



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Firefighters attempt to contain an asphalt fire at Price Construction this morning. No injuries were reported as a result of the blaze, which was caused by a crew attempting to salvage the tanker.

Dry conditions, high winds keep fire threat strong

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

An early-morning fire at Price Construction today marked the second fire the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to in the last two days.

According to HCVFD Chief Tommy Sullivan, the fire at the local construction yard, located on Highway 350 just north of FM 700, ignited when a welder's torch came in contact with a flammable material.

"The workers at Price Construction were salvaging an asphalt tanker," said Sullivan. "The back of the asphalt tank was already open and when they cut it just ignited off the welder's torch. Asphalt won't flash

"The grasses and bushes have grown up to the highest levels I've seen in the last 20 years, and all it takes is one little spark, whether it's man-made or an electrical spark."

Sullivan

really big, but once it starts you're not going to be able to put it out very quick."

See **THREAT**, Page 3A

Grass fires spread rapidly across Texas

By ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press Writer

CARBON — Weary firefighters worked overnight into Monday to contain three major fires, including a 25-mile-long blaze scorching peanut fields, barns and some homes in Eastland County.

More helicopters and airplanes were to be used later Monday to battle a 22,400-acre blaze near Carbon and Gorman in Eastland County, about 125 miles west of Dallas, said Texas Forest Service spokeswoman Traci Weaver.

Crews were to conduct a house-to-house search Monday for casualties in the fire-blackened towns,

as well as in Cross Plains, about 25 miles west of Carbon, where more than 90 homes and a church were destroyed in a raging grass fire last week.

The fires were among at least 20 that started Sunday and prompted evacuations and road closures in the Panhandle, northern and western parts of the drought-stricken state.

Crews flying overhead reported the tiny communities of Kokomo, near Eastland, and Ringgold, near Wichita Falls, were essentially destroyed by fire, Weaver said. Thirty-two homes were destroyed and seven damaged in Ringgold, a town of about 100.



KRT photo/Lara Solt, Dallas Morning News
Dylan Alexander, 20 months, of Mansfield, reaches out to touch the engraving on his Great Aunt's grave after the burial of her ashes at Cross Plains Memorial Park in Cross Plains Saturday. Mattie Faye Wilson died in her home when wildfires destroyed more than 100 homes in the town.

About 20 homes were burned out in the 13 miles from Ringgold to Nocona, Montague County Judge James Kittrell said Monday. The American

Red Cross has set up an emergency shelter at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Muenster, about 35 miles east of Ringgold.

A fire also destroyed at least six homes near Mineral Wells, Weaver said.

See **FIRES**, Page 3A

Bush's early 2006 plan focuses on economy, Iraq

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD — President Bush is starting his sixth year in office with a flurry of activity designed to trumpet upturns in the economy, defend U.S. action in Iraq and challenge critics who claim his methods of fighting terrorists infringe on civil liberties.

Sunday, the president strongly defended a program that allows domestic spying on those suspected of having ties to terrorist groups. "If somebody from al-Qaida is calling you, we'd like to know why," Bush said in San Antonio.

While the president

See **BUSH**, Page 3A

AARP Tax-Aide program set, volunteers needed

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

That's right, it's almost tax time.

The AARP is preparing to kick off its annual Tax-Aide program and is in need of volunteers to help prepare tax forms.

Local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the program is designed to help people

who might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins, who serves as the local site coordinator for the effort.

Hopkins said the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared by a professional, and the heart and soul of the operation is its volunteers.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns," she said. "These volunteers help people complete

To volunteer, call Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them. "Being a volunteer is very easy. You don't have to be a number whiz or have any experience in accounting. You just need to be computer-comfort-

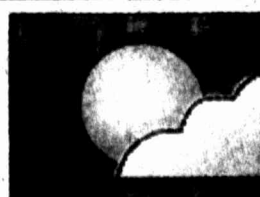
able and have a basic understanding of the tax forms and how to fill them out. Everything else is going to be covered in the training classes."

Hopkins said training classes for the tax laws will be Jan. 17-23 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Spring City Senior Center. Training on the computer

See **TAX-AIDE**, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Features 5A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



TONIGHT 37°-39°
TOMORROW 76°-78°

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mobile Meals program that delivers meals to the elderly, chronically ill and homebound needs volunteers to help with deliveries.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, your help is needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

Mobile Meals is a voluntary, non-profit organization.

If you would like to volunteer, or need more information about the Mobile Meals program itself of the organization, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

COMING THIS WEEKEND

Cover Story:
Miss America — The Miss America

Pageant and its scholarship program is among the most enduring of American institutions. Our story will explore what changes lie in store for the event as it moves to its new broadcast home on CMT and why the Miss America crown continues to be coveted by generation after generation of young women.



CAT CALLS 911

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A man who fell out of his wheelchair says his cat apparently called 911 for help.

Police received a 911 call from Gary Rosheisen's apartment Thursday, but there was no one on the line. When they called back and got no answer, they decided to check things out. In the apartment they found Tommy the cat lying by a telephone on the living room floor.

"I know it sounds kind of weird," Officer Patrick Daugherty said.

Rosheisen said he got the cat three years ago and tried to train him to call 911, unsure if the training ever stuck. "He's my hero," Rosheisen said.

Texas briefs

Trooper struck and killed by truck on highway

MONAHANS (AP) — A trooper was struck and killed by a pickup truck while he was conducting a traffic stop on westbound Interstate 20, the Department of Public Safety said.

Billy Jack Zachary, 32, had two vehicles pulled over on the shoulder Sunday, one was parked behind his patrol vehicle and another in front of it. As he walked away from the vehicle parked behind his, Zachary was hit by a pickup truck heading west on the highway, said Cpl. Kathy Briggs.

The collision sent the trooper into the ditch and the truck went on to strike the rear of the patrol car, Briggs said.

The driver of the pickup truck, Mario Valdez, 33, stopped and alerted authorities, she said. No charges have been filed.

Zachary had worked for DPS since 2004, Briggs said.

Two killed during a Midland New Year's party

MIDLAND (AP) — Two men were fatally stabbed and others were injured when a family dispute erupted at a New Year's celebration, police said.

Jorge Brito, 19, and Frank Ramirez, 26, both of Midland, died of stab wounds early Sunday.

No arrests had been made and the case remained under investigation, police said.

Witnesses at the party say Ramirez had gotten into an argument with his brother-in-law, James Lozano, 24.

"The two of them were fighting and wrestling in the laundry room and then made it into the kitchen," said Sammy Lozano, Brito's friend and James Lozano's brother. "Then (Ramirez) grabbed a kitchen knife that we had used earlier for a brisket and just started waving it around trying to cut everybody."

Then, James Lozano said Ramirez charged at hit with the knife and the two men ended up on the kitchen floor. Brito was attempting to pull Ramirez away from Lozano when he was stabbed. Witnesses say Ramirez swiped the knife back toward Brito, stabbing him in the neck.

"It happened so fast. One minute we were celebrating the New Year and the next my friend was dead," said James Lozano, who suffered a stab wound to the back and cuts to his wrist, hand and forearm.

Lozano was stabbed on his right side and up to four others were injured in the fight, witnesses said.

It's unclear how Ramirez, a landscape caretaker at Midland Country Club, was stabbed.

His family wasn't immediately available for comment.

Brito, a 2004 Midland High School graduate, planned to attend Midland College in the spring, Sammy Lozano said.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

makes his case in public, his aides will be girding behind the scenes for looming battles with Congress over the renewal of the Patriot Act and the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito.

White House officials hope this week sets the tone for its top priorities as Bush visits the Pentagon Wednesday to discuss the war on terror and then flies to Chicago Friday to try to convince Americans that the economy is on solid footing.

"I've been thinking long and hard about 2006," Bush said Sunday after a visit to wounded troops in San Antonio. "And my hopes of course are for peace around the world. I'm going to continue to work as hard as I can to lay that foundation for peace."

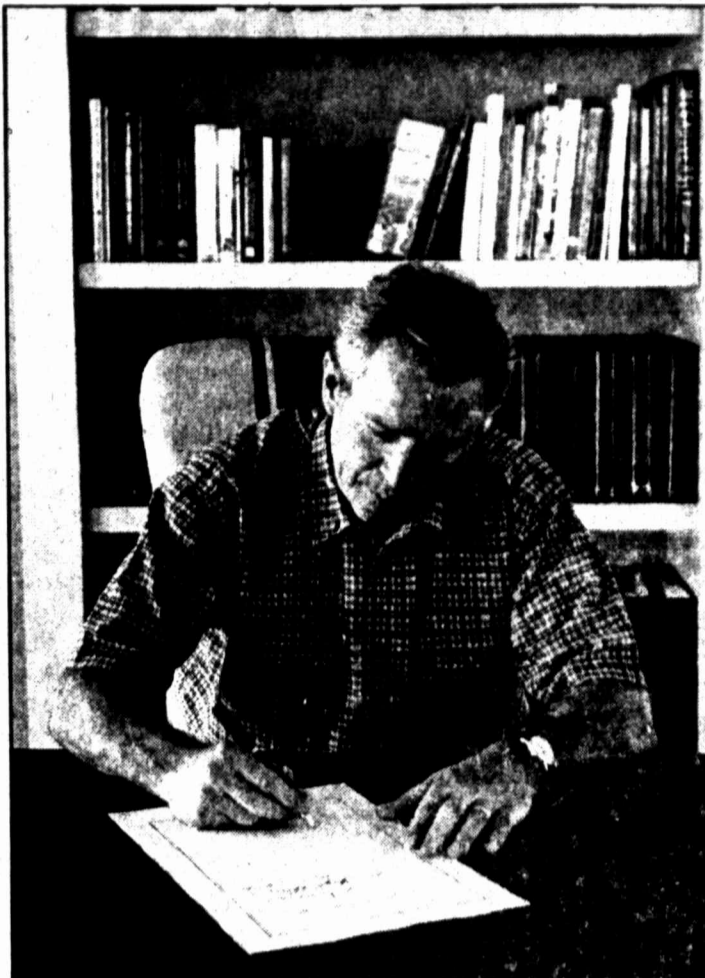
Bush also mentioned the economy's increasing strength.

"We had a very strong economy and we'll work to keep the economy as strong as we possibly can so anybody that wants to find a job can find one," Bush said.

He'll use the backdrop of the White House to meet with a bipartisan group of former secretaries of state and defense to discuss terrorism and Iraq and to surround himself with U.S. attorneys to pressure lawmakers to renew the Patriot Act.

Congress failed to renew the anti-terror legislation before it left for the holidays, extending it instead for one month.

The debate has been complicated by lawmakers' concerns over recent revelations the administration permitted the



KRT photo/Sheelah Craighead, White House
President George W. Bush signs into law H.R. 3010, the "Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006" from the Bush ranch in Crawford.

National Security Agency to monitor some Americans' calls since the Sept. 11 attacks, a strategy some lawmakers fear may have infringed on civil rights.

The Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee is planning to conduct oversight hearings on the domestic spying after the committee holds its confirmation hearings for Alito.

The White House gave few signals last week as Bush vacationed at his Texas ranch that it has any compromises in mind to break the stalemate over the Patriot Act.

The meeting Tuesday in

the Roosevelt Room with U.S. attorneys and other officials is being held to show support for those on the front lines of the war on terror, White House spokesman Trent Duffy said.

Michael Greenberger, a Justice Department attorney in the Clinton administration and law professor at the University of Maryland, said meeting with federal prosecutors allows the White House to show it is standing firmly behind getting the act extended.

Thursday, Bush meets with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense Condoleezza Rice and for

mer secretaries of defense and state, including Madeleine Albright who served in the Clinton administration. Bush will be defending his strategies for curbing terrorism and outlining his game plan in the war.

In Iraq, the U.S. hopes that as more Iraqi police and army forces are trained, they will slowly take over responsibility for security from American troops. Much of that expectation depends on the ability of Iraq's ethnic and sectarian groups to form a broad-based government that will have the legitimacy to deflate the Sunni Arab-led insurgency.

"The conditions on the ground will dictate our force level," Bush said Sunday about a war that will be central in defining his presidency.

"How this president handles the Middle East in general and wins in Iraq in particular will be probably the most important definition of his presidency," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday on CBS "Face The Nation."

Friday, the president turns his attention to the economy, traveling to Illinois to visit the Chicago Board of Trade and make remarks.

The administration can point to the creation of some 1.8 million new jobs in the past year, rising consumer confidence and reports showing the economy grew at a healthy 4.3 percent in the third quarter. Democrats, on the other hand, note high prescription drug costs and confusion about the new Medicare prescription drug plan. High heating bills this winter, displaced workers in the Gulf Coast and rising federal deficits.

THREAT

Continued from Page 1A

Sullivan said no injuries were reported as a result of the blaze, which firefighters were forced to let burn itself out.

"That way we don't put a lot of foam out and get a lot of contaminants out on the ground," explained Sullivan. "We just have to let it burn and take its course while we keep an eye on it."

Volunteer firefighters also responded to a fire Sunday about 11 a.m. morning at the Co-op Gin, located on North Highway 87.

"There were 45 mile-per-hour winds at

that time and we had concerns because we were advised that the fire had already crossed the highway. So we were concerned about Pettus Road and the houses over there," said Sullivan.

"Luckily, there was a cotton field that had already been stripped between there and the fire, so we didn't have the fire to move over. However, we did advise the local residents to put on their lawn sprinklers because of the danger of a spark or ember blown by high winds."

Sullivan said firefighters were able to control and extinguish the blaze without any injuries and minimal loss of property.

"We were able to bring in dozers and dig holes with the water tankers cooling

it down," said Sullivan. "Then we were able to bury it and put the fire out by covering it up. The last fire units left the gin around 3:30 p.m., so it took about four or five hours to put it out."

"The winds contributed enormously to the fire. They pushed through all the bur piles, and fortunately we were on the east end of the gin instead of on the west side. If it had been on the west end it could have gone all through the gin and the modules and been really bad."

And while these two fires were safely extinguished, Sullivan said area residents need to be aware of the danger posed by fires fueled by high winds and dry conditions.

"It makes it a really bad situation all

the way around," said Sullivan. "We have a very heavy fuel load right now. The grasses and brush have grown up to the highest levels I've seen in the last 20 years, and all it takes is one little spark, whether it's man-made or an accident from an electrical spark."

People need to be very cautious right now, he said, and watch the disposal of your smoking materials. It's a lot more likely that the majority of burning causes than the man-made causes, which is what we're seeing the majority of."

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

FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

Firefighters were close to encircling the Eastland County fire early Monday, but were concerned that an expected wind shift might complicate efforts, Weaver said.

Some Carbon residents who fled Sunday said at least two dozen homes were destroyed in their town; officials said those figures were not yet available.

Bill Sandlin, 63, and his wife saw smoke on the horizon as they returned home from church Sunday, then started watering their yard. But as flames approached, they packed clothes, pic-

tures and his gun collection. They drove away in a travel trailer just as flames started to engulf their house and three barns.

"We hate losing our stuff, but at least everybody's OK," said Sandlin, who picked up his elderly mother as he left town and later reunited with his children.

Billowing clouds of light gray smoke hung across the horizon for miles in Eastland County.

"We just took up money for the folks in Cross Plains at church this morning, never thinking it would be us in just three hours," said Mallory Fagan, who waited in nearby Eastland with her nine-months'-pregnant daughter and 30

dogs from the family's dog rescue. They also have about 200 horses, many rescued, but had to leave them behind.

Mark Pipkin, Eastland Fire Department safety officer, said one firefighter sustained a sprained ankle. Three firefighters were injured in Ringgold, but details were not available, officials said.

A nursing home and hospital were evacuated in Nocona, about 13 miles east of Ringgold, but after about three hours a mandatory evacuation was lifted and residents were allowed to return. Some outlying areas of

Montague County later was contained and some rain fell, Weaver said.

Another fire in Sterling County northwest of San Angelo had spread to 5,700 acres by Sunday night. State fire officials had planned to send air-planes, but winds were too high, Weaver said. One firefighter was injured battling a fire on the Reagan-Irion county line southwest of San Angelo.

In the Panhandle, about 100 residents in Shamrock were evacuated for a time as a fire approached, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. The blaze

later was contained and some rain fell, Weaver said.

Another 6,700-acre grass fire in nearby Donley County threatened about 70 homes in the Leah Lake community, Weaver said.

Earlier Sunday, a blaze started south of Dumas after a truck wreck that killed the driver, said DPS Trooper Wayne Beigle. Smoke from sev-

eral fires and blowing dust prompted DPS to close several roads.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-3288

Lillian Gould, 78, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel, Coleman, Texas with burial at the Brown Ranch Cemetery in Coleman. Her body will lie in state at Myers and Smith Funeral Home until 1:00 PM Monday.

Kaleidoscopes
1103 E. 11th Place
OPENING DECEMBER 30



BirthPlace Tour: Monday, January 2 at 7:00pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life. Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, Beautiful Beginnings. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives. The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Beautiful Beginnings in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WEST CAMPUS
Count On Us. For Life.

4214 Andrews Highway 432-522-3260
www.midland-memorial.com

TAX-AIDE

Continued from Page 1A

aspect of the program will be held Jan. 24-27, also from 8 a.m. until noon at the Senior Center.

"The people that we have coming back this year have been a part of the program for a number of years, so they really know their way around the system," she said. "But we're definitely in need of more. The more volunteers we have for the program, the faster

we can get people in and out with their taxes."

Hopkins said tax-help will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Jan. 30. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available.

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

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

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Craddick's prints
all over school
financing fiasco

Tom Craddick started 2005 peering out from the cover of Texas Monthly, which heralded him as Texas' most powerful person. The House speaker lived up to his billing during the Legislature's regular session, plus two special ones, all devoted to funding schools.

Unfortunately, the iron-fisted Republican passed up numerous chances to give schools the gift of strong financial foundation. He wraps up the year making a good candidate for Grinch of Austin.

From the year's beginning, Mr. Craddick showed little interest in cooperating with Senate leaders to solve the school-funding crisis. He thought the courts should take a swipe at it first. Never mind that many schools were dismissing teachers, cutting classes and teaching more students with less money. That truth didn't bother the speaker.

He didn't budge when parents, teachers and superintendents lined the Capitol hallways, pressing legislators to realize the plight of their classrooms. The advocates came from all over Texas. And they were so dogged in their plea for more money some Republicans derided them as "Whiny Ass School People," or WASPs.

Forget their struggles. The Craddick team focused on how schools could economize. What little money it did offer schools didn't keep pace with inflation.

The obstructionist streak continued in his dealings with Republican colleagues. As the regular session ended, Mr. Craddick rejected a compromise solution from Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

That session collapsed, just as the special ones fell apart. Mr. Craddick's fingerprints were all over their death certificates. And as 2005 ended, he backed out of a joint committee with the Senate to try to solve Texas' biggest problem.

A Texan with uncommon impact? Yes. A Texan who affected lives? Yes. A Dallas Morning News Texan of the Year finalist? Yes. A Texan who improved his state's schools? No.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we feel we can not win for losing, Lord, we can still win with You. Amen

Another Puerto Rican beauty contest

Now, it's the Bush administration proposing yet another meaningless plebiscite to determine the political status of Puerto Rico.

In three such referendums — in 1967, 1993 and 1998 — Puerto Ricans have already chosen between the three options offered to them: Should the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island:

- Become the 51st state of the union?
- Maintain its commonwealth relationship with the United States?
- Become an independent nation?

Every time, they chose commonwealth over statehood — with independence finishing a distant third.

And every time, the vote was meaningless — because the U.S. Congress has never made a commitment to abide by the will of the Puerto Rican people.

Had they voted to become a state or a nation, there was no guarantee that it would happen — especially since some members of Congress have expressed many reservations about allowing Puerto Rico to become a state.

Now the Bush administration is proposing a different approach: Two rounds of plebiscites to eliminate two of the three options, one at a time.

President Bush's Task Force on Puerto Rico's status recommended last week that Puerto Ricans should first be asked to choose between remaining a U.S. commonwealth territory or move toward a more permanent status.

If they decide they want a permanent solution, the Task Force said a second plebiscite would then ask Puerto Ricans to choose between only two options — statehood or independence.

The Task Force called on Congress to sanction the dual plebiscites (or at least hold hearings about the issue) by the end of

2006.

It sounds like a good idea.

As long as Puerto Ricans have three options, they are likely to remain living in a land with an uncertain future. Narrowing their options may finally break them free of a political arrangement that was only meant to be temporary.

The commonwealth status, approved by Congress in 1952, was originally designed as a transitional stage in the island's development. It was always understood that Puerto Ricans eventually would have to choose between statehood and independence.

But the commonwealth arrangement has dragged on — for too long — and the Bush administration is right to nudge the Puerto Rican people to seek a more stable future.

Unfortunately, although the Bush Task Force recommended that "Congress, within a year, provide for a federally sanctioned plebiscite," it doesn't say Congress should be bound by the outcome.

If the vote gets to a second round and Puerto Ricans finally choose between statehood and independence, the Bush Task Force says "Congress is encouraged to begin a process of transition toward that option."

"Encouraged?" That's it?

Once Puerto Ricans make such a momentous decision about their own destiny, they would then have to beg a reluctant Congress to grant them their wish? What happened to our respect for the principle of self-determination?

That makes this next plebiscite just like the others — a beauty contest. In fact, there may be other meaningless plebiscites down the road.

"If the people elect to remain as a [U.S. commonwealth] territory, the Task Force recommends that a plebiscite occur periodically, as long as that status continues, to keep Congress informed of the people's wishes."

Excuse me? Keep Congress informed?

How about calling on Congress

to abide by the will of the people? Isn't that what democracy is about?

Regrettably, Puerto Rico's 4-million people, although U.S. citizens, since 1917, have never enjoyed all the benefits of our democracy.

They serve in the U.S. military, but are barred from voting in presidential elections. They pay no federal income taxes, but their voice in Congress is limited to a single, non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives.

Yet giving Puerto Ricans adequate representation is not necessarily a priority for many members of Congress, especially since statehood could shift the balance of power between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill.

Many Republicans rightfully fear that once Puerto Ricans have the right to send two senators and six voting representatives to Congress, they are likely to elect mostly Democrats. And that makes statehood even more unlikely as long as Republicans are a majority in Congress.

If Puerto Ricans chose statehood, the GOP leadership in Congress is not likely to abide, especially since many Republicans also abhor the idea of a having state where Spanish would be the official language.

And Bush, who got elected by a hairline margin in 2000, would he support adding a blue state — with eight Electoral College votes — to the union?

No way, Jose!

So, why is the Bush administration proposing another plebiscite?

Because as long as the election is non-binding, it's only a harmless beauty contest to keep the Puerto Rican people distracted from more serious problems, like a sluggish economy and high crime and school-dropout rates.

Unfortunately, these meaningless elections also show that when it comes to Puerto Rico, our commitment to democratic principles is a farce.

COPYRIGHT 2005 CREATORS
SYNDICATE INC.

ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **PETE LANEY**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

Troubling signs from Causey's plea

There are some very troubling signs in the last-minute guilty plea from Enron Chief Accounting Officer Richard Causey.

It looks from the outside like an innocent guy afraid he'll be sent to prison gets a very good deal from the government because it needs his help in the worst way, which is the way it's getting it. He admits to two technical violations of the securities laws, and pleads guilty to only one count — but now faces a situation where the number of years he spends in prison depends on the government's assessment of how well he "cooperates" with the government against the two co-defendants with whom he has just spent months preparing for trial.

The joint trial of the top three executives of the failed Enron Corp. was scheduled to finally get underway on Jan. 17, when a deal was announced with the chief accountant, former Arthur Anderson partner Richard Causey. Unlike Andrew Fastow, Enron's chief financial officer, who had previously agreed to plead guilty and cooperate with authorities, Causey was both well-liked within the company and carried no baggage from having skimmed money for himself, factors that could have undercut credibility. A committed family man, Causey had reportedly talked to prosecutors early on about a possible deal, but those negotiations went nowhere.

The usual rule in criminal cases is that if you're going to cut a deal, you cut it early. If you're going to hold out, hold out — but don't cut a deal on the eve of trial.

As you get closer to trial, the government prosecutors generally gets less generous, particularly if they already feel their case is

solid. At that point, having done their preparation, they've made their investment, they don't need you, so they throw (most of) the

book at you anyway. Remember Mike Milken, who pled on the eve of trial (under duress), a classic case of this.

Clearly, the government still needed Richard Causey to make its case against Skilling and co-defendant and former Enron Chairman Ken Lay. Having indicted the three for a pat-

tern of deceiving investors about the health of Enron and falsifying partnership records that could have landed the 45-year-old chief accounting officer in prison facing a sentence of 35 to 40 years, they turned around and allowed him to plead guilty to a single count based on two discrete transactions that, had they been committed by another company, would certainly have been dealt with civilly, if at all.

The recommended sentence is seven years if he doesn't cooperate, five years if he does. With good behavior, it's closer to four. In short, they let him off as easy as they could, on one count, admitting almost nothing.

Why offer such a good deal, so late in the process? Generally, there's only one answer. Weakness. Desperate need. You don't give away one-count pleas unless you're very weak going into trial.

Which, of course, raises the question of what it did get, for its half of the bargain.

If the government didn't get any admission of guilt as to the under-

lying scheme of fraud and deception, which it is claiming that the other two executives also participated in; if it didn't get info on Raptor or other front-subsidary animals to use against Chairman Ken Lay and Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Skilling, what did it get?

That's the other troubling piece. Causey has sat for months with Lay and Skilling and their lawyers preparing for this trial, remembering what happened, thinking through how they will approach issues and what each will say. They have been preparing to defend themselves as a team, with each having a role in that team and a part in that defense.

Now, imagine the government had come in and said it wanted a representative in those meetings and a role — to be yanked at the last minute — in that defense. It would, any student of the adversary system would certainly see, violate every single tenet of that system, not to mention the lawyer-client privilege, for the government to be in the room when a defendant gets ready for trial. Wouldn't it? Doesn't it?

Richard Causey is in the uncomfortable position where two years of his liberty depend on whether the government says he "cooperated" against his former co-defendants. But Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling are in the much more uncomfortable position, where they face what are effectively life sentences, with two additional weeks to adjust to having lost months of preparation. Whatever crimes they may or may not have committed, they are still entitled to a fair trial.

COPYRIGHT 2005 CREATORS
SYNDICATE INC.



MIGUEL
PEREZ



SUSAN
ESTRICH

N

Metro

They edge is edge c better, worse.

That goes th mother who inher disord Tooth

This ease ca streng of the dren Christ old Th carrier which through blood

And broug medic otics, childr help p sympt edge c conser concer the No dent h test h disease

But, chang Christ ized Docto admin Christ get b knew tions toms CMT

W

Metro

It's e with y The l stayin conveye ise — In t trying and f time effecti all rec exerci essent promc al an

Sq

Metro

Mill moms before lunch squab home — all them: work kids head meeti

In t pick u after: babys ter, tl to the their lessor

By c mom' Exerc to co Yet m seem ing th the ti

"Ex worki energ how t

Vonei Vobsl wife s A me Vobsl Feder Athle says, one c act at I've health Flov first

New hope for CMT sufferers

Metro

They say that knowledge is power. Yet knowledge can make your life better, or it can make it worse.

That's what constantly goes through the mind of mother Allison Moore who suffers from the inherited neurological disorder Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT).

This non-contagious disease causes loss of muscle strength in various parts of the body. Her two children — 7-year-old Christopher and 4-year-old Thomas — could be carriers of the disease, which can be diagnosed through a simple genetic blood test.

And since CMT can be brought on by certain medications and antibiotics, knowing that her children are carriers can help prevent the onset of symptoms. This knowledge could also bring on consequences such as concern for the future. So the New York City resident had resolved not to test her children for the disease.

But, that decision changed recently when Christopher was hospitalized for dehydration. Doctors were going to administer a drug to Christopher to help him get better, but Moore knew that some medications could trigger symptoms of CMT (Moore's CMT was triggered by

medication).

She questioned the doctor about the medication and he said he didn't know if it would bring on the CMT. So Moore told the doctor not to give Christopher the medicine.

Moore doesn't want to have to wonder or question whether every drug her child takes might bring on CMT. So, she has had her son tested for CMT and is awaiting the results.

CMT symptoms

CMT affects millions of people worldwide. It was discovered by three doctors, Jean Charcot, Pierre Marie, and Howard Tooth, in the late 1800s — hence its name. To date, there is no known cure or treatment.

Symptoms of CMT vary, as do their levels of severity. The legs and feet are affected first, causing difficulty in walking, which is why CMT sufferers usually wear AFOs (ankle-foot orthosis) or braces.

Without these devices, a person with CMT has difficulty walking and often trips. To avoid tripping, one with CMT usually has to lift his foot by using his knee and has to walk very slow.

But walking this way puts stress on the knee and ankle, causing frequent ankle sprains. Over time, normal knee reflex motion is lost, and nerve damage causes burning

and/or stabbing pains and cramping in the legs. Walking, standing and equilibrium — things the average person takes for granted — are challenging for CMT sufferers.

Those with CMT can find help through the Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation (HNF), which was founded by Moore. This nonprofit foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for CMT, while providing support and services for those living with the disease and their families.

Better orthotics

HNF also helps CMT patients find proper treatment and orthotics to make their walking easier and more productive. They have consulted with Ortho Rehab Designs, a clinical and orthotic prosthetic practice specializing in CMT treatments, which has designed the new state-of-the-art brace called Helios™. Available only in Las Vegas, the brace is comfortable and wearable, credited to its combination of carbon graphite with a custom-designed footplate that seeks to correct deformities, restore balance and return energy to the wearer.

"The primary goal of any orthosis is to prevent any further deformity," says Mitch Warner, president of Ortho Rehab Designs, and orthotics wearer since age one.

"Once this is achieved, new alignment can be put in place, and better balance develops, resulting in increased walking speed."

And CMT sufferer Bill Watson of Gladwyne, Penn., is living proof that the Helios brace works wonders.

Watson has had CMT since he was an adolescent, but was raised as if he never had the disability. As such, he didn't wear orthotics until he was fitted with the Helios brace this past January at age 43.

"What a difference this brace has made in my life!" Watson says. "I used to have to look down when I walked because I couldn't walk heel to toe. Now I can walk upright which has greatly improved my posture." Since wearing the brace, Watson says he has the ability to walk faster and stand on his own, his balance has greatly improved, and his energy levels have increased.

"I didn't realize how fatiguing it was to walk without these braces," Watson adds. "I encourage anyone with CMT to get them." He says they are light, comfortable, and easy to put on and take off. "They are a miracle," he says.

To get fitted properly for a brace, Warner suggests finding a board certified orthotics specialist who frequently works with



Bill Watson suffers from the disease CMT. His Helios braces have helped improve his quality of life.

CMT patients. A good orthotist will work with your physician or physical therapist to ascertain your muscle strengths and physical condition which will help in the design of your orthosis, he says.

With CMT cases ranging from mild to severe, Warner says that you need to find a practitioner who approaches each case individually. He or she should also be willing and able to design an orthotic device for your specific needs.

For more information on CMT, visit HNF's Web site, www.hnf-cure.org. The site presents up-to-date information, resources, support, international discussion forums, Q & As, along with helpful products and services that are available to individuals with CMT. For more information on Helios braces, call (888) 696-9909, or visit www.hnf-cure.org/helios.

Ways for working fitness into daily routine

Metro

It's easy to fall into a rut with your fitness routine. The hardest part about staying fit is finding a convenient time to exercise — and sticking to it!

In today's busy world, trying to balance work and family leaves little time to squeeze in an effective workout. But we all recognize that making exercise a priority is an essential step towards promoting healthy physical and mental well-being.

The question is, where do you find the time? Here are some easy ways to work fitness into your daily routine — no fancy, expensive fitness equipment or gym membership required.

1. Rise and shine! Rise 30 minutes before you usually do. Use that time to go for a quick jog around the block or to take a fast walk on the treadmill. Sure, you won't catch as many Zs, but you'll be full of energy to

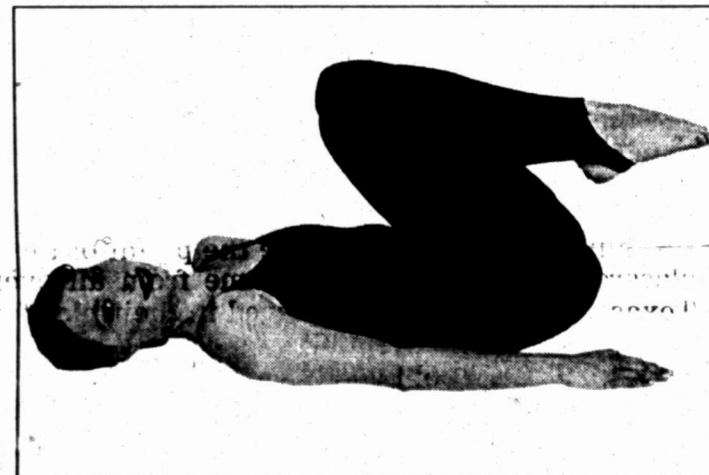
get you through the rest of the day.

2. Be a couch potato. No, that doesn't mean sitting in front of the TV with a bag of chips. Take advantage of your tube time to squeeze in mini workouts. Sit in a rocking chair to improve strength and flexibility in your knees. Lift weights as you watch a talk show. Ride a stationary bike during your favorite reality series, or walk on a treadmill as you indulge in a

TV movie. Even getting up to fix yourself a healthy snack or folding laundry during commercials can help burn calories.

3. Let your TV give you a workout. Use exercise DVDs or VHS tapes, or research available exercise channels on cable and satellite.

4. Take the stairs. Stairs aren't just for public places. Take the laundry from the basement to your bedroom. Walk up and down the steps like Rocky Balboa for a mini workout.



Metro photo

5. Clean like you mean it. House-cleaning is a necessary evil so use those chores to your advantage. Stretch to reach that top dusty shelf. Squat as you vacuum the living room floor. Bend to load and unload the dishwasher. Strengthen your arms and back as you rake or hoe your garden.

Squeeze more sweat into your day

Metro

Millions of working moms are up every day before sunrise, packing lunches, settling sibling squabbles, and reviewing homework assignments — all while trying to get themselves ready for work. They shuttle the kids off to school, and head off to a full day of meetings and paperwork.

In the evenings, they pick up the kids from the after-school program, babysitter or daycare center, then maybe dash off to the soccer field to catch their son's game, or take their daughter to ballet lessons.

By day's end, a working mom's energy is zapped. Exercising is a great way to combat this fatigue. Yet many working moms seem to disregard it, saying they just don't have the time.

"Exercising can give working moms more energy if they only knew how to make it a part of their daily lives," says Vonetta Flowers, Olympic Bobsled gold medalist, wife and mother of twins. A member of the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation "Adopt an Athlete" program, she says, "If I can do it, anyone can. It's a balancing act at times, but I feel that I've managed to lead a healthy and happy life." Flowers became the first American athlete of

African descent (from any country) to win a Winter Olympics gold medal after she won in the Bobsled competition at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

She took off the first half of the 2002-2003 season after giving birth to twin boys (Jaden Michael and Jordan Maddox). She returned to the ice to compete in the Bobsled World Championships in Winterberg, Germany, in January 2003. Flowers not only competed throughout the 2003 and 2004 season as a member of the USA Bobsled Team, but also traveled with Johnny, her husband/personal trainer, and her two boys all over the globe.

So whether it's going for a long walk, a quick run or jog, or hitting the gym for an hour, it is possible that working moms like Flowers can find the extra time to fit exercise into their lives. Consider these tips:

• Exercise early in the day, before the kids get up, while the day is still

yours. Run on your treadmill, go for a jog in the neighborhood or lift handweights.

• Take a brisk walk at lunch. It's a good time to not only exercise but clear your head and get out of the office.

• Park a short distance away and walk. Take the stairs whenever possible. Walk more each day.

• Figure out what works best for you — home exercise equipment or the gym. Then, stick with it.

• Consider a personal trainer who comes to the house. If money is tight, have the trainer design a program for you to follow after just one or two visits.

• Wear clothing that maximizes your workout and minimizes injury.

There's no doubt that working moms who take the time to care for themselves improve their overall health and well-being, as well as their ability to take care of their families. Now that's a win-win situation for everyone.

Coronado Hills Apartments

1 Bedroom - \$375 • 2 Bedroom - \$475 • 3 Bedroom - \$575

801 W. Marcy • 432-267-6500

Big Spring, Texas 79720

Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking & Washer - Dryer Conn.

2-3 Bedroom



"Remember...you deserve the best!"

Scenic Mountain Medical Center

Senior Circle Chapter 11

Invites you to join our...

January 2006 Activities

January 3 * Tuesday
Mall Walking—8:00 AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Coffee @ Park Place—10:00 AM
Supper Club "Hunan's"—5:30 PM

January 4 * Wednesday
Sit & Be Fit—10:30 AM
Senior Appreciation Day—11:30 AM

January 5 * Thursday
Mall Walking—8:00 AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Coffee @ Gale's—10:00 AM
"BONKO" 5:00—6:30 PM

January 9 * Monday
GAMES—1:00—3:00PM

January 10 * Tuesday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Supper Club "Casa Blanca"—5:30 PM

January 11 * Wednesday
Sit & Be Fit—10:30 AM
Senior Appreciation Day—11:30 AM

January 12 * Thursday
Mall Walking—8:00 AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Coffee @ Gale's—10:00 AM

January 13 * Friday
Pot Luck & Bingo—11:30—2:00 PM

January 16 * Monday
Lunch Bunch Birthdays "Cowboy's"—11:30 AM

January 17 * Tuesday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Supper Club "Red Mesa"—5:30PM

January 18 * Wednesday
Sit & Be Fit—10:30AM
Senior Appreciation Day—11:30AM
Lunch-N-Learn—11:30—1:00PM

January 19 * Thursday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Coffee @ Gale's—10:00AM
"BONKO" 5:00—6:30PM

January 20 * Friday
"I Love You—Your Perfect—Now Change!"
Yucca Theater—5:00PM—?

January 23 * Monday
GAMES—1:00—3:00PM

January 24 * Tuesday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Supper Club "Long John Silvers"—5:30PM

January 25 * Wednesday
Sit & Be Fit—10:30AM
Senior Appreciation Day—11:30AM

January 26 * Thursday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Coffee @ Gale's—10:00AM

January 31 * Tuesday
Mall Walking—8:00AM
(Meet at the Mall: walk together)
Supper Club "Cowboy's"—10:00AM

Senior Circle Advisor / Volunteer Director

Anita Cline
268-4721

Odds and Ends

Had time of her life

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — At 103 years old, Leone Margaret McKenney couldn't see or hear much over the crowd's roars at her first Packers game — but she had the time of her life.

"I will never forget this. It was a humdinger," the great-great grandmother said after the Sunday game. "I don't know when I have enjoyed anything as much as I enjoyed that."

McKenney had said she never got to a Packers game when she was younger because her husband wasn't "too keen about football" and she never had the opportunity, even though her family moved to the Green Bay area in 1947.

But she keeps a picture of legendary Green Bay Packers quarterback Bart Starr in her apartment and wears Packers garb as she watches every game.

McKenney received the luxury box tickets from the owners of Renaissance Assisted Living in De Pere, where

she has lived for five years.

Her occupational therapist accompanied her to assist with steps at the stadium because McKenney is recovering from a fractured hip.

On Sunday, Brett Favre threw his first touchdown pass in five games, giving the Packers a 23-17 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

"It was fabulous, and then to have a win," she said, "that was almost more than I could bear."

Three New Year's babies born same time

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Austria's first baby of the new year was Isabella Melanie. No, wait, it was Jelena. Or was it Johannes Samuel?

Three infants born at precisely the same time on Sunday — one minute after midnight — all laid claim to the traditional honor of being the nation's first newborn of 2006.

Because official hospital records gave the time of birth as 12:01 a.m. Sunday for all three babies, their

parents will have to be content with sharing the honor, Austrian state television said as it tried to sort out the confusion.

One commentator suggested that Jelena deserved the honor of 2006's first baby by default because she arrived four weeks early and had to be delivered by emergency Cesarean section.

But Isabella also came ahead of schedule, said her mother, Melanie Erber.

"Actually, we weren't expecting her until Jan. 8 at the earliest," she said.

Man lied to receive new wheelchair

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — A man lied about having his wheelchair stolen so he could con a sympathetic public into giving him a new one, authorities said.

Virgil Stewart, 52, faces a felony charge of falsifying a police report.

Stewart, who is missing part of his right leg, told police that his attackers sought money, threw him into a fire hydrant and

ran off with his wheelchair.

A car dealership and a nursing home each give him a new wheelchair after the story was reported in the local media.

Authorities, though, say the Dec. 19 assault never happened.

Police said Stewart's probation officer confronted him about the story after getting a tip that, before reporting the assault, Stewart had asked staff at a post office if he could leave his wheelchair there.

Stewart, who is on probation for cocaine possession, confessed, complaining that his old wheelchair was "kind of broken down and he didn't like the wheels," said Joe Dubina, a regional administrator for the Ohio Adult Parole Authority.

The two wheelchairs have been returned to their donors.

Stewart appeared Friday in Canton Municipal Court and a judge freed him on a \$2,500 bond and set a preliminary hearing for Jan. 10.

Doctor says Iraqi baby is doing well

Baby is playful

ATLANTA (AP) — An Iraqi infant brought to the United States for treatment of severe birth defects is "interactive and playful," with good mental function, but will likely wind up using a wheelchair, her doctor said Monday.

Dr. Roger Hudgins, a pediatric neurosurgeon who agreed to take the case, said in interviews on morning news shows that 3-month-old Baby Noor al-Zahra will probably have paralysis or weakness in her legs after surgery.

"It looks at this point as if she's probably not going to be able to walk," he told CBS' "The Early Show." "There's just not that much function in the lower extremities."

The child left Baghdad in a military transport plane Friday, accompanied by her grandmother and father, and arrived in Atlanta Saturday.

U.S. doctors were sent e-mail photos of the baby and received some medical information, but they still need to do a full evaluation before attempting surgery, Hudgins said.

"Baby Noor has a personality of a six-month-old," he told ABC's "Good Morning America." "She's interactive and playful. It's been a delight. We have very high hopes for her."

U.S. troops discovered the baby three weeks ago during a raid of a house

in Abu Ghraib, a poverty-stricken district west of Baghdad. The soldiers noticed paralysis in the baby's legs and what appeared to be a tumor on her back.

They later learned the 3-month-old child had spina bifida, a birth defect in which the backbone and spinal cord do not close before birth. The growth on the baby's back was actually a fluid-filled sac containing part of the spinal cord.

"Quality of life is very important, but if we don't get rid of this defect, it will eventually take her life as well," Hudgins said. There is fluid buildup inside her brain and she has trouble emptying her bladder, he said.

Doctors usually operate on spina bifida victims immediately after birth, making this operation unusual, Hudgins said.

But the baby's situation was stable, giving doctors enough time to do appropriate studies.

Baby Noor will probably need one or two months in the United States to complete the medical repairs and recovery before returning to Iraq, officials had said earlier.

Hurricane damaged cars could end up in Central America, Mexico

PHARR (AP) — Motorists in Mexico and Central America could end up buying cars damaged by hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast and East Texas without knowing it, officials warn.

"I would not be surprised if cars from Louisiana and Texas end up in Mexico, Central America or South America," said McAllen Chamber of Commerce

CEO and President Steve Ahlenius. "After storms and flooding (in Texas) in the 1990s, cars from the Southeast appeared in the Southwest."

Each day, more than 100 cars wait at the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge and Los Indios Bridge in Harlingen to be processed for shipment through Mexico into Central America.

They include unlicensed and untaxed vehicles that economic officials call coches chocolates — referring to how they're like a box of chocolates because buyers don't know what they're getting.

Some 500,000 used cars are illegally imported into Mexico each year and about 2.5 million such vehicles from the United States are in Mexico,

according to Automotive Body Repair News, a monthly trade publication for the collision repair industry.

Based on information received from law enforcement and government authorities, Carfax estimates between 250,000 and 500,000 vehicles could have been damaged by flood waters generated by Katrina.

Family Medical Center Spotlight
Dr. Susan Roberts
Family Practice Physician
2301 S. Gregg
432-267-5531

Business Spotlight

The Water Shoppe
The BEST Water In Town
For Only 20¢ A Gallon
Enjoy Our Convenient Fast Friendly Curb Service!!
1711 Scurry St. 267-7789

WHOLESALE RETAIL
Branham Furniture
2004 W. 4th • Big Spring, Tx. 79720
Fax 432-263-3066 Ph. 432-263-1469
THE HOTTEST DEALS IN TOWN!!!

TAN HAIR NAILS TAN HAIR NAILS TAN HAIR NAILS
TECHNO Salon
FULL SERVICE SALON: TANNING, HAIR & NAILS
Now Offering **Waxing Services**
COMING SOON
For your convenience, we are expanding 6 additional state-of-the-art tanning beds
Don't forget... We carry all top quality tanning lotions, unique handbags, jewelry and we have gift certificates available.
\$10 Off Any TANNING PACKAGE
Some restrictions apply With this coupon • Expires 1-31-06
1508-A East FM 700 Big Spring 432-268-1019
TAN HAIR NAILS TAN HAIR NAILS TAN HAIR NAILS

It May Be 800 Out Today BUT WINTER WILL BE HERE!
Did You Know ...
• Your Antifreeze Should Be Changed Or Treated Every 2 Yrs.
• These New Engines Have So Many New Aluminum Parts They Will Rust Internally If Not Properly Maintenance.
Stop by G & M Today And Let Our Friendly Staff Winterize your Car!
G & M Auto Care
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1972
263-0808
900 E. 3rd St. Big Spring, TX 79720

A Timeless Design Florist & Gifts
by Q.T. & Company
1701 Scurry • 264-7230

S
S
Washi
3:
Jar
Engl
Car
Gla
Pitts
3:
Dh
S
AFC
Ind
NFC
AFC
Ind
NFC
C
A
N
AFC
champi
Ca
ma
By JOS
AP Spo
SAN
Ever s
the fir
season
drama
Texans
they'd
No. 1 d
the exa
Dom C
Both
Sunday
After
son wil
loss to
49ers
Housto
top dr
close t
told Th
that C
fired M
That
son of
could
tion
While
NFL I
hasn't
he's e
school
April d
"If
them
make
having
bad as
good,"
David
1 over
The l
to a fru
Housto
Sp
By JIM
AP Spc
BEVI
— Te
Brian
the ki
mark
waits f
Just
kicked
using
leap
pound
timed
ball on
Thuc
ball wi
it falls
ground
dered.
Fran
Virgin
Ball"
famous
fit in t
but n
blocki
Texas.
The
nation
includ

NFL Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 7
Washington at Tampa Bay, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Jacksonville at New England, 7 p.m. (ABC)
Sunday, Jan. 8
Carolina at New York Giants, noon. (FOX)
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 14
AFC game at Denver or Indianapolis (CBS)
NFC game at Chicago or Seattle (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 15
AFC game at Denver or Indianapolis (CBS)
NFC game at Chicago or Seattle (FOX)

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 22
AFC game (CBS)
NFC game (FOX)

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 5
Detroit
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 5:30 p.m. (ABC)

Lackluster finish for Cowboys

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — When the Dallas Cowboys extended their season to the final weekend, coach Bill Parcells praised his club for showing "a little spunk."

It was gone by the time they lined up for that last game without a chance of making the playoffs.

Their emotions sapped by other games not going their way, the Cowboys allowed Aveion Cason and Arlen Harris to run for their first touchdowns since 2003 and scored the fewest points against the St. Louis Rams this season in a 20-10 loss Sunday night.

"We weren't up to playing the way we were supposed to play," defensive tackle Jason Ferguson said.

The game was rendered meaningless when Washington beat Philadelphia. A Carolina victory over Atlanta earlier in the day cut off another potential path to the playoffs. A long-shot scenario had fizzled when the New York Giants won Saturday night.

With only a 10-win season to

"I think we were a little deflated mentally, especially our offensive group. We just seemed to not be on edge in light of what happened today, probably."

—Bill Parcells, Cowboys' head coach

play for, the Cowboys couldn't get motivated.

"I think we were a little deflated mentally, especially our offensive group," Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said. "We just seemed to not be on edge in light of what happened today, probably."

The intrigue in Dallas now is whether Parcells will return for the final season of his four-year, \$17 million contract. He wouldn't say what he's doing or when he'll meet with team owner Jerry Jones to discuss it.

"I just got to get away from it a little while," Parcells said.

In the somber locker room afterward, Jones said, "We want to continue with what we've got going here. We've got a good thing going."

Under Parcells, the Cowboys

are 25-24 in three years, a big turnaround from 15-33 the three previous seasons.

This game ended the 10th season since the Cowboys won their last Super Bowl. They've won only one playoff game since then, in 1996.

The 2005 season is hard to quantify. It's a disappointment based on having been 7-3, but a success considering the Cowboys were 6-10 and not even close in most of their losses last season. Five of their losses this time were by a touchdown or less.

"I think we're a better team, by far, than what we were last year," Parcells said.

St. Louis (6-10) ended a four-game losing streak and won for only the second time in its last eight games. It may be a going-

away present for Marshall Faulk, who got his first start of the season, and coach Mike Martz, who has missed the last 11 games because of health problems and is believed to be on his way out.

"The guys played with a lot of passion," interim coach Joe Vitt said. "They practiced well the last four weeks and had nothing to show for it. I'm proud that they got this win."

The Rams, who came in averaging a league-worst 27.9 points per game and were near the bottom in total defense and run defense, held Dallas to 271 yards and a season-low 57 yards rushing.

Cason and Harris got so much prime action because Steven Jackson was inactive, the same reason Faulk started. Cason gained 65 yards, Faulk 25 and Harris 15.

Faulk said afterward that he hasn't given any thought to whether he'll be back next season.

"I think it's unfair to even speculate on any decision because I haven't made one," he said.

Capers out, Bush may be Texans bound

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Ever since Houston lost the first six games of the season, the only real drama surrounding the Texans was whether they'd end up with the No. 1 draft pick. That, and the exact timing of coach Dom Capers' firing.

Both answers came Sunday.

After finishing the season with a 20-17 overtime loss to the San Francisco 49ers that assured Houston of the coveted top draft pick, a person close to the organization told The Associated Press that Capers would be fired Monday.

That will start an offseason of big changes that could peak with the selection of Reggie Bush. While the most exciting NFL prospect in years hasn't yet made it official, he's expected to leave school early to enter the April draft.

"If we couldn't win them all, if we couldn't make the playoffs, I guess having the first pick, as bad as it is, might be good," said quarterback David Carr, a former No. 1 overall pick himself.

The loss brought an end to a frustrating season for Houston. Their own fans

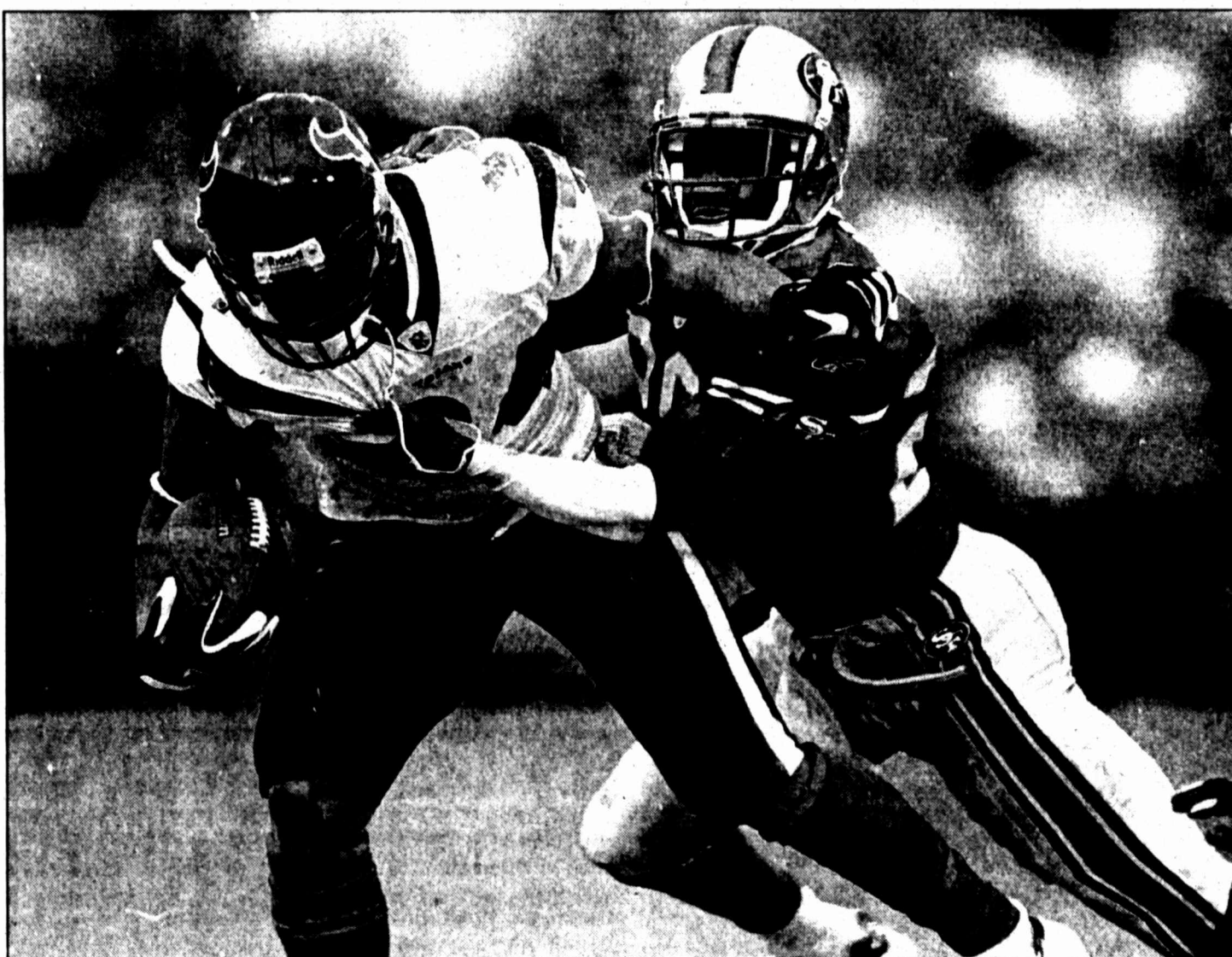


Dom Capers

cheered for losses and booed their few successes, hoping to increase their chances at getting Bush. Skeptics questioned whether the players should try — or whether they were trying — as the team lost lead after lead down the stretch.

Those questions lingered after Sunday's game, which featured sloppy play on a wet field, injuries to Carr (elbow) and top receiver Andre Johnson (ankle) and a missed 31-yard field goal by Kris Brown.

But the Texans scoffed at the notion that they were dumping a game, pointing to a key defensive stand at the end of



KRT photo/Bob Larson

San Francisco 49ers cornerback Mike Adams (20) brings down Houston Texans running back Vernand Morency in the first quarter at Monster Park in San Francisco Sunday.

regulation and the frustration that players displayed. Cornerback Dunta Robinson slammed his helmet to the turf after Joe Nedney's 33-yard field goal gave San Francisco (4-12) its second straight win to wrap up a disappointing first season for coach Mike Nolan and last year's top draft pick

Alex Smith. "You hate to see this locker room because a lot of the faces in here won't be here next year," Robinson said. "Things are going to turn around for us but some of these guys won't be a part of it. That kind of hurts."

The Niners won despite putting together only two

good drives all game. They capitalized on a pair of interceptions by Mike Adams against backup quarterback Tony Banks, one that was returned 40 yards for a score and another that set up Nedney's winning kick.

After losing 12 of 13, a second straight win for the Niners (4-12) provided

a confidence boost heading into the offseason.

"It is nice to win two weeks in a row," said Smith, who threw his first touchdown pass of the season in the second quarter to Brandon Lloyd. "It shows a lot about this team going down both

See CAPERS, Page 2B

Special teams to be in spotlight

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

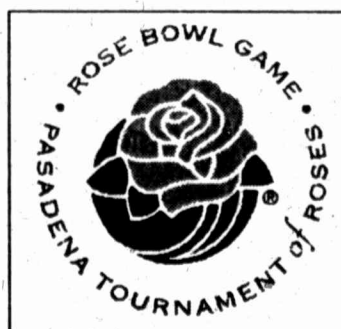
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Texas defensive end Brian Robison sizes up the kicker, watches him mark off his steps and waits for the snap.

Just as the ball is kicked, he's in the air, using a 40-inch vertical leap to send his 280 pounds in a perfectly timed jump to meet the ball on the rise.

Thud! Robison swats the ball with a huge hand and it falls harmlessly to the ground. No points surrendered.

Frank Beamer and Virginia Tech's "Beamer Ball" may be the most famous special teams outfit in the college football, but nobody's better at blocking kicks than No. 2 Texas.

The Longhorns lead the nation with 43 since 2000, including nine in the last



six games. "They have terrific athletes at every spot on special teams. They're fast. They're explosive. They pose a tremendous threat," said USC coach Pete Carroll, whose top-ranked Trojans meet the Longhorns in the Rose Bowl Wednesday night.

At the rate these two offenses score, an extra touchdown on a blocked kick or a punt return could make the difference in winning or losing a national championship.

Texas safety Michael Griffin has blocked a

school career record six punts, including four this year.

Robison has blocked five field goals and extra points in his career. His latest was a 31-yard attempt by All-American kicker Mason Crosby of Colorado in the Big 12 championship game.

The Longhorns can return punt for scores, too. Aaron Ross tied a school record this season with two TD returns. He averages 15 yards per return and his 481 total yards leads the nation.

Griffin and Robison are both starters on defense. Brown learned several years ago to put some of his best athletes on special teams regardless of whether they start. He remembers being questioned for putting wide receiver Roy Williams —

See ROSE, page 2B

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SCHEDULE

2005-06 Bowl Schedule	Fort Worth Bowl	Missouri 38, South Carolina 31
Bowl Championship Series	Kansas 42, Houston 13	Peach Bowl
Fiesta Bowl	Hawaii Bowl	LSU 40, Miami 3
Notre Dame vs. Ohio State	Nevada 49, Central Florida 48, OT	Melinka Car Care Bowl
Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 2, 3:30 p.m. ABC		North Carolina State 14, University of South Florida 0
Sugar Bowl	Motor City Bowl	Liberty Bowl
Georgia vs. West Virginia	Memphis 38, Akron 31	Tulsa 31, Fresno State 24
Atlanta, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m. ABC	Champe Sports Bowl	Houston Bowl
Orange Bowl	Clemson 19, Colorado 10	TCU 27, Iowa State 24
Florida State vs. Penn State	Insight Bowl	Cotton Bowl
Miami, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., ABC	Arizona State 45, Rutgers 40	Alabama vs. Texas Tech
Rose Bowl	MPC Computers Bowl	Dallas, Jan. 2, 10 a.m., Fox
USC vs. Texas	Boston College 27, Boise State 21	Outback Bowl
Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 4, 7 p.m. ABC	Alamo Bowl	Iowa vs. Florida
Non-BCS Schedule	Nebraska 32, Michigan 29	Tampa, Fla., Jan. 2, 10 a.m. ESPN
New Orleans Bowl	Emerald Bowl	Gator Bowl
Southern Mississippi 31, Arkansas State 19	Utah 38, Georgia Tech 10	Louisville vs. Va. Tech
GMAC Bowl	Holiday Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 2, 11:30 a.m. NBC
Toledo 45, UTEP 13	Oklahoma 17, Oregon 14	
Las Vegas Bowl	Music City Bowl	
California 35, Brigham Young	Virginia 31, Minnesota 31	
	Sun Bowl	
	UCLA 31, North Carolina	

Briefs

By The Associated Press

Vermell retiring

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — With trademark tears in his eyes, Dick Vermell said this is really it — a third retirement means he's out of football.

Unlike his other two retirements, there'll be no returning to the profession he loves so dearly, Vermell tearfully told a news conference Sunday after his Kansas City Chiefs beat Cincinnati 37-3.

He had told the team and staff the night before that he would step down after five years with the Chiefs and 15 years in the NFL.

Vermell took the 1980 Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl, and then retired two years later. He won the

Super Bowl with the St. Louis Rams after the 1999 season but then abruptly retired again.

He returned to the NFL in 2001 with the Chiefs.

He was 44-36 with Kansas City and led the Chiefs to the AFC West title in 2003, their only playoff appearance under him. He went 125-114 with Philadelphia (1976-82), St. Louis (1997-99) and Kansas City.

Tice fired

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings fired coach Mike Tice after Sunday's victory over Chicago.

The announcement came less than an hour after the Vikings' 34-10 win over the Bears in the regular season finale. Tice finished his fourth full season with a 32-32 record.

His tenure was mostly

marked by streaks and scandals, with a \$100,000 fine levied last summer against him by the league for scalping his Super Bowl tickets and a wild boat party during the team's bye week this season that produced misdemeanor charges for four players.

Weis wins Robinson Award

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis received the Eddie Robinson Award as the nation's top college football coach on Sunday.

Weis guided Notre Dame to a 9-2 record in his first season at the school after being lured from the New England Patriots, where as offensive coordinator he helped the team win three Super Bowls in four seasons.

CAPERS

Continued from Page 1B

weeks and we came back. We came together at the end of this season and we gained momentum. To play two full games the last two weeks is great for this team."

The close loss provided a fitting end for the Texans, who were beaten by seven points or less in five of their last seven losses.

The near misses and a promising core that includes Carr and Johnson gives the Texans some hope that the addition of a player like Bush could be enough to turn things around.

"I think it can be done. I look around at all the talent we have and yet we haven't been able to put all the talent together and be successful," center Steve McKinney said. "I

think if you add a few pieces here and there, I think this team can do a lot of good things."

There's no bigger piece than Bush, who captivated fans with his electric runs and game-breaking plays that have put Southern California in position to win a third straight national title.

Bush has been compared to greats like Gale Sayers and Marshall Faulk, averaging 8.9 yards per carry and about that many highlights every game while leading the nation in all-purpose yards with 217.9 per game.

But while everyone expects Bush to leave USC after this season, he said he hasn't made up his mind just yet. However, he did plan to take a break from his preparation for the Rose Bowl to watch the game that would determine

who would get the top pick.

If Houston had won, New Orleans would have picked first based on its weaker schedule.

"I'm curious about it," Bush said from Los Angeles. "I would like to see what happens. I'm a fan of football in general. You know, whatever happens in this game, it won't have any effect on me. Obviously it will just mean who gets the first pick in the NFL draft."

Getting the top pick is no guarantee of short-term success — just look at the 49ers for the latest example. Smith struggled in his rookie year for San Francisco, not tossing a touchdown pass until his 150th throw of the season.

But the task would be easier for a running back like Bush, who would have a much shorter learning curve than a quarterback,

forced an Aggie punt.

Griffin slipped through the left side of the line for the block. Teammate Cedric Griffin scooped up the ball for a TD, giving Texas a two-touchdown cushion in what ended as a 40-29 victory.

"When we get out there, we're trying to turn the game around," Michael Griffin said. "A field goal block keeps teams from putting points on the board. A punt block is to return it."

To do it against USC, Texas must first stall the powerful Trojan offense. "Do they have a punter?" Brown said. "We laugh, but somebody's going to punt at some point."

Neither team does it very often. Seldom-needed Tom Malone averages 41.7 yards for USC. Texas' Richmond McGee averages 38.1 yards.

The Trojans could be in real trouble when they do kick. USC ranks last in defending punt returns, giving up an average of

17.7 yards and two touchdowns this season.

"We're real concerned," Carroll said. "We have not had a great season on special teams."

That's even with Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush as their return man. He's averaging only 17 yards per kickoff return, and 9.9 on punts.

Then again, USC hasn't had to rely on its special teams to win. Texas won the Rose Bowl last year on Dusty Mangum's 37-yard field goal as time expired.

Senior David Pino is the Texas kicker this year and has hit 12 of 15 field goals. His five missed extra points look shaky, but he was rock-solid when Texas won at Ohio State with field goals of 42, 37 and 25 yards without a miss.

Mario Danelo, son of former NFL kicker Joe Danelo, is 10 of 11 for USC with a long of 36 yards. He's missed three extra points.

ONE LAST VICTORY LAP



KRT photo/David Eulitt

Kansas City Chiefs head coach Dick Vermell accepts congratulations from Chiefs fans after the 37-3 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City Sunday. Vermell announced his retirement to the team the day before the game.

Late Zeno free throw lifts Red Raiders past UTEP

LUBBOCK (AP) — Martin Zeno scored 15 points, hit a tie-breaking free throw and grabbed a steal in the game's final seconds to help Texas Tech fight off Texas-El Paso 61-60 Sunday.

Zeno broke a 60-60 tie by converting one of two free throws with 1:04 remaining.

After UTEP's Jason Williams missed a pair of free throws a second later and Tech's Daryl Dora missed a 3-point attempt, the Miners rebounded, called timeout and set up their final possession.

With the final seconds ticking down, UTEP tried to pass the ball inside to John Tofi, but Zeno broke up the play and grabbed the loose ball. He passed the ball downcourt before

he could be fouled as time ran out.

Zeno's efforts gave Tech (8-6) its second straight win. Jarrius Jackson scored 14 points and Dior Lowhorn and Terry Martin each scored 13 for the Red Raiders.

The Miners (7-4) had erased a 12-point Raider lead in the final 6:08.

UTEP cut the lead to five, 58-53, at the 4:01 mark on a baseline jumper by Edgar Moreno. Tofi then made it a 58-56 game when he scored on a drive and drew a foul on Zeno with 2:56 left.

After Dora hit two free throws with 2:34 left for a 60-56 lead, the Miners answered with a Tofi free throw that made it 60-57 at the 2:15 mark.

On UTEP's next posse-

sion, Tofi's inside shot was blocked by Lowhorn, but the ball bounced to UTEP's Miguel Ayala, who missed a 3-pointer. The Miners rebounded and moved the ball to Brent Murphy, who drained a 3-pointer that made it 60-60 with 90 seconds left.

Tofi led the Miners with 15 points. Williams added 14.

Tech shook off a slow start, missing its first seven shots, before taking control late in the first half. The Miners led 12-7 with 12 minutes left, in the opening half, but Tech, led by a trio of 3-pointers by Martin, eventually took a 31-20 lead one minute before intermission. Tech held a 33-23 lead at halftime.

Rose

Continued from page 1B

now with the Detroit Lions — on the punt block team.

"It was very controversial when we did it," Brown said. "I remember people asking, 'Coach, how dumb are you? He might get hurt.' He blocked a punt on his first play."

The key is finding players with an instinct for getting to the ball.

"Some can block it and some can't. Michael has a knack for slipping through and putting his hands on the ball. He's the best I've ever seen," Brown said. "If you take a lesser athlete and he runs into the punter, all of a sudden you've given them field position."

Griffin's most important block of the season helped Texas get to the Rose Bowl. The Longhorns took a 28-22 lead in the third quarter against rival Texas A&M, then

TRUCK LOAD SALE!

Save Up To **30%** On A New Roof...

MOST COLORS AVAILABLE!!

20 yr., 30 yr. Shingle Roofs
Flat Roofs • Modified Gravel • 26 gauge U-Panel Metal

FULLMOON, INC. ROOFING

Commercial • Residential • Industrial • Insured • Bonded • \$500,000 General Liability

REASONS TO CALL

- Ranked Top 25 Roofing Contractors in Texas
- Owners Coming Preferred Contractors
- Save \$100's to \$1000's On Your Next Roof

VOTED TOP 100 ROOFING CONTRACTORS IN AMERICA 2004

FREE ESTIMATES • (432) 267-8478 • BIG SPRING, TX

HENRY BACKES

CLIPPING COUPONS...

It's like money in your pocket.

Look for the Valassis coupon book in your paper the week of January 8th.

Your favorite products... for less!

Connecting People to Brands™

Big Sp...
Monda...
Ann...
16162...
Busin...
80 VENC...
with Prim...
Includes...
MUST S...
\$11,195...
800-940...
HE...
Here...
Informa...
when pl...
ad has...
day we...
for mis...
been m...
the ad...
no addi...
inadvert...
payment...
and will...
be receiv...
advertis...
right to...
publicat...
standar...
14 A...
20.00...
Spec...
Fore...
trucks...
utility...
Hrs. 8...
1511...
Fred R...
HO...
H...
C...
R...
P...
VE...
CO...
43...
Hous...
Com...
1993...
For...
790...
1811...
264

CLASSIFIED

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Announcements

Didn't Get Your Paper?
Call 263-7335
Mon-Fri. 8am-7pm
Sun 8am-noon



Business Opportunity

80 VENDING MACHINES with Prime Locations. Includes Inventory. **MUST Sell Immediately!** \$11,195 investment. 800-940-5277 Open 24/7

Business Opportunity

ACKERLY/ KNOTT
Do you live in Ackerly or Knot and work in Big Spring? Help pay your gasoline bill by delivering the Big Spring Herald in Ackerly and/or Knot.
For more info call **Duane McCollum**
BIG SPRING HERALD
(432)263-7331

The Big Spring Herald always need dependable carriers for various routes. Must have insurance and reliable transportation.

Apply in person.
Contact **Duane McCollum**
710 Scurry (432)263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

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

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

Garage Sales

AVON CLEARANCE SALE!
Tues., Jan. 3rd, 614 Dallas St., 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Credit cards and checks accepted!

Help Wanted

Assistant Manager/Collector
Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

BUSY COLLISION repair shop in need of estimator and/or bodyman. Must have experience and tools. Benefits available. Call (432)263-7306.

CANTEEN CORRECTIONS now hiring for 8 Positions. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 day work week. Must pass criminal and credit check. Pick up application at 2004 First Ave. Building #48 or Texas Work Force. Call (432)263-2366.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Utility Service Worker, Heavy Equipment Operator/Landfill, Meter Reader and Animal Control Officer. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan, (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

CLERICAL POSITION available. Bilingual required. Temporary position of approximately four months. Job will include filing, answering telephone, and computer data entry. For interview call (432)264-7563.

COAHOMA ISD is accepting applications for building custodian. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 North Main. Applications accepted until the position filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

Help Wanted

COMMERCIAL CARPENTER NEEDED
Interior trim and finish out carpenter needed immediately for construction project in Big Spring. Call Sandy at (432)264-9894 or (325)656-5273 (cell). Equal Opportunity Employer.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

DOWN HOLE Pump Repair/Delivery Person. Experience Preferred, but will train. Salary D.O.E. Full Benefits Package. Send Resume to P.O. Box 2234, Big Spring.

DRIVER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!! Excellent benefits include health, dental, life, LTD, 401k and quarterly bonuses. Class B CDL, HAZMAT required, LP License a plus, Pay D.O.E. Eddins-Walcher 208 Old Lubbock Hwy., Snyder or call (325)573-5722.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Call **Jay** at 888-527-7221.

NEED MATURE person to do light cooking & cleaning from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Part-time. Call (432)267-1872.

Help Wanted

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

Full-time Cook needed at **SWCID**, 3200 C Ave. Apply in person, January 3rd, 4th & 5th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. No Phone Calls Please.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now hiring for a Liquid Plant Management position. Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical, 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Texas.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now hiring class A-CDL driver. Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical, 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Texas.

Help Wanted

HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM needed as Dorm parents for basic Child-Care Facility. Salary plus room & board, benefits. Call Texas Pythian Home, 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday (817)594-4465 or visit our web site www.pythianhome.org

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days - 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

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

Mountain View Lodge Nursing Center
2009 Virginia Ave Big Spring, Texas
432/263-1271

Is Under New Ownership and is seeking professional, enthusiastic and caring individuals, to fill the following positions:

Weekend RN
Certified Nurse Aides - All Shifts
F/T Maintenance Supervisor

Come by Mountain View Lodge to apply and meet our dynamic team of caregivers.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

<p>AUTO PARTS</p> <p>WESTEX Since 1947</p> <p>• 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles • 20,000 sq ft. of Warehouse storage • Specialize in late model quality auto parts • Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles Hrs. 9 a.m.-5:30 Wed/Thu 9 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p>CARPET</p> <p>CARPET SALES and Construction Management Draw Plans & Estimates Kenny Thompson 270-0548</p>	<p>COMPUTER</p> <p>The Specialist Matthew Grayson All your computer needs, commercial - residential - on site. 15 Yrs. Experience 263-3885 267-8997</p>	<p>COMPUTER</p> <p>CG's Computer Service "Computers Done Right" 26 Years Experience 2003 Johnan Big Spring, Texas 79720 PH: (432) 264-6662 http://www.cgs.com/cgscomputer/webSite/</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>MARQUEZ FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates Benny Marquez Owner 267-5716</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Swimming Pool Decks JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 219-0882 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res. 108 E. 11th PLACE BIG SPRING, TX. 79720</p>
<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES Chico and Sons Concrete (432) 466-0573 (432) 816-6561 Fred Rubio 621 Sgt. Paredez Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-270-7508</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 • 1-800-528-1389 1000 Lammie Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>FIREWOOD</p> <p>Mixed Firewood For Sale \$120 Cord Mesquite \$200 Cord Delivered & Stacked (432) 570-9617 (432) 238-6770, cell</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Speedy Construction We Do It All Residential & Commercial Ceramic Tiles, Cabinets, Drywall, Textures, Plumbing, Electrical AC, Roofs, New Additions & Lawn Service Phone: 432-263-2911 Cell: 432-816-3832</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance Quality Work You Can Trust Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Rene Crain (owner) 432-270-2666</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>MOWING • ALLEYS HAULING • TILLING TREE TRIMMING STUMP REMOVAL CALL 432-267-5460 CELL 816-6150</p>	<p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p>
<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings 1903, 07, 11 E. 11th PL. For rent/sale 799 E. 12th 1811 Main 204 11th Place</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and • Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>STORAGE</p> <p>AAA Mini-Storage Special 1/2 Off First Month Rent For All Your Storage Needs Large Or Small, We Store It All!!! Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p>WEB PRINTING</p> <p>For Information On Web Printing Call Tony Hernandez 263-7331 BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 432-267-8317 432-268-6406</p>

Help Wanted

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

NOW HIRING FOR postal positions. \$18.50-\$59.00+hour. Full Benefits/Paid training and vacations. No experience necessary 1-800-534-1775 reference #9020.

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT needed - No experience necessary; will train. Must have high school diploma. Apply at 207 E. 7th St. No phone calls please.

REPORTER/ EDITORIAL Staff needed. Temporary, approx. 3 month. Experience in writing, reporting and Quark Preferred. Part or Full time. Call Bill McClellan, Big Spring Herald after 10:30 am (432)263-7331.

ROUTE SALESPERSON
Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. requires individual to complete a drug screen and work assessment test. Possess or able to obtain a Class A CDL. Beverage sales experience a plus. Comprehensive benefit program. Please apply in person: Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Tx 79720 EEO/AA Employer

WAREHOUSE/ PLANT WORKERS NEEDED
BIG SPRING AREA
Immediate openings for long term employment. Requirements are: experience working in a warehouse or a plant environment. Some forklift experience helpful. Positions are for cotton seed plant located in Big Spring. Contact Kelly Services of Midland at (432)689-9801 Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer

Items for Sale

TURBINAIRE HVLP model 1235 spray system, Grizzly model 1022SM table saw w/Woodstock Shop Fox fence, gas shop heater. (432)264-0067 after 5:00 pm.

Miscellaneous
Bed - All new orthopedic mattress **QUEEN SET \$165.** in plastic with warranty. Call (806)549-3110.

FOR SALE: Big Screen TV! Santa brought a new one, so selling 53" Zenith Projection Color TV for \$500. Call 267-1306.

FREE PALLET. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

WANTED: RESPONSIBLE Party to take on small monthly payments on High Definition Big Screen TV. Call 1-800-398-3970.

National Ads
\$\$\$ UPTO \$529 WEEKLY! Mailing letters from home. FT/PT. No experience necessary. U.S. Digest 1-888-389-1790 24-hours.

\$\$\$ UPTO \$529 WEEKLY! Mailing letters from home. FT/PT. No experience necessary. U.S. Digest 1-888-389-1790 24-hours.

\$1,000 - \$3,425 WEEKLY! Processing Simple E-mails Online! Make \$25.00 Per Email! No Limit! Answer Surveys Online! Make \$15.00+ Per Survey! Guaranteed Paychecks! Amazing Employment Opportunities! <http://www.processemails.com/>

\$1750 WEEKLY INCOME! Nationwide Company Now Hiring Home Mailers! Easy Work! Written Guarantee! 1-800-242-0363 x4146.

\$2000 WEEKLY! Mailing 400 brochures! FREE supplies & postage! Start immediately. 1-800-926-9954. Call for free information!

National Ads

\$25,000 FREE CASH GRANTS**2006!** Never Repay! For Personal bills, School, New Business. \$49 BILLION left unclaimed from 2005! Call NOW! Live Operators! 1-800-274-5086 ext. 10.

\$25,000 FREE CASH GRANTS**2006!** Never Repay! For Personal bills, School, New Business. \$49 BILLION left unclaimed from 2005! Call NOW! Live Operators! 1-800-681-5732 ext. 15.

\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS! Hondas/ Chevys/ Fords/ Jeeps. Cars, trucks, SUV's from \$500! Listings: 800-749-8116 xA148.

******\$50,000.++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****AVOID DEADLINES! CALL NOW!** For Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business/Home. NEVER REPAY! ALMOST EVERYONE QUALIFIES! Live Operators! 1-800-274-5086 ext. 12.

******\$500-\$100,000++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****NEVER REPAY!** FOR PERSONAL/MEDICAL BILLS, SCHOOL, NEW HOME/BUSINESS, ALMOST EVERYONE QUALIFIES. AVOID DEADLINES! LIVE OPERATORS 1-800-270-1213 EXT. 11

******\$500-\$50,000++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****NEVER REPAY!** Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business/Home. Almost EVERYONE qualifies! FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE! Live Operators! 1-800-681-5732 ext. 13.

******\$500.-\$50,000.++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****NEVER REPAY!** Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business/Home. Almost EVERYONE qualifies! FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE! Live Operators! 1-800-681-5732 ext. 13.

'MOVIE EXTRAS' Earn \$150-\$300 Per Day. All Looks/Types Needed. TV, Music Videos, Commercials, Film. Print. No Experience Necessary. Call 7 Days 1-800-260-3949 X3501.

National Ads

CLERICAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE Earn \$12-\$48/hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Many Government Positions Available. Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! Call 7 days. 1-800-320-9353 ext 2501.

CONSOLIDATE BILLS/LOANS. Bad Credit Welcome. From \$3,000 - \$150,000. 8% APR. Save Money Now. 1-800-966-7458.

DRIVER TRAINEES A Great Career! Excellent Pay/Benefits C.R. England Needs CDL Driver Trainees! Limited Positions. No Credit Required! Call Now! Toll Free 1-866-619-6081

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! No Credit Checks! Excellent pay/benefits! CR England School and PAID training! Also, NOW hiring licensed CDL Drivers! Call 1-888-471-5967.

DRIVERS. DREAMING of a green New Years? Company Sponsored CDL Training Available. Bad credit - No Problem! Low Tuition with Easy Financing. Why Wait? 1-800-398-9908.

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS! Now Hiring! Earn \$12 - \$48 per hour / No Experience Full Benefits / Paid Training 1-866-409-2663 ext. 20.

FREE DIRECTV Satellite, 4 rooms. FREE TIVO/DVR. Add HDTV. 220 Channels + locals from \$29.99/month. First 500 orders - Free DVD Player. 866-641-7031. Promo #16026.

HEALTHCARE FOR \$59.93/mo!!! NEW LOW PRICE! For entire Family! Prescriptions, Dental, Vision, Hospitalization, more! All Pre-existing Conditions OK. Call Today! 1-800-269-0538 SC. W-8729 Provided By: P.S. Family Healthcare.

NEED A NEW COMPUTER? Bad Credit - No Problem! Buy Now, Pay Later New Computer/Laptops from \$20/month Call Now 1-800-451-3472.

NOW HIRING for Postal Positions \$18.50-\$59.00+/hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training and Vacation No Experience Necessary 1-800-584-1775 Public Announcement. Reference #9801

OLD GUITARS WANTED! Fender, Gibson, Gretsch, Martin. 1930's-1960's. Top cash paid! 1-800-401-0440.

OUR ACCREDITED High School Diploma in 30-days or less. No classes. FREE evaluation. www.FinishHighSchool.com 1-866-290-6596.

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED For Store Evaluations. Get Paid to Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants, & Theaters. Training Provided, Flexible Hours, Email Required. 1-800-585-9024 ext. 6381.

SHEDS FOR Sale STEEL BUILDING SALE! We'll Beat All Competitor Bids Spec for Spec or we'll send you a check for \$200.00! 1-800-973-3366. www.premiersteel.org

National Ads

TRUCK DRIVERS Wanted-Best Pay and Home Time! Apply Online Today over 750 Companies! One Application, Hundreds of Offers! <http://hammerlanejobs.com>

WANTED 29 serious people to work from home using computer. Indep. Income Oppty. \$1500 - \$5000 - PT/FT. 800-743-5106 www.QISglobal.com

Pets

STUD SERVICE: Handsome, proven, unique fawn colored 3 year old AKC registered Doberman Pinscher. Call 267-1306.

Real Estate for Rent

South Plains APARTMENTS
432-714-4840
Efficiency Apt. • *175*
One Bdr. • *225*
Two Bdr. • *300*
w/6 Mo. Lease (*\$300 Deposit)
• All utilities Except Electric Paid
• Free High Speed Wireless
• On-Site Manager
• Laundry & Vending Facility
• Housing Assistance Accepted

1610 STATE. Two bedroom, one bath. \$365. month, \$150. deposit. **1203 STANFORD.** Two bedroom, one bath, CHA, \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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

3/2 1/2 Nolan - 1 bedroom. 100.00 All Bills. 2528 Fairchild 2 or 3 bedroom. \$350/\$450.. 3/2 Trailer- 5600 South Service Road. Call (432)264-9907.

805 ROSEMONT. 3/2, fenced backyard, carport, \$425/month, \$250/deposit + 1 year lease. No HUD. Call (432)268-5956 or 268-9180.

BUILDING FOR LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month +deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

BUILDING FOR LEASE: 1714 Gregg St. Approximately 2500 square feet. Call (432)267-3649 to inquire.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

SUNSET RIDGE APT.
Cable TV Free!
Playground
No Water Bill
Paragon Security
24 Hour Laundry
On-Site Mgr. & Maint
Family Friendly
2 BR \$285
1 BR \$185
Call Rhonda (432)263-2292

TWO BEDROOM. New paint & carpet. 906 Nolan. \$265. Month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)267-4536, (417)276-8083.

Real Estate for Sale

2 HOMES for the price of one All on 3+ acres. Rent one, live in the other. Call Home Real tors for details (432)263-1284.

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

COAHOMA ISD - Beautiful! Bedroom, 2 bath, tile flooring throughout, metal roof, CHA 2.1 acres, horse barn and extra barns. \$73,000.00. Call (432)267-6554, 393-5602.

OWNER FINANCE. 1960s North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.6 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230 \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Tol Free 866-894-4591 325-650-5900.

TIME TO sell the Family Farms, Martin Co. approx. 80 acres and 485 acres, to be sold together, no Minerals. Call (512) 756-6573 or (432)267-6286.

Vehicles

Several New 2005 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 10th 267-7121

Legals

Public Notice
The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on January 16, 2006, to discuss the 2004-05 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 attend. #4818 January 2, 2006

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF CAP ROCK ENERGY CORPORATION STOCK

On December 22, 2005, Cap Rock Energy Corporation (the "utility") and Cap Rock Holding Corporation ("CRH") filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT") reporting the proposed acquisition by CRH of all of the issued and outstanding common stock of the utility. CRH is currently unaffiliated with the utility. The utility and CRH are requesting that the PUCT determine that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest in accordance with Public Utility Regulatory Act section 14.101(b). The proposed transaction will not involve the transfer of any of the utility's assets, certificates of convenience and necessity, or facilities. Further, the applicants are not seeking any change to the utility's rates or services. If the transaction is approved, the utility will continue to provide retail electric service as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CRH. This filing has been assigned Docket No. 32185. If you wish to intervene in this proceeding by becoming a party or to comment upon action sought, you should notify the PUCT as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission of Texas at (512)936-7120 or (888)782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephone ("TTY") may contact the PUCT at (512)936-7136 or toll free at (800)735-2989. The applicants have requested an intervention deadline of February 6, 2006. The actual deadline could be earlier or later, so interested parties should contact the PUCT to verify the actual deadline, and a request for intervention should be received by the PUCT by that date. All correspondence regarding this proceeding should include a reference to the Docket Number stated above. #4823 December 26, 2005 and January 2, 2006

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. Oak Firewood delivered and stacked for \$275.00 a full cord, 1/2 cord \$150.00. Call James (325)648-2818. leave message.

Subscribe Now And
SAVE up to **52%** over news stand prices

Subscription Price	News Stand Price
One Year \$93.42	\$195.00
Six Months \$51.90	\$97.50
Three Months \$25.95	\$48.75
One Month \$8.65	\$15.00

Call for Senior Citizen and Mail Delivery Prices

YES! Start my subscription for _____ months.
Enclosed is \$ _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

HERALD
710 Scurry, P.O. Box 1431
Big Spring, TX 79721 • (432) 263-7331

Card # _____
Exp. Date: _____
Signature _____

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

NEW YEAR Drive into the New Year with a new career. Schneider National has unlimited driving opportunities available, choose the one right for you!
• Experience rewarded but not required
• Company-provided CDL training for qualified candidates
• \$34,500-\$57,500 (depending on experience)
• Immediate benefits for experienced drivers
Apply Online @ schneiderjobs.com
Or Call 1-800-44-PRIDE (1-800-447-7433)
Sun. 11am-5pm (Central Time)
SCHNEIDER
...for new opportunities.

COMPANY PAID CDL TRAINING
Call now to find out about the largest pay increase in company history!
• No Experience Needed!
• Great Benefits & 401K!
• No layoffs in 25 years!
Stevens Transport offers the best comprehensive training program for new drivers! Get your career rolling and enjoy exceptional earnings and great benefits from the #1 premier transportation carrier!
Stevens Transport
For more information, call **800-333-8595**

Herald classifieds get results!
Call **263-7331**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

BY HO
The rings of vibratic fellows philanthropy and spreading good c even to undesir among Especial the un ables as us! Bei friend t friende tough (reason are the medic ARIES! 19). Lif educati are th times t you're apply y in a cc circum: TAUF 20). A oportt itself. another

A
Dear son pl woman from a "Lance have ticking will pr soon. We a parent: the kid: keep (this w the oth like to for ou our pa This unfair child fund fr grand how o same f even i this cl doing grand are de: We your on t Grand Dear your child? treat your child, oblige trust assum son m by his ents. will s that c feel at with y we do your close i of yo Being tant f for e might dren r ipate.) Dear band close

Call T
Ca
are not attention n't adju trucker his rig. not rea burns, p lying an and yo help yo Call us
COPUBLIC
B.T.V.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Aquarius moon rings out with a friendly vibration, encouraging

fellowship, philanthropy and the spreading of good cheer, even to the undesirables among us. Especially to the undesirables among us! Being a friend to the friendless is tough (there's usually a reason why the friendless are that way) but good medicine for the soul.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life is a continuous education. Sometimes you are the teacher, sometimes the student. Today, you're the student. You'll apply your learning later in a completely unusual circumstance.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A juicy business opportunity presents itself. Act on it before another seizes it! Those

who hesitate are lost! Gemini and Virgo are worthy creative partners who love to bounce your ideas back to you, slightly improved.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sometimes your thinking changes, and then you do. But right now, action leads thought; if you want to change the way you think, start with your behavior. A Scorpio or Leo provides a model worth following.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're just not "feeling it," here's a novel idea: do nothing. Allow a troubling situation to work itself out. You can't control anyone's behavior but your own, and even that can be a challenge on a day like today.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your left brain is working overtime. Stop analyzing, and start fantasizing! An old flame is thinking of you — but can you emotionally afford to get close to that fire?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're privy to rumors and supposition. Should you act on what you know? As the old song goes, "It ain't necessarily so." But it usually is. Tonight, try reacting to a difficult situation with silence.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People who are trying to impress you may accidentally insult you instead. Take no offense when none is intended. Romance is just around the corner, even though right now you may feel like the light is red and you're stuck in traffic.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your list of "shoulds" makes you feel unsettled or, worse, chaotic. Fight the urge to run around mentally and physically. Breathe. Sit still. If you do this long enough, the butterfly of happiness can alight upon you.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the "wow" factor working for you, which has an up side and a down side. Avoid the down side by guarding your time carefully

and putting up some social boundaries as well.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Too bad for anyone who tries to pin you to an itinerary now. You go where you please, and you please where you go. Loved ones find your elusive qualities alluring.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Among the unmemorable hours, there will be one lovely, luscious, luxurious moment that feels like forever — or at least it's how you would like forever to feel.
PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). You may not think you're doing anything particularly special, and yet your impact on the world around you is profound. With your patient assistance, the sleepwalker wakes up.
VIRGO 2006 ASTROLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS: You shine your light into the world this year and immediately illuminate the individuals who are meant to help you along your journey. The next 10 weeks show you rallying

your group together. Talk to truly inspiring people to shape your plan into something greater than you could figure out on your own. The mentoring of Scorpio and Pisces people is especially productive. Kindred souls you meet in February bring out the romance in you. By the end of the month, you even look different as love has transformative powers. There is no substitute for the real thing in March, and you could go on a quest to find such a genuine article — it requires travel and, of course, adventure. Beware of hangers-on in the early spring. Make sure that people are with you for the right reasons, especially friends. Better to go it alone than to be with someone who drains your energy. You're going to need it for a significant career push in April. Brush up your skills and add new ones to your resume. Singles find love in the classroom. In July, it's better to buy new than

used, especially with big-ticket items.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Typical Capricorn, Tracey Ullman is a maverick, multitasking achiever. Capricorns like to dominate their field of work by inventing it! Many people don't know that it was Ullman's self-titled show on Fox that "The Simpsons" debuted on in the '80s. Look to this star for more innovation soon — I see a touring show where she combines her penchant for music with brilliant comedic timing.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
© 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

ANIE'S MAILBOX®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Our only son plans to marry a woman who has a son from a previous marriage. "Lance" and his intended have biological clocks ticking, and I expect they will produce progeny very soon.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

We are unwilling grandparents. We don't like little kids much and want to keep our distance from this whole exercise. On the other hand, we would like to set up a trust fund for our grandchild — as our parents did for Lance. This is potentially unfair to the existing child, is it not? If we do a fund for our blood-related grandchild, are we somehow obligated to do the same for somebody else's, even if our son embraces this child? How will not doing so affect these grandchildren once we are dead and gone?

are friends with "Louis and Rhoda," whom we have known for over 30 years. They are family to us. We raised our kids together, socialized and traveled together. However, we have a problem with Louis, and we're afraid that if we bring it up to him, the friendship will never be the same.

We would appreciate your impartial thoughts on this matter. — Grandma — Not!
Dear Not Grandma: Is your son adopting this child? If so, you must treat him the same as your biological grandchild. If not, there is no obligation to set up equal trust funds, on the assumption that the stepson might be provided for by his paternal grandparents. Still, we hope you will set up something for that child so he does not feel as if his relationship with you was a sham. And we do think you should do your very best to form a close relationship with all of your son's children. Being an emotionally distant grandmother is sad for everyone. (And you might like the grandchildren more than you anticipate.)

We know that maintaining friendships means making concessions, changing irritating habits and modifying how we relate to others. None of us is without fault. But Louis talks too much, and he has become worse with his advancing years. He does have good things to say, but he monopolizes conversations and repeats himself. Other mutual friends have stopped asking Louis and Rhoda to social gatherings because Louis never stops running his mouth. He never asks what anyone else thinks, nor does he give any space so that others might change the flow of the conversation or get a word in. And he tells the same boring, recycled stuff.

I know Rhoda wonders why they don't get invited to other events, so I hope they will read this letter and make some adjustments. They are tenderhearted, good people and would give you their last penny, but Louis is getting worse, and with retirement we will have a lot more time with them. — In a Pickle
Dear Pickle: Since Louis has gotten worse in recent years, is it possible he is suffering from early dementia? This is not uncommon and would certainly explain his "boring, recycled stuff." Here's how you bring it up without damaging the friendship: "Rhoda, I've noticed that Louis seems more forgetful than he used to be. He constantly tells the same stories over and over, and doesn't remember to let others respond. Has he seen his doctor lately? We're worried about him."
Dear Annie: This is in response to that couple who expected the grandchildren to call them by specific names. At the age of 18 months, my grandson called me Paintball, and to this day, I don't know why. After several years of that, I'm Grandma now, but it's still fun to laugh about. — Pensacola, Fla.

Dear Pensacola: How cute! (He could have called you Sherwin-Williams.)
Dear Annie: My husband and I are part of a small circle of friends. We've known one couple, "Marge and Steve," for about 10 years, and our children have grown up together. We are all in our late 30s. I happen to know that Marge is having an affair. Although I do not have any real proof, the source of my information is another female in this group who is an extremely close friend of Marge. I had my own suspicions and confronted this mutual friend, who confirmed my worst fears. Marge's husband is a very dear friend of mine, and a wonderful husband and father. I keep telling myself that eventually he will find out and I won't have to worry about it, but I continue to wonder if I am doing the right thing by keeping quiet. Although neither my husband nor I want to be involved, I feel as though I am dishonoring my male friend who is unaware of the true character of his wife. He adores her, and I don't think he would dream she could do this in a million years. We go out frequently on a social basis with Marge and Steve, and it makes me feel like Marge's accomplice. By the way, Marge is rather careless about her affair, and I suspect she wants to be found out. At the very least, Steve should figure it out soon enough on his own. Am I doing the right thing by looking the other way, or do I have a moral

obligation to tell Steve? — Moral Dilemma in Santa Clarita, Calif.

Dear Dilemma: Normally, we don't advocate messing in the "affairs" of others. However, sexually transmitted diseases are so rampant that Marge could be putting Steve at risk, and this makes it a health issue. You need to confront Marge with your information. Encourage her to work things out with Steve, but let her know that you feel an obligation to tell him what's going on if she doesn't do it herself — and soon.

Dear Annie: I work for a dentist who goes to great lengths to make patients' visits as comfortable as possible. However, this same dentist ignores any infection-control procedures in the office. Gloves with the tooth debris, saliva and blood from "Mrs. Jones" will be transferred to "Joey Smith's" paper chart, the light switch, magazines, pens, etc., because he doesn't remove his used gloves. He also does not follow proper guidelines with a facemask, which should cover his nose and mouth. Gloves, masks and safety glasses protect both the patient and the dentist, primarily from HIV and hepatitis, but also from the spread of cold and flu viruses. Please encourage your readers to observe

their dental staff and other health care providers. The American Dental Association has information on their website (ada.org). — Yucked Out in NW Ohio
Dear Yucked Out: Thanks for the info. Have you told your employer how you feel? You cannot be the only one who is "yucked out," and he could be losing patients because of his lax practices. Speak up, or report him to the ADA.
Dear Annie: As a social worker, I appreciate the strong messages in your column about drugs and alcohol.

Today, crystal meth is an ever-growing evil that affects so many, especially children. People don't realize how addictive, volatile and poisonous this stuff is. Please encourage your readers to contact their local child abuse hotline if they are aware of families who use or manufacture this home-wrecker. — J.K. in Kentucky
Dear J.K.: Crystal meth has gained a great deal of notoriety lately, in part because it can be easily manufactured, is highly addictive and knows no class boundaries. Entire families have been destroyed by this drug. Crystal meth is speed, folks, and speed kills. For help, try Crystal Meth Anonymous (crystal-meth.org).

January 6, 7 & 8
First Friday, Saturday & Sunday Monthly
Antiques • Arts & Crafts • Food
OLD MILL
TRADE DAYS
Post, TX • U.S. Hwy 84 & Texas 207 • 806-495-3529

THE CLASSIFIEDS THAT CLICK
They're fast....
They're convenient....
They're updated every day....
They're our on-line classified listings.
For details on placing or answering a classified ad, see our Web site: www.bigspringherald.com, or call: 432-263-7331.
BIG SPRING HERALD
710 SCURRY
BIG SPRING

MRS. TEXAS
30th Anniversary
Friendship Family FUN!
Entry Deadline: February 1, 2006
Entry Requirements:
At least 18, Married,
US Citizen, Resident of TX
Call Today for Information! 817-442-8896 MrsTexas.net

Cruises from \$249!
Our Biggest Cruise Sale Ever!
Resident and Senior Rates Available!
Carnival. www.CruiseCafe.com
The Fun Ships. Or Call 1-800-788-2545

Car Wrecks
EXPERIENCE COUNTS
Lawyers with over 50 years combined experience and staff with over 90.
Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D.
Richard A. Dodd, L.C.
Craig W. Brown, P.L.L.C.
Timothy R. Cappelino, P.C.
Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law and Child Neglect Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT
Call us for professional insight.
1-800-460-0606
www.texasinjurylaw.com

CASH NOW As seen on T.V.
FOR STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS, ANNUITIES and INSURANCE PAYOUTS
(800) 794-7310
J.G. Wentworth means CASH NOW for Structured Settlements!

ald fiefs sults!
ll 7331

HOUSING TUNTY
diverting in this
object to the
using Act of
tee it illegal
reference lina-
tation based
eligion, sex or
or an intention
ch preference.
rimination."
er will not know
y advertising for
h is in violation
readers are
d that all
ted in this
available on an
ty basis.

MONDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Monday. Columns include WFAA (2), KMID (3), UNI (4), KPEJ (5), KOSA (7), KTLT (8), KWES (9), WTBS (11), KMLM (12), KOCV (13), DISC (20), AMC (21), SPIKE (22), TNT (23), BET (26), DISN (27), ESPN2 (28), ESPN (29), and SCIFI (30).

DENNIS THE MENACE



"2006...SAME OL'... SAME OL'?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I think PJ is adopting the wrong role models."

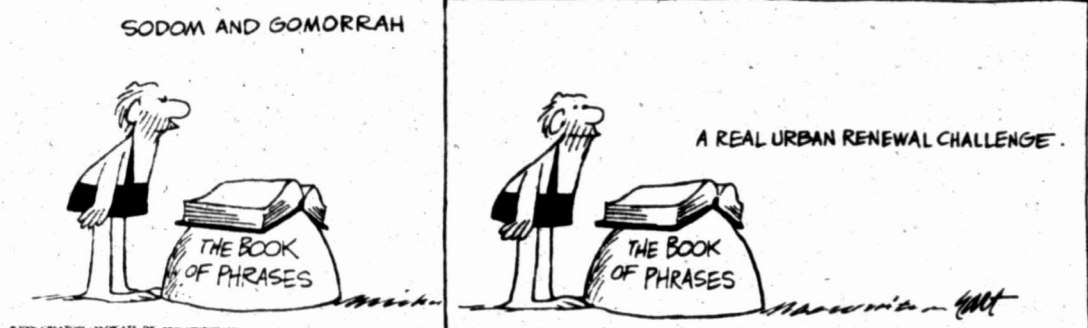
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



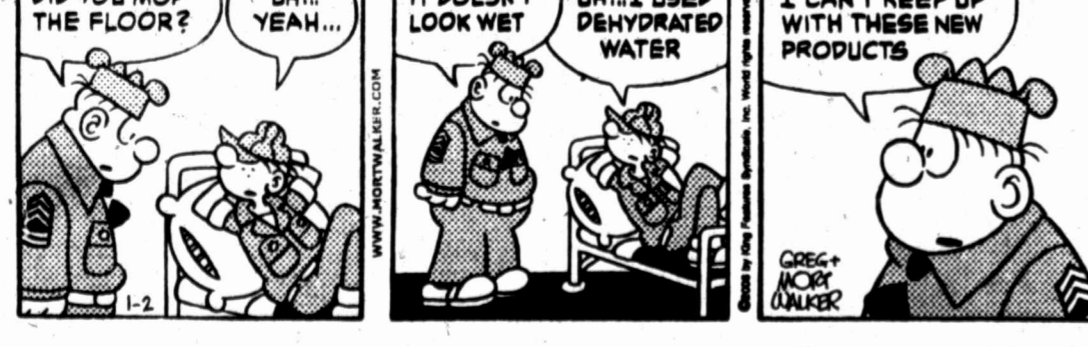
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

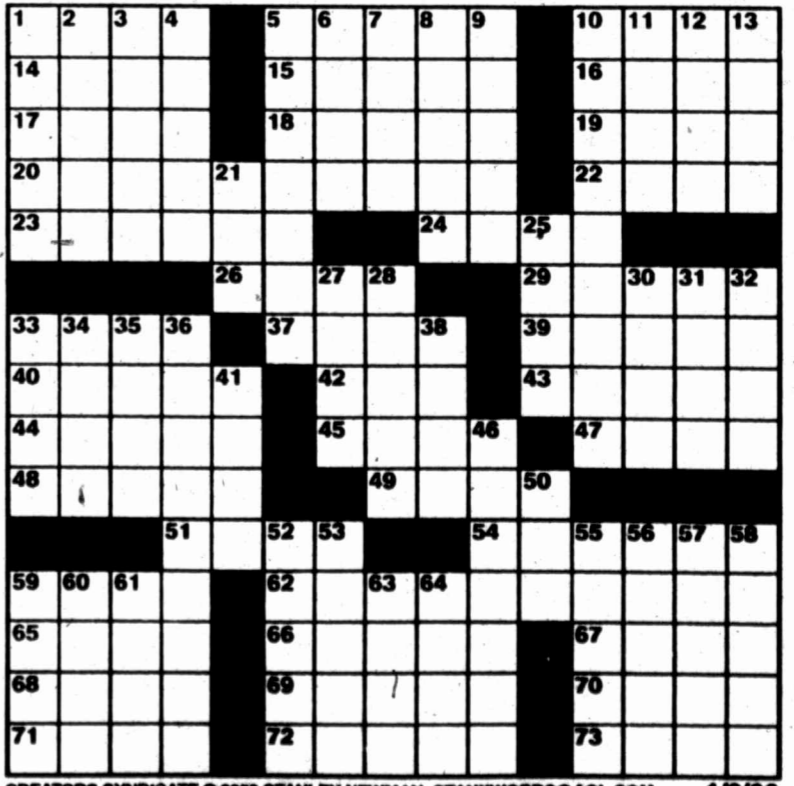
Today is Monday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2006. There are 363 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 2, 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the Open Door policy to facilitate trade with China. On this date: In 1492, the leader of the last Arab stronghold in Spain surrendered to Spanish forces loyal to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I. In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church. In 1929, the United States and Canada reached agreement on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls. In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.) In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. In 1965, the New York Jets signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath for a reported \$400,000. In 1974, President Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 mph (however, federal speed limits were abolished in 1995). In 1986, former baseball owner Bill Veeck, remembered for his well-publicized stunts, including an exploding scoreboard and a midget pinch-hitter, died in Chicago at age 71. One year ago: NFL teams joined Venus Williams, Maria Sharapova and other sports figures around the world in assisting the relief mission for the tsunami-earthquake catastrophe in southern Asia. Today's Birthdays: Former television evangelist Jim Bakker is 67. Actress Wendy Phillips is 54. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 45. Movie director Todd Haynes is 45. Actress Tia Carrere is 39. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 38. Model Christy Turlington is 37. Actor Taye Diggs is 35. Rock musician Scott Underwood (Train) is 35. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 31. Actor Dax Shepard is 31. Actress Paz Vega is 30. Country musician Chris Hartman is 28. Actress Kate Bosworth is 23. Thought for Today: "It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end." — Ursula K. Le Guin, American author.

Answer to previous puzzle: LAIR, CLASSTRIPS, ERTE, HOLLEREDAT, TESS, INTOXICATE, SANTINI, HER, SCOURS, CAPSTONE, LOUPE, ANTIPASTO, IDS, SUNBEAM, PEERSAT, ARSENIO, OUTEATS, ORR, GERANIUMS, MASON, DREDGERS, HELENA, ARC, EARLDOM, NATIONALLY, WIRE, STONYBROKE, EIVEN, KARELCAPEK, TEST.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Barbecue rod 5 Backs of necks 10 Leading actor 14 Singer Home 15 Absolutely perfect 16 Greasy 17 Computer operator 18 Main artery 19 Constellation bear 20 Special talent 22 Sign gas 23 Chinese restaurant beverage 24 Must have 26 Horse's gait 29 Receded 33 Wide belt 37 Mystical glow 39 Be dishonest with 40 Hollywood award 42 Corn on the cob 43 Water vapor 44 Video-game name 45 Garden tools 47 Author Stanley Gardner 48 Orange skins 49 In addition 51 Dairy duration 54 One who misses an appointment 59 Bacon quantity 62 Having no moving parts 65 Game on horseback 66 "Stars and Stripes Forever" composer 67 Arthur of tennis 68 Artist Warhol 69 Game-show host 70 Staircase part 71 Bering and Baltic 72 Little kids 73 Towel word

- DOWN 1 Slippy snow 2 Sauce made with basil 3 Not moving 4 Fortune-teller's deck 5 Falls (honeymoon destination) 6 Commotions 7 Lima's country 8 Have dinner at home 9 List of candidates 10 Quick quote in a news story 11 Bicycle part 12 In addition 13 Saving Private 21 Butterfly catcher 25 Wiggly swimmers 27 "That hurts!" 28 Group of Girl Scouts 30 Keg contents 31 List-ending abbr. 32 Round roof 33 Fly high 34 Spumante 35 Read quickly 36 Kid-lit detectives 38 Cain's brother 41 Stand up 46 Ice-cream treats 50 Ship's call for help 52 Balance-sheet item 53 Spacious 55 Hidden stockpile 56 Quickness 57 "On the ... hand ..." 58 Sobs 59 Health resorts 60 Unaccompanied 61 Alan of M*A*S*H 63 Good fortune 64 "Now it's clear!"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2006 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/2/06

BIG SPRING VOLUME 111 CO SEV By THO Staff W The Howard Commi last-mi filing noon, 1 contest March Walte candid Republ Stra run Ind By API Associ AUS' and g ful Stray back Party) anno she'll state's as an dent date. The a 11 Stray to es potent agains before prima Know Grand been Perry' the pa Mond; all bu will t candid Novem "I a she s husba grand side. must: aside for Te am ru as a T Robt paign Perry indep sion t not w and "trans oppor "Can decisi is a Gover leader and she defeat GOP who k Republ Black See S IN Clas Feat Obitu Opin Spor To Plea a.m. If you 263-1 noor