MONDAY

January 31, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 27°-30° 37°-40°

BRIEFLY

Deadline nears for banquet tickets

Time has run out to get tickets for the Big Spring Area chamber of Commerce Banquet at a discounted price.

Tickets are \$20 each if purchased before Tuesday. Otherwise, they will be \$25. No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Friday. The banquet is set for Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Guest speaker will be David P. Rumbager, president and CEO of the Tupelo, Miss., Community Development Foundation.

For tickets, contact the chamber qat 215 W. Third or by phone at 263-7641.

INSIDE

Facing a foe that can break bones

Osteoporosis affects the everyday lives of millions of Americans, sometimes long before they reach the age when bone thinning typically appears. To fight it, many people are making daily changes in their diets and exercise routines, as well as taking medication to try to restore their bone density. Four of those stories can be found on Page 5A.

Personal income

posts record rise

Personal income, boosted by a large dividend payment from computer software giant Microsoft Corp., shot up by a record 3.7 percent during the month of December.

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Vol. 101, No. 55

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Millions of Iraqis cast their ballots

Iragi interim leader calls for countrymen to forget differences

By JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraq's interim leader called on his countrymen to set aside their differences Monday while jubilant Iraqis sifted through millions of ballots, tallying the results of a vote they hoped would usher in democracy and lead to the departure of 150,000 American troops.

There were fears that not everyone would accept Sunday's results. Sunni participation was considerably lower than other groups, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity. That raised fears that Sunni radicals who drive Iraq's insurgency could grow ever more alienated.

Exact figures were not available, but few voters visited polls in Sunni areas during Sunday's election.

Despite fears of growing violence, the nation was calm Monday as vehicles again wove their way down Baghdad's streets after an election day ban on most traffic. Still, the city's main bridges were blocked, indicating some security was still in place. On Sunday, a string of insurgent attacks and eight suicide bombings killed 44 people.

See IRAQ. Page 3A



KRT photo/Paul Assaker

An Iraqi man drops his ballot into a clear plastic ballot box in the Jadiryah district of Baghdad on Sunday. Millions of other Iraqis went to the polls Sunday to cast ballots in the first free election held in more than 30 years. See BUSH, Page 3A

Bush calls election success, promises to continue help

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - President Bush called the Iraqi election a success resounding promised that the United States will help Iraqis fight continuing insurgency as they build a demo-. cratic government.

"There's more distance to travel on the road to democracy," Bush said Sunday, four hours after the polls closed. "Yet Iraqis are proving they're equal to the challenge."

The president mentioned that some were killed while voting, but he focused his brief remarks on the success for Iraq and its citizens. He told of one voter who lost a leg in a terrorist attack last year but still made it to the polls to vote for peace.

"The world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East," Bush said. "In great numbers, and under great risk, Iraqis have shown their commitment to democracy."

He called the leaders of three key U.S. allies in the Middle East King Abdullah of Jordan, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt — Sunday

in taxes

Not surprisingly, ALON USA leads county taxpayers

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Alon USA Refinery continues to be Howard County's largest taxpayer, according to figures released by the county tax office.

The figures, which lists the top taxpayers among the county's 11 taxing entities, shows the refinery leading the way by a considerable margin.

The refinery shows a top total taxable value of just under \$77.9 million, more than \$30 million more than the top taxable value listed for Crownquest Operating LLC, which is second on the list at \$40.5 million.

The remainder of the county's top 10 taxpayers, with taxable value, are: ConocoPhillips Company (\$32 million), Aethon I LP (\$30.8 million), Texas Big Spring LP (\$28.5 million), Western Container Corp. (\$28.3 million), Anadarko Petroleum Corp. (\$24.06 million), Sid Richardson Carbon Ltd. (\$21.55 million), Oncor Electric Delivery Co. (\$21.46 mil-

See TOPS, Page 6A

THE GIFT OF LIFE



Cindy Lopez, director of marketing at Comanche Trail Nursing Center, relaxes while UBS Donor Care Specialist Jeff Pickering gets her ready to donate blood Friday afternoon. Several blood drives are scheduled in the Big Spring area in February. From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday a blood drive will take place in the Rip Griffin Truck and Travel Center. From 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Feb. 17 a blood drive is set at the VA Medical Center. And the last opportunity to donate blood in February is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Wal-Mart Feb. 21.

Sales tax rebates up to start new year

☐ Howard County enjoys 5.24 percent increase comparing January 2005 to January 2004.

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Big Spring received \$293,864.05 in sales tax rebates to start the new year, up slightly from a January 2004, according to the

Texas State Comptroller's Office. January rebates for the Howard County seat compare to \$279,224.67 a year ago, up 5.24 percent. Since a new year has begun, the year-to-date total is

January.

Coahoma received just \$3,050.16 this month, a 24.67 percent decrease when compared to the \$\$4,049.31 received in January 2004. It is not uncommon for large decreases and increases

throughout the year. Case in point is Forsan, which saw an increase of 156.49 percent. Forsan counted up \$7,033.32 this month, which compares to \$2,742.08 a year ago. The city had enjoyed a 39.93 increase for 2004

and that frend continues. Abilene received \$2,033,393.10 for January, an 8.62 percent increase compared to the

the same as the monthly total for \$1,871,970.02 the city received in January 2004.

Andrews took in \$67,320.20, an increase of 16.07 percent when compared to the \$57,999.52 received the same month in 2004. Brownfield received an

smaller communities to witness increase of 7.67 percent, comparing this January's rebates of \$55,354.53 to last January's rebates of \$51,409.53.

Colorado City had a 2.42 perincrease. comparing \$30,259.35 for January 2005 to \$29,544.07 for January 2004.

Stockton received \$106,148:27 this month, a 7.54 percent increase when compared to the \$98,699.99 received a year

Kermit took in \$25,891.35 this month, an increase of 10.64 percent when compared to the \$23,400.24 taken in for January

Lamesa received \$61,662.70, an increase of 3.32 percent compared to the \$59,678.68 received in January of 2004.

Rebates of \$2,897,628.69 came in to Lubbock this month. That's a 32.43 percent increase compared to the \$2,188,030.04 the city received in January 2004.

Midland enjoyed an increase of 18,78 percent this month, com-\$1,763,904.59° \$1,485,515.75 for January 2004.

See REBATES, Page 6A

Obituaries

Reba Fox

Reba Fox, 81, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

□ BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COM-MERCE BANQUET is set for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The guest speaker is David P. Rumbarger, president and CEO of Community Development Foundation of Tupelo, Miss. The program also includes the announcement of the 2004 Man and Woman of the year. Tickets are \$25 in advance and no tickets will be sold at the door. Call the chamber at 263-7641.

☐ HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

□ LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning Wednesday. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

☐ HERITAGE MUSEUM is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

□ YELLOWDOG DARE DEVILS RELAY FOR LIFE FUND-RASIER offers individual-sized, heartshaped cakes with a Valentine's message for \$4. Order and prepay before Feb. 9. Call the bus barn at 264-4108.

☐ FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefis the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR 6-WEEK-OLD MAGGIE VASQUEZ TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. She is the daughter of Susan Vasquez and Steve Nail of Big Spring. Maggie was born prematurely and suffers from kidney failure. She remains in Dallas Children's Hospital undergoing daily dialysis treatment until the transplant match is found and the surgery performed. The account number at the bank is 9013091. For more information, contact Parks Convienent Store at 263-4498 or Denise 816-1539.

TRELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ is 10 a.m. Feb. 19, 2005, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, sponsored by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life Team. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third and KBST 608 Johnson. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, 2005. Any boy or girl between the ages of 1 day old to 11 years may participate.

☐ A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best, to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

Weather

Today — Patchy fog in the morning. Cloudy with a 20 percent Chance of rain or drizzle. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds around 10 mph.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain or snow in the evening, then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds around 10 mph. The chance of precipitation is 20 per-

Tuesday — Mostly cloudy with light snow likely. Snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds up to 10 mph becoming light and variable. The chance of snow is 70 percent.

Tuesday night — Cloudy with light snow likely. Additional light snow accumulations. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of snow is 60 percent.

Wednesday - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the

Thursday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower

Friday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

problem. If you or a loved one had any of these problem toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free con

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night:

for Structured Settler

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m.

· SANDY SHEIKH, 22, 3304 W. Hwy. 80, was arrested on Tarrant County warrants.

 PAUL ROSS, 43, 705 S. Abrams St., was arrested on a charge of theft.

• JERMAINE SAVAGE, 33, 1502 Lincoln St., was arrested on local warrants.

• MISTY TWILLIGEAR, 30, 447 Armstrong, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

· JASON WAYNE CAREY, 23, 1804 Settles St., was arrested on local warrants.

· CLORESSA EASLEY, 40, 1006 E. 14th St., was arrested on Gillespie County warrants. · CHRISTOPHER CLARK, 18, no address given,

was arrested on a charge of theft. • VERONICA RODRIGUEZ, 18, 1002 N. Main St.,

was arrested on Howard County warrants. · DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID/SUS-

PENDED was reported on the 2800 block of FM 700, ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported on

the 3300 block of W. Highway 80. ASSAULT was reported on the 1500 block of

· BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported on the 1500 block of Kentucky and the 900 block of Sixth

· BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported on the 3200 block of W. Highway 80.

 CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported on the 1800 block of Gregg and the 1600 block of Gregg.

· THEFT was reported on the 1800 block of Gregg (twice); the 900 block of Willia; the 300 block of Gregg; the 400 block of Birdwell (twice); the 2600 block of Gregg; the 1800 block of FM 700; the 3300 block of FM 700; and the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m.

· JUDY DIANE REED, 50, was arrested on a charge of injury to the elderly.

· JEREMY JACOB ROBERTSON, 28, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on a charge of aggravated sexual assault

 LESLYE DAWN SCHULZE, 42, was transferred from the BSPD after her arrest on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

 KAREN ANN LOPEZ, 27, was transferred from the BSPD after her arrest on a charge of theft.

 BRANDON JOE ROBINSON, 38, began serving sentence after his conviction on charges of burglary of

· LISA GALE GAMBLE, 40, was arrested on a charge of forgery.

 BRUCE WAYNE JEFFCOAT, 37, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on charges of driving while license invalid.

• CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL PACE, was arrested on a charge of indecency with a child.

· MIGUEL ANGEL BAEZA, 46, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• CHRISTOPHER WADE CLARK, 18, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a building.

· VERONICAL LEEAN RODRIGUEZ, 18, transferred from the BSPD after her arrest on a charge of criminal trespass.

· CLORESSA EASLEY, 40, was transferred from the

BSPD after her arrest on a charge of theft. · JASON CAREY, 23, was arrested on a motion to

revoke probation for theft under \$500.

 ASSAULT was reported on Interstate 20 and West Highway 80.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Sunday:

 MEDICAL was reported on the 700 block of W. Interstate 20.

PUBLIC SERVICE was reported on the 2700 block

of Lynn Street.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on the 700

block of W. Interstate 20.

• STRUCTURE FIRE was reported on the 300 block

of E. Fourth Street.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-18-19-22-37. Bonus Ball:

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$5 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 17-19-22-29-30. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

· Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

 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. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

 Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

· Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome. · Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at

606 E. Third. TUESDAY

· Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-

· 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. · A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-

4835 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. with special guest singers from Midland

and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome. · Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library,

• Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

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

· Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

· Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

 Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in

the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

· Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

· Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet

· Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267

· Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

· Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

· Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

· AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. · Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the

Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. · Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western

dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

 Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third. Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

SPRING www.bigspringherald.com

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Susanne Reed John A. Mosel

The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association

Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Chris Day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 m yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12:50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 els

BIG SPRING H Monday, Jan

By MARTIN CR

AP Economics \ WASHINGTO Personal incom by a large div ment from con ware giant Corp., shot up 3.7 percent in That helped to sumer spendi the all-importa season by 0.8 p

The Department Monday that t gain would ha smaller 0.6 December wi one-time \$3 per idend paymen

BUSH

Continued from I

afternoon to building on the tion and to democracy a Palestinians.

Insurgents struck pollin with a string bombings and leys, killing m people. Bush a mourned the l and British for tion day, inclu killed when a l itary transp crashed.

"Terrorists gents will co wage their w democracy, ar support the In in their figl them," Bush will continue Iraqi security this rising den eventually tak bility for its o

Bush did not tions from re

Continued from

The election certainly brin the country's pressed Shiite who make up of Iraq's boosting the gr ence and worr

boring coun

Sunni majoriti Iraqi inter Minister Ay addressed thos by saying he w a national d guarantee tha of all Iraqis ar

the coming go In his first n ence since the called on Irac together tow saying: "The now know tha not win."

"We are ente era of our his Iraqis - wh voted or not stand side by s their future, adding: "Now time for us together so tha world can wat bilities of this try."

Final Sunday's elec expected for d country is alr ing on goals challenging a tion itself: for governing coa writing a cons winning trust The elector

First Friday

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based on anec

Personal incomes jump record 3.7 percent in December

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Personal income, boosted by a large dividend payment from computer software giant Microsoft Corp., shot up by a record 3.7 percent in December. That helped to boost consumer spending during the all-important holiday season by 0.8 percent.

Commerce The Department reported Monday that the income gain would have been a smaller 0.6 percent in December without the one-time \$3 per share dividend payment Microsoft

made on Dec. 2. Even that incomes increased by 5.4 reduced figure would have been an improvement over the 0.4 percent rise in personal incomes in November.

The higher incomes gave a boost to consumer spending which rose at twice the rate of a 0.4 perincrease cent November. It was the best showing since a similar 0.8 percent increase in spending in October. After adjusting for infla-rose by 6.1 percent last America's trade deficit. tion, consumer spending year, the best showing was up 0.9 percent last since a 7.3 percent month, the best showing advance in 2000. Spending in five months.

For all of 2004, personal last year.

percent, the largest annual advance since an 8 percent jump in 2000, the last full year of the decadelong economic expansion. Since the 2001 recession and an extended jobless recovery. personal incomes have grown at much smaller rates of 3.5 percent in 2001, 1.8 percent in 2002 and 3.2 per-

Consumer spending huge had been up 5.2 percent

cent in 2003.

Economists watch consumer spending since it accounts for twothirds of total economic activity.

The government reported Friday that the economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.1 percent in the final three months of the year, the slowest performance since early 2003, as strong consumer spending was offset by a widening

For all of 2004, however,

slightly in the current year under the impact of rising interest rates.

Federal Reserve policymakers will hold their first meeting of 2005 on Tuesday and Wednesday and it is widely expected they will boost rates by another quarter-point as they continue a gradual credit tightening campaign in an effort to ensure that inflation does not get out of control.

The government report the economy grew by 4.4 on incomes and spending percent, and that was the showed that after-tax best showing in five incomes rose by 4 percent years. Analysts believe in December, also helped

closely growth will moderate by the Microsoft dividend payment. The amount of income that Americans had left over after taxes climbed by just 0.4 percent in November.

The big jump in aftertax incomes helped boost the personal savings rate to 3.4 percent in December, compared to 0.3 percent in November.

The savings rate for the whole year totaled just 1 percent. That was the smallest annual rate since the Depression year of 1933 when personal savings dipped into negative territory of minus 1.5 percent.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

afternoon to talk about building on the Iraqi election and to support democracy among the Palestinians.

Insurgents in Iraq struck polling stations with a string of suicide bombings and mortar volleys, killing more than 40 people. Bush also said he mourned the loss of U.S. and British forces on election day, including troops killed when a British military transport plane crashed.

"Terrorists and insurgents will continue to wage their war against democracy, and we will support the Iraqi people in their fight against them," Bush said. "We will continue training Iraqi security forces so this rising democracy can eventually take responsibility for its own securi-

Bush did not take questions from reporters or withdrawal.

L. Paul Bremer, the former U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq, said Monday the elections were "a great victory for the Iraqi people, for democracy and for the president's message of freedom." He said that while the insurgents, "since they are antidemocratic, won't respect the results of these democratic elections," violence was likely to continue. .

"But gradually they're going to lose, Bremer now and negotiate fursaid on NBC's "Today" show. "The balance of Kennedy added. power is towards democracy now in Iraq."

Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, were stepping up their calls for an exit strategy Iraq. Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said in remarks prepared for delivery Monday that Bush "needs to spell out a real and understandable plan for the unfinished work ahead" in Iraq.

mention any military exit strategy so that we know what victory is and how we can get there; so that we know what we need to do and so that we know when the job is done."

Edward Sen. Kennedy, D-Mass, said Bush "must look beyond the election" and start

"The best way to demonther

On Sunday, Secretary of

So far, more than 1,400 U.S. troops and many thousands of Iraqis have lost their lives. The "Most of all, we need an United States is spending measures.

bringing troops home.

strate to the Iraqi people that we have no long-term designs on their country is for the administration to withdraw some troops withdrawals,

State Condoleezza Rice would not say whether U.S. forces will leave the country in great numbers after the vote. She said the United States will discuss the continued need . for outside security forces more than \$1 billion a with the newly elected Iraqi government.

KRT photo/Debble Vanstory/ABACA Press Security gas tight at the polling location in Irvine, Calif., Friday as Iragi expatriates voted throughout the United States in suburbs of Chicago; Detroit; Washington, D.C.; Nashville;

and Los Angeles.

week in Iraq. Rice said the election lion went better than expected, but did not elaborate on U.S. predictions for turnout, violence or other

for days.

In Iraq, officials said turnout among the 14 mileligible voters appeared higher than the 57 percent they had predicted. Complete voting results are not expected

international

immediately

Polls were largely deserted all day in many cities of the Sunni Triangle. In Baghdad's mainly Sunni Arab area of Azamiyah, the neighborhood's four polling centers did not open.

process again. Iraq's interior minister, Falah al-Naqib, said Monday that insurgents used a handicapped child for one of Sunday's suicide bombings. He added that a total of 38 attacks were carried out against polling stations across the

country. plane crash was given.

British officials told The Associated Press that between nine and 15 people were killed, with the toll likely to be around 10. Among the dead was the first Australian serviceman killed on military duty in Iraq: flight Lt. Paul Pardoel, 35, a father of three with joint British and Australian citizen-

ship. In an Internet statement, the Iraqi militant group Ansar al-Islam claimed responsibility for downing the aircraft.

The ticket endorsed by Shiite the Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was favorite, while Allawi's slate was also considered strong. Once results are in, it could take weeks of backroom deals before a prime minister and government are picked by the new assembly.

draw in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, allowing 150,000 U.S. troops to head home.

Foreign manent government in With the polls barely handle the job them December. If the docuclosed, ment is rejected, Iraqis debate will repeat the whole turned to just that issue.

> On Monday, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid plans to call on Bush to outline an exit strategy for Iraq. And Downer said his country will keep troops only if the country's newly elected government wants them. Iraq's interior minister,

Falah al-Naqib, told No official cause for the Britain's Channel 4 News he expected there would be no need for U.S. troops any longer than 18 months because that's when he anticipates Iraq's security forces will be trained well enough to

selves. Allawi said recently that it was premature to know when Iraqi troops would be ready.

And in comments to CBS' "Face The Nation," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would not say whether U.S. forces would leave the country in great numbers now that the vote is complete.

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IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

The election will almost certainly bring to power the country's long-suppressed Shiite Muslims, who make up 60 percent of Iraq's population, boosting the group's influence and worrying neighboring countries with Sunni majorities. Iraqi interim Prime

Minister Ayad Allawi addressed those concerns by saying he would "begin a national dialogue to guarantee that the voices of all Iragis are present in the coming government." In his first news confer-

ence since the election, he called on Iraqis to work together toward peace, saying: "The terrorists now know that they cannot win."

"We are entering a new era of our history and all Iraqis — whether they voted or not - should stand side by side to build their future," he said, adding: "Now is a suitable time for us to work together so that the whole world can watch the capabilities of this great country."

Final results Sunday's election aren't expected for days, but the country is already focusing on goals almost as challenging as the election itself: forming a new governing coalition, then writing a constitution and winning trust.

The electoral commission said it believed, based on anecdotal infor-

all among the estimated 14 million eligible Iraqi voters appeared higher than the 57 percent, or roughly 8 million, that had been predicted before the vote. It would be some time before any precise turnout figure was confirmed, they said.

Not even the country's frequent power outages could stop the electoral process, the first free vote in a half-century. In the Shiite holy city of Najaf, election workers began their task crouched on the ground, counting ballots by the glow of oil lamps.

Voters were delighted. "Now I feel that Saddam is really gone," said Fatima Ibrahim, smiling as she headed home after voting in Irbil, in the Kurdish northern region. She was 14 and a bride of just three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up in a campaign of ethnic cleansing under Saddam Hussein. None have ever been found.

It was still unclear if the successful vote would deal a significant blow to the insurgents, or lead to a short-term rise in violence. The militants might need time to regroup after the spate of attacks they launched in the weeks before the vote.

The election was hailed as a success around the globe, with President Bush declaring: "The world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East."

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mation, that turnout over- Australian Minister Alexander Downer said Iraqis showed "the courage to stand up to (violence) and we should support them."

In Europe, both opponents and supporters of the Iraq war came together to praise the election, and the European Union's foreign policy chief said the milestone would pay off with more aid.

"They are going to find support of the European Union, no doubt about that, in order to see this process move on in the right direction," Javier Solana told The Associated Press.

Some cautioned that it was too early to declare the election a total suc-New cess. Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff said a low Sunni turnout could still impact the new government's ability to bring the frail nation under its control:

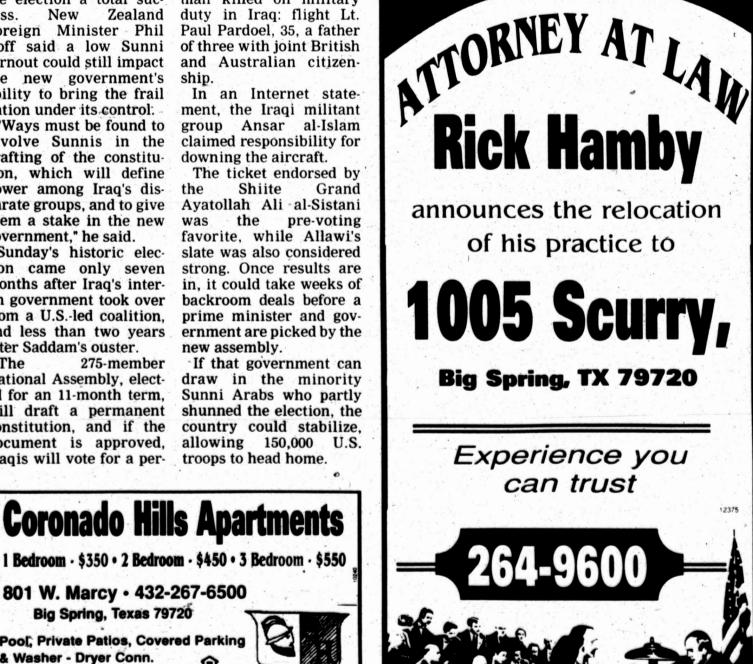
"Ways must be found to involve Sunnis in the drafting of the constitution, which will define power among Iraq's disparate groups, and to give them a stake in the new government," he said.

Sunday's historic election came only seven months after Iraq's interim government took over from a U.S.-led coalition, and less than two years after Saddam's ouster.

275-member The National Assembly, elected for an 11-month term, will draft a permanent constitution, and if the document is approved, Iraqis will vote for a per-

& Washer - Dryer Conn.

2-3 Bedroom



"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.

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

'Be Prepared' to help Scouts feed the needy

Your local Boy Scouts are asking you to "Be Prepared" this Saturday when they hold their annual Good Turn for America Food Drive and you can prepare for it this week by getting a few non-perishable food items together.

To help you Scouts are delivering bags to homes throughout the community. But those bags aren't the important thing. Even if your the Scouts somehow miss dropping by a bag, you can still take part by using any bag, box or sack, What is important is your participation.

Each year, the Since pounds of food to be be sent to ally in the second munity. It's an important energy or, and one we can all be proud of. It helps teach these young men responsibility to others and reminds us there are many others out there much worse off financially than we are.

So we are asking that you take the time to gather together cans, bags or boxes of food anything that won't spoil will be acceptable. Then on Saturday morning, places your bag or box full of food on your doorstep or in a visible place outside your home.

If you forget to place the bag outside or would rather not do that, then bring this, the collection point, which will be set up at the case at care of the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

So, "Be Prepared." Be prepared to help our Scouts and those who are less fortunate than yourself.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we pray on and live on for You, Lord.

Look how we're spending our dollars

he man on the nightly news is telling me that the Bush administration is asking Congress for an additional \$80 billion in "emergency" spending, most of which will go to fight the war in Iraq.

OPINION

ROGER

SIMON

This means a war that has been costing us about \$1 billion per week will cost even more, with no end in sight.

Several stories later, the man on the news tells me that while all U.S. passenger airliners are highly vulnerable to terrorist attack in this country by shoulder-fired missiles, the cost of installing an anti-missile system

According to a Rand Corp. study, installing anti-missile technology on U.S. passenger airliners would cost \$11 billion and about \$2.1 billion per year to maintain. So, obviously, we can't afford it.

on our airliners is "prohibitively".

The man on the nightly news does not link these stories. But I think we should:

For the cost of about four months of the Iraq war, we could start to protect every flyer in America from missile attack. (No anti-missile system is perfect,

obviously. But it would be better than nothing, which is what we have now.)

But we can't afford to spend the money at home, because we've got to spend the money in Iraq on what even the Bush administration admits was a mistaken war (i.e., we thought Saddam Hussein had massive stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and was an imminent threat to use them, which was not true.)

Another mistake was the belief we could pay for the war, the occupation and the rebuilding of Iraq through Iraqi oil revenues. This has turned out to be an illusion.

And, hey, remember how we were going to get a whole bunch of "allies" to help out in Iraq by sending both troops and money? This turned out to be an illusion

The U.S. taxpayer is footing the bill for Iraq and will continue to

Why is it costing so much? A "senior administration official" told reporters, "There is no question that (the insurgents), with relatively small expenditures, are proving themselves to be able to force us into much larger ones.' Can anybody say: Vietnam?

This is a very chilling statement. It means that the insurgents who lack the air power, armored vehicles, artillery, laser-guided

weapons, electronic surveillance, etc., etc., that we have - have considerable power over us. Through "relatively small expenditures," they can force the United States to spend billions and bil-

Want one example? Out of the \$80 billion in new spending that President Bush is asking for, \$1 billion will go to detect roadside

The roadside bombs cost the insurgents virtually nothing. Most were stolen from huge arms depots that U.S. troops - who were spread very thin - failed to guard after our invasion of Iraq.

So for those keeping score, the insurgents, who show no signs of giving up anytime soon, are forcing the United States to spend billions abroad that we should be spending at home.

Does this make sense to any-

Of course we have to protect our troops. But one way of protecting them is to force the Iraqis to take responsibility for fighting for their own country so our troops can return to theirs.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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What do we do after the love is gone

That went wrong? It's the question spurned lovers and political parties must ask when 've lost their prize. And how to go on? Last weekend.

Democrats convened in Sacramento, Calif., to begin to

answer that question at a forum with the seven candidates to serve as the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Did they care too much or not enough? For this go-round, the loss is an especially bitter pill for many activists because they went down under the leadership of a man.

who voted in support of a war they despised.

DEBRA

SAUNDERS

It's hard to lose. It's really a killer when you lose after selling out. Hence, the heavy support for Howard Dean in a room filled with Western Dems, in the neighborhood of Moveon.org.

The big divide in this race is between realists and idealists, centrists versus leftists, or, if you will, those who think the party is too liberal and those who think the party isn't liberal enough. (Except they don't use the Lword.)

Former U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer of Indiana, who is anti-abortion, former U.S. Rep. Martin Frost of Texas, Donnie Fowler, son of a former DNC chair, and Simon Rosenberg of the New Democrat Network all walked on the centrist side. Dean, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and former Ohio Democratic Chairman David Leland advocated for a more leftleaning DNC. (Leland, for example, complained that there are "too many primaries." He preferred

more caucuses filled with activists to pick Democratic nominees.)

After the forum, I shared a taxi to the train station with three Bay Area activists, all Deaniacs. I couldn't disagree with them more on the issues — one actually was angry at Sen. John Kerry for conceding Ohio. But at least they had deeply held beliefs, and they had every right to be angry that their party lost the White House without a real debate on the war in

If the Democrats had nominated an anti-war candidate, at least there would have been a debate on the war, instead of the niggling Kerry distinctions about how Bush waged the war.

The odd thing, I mention to them: I heard the word "Iraq" only once - spoken by Roemer - during the DNC forum. The candidates did mention Iraq during a breakfast meeting, they said. California Democratic Party bad boy Bob Mulholland noted that Iraq wasn't the focus because the race for chairman is about who can run the trains on time, not ideology.

In that spirit, sort of, there were two words I heard a lot during the forum: The real enemy is not Iraqi insurgents but Karl Rove, the GOP bogeyman. Rove, damn him, sold the Bush agenda to 51 percent of the electorate.

It's funny how the Democrats denounced the GOP evil genius, as they suggested that they could be Rove but better. So they treated issues as if issues were packaging, not ideas with consequences. Rosenberg noted the party's need to "revitalize our message."

Hence, the de-emphasis on Iraq. Sacramento-based Democratic strategist Roger Salazar supports Fowler because he believes the party has to move to the center. You have to have a broader

appeal than just the base." he said. And: "The sooner we sober up, the sooner we'll take back control of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave."

The rub: It was that thinking that prompted Democrats to nominate John Kerry, who voted for a war most Democrats opposed and went on to lose the general elec-

Political consultant Katie Merrill warned that it is a mistake for observers to judge the race for chairman based on the reaction of activists. Only 65 DNC members in the room, and some 440 nationally, will vote for the chairman on Feb. 12. The DNC members will be looking for a solid nuts-and-bolts chairman.

She added that while California might lean heavily toward Dean. Democrats in the South and Midwest want Anyone But Dean. And that A.B.D. push, I think, is about issues and message. The two most prominent Beat-

Dean Dems are Fowler and Frost. Fowler summed up the A.B.D. argument when he told the

Associated Press, "Dean had the oranges, but he couldn't make orange juice." What does that even mean?

The real question is: Does it matter if you win, if you lose what you stand for? No candidate really addressed the delicate balance involved in making orange juice that appeals to a lot of people and with real oranges. To the extent that this is not a contest of ideas, it doesn't matter who wins.

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

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BIG SPRING HE

Monday, Janu

By SHERRY JAC

The Dallas Morn DALLAS Osteoporosis a everyday lives o of Americans, s long before they age when bone typically appear it, many people ing daily change diets and exer tines, as well medication to restore their be ty. Here are for stories.

JAN DELIPSE Despite no far ry of osteopor Delipsey is wary of the dise

"Some of the my family are that it may ha off their os problems," reas year-old Dallas gist. In fact, str shown that o women tend to stronger bone although they suffer cardiova sequences, incl blood pressure cholesterol.

Delipsey ha been healthy b - 5 foot 2 and 11 made her a lik date for bone And she was i worried.

Eighteen mor bone scan sh she was losing bone mass - 18 her hip bones cent of her spin a healthy diet a exercise. The her among the 34 million Ame have osteopen that describes are less dense, ile and more fracture, eve small amount People with are at risk f osteoporosis.

So Delipsey needed to do regular aerobi skiing in the w riding in the s taking care of horses on the Nine months hired a perso at Baylor's T **Fitness Center** into the wei With superv began workin weights an machines, h only to build i also to regain

little by little. "It's work," the two-hour r starts her d three times a older women with weight working at i doing bicep cu pound barbel lot more ener workout."

She also tak dose of Fosar that can re mass. And s more attentio cium consur says, by dri and eating lov "I used to

those things, Gale's Swe

Hrs. Mon-Fri.

NEWPRO NOW THAT BUSIN

Facing a foe that breaks bones

By SHERRY JACOBSON

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS Osteoporosis affects the everyday lives of millions of Americans, sometimes long before they reach the age when bone thinning typically appears. To fight it, many people are making daily changes in their diets and exercise routines, as well as taking medication to try to restore their bone density. Here are four of those stories.

JAN DELIPSEY

Despite no family history of osteoporosis, Jan Delipsey is extremely wary of the disease.

"Some of the women in my family are so heavy that it may have aved off their osteoporosis problems," reasons the 51year-old Dallas psychologist. In fact, studies have shown that overweight women tend to maintain stronger bone density, although they also may suffer cardiovascular consequences, including high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Delipsey has always been healthy but her size - 5 foot 2 and 115 pounds made her a likely candidate for bone thinning. And she was right to be worried.

Eighteen months ago, a bone scan showed that she was losing significant bone mass - 18 percent of her hip bones and 6 percent of her spine - despite a healthy diet and regular exercise. The loss placed her among the estimated 34 million Americans who have osteopenia, a term that describes bones that are less dense, more fragile and more prone to fracture, even with a small amount of trauma. People with osteopenia are at risk for getting osteoporosis.

So Delipsey decided she needed to do more than regular aerobic workouts. skiing in the winter, bikeriding in the summer and taking care of a barnful of horses on the weekends. Nine months ago, she hired a personal trainer at Baylor's Tom Landry Fitness Center and moved into the weight room. With supervision, she began working with free weights and weight machines, hoping not only to build muscles but also to regain bone mass little by little.

"It's work," she says of the two-hour regimen that starts her day two or three times a week. "I see older women exercising with weights but not working at it hard. I'm doing bicep curls with 40pound barbells. I have a lot more energy after my workout."

She also takes a weekly dose of Fosamax, a drug that can rebuild bone mass. And she's paying more attention to her calcium consumption, she says, by drinking milk and eating low-fat cheese.

"I used to be afraid of those things," she laughs.



Billie Carol Seely, 54, of Lorena does hydraulic resistance training three to four times a week at a gym in Waco. Seely, who was diagnosed with osteoporosis in 1987, also does stretching, walking and takes medication to help rebuild her bones.

BILLIE CAROL SEELY Billie Carol Seely ribs of a 50-year-old woman when she had a chest X-ray 20 years ago. Trouble was, she was only 35 at the time.

"My ribs were extremely thin," she recalls. 'Something was going wrong with my body, but my doctor couldn't figure out what was causing it."

an early case of osteo- rebuild her bones she broken forearm and a porosis, which normally takes Actonel, a prescrip-fractured doesn't strike until after tion drug also known by menopause. Seely said she also was surprised to learn from a bone specialist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas that women like her petite with thinly boned frames - were at greatest risk of developing osteo-

White and Asian women also have a higher risk of developing osteoporosis because of a difference in their bone mass and density. And women with a family history of osteoporosis are more likely to develop thinning bones.

"I fit all those categories but wasn't aware of it," says Seely, who has always been small. Now 54, she weighs 87 pounds and stands 4 foot 9.

After her diagnosis, Seely learned that her grandmother suffers from osteoporosis. And if that combination of risk factors weren't enough, she found that her food preferences limited her intake of calcium, a critical ingredient for healthy

"I never drank a lot of milk as I was growing up," she confides. "By the time I got to college, I preferred coffee and caffeine. I just didn't expect to pay this price for it."

So the retired teacher changed her life by incorporating calcium-rich make her bones stronger and by becoming a steadfast milk drinker.

"I never miss my three glasses of milk every day," says Seely, who moved from Plano to Waco in 2003.

To stem bone loss, she also takes 1,200 to 1,500 units of calcium supplethe generic name, risedronate, that has been shown to increase spinal bone density by 8 percent to 10 percent after three years of therapy.

the density scale for a woman my age," Seely says of her bones. "But some of it back."

What keeps her going is her fear of someday being debilitated by bones that break easily, she says. "I am so afraid of ending up in a wheelchair. That's what motivates me every day.'

JACK BRYAN

When he was in his 40s, Jack Bryan had to choose between being able to breathe and having strong bones.

D.D.S., P.C.

Of course, he picked vegetables into her diet, breathing, which meant learned that she had the by exercising more to he was forced to take steroid medication for a chronic lung condition. One well-known side effect of using such drugs is brittle bones that are prone to fractures.

"I was on the steroid for six or seven years before it became a major problem," he recalls. "Then I had about a dozen rib She was suffering from ments dail and to fractures in the 1970s, a collarbone. Somehow, I managed to live a relatively normal life.'

> By the time other drugs were developed to ease his breathing, Bryan had joined the relatively small "I'm still very low on group of men with osteoporosis. Males make up about 20 percent of those who suffer severe bone I've seen that you can get thinning. However, the condition usually strikes men after age 70, and as a result of aging.

.But about half of the men who develop osteoporosis have a secondary cause such as the use of certain medications that bring about low bone density. The meds include corticosteroids, anticonvulsants, excessive thyroid medication and certain diuretics, blood thinand hormone ners inhibitors.

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By the late 1980s, Bryan slow her down. That attisought the help of osteotude may be the reason porosis specialists at UT she's doing so well today. Southwestern to try to Three times a week, stop the fractures and Slover takes part in vigoreven rebuild his bone ous exercise classes at the

mass. He takes daily YMCA that help strengthdoses of calcium with a en her bones. Often, she slow-release fluoride drug and the other elderly parthat helps him assimilate ticipants are seated on the it. For exercise, the 77edge of their chairs while year-old walks a mile or they pump their arms in the air, rotate their limbs It did not bother him and even march in place. that he was one of the few men involved in clinical

"I can do up to 15 minutes on the treadmill, too," she says. "I used to walk in my neighborhood, but I was worried about falling and that no one would notice me.'

Although half the women over age 80 in the United States suffer from osteoporosis, Slover hadn't suffered the obvious signs of the condition. which often starts with a fracture of some kind.

In fact, it was just a nagging backache that sent Slover to the doctor in the early 1990s. A subsequent bone density test revealed she had a classic sign of osteoporosis: Her vertebrae were becoming compressed. •

Her doctor prescribed daily doses of Citracal, a form of calcium, and she eats calcium-rich foods that seem to have stemmed her bone loss. Recent tests indicate that her bones have become denser, she says.

"I take my calcium, my iron and do my exercises. just like the doctor ordered." Slover says. "And I top it off with a glass of buttermilk every day. I like it better than regular milk."



two most days and bikes.

trials, says the retired

engineer, who still works

part-time as a patent

agent. He and his wife

moved recently from

Murphy, Texas, to

His drug regimen

stopped the fractures but

did not reverse his lost

"I've lost about 3 1/2

inches in height;" he

says. "It's such an insidi-

ous thing, but it could be

a normal part of aging.

too. I've just had to learn

To look at Bonnie

Slover, it isn't obvious

that she suffers from

osteoporosis. She is

slightly stooped now that

she is 85. And she has lost

a few inches in height, a

fact that is apparent only

to those who know her

"I was 5 foot 3 at my

tallest," says the Euless.

Texas, homemaker. "And

I'm a little over 5 foot

When her bone-thinning

condition was diagnosed

12 years ago, Slover decid-

ed that it was not going to

now.'

BONNIE SLOVER

Inglewood, Fla.

height.

to accept it."

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Good news!

Betty Lee, right, Paul Smith and Patricia Smith are sworn in to the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps by Mayor Russ McEwen (not pictured) during Tuesday night's Big Spring City Council meeting. The trio will serve as support staff for the program.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins



TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

SBC to acquire AT&T for \$16 billion

DALLAS (AP) - SBC Communications Inc. has agreed to buy former parent AT&T Corp. for \$16 billion, creating one of the nation's largest communications companies and ending the independent run of a firm whose roots stretch back to the telephone's inven-

The decision followed late-night meetings by directors of SBC, the nation's second-biggest regional phone company, and the 120-year-old icon AT&T, which gave birth to SBC when its monopoly was broken up in

SBC spokesman Larry Solomon said documents in the acquisition were signed early Monday after AT&T's board of directors approved the deal. Board members of SBC approved the transaction on Sunday

The acquisition is still subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals. The acquisition was expected to close by the first half of 2006.

San Antonio-based SBC has about 50 million localtelephone customers, mostly in the Midwest and South. It also is a 60 percent owner of Cingular Wireless, which serves more than 46 million wireless customers,

Faith-based groups oppose immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several faith-based groups oppose a Republican-sponsored immigration and border security bill that could move quickly through the House with a spending package for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The groups say the bill sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner proposes asylum law changes that would hurt refugees fleeing religious persecution and should be debated in full committee hearings.

But Sensenbrenner, a Wisconsin Republican, says the changes will prevent would-be terrorists from slipping into the country by abusing the asylum system. The changes are tucked into a bill that seeks to prevent illegal immigrants from getting drivers' licenses and to complete a fence on the California-Mexico bor-

"We support effective immigration enforcement and measures to increase our national security," said Gideon Aronoff, vice president of government relations and policy at the New York-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. But Sensenbrenner's asylum proposals "would inflict serious hardship on victims of persecution, torture and trauma who rightly look to the U.S. as a beacon of hope," Aronoff said.

Road-rage shooter kills boy in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Police continued to search for a gunman Monday after a suspected road-rage shooting that left a 14-year-old boy dead and his stepfather wounded.

The shooting happened about 2 p.m. Sunday in a shopping center parking lot in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, about 3 miles west of downtown, police said.

Ruben Juarez, 14, was killed. His stepfather, Gilbert Garza, 25, was treated at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and later released. A 14-year-old friend of Ruben's was also in the family's sport-utility vehicle but was not injured.

Witnesses said the two vehicles were traveling in opposite directions when they nearly collided. Garza told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW that he honked at the car, and the other driver honked

Dallas police Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick said the gunman got out, pulled a rifle out of his car and fired a single shot. The bullet went through the driver's-side window, hit Garza, then struck Ruben.

Delta ending 30 years of DFW hub operationsGRAPEVINE (AP) — Two dozen gates at Dallas-Fort

Worth International Airport are up for grabs with financially troubled Delta Air Lines shutting down one of its four airport hubs.

The Atlanta-based carrier on Monday was to end three decades of hub operations at the North Texas airport, leaving a dramatically reduced number of flights at DFW. The move also meant elimination of about

3,600 jobs at Delta and its regional affiliate.

Delta was reducing its DFW Airport schedule from 250 daily flights to 66 cities to 21 daily departures going to its three remaining hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City.

The airline, which formerly served almost 30 percent of all DFW traffic, flew just 16 percent as of last summer. The reduced schedule means Delta will have about three percent of DFW's traffic.

Passengers traveling through DFW will have fewer nonstop choices, but air fares should remain competitive.

Delta has been a DFW tenant since the airport opened in 1974, but traffic has dwindled since the airline announced last year that it was abandoning 24 gates. Security employees in DFW's Terminal E have outnumbered passengers in many areas. "I always connect through their hubs, so I'll still fly

Delta," said Scott Chamberlin, a Dallas-based engineer who has been a Delta customer for nearly 20 years, as he breezed through security. "Their service has always been head-and-shoulders above anyone else.'

The airline will keep only four gates at DFW. Delta had leased the gates through the end of 2009. But, instead of forcing Delta to make good on the future rent payments, the airport said earlier this month that it would reimburse Delta for costs of physical improvements it made at Terminal E.

Airport officials will pay Delta \$7 million for the 24 gates that the troubled carrier is abandoning and will offer other airlines a year's rent free and up to \$22 million in aid to take Delta's place.

The airline's withdrawal means loss of nonstop service from DFW Airport to 17 cities, including Lexington, Ky., and Savannah, Ga.

Reductions by Delta will cost the airport an estimated \$35 million in the current fiscal year from lost rent, landing fees and concession dollars. Later, the impact was expected to rise to \$50 million in annual revenue. · However, Kevin Cox, DFW chief operating officer, said that loss will be offset by new revenue from schedule expansion by American Airlines.

Fort Worth-based American is adding as many as 115 daily flights this year over 2004 to soak up the traffic ceded by Delta.

TOPS

Continued from Page 1A

lion), and Wesport Oil and Gas LP (\$15.17 million).

The top taxpayers among the major county taxing entities, with total taxable value, are:

HOWARD COUNTY — Alon USA (\$71 million); Crownquest Operating LLC (\$40.5 million); and ConocoPhillips Co. (\$32) million).

CITY OF BIG SPRING Western Container

Corp. (\$28.33 million); Scenic Mountain Medical Center (\$10 million); and Oncor Electric Delivery Co. (\$9.3 million).

CITY OF COAHOMA Van Well Service Inc. (\$866,190); First Bank' of West Texas (\$541,579); and Wes-Tex Telephone Co-op (\$477,370).

CITY OF FORSAN -Energy-Permian Basin (\$869,350); Robert C.

Wash Inc. (\$190,966); and Jeff Kester (\$122,250).

HOWARD COLLEGE — Alon USA (\$71 million); Crownquest Operating LLC (\$40.5 million); and ConocoPhillips Co. (\$32 million).

BIG SPRING ISD -Alon USA (\$77.9 million); Western Container Corp. (\$28.3 million); and Crownquest Operating LLC (\$22.39 million).

COAHOMA ISD Petroleum Anadarko* Corp. (\$18.9 million);

Crownquest Operating LLC (\$16.34 million); and Walsh & Watts (9.46 mil-

FORSAN ISD ConocoPhillips Co. (\$31.85 million); Aethon I LP (\$30.8 million); and Westport Oil & Gas LP (\$15.17 million).

Toomire, the Keith county's chief appraiser, said taxable values may vary according to whether a taxpayer receives an abatement from the institutions.

REBATES

Continued from Page 1A

Monahans received \$71,841.22, a 12.53 percent increase when compared to January 2004's rebates of \$65,537.91. Odessa noted an 11.3

percent increase, comparing January 2005 numbers of \$1,123,639.72 to January 2004 numbers of \$1,009,522.88. Pecos witnessed a whop-

21.56 percent ping increase, comparing the \$63,727.20 for January of this year to the \$52,422.86 a year ago.

San Angelo received \$1,125,609.23 this month, 5.91 percent above the \$1,062,791.09 it received in January 2004.

Snyder had a large decrease in rebates this month. The community received \$115,033.48, down 15.64 percent compared to the \$136,361.15 it took in a year ago.



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The Howard third-annual fur er for Thursda The event will 1 p.m. and take

on the camp Howard Colleg throughout the nity. The fund involves sendi removing goats. For more in

tion, call Howard Greg Kernick

CGA announce second meetin The Chicano Association w holding another zational

tonight.

The meeting w place at 7 p.m. meeting room a A-Rama Lanes. For more in tion. contact Pineda at 264-71

Sportsman Clu M1 Garand ma The

Sportsman Clu

announced a Garand match v place Sunday Western Spo Club range, be at 1:30 p.m.
It will be a 30 match at 200 yar cost is \$6 and rifles include:

Garand, M1 and 1903 A3. There will all loaner rifles an for people that

shoot. For more i tion, contact V

at 263-1345. Iowa State en

OU's streak at AMES, Iowa Curtis Stinson 23 points an State relied exc on its short-ran to end Oklahon ning streak at 1 Cyclones beat i ranked Sooners

Energized by sellout crowd State (9-8, 1-5 got the ball in center Jared scored consist transition an Oklahoma (16-3 check with a 2-

Homan add points for low which did not basket outside but outscore Sooners 48-28 paint. Gray

Taj Gray Oklahoma w points.

Pittsburgh co from behind a PETTSBURGE Carl Krause consecutive c from a 17-poin against a rank

Sports

SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Monday, January 31, 2005

The Howard College rodeo team has set up a third-annual fund-rais er for Thursday and

The event will start at 1 p.m. and take place on the campus of Howard College and throughout the community. The fund-raiser involves sending and removing goats.

For more informa-tion, call Howard coach Greg Kernick at 816-

CGA announces second meeting

The Chicano Golf Association will be holding another organizational meeting tonight.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at Bowl-A-Rama Lanes.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Sportsman Club sets M1 Garand match

The Western Sportsman Club has announced an M1 Garand match will take place Sunday at the Western Sportsman Club range, beginning

at 1:30 p.m.
It will be a 30 round match at 200 yards. The cost is \$6 and eligible rifles include: the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and 1903 A3,

There will also have loaner rifles and ammo for people that want to

For more information, contact Vic Coots at 263-1345.

Iowa State ends OU's streak at 10

AMES. Iowa (AP) Curtis Stinson scored 23 points and Iowa State relied exclusively on its short-range game to end Oklahoma's winning streak at 10 as the Cyclones beat the 13thranked Sooners, 74-66.

Energized by a nearsellout crowd, Iowa State (9-8, 1-5 Big 12) got the ball inside to center Jared Homan, scored consistently in transition and kept Oklahoma (16-3, 5-1) in check with a 2-3 zone.

Homan added 14 points for Iowa State, which did not make a basket outside 10 feet but outscored the Sooners 48-28 in the paint.

Gray Oklahoma with 21 points.

Pittsburgh comes from behind again

PITTSBURGH (AP) Carl Krauser consecutive con from a 17-point defic against a ranked opp-nent, driving th Panthers past No. 4 Syracuse, 76-60. No. 20. Pittsburgh took command with a

Hughey, Pike lead swimmers at District 4-4A

 Girls dominate 200 IM as four move on to regional meet

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor ABILENE - Senior Jessica Hughey and junior Daniel Pike took home a combined three first and

one second place finish during individual competition Saturday at the District 4-4A swim meet in Abilene on

HUGHEY

the campus McMurray University. Hughey placed first in both the

200 yard freestyle and 100 yard breastroke. Her times in the events were 2:10.31 and 1:14.42, respectively. Pike won the 500 yard freestyle event in 5:30.44 and took home second in the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 1:58.01. Both swimmers will advance to the Region 1-4A Regional meet in Lubbock Feb. 10-12.

The 200 yard Individual Medley (IM) was dominated by the Big Spring girl's team as four swimmers qualified for regionals in the event. Freshman Lauren Sage took second in the IM with a time of 2:32.08 and senior Kendra Weeks finished just behind her in third. Sophomore Amber Sleight and freshman Stormy Hart also finished in the top-six to earn a

qualifying spot at region-

Sage will also swim at regionals in the 100 yard butterfly event after she took third place at districts with a time of 1:12.40.

Sophomore Hughey also finished well in the 200 IM. He took third overall with a time of 2:17.10. He also qualified for regionals in the 100 yard breastroke as he finished in sixth with a time of 1:11. 35.

Seniors Scott Thomas and Todd Seber and sophomore Bradley Foster also advanced to regionals in the boys individual portion. Thomas third in the 500 yard freestyle and fifth in the 200 yard freestyle, while Foster advanced in the 100 yard butterfly after placing sixth and finishing in 1:13.11. Seber finished fourth in the one meter boy's diving competition.

The final girl to qualify in an individual event was sophomore Tawna Mills. Mills took fifth in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 6:56.27.

Several other competiparticipated Saturday, but didn't qualify for regionals.

Weeks, Sleight and Hart all performed in the 100 yard breastroke.

Sleight missed qualify-

qualify in another event. Foster placed eighth in the 100 yard backstroke, while Mills captured ninth in the 200 yard freestyle.

Seniors



Big Spring freshman Lauren Sage swims in an event last October at the Big Spring Invitational. Sage qualified for regionals in two events Saturday at the District 4-4A meet in Abilene. She captured second place in the 200 yard Individual Medley (IM) and finished third in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:12.40. The Region 1-4A meet is scheduled for Feb. 10-12 in Lubbock at Texas Tech University.

Matthews, Sloan Diaz and Randy Yanez all participated in two events, but failed to qualify. Matthews took eighth and 10th in her two events, while Diaz finished eighth and 14th.

Yanez captured a seventh place finish in the 100 yard butterfly and also finished in 10th in the 100 yard breastroke.

Freshmen Antonette Tubera and Ashley Oliver each just missed qualifying for regionals.

Tubera placed seventh ing by one spot as she in the 500 yard freestyle took seventh, while and 11th in the 200 yard Weeks came in eighth. freestyle, while Oliver Hart finished 11th overall. came in seventh in the Foster and Mills each 100 yard breastroke and participated, but failed to eighth in the 200 yard

Big Spring also sent six relay teams to the regional meet next month.

The girl's 200 freestyle 'A' relay and 200 yard Meagan medley 'A' relay each fin-



Big Spring sophomore Amber Sleight competes in an event during the Big Spring Invitational last October. Sleight competed at the District 4-4A meet in Abilene Saturday and advanced to regionals in the 200 yard individual Medley.

the 400 yard freestyle 'A' yard medley relay. relay took fifth.

ish was its 400 yard freestyle 'A' relay team which took second overall in 3:42.21.

The boy's 'A' relay boy's and girl's divisions. teams also took fourth in Abilene Wylie's girl's

ished third overall, while captured fifth in the 200

The regional meet will The boys' best relay fin- take place at Texas Tech in Lubbock next month.

Big Spring's district rival Pecos captured the team titles in both the the 200 yard freestyle and team took second overall.

KRT photo/Corinne Dubreuil, Cameleon via Abaca Press

Marat Safin attempts to send the ball across the net during his semifinal match with Roger Federer last week. The fourth-seeded Safin won his first-ever Australian Open title Sunday after defeating No. 3 seed Lieyton Hewitt in the championship match. Safin lost to Federer in last year's final.

Jayhawks put hurtin' on 'Horns

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) Kansas' best game of the season turned out to be Rick Barnes' worst Big 12 loss ever.

With a smothering defense and 27 points from Wayne Simien, No. 6 Kansas romped past No. 16 Texas 90-65 Saturday night, handing Barnes his most lopsided setback in a conference game in seven years as the Longhorns' head coach.

"Those are the best two halves we've put together all year, by far," said Aaron Miles, Kansas senior point guard.

"Offensively, we shared the ball and executed," said Miles, the Big 12's career assists leader. "Defensively, we played

made them take tough shots. That's the key.' 16th-ranked

The Longhorns (15-5, 4-3), down to eight scholarships players because of injuries and academic problems, were never in it, falling to 0-5 in Allen Fieldhouse since the Big 12 was formed in 1996. They committed a seasonhigh 20 turnovers.

"They were good," Barnes said. "We really didn't give ourselves a chance. In the first half they had 14 points off our turnovers."

Keith Langford had 17 points and Miles had 10 points and eight assists for the Jayhawks (16-1, 6-0), who took over the Big 12 lead with the surprisingly one-sided romp over

great team defense. We a team that beat them twice last season.

> Keyed by Jeff Hawkins' 3-pointer at the buzzer, the Jayhawks closed the first half on a 14-4 run, taking a 43-28 lead.

> Determined to keep the momentum, they came out firing in the second half and quickly built the lead to 21 points.

"That's what we were thinking," Miles said. "There have been games this year where we'd be up by 15 points and then we'd let a team back in. We can't be like that. Good teams like Texas can get back in the game, so you have to put your foot on their throat and not let them back."

Jason Klotz and Kenton Paulino each had 12 for the Longhorns.

Safin comes from behind, takes title at Australian Open

Aussie favorite, No. 3 seeded Hewitt falls

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer MELBOURNE Australia (AP) — Marat Safin just needed a little time to get loosened up against Lleyton Hewitt in the Australian Open final.

And once he overcame a terrible start and put his game on track, Safin proved unstoppable, winning in four sets Sunday night and dellating a crowd hungering for an Australian to win this event.

Safin won his second Grand Slam title, and his first in five years, with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory that helped make up for two finals losses in the Russian's last three appearances Melbourne Park's hard

courts. "It's really difficult to believe it," Safin said, looking at the winner's trophy. "You need to get to your room, sit down

and believe this is yours." Hewitt was trying to become the first Aussie man to win the Australian Open since Mark Edmondson in 1976, when the tournament was played on grass at Kooyong.

Looking tight, the fourth-seeded Safin was broken on four backhand errors in his first service game and won only three while falling

behind 3-0. His biggest weapon, his serve, was erratic and ineffective.

"The first set, you really couldn't call it tennis,' Safin said. "I didn't believe I could play that badly."

He chalked it up to nerves.

"I tried to come down," he said. "Then in the second set, I more or less got it together."

After the third-seeded Hewitt hit a forehand out on match point, the outgoing Safin was surprisingly subdued, making only one fist pump.

Safin, who got a good luck cell phone text message from the only other Russian to win a men's Grand Slam title -Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 at Melbourne Park thanked everyone, including the crowd, "even though 90 percent of you were for Hewitt.'

Seventh-seeded Serena Williams downed top-Lindsay ranked Davenport women's final Saturday and will rise to second in new rankings. Australians Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, a wild-card pair playing together for the first time, won the mixed doubles earlier Sunday, defeating Kevin Ullyett of

See SAFIN, Page 2B

Annound

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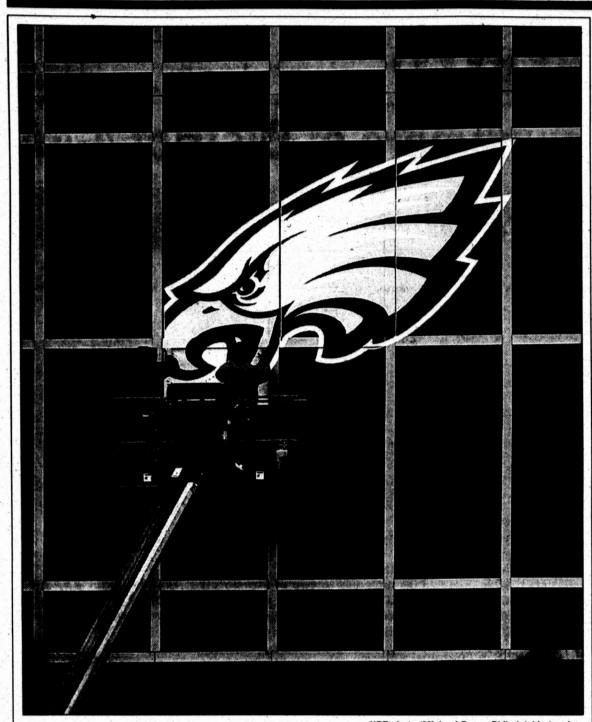
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GUN CLASS



KRT photo/Michael Perez, Philadelphia Inquirer A crew worker from Roe Fabricators puts the finishing touches on the Philadelphia Eagles' logo at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla., Saturday. The Eagles will take on the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl.

SAFIN

Continued from Page 1B

Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (6).

Safin won the U.S. Open in 2000 and rose soon afterward to No. 1, then plunged as low as 86th after injuries in 2003. He started his comeback here last year, and avenged his oss in the final to Roger Federer by ending the topranked Swiss star's 26Thursday's semifinal.

"You knocked off the guy who's nearly been impossible," said Hewitt, who will rise to No. 2 in the rankings, swapping with Andy places Roddick. "I didn't feel like I played that badly out there. You thoroughly deserve it."

Although he usually feeds off controversy -

his game. The sellout crowd urged him on, but Hewitt couldn't feed off their energy this time.

"Some of his hitting from the back of the court late in the third set and then the whole fourth set was pretty incredible," said Hewitt, who began preparing months ago to peak for his home Grand Slam.

angering three opponents Hewitt was at the top of with his on-court shouts his game early zipping and staredowns on his from sideline to sideline way to the final — Hewitt while committing only match winning streak in unraveled as Safin raised one unforced error in the

Wade too strong for Houston giving coach Stan Van cal fouls, and David

 Young superstar picks up slack as Shaq has "off" day

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer MIAMI (AP) - With Dwyane Wade around, the Miami Heat can afford the occasional offgame from Shaquille O'Neal.

Wade had 30 points, eight rebounds and six assists, leading a balanced attack that carried the Heat to a 104-95 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

O'Neal only took 11 shots and finished with 15 points and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem hit his first seven shots from the floor and finished with 16 for Miami, as did Damon Jones. Eddie Jones added

Tracy McGrady had 28 points for Houston, which lost for the first time in its last four road games. Yao Ming had 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Rockets, and Bob Sura added 21 - 15 of those coming in the game's first 13 minutes.

Miami improved to 33-13, moving 20 games over the .500 mark for the first time since the end of the 1999-2000 season — and

23-minute first set — to 13

for Safin — and yielding

only two points in his

four service games. But

as Safin got it together,

Hewitt started slipping in

the second set, yielding

an early break then

another at 2-5 to even the

With fist pumps and

shouts of "Come on! Come

on!" Hewitt saved two

break points in the first

game of the third set as

tensions rose and both

men's nerves frayed.

match.

Gundy a 2-1 lead in the all-time series against his brother, Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy.

Yao's layup with 1:05 remaining drew Houston within 97-90.

But on Miami's next trip, Haslem found an open O'Neal under the basket for a three-point play that sealed the Heat's third straight victory.

Including the playoffs, it was the eighth time in 12 meetings that O'Neal came away victorious from a matchup against Yao.

But the matchup of the two leading votegetters for this year's All-Star game didn't exactly turn into a memorable showdown.

Both marquee centers missed long stretches of the game with foul trouble: O'Neal played only 27 minutes, and allowed his frustration level to boil over at one stretch.

O'Neal grabbed an Eddie Jones miss and scored with 8:32 left in the third, and on his trip upcourt shouted at referee Luis Grillo that he felt he was fouled.

O'Neal and Damon Jones — apparently arguing the same point were both hit with techni-

next game after an over-

Wesley hit both free throws to bring Houston' within 57-54.

The Rockets got within 71-70 when McGrady hit a jumper with 1:38 left in the third, but Miami scored the next seven points — the last five on consecutive Eddie Jones jumpers to open the fourth quarter - and maintained its lead throughout the final peri-

The teams combined for 83 points in the half's opening 18 minutes, then managed only 11 in the six minutes leading to halftime.

Miami missed seven of its final nine shots before intermission; Houston was worse, misfiring on eight of nine — including its last seven tries.

Both teams even missed a dunk in the waning minutes of the half; Yao threw the ball into the back of the rim after collecting an offensive rebound, and Wade failed to convert a high-flying attempt after a baseline drive about a minute later.

Miami led by just two points at the break, 48-46, despite outshooting Houston 54.1 percent to 39.0 percent.

Safin, notorious for

he thought was long but another one, but contin-TV replays showed was ued to play with it.

caused by Benzene which can be found in cleaning solutions, gasoline and other industrial products. Gasoline distributors, pipe fitters, refinery workers and laborers who has ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMA and worked around products containing

way!" at the umpire in the on the line.

rule on Safin's shot that breaking rackets, spiked

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Mays fall to Iverson-less Sixers

Salmons, Korver pick up slack for Philadelphia in victory over Dallas

DALLAS (AP) - The Philadelphia 76ers had been winless in four games without Allen Iverson this season.

They were determined end that trend Saturday night.

John Salmons scored a season-high 19 points, Kyle Korver added 16 and Philadelphia beat the Dallas Mavericks 93-89 without the NBA's leading scorer.

Iverson, averaging 29 points per game, missed his third straight game due to a strained left rotator cuff.

"We were without our leading scorer, so everyone else had to step up aggressive, and be Salmons said. "A.I. wasn't there to bail us out, so we had to make our shots and chip in as a team."

Mavericks the thought the 76ers would be pushovers without the Answer, they were mistaken.

The Sixers compensated with solid defense, limiting the Mavericks to 36.7 percent field goal shooting (33-for-90).

"Team defense and containing everybody is our main concept," Salmons said.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 25 points, nine rebounds and a career-high six blocked

Banny Boyd B66-236-269**3**

shots, but he went only 7for-25 from the floor. Michael Finley was 6-for-23 from the field, finishing with 14 points.

"You have to give Philly credit, they made us work for our baskets," Finley said. "We had a lot of shots near the end of the shot clock which are tough shots. Credit their defense for taking us out of things we normally do.

...This was a terrible game for us all the way around. Nothing seemed to be clicking for us."

Erick Dampier had 14 points, a career-high 26 rebounds and a seasonhigh seven blocked shots for the Mavericks, who had won six of their previous seven.

"It's a shame to waste an effort (from Dampier) like that on a loss," said Jerry Stackhouse, who had 16 points for Dallas.

The Sixers lost in overtime at New Orleans on Friday night, but they kept their poise down the stretch 24 hours later.

Korver scored seven of their last nine points, including two free throws with 2:23, remaining to give Philadelphia the lead for good, 89-87.

"I tried to rebound, I tried to guard, I tried to do it all," Korver said. "We wanted to come out and play hard and we got the win. We were just

going at them and challenging them and it worked.'

Williamson Corliss added a pair of free throws with 44.8 seconds left to extend the Sixers' lead to 91-87 before Jason Terry's 20-footer with 39.8 to play got the Mavericks within two.

But Terry missed an open 16-footer with 13.9 remaining after Nowitzki had drawn a double-team. Korver converted two foul shots with 11.1 left for the final margin.

"Dirk drew a lot of attention and he made a good pass," Terry said. "I was there, I had a good look at it. It didn't fall."

The Sixers held an 80-73 lead early in the fourth before quarter Mavericks went on a 11-0 capped run Stackhouse's 17-footer to take an 84-80 advantage with 4:46 to play.

But Philadelphia moved back in front 87-85 with remaining 2:56

Korver's 3-pointer. The 76ers, who led by as many as 11 points in the first half, carried a 75-70 edge into the fourth quar-

Philadelphia went on a 12-3 run for a 44-35 advan tage with 4:34 remaining in the first half. Salmons had 13 points to help the Sixers take a 52-43 half-

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2600 CARELETON. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Central Heat/Air, appliances furnished, fenced backyard. Nice Neighborhood. \$450. month \$300. deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

2604 ENT. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, New paint/ carpet. References. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. HUD accepted. (432)267-7449.

3 BEDROOM brick, fenced, air, view. \$325.00. Zero pets. Non smoking. Nice home for less rent. Good credit background required. McDonald Realty, (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

3/2 WITH garage. Gourmet kitchen with built-ins. Forsan ISD, 2406 Cheyenne. \$650. month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

3904 HAMILTON, 3 Bedroom 1-1/2 bath, CH/A. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. (432)267-7449.

623 CAYLOR

Possible 4 bedrooms, 2 bath Stove & Refrigerator furnished Washer/ Dryer connections Fenced backyard Deposit \$100. Rent \$450. Call (432)267-2112 Leave message.

900 SCURRY, 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. \$385.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681

CLEANEST 1 Bedroom in town. \$300. Month, \$150. deposit. No pets. References required. Carport. (432)213-2319.

CORNER LOT 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, freshly painted, fireplace, CH/A, dishwasher, fenced front & back yard. Very Nice. Call (432)263-4528, (432)296-0277.

> **CORONADO HILLS APARTMENTS** (432)267-6500

801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx 79720 During Months of December and January. Move in for \$199.00 or \$299.00.

FOR RENT: 800 1/2 Nolan. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 \$300.00 deposit. (432)264-9907.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 403 E. 8th Street. Spacious 1 Bed-room's. Furnished & Unfurnished. All bills paid. \$400.00 month. \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2771.

MIDWAY AREA 2 bedroom, 1 bath mobile home. Private lot. Fenced yard. Deposit and references required. (432)267-5952.

RENT TO OWN 4 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard. Washer & dryer hookups. 1508 Wood. \$1,500. down, \$289. month. Call (432)264-6611.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT to qualified tenants on long term lease. 902 Birdwell, newly remodeled, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, stove/ refrigerator furnished, fenced yard, washer/ dryer hookup. \$550. month. Lease to Own an Option. Call (432)270-5001.

SUNSET RIDGE (432)263-2292 Near SWCID, Scenic Mt. & Cornell Facilities Call Today

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1002 BIRDWELL Brick House: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, large kitchen with self cleaning electric stove, large closets, storage. Near Washington School. \$52,000.00. (432)394-4675, 270-8330.

Real Estate for Sale

1612 BLUEBIRD. Owner Financing. Buy for \$277.00 month or Rent \$375.00 month. Call (432)264-9907.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Doublewide. 45K, \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. Call (817)312-6322.

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath house on 40 acres for Sale, w/barn and work shop, in Coahoma School District. \$224,000.00 For appointment call (432)263-0658 or 816-9565.

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call (432)263-3461.

RENT to OWN. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer and Dryer Connection with fenced yard. 1516 Wood. \$1500. down, \$289. month. Call (432)264-6611.

USE YOUR TAX REFUND. 2405 Main Street. 2/1.5/1 New carpet and plumbing. Newly remolded bath. CH/A. \$1400.00 Down, \$321.00 month for 30 years. FHA. Owner pays closing. Call (432)264-7969.

Vehicles

'04 Freestar Vans \$6000 Available Rebates **Bob Brock Ford**

500 W. 4th 267-7424

1992 CHEVROLET 1500 V6, 5 speed manual. AM/FM stereo w/CD player, power windows, cruise control, step-side short \$3,750.00 OBO. Call (432)394-4106.

2003 CHEVY Trail Blazer EXT. white. Good condition. Must sell!! \$19,500. (432)263-0372.

2004 CHEVROLET Z71 crewcab, 11,000 miles, grill guard, steps, bedliner, tinted windows. Call .. (432)398-5271 270-5001.

FOR SALE, handicap van. 1998 Ford Conversion E-150. Wheelchair lift, hand controls. remote door opener. More information call (432)264-7884.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHNNIE RUTH TATUM, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2005, in Cause No. P-13226, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: ALLEN

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Representative, Estate of

JOHNNIË RUTH TATUM 15010 NCR 41 Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 27th day of January. #4449 January 31, 2005.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SAMMY JOHN PAYNE, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2005, in Cause No. P-13227, pending, in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: EDGAR

M PAYNE All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Representative, Estate of SAMMY JOHN PAYNE 2215 Lynn Drive Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 27th day of January. #4450 January 31, 2005.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options Such As ALL BILLS PAID \$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. **OPEN SATURDAY** 263-1252 538 Westover **Housing Assistance Accepted**

Legals

Public Notice The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on February 14, 2005, to discuss the 2003-04 Academic Excellence Indicator System Report. The hearing will be held in conjunction with the regular board meeting. Any and all interested persons are invited to

#4444 January 31, 2005.

Public Notice The Forsan Independent School District intends to apply for a waiver of the prohibition concerning the date of the first day of instruction for students. The district plans to make an application for waiver to the Texas Education Agency for a school start date of August 15, 2005. The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on February 14, 2005, to hear any options regarding the proposed date for the first day of instruction for the 2005-06 school year. The hearing will be held in conjunction with the regular board #4445 January 31, 2005.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of OLA LEE MCMULLAN, Deceased, were issued on January 19, 2005, in Cause No. P-13233, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: W.L. (BUCK) MCMULLAN.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Representative, Estate of

OLA LEE MCMULLAN 14803 Orient Pass San Angelo, Texas 76905 DATED the 27th day of January. #4448 January 31, 2005.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Big Spring Area Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) is soliciting applications from federated groups, charitable organizations or a combination thereof, interested in being considered to serve as the Principal Combined Fund Organization (PCFO) for the 2005 campaign. A legal notice has been published in The Big Spring Herald announcing this solicitation for a PCFO. The applicable CFC regulations are:

Title 5. Code of Federal Regulations. Part 950.104 authorizes the LFCC to solicit applications from federations, charitable organizations, or combinations thereof to serve as the PCFO; and to select a PCFO to act as its fiscal agent and campaign coordinator for the CFC.

Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950.105 outlines the responsibilities of the PCFO. In addition, § 950.601 provides additional requirements governing the release of contributor names. The primary responsibility of the PCFO is to support the federal government in managing a comprehensive local workplace fundraising campaign while ensuring the fiscal integrity. accountability, and transparency of the process. A primary goal of the PCFO is to conduct an effective and efficient campaign in a fair and even-handed manner. Only federations, charitable organizations or combinations thereof may serve as

All application proposals submitted for consideration must be received by the LFCC postmarked no later than February 15, 2005. Applications may also be hand-delivered Interested organizations should submit their application proposals to the LFCC, c/o Lou Ann Atkins, West Texas VA Health Care System, 300 Veterans Boulevard, Big Spring, TX 79720. Only application proposals addressing all of the key elements and deliverables will be considered for review by the LFCC. to receive copy of key elements & delivery, Contact Cynthia Scott, at (432)267-5201

uway@apex2000.net #4447 January 30 & 31, 2005

We Can Save You Money By **Advertising Your Business In Our** Professional Service Directory! Call **263-7331**

for more information.

SPRING HERALD

FOR SALE

No Down Payment

OWNER FINANCING

Bad Credit O.K. 2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes

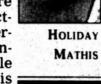
Call Beverly 263-3461

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

When was the last time you held someone's hand? It's just one of the friendly, supportive yet deeply intimate. ways to take

advantage of the Libran lunar ener-Handholding reminds us how we are all connected like interwoven fingers. While



Jupiter is = still flying straight, log in a request for something you'd like to receive by the end of the day.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are not alone. Someone's watching over you, sending out an SOS for help to arrive exactly when you need it most. Keep your eyes and ears open for that passing stranger who seems to have all the answers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A sticky situation calls for a gentle touch. This is no time to be the bull in the china shop. The feelings of someone close to you are at stake -tread lightly. Forward momentum at work helps you score big.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A minor miscalculation with regard to finances may wind up costing you more time and money than anticipated. Be sure to doublecheck your bottom line before making that big purchase. At least you look fabulous!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in uncharted waters when it comes to a love or career matter.

allies are. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With all the commotion swirling around you these days, it's easy to lose your sense of place and balance. It helps to frequently check in with yourself, turning your attention inward to how you are feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Survey the landscape of your life. What hills do you need to climb? Where can you rest a bit and catch your breath? Is the climate right to plant new seeds for growth? Draw your own map, and then, forge ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A new friendship could blossom for you over a cup of coffee or a shared ride in a taxi or elevator. Somewhere out there is that perfect stranger who knows someone who knows someone who has what you're looking for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If your Spidey sense is tingling when you meet someone on the job; there's probably a good reason for it. Careful, that cute new cubicle dweller may be angling for your position or even your boss'! Be polite and on

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A hot financial tip has you seeing dollar signs everywhere you look. Be sure to consider your sources. There may be more here than is readily apparent. If everything checks out right, grab that brass ring, and don't

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Ch-ch-changes Make like the cast of are not the goat's special-"Lost," and improvise. Be ty, but if the motivation is DICATE, INC.

sure you know who your strong enough, you jump right in. Consider this the universe's way of steering you in the right direction. If you need a few point-

ers, consult a Scorpio pal. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What is the secret behind that sparkle in your eyes, that extra spring in your step? You'll never tell. A romantic encounter or your passion for a creative endeavor is enough to keep you whistling while you work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes, it's best to just cut bait and let your inner fish get away. You can't win every battle or get every call returned when you want it. Follow a different current, and let it lead you to victory.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Justin Timberlake is a high-energy Aquarius who channels the natural athleticism of his sign into fast, cutting-edge dance moves. Breath control is also a talent of his sign, so singing and dancing simultaneously doesn't require the boosted vocal track many entertainers use these days. I predict a much talkedabout and emulated new style of production emerging from Timberlake this

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, the Creators visit Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My blood type is AB, and my wife's is B. I happened to see our adult son's Red Cross donor card, and it shows that he is type O. The good news is that we are all regular donors. The bad news is that he cannot be my son.

A little over 40 years ago, around the time "Wayne" was conceived, my wife and I had a bit of a rough patch, but that is long behind us now. Since his birth, I always have

considered him my son. I don't know how to raise this issue with my wife. I love her more than life itself and do not want to harm our close relationship. And, I also don't want to hurt "my" son. At the same time, this knowledge is very troubling to me and may have inheritance implications,

Is there a way to clear the air and let my wife know I will love her no matter what? What do I do, and how do I do it? — **Negative Dad**

Dear Negative: The information on a donor card is not sacrosanct, and it's possible there was an error. If you feel the need to discuss this with your wife, you might want to do so without accusations. If you truly mean what you say, we suggest telling her you saw Wayne's donor card and you decided that it didn't matter.

We hope that goes for the "inheritance implications" as well. Since you consider him your son, that is how he should be treated, regardless of his paternity. If he is, in fact, not yours, your wife might want to consider telling Wayne the truth at some point, in case he needs medical information.

Dear Annie: I'm a 23year-old, newly engaged



MARCY SUGAR

quickly chose my dress, attendants, reception hall, etc. The problem? My cousin, "Brian," and his wife, "Ashley," are mad because I didn't choose Ashley to be in the wedding party and I didn't ask Brian's daughter to be a flower girl.

They are so furious they won't speak to me. I had asked Brian's sister if her daughter would be a flower girl, and Ashley tried to get my other cousin to pull her daughter out of the wedding because it would "serve me right."

I've been told to cut them off the guest list, but it saddens me to think some of my own family won't show up. What should I do? - New Bride-To-Be

Dear Bride-To-Be: Asking the daughter of one cousin to be a flower girl, but not the other, can understandably cause ruffled feathers. Nonetheless, Brian and Ashley have no making business demands regarding your attendants, and they because the dollars go to a should be ignored.

Leave the guest list alone. If Brian and Ashley don't attend, fine. If they do show up, be as gracious as possible and say nothing more about it.

Dear Annie: My 10-yearold niece, "Lilly," is having her birthday dinner at female. My fiance pro- an extremely fancy, posed in October, and I expensive restaurant. Her

well-to-do grandparents (on the other side) will be covering the cost of the guests' meals.

My three daughters are close to Lilly, and our family of five has been invited to the dinner. However, I was shocked to learn that because we are not related to her grandparents, we will be picking up our own tab. I find it abhorrent that some guests will have to pay and others won't. We have a nice relationship with Lilly, however, and I don't want to do anything to harm that. Your Feeling thoughts? Excluded

Dear Excluded: The "hosts" should not have selected such an expensive restaurant if they did not intend to treat everyone. It is unfair to those who might otherwise have chosen a different location. If you can afford the place and you want to be nice to Lilly, go anyway. Otherwise, it's perfectly OK to send your regrets.

Dear Annie: I am often invited to private house parties where I am asked to buy items like Tupperware, candles, cosmetics, etc. I don't believe in squandering money on these overpriced goods that I neither want nor need.

Here's the problem: If I don't accept the invitation to attend, the hostess brings the catalog to work and asks me to order something. I don't mind ordering items for nonfundraisers. good cause, but these catalogs are not in my budget. Is there a way to bow gracefully? out Flustered

Dear Flustered: Don't feel so guilty. You are the one being imposed upon. Simply say, "Thank you. I'm really not interested, but I will let you know if I change my mind."

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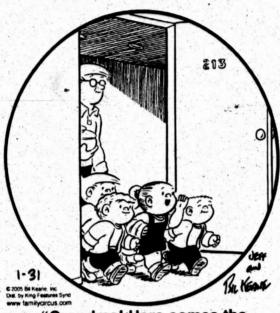
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SERMON, BUT A COUPLE MORE JOKES WOULD HELP."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma! Here comes the pitter-patter of little feet!"

HAGAR



11

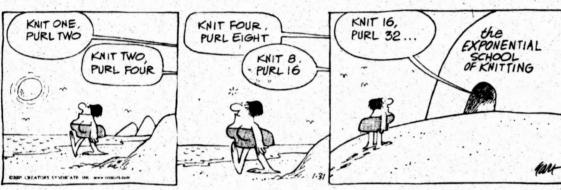
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SNOW DAY!

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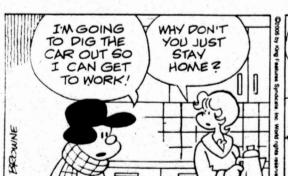
SCHOOL



THAT'S WHY!

I'D SAY THEY COULD USE A LITTLE MORE SNOW.

HI AND LOIS







SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2005. There are 334 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer 1.

On this date: In 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed. In 1797, composer Franz

Vienna, Austria. In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies.

Schubert was born in

In 1905, 100 years ago, author John O'Hara was

born in Pottsville, Pa. In 1917, Germany served notice it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

1934, President In Roosevelt devalued the dollar in relation to gold.

In 1944, during World War II. U.S. forces began invading Kwajalein Atoll and other parts of the Japaneseheld Marshall Islands. In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik

became the only U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1950, President Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1971, astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 84. Author Norman Mailer 82. Actress Jean Simmons is 76. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks is 74. Composer Philip Glass is 68. Actress Suzanne Pleshette is 68. Actor Stuart Margolin is 65. Former U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 64. singer-musician Blues Charlie Musselwhite is 61. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan is 58. Singermusician KC (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 54. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 49. Actress Kelly Lynch is 46. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 46. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 44. Actor John Dye is 42. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 39. Actress Minnie Driver is 34. Actress Portia de Rossi is 32. Actress Kerry Washington is 28.



35 Narrow cut

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- BETTING SETTING by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
- 5 Went for a drive 6 Heroic tale
- 7 Descend
- 8 Infuriate 9 "So long!"
- 10 Mankind
- 11 Unwritten
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