the manufacturer's instruction when it comes time for a refill.

"Liquid and gas fired heaters should only be refueled in a well ventilated area and should be completely cool," said Condray. "Be absolutely sure you're using the proper fuel for the device. If gas fired, you must use the approved type fuel line. Always be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for proper start-up and shut down of the unit."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

**DEBATE**

Continued from Page 1A

making Texas an unfamiliar host to some of the harshest proposals in the nation.

The Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch has become a national experiment in how far cities can go to punish and drive away illegal immigrants, with its proposal to criminalize the renting of apartments to illegal immigrants.

Talk radio shows in Texas have been flooded with callers complaining about Mexican flags in their neighborhoods and tax dollars being spent to educate immigrants who don't speak English.

A bill filed in the Texas Legislature would cut off public assistance to children of illegal immigrants, including public health care and education. The measure parallels California's bitterly won Proposition 187.

Bush lambasted Proposition 187 at the time, insisting that even children of illegal immigrants deserve an education.

Bush "didn't think it was morally justifiable to punish the kid for a decision that he had no say in," said West Texas state Rep. Pete Gallego, a Democrat.

Critics like Gallego say today's legislation wouldn't have stood a chance if Bush was still around.

"He would have said up front 'don't bother passing this legislation because if it ever gets to me, I'm going to veto it,'" Gallego said. Gov. Rick Perry has said he opposes the proposed ban on in-state tuition — after a re-election campaign in which he talked tough on border security.

Other anti-immigrant bills would tax money that is wired to Latin America, end a policy that grants in-state college tuition rates to illegal immigrants and authorize the state attorney general to sue the federal government for money Texas

has spent dealing with illegal immigration.

Part of Bush's approach to immigration policy stemmed from his respect for the Mexican culture, and the strong work ethic and family ties it fosters, said Vance McMahan, Bush's policy director in the governor's office.

"A big part of it is growing up in West Texas and understanding the culture of both Texas and Mexico and recognizing that the vast majority of Mexicans ... want to come to the United States and ... secure a better future for their families," said Ray Sullivan, Bush's press secretary in Texas.

After a federal welfare reform law cut off food stamps for all immigrants, Bush restored benefits for elderly and disabled legal immigrants in Texas.

"Food stamps are a federal program and a federal responsibility. The rules have changed unfairly and retroactively for those least able to help themselves," Bush said in notes to his staff.

Now, with Congress intent on immigration reform, Bush pleaded with his own party to go

easy on illegal immigrants.

"We need to uphold the great tradition of the melting pot that welcomes and assimilates new arrivals," Bush said in his State of the Union address. "We need to resolve the status of the immigrants that are already in our country without animosity and without amnesty."

Critics say Bush's compassion for immigrants has left him blind to the critical need for better enforcement in the United States.

"The president tends to see the benefits of immigration and almost none of the cost ... he sees enforcement efforts as morally dubious," said Steven Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports stricter immigration enforcement.

Espousing that attitude back in Texas, however, at least from the bully pulpit of the governor's office, kept simmering animosity in check, said University of Texas political scientist Bruce Buchanan.

"The issue has become

more heated and more salient now, such that if Bush were down here ... he'd have to deal with it in a way that might be uncomfortable for him," Buchanan said. "The issue has metastasized. Everybody knows where everybody stands. Feelings have hardened on the issue."

In his absence, the debate rages on in places like Farmers Branch and in the state capitol.

"He talked quite often about having good relationships with Mexico, so I think he would have used his influence to try to at least mute or soften the rhetoric," said Jerry

Polinard, a political science professor at the University of Texas-Pan American. "What a difference 10 years makes."

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Pedro "Pete" Rodriguez, 77, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM Monday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Rosie Lee Gamage, 90, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Keeping the pressure on Iranian mullahs

The Bush administration's recent steps against Iran, which have included the dispatch of a second aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf and the arrest of Iranian agents in Iraq, have worried a lot of people in Washington, who fear that the White House may be gearing up for another war. Fortunately, some influential people in Tehran appear to be getting nervous, as well. The stock market is dropping, and capital flight is accelerating. Some influential voices have begun publicly suggesting that flexibility as well as toughness is needed in dealing with the West. Pressure is growing on radical President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has been rebuked by voters in recent elections, by parliamentary resolutions and by editorials in newspapers that reflect the views of the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

All this suggests that the U.S. measures, compounded by a U.N. sanctions resolution, may be having an effect on the mullahs. If so, the impact is sorely needed. During the past year Iran and its ally Syria have behaved as if they can defy the United States and United Nations with impunity. They have pressed a broad and violent offensive against Western interests across the region, from Baghdad to Beirut to the Gaza Strip, even as Iran has rejected Security Council orders to freeze its nuclear program.

It's too early to tell whether Iran will back off from that belligerent agenda: Last week its ally Hezbollah renewed its attempt to stage a coup against Lebanon's pro-Western government. But it's not too soon for the Bush administration to begin working on the next stage of its strategy. That's because the pushback tactics, while necessary to change the atmosphere of hubris in Tehran, aren't likely by themselves to achieve the administration's goals. The pressure needs to be carefully measured, since Iran, too, has the capacity to escalate, both in Iraq and elsewhere. While the threat of military action is useful, this president should not have to resort to that option.

What's needed is a mix of pressure with avenues for moderation by Tehran. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has offered to meet with Iranian officials and discuss a broad agenda of issues but only after the nuclear program is suspended — a retreat Iran appears unlikely to undertake anytime soon. The administration doesn't help its cause by describing the Islamic regime as a Soviet-like monolith and publicly dividing the Middle East between pro- and anti-Iranian blocs. That ignores the very differences between extremists and moderates that can now be glimpsed in Tehran, and it invites Mr. Ahmadinejad to rally the country on a nationalist platform.

The most promising way of refining the current policy would be to return to a strategy that worked when the Bush administration tried it in 2001, which is engaging Iran in a regional forum. Five years ago the United States and Iran quietly cooperated within a larger group of nations to fashion a new regime in Afghanistan; now they have the possibility to work with Iraq's other neighbors to head off the escalation of sectarian war in Baghdad. To pursue such an initiative while simultaneously stepping up military and economic pressure on Iran, the Bush administration would have to forswear the Manichaeism it is so prone to in foreign affairs. But it might get better results.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, we don't let confusion mar our plans when we bring them to You.

Amen

# Can Democrats square the circle with Webb?

Democrats have a new rock star, and I'm not talking about Barack Obama — the most recent victim of the Clinton smear machine. I refer to Virginia Sen. James Webb, who delivered the Democrats' response to the president's State of the Union address.

Ever since 9-11, Democrats have been searching for that magical formula (or politician) that would restore their foreign policy credentials during this time of war. Given their well-earned reputation for weakness on defense, this is no small order.

You will recall the pathetically forced military imagery accompanying Sen. John Kerry's acceptance speech at the 2004 Democratic Convention. Kerry's speech, from the bogus opening line: "Reporting for Duty," was a calculated sales pitch aimed at convincing TV viewers they should disregard his and his party's antiwar record and listen, instead, to their empty promises to be tough on terror.

For liberals, there was nothing contradictory in this picture. Kerry was a decorated war vet, and those credentials — putting aside the credible challenges against them — would trump all anti-military behavior in which he had engaged from the time he returned from Vietnam.

In the end, neither Kerry nor his party were able to pull that off — not just because of the Swift Boat Vets, but because even the "erudite" John Kerry himself could not square the many dovish circles he'd drawn in the past.

Since Kerry's defeat, Democrats have further ratcheted up their criticism of President Bush and the war. They finally hit pay dirt, having regained control of

Congress, even without offering any alternative plan for Iraq.

The closest thing to a plan they have is their uniform agreement that the Iraq war is unwinnable and that we should withdraw our troops in short order. But we are not allowed to accuse them of calling for a precipitous withdrawal (which they are), nor to suggest they have abandoned victory as a goal (which they have). Even their liberal friends in the mainstream media grudgingly concede they haven't quite gotten their act together yet on Iraq.

But the Democrats must sense they won't be able to prolong this charade forever. Electing a wartime commander in chief in 2008 will be tougher than electing a majority of congressmen whose campaigns also involved local issues. Democrats still have to prove that despite their history of softness on terror they can be trusted as primary guardians of our national security.

Enter James Webb. Who better to square a circle than a man whose resume contains at least two oxymorons: He's a "conservative Democrat" and a "muscular liberal"?

No less a liberal than Newsweek's Jonathan Alter gushed over Webb's SOTU rebuttal, writing, "Virginia Sen. James Webb managed to convey a muscular liberalism — with personal touches — that left President Bush's ordinary address in the dust."

It matters not to Alter that Webb is advocating our near-immediate withdrawal from Iraq (how muscular will Osama bin Laden find that?). What counts is that Webb's dad was a vet, he's a vet, and his son's currently serving in Iraq. And like a good liberal, Alter invoked the chickenhawk mantra, saying that unlike Bush and Cheney, Webb served in Vietnam.

Oh, yes, and "unlike fellow veteran John Kerry, he has a mili-

tary bearing and nonelitist tone that is appealing." By "military bearing," Alter means that Webb doesn't look like a perfectly coiffed "wussie," but a tough military guy, whose appearance also trumps his dovish policies.

Another liberal columnist, the *Washington Post's* E.J. Dionne, was similarly ecstatic about Webb's speech and the apparent toughness he displayed. Dionne wrote, "Webb's performance was a salutary sign that Democrats might just be getting over the battered party syndrome that has left so many of them terrified of saying exactly what is on their minds."

Sorry, E.J., but to call a party that has been mercilessly bludgeoned President Bush for six years running "battered," is like, well, calling liberals "muscular." Democrats can't have it both ways. Either they're going to join us in the war on terror, or they aren't. Either they're going to put teeth in their antiwar Senate resolutions, or they're not. It's one thing to shadowbox and talk tough. It's another to get in the ring and start swinging.

Democrats must know deep down that their candidates' combat credentials and tough demeanor — not to mention personal nastiness — are not going to serve as substitutes for offering policies promoting the national interest, for which they can be held to account. Even the irascible, ex-Republican Jim Webb is not the Democrats' foreign policy panacea.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). And to 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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DAVID LIMBAUGH

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# Delusional Dick and his audience of one

Dick Cheney just doesn't get it. He makes the president look like a model of contrition.

The situation in Iraq is either better than everyone else in the world thinks, or someone else's fault. His lesbian daughter's pregnancy is no one's business, even though he and his presidential partner have fought against efforts to protect women and children in precisely her situation. His former chief of staff is on trial for his role in an effort to squelch criticism of the ill-fated war, but does that have anything to do with Cheney? It must be nice, speaking personally, to be that self-confident, self-righteous and self-serving. But it's a disaster for the country.

John McCain, the president's new best friend, recently came right out and said what many people have been thinking: that the president listened to Cheney too much and mishandled the conduct of the war as a result. Gerald Ford, in his posthumously published interview, was sharply critical of his former chief of staff. Walter Mondale, in a recent conference on the Carter presidency, suggested that even though it was Jimmy Carter who expanded the role and influence of the vice president, he would never have tolerated the way Cheney has conducted himself in this position.

Mere mortals might be chastened by the criticism, not to mention the disaster their policies have produced.

But Cheney is no mere mortal.

He may be the most arrogant man to ever be elected to high office in America.

Cheney is in that position because he essentially picked himself. Asked to lead the process for selecting someone else to run as vice president with George Bush, he managed it in such a way that he became the choice. At the time, many people hailed the result, saying the relatively inexperienced Bush needed the strong and experienced hand of a Dick Cheney. We should have known better. Having manipulated himself into the No. 2 job, what was there to stop him from trusting himself above all others? Too much praise is a bad thing.

Even apart from his role in the war, Cheney has been a model of arrogance from the start. The law is no limit for him. His secret meetings of the energy task force should have stirred a revolt, not simply a lawsuit. His ties to Halliburton, subsequently awarded billions of dollars in contracts to rebuild Iraq, should have made the result of that revolt inevitable. Instead, Cheney has simply pushed forward, unrepentant.

In 2005, Cheney assured Americans that the insurgency was in "its last throes." He was just plain wrong. But he has never acknowledged it, never admitted to any mistakes. He has taken the adage that the best defense is a good offense to a ludicrous extreme. Even as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was voting for a resolution opposing the latest escalation of the war, Cheney was busy making clear that he didn't care and it wouldn't stop him.

"There's problems" in Iraq, Cheney told CNN's Wolf Blitzer, but it is not a "terrible situation."

Really? Only the day before, Bush's choice to lead the troops in Iraq, Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, said the "situation in Iraq is dire." Is he wrong, too? Congressional opposition "won't stop us" from sending 21,500 more troops, but will only "validate the terrorists' strategy." That was just the sort of conclusion respected Republican Senator John Warner cautioned against, at Petraeus' confirmation hearing.

Cheney's own lesbian daughter may be having a child, but that presumably has nothing to do with the consistently anti-gay policies pursued by this administration, which leave other women and their children in the same situation with no protection of their fundamental rights. The personal is not political when Dick Cheney's blatant hypocrisy is at issue. If this administration were not so hostile to gay rights, no one would care about his daughter.

But Dick Cheney is smart like a fox. He would rather polarize the country than face his own mistakes. He would rather have Americans yelling at each other than accept legitimate criticism. He isn't running for anything, so what does he care?

The question is: Is the president listening? At some point, he needs to decide that he's heard enough from the man who has, more than any other, destroyed his presidency.

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](http://www.creators.com).

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SUSAN ESTRICH

# Parents' healthier habits lead to healthier kids

We all know that a diet laden with fats and sugar coupled with little or no regular exercise can lead to major health problems like diabetes and heart attacks in adults. But did you know that the beginnings of heart disease — the buildup of plaque in arteries — can also show up in kids with these same bad health habits?

A scary thought. But the good news is that this problem is solvable. Parents simply need to change kids' diet and exercise routines from harmful to helpful.

"We could probably eliminate 90 percent of the heart attacks if we'd make sure our kids were eating right and getting enough exercise from the start," says Dr. Henry McGill, senior scientist emeritus at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio. Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research is recognized for the quality of its basic research into the nature, causes, prevention, treatments, and cures for diseases.

"What we've found through literally decades

of study is that the beginning of atherosclerosis (often called hardening of the arteries) can be detected in children as young as 12 years old," says McGill. "They may be in their 40s or 50s or 60s when they experience a heart attack, but the build-up of deposits on the artery walls began many years earlier, when they were kids."

### Groundbreaking study

Since 1987, McGill and research scientists from 13 other institutions across the country have been studying risk factors for adult coronary heart disease in a project called Pathobiological Determinants of Atherosclerosis in Youth (PDAY). They collected tissue and data from about 3,000 young persons 15 through 34 years of age — all of whom died of accidents, homicide, and suicide and were autopsied in forensic laboratories — and measured the atherosclerosis in their arteries.

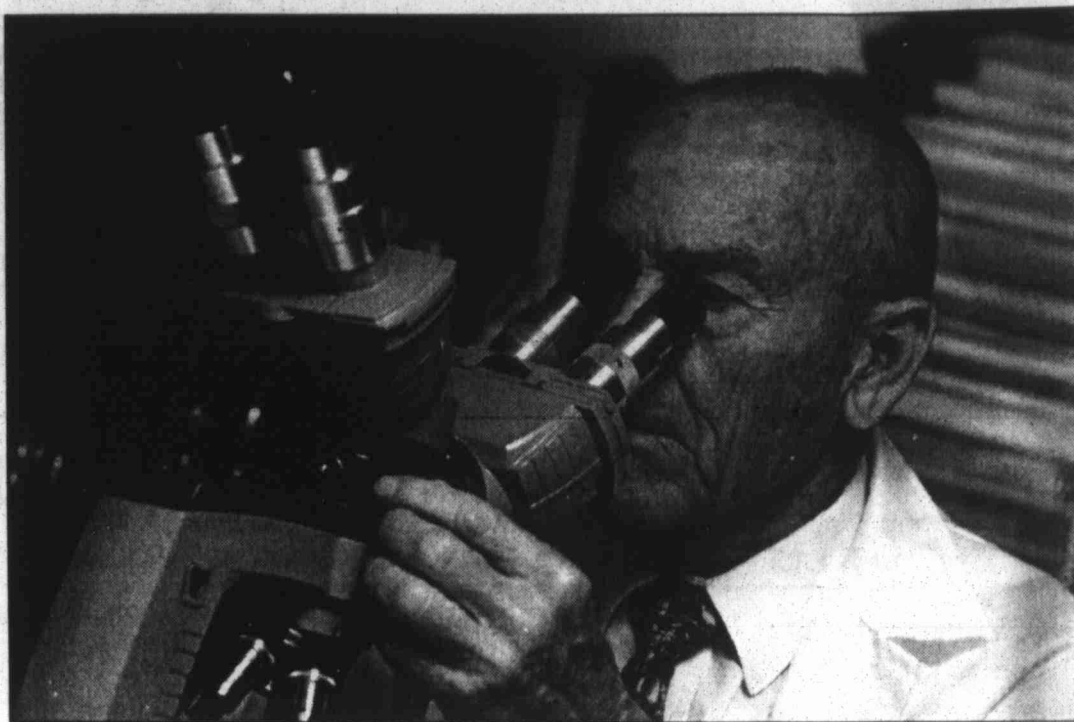
The PDAY results show conclusively that the risk factors for adult coronary heart disease affect the

progression of atherosclerosis beginning in the teen years. The association is so strong and consistent that a causal relationship appears highly likely. These results indicate that prevention of adult coronary heart disease should begin with control of risk factors beginning in adolescence, McGill said.

### What can parents do?

Two common risk factors that parents can address, McGill said, are smoking and obesity. Too many calories and not enough exercise lead to obesity, which has become an epidemic in many developed nations and is the most powerful risk factor for diabetes. Diabetes leads to an array of health problems that include heart attacks, blindness, and kidney failure.

"We're seeing more kids today with adult-type diabetes than we've ever seen before. And, unfortunately, we still have about 20 percent of high school students in the U.S. smoking," McGill said. "And there's absolutely nothing good you can say about



Dr. Henry C. McGill Jr. examines the build-up of plaques in an artery from a PDAY study participant.

what smoking does to your body."

McGill emphasizes that the main things parents can do is set a good example. "If you're a parent, don't smoke," he says. "Eat healthy. Exercise. If you're eating a lot of junk food, smoking, and letting yourself become overweight, you're teaching your kids

to do the same thing. But it doesn't cost a thing to change those habits."

For more information on the PDAY study, visit [sibr.org](http://sibr.org).

## Scenic Mountain Medical Center lauded for coronary patient care

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has received recognition from the American Heart Association as a Get With the Guidelines-Coronary Artery Disease (GWTG-CAD) hospital for the second year in a row.

The recognition signifies that Scenic Mountain Medical Center is participating in the American Heart Association as a Get With the Guidelines program. The quality improvement initiative is designed to reduce the risk of recurrent heart attacks by helping hospital staff follow proven evidence-based guidelines and procedures while coronary patients are in their care.

Under the program, coronary patient care started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, aspirin, ACE inhibitors and beta-block-

ers in the hospital and receive smoking cessation and weight management counseling and referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before being discharged. These standards of care are outlined in the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology secondary prevention guidelines for patients with coronary artery disease.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 450,000 people suffer recurrent heart attacks each year. Statistics also show that within six years after a heart attack, about 22 percent of men and 48 percent of women will be disabled with heart failure. Within one year of an attack, 25 percent of men and 38 percent of women will die.

"Scenic Mountain Medical Center is dedicated to making our cardiac

### SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER

unit among the best in the country, and implementing the American Heart Association as a Get With the Guidelines-CAD program will help us accomplish this by making it easier for our professionals to improve the long-term outcome for our cardiac patients," said Teresa Williams, director of ICU and cath lab. Get With the Guidelines is designed to help Scenic Mountain Medical Center's staff develop and implement a secondary prevention guideline process. The program includes quality improvement measures such as care maps, discharge pro-

ocols, standing orders and measurement tools. Designed to be quick and efficient, these guideline tools will enable the medical center to improve the quality of care it provides cardiac patients, save lives and, ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of heart attacks.

Projections have shown that if the GWTG-CAD program were implemented nationwide, more than 80,000 lives could be saved each year.

For more information on Get With the Guidelines, visit [www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines](http://www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines)

## Early hearing tests improve children's recovery from meningitis

HOUSTON — Hearing loss and its impact in social interactions can be potentially minimized in children with bacterial meningitis through early identification.

A study lead by Dr. Walter Kutz, a former Baylor College of Medicine resident and now a fellow at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, found that children with the streptococcus form of meningitis — marked by high fever, long hospital stays, facial muscular paralysis and seizures — had a higher rate of hearing loss compared to children with other forms of meningitis.

But determining which children are most at risk and testing for hearing loss sooner allows for earlier treatment where necessary, lessening long-term social difficulties.

"Patients with earlier diagnoses are typically able to return to school sooner and experience fewer problems interacting with others than if their hearing loss had not been detected," said Dr. Carla Marie Giannoni, assistant professor of otolaryngology at BCM and a co-author of the study.

It is recommended that children suffering from any form of bacterial meningitis have their

hearing tested to provide early identification of hearing disability and minimize long-term,

adverse outcomes due to hearing loss.

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

	1	9		7	3		5
6							7 4
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## Contract Bridge

### Famous Hand

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 8  
♥ A 9 2  
♣ K 8 5 3  
♦ A J 8 3

**WEST**  
♦ J 10 7 4  
♥ 10 7  
♣ 10 9 7 4 2  
♦ Q 4

**EAST**  
♦ Q 6 5 3 2  
♥ Q J 4 3  
♦ A Q J  
♣ K

**SOUTH**  
♦ K 9  
♥ K 8 6 5  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 9 7 6 5 2

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1♣ Pass 2♣ Dblc  
Pass 2NT 3♣ 3NT  
Pass 4♣ Pass 5♣  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

This deal occurred in Stockholm, Sweden, during the 1983 world championship match between Italy and the United States.

The U.S. won the match by a very slim margin, despite exceptionally fine play on this deal by the Italian declarer, Arturo Franco. Three notrump would have been much easier to make, but Franco reached five clubs instead on the sequence shown.

Making five clubs appears to be an impossible task, since declarer seems destined to lose a heart, a club and a diamond. But Franco managed

the feat nevertheless.

He won the opening spade lead with the king and immediately returned a diamond, playing low from dummy on the assumption that East almost certainly had the ace. East won with the jack and returned a spade to dummy's ace.

Franco now ruffed a low diamond, led a trump to the ace and ruffed another low diamond, felling East's ace. He then cashed the K-A of hearts and king of diamonds, discarding a heart from his hand.

All these maneuvers were not without purpose. Franco next put West on lead by playing a trump, and poor West found himself at the end of his rope. He was forced to return either a spade or a diamond, handing declarer a ruff-and-discard, so Franco never lost a heart trick, and the contract was made.

The hand demonstrates once again how a diligent declarer can sometimes salvage what seems to be a hopeless contract. Three losers appear certain at the start, but declarer first utilizes the knowledge acquired from the bidding, and then visualizes a distribution of the adverse cards that will allow him to escape one of the losers.

In the present case, after taking the proper preliminary steps, declarer plays a low trump at trick 10 and hopes that the defender who wins it does not have a heart to return. As it happens, this hope materializes.

Tomorrow: Slow and steady wins the race.  
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## Two principals asked to resign in Dallas credit card scandal

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas school district has asked two high school principals to resign and wants to reassign an elementary school principal as part of its investigation into the possible misuse of district credit cards.

If the principals of Maceo Smith High and Spruce High don't resign by Monday, they will face termination hearings, a district spokesman said. Superintendent Michael

Hinojosa and the spokesman declined to say whether the principals personally misused credit cards or supervised people who misused credit cards.

Maceo Smith Principal Dwain Govan said he is a scapegoat for the district's credit card problems, which were revealed after an investigation by The Dallas Morning News in July. He said he does not plan

to resign.

"I think for the most part they have to satisfy the public, and somebody big has got to go," Govan said.

The Spruce High principal is Ardis McCann. Burleson Elementary Principal Dinah Marks has been told to turn in her keys and await reassignment, school district officials said.

Govan spent about \$236,000 on his credit

card, including purchases for furniture, four flat-screen TVs, four laptops, a camcorder, a digital camera and a portable DVD player, according to a database of district credit card transactions.

McCann spent more than \$266,000 on his credit card, according to district records. His purchases included \$6,000 for pizza and \$781 for wedding ribbons, flowers and shoes.

Marks spent about \$76,000 on her credit card, according to district records. She spent about \$1,500 at Lucy's Western Wear for embroidered oxford shirts and book bags.

District trustees were notified by letters Friday of the upcoming disciplinary action. The letters also indicate that more firings are expected this week.

The district has said at

least 10 employees could face criminal charges.

In September, a district secretary was arrested on three felony counts of theft from an organization receiving federal funds. Records obtained by the newspaper showed the secretary used a district credit card for \$78,000 worth of purchases over 2 1/2 years on items including clothing, home decorations and groceries.

## State news briefs

### \$50 million rehab center for military amputees opening

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A \$50 million high-tech rehabilitation center designed to serve the growing number of soldiers who return from war as amputees or with severe burns will open here Monday.

The 60,000-square-foot Center for the Intrepid will allow the Army to move its rehabilitation program out of the Brooke Army Medical Center and into a separate facility that includes a rock-climbing wall, wave pool and a 360-degree virtual reality sphere to help amputees and other severely wounded soldiers recover their balance and other basic skills.

Brooke's amputee program started two years ago and has about 50 patients, but the new center will allow it to expand and offer more advanced rehabilitation, said Maj. Stewart Campbell, the officer-in-charge of rehabilitation at Brooke.

### Fire breaks out at Valero refinery

TEXAS CITY (AP) — A large fire broke out at the Valero refinery on Sunday afternoon, but there were no major injuries and the blaze was under control less than two hours later.

A pump and a feed line at the refinery caught on fire, sending smoke high into the air, according to Bruce Clawson, Texas City emergency management director. The only injury came to a man who scraped his knee when evacuating, Clawson said. The fire started about 2:20 p.m., but Clawson said the main fire was out by 4:15 p.m. and officials were working to extinguish small feeder fires.

It is unclear what started the fire or what effect it will have on production at the refinery which employs about 500 people and produces gasoline, diesel, kerosene and jet fuel.

There was not a need for a shelter in place because winds were blowing the smoke away from the city on Sunday.

### 'Star Search' champ turned preacher arrested again

MIDLOTHIAN (AP) — A "Star Search" champ and country music singer who became a church pastor faces six counts of burglary in connection with missing computer equipment at a middle school.

David Nelson Slater, 44, was arrested Friday after video cameras captured him entering a computer lab Monday around midnight and walking out with several computers, police said. Additional footage, which was provided to police by the Midlothian school district, shows Slater taking computer equipment and loading it into his car,

police said.

Some of the stolen equipment was found in Slater's home, police said. He is a suspect in other burglaries at the school over the past two years, police said.

Slater was an associate pastor at a church that used to hold its Sunday services at the school. In that role, he might have obtained the key he used to get into the computer lab, police said.

Slater won \$100,000 as a "Star Search" champion in 1987 and went on to make two country music albums, opening for Waylon Jennings and the Oak Ridge Boys.

In 2002, he pleaded guilty in Tennessee to 25 charges, including auto burglary, theft and forgery, and received a four-year sentence. He served 90 days and was placed on probation for five years.

Last year, Slater was charged with credit card abuse and failure to pay fines and legal fees.

### Experts, lawmakers struggle with high school dropouts in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One out of three Texas students don't graduate, and more students drop out than finish high school in the state's largest cities, according to education experts.

Statewide, more than 2.5 million students have

dropped out of Texas high schools in the last 20 years, and each graduating class loses about 120,000 students from freshman year to senior year, according to the San Antonio-based Intercultural Development Research Association.

The research group says more than half of students in Texas' largest cities drop out. The dropout rate among blacks, Hispanics and low-income students is about 60 percent, according to the Center for Education at Rice University.

The statewide dropout rate is about 33 percent — or 20 points higher than what the Texas Education Agency reports.

Experts warn that the high dropout rate will lead to economic and social problems.

### Tubing businesses fret impact of New Braunfels rules

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — Businesses upstream from New Braunfels on the Guadalupe River are working to distance themselves from new city rules meant to crack down on drunken behavior among tubers.

Business owners are pointing out that the new rules, which got preliminary approval from the City Council last week, will only apply to the stretch of the river within the New Braunfels city limits.

The council has given initial approval to rules for the Guadalupe and Comal rivers that would ban open alcohol containers at several riverfront parks and limit the size of coolers on the rivers to those that hold only six 12-ounce drinks. It also agreed to limit tubers to one tube per person, limit the size of tubes and require jackets for children younger than eight. The new rules, which must pass a second vote next week, don't apply to the first 15 miles of the Guadalupe River.

### Houston to Galveston rail line could return

GALVESTON (AP) — Commuter service between Houston and Galveston could be revived on the oldest rail line in Texas in as few as five years, a study group working on the plan said. A plan for costs and construction needs for bringing the service, which ceased in 1967, should be complete in June. The

group says that the service will ease steadily worsening traffic congestion on the Gulf Freeway and reduce pollution.

The costs of using this service would be far less than building a light rail line or expanding the freeway and could also increase rail-freight service. Another benefit could be to use the rail line as an evacuation route from Galveston in the event of a hurricane. The Galveston City

Council financed the \$350,000 study last year with a federal grant.

"It has all the elements that would make it eminently possible," study-group member John Bertini, chairman of the Galveston Railroad Museum board, said. Supporters of moving along with the plan include U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels.



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# Sports

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

Monday, January 29, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### Howard Hawk weekend highlights



Howard's women trailed New Mexico for most of the first half of Saturday night's basketball game, but with under 4 minutes to play Howard took its first lead of the game, 27-24.

The women went to grab their first conference win of the season and improve their overall record to 11-10 on the season.

Leading scorer for the Hawks was Candace Lambert with 19 points. The guard was 5-for-5 from the free throw line and helped lead the Hawks to the 10 point road win.

Monica Jones added 14 points for the Hawks.

The women will play tonight at 6 p.m. at Clarendon College.

The Hawks men's traveled to New Mexico and added to the new winning streak by defeating the home team 71-63 Saturday night.

Brandon Sampay had a monster game by leading the Hawks in scoring with 21 points. Sampay also added 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals and 1 blocked shot on the night.

Benson Akpan added 18 points, 5 rebounds and 3 blocked shots and Sean Watson added 11 points for the Hawks.

Howard will return to the court this evening when they travel to face Clarendon College. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m.

### Derby winner Barbaro has troubles

Barbaro's fight for survival may have reached a critical point. The Kentucky Derby winner suffered a significant setback over the weekend, and surgery was required to insert two steel pins in a bone — one of three shattered eight months ago in the Preakness but now healthy — to eliminate all weight bearing on the ailing right rear foot.

Asked if this fails, Dr. Dean Richardson said, "I think we'll quit."

## Turner latest candidate for Cowboys job

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — Norv Turner got the best out of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin when he was the Dallas Cowboys' offensive coordinator. He thinks he can do the same with Tony Romo, Terrell Owens and the rest of the club as their next head coach.

Turner interviewed for the job Sunday, becoming the seventh — and likely final — candidate being considered by owner Jerry Jones.

"I was excited to get a chance to visit and talk about things that are important to me," said Turner, San Francisco's offensive coordinator. "In this league, it's all about timing and circumstance. ... I've got a lot of confidence in the things I can do. I think there are a lot of people in this league that look at it in that manner."

Turner was the offensive coordinator in Dallas from 1991-93. He called the plays that catapulted the Cowboys to Super Bowl titles his final two seasons. Along the way, he became so close with Aikman that Turner introduced the quarterback when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last summer.

Although Turner went 59-83-1 over nine years as a coach with Washington and Oakland, he's considered the front-runner to replace Bill Parcells because of his long relationship with Jones and the success they had together.

Turner had not been inside team headquarters since he was hired by the Redskins in



MCT photo/Jose Carlos Fajardo/Contra Costa Times  
Oakland Raiders' head coach Norv Turner questions a call during the Raiders 30-21 loss to the New York Giants, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005, at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland. Turner appears to be the leading candidate to replace Bill Parcells as the Dallas Cowboys' new head coach.

February 1994. Being back triggered many memories.

"It's just a very, very unique place," he said. "When you're away from it some time you don't realize it. But it certainly

hit me at Troy's Hall of Fame induction ceremony — the Cowboys fans, all the people wearing Troy's jersey, just the excitement and energy that's always there with this organiza-

tion." Parcells retired Monday after going 34-32 the last four years. He went 0-2 in the playoffs.

See NORV, Page 2B

## Spurs squeak past Lakers in OT

By JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Michael Finley was often the No. 1 option in his 8 1/2 seasons with the Dallas Mavericks. It's a different story in San Antonio, where he comes off the bench and is well down the list.

But Finley got the ball with the game on the line Sunday as the Los Angeles Lakers swarmed Tim Duncan, and his 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left in overtime gave the cold-shooting Spurs an improbable 96-94 victory.

"It looked like it was going in, but I didn't know until it went in," Finley said with a smile. "It was just a normal shot for me. We wanted Tim to create for himself, first of all. If he wasn't able to, he was supposed to kick it out to a teammate, as he always does."

Duncan found Finley, who shot from well beyond the arc and hit nothing but net on his long jumper over Lamar Odom, helping the Spurs avoid their first regular-season sweep at hands of the Lakers in nine years.

Mike stepped into it and it was just an incredible shot," Duncan said. "Those are the kinds of shots we want him to step up and take."

Finley, who entered averaging 7.7 points, scored 17 on five 3-pointers in 10 attempts along with another basket.

"Some things we planned, some things we didn't, but that was just the fortuitous circumstance that he knocked down the shot," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Sometimes, you've just got to be lucky."

Vladimir Radmanovic's 3-pointer as time expired didn't come close. Kobe Bryant, who had 31 points, six rebounds and seven assists, was unable to get open, leaving it up to Radmanovic to try the final shot.

"They're just going to set two guys on me — and the guy taking the ball out," Bryant said. "I tried to make cuts off of that accordingly, and I just wasn't able to get a good look."

The Spurs won despite shooting a season-low 33.7 percent (32-of-95). But they made their last two

shots to go 5-of-8 in overtime, when Tony Parker scored seven of his 19 points.

"We just couldn't make a shot," said Manu Ginobili, who had 21 points and seven rebounds. "Even in the overtime, when they made their first four shots, we stuck with it. It's great to win like this."

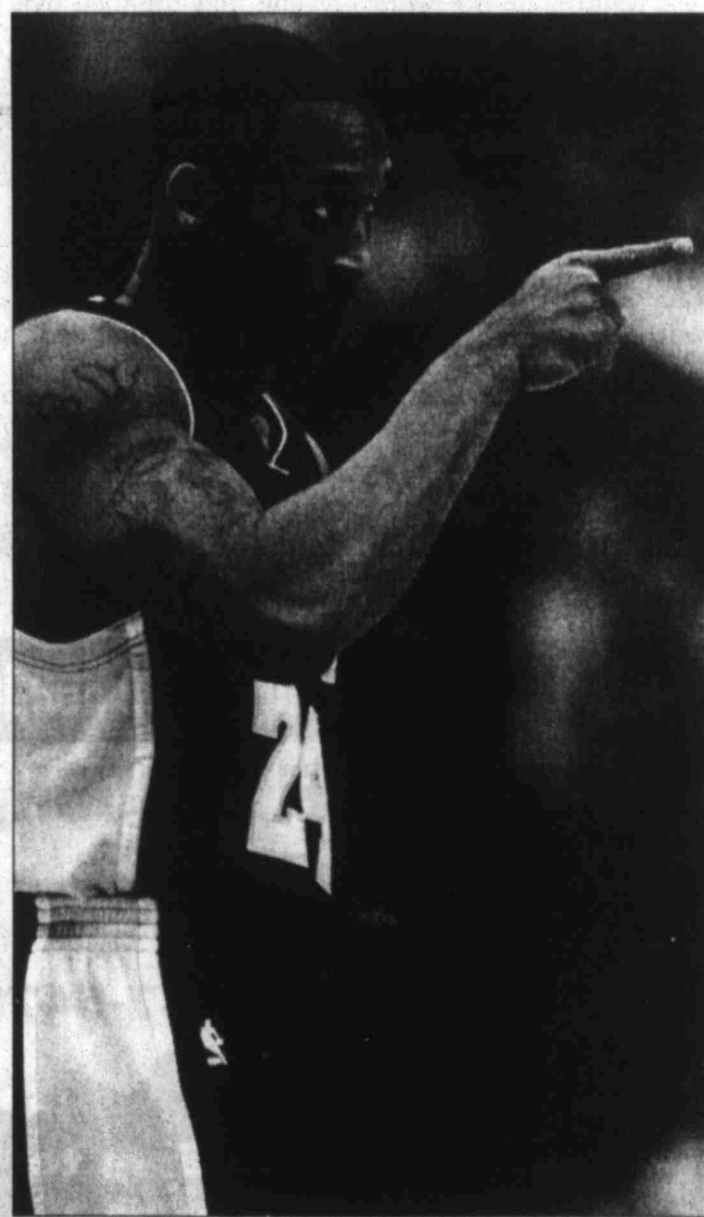
Duncan's layup with 20 seconds to play gave the Spurs a 93-92 lead, but Bryant's 20-foot jumper over Bruce Bowen with 7 seconds left put the Lakers on top, setting the stage for Finley.

San Antonio entered having shot 47.4 percent with a low of 37.5 percent in a game against Charlotte in November.

"We played a great game," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We competed with a good team and we carried the day. We probably carried the lead for 45 minutes in that game. That's the way to play — we just didn't finish it the right way."

The Lakers shot 42.7 percent, but were outre

See SPURS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Sharon M. Steinman/Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Lakers star Kobe Bryant greets the Spurs just before tip-off on Sunday afternoon.

## Tiger stretches tour streak to 7

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods is more interested in a fifth green jacket at the Masters than 11 straight victories on the PGA Tour.

At this rate, he might have a chance to get both.

Woods resumed his improbable pursuit of Byron Nelson with a predictable result at the Buick Invitational on Sunday, winning for the third straight year to stretch his PGA Tour winning streak to seven. That's the second-longest streak in tour history behind Nelson in 1945, and there is little evi-

dence anyone can stop him.

"It ain't easy beating that guy," said Charles Howell III, who certainly tried.

Woods caught up to the pack with a 3-wood from 276 yards to set up a 25-foot eagle putt on the ninth hole. He buried the hopes of his final challenger with a 9-iron to 2 1/2 feet on the 17th hole for birdie. His final act was figuring out how to get his ball out of a small hole in front of the 18th green, hitting it with the edge of his sand wedge to 3 feet for a par and a two-shot victory.

It gave him a 6-under

66, the best score all week on the demanding South Course, site of the U.S. Open next year. Nelson's record often has been thought to be untouchable, which now describes the world's No. 1 player.

"As far as how special seven is, you're in elite company," Woods said. "There's only one person ahead of you. He's one of the greatest legends in the history of the game. To be in company like with Mr. Nelson ... it's pretty special."

This is the second time Woods has made a run at

See GOLF, Page 2B



MCT photo/Lew Stamp/Akron Beacon Journal  
Tiger Woods tees off on the 17th hole during the third round of the WGC Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Ohio, Aug. 26, 2006.

## Federer still at the top of his game, looking forward to French Open's clay

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — The fan's sign said it all: "Federer is better."

Roger Federer showed that the gap between him and the rest of the men's tennis is as large — or larger — than ever by cruising through the Australian Open without dropping a set to win his 10th Grand Slam title.

His final victim was 10th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, who squandered a chance to win the first set Sunday and never got another breakpoint as Federer finished off a 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4 victory.

"If somebody would have told me I'd win 10 Grand Slams from mid '03 till today, I never would have thought there was any chance of doing something like that," Federer said.

As he closes in on Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles, other records and milestones are being matched or surpassed along the way. With his latest victory, Federer became the first man in the Open era to twice win three straight majors and the first to go through a major without dropping a set since the 1980 French Open, when Bjorn Borg did it for the third time.

Ken Rosewall, who was sitting in the stands, was the last man to do it at the Australian Open, in 1971.

Federer also improved his winning streak to a career-best 36 matches, has been ranked No. 1 for 156

consecutive weeks and has won six of the last seven Grand Slam titles — his only loss was in the French Open final to Rafael Nadal last year.

"Equaling records, doing something that hasn't been done for a long time, it's really nice, there's no doubt," Federer said. "All I care about in the end is to hopefully hold that trophy, even though it might be 20-18 in the fifth set.

"Of course, now that it's all over, it's great to think, 'Wow, you know, not having dropped a set.' It's quite amazing."

Gonzalez came into the finals hot, committing only three unforced errors in his semifinal victory over Tommy Haas. He kept Federer under pressure with his big forehand, but could not quite match the Swiss star's all-around game. Gonzalez soon was grunting, not on his shots but with effort while tracking down Federer's groundstrokes.

He said Federer was simply too good.

"I have to congratulate again — again — Roger," the 26-year-old said. "He's on the way to be maybe the best player ever. He makes tennis very simple. He is a great champion who played a really good match today, all week — almost all his life."

Andy Roddick, who will rise to fourth in the rankings, had thought he was closing the gap with Federer after beating him in a warmup exhibition tournament. "Not tonight," Roddick said after winning only five

games in the semifinals against Federer.

A title on clay at the French, which starts in late May, would give Federer the equivalent of the "Serena Slam." Serena Williams, who won her third major title here and eighth overall by beating Maria Sharapova, won all four majors in a row — though not in the same year.

"That's going to be very interesting to see how I'm going to do there," Federer said of Roland Garros. "That's such a tough Grand Slam to win. I've made one step further every year now, went from semis to finals, got closer to Rafa (Nadal), as well.

"I hope it's going to work out for me, and I'm going to play well, hopefully win the title. That will be a dream come true. That's the only way I can make this season a better one than last year."

With Andre Agassi's retirement, Federer has become tennis' best ambassador, a role that he relishes.

"I've always tried to put in as much as I could back into the game because the game, this is what I love doing," he said. "It's been so good to me. I hope that once I retire, I left tennis in a better way than when I arrived."

In bad news for the other men, Federer said his "motivation is maybe as big as ever" and that he hopes to play at least until 2012, when the London Olympics will hold the tennis competition at Wimbledon.

"That's a really big target for me," Federer said.

## NORV

Continued from 1B

extending a postseason drought that dates to 1996.

Others being considered to replace him include defensive coordinators Wade Phillips of San Diego and Gary Gibbs of New Orleans, and Jason Garrett, Aikman's longtime backup who already has been hired for an undetermined job — maybe head coach, probably offensive coordinator.

Turner said he'd have no problem having Garrett on his

staff. In fact, Turner tried getting Garrett on his staff in Oakland.

"That tells you a little something about how I feel about Jason," Turner said.

Jones also interviewed three of Parcells' assistant, including secondary coach Todd Bowles, who is black, thus fulfilling the league rule requiring a minority candidate.

The 54-year-old Turner has had his greatest success as an offensive coordinator.

His skill was evident again last season, when the 49ers averaged 80 yards per game more than the previous year

when he was coaching the Raiders. Turner got Alex Smith to show why he'd been a No. 1 overall pick and he helped turn Frank Gore into the third-leading rusher in the NFL.

Dallas' offense was fine last season, scoring the second-most touchdowns and averaging the fourth-most points and fifth-most yards in the league. It was a collapse by the defense that had more to do with the Cowboys losing four of their last five games, including the final three.

Still, if Turner gets the job, a priority would be continuing the development of Romo, who

went from undrafted, unused backup to Pro Bowl pick in only a half-season.

"My exposure to Tony is just from watching games on TV," Turner said. "Certainly he's an exciting player capable of making plays and really that's a big part of what this game is about, what this league is about. There's not a lot of guys that have that natural, great play-making ability."

There's plenty of other talent on offense: Owens, who led the league in receiving touchdowns; Marion Barber, who led the NFC in rushing touchdowns; Julius Jones, who

became the team's first 1,000-yard rusher since Smith; tight end Jason Witten, headed to his third straight Pro Bowl; and receiver Terry Glenn.

Owens, who is due a \$3 million roster bonus in June, is as flamboyant as they come. Turner is used to that, having dealt with Irvin and, more recently, with Randy Moss in Oakland.

"I want to coach good players," Turner said. "Being with a new team, there's an evaluation process, and there's a lot of things that go into it. I like the players that are here and T.O. is one of them."

## GOLF

Continued from 1B

Nelson, who died in September.

Woods won six straight in 2000, a streak that Phil Mickelson stopped at Torrey Pines. But against a cast of challengers short on experience or victories, Woods met little resistance in winning at Torrey Pines for the fifth time in 10 tries.

The only question is the veracity of the streak — Woods failed to win once in Europe and twice in Asia during his run — and when he will resume his chase of Nelson's mark.

Woods believes his winning streak ended when he lost in the first round of the HSBC World Match Play Championship last September, a European tour event. The PGA Tour record book only reflects its own tournaments.

All that matters to Woods is his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record 18 professional majors. Woods has won two majors during his PGA Tour streak, taking him to 12 for his career.

"My whole goal is to get ready for Augusta and make sure my game is

peaking toward that," he said.

Asked if he would rather have a record winning streak or another Masters victory, Woods didn't hesitate.

"A fifth green jacket," he said.

Woods left for the Dubai Desert Classic — an 18-hour flight — and said he wasn't sure if his next PGA Tour event would be the Nissan Open at Riviera that starts Feb. 15, or the Accenture Play Championship in Arizona a week later.

Woods finished at 15-under 273 for his 55th career victory, and the fifth time he has started a season by winning.

He got some help from tour rookies Andrew Buckley and Jeff Quinney, both of whom had at least a share of the lead on the back nine until stumbling in a span of about 15 minutes on a cool, breezy afternoon at Torrey Pines. Each took double bogey to quickly take themselves out of contention, leaving only Howell to challenge Woods.

Howell, who played with him at the 2003 Presidents Cup, nearly pulled it off. He made

three birdies in a four-hole stretch and had a 50-foot eagle putt on the 18th hole to force a playoff, but he played it too high over the ridge and three-putted for par and a 68.

"I gave him a run," Howell said. "Anytime you try to win a tournament against that guy, it's tough. I played well down the stretch. He just never flinched."

Brandt Snedeker, the 26-year-old rookie who opened the tournament with a 61, was tied for the lead with Buckley going into the final round but didn't make a birdie until the ninth hole. He shot 71 to finish third. Buckley (72) was in the group another shot back.

"It was a great learning experience for me," Snedeker said. "I got to play behind Tiger Woods and watch him do what he does best."

Woods erased a two-shot deficit in four holes, but Buckley bounced back with an approach into 6 feet for birdie on No. 5, and nearly reached the par-5 sixth green from the right rough to set up a simple up-and-down birdie and a two-shot lead. And even after a roar that resonated across the course, Buckley didn't

blink.

Woods hammered a 3-wood from the ninth fairway to 25 feet and holed the putt for eagle and a share of the lead. Buckley was walking up the ninth fairway to his tee shot, calmly taking a drag from a cigarette. He looked up when he heard the cheer, flicked the cigarette to the ground and stomped it out, then birdied the next two holes.

He still had a two-shot lead over Woods and Quinney when he reached the 12th tee, but his tee shot caught a corner of grass on the edge of a fairway bunker, and that's when everything collapsed.

Buckle's feet slipped in the sand as he struck the ball, which sailed well to

the right and left him little green between a bunker and the flag. Attempting a flop shot to give himself a short putt at par, it came out too strong and tumbled over the green on the other side. He pitched to 4 feet and missed the putt, taking double bogey.

"I lost a bit of rhythm and was all over the place at the end," Buckley said. Quinney also disappeared, trying to play a perfect bunker shot that came up short and led to double bogey on the 14th.

As quickly as those two contenders vanished, Howell emerged. His 8-iron grazed the cup on the 15th for his third birdie in four holes, but that was as close as he got.

"To win seven in a row,

I'd cut my arm off to win another one," said Howell, who has nine second-place finishes since his lone PGA Tour victory in 2002. "I'm a huge Tiger Woods fan. But damn, I'd love to have beaten him."

Woods' streak resumed after a nearly four-month break from the PGA Tour, when he won by eight shots in the American Express Championship outside London on Oct. 1. The PGA Tour winning streak dates to his victory in the British Open last July, and Woods is now 124-under par during that stretch. More impressive to him is that since missing the cut at the U.S. Open, he has not finished worse than second in stroke-play tournaments.

## SPURS

Continued from 1B

bounded 53-44. And free throws were a major factor — the Spurs went 22-of-24 from the foul line while Los Angeles was 18-of-31.

Duncan had 21 points, 14 rebounds, a season-high nine assists and three blocked shots to lead the Spurs (32-14), who have won nine of their last 12.

Odom had 18 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, Andrew Bynum added 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Radmanovic had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers (27-17), who have lost four of their last five.

Baskets by Radmanovic and Bynum on assists from Bryant to start the overtime gave the Lakers a four-point lead, but Parker scored seven straight San Antonio

points before two free throws by Ginobili put the Spurs on top 91-90 with 1:13 left.

Bryant, who scored six points in the extra period, put the Lakers ahead again by making a jumper with 1:01 to go.

Bryant made two free throws with 5:09 left in the fourth quarter to give the Lakers a 75-66 lead, but the Spurs scored 10 of the next 11 points on two 3-pointers by Ginobili, a basket by Duncan and two free throws by Parker to tie it at 76 with 1:19 to play.

A free throw by Odom gave the Lakers a one-point lead, but Bowen's first basket in seven attempts — a 3-pointer with 54.1 seconds to go — put the Spurs on top by two.

Ginobili made a foul shot to give the Spurs a three-point lead before Radmanovic's 3-pointer with 27.5 seconds left tied

it at 80.

Robert Horry, who made several winning shots during his 6 1/2 seasons with Los Angeles, missed a 3-pointer over Bryant from the left corner with about 5 seconds left. The Lakers got the rebound and called a timeout before Ginobili blocked Bryant's potential winning 20-footer as time expired.

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**Looking for a job that provides meaningful work and competitive compensation? Consider a position in a State Farm Agent's office.**

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This employment opportunity is with a State Farm Agent, not with State Farm Insurance Companies and requires the successful completion of licensing requirements to sell and service State Farm products.

Please mail or fax resume to:  
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Equal Opportunity Employer

**BLAST MASTERS** has a position available for:  
\* Crew Technician  
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.



Delivery Drivers needed!  
Earn CASH Daily  
Drivers Avg. \$14-\$18 per hour  
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Full and Part time openings  
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**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**DRUG SCREEN** Compliance is looking for a Collector. Salary DOE. Qualified candidates should apply in person at 501 Birdwell #17, Big Spring, EOE.

**EZ PAWN** now Hiring 2 full-time SLR's. Need to have High School/GED, pass background, drug test. Come in for application, 1010 Gregg.

**NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION**  
JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction.  
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**Food Service - Great People - Real Opportunities SUPERVISORS**

**3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!**  
Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50, increasing to \$14.25 upon successful completion of 6 months probation. Outstanding benefits include paid Health, Dental & Vision insurance premiums and unlimited advancement. Must be 18yrs old, pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.  
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Call Don Hood @ 432-263-2366  
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

**FULL TIME LVN** needed for Martin County Home Health. With benefits, medical, dental and vision. PRN/CNA needed in Midland-Odessa area. Please call Allison Williams, DON at (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

**GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC.** Project Head Start has the following position available:  
**Bus Driver:** Must be 21 years or older, have a CDL and a good driving record and a High School Diploma or GED. This position is 6 hrs per day M-F and includes a full benefit package.  
All applicants must; Be 18 or older.  
Pass a pre-employment drug screen.  
Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency.  
Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Will begin taking applications January 23, 2007. Position will be opened until filled. Applications available on line [www.gopb.org](http://www.gopb.org). All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** for Roustabout, Helpers, Pushers & Filled Drivers with CDL License. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of 1-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

**JOB FAIR!**  
T.R.S.I. now hiring 18-25 sharp people! Looking for a fun job? Want to travel? Tired of dead-end jobs? T.R.S.I. wants you to come and grow with us in an exciting new career opportunity that is fun and will teach you a new trade. First 100 calls accepted. Serious inquiries only! Extensive travel required! Call Jacquelyn at 1-866-391-0375.

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

Help Wanted

**PICK UP** applications at Holiday INN Express for front desk clerk and housekeepers.

**NEW CHRISTIAN FM** radio station needs full time community representative. Starts immediately. E-mail resume to [tdwork@gmail.com](mailto:tdwork@gmail.com). For interview the week of January 29th, please call Mike (260)463-5655

**NOW HIRING** Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

**OTR TRUCK Drivers** needed. Must have a CDL Class A with 12 months experience. Company offers excellent pay and benefits. Guaranteed weekly minimum. For more information call 1-800-624-5919 ext. [www.taylorexpressinc.com](http://www.taylorexpressinc.com)

**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.

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

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Now At  
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Classes Beginning  
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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.

Help Wanted

**TAKING APPLICATIONS** for Bartender. Must be 21 yrs. old. Apply at Paul's Place, 1800 N. Birdwell Lane after 6:00 p.m. or call (432)263-6292.

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

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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:  
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100 S. St. Peter  
Stanton, TX 79782  
Pre-employment drug screen required.  
EOE M/F/V/H

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

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

**WHITTEN INN** at 700 West I-20. Needs Laundry Aid & housekeepers. Please apply in person between 10:00am-3:00pm.

**WIS INTERNATIONAL** is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager. All who are interested please call Natasha, (806)543-1778 or Rick at (432)213-4769. Also apply at the Workforce Network of Big Spring.

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Miscellaneous

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

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Miscellaneous

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Interested Applicants Apply at  
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Start taking applications **IMMEDIATELY**

2541

**West Texas Centers for MNMR**

**UM Data Entry:** High School Diploma or GED required plus two-year experience in clerical or secretarial. Data entry and maintenance of data base. Communication and organization skills required. Computer test in Word and Excel required. Salary \$8.20 hr.

Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling Jobline at 1-800-687-2769 or [www.wtcmnrmr.org](http://www.wtcmnrmr.org). EOE.

26376

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nished. Washer/dryer connec-  
tions. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

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and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call  
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miles. Very Nice Condition. Call  
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teal color, 67,000 mi. Real  
clean, runs good, garage kept.  
Call (432)263-8016.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus flits into Pisces, a  
spiritual placement for  
the sometimes-shallow  
planet of  
love and  
beauty. If  
ever there  
were a time  
for falling in  
love with a  
person's  
soul, regard-  
less of  
whether or  
not the phys-  
ical body  
meets per-



HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

sonal preferences, this is  
it. And if the physical  
body is also attractive, all  
the better!

ARIES (March 21-April  
19). It's the little success-  
ful interactions that satis-  
fy you. Your superior  
social skills work to  
smooth over hassles and  
get you free upgrades.  
Customer service agents  
genuinely like you.

TAURUS (April 20-May  
20). The knocks of life  
can't be avoided, but it's  
how you react that makes  
you special. Generating  
enthusiasm, even when  
you don't feel like it, lifts  
you up, along with any-  
one in your presence.

GEMINI (May 21-June  
21). The worst insult  
you've heard of late is  
that you're too nice.  
Interestingly enough, this  
is coming from someone  
you helped recently. A  
roll of the eyes is war-  
ranted — but is there  
truth in this?

CANCER (June 22-July  
22). You don't have to  
think about doing the  
right thing — it's an au-  
tomatic response. And

you're able to speak your  
mind the moment it's all  
going down. You'll put  
your opponents on the  
defensive!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).  
There's luck for solving  
problems that have been  
bothering you for a long  
while. This evening you  
have an inkling that  
deserves to be followed —  
it's a little piece of genius  
waiting to be discovered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.  
22). The saying goes:  
Never give a child a  
sword. Likewise, your  
competition, customers or  
boss doesn't need you to  
reveal any doubts you  
have about what you can  
deliver. Pretend to be  
ultraconfident until you  
are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).  
Agreeing for the sake of  
being agreeable isn't nec-  
essary. Opposing views  
make for a brilliant con-  
versation and, possibly,  
love that sizzles. Tonight  
brings a delicious dilem-  
ma.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.  
21). You'll deal with those  
who say one thing and do  
another, but these are  
minor grievances —  
there's no use fighting  
over it. When you take  
the high road, you soon  
find the people who share  
your work ethic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-  
Dec. 21). You're impres-  
sionable now, so remem-  
ber: garbage in, garbage  
out. Feed your mind, body  
and soul with nutritious  
"food." People who look  
up to you are heavily  
influenced by your judge-  
ments, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Jan. 19). You're around  
people who complement  
you beautifully today. The  
relationships that happen  
smoothly, pleasurable  
and with very little effort  
are easy to take for grant-  
ed. Try not to!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.  
18). There's a seductive  
glow about you. Many  
want your attention, and  
you'll have to choose.  
Keep options open.  
Unstructured time lets  
you get your head togeth-  
er for next week's chal-  
lenges.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March  
20). You're in a competi-  
tive mood. Better to com-  
pete impersonally in an  
arena that benefits from  
your spirit of competition  
than to challenge loved  
ones for dominance.

ASTROLOGICAL QUES-  
TIONS: "I'm a high-school  
junior. How do I know  
when a girl likes me?  
Does it depend on her  
sign? I'm a Scorpio."

As a Scorpio, you have  
natural intensity and do  
very well with the girls by  
making a minimal effort.  
Here are the astrological  
"Cliff's Notes" on teenage  
girls. ARIES: When she  
likes you, she is mean.  
It's a test. TAURUS: She'll  
be even prettier, making  
an effort to dress, make-  
up and perfume herself  
for you. GEMINI: She'll  
talk to you — a lot.  
Chatter away. Don't try  
and make sense of it, just  
listen. CANCER: She'll  
compete with you. Show  
strength, and don't let her  
win. LEO: She'll say and  
do outrageous things to  
shock and impress you.

VIRGO: She'll give

advice, try to help you —  
or control you! LIBRA:  
She'll be friendly and put  
herself in the position of  
"accidentally" running  
into you. SCORPIO: She'll  
flirt — subtly, with a level  
of sophistication that  
blows your mind. SAGIT-  
TARIUS: She'll try to see  
you outside of school,  
meet you at the mall or  
the movies. CAPRICORN:  
She'll want to go to prom  
with you and start scroll-  
ing your name on her  
school folders. AQUAR-  
IUS: She'll become your  
best buddy. PISCES:  
She'll stare at you, wait-  
ing for you to approach.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:  
Journey frontman Steve  
Perry is one of a handful  
of rock legends whose  
inimitable voice hits right  
in the heart. Though  
Aquarians are known for  
being eclectic, they are  
also humanitarians and  
enjoy creating a manner  
that's accessible to many.  
From "Lights" to  
"Faithfully," Perry's  
unique voice produces the  
tune that many can't  
resist singing along to. A  
Journey reunion is  
around the bend.

If you would like to write  
to Holiday Mathis, please  
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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My prob-  
lem is, I need therapy. Let  
me explain. My husband  
has worked at his compa-  
ny for 10 years and there's  
never been a problem, but  
his employer recently  
hired a woman with a  
questionable reputation.

Last month, I found out  
my husband had cheated  
on me two years ago. He  
has promised it will never  
happen again and that he  
learned his lesson. The  
problem is, I can't stand  
the thought of him work-  
ing with this woman. The  
idea of him even talking  
to her makes me sick. He  
also has made it clear that  
no matter how it makes  
me feel, he's not going to  
go out of his way to avoid  
her. That really hurt.

I'm truly considering  
ending my marriage  
because I can't get it out  
of my head that he might  
speak to this woman. I  
cannot afford a therapist,  
but I know I need help.  
Any suggestions? —  
Fruitcake

Dear Fruitcake: You do  
need help, but not  
because you are a "fruit-  
cake." The real problem is  
that your husband cheat-  
ed on you and you don't  
trust him. He also isn't  
doing enough to reassure  
you that he will be faith-  
ful. This woman's pres-  
ence simply brings to the  
surface all the issues that  
haven't been cleared up.  
You and your husband  
need counseling, together  
if possible, but if not, go  
without him. You CAN  
afford it. Try United Way,  
the YMCA, your local hos-  
pitals, churches, universi-  
ty psychology depart-  
ments and graduate



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

school counseling depart-  
ments. Or contact the  
American Association of  
Pastoral Counselors  
([www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org)) at 9504A  
Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA  
22031-2303 and Samaritan  
Counseling Centers  
([samaritaninstitute.org](http://samaritaninstitute.org))  
at 2696 S. Colorado Blvd.,  
Suite 380, Denver, CO  
80222.

Dear Annie: What do  
you think about a person  
who grabs every check at  
meals, golfing, etc., in  
order to put it on his cred-  
it card? We all have to pay  
him back our portion of  
the bill. The purpose of  
this is to get all the fre-  
quent flyer mileage. He  
then travels everywhere  
on this built-up mileage.  
He thinks his friends  
aren't onto him. I think  
it's greedy. What do you  
say? — Disgusted in  
California

Dear Disgusted: Some  
people don't mind giving  
cash and letting others  
reap the credit card bene-  
fit. If it bothers you, next  
time say, "George, it's our  
turn to get the mileage.  
You can have the next go-  
round." Or, of course, you  
can ask for separate  
checks.

Dear Annie: The letter  
from "Heartsick Parents,"  
whose 19-year-old daugh-  
ter declared she was a les-  
bian, took me back sever-  
al years to a time when I  
could have written their  
letter for them.

My 19-year-old daughter  
waited until she was in  
college (smart move) to  
say, "Mom, I'm gay." I'd  
always considered myself  
a broadminded person,  
but I found out that I was

broadminded as long as it  
was somebody else's  
daughter. I reacted horri-  
bly. I said hurtful things  
and snapped at her over  
nothing. One of the worst  
things I did was tell her to  
never bring "those peo-  
ple" (her girlfriends) to  
our home.

After a couple of months  
of the worst sadness I'd  
ever felt (seems so silly  
when I think of it now), I  
realized I would have to  
change or I was going to  
lose my daughter. I con-  
tacted a psychologist who  
told me about PFLAG.  
When I called for infor-  
mation, a man answered  
the phone. I gave him my  
name and poured out my  
whole blubbing, tearful  
story. After I finished, he  
said, "Lady, this is the  
Veterans Administration!"  
But I'd taken the first step toward  
recovery. I'd told someone  
and the world didn't come  
to an end.

The members of PFLAG  
took me under their  
wings and worked their  
magic, and now my  
daughter and I are closer  
than ever. — Bonnie

Dear Bonnie: We  
laughed at the VA story,  
but we know that call  
must have been hard for  
you. Congratulations on  
doing it right.

Dear Annie: For most of  
her life, my 11-year-old  
daughter has been best  
friends with "Tammy,"  
age 9. Tammy is the  
daughter of good friends.

In recent weeks, every  
time my daughter has  
called her, Tammy has  
some reason to hang up  
the phone, so the conver-  
sations are very short.  
When my daughter tries  
to get together with  
Tammy, there is always  
some excuse why she  
can't come over. When we  
ran into Tammy at a foot-  
ball game, she totally  
avoided us and walked  
around the stadium with  
her nose in the air.

My daughter is so upset  
that she cries her heart  
out for hours at a time.  
My wife and I have loved  
Tammy like our own, and  
I don't understand why  
she is being so callous.

What can we do? — Heart  
Torn in Lennon, Mich.

Dear Heart Torn: It is  
not unusual for young  
friendships to fall by the  
wayside, and girls that  
age can be emotionally  
nasty. Encourage your  
daughter to see this as an  
opportunity. Her best  
friend should be someone  
with whom she can navi-  
gate the upcoming teen  
years, and Tammy is sim-  
ply too young and immat-  
ure. Involve her in  
extracurricular activities  
that will help her find  
other, more appropriate,  
friends, and focus on the  
positives of moving into a  
more grown-up phase of  
her life.

Dear Annie: I have been  
suffering from depression  
for the past six months.  
I've gone to different ther-  
apists, switched medica-  
tions and consulted other  
doctors to see if there is  
anything else wrong, but  
nothing seems to make  
me better. I can't sleep. I  
seem to have an abun-  
dance of adrenaline, plus  
constant headaches. I've  
lost interest in things I  
used to enjoy. It is affect-  
ing my job, relationships  
and health. Any advice?  
— Tired of Being Down

Dear Tired: You may not  
be giving your medication  
enough time to work. It  
often takes six weeks or  
more for an antidepress-  
ant to kick in, and there  
is some trial and error in  
finding the medication  
that works best for you.  
It's also possible that your  
symptoms are the result  
of lack of sleep, and you  
might want to address  
that first. And consider-  
ing the headaches and  
adrenaline rush, ask your  
doctor to refer you to a  
neurologist, just to be  
sure it isn't a physical  
problem.

Annie's Mailbox is writ-  
ten by Kathy Mitchell and  
Marcy Sugar, longtime  
editors of the Ann Landers  
column. Please e-mail your  
questions to [anniesmail-  
box@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmail-<br/>box@comcast.net), or write  
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ANSWERS

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

MONDAY

Table with 28 columns (station codes) and 12 rows (time slots 6-12 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT DENNIS DID, BUT HIS TEACHER HAS CANCELLED 'SHOW AND TELL' FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No fair! I'm a lot messier than you!"

suddenlink logo and contact information: Cable • Digital • DVR • HDTV, 2600 Birdwell Lane, 267-3821, suddenlink.com

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2007. There are 336 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 29, 1820, Britain's King George III died at Windsor Castle...

promise proposals on slavery. In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union. In 1936, the first members of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Robert Sanderson, an off-duty police officer working as a security guard, and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003.) Today's Birthdays: Actor John Forsythe is 89. Actor Noel Harrison is 73. Author Germaine Greer is 68. Actress Katharine Ross is 67. Actor Tom Selleck is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 61.

Answer to previous puzzle: CLUMPIER MERITS, HACIENDA ANORAK, ATLANTIC TATAMI, TEA DECKS MITER, WALT LOOSEST, ALLIN SPEARS, GIANTS LESSONS, AMID CRATE RITA, PROSAC SOILED, WANDER VEEPS, CONFUSE ORES, ACORN RECUR PUG, REBATE MONALISA, PALMED ICEWATER, SNEERS ROSEMARY

Newsday Crossword

ON THE JOB by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Acts riskily 6 Bench or chair 10 Ponytail material 14 Full of energy 15 Whirlpool 16 Lotion ingredient 17 Tonto's companion 19 Hotel posting 20 Tee preceder 21 Diminutive suffix 22 Auto's radio-reception aid 24 Fondue-pot fuel 26 Peachy 28 Skirt borders 30 Paper fastener 33 Farm division 36 Chimney dust 38 Castle protectors 40 Shows team spirit 42 Hour after noon 43 Tour of duty 44 Piece of fabric 45 Ripped 47 Breakfast-in-bed need 48 Surprise attack 50 Location 52 Theater guide 54 Not as soft 58 Soul singer Franklin 61 Business letter abbr. 63 Bullring "Bravo!" 64 Offer at retail 65 Fictional lawyer 68 Lacking color 69 Gen. Robert 70 Very skilled 71 Train for a bout 72 Foal's father 73 Snoops (around) DOWN 1 Evans and Carnegie 2 "It's \_\_\_ cause" 3 Remove suds from 4 Night before 5 Calm 6 Mailed out 7 Barely surpassed, with "out" 8 Fruit drink 9 Dictator 10 Rowling's 11 Jai \_\_\_ 12 Very small amount 13 Fishing-line holder 18 Molecule parts 23 Dutch cheeses 25 Gone with the Wind character 27 Fall flowers 29 Give comfort to 31 Wild animal's home 32 Sicilian volcano 33 Curved line 34 Soft drink 35 Kitchen, for one 37 Yoko \_\_\_ 39 Pippen 41 "Be quiet!" 46 Peachy 49 Squares and triangles 51 Cowardly Lion's companion 53 Less common 55 Exodus leader 56 Marry on the run 57 Has a lease 58 Poisonous snakes 59 Gather, as crops 60 Singer Fitzgerald 62 Genealogy diagram 66 Inventor Whitney 67 "Without further \_\_\_"

