



Big Spring will have its 'Day in Austin'

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Press those denim Big Spring shirts. Pack a hearty breakfast. It's time once again for Big Spring to take the capitol city by storm.

Big Spring Area Day in Austin, a biennial event to raise awareness of the Crossroads area's needs in the Texas legislature, has been set for March 7, and although that may seem like quite a while off, local officials say it's never too early to start planning.

"Several deadlines have been set for the upcoming event," said

Debbie ValVerde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.



ValVerde

"The Chamber will be chartering a bus for the trip, and a special \$40 trip rate includes round-trip transportation and lunch at the capitol.

"This is a great way to go because it alleviates the worry of driving. Everyone going on the bus will need to bring

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HERALD file photo
Gov. Rick Perry visitors with Big Spring residents during the 2005 Big Spring Area Day in Austin. This year, the visit is set for March 7.

Bogus bills being passed in Big Spring

Merchants asked to be 'on the lookout' for counterfeits

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Funny money isn't getting any laughs from the Big Spring Police Department, as investigators try to track down a series of bogus bills being passed in the Big Spring area.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, several counterfeit \$50 and \$100 bills have been recovered from local businesses in the past several days.

"We're warning area businesses to be on the lookout for these counterfeits," said Everett. "If they don't already have a testing pen, they need to get one now. You can buy them at any office supply store and they are very simple to use."

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Sen. Seliger files bill to end high school TAKS testing

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring's state senator wants to do away with the TAKS test — and local educators support his actions.

Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo), who represents Big Spring and Howard County in the Texas

Legislature, filed Senate Bill 379 Wednesday to eliminate the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test at the high school level and replace it with end-of-course exams based on the recommended curriculum.

"I believe that too much classroom time is devoted

to preparing for and taking the TAKS test," Seliger said in a statement. "This is both an ineffective measure of what Texas students should be learning at each grade level and an ineffective accountability system for educators."

Michael Downes, superintendent of the Big

Spring public school system, applauded Seliger's actions.

"I think this is a step in the right direction," Downes said. "The (proposed) test is tied directly to the curriculum being taught in the classroom."

Seliger's bill would only effect students in grades 9 through 12 and eighth

"I believe that too much classroom time is devoted to preparing for and taking the TAKS test."

—Sen. Kel Seliger



graders taking high school level courses.

Forsan Superintendent

Randy Johnson said he

See BILL, Page 3A

Valentine banquet set Friday night for seniors

Herald Staff Report

Versatile entertainer Ty Morris will be the featured speaker during the annual Senior Adult Valentine Banquet, set for 6:30 p.m. Friday at Baptist Temple Church, 400 E. 11th Place.

The banquet is sponsored by the Big Spring Baptist Association but is open to any senior adult (age 50 and older) who would like to attend.

There is no cost; however those attending are asked to bring a salad,

vegetable or dessert dish. Meat and beverages will be provided.

Morris will take banquet-goers on a "walk down memory lane" as he impersonates famous singers from the past. He is the minister of music at Crestview Baptist Church in Midland.

Morris has served as music/fellowship leader for conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest and has been director of The Singing Men of West Texas since 1980.

He is also a member of The Century Men, 100 Southern Baptist ministers of music who minister through song around the world.



Morris

Political columnist Molly Ivins dies at 62

By JOHN MORITZ

McClatchy Newspapers

AUSTIN — Molly Ivins, whose biting columns mixed liberalism with an irreverent Texas wit, died at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at her home in Austin after an up-and-down battle with breast cancer she had waged for seven years. She was 62.

Ivins, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram's* political columnist for nine years ending in 2001, had written for the *New York Times*, the *Dallas Times-Herald* and *Time* magazine and had long been a sought-after pundit on the television talk-show circuit to provide a Texas slant on issues ranging from

President Bush's pedigree to the culture wars rooted in the 1960s.

Her nationally-syndicated column appeared in more than 400 newspapers, including the *Big Spring Herald*.

"... our very own dreaded Legislature is almost upon us. January 9 and they'll all be here, leaving many a village without its idiot."

—from a December 2000 column

"She was magical in her writing," said Mike Blackman, a former *Star-Telegram* executive editor who hired Ivins at the newspaper's Austin bureau in 1992, a few months after the *Times-Herald* ceased publication. "She could turn a phrase in such a way that a pretty hard-hitting point didn't hurt so bad."

A California native who moved to Houston as a young child with her

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MCT photo/Carolyn Mary Bauman

In this file photo, Molly Ivins talks about her career and her recent bout with cancer at her home in Austin. Ivins died Wednesday after a long battle with breast cancer. She was 62.

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RECORD ANNUAL PROFIT

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. on Thursday posted the largest annual profit by a U.S. company — \$39.5 billion — even as earnings for the last quarter of 2006 declined 4 percent.

The 2006 profit topped the previous record of \$36.13 billion Exxon set in 2005.

Revenue at the world's largest publicly traded oil company rose to \$377.64 billion for the year, surpassing the record \$370.68 billion that Exxon posted in 2005.

Exxon Mobil's record annual earnings followed a year of extraordinarily high energy prices as crude oil topped \$78 a barrel in the summer.

MUSEUM UNVEILS EXHIBIT

The Heritage Museum unveiled its Valentine-inspired exhibit "Happily Ever After" today, featuring scenes from various children's fairy tales. The exhibit will continue through March 10, with a special all-day Valentine Day party from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 14.

The exhibit will feature a vintage Valentine collection provided by Hollywood actress and former Big Spring resident Jean Porter.

"This exhibit is focused toward the children and the young at heart," said Museum Curator Tammy Schrecengost. "Everyone is invited on the 14th and there's no admission charge."

BLOOD DRIVE SLATED

Cornerstone Church, in cooperation with United Blood Services, is having a blood drive from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday. Appointments are available by calling 263-3072 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We're sponsoring this to raise awareness within our community about donating blood," said the Rev. Craig Felty, senior pastor of Cornerstone Church.

Those who wish to donate blood should be at least 18 years of age and weigh more than 100 pounds.

Bring a list of current medication to the donation site.

For more information, call 263-3072.

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February 14, 2007

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Obituaries

Joe A. Lopez Jr.



Joe A. Lopez Jr., 53, of Garland, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at Baylor Medical Center at Garland. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be 11 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born June 20, 1953, in Big Spring to Librada and Joe Lopez, Sr. He married Mary Rodriguez on July 6, 1980, in Odessa. He lived most of his life in Big Spring moving to Odessa in 1985 and then to Garland in 1995. He served as a Howard County Deputy Sheriff for a number of years. He later worked for Atlantic Richfield as a foreman for 20 years, retiring in 1992. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Richardson.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lopez of Garland; two daughters, Sandra Islas and her husband, Denny of Garland and Nancy and Steven Robles of Big Spring; parents, Librada and Joe Lopez Sr. of Big Spring; one brother, Andy Lopez and his wife, Aminta of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother and one sister.

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

Rosie Lee Gamage

Rosie Lee Gamage, 90, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at her residence. Memorial services will be held at a later date in Mississippi.

She was born Oct. 24, 1916, in Mississippi to Lou and George Powe. She moved to Big Spring in 1998 from Gulfport, Miss. She was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She is survived by one daughter, Ruth Johnson of Big Spring; two sons, George Gamage Jr. of Big Spring and Melvin Gamage of Leaksville, Miss.; 16 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Connie Duckworth of Taylorsville, Miss. and Carolina Agee of Collins, Miss.

She was preceded in death by one daughter; and three grandsons.

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

Wilford "W.L." Ramsey

Wilford "W.L." Ramsey, 95, of Stanton, died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Jose Moreno

Jose Moreno, 75, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at his residence. Funeral services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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.

• **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.

Police blotter

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

- **FRANCES OVERTON**, 22, of 1503 Lincoln, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.
- **BRYAN PEARSON**, 20, of 4010 Vicky, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- **ROY CERVANTES**, 27, of 409 Fifth Street, was arrested Tuesday on two counts of violation of a protective order.
- **LAWRENCE GALVAN**, 55, of Wisconsin, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ZUNIGA MALDONADO**, 25, of Mexico, was arrested Wednesday and held for immigration.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT** was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **FORGERY** was reported in the 500 block of Aylesford.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1400 block of Nolan.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 600 block of Manor

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 36 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SABRINA GUTIERREZ PEREZ**, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance.
- **BILLY SHAWN KENNEDY**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole for an Austin warrant.
- **ROSENDO FRANCO**, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault with intent to cause serious bodily injury.
- **TROY LYNN CROSSON**, 47, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a warrant out of Escambia County for contracting without a license.
- **CHARLIE CHRISTOPHER CHARLES**, 25, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a probation revocation for possession of marijuana, a capias pro fine for possession of marijuana, bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated and bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana.
- **FRANCIS MAURICE OVERTON**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **WILLIAM TYSON FLEMING**, 54, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Nolan. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-7-14-21-37. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$34 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-13-23-24-34. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$15,346. Winning tickets sold in: Fort Worth, Houston. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-1-8

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
 Friday...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the upper 30s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Light and variable winds.
 Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s.
 Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s.
 Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.
 Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.
 Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.
 Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 50.
 Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30.
 Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
 • 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

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

SATURDAY
 • The Big Spring Evening Lions Club will hold not hold its adult eyeglass clinic this week but will hold it Saturday, Feb. 10. For information, contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.
 • Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 • Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 • Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY
 • Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
 • District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
 • Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
 • Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
 • Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at The Event Center, 1607 E. Third St.
 • Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
 • The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
 • Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
 • Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY
 • Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
 • Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 • League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
 • Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
 • VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
 • Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
 • Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
 • Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Support Groups

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

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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<p>Ronnie Cupstid John A. Moseley Rick Nunez Duane McCollum Tony Hernandez</p>	<p>Publisher... Ext. 250 Managing Editor... Ext. 230 Advertising Manager... Ext. 229 Circulation Manager... Ext. 244 Production Manager... Ext. 256</p>

The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

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Man gets 40 years for trying to defraud churchgoers

DALLAS (AP) — A man convicted of cheating ministers and their churchgoers out of tens of millions of dollars was sentenced to 40 years in prison on Wednesday and ordered, along with co-defendant family members, to pay about \$62 million in restitution.

Gregory Earl Setser, 50, was convicted in June of 22 counts including conspiracy, securities fraud and money laundering.

Setser, who was head of an import-export company which operated out of Canton, Texas, and later Ontario, Calif., is also a self-proclaimed former minister, according to a news release from the Department of Justice.

At trial, a jury found that Setser exploited his connections to prominent members of the evangelical Christian community to meet potential investors, ultimately defrauding investors out of about \$62 million in a Ponzi scheme.

Setser's defense attorney argued during the trial that his client was a failed businessman, not a con artist.

BOGUS

Continued from Page 1A

Everett declined to put a firm dollar amount to the damage already done to local businesses with the counterfeit bills.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and we have some information we simply can't release yet," said Everett. "They haven't been passed at just one location. They have been passed at several local businesses, but I can't go into anymore detail than that."

Everett said he's hoping area business owners with a sharp eye will be able to provide investigators with a description of the suspect passing the counterfeit bills.

"If they can get a physical description of the suspect or a license number from a vehicle without putting themselves or anyone else in danger, it would certainly help our investigation," said Everett.

Anyone with information regarding the counterfeit bills is urged to contact the BSPD at 264-2550 or Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS.

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

IVINS

Continued from Page 1A

family, Ivins was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999. Two years later after enduring a radical mastectomy and rounds of chemotherapy, Ivins was given a 70 percent chance of remaining cancer-free for five years. At the time, she said she liked the odds.

But the cancer recurred in 2003, and again last year. In recent weeks, she had suspended her twice-weekly syndicated column, allowing guest writers to use the space while she underwent further treatment. She made a brief return to writing in mid-January, urging readers to resist President Bush's plan to increase the number of U.S. troops deployed to Iraq. She likened her call to an old-fashioned "newspaper crusade."

Born Mary Tyler Ivins on Aug. 30, 1944, in Monterey, Calif., Ivins was raised in the upscale River Oaks section of Houston. She earned her journalism degree at elite Smith College in Massachusetts in 1965. From there she ventured to Minnesota, taking a job as a police reporter for the *Minneapolis Tribune*.

Growing weary of the winters in the Upper Great Lakes and missing the spice of Texas food and its politics, Ivins moved to Austin to become co-editor of the *Texas Observer*, long considered the state's liberal conscience.

Nadine Eckhardt, the former wife of the late Texas novelist Billy Lee Bramer and who later married former U.S. Rep. Bob Eckhardt of Houston, said Ivins soon made herself a fixture in the Austin political and cocktail party scene in the early 1970s.

"That's where she

BILL

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posed test, but said the current system was flawed.

"First, TAKS places a lot of stress on the individual students," Johnson said. "And secondly, it's only a snapshot — a one point in time test. If the student doesn't feel good that day (or other factors arise), that could skew the results badly."

Senate Bill 379 requires an end-of-course exam to be administered in each course at the high school level in each of the four core subjects: math, science, social studies and English, a news release stated.

Each exam would count for a portion of the student's overall course grade, to be determined by the district, and a cumulative mastery of each subject qualifies students for graduation in place of an exit exam, the release noted.

For purposes of graduation, a passing grade would be required for each subject as determined by averaging exam scores from the 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

Exams given in the senior year would only count toward the student's course grades for that level.

"Under TAKS, there are only four tests, and you have to pass all four tests to graduate,"

Downes said. "Under (Seliger's) plan, students will have to have an average score of at least 70 on their tests ... They won't be hammered if they fail one of the tests. Plus, they will have to opportunity to re-test."

Downes said the bill also allows for a greater degree of local control over curriculum, because it will give local districts leeway in deciding how much impact the test will have on a student.

Under the proposed bill, end of course tests would count between 20 percent and 40 percent of the student's final grade in the course, with the exact percentage decided by the school district.

If approved by this session of the Legislature, the first end of course tests would be administered in May 2009, Downes said.

Johnson said he will be closely watching how the legislature reacts to Seliger's bill.

"It will be interesting to sit back and watch how this plays out," Johnson said. "I imagine there will be a lot of politicking in the next month or so ... End of course tests make more sense, but there's lots of potential pitfalls on both sides."

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

AUSTIN

Continued from Page 1A

their own breakfast, and any food on the bus must be in closed containers. All drinks must have a twist-on top. On the trip back to Big Spring, we will stop for dinner at Cooper's BBQ in Llano, which will be dutch treat."

ValVerde said the deadline to reserve a seat and pay for the bus trip is Feb. 27. The bus is expected to leave Big Spring at 4:30 a.m. and return at 10 p.m.

Among the activities planned for the visit to the capitol are:

— Reading of a resolution on the floor of House and Senate proclaiming March 7 "Big Spring Day" in Austin.

— The Howard County School Choir to perform in the Rotunda.

— Box lunch to be served on the east grounds of the Capitol.

— Coca-Cola and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception on east grounds of the Capitol.

— Group photo on the steps of the Capitol with legislators.

"Everyone who plans to attend, whether going by chartered bus or their own vehicle, needs to register at the Chamber by Feb. 27," said ValVerde. "If they plan to join us for lunch on the capitol grounds they will also need to pay \$9 when they register."

For those planning to make the trip to Austin the day or evening before, ValVerde said events in

the capitol city that week could throw hotel plans for a loop if not made soon.

"The committee was informed that a music festival event will be in progress when we make our trip, so hotel reservations need to be made as soon as possible," said ValVerde. "Vickie Purcell with Moore Development has blocked rooms at the Double Tree Hotel for those who wish to go the day before. The Chamber and Moore Development has information if you would like to reserve your room. The sheet provides, you with a phone number and a code so you can make your reservation. The deadline to reserve rooms is Wednesday, Feb. 14."

ValVerde said the dress code for the day will be the usual denim Big Spring shirts and khaki pants.

"Denim shirts are available in varied sizes at the Chamber and Moore Development Offices. If your size is not available, we will be ordering shirts for anyone who orders and prepays for one," said ValVerde. "The deadline to order and prepay is Feb. 13. We will not be ordering extra shirts."

For more information on Big Spring Area Day in Austin, call the Chamber at 263-7641 or Moore Development at 264-6032.

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

became the Molly Ivins as we've come to know her," said Eckhardt, an Ivins friend for nearly four decades. "The Observer had such wonderful writers doing such wonderful stories at the time, and Molly was always right in the middle of everything."

Her writing flair caught the attention of the *New York Times*, which hired her to cover city hall, then later moved her to the statehouse bureau in Albany. Later, she was assigned to the Times' Rocky Mountain bureau in Denver.

Even though she wrote the Times' obituary for Elvis Presley in 1977, Ivins said later that she and the sometimes stodgy *Times* proved to be a mismatch. In a 2002 interview with the *Star-Telegram*, Ivins recounted that she would write about something that "squawked like a \$2 fiddle" only to have a *Times* editor rewrite it to say "as an inexpensive instrument." Ivins said she would mention a "beer belly" and *The Times* would substitute "a protuberant abdomen."

So Ivins returned to Austin in 1982 to become

a columnist for the *Dallas Times-Herald* and reconnecting with such political figures as Ann Richards, who would later become governor, and Bob Bullock, then the hard-drinking state comptroller who later wielded great power as lieutenant governor.

The column provided Ivins the freedom to express her views with the colorful language that would become her trademark. She called such figures as Ross Perot, former U.S. Sen. John Tower and ex-Gov. Bill Clements "runts with attitudes." As a candidate for governor, George W. Bush became "Shrub," a nickname she never tired of using.

Surprised became "womperjawed." A visibly angry person would "throw a walleyed fit."

Ivins, who was single and had no children, told readers about her first bout with cancer in a matter-of-fact afterword in an otherwise ordinary column.

"I have contracted an outstanding case of breast cancer, from which I fully intend to recover," she wrote on Dec. 14, 1999. "I don't need get-well cards, but I would like the beloved women readers to do something for me: Go. Get. The. Damn.

Mammogram. Done." Ivins authored three books and co-authored a fourth. She was a three-time finalist for a Pulitzer Prize, but the iconoclastic writer often said that one of her highest honors was being banned from the conservative campus of Texas A&M University.

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Rosie Lee Gamage, 90, died Saturday. Memorial Services will be held at a later date in Mississippi.
Joe Lopez, 53, died Wednesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Jose Moreno, 75, died Wednesday. Funeral Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

AARP volunteers set to begin work helping with taxes

It's almost income tax time. And while we're still a few months away from that April 15 deadline, the local AARP is preparing to kick off its annual Tax-Aide program.

AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return by helping residents make sense of the tax laws and forms that seem to get more and more complicated with each successive year.

The program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to those who cannot afford professional tax help — senior citizens, people with disabilities, those that cannot speak English and those with low-to-moderate income.

In fact, the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared professionally, and the heart and soul of the operation are volunteers.

AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. They help complete returns, as well, right down to any refunds that might be due the taxpayer.

AARP volunteers will begin doing taxes on Feb. 5 and continue on each Monday through April 9. It should be noted that Feb. 19 will be a holiday and the Senior Center will be closed, so that day's filings will be done on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," Hopkins noted. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2006 earnings and their 2005 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

There have been a few recent changes to the program, according to Hopkins.

"AARP has decided not to file any returns if the taxpayer is listed as married but filing separately," said Hopkins. "We also have to physically see the Social Security cards for everyone listed in the tax return. In the past, the taxpayer could just provide us the number, but we're being required to actually see the card this year."

"For those that are homebound and can't get to the center with their tax information, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready," Hopkins added.

The Senior Center is located at 1901 Simler Drive on the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information on the program contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we use the creativity that You have given us, Lord, for You.

Amen

Men becoming optional equipment

Being raised by a feminist father, an anachronism, perhaps, for his generation, I was woefully ignorant that some men — but not all of you, guys — are not respectful of women and advocates for women's rights. And then I met a Mr. Chauvinism, or two.

A couple reality scares later, and this "little lady" — just call me "Honey" — learned there are still men threatened by assertive, ambitious women, even with Nancy Pelosi, D-CA, as our first Madame Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Here in the South especially, gender submission is the norm de jour. In Texas, I'm a Mrs. His Last Name, not Ms. Her Last Name.

If doubtful of this truth, consider men's — in general, not individually — reactions to Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-NY. Some men have very strong, negative opinions about her personally and her political career. "I'm in," she said in announcing her presidential intentions recently, and the naysayers came out of the closet, immediately discounting her chances. Could it be that some men are secretly scared of Hillary's power and influence, so they dismiss her outright because of her gender?

So when I read a recent New York Times article that said more American women — probably for the first time — are living without a spouse, my initial thought was, I'm not surprised. Fifty one percent of us are currently living

without a husband — whether because of later age at first marriage, high divorce rates, same gender relationships, or temporary separation for career reasons.

I conducted an informal, quite unscientific survey of my women friends (a cross-section of the population, but by no means a representative sample) to gauge female reaction to this study. Universally, they said, "Duh!" as in "I could be happy without a man, if they are currently cohabitating with one. If not, they explained all their reasons why not — they've had their babies, are doing well financially and in their careers, and generally enjoy life with their friends and family, and without a man.

My men friends (some married, some not), though, didn't have quite the same response. When queried, theirs was more along the lines of disagreement, as in, "Huh?" or "How can women exist without us?" Or, it was one of incredulity as in, "Why would women want to live without men?"

So, the problem with men and women, and their relationships, is somewhere between "Duh!" and "Huh?" somewhere between marital disenchantment and denial. It's a nearly insurmountable divide, so women are taking the kids and fleeing the nest. Sleeping Beauty doesn't need Prince Charming to rescue her anymore.

Men don't think there's a problem, and women think men are the problem.

Men, be honest. Has a woman ever said to you, "Let's talk about what's wrong with you," and you thought it would be a short conversation? That's living and breathing denial.

Marriages have changed because women changed, from our moth-

er's generation to mine. Blame us.

The three "C's" of traditional womanhood — cooking, cleaning and children — weren't enough to satisfy — personally or professionally — our mothers.

Where's the fulfillment, they asked, in keeping hearth and home for a man? So they went back to college, or ventured into the workplace, plans abandoned when they had obtained their "Mrs." degrees at the altar.

Their daughters wanted more than dirty diapers and dirty dishes. We wanted a little of what men, of what our husbands, had — power lunches, a corner office and financial freedom.

Women went out to conquer the world in their own right but returned home at night to a second full-time job of domesticity — getting dinner on the table, helping with the homework and driving to soccer practice. These men left their caves and went to the wilderness to slay their dragons — as they've done since time began in a garden — but didn't want pick up the slack — or the dirty laundry — at home.

The American man is quickly becoming an endangered species in women's lives, so say a majority of us.

Can he evolve before he becomes extinct?

Cynthia Hall Clements has worked for the legislatures of both Tennessee and Louisiana and was most recently a columnist for the Lufkin Daily News. She is presently attending law school. She can be e-mailed at cynthiahallclements_mmm@yahoo.com

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Hillary's understandable contradictions

Hillary Clinton's many contradictions aren't hard to understand once you realize her need to suppress her natural instincts and policy preferences because they conflict with her lifelong presidential aspirations.

For the most part Hillary is not personally conflicted: She knows precisely what she wants. But her personality characteristics and the circumstances in which she finds herself force her to walk a tightrope between warring constituencies and to project a double-mindedness that is wholly inconsistent with her innate ideological certitude.

These themes were on display this past weekend as Hillary began her presidential campaign in Iowa. From the issue of her gender, to her kaleidoscopic positions on the war, she was trying to thread personal and policy needles to make herself attractive to Midwestern voters without triggering any more blue-state liberal landmines in the process. (Hollywood moguls have already sent her a message by hosting a fundraiser for Barack Obama.)

In the past, Hillary has vacillated between righteous indignation at any expectation that she should be home "baking cookies" and her acquired awareness that she must not go too far and project herself as cold and heartless.

So it was no surprise that in Iowa she reflected a bit of both sides: On the one hand she wore her gender on her sleeve in telling her audience she faced a "double standard" as a female candidate. In the next, shameless breath, she instructed them to look beyond "stories about my clothes and

hair" to help her make history.

Similarly, Hillary wants desperately to project a soft, amiable side that is appealing to voters, but she doesn't want to come off as too soft to be chief executive and commander in chief.

Not to worry. She's quite comfortable with bare-knuckles political brawling. In this vein, she mildly criticized John Kerry for not having responded fiercely enough to his Swift boat accusers. "When you're attacked, you have to deck your opponents," she said.

Hillary has labored to cultivate the image that she's open-minded — kicking off her first New York Senate campaign with a phony "listening tour" and pretending to absorb the people's concerns. Now, with an equally straight face, she says she wants to "chat" with voters and have "one-on-one conversations, just you and me."

Right. Surely even those not majoring in "Hillary Studies" can see she is nothing if not a woman with definite policy preferences and a singular commitment to accomplishing them — no matter what anyone else thinks or chats.

You might note that Hillary did not come away chastened from the stinging personal defeat of her universal health care ploy. To the contrary, she said, in Iowa, concerning Hillary Care, "I now know what the roadblocks and obstacles are." (I fault her here, by the way, not for her unflinching commitment to socialized medicine — I'll save that for later — but for her usual duplicity in disguising it.)

On Iraq, Hillary has long been speaking out of both sides of her mouth. She figured out early on that she would have great difficulty courting a center-right electorate in a general election with the purely antiwar message her liberal base uncompromisingly demands. So she has been back and forth on Iraq — a hawk with

dovish wings — almost as much as the perpetually double-tongued John Kerry.

For now Hillary seems to have settled — appropriately — on the Clintonesque position of taking responsibility for her vote to authorize the war against Iraq, while simultaneously denying responsibility because President Bush "misled Congress and the country on what he was seeking and what he intended to do."

On the broader war on terror, she throws bones to the right, saying, "we must [defend] our country and [deter] those who wish us ill, as they still do." Yet she says we must end "the alienation toward us in the rest of the world," a statement sure to warm the hearts of Jane Fonda and the 12-year-old war protestor who lamented that "the rest of the world sees us as a bully and a liar."

Hillary's words should also please John Kerry, who just said on foreign soil that the United States is now considered an "international pariah."

It has yet to be determined, however, whether Hillary subscribes to Kerry's "global test," where we would virtually confer on other nations a veto power over our sovereign decision to go to war.

Though we will continue to see abundant evidence apparently to the contrary between now and November 2008, Hillary knows exactly who she is and what she wants.

The open question is: How many naive or uninformed voters can she fool without permanently estranging herself from her natural soulmates on the far left?

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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The 2007 Nissan Sentra



The 2007 Nissan Altima

NISSAN SUCCESS?

Redesigned Sentra, Altima figure to be key for company in 2007

By MATT NAUMAN

San Jose Mercury News

Nissan has been selling its mid-size Altima sedan in the United States since fall 1992. The company built its first Sentra on American soil in March 1985, at its then-2-year-old Tennessee factory, but it first put cars with that name on sale here in 1982.

This short history lesson comes courtesy of Nissan, which put its sixth-generation Sentra on sale last month and its fourth-generation Altima on sale last week.

Rather than mere placeholders in some historical timeline, the Sentra and Altima are key players in the success or failure of Nissan.

How important? In 2005, they represented about 375,000 sales for Nissan's U.S. dealers. The two models were 80 percent of all Nissan cars and nearly 40 percent of all Nissan vehicles — cars, trucks, vans and sport-utility vehicles — purchased by U.S. buyers.

Both Sentra and Altima get new exterior and interior designs for 2007. They share Jell-O smooth styling that's flowing and minimalist. It mixes European and Japanese design sensibility. That's no surprise as Nissan is now part of Renault, a French automaker.

Other than their common design language and newness, the two cars share little. The Sentra is a four-door compact built off Renault-Nissan's Global C platform.

It carries a new 140-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, and is priced from \$14,750 to \$18,400. It is manufactured in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

The Altima is a mid-size sedan, a rival of the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord.

It's a shorter car than the previous version, which will improve its sportiness, Nissan executives said.

Buyers can pick from a revised 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine that makes 175 horsepower or a new 3.5-liter V-6 that produces 270 horsepower. Priced from \$17,950 to \$28,400, the Altima is made in Tennessee and Mississippi.

These are the essential cars that keep Nissan in U.S. driveways. They're important as Nissan, whose revival over the past decade has been well documented, recently reported its first global operating profit and sales declines in several years.

A successful launch also

sets the stage for more glamorous products such as the GT-R sports car that arrives in 2007.

"These cars aren't the darlings of the performance set and they won't get a lot of enthusiast press ink, but they are just the kind of bread-and-butter sellers that keep dealerships hopping," said Jack Nerad, executive editorial director at Kelley Blue Book.

Here's a look at the two new Nissan models.

SENTRA: Nissan has sold more than 3.8 million Sentras to U.S. buyers since 1982, but the 2007 model represents significant change, said Ken Kcomt, the car's chief product specialist. Exterior and interior design work was done at Nissan Design America in San Diego and some other development work was done at Nissan's North American Technical Center in Detroit.

Nissan is marketing the new Sentra to echo boomers, a 71 million-person group born from 1977 to 1996. "In studying these echo boomers, we found them to be very, very busy," Kcomt said. "We thought of the car as being a mobile backpack for them."

Design-wise, the stereo was put more prominently on the dashboard and the shifter was moved from between the seats to

a higher location to make the car more functional for users. Dimensionally, the Sentra grows 2.3 inches longer, 3.2 inches wider and 4.0 inches taller. Its wheelbase increases by a dramatic 5.9 inches.

"It produces a cabin that's significantly larger than the competitors," said Kcomt. Rivals include the Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Mazda3 and Chevrolet Cobalt.

Powering the Sentra is a 140-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder. It features variable-valve timing and makes 147 pound-feet of torque. It represents a significant leap from the 2006 Sentra, which featured a 1.8-liter four that made 126 horsepower and 129 pound-feet of torque.

"When consumers shop, they compare horsepower numbers," Kcomt said. "When they drive, they're comparing torque."

The only available transmission is Nissan's Xtronic CVT (continuously variable transmission), which works like an automatic but doesn't have gears.

Touting its larger size and more powerful engine makes sense, Kcomt said, but the car's budget-conscious buyers will certainly ask about fuel economy, too.

Those numbers rise, thanks in large part to the CVT, from 28 mpg in the

city and 34 on the highway in 2006 to 29/36 in 2007, according to U.S. government ratings.

Neat features on the car include an eight-CD holder that fits above the visor and can be taken out of the car; cup holders that adjust to hold large 32-ounce soda cups and small cell phones; small nets in addition to the usual behind-seat pockets; and a trunk divider that makes for a place to hide items.

Dual front, side and side-curtain air bags are standard, anti-lock brakes are an option on all models and a stability control system isn't offered.

ALTIMA: Compared with the Sentra, changes to the Altima are less significant. Still, Nissan executives insist the car's improved driving characteristics are worth noting. "This generation Altima represents both an evolution and a revolution," said Pete Haidos, the car's chief product specialist.

The current Altima was a "huge success" for Nissan, Haidos said. Annual sales grew from 153,000 in 1999 to 255,000 in 2005. That made it the fourth-most-popular car on the U.S. market last year.

In wheelbase, width and height, the 2007 Altima varies little from the 2006 version. But it's 2.5 inches

shorter to give it a more aggressive look. That reduction in length is coupled with a new front suspension and a stiffer body. The goal, Haidos said, is to make the Altima "the world's best performing front-wheel-drive sedan."

Analyst Nerad describes the decision to make a shorter Altima "a risk in a segment where bigger is usually seen as better."

Owners of the current version complained about torque steer and the car's interior quality. Both areas have been improved, Haidos said. The car has less body roll but still offers good ride comfort. The cabin gets a new look, complete with chrome trim, padded armrests, bigger seats and a new instrument panel design.

The car's four-cylinder engine gets 100 new parts. Its performance numbers don't change — 175 horsepower and 180 pound-feet of torque, but Nissan said both acceleration and fuel economy improve. It describes the 3.5-liter V-6 as a "next-generation" engine. Horsepower grows from 250 in 2006 to 270 in 2007; torque is up 9 pound-feet to 258.

A six-speed manual or a CVT can be had with each engine. Six air bags, a push-button starter with a smart key and dual-zone air conditioning are standard on all models.

The typical Altima buyer is 45 years old. About three-fourths of owners are married. But, the Altima's appeal to men and women varies based on its engine, Haidos said. With the four-cylinder, 61 percent of buyers are women. With the V-6, 57 percent are men. With Toyota's Camry, women represent 56 percent of four-cylinder buyers and 55 percent of V-6 buyers.

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World news briefs

Suspicious packages planted around Boston in backfired TV marketing ploy; 2 arrested

BOSTON (AP) — Several illuminated electronic devices planted at bridges and other spots in Boston threw a scare into the city Wednesday in what turned out to be a publicity campaign for a late-night cable cartoon. Most of the devices depict a character giving the finger.

Peter Berdovsky, 27, of Arlington, and Sean Stevens, 28, of Charlestown, were each charged Wednesday night with one count of placing a hoax device and one count of disorderly conduct, state Attorney General Martha Coakley said.

The two men worked together to place the devices, Coakley said in a news release announcing Stevens' arrest.

Highways, bridges and a section of the Charles River were shut down and bomb squads were sent in before authorities declared the devices were harmless.

Turner Broadcasting, a division of Time Warner Inc. and parent of Cartoon Network, said the devices were part of a promotion for the TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," a surreal series about a talking milkshake, a box of fries and a meatball.

General who led Iraq war faces scrutiny as anti-buildup resolution gains backing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. George Casey, who led the Iraq war for more than two tumultuous years, is coming under intense scrutiny for a new Pentagon job as two influential senators try to gain GOP support for a compromise resolution against President Bush's troop buildup.

The resolution is likely to pose a threat to the White House because of its potential appeal to Republicans who have grown tired of the nearly four-year war and want a chance to express their concerns. The White House has been hoping to avoid an overwhelming congressional vote criticizing Bush's handling of the war.

Fight shaping up in Texas over proposed smoking ban in bars, restaurants

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed ban on smoking in all bars, restaurants and work sites across the state is igniting a big-money fight at the Texas Capitol.

Anti-smoking forces are lining up against the tobacco industry and some restaurant owners, with lobbyists from both sides seeking to win over lawmakers.

"We've got a lot of national resources that are focusing on this," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Houston Democrat who proposed the legislation. "Texas is a trendsetter state on so many issues."

Sixteen states, including California and New York, already have comprehensive smoking bans; 13 others are considering them. Houston, Austin, El Paso and other Texas cities already have comprehensive smoking bans.

Ellis' proposal is aimed at eliminating second-hand smoke in indoor public places. It would ban smoking in government offices, private workplaces, restaurants, bars and the seating area of outdoor entertainment events. It also would prohibit smoking within 15 feet of the entrances to those places. The bill proposes a fine of up to \$500 for violating the ban.

The bill, which was filed Tuesday, must survive legislative committees before facing a vote from lawmakers during the legislative session, which ends May 28.

Smoke-Free Texas, a coalition of the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association and Texas PTA, is pushing the measure.

The American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society High Plains Division, which sponsored the poll, have 11 lobbyists for the legislative session, according to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Leading opposition to the ban is tobacco giant Philip Morris USA Inc. Spokesman David Sutton said the company advocates helping people avoid secondhand smoke in public places, but wants business owners to have flexibility in accom-

modating them.

There are ways to protect nonsmokers short of a complete ban, he said, such as separate rooms for smokers and high-quality ventilation.

"Total bans on indoor smoking fail to respect the comfort and choices of both smoking and non-smoking adults," he said.

The Texas Restaurant Association also figures to be a major player in the debate.

"Increasingly we see that cities are adopting bans," said executive director Richie Jackson. "We have some concerns. One is, we want a level playing field — if you're going to ban smoking in restaurant bars that you don't allow smoking in bars. That's an ongoing equity issue with us."

Casey, picked by Bush to become Army chief of staff, was to testify Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee. Its chairman, Democratic Sen. Carl Levin, and former chairman, Republican Sen. John Warner, agreed Wednesday to offer a resolution that would oppose Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops into Iraq but protect funding for them.

Casey would replace Gen. Peter Schoomaker, who is retiring. Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, confirmed last week by an 81-0 vote, is taking over command of the Iraq war.

"If I were a betting man, I'd bet he'd be confirmed," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., a committee member. "But it'll be painful for him."

Tens of thousands march in Mexico City to protest tortilla prices

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Some 75,000 unionists, farmers and leftists marched to protest price increases in basic foodstuffs like tortillas, a direct challenge to the new president's market-oriented economic policies blamed by some for widening the gulf between rich and poor.

Since taking office Dec. 1 after a disputed election, President Felipe Calderon has drawn his greatest criticism for failing to control the largest price spike in tortillas in decades. Tortillas are a staple of poor Mexicans' diet.

The national uproar has put him in an uncomfortable position between the poor and some agribusiness industries hoping to profit from the surge in international corn prices, driven mostly by the sudden explosion of the U.S. ethanol industry. A free-market advocate, Calderon has said he does not want to return to direct price controls enforced by many former Mexican presidents.

During Wednesday's march, protesters carried one banner that read "Calderon stole the elections, and

now he's stealing the tortillas!" Others waved handfuls of the flat corn disks and chanted "Tortillas si, Pan no!" a play on the initials of Calderon's National Action Party, the PAN, which also means "bread" in Spanish.

In a press statement, Calderon's office said the president shares the protesters' concerns and pledged to "continue taking all necessary actions to maintain price stability for basic goods and services, (and) punish all types of hoarding and speculation in the markets."

Calif. police seek vehicular manslaughter charge against 'Prison Break' actor Garrison

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "Prison Break" actor Lane Garrison should be charged with manslaughter and drunken driving for a car crash that killed a teenage passenger and injured two others, police said Wednesday.

Police Chief David L. Snowden said investigators have asked county prosecutors to charge Garrison, 26, with felony gross vehicular manslaughter; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Investigators recommended that the DUI allegation carry the enhancement that he had a blood-alcohol level of 0.15 percent or more. An adult driver in California is legally over the limit at 0.08 percent.

Garrison's Land Rover jumped a curb and struck a tree Dec. 2, killing 17-year-old Beverly Hills High School student Vahagn Setian and injuring two 15-year-old girls also in the vehicle. Garrison suffered minor injuries.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

8		1	9	4		6
7		8				5
			2			1
9	1					6
		8		9		
	4				8	5
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Contract Bridge

Partnership Rapport

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ A Q 10 8 3

♥ K J 7 4

♠ K 6 5

♣ 8

WEST

♦ 6 4

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EAST

♦ J 9 5 2

♥ Q 9 2

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SOUTH

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♠ A Q 10 9 4 2

♣ 10 5 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass

2♦ Pass 2♦ Pass

3♦ Pass 5♦ Pass

6♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Point count is undoubtedly a valuable crutch to lean on when trying to reach the best contract. But other key factors can prove even more useful to experienced players.

Consider this case where South got to six diamonds on the sequence shown. True, each player had only 13 high-card points opposite his partner's 13, and it usually takes more high-card strength than that to produce a slam.

But North went out of his way to pinpoint both his high-card strength and his 5-4-3-1 distribution, and his graphic description of both did not fall on deaf ears.

Although South could not see his partner's hand, he realized that North had represented a holding of five spades and four hearts because he had bid spades first. South also recognized from partner's third-round leap to five diamonds that he had at least three diamonds — and therefore could not possibly have more than one club.

And so, while it might seem that South should have been more deeply concerned about his three club losers before undertaking a slam with his minimum-looking hand, the fact is that he was resting on very solid ground when he decided to bid six. As pays off so often in bridge, South paid much more attention to what he heard than what he saw.

It is quite likely that many pairs, including some long-standing partnerships, would fail to reach this excellent slam. The chief reason might be North's failure to describe his 5-4-3-1 pattern, which is the crux of the matter, or it might be due to South's failure to recognize the message his partner was imparting. In any case, the deal highlights the enormous importance of close partnership rapport.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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Sports

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Thursday, February 1, 2007

IN BRIEF

Rockets shoot past Supersonics

Rockets star Tracy McGrady led Houston to a 112-102 win over Seattle Wednesday night.

Plagued by back problems the past three seasons, McGrady is now healed and enjoying basketball as much as he has in a while. It helps that the Rockets have won four in a row and eight of 11.

"I just think that me being healthy, I'm playing with a great deal of confidence," he said.

See Page 2B

Bryant returns for Lakers and hangs 43

Kobe Bryant returned from his one-game suspension and had 43 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to help the Los Angeles Lakers beat Boston 111-98 Wednesday night and send the Celtics to a franchise-record 13th consecutive loss.

The Celtics are 2-19 since star Paul Pierce went out on Dec. 20 with a stress reaction in his left foot that was supposed to keep him out for about three weeks. The NBA's most decorated franchise, with a record 16 championships, needs to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday night to avoid a record 14th straight loss.

Texas A&M defeats Iowa State, 73-49

Joseph Jones scored 21 points and No. 10 Texas A&M forced 21 turnovers in a 73-49 win over Iowa State.

The win is Texas A&M's 20th straight at home and Iowa State's fifth consecutive loss.

See Page 2B

Cowboys now considering Rivera

Chicago Bears defensive coordinator Ron Rivera may have a job opportunity after the Super Bowl — as coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

Rivera, interviewed for several head coaching jobs the past two seasons, reportedly has emerged as the latest candidate to replace Bill Parcells in Dallas.

"I haven't talked to anybody in Dallas," Rivera said Thursday morning at the team hotel. "Nobody has told me anything."

Rivera said his wife called him after Wednesday's practice and informed him of the report on ESPN.com. The report also said that leading candidate Norv Turner told Cowboys owner Jerry Jones that if he got the job he'd want Rivera as defensive coordinator.

"I don't want to be a distraction," Rivera said.

Little League needs board members

Coahoma Boy's Little League Baseball is in need of 2007 board members.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tish Hill at 213-3199 or by e-mail at coahomapss@yahoo.com

Durant explodes and Texas escapes Lubbock

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Kevin Durant had a game like no other in the history of Big 12 basketball.

The Texas freshman scored 37 points and grabbed 23 rebounds to become the first player in the history of the conference to have a 30-20 game in No. 22 Texas' 76-64 win over Texas Tech on Wednesday night.

He even impressed Texas Tech coach Bob Knight.

"He's really good," he said. "The guy is 6-9, he is mobile, he's quick, he's fast. I mean what more does he have to do. There's no secret thing that he drinks before the game."

Durant got 24 of his points in the second half and outscored Texas Tech by two points after halftime.

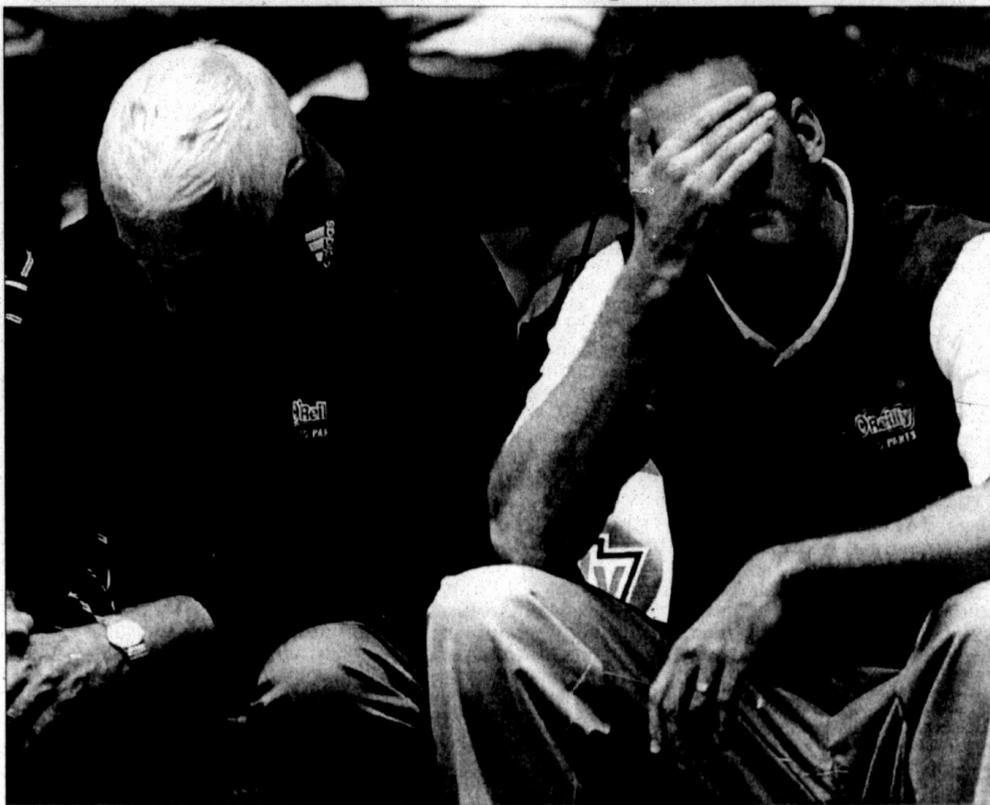
"Who me? Oh, I didn't even know I did that," Durant said. "I really wasn't worried about my stats or my rebounds or points. I just wanted to win."

Texas steadily pulled away from the Red Raiders, in part by pounding the ball inside for 30 points. The Longhorns went up 72-58 with 3:37 remaining and Tech couldn't mount a comeback.

The loss was only Tech's second at home this season and prevented the Red Raiders (15-7, 4-3 Big 12) from getting their third-straight win over a Top 25 team in Lubbock.

Jay Jackson scored 27 points and Jon Plefka added 14 to lead Tech.

Durant, who hit on 15-of-29 from the field, got his fifth 30-point game in last eight and now



Texas Tech head coach Bobby Knight and assistant coach Pat Knight show frustration after a Red Raider loss earlier in the season. Wednesday night Texas Tech lost to No. 22 Texas, 76-64.

has 13 double-doubles for the season, tying him for the most ever in the Big 12.

And he did most of it on a turned ankle he suffered while going for a rebound, Texas coach Rick Barnes said.

"I was going to take him out of the game and I think he was ready to come out of the game but he said, 'No, let me try again,'" Barnes said. "And he did a great job, and we went zone for that reason to try and give him a

chance to not move as much."

Texas (16-5, 6-1 Big 12) handed Knight his 11th loss to the Longhorns since he arrived in 2001. He's only beaten Texas

See TECH, Page 2B



Chicago Scenic crew member Ron Sheely adjusts a wire of a Chicago Bears' helmets on the lion at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Bears trying to emerge from Chicago's '85 team shadow

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Now a 300-pound guard for the Chicago Bears, Ruben Brown was big even as a 13-year-old Pee Wee League lineman in 1985.

The Bears were big then, too. They had Walter Payton, Jim McMahon and William "The Refrigerator" Perry, a 375-pound defensive tackle who occasionally doubled as a ball carrier and became a folk hero.

That's why Brown's Pee Wee teammates wanted him to switch positions.

"It was kind of funny, because people started thinking, 'Hey, let's put Ruben at running back,'" Brown said. "I was one of the biggest kids, and they wanted

me to be the Refrigerator."

Brown declined. He was huge, but Fridge and the '85 Bears were larger than life — a team remembered for its colorful characters, Hall of Fame running back and a defense that ranks with the best ever.

That team also is remembered for winning the Super Bowl, an achievement this season's Bears will try to match Sunday by beating the Indianapolis Colts.

"We love the '85 Bears, but we're trying to make some footprints of our own," Chicago receiver Bernard Berrian said. "We're going to be in their

See BEARS, page 2B

Mavericks find a way to win

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Down the stretch, the Dallas Mavericks showed why they are the NBA's best team, even if all they had to do was hold off the league's worst.

Dirk Nowitzki overcame a tough shooting night with 26 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter, to lead the Mavericks to a 95-94 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

Nowitzki shot 8-of-20 from the field but hit all 10 of his free throws, including eight in the fourth period to hold off the Grizzlies, who lost for the third time in the last four games.

"I had a lot of shots that would bounce off the rim," Nowitzki said. "I don't think I've ever had so many good looks that sometimes were bouncing on the rim three or four times and still would find a way to roll out. I think in the fourth quarter, I got a couple of layups and got a couple of free throws to go down."

Mike Miller led the Grizzlies with 32 points, including 20 in the fourth quarter. His 30-footer with 5 seconds left got Memphis within 93-91,

but a pair of free throws by Nowitzki put Dallas up 95-91.

Chucky Atkins then hit another 30-footer for Memphis with less than a second left for the final margin.

The Mavericks missed only one of their 25 free throws. They outscored Memphis 38-24 in the paint and 18-6 in second-chance points.

"We're one of the best free throw-shooting teams in the league," Nowitzki said. "We work on them a lot. ... We kept knocking them down, but they kept making shots from the parking lot."

Jerry Stackhouse and Jason Terry added 20 points apiece for Dallas, which has won 24 of 26. Erick Dampier scored 15 points, missing only one of his seven shots from the field, and grabbed eight rebounds. Nowitzki had 11 rebounds.

Hakim Warrick had 15 points for Memphis, while Pau Gasol finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Memphis, which trailed by as many as 15, stayed close down the stretch with 6-of-8 shooting from outside the arc. Miller hit all five of his 3-pointers

in the fourth.

"When you get open shots, you try to make them," Miller said. "It doesn't matter if it's in the first quarter or the fourth quarter, you've got to be able to step up and make shots for your team."

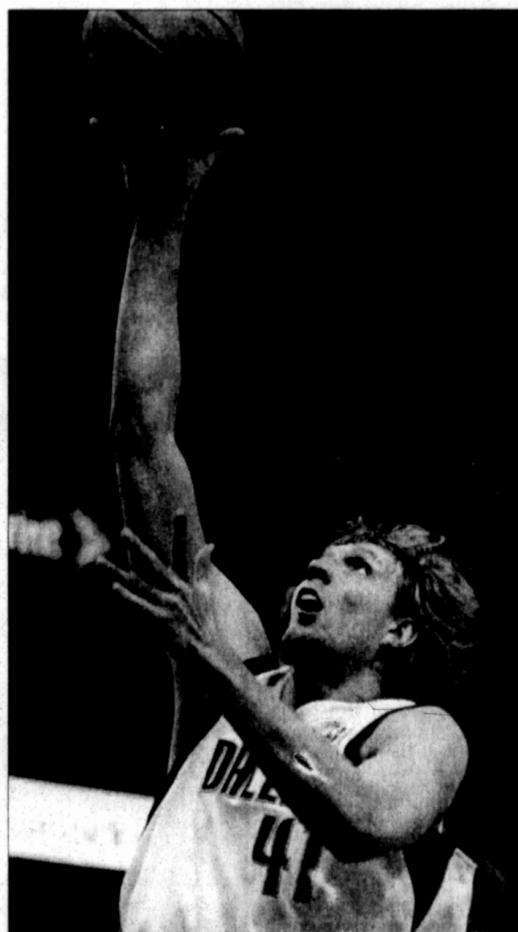
Dallas led 40-33 at the break behind 12 points from Terry and Dampier's 11 points.

"We had control of the game early because of what Damp did," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said. "Damp came out with a lot of energy and was a force early in the game."

The Mavericks showed their inside dominance early, primarily with Dampier scoring easily, hitting his first five shots. Memphis coach Tony Barone became so fed up with Gasol's defense against the Mavericks' center, that he sent the Grizzlies' leading scorer to the bench midway through the opening quarter after Dampier's first four field goals.

Meanwhile, Nowitzki connected on his first three shots to give

See MAVS, page 2B



Mavericks Dirk Nowitzki (41) makes a shot in the first half at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007. The Mavericks now own the best record in the NBA.

McGrady feasts on rookie, Rockets blast Sonics

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Tracy McGrady and Ray Allen seemed to be going shot-for-shot at times Wednesday night.

In the end, T-Mac made the bucket that mattered most.

McGrady and Allen both scored 36 points, but McGrady sank a 3-pointer with 51 seconds left to clinch the Houston Rockets' 112-102 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics, who tied a franchise record with their 14th consecutive road loss.

When McGrady dribbled away from rookie Mickael Gelabale and swished his fourth 3-pointer, he glanced at the Sonics' bench and wryly grinned as Seattle coach Bob Hill called a timeout.

McGrady has been plagued by back problems the past three seasons, but he's healed now and enjoying basketball as much as he has in a while. It helps that the Rockets have won four in a row and eight of their last 11.

"I just think that me

being healthy, I'm playing with a great deal of confidence," he said, "and my team is doing the same."

Allen, meanwhile, isn't getting much support. The Sonics have been ravaged by injuries this season, leaving him to carry the team almost every night.

It isn't working, especially on the road, where the Sonics are winless since Nov. 22.

"We needed someone else to make an open jump shot," Hill said. "We put so much pressure on him (Allen) and he is unbelievable the way he keeps hitting those shots. He's been phenomenal."

Rafer Alston had 15 points and nine assists and Dikembe Mutombo had 10 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who've won 13 of 19 games since Yao Ming broke his right leg.

"We understand the task at hand," McGrady said. "We know that we don't have that big guy down in the post, who is giving us 25 (points) and 10 (rebounds) a night. That gives other guys

opportunities to step up and take on that challenge and they've been doing a great job of it."

The Sonics shot 52 percent (45-of-87) and outrebounded Houston 41-34, but dropped to 2-23 when they trail after three quarters.

"It's small, little stuff that is hurting us," Allen said. "Our guys are learning on the job and it is a group effort. As a team, we have to do better."

McGrady hit his first three shots, including a 3-pointer, to keep the Rockets close as the Sonics made 18 of their first 24 shots. Allen scored twice early in the second quarter and Johan Petro hit a shot in the lane as Seattle retook the lead.

The Sonics then missed eight of their next 11 shots and the Rockets went on 10-2 run to take a 49-45 lead. McGrady drove for a layup and banked in a 3-pointer in the final 17 seconds of the half to lift Houston to a 59-51 lead.

McGrady had 21 points at the break, but Seattle shot 60.5 percent (23-of-38) in the first half against

the Rockets' league-leading defense.

"They're a hard team for us to guard," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "The only thing we did right defensively was not foul."

Allen made his first four shots of the second half, all of them with Houston defenders in his face, to cut the Rockets' lead to two. McGrady answered with two jumpers from the wing and a pass to Mutombo for an easy dunk as Houston stretched the lead to 79-73.

Nick Collison scored three baskets late in the third quarter and Houston led only 85-82 heading to the fourth. Collison finished with 25 points and 17 rebounds.

McGrady skipped the fourth quarter of Houston's last two games, both blowout victories. He sat out the first six minutes of the final quarter on Wednesday and the Rockets led 93-88 when he returned.

McGrady promptly found Luther Head open for a 3-pointer. Head hit three 3-pointers and scored 14.

Texas A&M wins again, now ranked No.10 in poll

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M coach Billy Gillispie has recently been preaching to his team about the importance of creating more turnovers.

On Wednesday night, the Aggies showed they were listening.

Joseph Jones scored 21 points and No. 10 ranked Texas A&M forced 21 turnovers in a 73-49 win over Iowa State.

The win is Texas A&M's 20th straight at home and Iowa State's fifth consecutive loss.

Texas A&M's defense harassed, hurried and frustrated Iowa State from the start, forcing the Cyclones (11-10, 2-5 Big 12) into many mistakes, and often leaving them looking confused. Among the miscues for the Cyclones was a five-second call on an inbound pass, a handful of traveling calls and a couple of instances where players looked to have passed directly to a defender.

"We need it and we still didn't get as many as we need," Gillispie said. "But we did create some opportunities to get easy baskets and that's what has been missing I think."

Texas A&M (18-3, 6-1) scored 25 points off Iowa State turnovers.

"Some of our turnovers were foolish turnovers that we brought on ourselves and some of them were forced by playing some big, physical players on their floor," Iowa State coach Greg McDermott said. "This is a team that isn't accustomed to that."

The Aggies entered the game leading the nation in defensive field goal percentage and allowing the second fewest points a game. The Cyclones shot just 31 percent and were held to their fewest points of the season.

It's nothing new to the Aggies, who have now held 32 straight opponents to less than 50 percent shooting, the longest streak in the nation.

TECH

Continued from 1B

twice. The Longhorns used a 29-6 run midway through the second half to put the game away. Tech helped their cause, hitting on only 8-of-32 field goals after halftime. And Durant warmed up, getting 24 points after the break.

Knight said Texas showed its mettle in the final nine minutes.

"From that moment on, there was one really good team," he said. "They dominated the game, took it away from us.

That's what a really good team does."

Durant's other 37-point games came against Colorado and Oklahoma State, the latter in a triple-overtime loss to the Cowboys. His 23 rebounds is Texas freshman record and one off the overall Texas mark.

"He was just tremendous," Barnes said. "He's a once in a lifetime guy. Teammates did a great job of trying to get him open. He's special, and we're lucky that we have him."

It was much closer in the first half. Tech used a 14-7 run, started and capped by 3-pointers by Jay Jackson, to go up 40-34 with 2:07 remaining in the first

half. The Red Raiders capitalized on mistakes by Texas, getting 13 points off the Longhorns six turnovers.

Durant had his 13th double-double of the season by halftime, though Tech led 42-38 at the break.

Durant dunked a rebound off a miss by Justin Mason at the buzzer but officials ruled it came late.

Before the game, Bob Knight took to the microphone and thanked Rick Barnes for his tribute to the Tech coach after he got his 880th win to sit atop the men's Division I all-time win list Jan. 1.

"I think everybody who was here appreciates what you did and what you

said, most of all the coaches and myself," Knight told the crowd.

Knight gave Barnes a plaque with two note cards affixed to it. Knight makes two cards out before each game, one each for what he wants his team to do on offense and defense in a game. The note cards were from the New Mexico win that gave Knight the record.

Barnes choked up as he talked about Knight's gift.

"I'm just overwhelmed by it," he said. "When it comes from a man that is the best coach in what we do, it just means the world to me."

BEARS

Continued from 1B

shadow until we win this game."

The '85 Bears are the franchise's lone championship team in the past 43 years, and that's only part of their legacy. With the Fridge, nonconformist McMahon and fiery coach Mike Ditka, the Bears may have set a league record for charisma.

They even came with a soundtrack. The Bears recorded "The Super Bowl Shuffle" way before they got to Bourbon Street, and were still dancing when the big game ended.

"The characters they had ... current Chicago linebacker Lance Briggs said. "When I run into

them in a bar, they tell stories about what they did. They were a wild group."

At least two Colts have ties to the legacy. Indy receiver Aaron Moorehead's dad, Emery, was a tight end for the '85 Bears. Leslie Frazier, who coaches the Colts' defensive backs, started at cornerback for Chicago in the Super Bowl 21 years ago.

"The bravado of that team — guys who had so much confidence in their ability," Frazier said. "Some were bigger than the sport. McMahon was huge. The Fridge was huge in his own way. Just big personalities."

They were at their best during Super Bowl week in New Orleans, where the national media turned

every quirky quote and escapade into a headline. Even a closed team practice made news when McMahon mooned a TV helicopter.

"It was probably the first time the Super Bowl was more like a rock concert," said Ron Rivera, a linebacker for those '85 Bears and now their defensive coordinator. "We didn't have a curfew until Friday night. We had a quarterback who was fun-loving and enjoyed himself, and a lot of guys followed him."

Most teams seem dull in comparison, and that's the case this week. Their teams reflect that personality.

"This Bears team is similar to us — they're just playing, doing what they're supposed to be

doing," the Colts' Moorehead said. "That Bears team had so much personality. Those guys are legends. The Bears could win championships for a long time coming, but that team will always be something very special."

Perry, Mike Singletary, Wilber Marshall, Dan Hampton and Richard Dent made the Bears the Monsters of the Midway in 1985. They shut out back-to-back playoff opponents before overwhelming New England 46-10 in the Super Bowl.

With Pro Bowl starters Briggs, Brian Urlacher and injured Tommie Harris, defense was again Chicago's strength. But while the current unit thrives on speed to force turnovers, the '85 Bears

were a more bruising bunch.

"My dad always said the biggest thing their team tried to do was take out the starting quarterback every single game," Moorehead said. "And if they took him out, they were trying to take out the backup."

"They were a rock 'em, sock 'em, kill 'em type of team. That's not the type of defense this Bears team plays. They're good, but it's not knock 'em down, take 'em out."

The mercurial McMahon has distanced

himself from football, saying this week he hasn't watched a game in 10 years. But some members of the '85 Bears are frequent visitors to the team's complex, serving as a reminder that there's a legacy to live up to.

The current Bears say they don't mind.

"This team has nothing but respect for those guys," Brown said. "They're our idols. Why not be in the shadow of your idols? They're kind of like your big brothers. We look up to them, just like everybody else does."

MAVS

Continued from 1B

Dallas an early lead.

Dallas would lead by as many as 10 in the first half.

Memphis seemed completely out of sync on offense, fumbling the ball and shooting poorly. Gasol missed six of his first seven shots, and even the Grizzlies' effort to run on the break was thwarted by Dallas getting back on defense.

"In the first half, I thought we were too anxious and rushed our shots," Barone said. "We didn't play with smoothness."

The Mavericks pushed the Grizzlies outside their normal shooting zone and pressured them throughout the first half. No Memphis player was in double figures and Gasol was 2-of-10 in the half.

"We know he likes to drive the baseline whenever he catches the ball," Dampier said. "We tried to make him drive the middle and contest his shot."

Still, Memphis stayed close thanks to the

Mavericks' 7-of-23 shooting in the second quarter.

The Grizzlies used better shooting in the third quarter and eventually took the lead late in the period when Atkins scored on a layup. But a 3-pointer by Greg Buckner

gave Dallas a 63-61 advantage heading into the fourth.

Miller keyed the fourth-quarter Memphis rally from outside the arc, and Memphis got close. But Dallas used its experience and better shooting from

Nowitzki to preserve the victory.

"Our guys really know how to handle adversity," Johnson said. "At the end of the year, this is going to count as a win. It's not about how many you win by or who you play."

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CLASSIFIED

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Cemetery Lots

2 SPACES in Bethany Section of Trinity Memorial. Call (540)463-2429.

Garage Sales

AVON CLEARANCE SALE
614 Dallas Street
Thur. 2/1 11am-5:30pm
Sat. 2/3 8:00am-10am & 12:00pm-6:00pm
25 to 50% savings! Call Natalie 432-270-2125 to set up an appointment to shop if you can't make the open house.

GARAGE SALE, Saturday
Feb. 3rd at 408 North East 11th. End table, lamps, misc.

Help Wanted

NEEDED CLASS A or B CDL drivers. Call (432) 267-6006.

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.

Help Wanted

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

Receptionist

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:
State Farm Insurance
1309 Gregg St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
Fax: 432-263-4846
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.

PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work. Call (432)267-6027 M-F.

Help Wanted

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Big Spring Herald is looking for a go-getter to sell advertising in our retail department. If you like people, have sales experience (newspaper sales a plus), are a team player, have dependable transportation, are organized, pay attention to details, are creative, and like to make money, we want to talk to you. We offer an established account list, benefits, paid vacation, mileage reimbursement, and commission.
Apply at 710 Scurry, or send resume to:

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

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation now hiring for C.N.A. positions. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

Help Wanted

CLINE CONSTRUCTION is taking applications for the following- equipment / operators including dozer, loader, maintainer, backhoe and bucket trucks. Class A & B CDL drivers. Concrete workers and general laborers. Immediate positions open call or come by (432)267-6006, 1807 N. FM 700, 8:00-5:00.

DECKER'S FARM Supply & Nursery, Stanton, needs equipment operators, starting pay \$9.00/ hr. Apply at 2346 Hwy 137, Stanton. (432)756-3444.

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.

LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING. Morning hours, part time. Call (432)267-3853 or 213-4768.

Help Wanted

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

EVENING DISHWASHER supervisor. Apply in person 2401 S. Gregg. Good pay to the right person.

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.

FIBER GLASS Systems on the Lamesa Hwy is hiring 15 production workers for a new pipe row. Great benefits, starting wages at \$9.50, \$1 shift differential for nights. All job applicants must be processed thru the Workforce Network of Big Spring and present their referral card to the Human Resources Administrator at Fiber Glass Systems for consideration.

NEEDED PHLEBOTOMIES & PHARMACY TECH 30 Hours per week. Certified & Experienced. Call 1-800-469-4467.

Help Wanted

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 record.

Opportunity is a call away!
Call Don Hood @
432-263-2366
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

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

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract:\$1.58 Per Day

<p>AUTO CARE</p> <p>G & M Auto Care Locally Owned & Operated Service 1972 263-1091 George & Mary 900 E. 3rd St. Big Spring</p>	<p>AUTO PARTS</p> <p>WESTEX A Modern Auto Dismantler Since 1947 • 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles • 20,000 sq. ft. of Warehouse storage • Specialize in late model quality auto parts • Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wk/day 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p>CARPET</p> <p>Teal Carpets * Ceramic Tile * Laminate * Wood * Vinyl * Carpet We carry all your carpet supplies 2810 E. FM 700 • 268-0008</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>MARQUEZ FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates Benny Marquez-Owner 267-5714</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>CHICO AND SONS CONCRETE STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES (432) 466-0573 (432) 816-6561 621 Sgt. Paredes Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Swimming Pool Decks JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 213-0882 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res.</p>
<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>All Types Concrete Work Block & Brick Repair Trenching & Tractor Service Campbell Concrete Contractors Call-Tommy Campbell Concrete Contractor (432) 466-0623 2006 Runnels (432) 935-3844 Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE</p> <p>HAVING A GARAGE SALE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-267-3349</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 1-800-525-1389 1318 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>HEATING & AC</p> <p>JOHNSON AC, HEATING & SHEET METAL • Servicing all heaters central & wall • Duct work - all sheet metal work • Registers & Grills We Carry All Heating Parts & Filters, Belts 1408 E. 4th 263-2980</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Day & Day Builders Custom Building • Remodeling • Roofing Tile • Garage Doors • Cabinets Vinyl Siding D. W. Day (432) 457-2289 Call (432) 270-8783 Dennis Day (432) 816-5080 Box 266 108 West 7th Forsan, TX 79733</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance 7 Day Emergency Service Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Russ Crain (owner) 432-270-2585</p>	<p>JANITORIAL</p> <p>BREATHE-EZ CLEANING SERVICE Chimneys, Carpets, Air Ducts, Maids, Make Ready's And More. Now Offering Security Products, Stun Guns, Mace, Alarms & Much More. 432-353-4849</p>
<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>MOWING, ALLEYS TILLING, TREE TRIMMING LIGHT HAULING CALL 267-5460 CELL 816-6150 Scoggin Lawn Service</p>	<p>NAIL SALON</p> <p>Pro Spa Nail Salon Pedicure: \$21.99 Manicure: \$11.99 Full Set: \$20.00 & up Refill: \$13.99 & up SPECIAL Solar Nails: \$29.00 111 E. Marcy Dr Ste 110 (432)263-6245</p>	<p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>ADVANCE PLUMBING Drain Cleaning Gas Line Water Leaks Fixtures • Licensed • Bonded • Insured M-37359 263-4973 or 517-0751</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings For rent/sale 810 E. 12th 1003, 1011 E. 11th</p>
<p>REPAIRS</p> <p>Sewing Machine Guy Steve REPAIR AND SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS (432) 935-6380 All Work Guaranteed</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>STORAGE</p> <p>AAA Mini-Storage 1/2 Off First Month No Deposit 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p>TAX SERVICES</p> <p>FAST CASH On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels (Across From Runnels) CALL (432) 264-6134 "Se Habla Espanol" "With RAL Approval"</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406</p>	<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>

Help Wanted

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:

Teacher Aide: Must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be able to attend training and participate in child development classes and occasionally attend out-of-town training.

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 30, 2007. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line 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 inquires 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.

PICK UP application at Holiday INN Express for housekeepers 9:00am-3:00pm.

NEED PART time salvage driver. Apply at The Salvation Army 811 West 5th.

NEW CHRISTIAN FM radio station needs full time community representative. Starts immediately. E-mail resume to 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.

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

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

POLLARD CHEVROLET is seeking a Finance & Insurance Sales person. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins.. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

Help Wanted

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PF/FT. 1-800-584-1775 Ext. 6901 USWA.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS

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

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.

WANTED EXPERIENCED electrician, must have a valid drivers license and be able to pass drug test. Must be willing to relocate to small West Texas town. Offering top pay and benefits. Send resumes c/o P.O. Box 1431/157, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

WANTED!!!

ARE YOU THE BEST? Can you make the grade? If so come apply.

Police Officer Certified \$14.40

Plant Operator \$12.12

Utility Service Worker \$9.94

Park Maintenance Worker \$9.94

Contact: Human Resources City of Big Spring Phone: 432-264-2346 Fax: 432-264-2387 www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

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

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

Items for Sale

12X24 GARAGE/STORAGE - Must Sell This Week! Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.

DEMO/ DISPLAY Hot Tub - 5 to 6 person. \$84.00 a month with approved credit. Delivery Available. 432-563-3108.

Lost and Found

FOUND IN Washington Blvd area. Old medium dog, cream colored, long-hair. Call (432)268-1705.

Miscellaneous

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

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

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$175.00. 432-349-4043.

BROWN COUCH for sale. Good Shape. \$50.00. Call (432)264-7988.

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

FRESH CROP of pecans. \$2.00 a lb., Shelled \$5.00 a lb. Call (432)263-8785.

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

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

Miscellaneous

LEATHER SOFA, loveseat, 3 pc Table set. New with lifetime Warranty. \$799. 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS CLOSEOUT

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

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

NEW CHERRY Sleigh bed \$259.00. Midland. Call 432-349-4043.

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

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

SLIGHTLY DAMAGED 8x12 Storage- 40 Year Warranty. Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.

WHY PAY Rent? 10X12 Storage Building from \$51.00 a month. Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.

Pets

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the Classified ads. Before investing money in a pet ad with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

ADORABLE AND Tiny Cassie is a little doll with her gorgeous babydoll face Yorkie!! She is an excellent display of her breed!! She had a great little personality and will mature to around 4 to 4.5#!! Current on all vaccines and dewormings and fully guaranteed. walter_walker101@yahoo.com

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

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

Real Estate for Rent

1706 JOHNSON. One bedroom, one bath, 5 month, \$100. **RENTED** Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

2 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 bath, unfurnished, large living room. \$325 a month plus utilities, \$200 security. 906 W. 4th St. Call (432)263-3820.

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

407 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

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

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

Real Estate for Sale

1319 MULBERRY 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2 COMMERCIAL Property at 1701 & 1703 Gregg Street. Great location on a busy street. 3 Offices, 4 storage rooms. Both Building \$140,000.00. Call Becky Gonzales Agent for RE/MAX Realtor Services 432-557-6278.

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

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

COAHOMA ISD, Brick 2 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath. CH/A, den, dining room, carport, fenced yard, 2 storage buildings on 1/2 acre. \$48,000.00. Call (432)393-5966.

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

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

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

Real Estate for Sale

MOBILE HOME, 2 year old doublewide, great area, carport, storage buildings, hot-tub. Excellent condition! Owner transferring, priced for quick sale! Serious inquires only! (432)213-3235, (432)213-0917.

OWNER FINANCE, \$4000 down. Four to choose from. Call (432) 264-9907.

OWNER FINANCING- Homes from \$49,900. Down payments of only 5%.

Open for Inspection- Every Sunday in February, 12 P.M.-5 P.M. tough credit OK. We know bad things can happen to good people. Get your credit back on track. Stop renting and enjoy full home ownership.

For a listing of homes available. Call 432-687-2696, ext. 4 or pick up a list at 1611 W. Texas Ave., Midland.

Vehicles

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From Huge Discounts!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7121

2000 SR5 Toyota 4 Runner SUV. \$10K. Black with gray leather. One Owner, 67,000 miles. Very Nice Condition. Call (432)213-1642.

2002 FORD Crew Cab. Power stroke, automatic. One Owner. 300,000 Miles, headache & grill guard, power seats and windows. Excellent condition. \$11,500.00. Call (432)213-0739.

2003 MERCURY Grand Marquis LS. Fully loader. Like New. 46k miles, \$15,795.00. Also have 2002 Dodge 2500 with Tommy lift. \$18,595.00. Both Garaged Keeped. (432)267-1556

97 PONTIAC Sunfire. 4 door, teal color, 67,000 mi. Real clean, runs food, garage kept. Call (432)263-8016.

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© Puzzles by Pappocoom
ANSWERS

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT Aethon LP, 5910 N. Central Expwy, Suite 1520, Dallas, TX 75206 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid in the Yates/Seven Rivers/Queen/Grayburg-San Andres Formation, Roberts, Dora, B.D. & E. Lease, Well Number 463U. The proposed injection well is located 1.75 miles SE of Forsan, Texas in the Howard Glasscock Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 1250 to 2673 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #5232 February 1, 2007

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM. Thursday, February 22, for the purchase of **Replacement Pipe for Inventory.**

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consist of supply and delivery of 18 to 42-inch diameter Bar-Wrapped Concrete Cylinder Pipe or Cement-Mortar Lined and Coated Steel Pipe. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721 during normal business hours.

Inquiries may be directed to **Cole Walker, P.E., Engineering Services Coordinator,** telephone (432)267-6341. #5218 January 25 and February 1 & 8, 2007

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT

Help STOP Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

BIG SPRING HERALD

710 Scurry • PO Box 1431 • Big Spring, TX 79721 • (432) 263-7331 • Fax 432-264-7205

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date: _____

CLASSIFIED AD

Write one word on each line:

Up to 25 words: ___ Sunday Only \$19.50 ___ One weekday only \$12.25 ___ Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 ___ Three Consecutive days \$20.25 ___ Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 ___ Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 ___ Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 ___ Two weeks \$51.00 ___ Three Weeks \$64.50 ___ Four weeks \$75.00 ___ Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75
Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

Enhancements Price per word for entire run: ___ **Bolding \$1.00** ___ **Centering \$1.00** ___ **Italics \$1.00**
Price for entire run: ___ **Blind Box \$10** ___ **Photo \$4.00** ___ **Graphics \$1.00** ___ **Logos \$1.00**

Prices include placement on Internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date _____ Classification: _____

DEADLINES: 12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.	CLASSIFICATIONS: Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals
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Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash ___ Money Order ___ Check
Credit Card# _____
Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____

Are you a subscriber: ___ Yes ___ No



BASIC ENERGY SERVICES

NOW HIRING

Due to our growth, we have a continuing need in our Big Spring field office for:

Rig Hands, Derrick Hands, Floor Hands & Operators

We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service, and paid holidays.

To learn more about specific opportunities, visit our Big Spring location at: **Basic Energy Services 2206 North Highway 87 Big Spring, Texas 79721**

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

In Greek mythology there are nine goddesses known as the Muses. But under the full Leo moon, an endless number of muses are among us. One for everyone? Certainly one at the very least. Consider who your creative influences have been in the past. For many, this is a time of trading up to a more inspiring muse than you've known.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The way you speak and listen conveys a great deal about you. Mercury

supports you as you hone this skill set. Every conversation is an opportunity to develop your listening and vocal skills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Diversity is necessary to do anything great now. Be daring. Work with people you don't understand. If what's important to you isn't important to your colleague, you'll make the perfect team.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your passion can't be bottled up. You spill your unreasonable heart to the person who tangles up your thoughts. Oh, well. Amore isn't logical. In fact, love kicks logic in the knees.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What you choose to focus on, however small it is, snowballs quickly into a big deal. Facts turn into

stories, which turn into theories, which turn into ideologies, which define nations. Choose carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Every relationship requires maintenance — some just a phone call once a month; others, constant supervision. Tending to these particular requirements is fruitful work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in the process of conquering a certain fear. It's not going to occur overnight, but continue on your path until you have a record of successful experiences behind you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Group dynamics are so "high school" now. People pair off, whisper and scheme. Cliques don't bother you

because you fit in with everyone, but be sensitive to those who aren't as secure as you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Unlikely pairings happen in business, creativity and romance. Attractions stretch across perceived boundaries. Even poverty and wealth are only temporary impediments to making a meaningful connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Becoming one way requires you to reject the way you were before. And what you're trying to avoid can be extremely magnetic. Tell yourself what you want, not what you don't want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's when you're not paying attention that someone sneaks into your consciousness with an

alarmingly beautiful dose of reality. An Aries person becomes the memory you can't erase.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Strangely, you feel more yourself with a certain someone than you do when you're by yourself. This relationship could become addictive. It's a good thing the feeling is mutual.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Improvements galore are featured, and the projects all seem to have one thing in common — your credit card. Cost estimates are high. Ask around. Friendly connections can hook you up with the best deals.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The youthful exuberance of Aquarius is commonly displayed with optimistic thoughts, technological

advancements and the sharing of new ideas. But Shakira seems to put her Aquarian-ness into her hips! Her unique blend of cultures, dances and musical styles makes her an electric performer and an interesting artist to watch. I see more successful producing and songwriting in her future.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have two sons — "Roger," who is married with three young children, and "Max," who has a baby. Max isn't married to the mother yet, but they live together and will be getting married soon. I consider her his wife. I love both the girls with all my heart.

The problem is, they are jealous of each other. They constantly claim that I favor one or the other and that I love "the other one's" kids more. I find this really annoying, and it also makes me very sad, because I love all four of my grandchildren equally and try to treat them the same. Roger's wife does not have any other family here, and Max's girlfriend was born and raised in this town, so she has a great support team. I probably spend a bit more time with Roger's kids, simply because their mother needs my help more often.

I am at the point now where I am afraid to even visit or call either of them for fear the other will get angry. This seems really petty to me, and I wish they would quit fighting over me like a dog with a bone. I know a lot of mothers-in-law might think this is wonderful, but it's not. Annie, how can I salvage our family closeness without losing my mind? — Mom in the Middle

Dear Mom in the Middle: These girls are using you to cement their position in the family. If you are truly making every effort to treat them equally, don't get into lengthy arguments defending yourself. Unless their complaints have merit, ignore them. Be polite, calm and kind at all times, and smile and change the subject when necessary. When they see you will not jump through hoops and they can't play you against each other, they will stop.

Dear Annie: I'm a 54-year-old divorced woman. A year ago, I met a very nice older man at a dance and we started dating. I thought 64 was too old for me, but I convinced myself that 10 years was not such a big deal. In three months, we were



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

engaged. Two months later, he told me that he is really 20 years my senior.

This came as a shock, and I don't know what to do because I love him. Since we've been together, things have been good, but I have started to notice signs of age, including memory loss, forgetfulness and physical problems. We are still engaged, but I can't see a bright future for us.

I'm taking care of my 84-year-old failing father right now and am terrified of becoming a caregiver for another old man in a few years. It would break his heart if we broke up. Please help me. — Conflicted in Massachusetts

Dear Conflicted: You have no way of knowing what your life will be like in the future, just as there are no guarantees that a younger man wouldn't become ill and require care. You are smart to recognize the problem, but the answer depends on how much you love him. Marriage vows are "in sickness and in health,"

regardless of age. If you would resent becoming his caregiver should the need arise, it would be a kindness to break it off.

Dear Annie: "Sleepless and Nervous" could have been me. She said she hides bills and debts from her husband, just like I did.

She may want to consider a psychological evaluation. The sleeplessness, anxiety, helplessness and depression, as well as the spending, may very well be due to bipolar disorder, which can be treated by a competent psychiatrist with a combination of medication and therapy. She can go to the National Institute of Mental Health website at www.nimh.nih.gov/health/information/bipolar-menu.cfm.

There is hope. Several years later, I am debt free, still married, have a successful career, and am able to enjoy every minute of parenting our beautiful children. — Grateful in Connecticut

Dear Grateful: Thank you for pointing out that some compulsive behaviors are indicative of bipolar disorder. We know our readers will find your advice helpful.

Dear Annie: I'm in my early 50s, having emigrated from London almost 11 years ago. I have six siblings, all of whom have settled down and remain comfortably married for over three decades.

Since arriving here, I have yet to receive a telephone call from my siblings, even though I have called them several times.

They send birthday and Christmas cards, but that's it. Of course, I've always been very independent and have learned to stand on my own two feet, but they are the opposite. They are so co-dependent on their partners that divorce would never be an option. They would sooner die first.

I have been very good to my nieces and nephews over the years. Should I put a stop to the calls? I tried it for almost a year, and they still did not bother to contact me. I'm the youngest — single and extremely happy that way. — F.M.

Dear F.M.: It isn't unusual for much older siblings to feel remote, especially if they are married with children and you are not. It isn't rejection. It's a matter of shared experiences growing up and having things in common. It sounds as if you've been trying to prove yourself to your siblings, and since you can't seem to get a rise out of them, you cast aspersions on their character. (Being comfortably married for three decades is not an indication of co-dependency problems.)

After all these years, it is unlikely that you will change the way your siblings relate to you, but it won't hurt to inform them (nicely) that you wish there were more contact from their end. They won't know if you don't tell them.

Dear Annie: I read your column every day to learn American customs. I would like to know the

proper way of addressing an envelope.

Is it OK to write just the last name, like "Mr. Smith"? What if their last name is very unusual? How about addressing a family? Can I address it to "The Smith Family," or do I need to say "Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Family"? What if they have no children?

And last, when is the proper period to send Christmas cards? — Want to Know

Dear Want to Know: Address envelopes with "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith," using the first name as well as the last. Some women object to being addressed by their husband's first name, and prefer "Ms. Jane Smith and Mr. John Smith" on the envelope, each with its own line. This is OK, too. For the entire family, formal address (i.e., wedding invitations) requires that you use the full name of the parents, followed by the full name of each child living in the house (adult children get separate invitations), but informal address (i.e., Christmas cards) allows for "The Smith Family" or any variation of that. If a couple has no children, it would be inappropriate to use "family" unless they live with other relatives. You can send Christmas cards from Thanksgiving to New Year's. Hope that covers everything.

Dear Annie: This is for "Still Young," whose 71-year-old mother took on a part-time job. Some of Mom's children object.

Young people worry about us "doing too much," but the real problem is, we don't have enough to do.

If a job is too difficult, our bodies will make us quit, not our kids. I am 72 and drove my pick-up from Austin, Texas, to Rapid City, Iowa, last April. I went to work in a local truck stop, was a waitress for five months, and when it started to kill my feet, I quit. But the exercise was great, and I have met women here in their 90s who can work circles around me. When it comes to work, people should set their own limits, regardless of age. — F.W.

Dear F.W.: People half that age can have a tough time being on their feet for that length of time. We are impressed.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

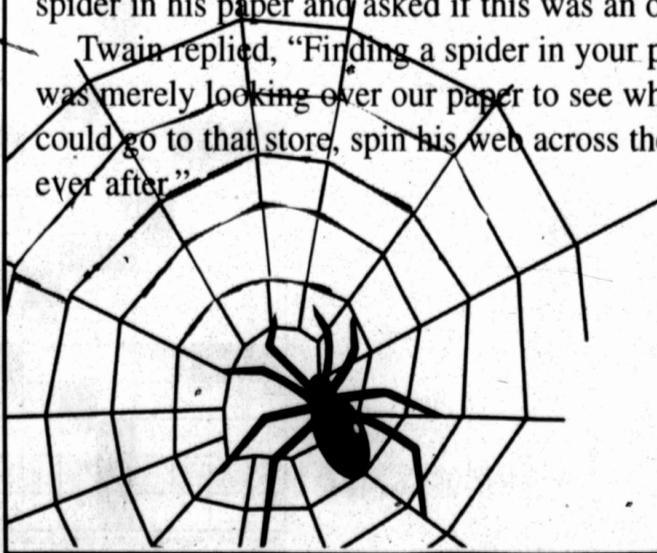
Discover Another World, Read! You never know what you might find.

The Spider

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

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

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



ATTENTION THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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THURSDAY

Table with 28 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for the day of Thursday, February 1, 2007.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If you lived on the moon, you wouldn't have to worry about how much you weigh."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I wouldn't want to be home-schooled. I wouldn't have any girls to talk to."

HAGAR



I THINK SNERT WANTS YOU TO THROW HIM A BONE

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THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2007. There are 333 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its crew members. On this date: In 1861, Texas voted to secede from the Union. In 1896, Puccini's opera 'La Boheme' premiered in Turin. In 1920, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police came into existence. In 1943, one of America's most highly decorated military units of World War II, the 442nd Central Postal Directory, made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans, was authorized. In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie was chosen to be the first secretary-gen-

eral of the United Nations. In 1960, four black college students began a sit-in protest at a lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., where they'd been refused service. In 1968, during the Vietnam War, Saigon's police chief (Nguyen Ngoc Loan) executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured by Associated Press photographer Eddie Adams and NBC News. In 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile. In 1982, 25 years ago, 'Late Night with David Letterman' premiered on NBC. In 1991, 34 people were killed when a U.S. Air jetliner crashed atop a commuter plane on a runway at Los Angeles International Airport. Ten years ago: Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said he would open a 'preliminary dialogue' with rebels holding 72 hostages in Lima, but again rejected their main demand that the government release their jailed comrades. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Herb Caen died in San Francisco at age 80. Today's Birthdays: Actor Stuart Whitman is 79. Former Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin is 76. Singer Don Everly is 70. Actor Garrett Morris is 70. Singer Ray Sawyer (Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show) is 70. Actor Sherman Hemsley is 69. Bluegrass singer Del McCoury is 68. Jazz musician Joe Sample is 68. Comedian Terry Jones is 65. Actor-writer-producer Bill Mummy is 53.

Newsday Crossword

FOUR-H CLUB by Janet R. Bender Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Answer to previous puzzle: VERGE GRAB RACK OCEAN RULE ASHE WHATAMIBID SKIN SOMEBODY SCENT LAS SALAD SACHET ALFALFA PLAID QUERY OLD ROLE OUTDO FRAY YUL STIRS SLIME DIGNITY PHOTOS TEASE NOR CLANG PELICANS AIDE WELCOMEMAT GEAR AMOR PLUME ENYA DUDS STREW

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'BIG SPRING', 'S', 'c', 'm', 'De', 'to', 'By TH', 'Staff', 'A se', 'made', 'gation', 'year-o', 'Dicki', 'dead l', 'munit', 'Kirk', 'was ta', 'Angel', 'with', 'his all', 'death.', 'Flam', 'appro', 'after', 'FI', 'CO', 'Va', 'By TH', 'Staff', 'Brad', 'That', 'state a', 'as the', 'into i', 'with', 'being', 'childr', 'of tim', '"I've', 'the fl', 'childr', 'of tim', 'Dr. Cy', 'cian', 'Center', 'sympt', 'high', 'degree', 'We're', 'ing, l', 'prevai', 'sympt', 'And', 'alread', 'flu se', 'Octob', 'IN', 'Class', 'Featu', 'Obitu', 'Opini', 'Sports', 'To r', 'Pleas', 'a.m.', 'If you', '263-7', 'noon', '160