

BIG SPRING

# HERALD

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MONDAY

January 31, 2005

### WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 27°-30° TOMORROW 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 at 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. Page 3A.

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## Millions of Iraqis cast their ballots

### Iraqi 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



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.

### Bush calls election success, promises to continue help

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush called the Iraqi election a resounding success and promised that the United States will help Iraqis fight continuing insurgency as they build a democratic 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

See BUSH, Page 3A

## Tops 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 million).

See TOPS, Page 6A

## 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

the same as the monthly total for 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 smaller communities to witness 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 trend continues.

Abilene received \$2,033,393.10 for January, an 8.62 percent increase compared to the

\$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 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 percent increase, comparing \$30,259.35 for January 2005 to \$29,544.07 for January 2004.

Fort Stockton received \$106,148.27 this month, a 7.54 percent increase when compared to the \$98,699.99 received a year ago.

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 2004.

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, comparing \$1,763,904.59 to \$1,485,515.75 for January 2004.

See REBATES, 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.

JAN 31 2005



# 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.

The Commerce 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 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 percent increase in November. It was the best showing since a similar 0.8 percent increase in spending in October. After adjusting for inflation, consumer spending was up 0.9 percent last month, the best showing in five months.

For all of 2004, personal incomes increased by 5.4 percent, the largest annual advance since an 8 percent jump in 2000, the last full year of the decade-long 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 percent in 2003.

Consumer spending rose by 6.1 percent last year, the best showing since a 7.3 percent advance in 2000. Spending had been up 5.2 percent last year.

Economists closely watch consumer spending since it accounts for two-thirds 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 huge widening of America's trade deficit.

## 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 security."

Bush did not take questions from reporters or mention any military 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."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass, said Bush "must look beyond the election" and start bringing troops home. "The best way to demonstrate to the Iraqi people that we have no long-term designs on their country is for the administration to withdraw some troops now" and negotiate further withdrawals, Kennedy added.

On Sunday, Secretary of 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 with the newly elected Iraqi government.

So far, more than 1,400 U.S. troops and many thousands of Iraqis have lost their lives. The United States is spending more than \$1 billion a week in Iraq. Rice said the election went better than expected, but did not elaborate on U.S. predictions for turnout, violence or other measures.

## 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 Iraqis are present in the coming government."

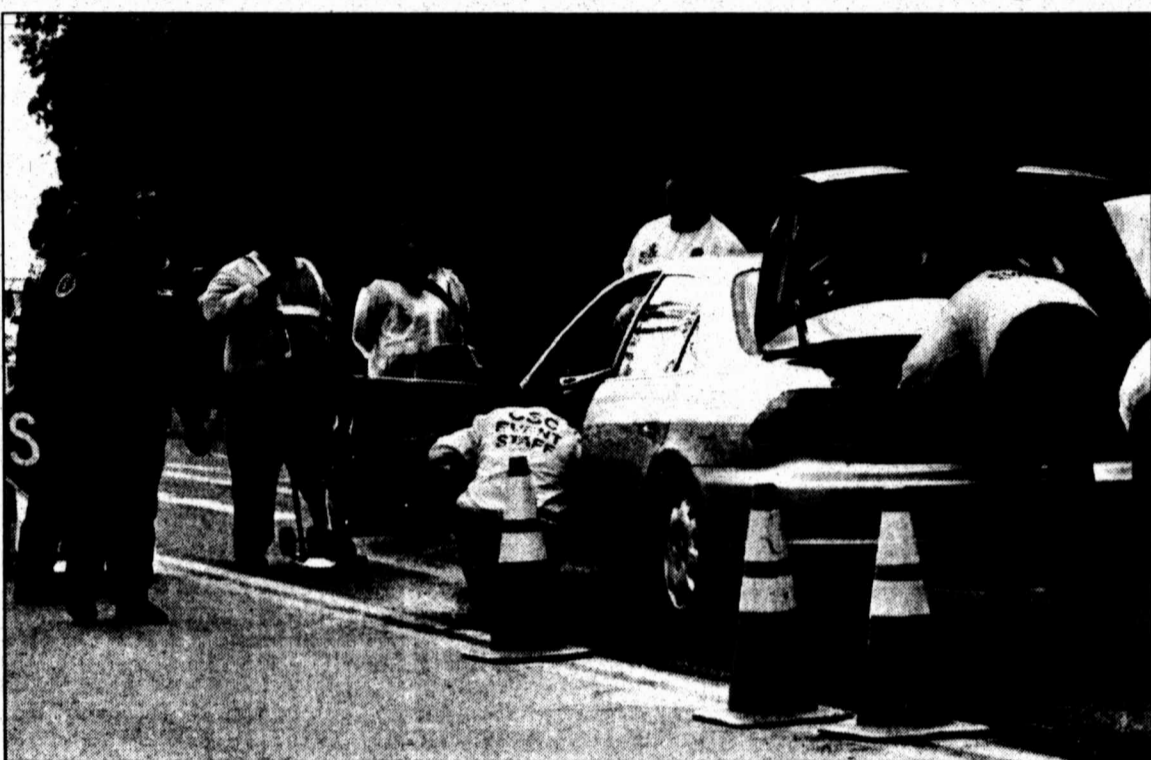
In his first news conference since the election, he called on Iraqis to work together toward peace, saying: "The terrorists now know that they cannot win." "We are entering a new era of our history and all Iraqis — whether they voted or not — should stand side by side to build their future," he said, 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 of 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 information, that turnout overall 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.

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."

manent government in December. If the document is rejected, Iraqis will repeat the whole 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. No official cause for the 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 citizenship. In an Internet statement, the Iraqi militant group Ansar al-Islam claimed responsibility for downing the aircraft. The ticket endorsed by the Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was the pre-voting 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. If that government can draw in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, allowing 150,000 U.S. troops to head home.



Security was tight at the polling location in Irvine, Calif., Friday as Iraqi expatriates voted throughout the United States in suburbs of Chicago; Detroit; Washington, D.C.; Nashville; and Los Angeles.

KRT photo/Debbie Vanstort/ABACA Press

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# 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 51-year-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, bike-riding 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 40-pound 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.



KRT photo/Lara Solt, Dallas Morning News

**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 learned that she had the 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."

She was suffering from an early case of osteoporosis, which normally doesn't strike until after 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 osteoporosis.

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 bones.

"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 incor-

porating calcium-rich vegetables into her diet, by exercising more to 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 supplements daily and to rebuild her bones she takes Actonel, a prescription drug also known by the generic name, risedronate, that has been shown to increase spinal bone density by 8 percent to 10 percent after three years of therapy.

"I'm still very low on the density scale for a woman my age," Seely says of her bones. "But I've seen that you can get 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.

Of course, he picked breathing, which meant 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 fractures in the 1970s, a broken forearm and a fractured 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 group of men with osteoporosis. Males make up about 20 percent of those who suffer severe bone 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 thinners and hormone inhibitors.

By the late 1980s, Bryan sought the help of osteoporosis specialists at UT Southwestern to try to stop the fractures and even rebuild his bone mass. He takes daily doses of calcium with a slow-release fluoride drug that helps him assimilate it. For exercise, the 77-year-old walks a mile or two most days and bikes.

It did not bother him that he was one of the few men involved in clinical trials, says the retired engineer, who still works part-time as a patent agent. He and his wife moved recently from Murphy, Texas, to Inglewood, Fla.

His drug regimen stopped the fractures but did not reverse his lost height.

"I've lost about 3 1/2 inches in height," he says. "It's such an insidious thing, but it could be a normal part of aging, too. I've just had to learn to accept it."

**BONNIE SLOVER**  
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 well.

"I was 5 foot 3 at my tallest," says the Euless, Texas, homemaker. "And I'm a little over 5 foot now."

When her bone-thinning condition was diagnosed 12 years ago, Slover decided that it was not going to

slow her down. That attitude may be the reason she's doing so well today.

Three times a week, Slover takes part in vigorous exercise classes at the YMCA that help strengthen her bones. Often, she and the other elderly participants are seated on the edge of their chairs while they pump their arms in the air, rotate their limbs and even march in place.

"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."

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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 invention.

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 1984.

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 evening.

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 local-telephone 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 pre-

vent illegal immigrants from getting drivers' licenses and to complete a fence on the California-Mexico border.

"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 back.

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 operations

GRAPEVINE (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 scheduled 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 Onco 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** — Key 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** — Anadarko Petroleum Corp. (\$18.9 million);

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

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

Keith Toomire, the county's chief tax 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-

ping 21.56 percent 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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**Howard rodeo sets fund-raiser**

The Howard rodeo team has a third-annual fund-raiser for Thursday, Friday.

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

For more information, call Howard College's Greg Kernick at 9477.

**CGA announces second meeting**

The Chicano Gardening Association will hold another national meeting tonight.

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

For more information, contact Pineda at 264-7111.

**Sportsman Club M1 Garand match**

The Sportsman Club announced a Garand match will take place Sunday at the Western Sports Club range, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

It will be a 300-yard match at 200 yards. The cost is \$6 and includes rifles.

Garand, M1 and 1903 A3.

There will also be loaner rifles available for people that do not shoot.

For more information, contact V... at 263-1345.

**Iowa State on OU's streak**

AMES, Iowa — Curtis Stinson's 23 points and State rallied exc... on its short-run to end Oklahoma's streak at 11.

Cyclones beat... ranked Sooners.

Energized by sellout crowd, State (9-8, 1-5) got the ball in center Jared scored consecutive transition an Oklahoma (16-3) check with a 24-point game.

Homan added points for Iowa which did not basket outside but outscored Sooners 48-28.

Taj Gray Oklahoma wins points.

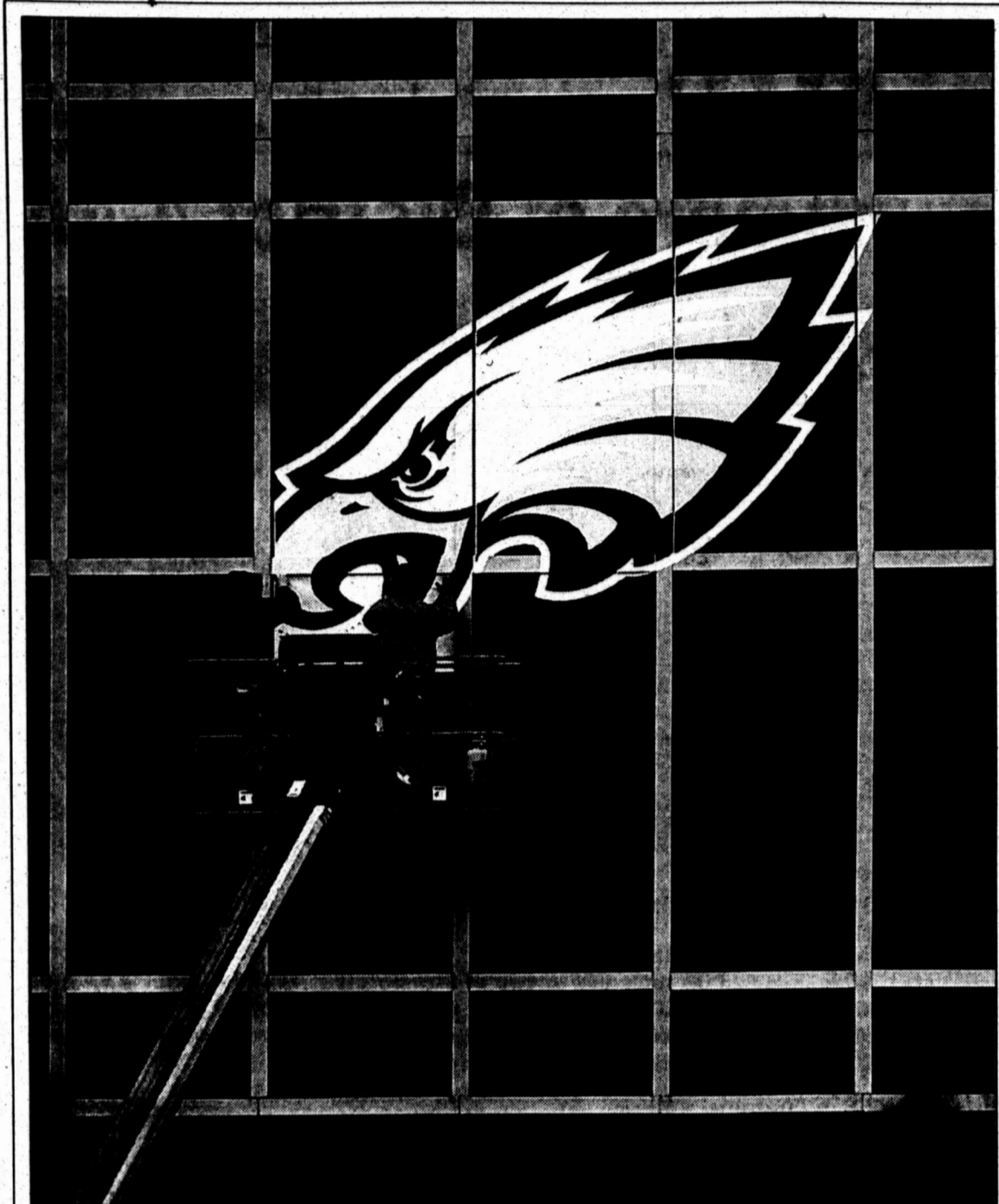
**Pittsburgh coach behind**

PITTSBURGH — Carl Krauser's Chevon Trout's consecutive 17-point game against a ranked team, driving Panthers past Syracuse, 76-60.

No. 20 Pitt took command in the second half through the second quarter as the Orange Big East failed for 6 1/2 minutes.

Krauser scored 18 points in the second half and...





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.

# Wade too strong for Houston

• 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 off-game 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 11.  
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

giving coach Stan Van 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-

cal fouls, and David 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 period.  
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

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 loss in the final to Roger Federer by ending the top-ranked Swiss star's 26-match winning streak in

Thursday's semifinal.  
"You knocked off the guy who's nearly been impossible," said Hewitt, who will rise to No. 2 in the rankings, swapping places with Andy Roddick. "I didn't feel like I played that badly out there. You thoroughly deserve it."  
Although he usually feeds off controversy - angering three opponents with his on-court shouts and staredowns on his way to the final - Hewitt unraveled as Safin raised

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.  
Hewitt was at the top of his game early, zipping from sideline to sideline while committing only one unforced error in the

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 match.  
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.  
Hewitt screamed "No

way!" at the umpire in the next game after an overrule on Safin's shot that he thought was long but TV replays showed was

on the line.  
Safin, notorious for breaking rackets, spiked another one, but continued to play with it.

## Mavs 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 to 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 and be aggressive," Salmons said. "A.I. wasn't there to bail us out, so we had to make our shots and chip in as a team."  
If the Mavericks 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

shots, but he went only 7-for-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 season-high 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."  
Corliss Williamson 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 quarter before the Mavericks went on a 11-0 run capped by Stackhouse's 17-footer to take an 84-80 advantage with 4:46 to play.  
But Philadelphia moved back in front 87-85 with 2:56 remaining on 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 quarter.  
Philadelphia went on a 12-3 run for a 44-35 advantage with 4:34 remaining in the first half. Salmons had 13 points to help the Sixers take a 52-43 half-time lead.

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JAN 31 2005





MONDAY

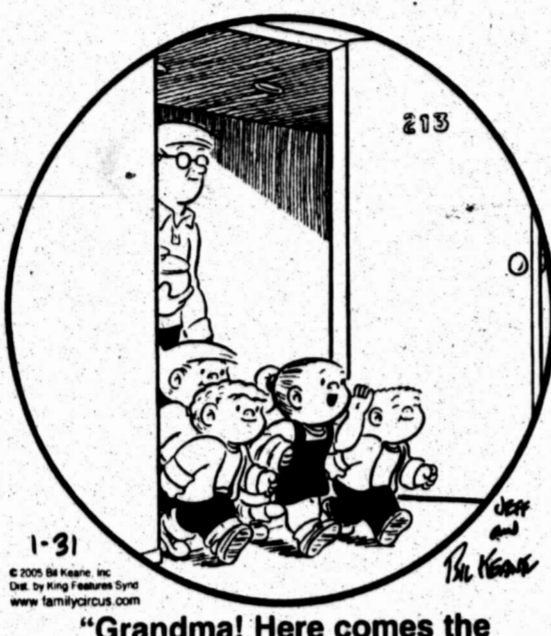
Table with 17 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows representing different time slots from 6 PM to 12 AM.

DENNIS THE MENACE



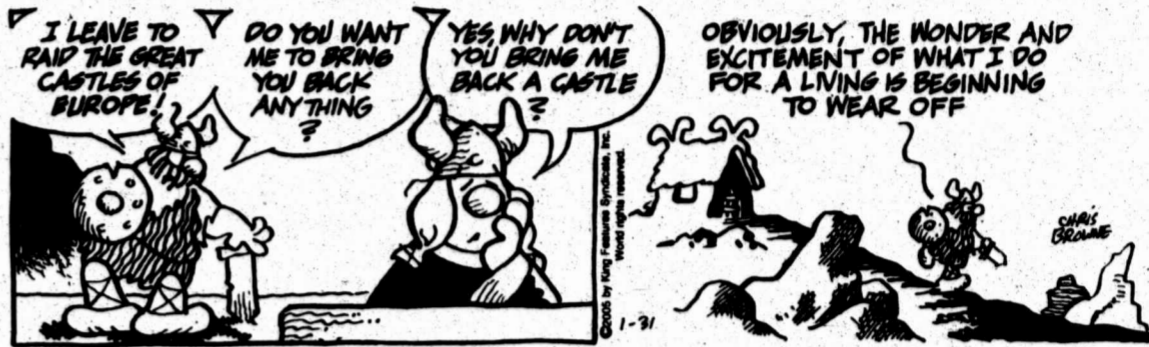
"THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SERMON, BUT A COUPLE MORE JOKES WOULD HELP."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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

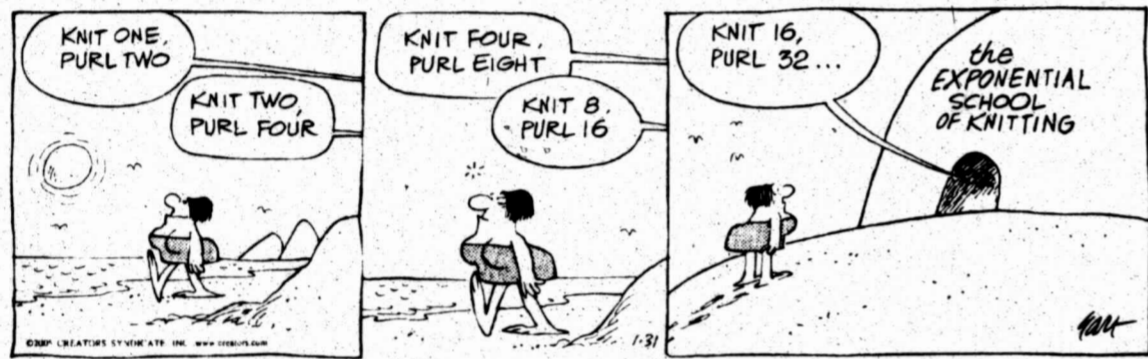
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, Jan. 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 Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria. In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies. 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. In 1934, President 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 Japanese-held Marshall Islands. In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik became the only U.S. soldier 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. Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 84. Author Norman Mailer is 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. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 61. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan is 58. Singer-musician 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.

Answer to previous puzzle KOALAS WRIGGLED INDEBT HIMALAYA LEDGER EMPLOYER OPE DURESS BULK GINS TED REPEL REDID CLINE STY ACUTE TENETS MEMENTO HEARING SIERRA RARER END EASEL DIRGE REELS SEA NILE ASTA BEIRUY TIN STANDARD RAUSAGE ELIGIBLE ATONES RELEASED SEXTET

Newsday Crossword

BETTING SETTING by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Daily Planet reporter Lane 5 Flat-topped hills 10 Owl sound 14 Wyatt of the Old West 15 Share one's views 16 Strongly encourage 17 Largest continent 18 Trace of color 19 Colt's mother 20 Radio-station employee 22 Malt beverages 23 Clip, as wool 24 Picnic spoiler 26 Breakfast or brunch 29 Baby beds 33 Poison-ivy reaction 37 Make a sketch 39 Roof overhangs 40 Immigration island 42 '50s White House nickname 43 Hardly enough 44 Mexican friend 45 Bumper bump 47 Finishes 48 Nature trails 49 "That's enough!" 51 Off the (out of trouble) 54 Outstanding obligations 58 Farm storage building 61 Audio portion of a movie 65 Skunk's defense 66 Suez or Panama 67 Shah's land, once 68 Diana of the Supremes 69 Full of pep 70 "That's than enough!" 71 Otherwise 72 Movie critic, often 73 Beef dish DOWN 1 Show the way 2 Desert rest area 3 From Dublin 4 Elbow room 5 Went for a drive 6 Heroic tale 7 Descend 8 Infuriate 9 "So long!" 10 Mankind 11 Unwritten exam 12 Folklore meanie 13 Golf platforms 21 Traffic snarl 25 Chills, as a drink 27 Dry as a bone 28 Huron and Michigan 30 Lendl of tennis 31 Road curve 32 Retired planes: Abbr. 33 Harvest 34 mater 35 Narrow cut 36 Haughty attitude 38 Departed 41 Fair to middling 46 Two-year-old 50 Beagle or bunny 52 Hollywood award 53 Australian animal 55 Hat edges 56 Fortune-teller's deck 57 Frighten 58 Feeling angry 59 Pop star, perhaps 60 Election defeat 62 Military group 63 Central area of a church 64 Was aware of

