

# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 37

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



**INSIDE**  
Big Spring girls open district play here tonight against Lake View  
Page 1B

## By federal law, stamp price will see an increase Sunday

□ Letters with 37-cent stamps postmarked prior to midnight Sunday will be honored by the Postal Service.

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Hang onto those 37-cent stamps — they will soon become collector's items.

Citing federal mandates, U.S. Postal Service officials recently announced that

postal rates will increase by 5.4 percent effective Sunday.

While the increase will effect costs across the board at the post office, the most noticeable impact will be on first-class mailing rates, which will increase to 39 cents, officials say.

Locally, the new stamps are available in quantity, said Frank Garza, a supervisor at the Big Spring Post Office. In addition, Garza said the facility has plenty of 2-cent stamps on hand to help customers augment existing

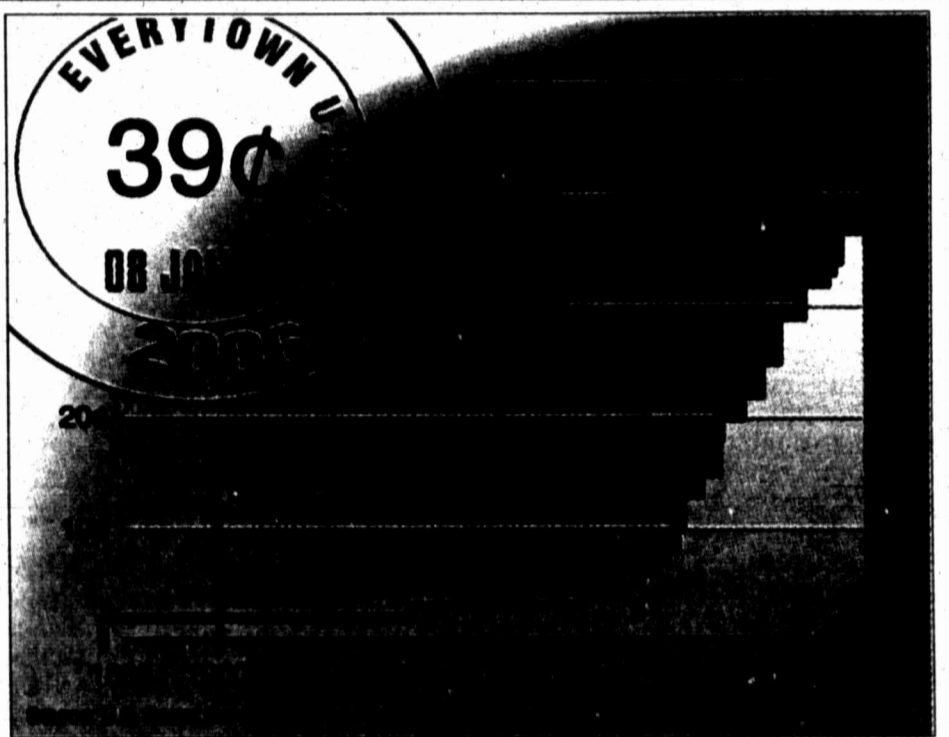
first class stamps.

Other postal rates will rise accordingly, Garza said — postcards will now cost 24 cents, while stamp cards will cost 26 cents. Rates for other services, such as money orders and priority mail, will increase as well, he added.

First class bulk rates will be 39 cents for the first ounce, and 24 cents for each additional ounce, Garza said.

The increase in stamp prices is the first in more

See **STAMPS**, Page 3A



## RSVP set for Travel Showcase

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

For seniors and other adults who love to travel, the Big Spring Retired Senior Volunteer Program has a deal for you.

As it has for the past decade, RSVP is offering the Travel Showcase, which offers moderately

priced tours to area adults.

This year's edition of the Showcase will be unveiled at 2 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Dora Roberts Community Center on

Whipkey Drive, said Nancy Jones, RSVP director.

The event is the result of a cooperative effort between similar programs in Big Spring, San Angelo and Abilene and is spearheaded by Lena Bilbrey, owner of Bilbrey Tours of Abilene.

The cooperative effort allows would-be travelers to choose between a great variety of tour options at a reasonable price, Jones said.

"It is a way for our people to travel in a safe and healthy environment," Jones said. "They're with people their own age ... and they come out of it with new friends."

And it is not restricted to Big Spring residents. Jones said individuals from Stanton, Colorado City and other area communities have participated in past tours.

Among the highlights of this year's tour package are a cruise to Hawaii in February, a

See **TRAVEL**, Page 3A



**Bobby Roever, chairman of the local American Heart Association board, right, watches as Scenic Mountain Medical Center CEO George Parsley gives a \$4,000 sponsorship check to Angela Watson, corporate market director for the Permian Basin AHA. SMMC is the key sponsor for the AHA's annual Gala. Also pictured is AHA board member Leigh Anne Sutton.**

## Gala coming

Scenic Mountain to boost Heart Association effort again

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Scenic Mountain Medical Center CEO George Parsley announced Thursday the local hospital will be stepping up in the fight against heart disease and stroke, serving as the presenting sponsor for the American Heart Association's annual Gala.

Parsley presented a check for \$4,000 to Angela Watson, corporate market director for the Permian Basin AHA, and local AHA board members Thursday morning.

"We're certainly glad to participate with the American Heart

### AT A GLANCE

**What:** American Heart Association Gala.

**Where:** Big Spring Country Club.

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 25.

Association, and this is one of the projects that we do annually here at the hospital," said Parsley. "There is certainly a growing problem with heart disease in the community and in the nation, and things we can do to educate the public about heart disease and the ways to prevent it are

See **GALA**, Page 3A

## Some officials contend sealed border would hurt cotton industry

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — West Texas cotton ginner Larry Nelson foresees a struggle to find enough workers to process the fluffy fiber if immigration reform leads to shutting the border with Mexico.

"We couldn't survive without them," Nelson said.

His sentiment echoed comments made this week at a cotton conference by U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-San Antonio, who said sealing the border and charging the 11 million undocumented people in the U.S. with felonies would be "very dangerous" for agriculture.

"For agriculture industry, having workers is very, very important," Cuellar said after speaking to hundreds of cotton producers at the 2006 Beltwide Cotton

*"For agriculture industry, having workers is very, very important. If you make them felons, you have no workers."*



Cuellar

Conferences. "If you make them felons, you have no workers."

The House in mid-December passed legislation that includes measures such as enlisting military and local law enforcement help in stopping illegal entrants and requiring employers to verify the legal status of workers. It authorizes the building of a fence along parts of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The bill also upgrades the civil

offense of unlawful presence in the United States to a felony.

Workers typically come to Texas' South Plains, the world's largest contiguous cotton patch, after helping process cotton in the southern part of the state, which harvests the crop earlier, Plains Cotton Growers spokesman Shawn Wade said.

"There's a certain segment that are doing it without documentation," he said. "It's the nature of the beast. From an industry standpoint, there's a need to have that pool of employees available."

Texas, the nation's largest cotton-producing state, is on track to harvest \$1 million bales for 2005, breaking the record set in 2004. Ginning of the 2005 crop continues.

While large machinery has reduced the amount of hand labor needed to harvest cotton,

the same is not true of other crops, which would be more severely affected by immigration laws that would exclude undocumented workers, Wade said.

"It's not going to be near the issue as in (harvesting) fruits and vegetables," he said.

The House legislation put off consideration of a guest worker program, which President Bush and many in Congress say must be part of a lasting solution to illegal immigration. Other legislators, Cuellar said, are eyeing a formula that would be a "pathway to earn citizenship."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has said he will bring up immigration legislation in February and that it will provide a framework for guest worker ideas.

Nelson said the Bracero

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**TONIGHT** 30°-34°  
**TOMORROW** 74°-76°

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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.

### CHILI COOKOFF

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 will hold its Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. at the Eagles building, 703 West Third. Cost is \$10 per chili team, and \$5 for people entering the area to sample the chili, with judging set for noon.

Proceeds from the tasting and entry fees benefits the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need fund. The fund helps purchase school supplies, clothing, tuition for summer camps and helps meet other financial needs of special children who are receiving services from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

For more information, call 263-6862.

### PLATES POINT TO CROOK

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — Arie Bichlmeier discovered his license plate turned out to be an effective command. Bichlmeier's plate reads "FINDME," and thanks to it, authorities were able to locate him about 90 minutes after they say he tried to rob the Security National Bank branch in Laurel. The suspect walked into the bank about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday and indicated his intention to rob it, the State Patrol said. There was no weapon shown and the suspect fled the bank without any money. Witnesses described the suspect's vehicle as a 1994 Black GMC pickup, with a personalized license plate, "FINDME". Police did.

### LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Big Spring program will get under way next month with the first class set to be held Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the chamber board room.

Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month program, held every second Thursday of the month, February through December except for June and July. The program takes participants on tours which integrate them with all aspects of Howard County life: industry, government, medical, agriculture, education and more.

Cost is \$300. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 25. Call 263-7641 for more information.

### Obituaries

#### Eula Jo (Jodie) Sartin



Eula Jo (Jodie) Sartin, 95, of Stanton died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, at a Stanton nursing home. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at the Gilbreath Funeral Home with the Rev. Richard Stephens officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton. Her body will lie in state Monday.

She was born April 19, 1910, in Mena, Ark., and married William H. Sartin Oct. 26, 1929, in Oklahoma City. She was a member of the Assembly of God Church in El Paso where she taught Sunday School and was past president of the Woman's Missionary Council. She was employed with Texas A Extension Service, State Nutritional Services for five years where she taught homemaking, nutrition and sewing.

She is survived by her four children, Gwen Stephens of Dallas, D'Wayne Sartin of Camino, Calif., Carol Johnson of Anniston, Ala., and Sharon Gerald of Stanton; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Henry and her son William Henry Jr. and one granddaughter, D'Anne Rae.

Contributions and donations in the memory of Eula Jo (Jodie) Sartin may be made to Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas St., Midland 79701.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

#### Lois Reed Ferguson

Lois Reed Ferguson, 88, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Support groups

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SATURDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

#### MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets the first and third Monday each month. For more information, call 398-5522.

#### TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

#### THURSDAY

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

### Around Town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

### Take note

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volun-

### Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. today:

- **ROSA MARIE JONES**, 49, of 1305 State, was arrested Thursday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **TOMMY GONZALES**, 34, of 2306 S. Runnels, was arrested Thursday on two Howard County warrants.
- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 300 block of Ninth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 1100 block of Nolan.

### Sheriff's report

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

- **JIMMY WAYNE BLEDSOE**, 52, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **LEONARDO TALAVERA JR.**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **KEVIN DUANE RUTLEDGE**, 29, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for two counts of theft by check and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **JESSE RENE LOPEZ**, 18, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **MICHAEL DEWAYNE GRIFFIN**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
- **JUSTIN REX-KELL GARD**, 19, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **EMAD ABDEL KARAKAH**, 40, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended.

### Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Bell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of East Davis Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

### Weather

Tonight...Clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.  
Saturday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.  
Saturday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the upper 30s.  
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.  
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.  
Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.  
Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

teer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

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

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

### Bulletin board

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

**TODAY**  
• **AMBUCS** meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.  
• Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

**SATURDAY**  
• Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
• Children in Need annual Chili Cook-off at the Eagles Lodge begins at 8 a.m. Judging begins at noon.  
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.  
• Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

**MONDAY**  
• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room. Cost is \$6.25 per person. RSVP to 264-5164 or 213-5293.  
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.  
• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.  
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.  
• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.  
• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.  
• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.  
• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.  
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.  
• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.  
• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

**TUESDAY**  
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

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

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.  
• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downton Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.  
• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.  
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.  
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

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

### Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-19-22-26 (numerical order). Bonus Ball: 12.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 9-14-20-27-34.  
Number matching five of five: 1.  
Prize per winner: \$34,117.  
Winning ticket sold in: Dallas.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-8-7

**BIG SPRING HERALD**  
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Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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# News briefs

## Grammy-winning singer Lou Rawls dies of cancer at 72

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lou Rawls, the velvet-voiced singer who started as a church choir boy and went on to record such classic tunes as "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," died Friday of cancer. He was 72.

Rawls died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was hospitalized last month for treatment of lung and brain cancer, said his publicist, Paul Shefrin. His wife, Nina, was at his bedside when he died.



Rawls' family and Shefrin said the singer was 72, although other records indicate he was 70. Rawls' deep, smooth voice was his trademark, and he used it in a variety of genres.

"I've gone the full spectrum, from gospel to blues to jazz to soul to pop," Rawls once said on his Web site. "And the public has accepted what I've done through it all."

Rawls' grandmother introduced him to gospel in his hometown of Chicago. The singer moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1950s to join a touring gospel group, the Pilgrim Travelers.

After a two-year stint in the Army, Rawls rejoined the Pilgrim Travelers in Los Angeles, where he sang with Sam Cooke. Rawls performed with Dick Clark at the Hollywood Bowl in 1959, and he later he opened for The Beatles at Crosley Field in Cincinnati.

Rawls was playing small blues and R&B clubs in Los Angeles when his four-octave range caught the ear of a Capitol Records producer, who signed him to the label in 1962.

His debut effort, "Stormy Monday," recorded with the Les McCann Trio, was the first of 28 albums Rawls made with Capitol.

In 1966, his "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing" topped the charts and earned Rawls his first two Grammy nominations. He won three Grammys in his career and released his most recent album, "Seasons 4 U," in 1998 on his own label, Rawls & Brokaw Records.

He also appeared in 18 movies, including "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Blues Brothers 2000," and 16 television series, including "Fantasy Island" and "The Fall Guy."

A longtime community activist, Rawls visited schools, playgrounds and community centers in the 1960s, encouraging children to continue their studies and have confidence in their abilities. In the '80s, he helped the United Negro College Fund raise more than \$200 million through telethons.

In 1976, Rawls became the corporate spokesman for the Anheuser-Busch Cos. breweries.

Rawls was diagnosed with lung cancer in December 2004 and brain cancer in May 2005.

Besides his wife, Rawls is survived by four children: Louanna Rawls, Lou Rawls Jr., Kendra Smith and Aiden Rawls.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete, Shefrin

said.

## Two dead in McKinney murder-suicide

McKINNEY (AP) — A man gunned down his ex-wife and then killed himself outside of a McKinney hospital on Thursday when the couple met to exchange money for a bill, police said.

Police say Crystal Benavidez, 35, of McKinney, was shot and killed by 54-year-old Josely M. Benavidez, outside of the Medical Center of McKinney.

The two saw each other while driving in separate cars and pulled off the highway to meet, police said. Josely Benavidez got out of his sport utility vehicle and walked over to the sports car driven by his ex-wife.

Crystal Benavidez and her two passengers got out of the car and started running toward the hospital, police said. Josely Benavidez opened fire, striking his ex-wife once and then turning the gun on himself.

"She got out of the car and ran through the parking lot toward the hospital — with him shooting the entire way," police Capt. Randy Roland said.

Both Benavidezes died at the scene. Police found two handguns, one near the two bodies and one in a parking lot near the cars.

The female passenger suffered a minor head injury, either by broken glass or by being grazed by a bullet, police said. The male passenger was not hurt.

Crystal Benavidez had moved to McKinney from Fort Worth about two weeks ago to get away from her ex-husband. Police said they had received several 911 calls from Crystal Benavidez reporting threats from her ex-husband.

The Medical Center of McKinney was the site of a sniper-style attack on two nurses in 2002 that left one nurse dead and one nurse wounded. The husband of one of the nurses was sentenced to 60 years in prison for the shooting.

## Cuero wants to require sex offenders to post yard signs

CUERO (AP) — Some registered sex offenders in Cuero might have to post signs at their home declaring their status under an ordinance that received preliminary approval from the Cuero City Council.

Only moderate and high-risk sex offenders who move to the city or register after the ordinance takes effect would be bound by its requirements. Registered sex offenders who already live in Cuero would be exempt.

Council members unanimously approved the first reading of the ordinance on Thursday, the Victoria Advocate reported for its Friday edition. The ordinance must pass two more readings to gain approval and take effect.

"By not adopting the sex offender sign ordinance, we are encouraging the abuser," resident Jazzmin Bhuiyan told the council. "We are saying we are standing by the offenders, not with our kids."

The ordinance requires white signs measuring at least 2-feet-by-2-feet that read, "A Registered Sex Offender Lives Here" in black letters. Signs must be visible from the closest roadway and placed within 20 feet of the front entrance of a sex offender's residence.

The City Council voted unanimously in December to instruct a city attorney to draft an ordinance that would require the signs.

Last month, the council passed an ordinance restricting sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of where children gather.

## TRAVEL

Continued from Page 1A

trip down the Danube River through the Czech Republic, Hungary and Bulgaria and tours to Alaska, New York and Chicago.

If those destinations are a bit too far away, Jones said several day trips are available as well. Among those trips will be a visit to Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall to see Tim Conway and Harvey Korman perform.

Jones is quick to point out that the Travel Showcase is not restricted to just seniors. All interested adults are welcome.

"The showcase will introduce our trips for 2006 to our senior travelers and anyone else who wants to come," Jones said.

In addition to providing travel opportunities to area adults, the showcase also serves as a fund-raiser for the local RSVP effort. Jones estimated last year's tour package raised about \$8,000 for the program.

"We are able to do a variety of things with the money we raise," she said. "We buy insurance for our volunteers and finance projects like Make A Difference Day and the Fun Fest ... We're able to spread the money around."

For more information, contact RSVP at 264-2397 or Bilibrey Tours at 1-888-692-1308.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Leroy Aldridge, 77, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Maria Y. Garcia, 88, died Tuesday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Melva Hodnett, 79, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

## STAMPS

Continued from Page 1A

than three years, officials said.

According to a USPS news release, rates are increasing to meet a federal law passed in 2003, requiring the Postal Service to build a \$3.1 billion escrow account. The release stated the postage rate increase would not have been necessary without the federal mandate.

Letters with 37-cent stamps postmarked prior to midnight Sunday will be honored by the Postal Service.

For more information, contact the local post office at 263-7391.

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

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Wolf Creek (R)  
Daily: 7:30, 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 4:10  
King Kong (PG-13)  
Daily: 7:30 Sat. & Sun. 4:30  
\*PAGES RESTRICTED\*

**CINEMA 4**  
\*Theatrical (R)  
Daily: 4:10, 7:10  
Fri. 9:20 Sat. & Sun. 1:10  
Rumor has it ... (PG-13)  
Daily: 4:20, 7:20  
Fri. 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 1:20  
Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13)  
Daily: 4:30, 7:30  
Fri. 9:40 Sat. & Sun. 1:30  
Chronicles of Narnia (PG)  
Daily: 4:00, 7:00  
Fri. 9:50 Sat. & Sun. 1:00  
ADULTS: \$6.00  
\$4.00 ALL MATINEES,  
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## WORKERS

Continued from Page 1A

Program, a U.S. guest worker system negotiated between Mexico and America that lasted from 1942 to 1964,

was "the very best." The plan began as a way for farm laborers from Mexico to help ease a worker shortage when young Americans entered the military. "We're in trouble and, unfortunately, we're a very labor intensive industry," Nelson said. "We need good workers."

## GALA

Continued from Page 1A

always something we want to participate in."

Watson said the money will be used primarily in Howard County for AHA services in the fight against one of the nation's deadliest diseases.

"We're very appreciative and grateful to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, who will be our presenting sponsor for the gala," said Watson. "Without the help and support of the community we could not be successful toward our mission, which is helping in the fight against heart disease and stroke. So we're very appreciative to all the businesses that are helping."

Watson said the Gala, which is slated for Feb. 25, will be a "wild" time for everyone, with plenty of sponsorship slots available for area businesses and residents to help in the AHA cause.

"The theme for the gala is 'Wild at Heart' and it will be held at the Big Spring Country Club," said Watson. "We are still looking for sponsors for the event, and we have sponsorships ranging from \$250 and up. All they need to do is contact us and we'd be happy to get a sponsorship package to those people and businesses that are interested

in helping out."

Local AHA board chairman Bobby Roever said the gala event will have something for everyone.

"We'll start off the night with a pre-event party for our sponsors. It's a wine and cheese party, and it will give them a chance to look at the silent auction items that will be up for bid," said Roever. "At 8 p.m. we'll start our Gala with either a live band or a DJ — we haven't decided which just yet — and there will be dancing and food."

"As the night goes on, people will have a chance to bid on the silent auctions and at another point we'll have a live auction for some items. All of this is to help raise money for the American Heart Association."

Roever said he hopes to see the Gala meet or exceed the goal he and the

rest of the board have set for 2006.

"We're trying to raise more money than we did last year," said Roever. "We exceeded our goal by nearly \$4,000 last year, and we're hoping to exceed our goal of \$25,000 this year by that much or more."

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women," he added. "It also creates a call-to-action for people to commit to living a heart-healthy lifestyle. People in the Big Spring area who have battled heart disease, had heart surgery or have suffered a stroke are encouraged to attend."

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

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## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Suzanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

## This week we salute:

- Big Spring, Howard County and surrounding county firefighters, who have put in many hours battling grass fires, cotton module fires and structure fires over the past few weeks in very windy and dry conditions. Thank you for responding so promptly and doing your job so well.

- We won't mention all of you here, but we salute all of the individuals who filed for election. We appreciate your willingness to serve and desire to get involved in your community, county and state.

- Mack Brown and the University of Texas Longhorns for bringing our state a national football championship. Hook 'em Horns!

- One more time — to all of the volunteers with the Festival of Lights. What a wonderful job you did again this year. Here's to many more.

- Benny Valentine, Howard College freshman point guard who was selected as Most Valuable Player of the Polk Community College New Year's Classic in Winter Haven, Fla. It was the third tournament this season in which he was selected MVP.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

## LETTERS

## To the Editor:

In the middle of last year, Gary Daniels was diagnosed with cancer of the head and neck. As a result of this he was fired from his job.

We needed financial help almost immediately. Our friends and relatives have helped us so much and we are so very grateful to them.

A benefit was held in December at the Icehouse and we would like to thank everyone who helped in this.

If I named names I would leave someone out and I don't want to do that. I will just say thank you to our very special angels; you know who you are and we love you so very much.

We still have a long road ahead of us to travel and things are far from over but eventually Gary will be declared cancer free.

To the Larry & Danya team — thank you from the bottom of our hearts. There is a special place in the Lord's heart for people as good as you.

Sherri Daniels

## To the Editor,

The ideal of pre-trial bonding to help alleviate the over-crowding of the county jail sounds interesting.

As this sounds as if it may help with the one problem of over crowding, it does not, however, address the root problem of needing a new facility.

I have been an EMT/Paramedic in the county and have been called to the Howard County Jail for medical emergency.

You can not get a litter up to the jail floor because the elevator is built to carry people who are standing. What about getting a wheel chair to the jail? Getting it around a jail?

Does Howard County Jail meet America's With Disabilities Act?

You as commissioners need to get together get over your petty differences, come to a compromise and get this jail problem solved.

Won't it be cheaper to build a new facility than have to defend/settle a law suite?

W.R. Madewell

## Have gun, will travel — to jail

Odd how the Special City, which prides itself on tolerance and chants incessantly about choice, can be so, well, intolerant.

Witness the November election in which 58 percent of city voters elected to ban the sale of firearms in the city and outlaw handgun ownership for citizens. It takes a special city to make the National Rifle Association look like the good guys.

I don't want to sound glib, because the rash of violence that has scarred the city — and sent the number of homicides in 2005 to 96 — no doubt contributed to the passage of the gun-ban measure, Proposition H.

In a brief supporting the measure, which the NRA is fighting in the courts, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera cited the tragic deaths of three innocent San Franciscans, including Deanne Bradford, a mother of six who was shot dead by her husband with a "legally owned handgun." The husband also killed himself.

Herrera also argued that city voters have a right to establish city gun laws and that their "decision to forgo handgun possession by city residents is of no significant concern to anyone outside San Francisco, and is a proper exercise of the city's home-rule power." Also, the handgun ban exempts police, military and security personnel.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

I have a lot of sympathy with the home-rule argument, but it won't fly here. For one thing: Even supporters of the handgun ban expect it to fail in court. "It clearly will be thrown out," Mayor Gavin Newsom told *The San Francisco Chronicle* before the election. He added he would vote for the measure, but: "I'm having a difficult time with it, and that's my one caveat. ... It's really a public-opinion poll, at the end of the day."

For another, the law interferes with an individual's right to self-defense, which is especially bad for people who live not in gated communities, but high-crime areas.

The third issue: While City Hall hasn't set what the sentence for violations of the law might be, whatever it is, the handgun ban likely will hurt law-abiding citizens more than criminals.

As if this city needs proof that city criminals don't care about gun laws, consider the AK-47 used to kill Officer Isaac Espinoza in 2004. At the time, the AK-47 was illegal under the federal assault-weapon ban, yet it was the "gun of choice" for gang-bangers. It's not as if they had no access to legal guns — and still the ban meant nothing to them.

The NRA's Chris W. Cox argued that Proposition H stands to "send a very clear message to the criminal element in San Francisco, that lawful residents in San Francisco are unarmed and unable to protect themselves from criminal attack." (I should note that residents will be able to keep an existing rifle in their homes, even if the entire law is upheld. That said, the law requires residents to surrender their handguns to police by April

and provides no compensation in return.)

Here's an interesting statistic, compiled by the SFPD and reported in *The Chronicle* last month: Of the 94 homicides recorded in the city through Dec. 12, no arrests had been made for 74 of those murders. Only eight cases have resulted in prosecutions.

Sorry, but if gang members think they can kill without getting caught, I don't think a handgun ban is going to crimp their style.

Police say that witnesses often are reluctant to testify. This suggests it would make more sense to put the resources used to defend Proposition H — which by the mayor's own admission is a very expensive public-opinion poll — into witness protection and investigative programs.

San Francisco is supposed to stand for choice. This is supposed to be a town where tolerant individuals don't pass laws that, in essence, say: If I don't do it, you shouldn't, either; if you do, you go to jail. Yet the gun ban ends choice — for the law-abiding, at least.

"Go by Bayview Police Station," one San Francisco cop e-mailed me, "and look at the wall with all the gun photos. Not one of them was owned legally. No self-respecting gangster is going to abide by this new law, if they won't abide by the old ones."

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfrchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfrchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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Austin, 78768

## Allow me to introduce myself

On the second anniversary of this syndicated column, I think the time has come to introduce myself.

After all, not too many people were reading me when the column was first launched, and if I asked for help two years ago — as I will in a minute — my pleas could have gone unheard.

But now that I have some faithful readers, according to my mail, I figure that after you meet me — more formally — you may want to introduce me and my column to your friends in other parts of the country so that they'll request the column from their own local newspaper.

I write about Hispanic issues. For the past 30 years, at three major American newspapers, that has been my mission — to present the Hispanic perspective to non-Latinos.

As a syndicated columnist, addressing a national audience, I see myself as a bridge builder, creating paths of understanding between non-Hispanic Americans and their 40 million Latino neighbors.

It is never my intention to write a protest column — although to some readers, it may seem that way. My goal is to dispel the negative myths about Latinos, most of whom are honest, hard-working people who want to assimilate rather than impose their culture on this society.

As taxpayers, voters, and contributors to this society, Latinos want their fair share of the entitlements, but they don't expect them on a silver platter.

Most Latinos spend a lot less time demanding their rights than expressing gratitude for the opportunity to live in the greatest country in the world. These are the sentiments I want my column to convey.

The mission was eloquently outlined by the nation's first Hispanic

columnist in an English-language newspaper, Cuban writer and patriot Jose Marti — my idol — who wrote for the old *New York Sun* more than a century ago.

"What I want is to demonstrate that we are good people, industrious and capable," Marti wrote. "For each offense, a reply ... and more effective by its moderation. For each false assertion about our countries, an immediate correction. For each defect, apparently just, which is thrown in our faces, the historical explanation which will excuse it and proof of the capacity to remedy it. It would seem to me that I were being derelict in my duty if I should not realize this thought."

Although the growth and impact of the U.S. Hispanic population is not often reflected in American newspapers, my goal is to fill that void by discussing the wide gamut of issues that concern Latino Americans — from affirmative action to immigration.

To adequately reflect what U.S. Latinos are thinking, it's also important to cover significant events in Latin America. When there are statehood discussions in Puerto Rico, human rights violations in Cuba, border squabbles in Mexico, drug wars in Colombia, and anti-American movements in Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia, you can be sure Latinos are talking about it in the United States. This column will tell you what they are saying.

But it wouldn't be a column without a good dose of opinion, and my opinions are formed by my own life experiences.

You are what your life makes you. I was born in Havana, Cuba in 1950, and I came to the United States, as a refugee, at the age of 11 in 1962. Spanish was my only language then. I couldn't speak a word of English.

My life has shown me the ruthlessness of a right-wing dictatorship, the repression of a communist regime, the struggles of U.S. immigrants, and the economic, social and even violent discrimination suffered by minorities.

That makes me generally a liber-

al on domestic issues and a conservative on U.S. foreign policy. And that makes me difficult to read, especially for people who want to cast me into a mold.

It happens to all of us. You express an opinion based on one of a trillion issues that concern you, and based on that single remark, you are either a liberal or a conservative. And when you express another opinion that breaks your assigned mold, some people don't know where to place you.

But when a columnist expresses many opinions to thousands of readers, it happens practically every day. I'm either supposed to be a liberal or conservative columnist.

Some readers want me to be like those predictable talking heads on cable TV — the ones whose opinions we know, even before they express it.

Yet, I refuse to be defined or limited by the parameters set by those two words. Living under communism, as I did in my native Cuba, taught me not to allow being molded by the party line.

When I condemn flag desecration and anti-American sentiments abroad, and when I recognize the need for U.S. Latinos to learn English and accept some personal responsibility for child abuse, domestic violence, drug dealing and other social ills, I break the liberal mold.

But when I come out in defense of immigrants and the downtrodden, when I say Latinos also have a right to dream the American dream, it's hard to peg me as a conservative.

So, if you want to know what Latinos are thinking from a not-so-predictable columnist, tell your friends to ask for this column in their local newspaper.

*Es importante!*  
To find out more about Miguel Perez, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# Nation and World Briefs

## Bass family cuts \$25 million check to opera house

By VERENA DOBNIK  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Here's \$25 million, Joe. Take it all, now. And do what you want with it — at the Metropolitan Opera.

That, essentially, is what Mercedes Bass, of Texas oil money, said to Met General Manager Joseph Volpe in offering the nation's premier opera house the biggest individual gift in its 123-year history.

During a champagne-topped cast party after a performance of "Wozzeck" in late December, "the phone rings, and she says, 'You know, Joe, we've decided. We're going to give you \$25 million.'"

**"The phone rings, and she says, 'You know, Joe, we've decided. We're going to give you \$25 million.' I called her the next morning to confirm that I wasn't dreaming or drunk."**

Joseph Volpe  
general manager  
Metropolitan Opera

Volpe told the Associated Press on Thursday. "I called her the next morning to confirm that I wasn't dreaming or drunk."

The "we" is Bass and her husband, Sid R. Bass, whose fortune rests on Texas oil profits that fuel lavish parties both in Manhattan and Forth Worth the Bass clan's home base.

Sid Bass is on Forbes' list of richest Americans, worth \$2 billion.

Although Volpe had had discussions with Mercedes Bass, who's on the Met board, about a possible gift, "this was a surprise — the amount and the timing."

Also a surprise was the manner of giving: Not the usual pledge, with money promised but not delivered in toto, often for years. "I don't want to be so blunt as to say, cash on the barrelhead..." said Volpe.

But it's the truth — a perfect merger of opera and oil.

The \$25 million fills a big hole — the failure of one-time Internet stock guru Alberto Vilar to meet his \$20 million pledge several years ago. The Met deleted his name from its priciest spectator section, the Grand Tier.

Vilar has since been indicted on fraud charges, unrelated to the pledge.

On Thursday night before a performance of Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor," Volpe

planned to have dinner with the vivacious benefactor he calls "the Met's angel" — in the Grand Tier restaurant whose huge glass windows look out on the Lincoln Center Plaza and the Manhattan skyline.

For the 65-year-old Brooklyn-born general manager, the gift was "icing on the cake, so I can go off and have a good time" when he leaves the company at the end of the season, after 42 years. He had begun his Met career as a carpenter, moving up to become general manager 16 years ago.

Former Sony executive Peter Gelb will take Volpe's place next season. The company sorely needs the \$25 million at a time of precarious finances and change in leadership.

First, the millions will pay the bills, including what Volpe said was "a couple of million dollars deficit — minimum" on an annual budget of \$220 million, even after he cut expenses by 5 percent.

Some of the money will bolster the Met's Saturday afternoon live radio broadcasts, a tradition that is funded only through the next four years.

Then comes the best part of spending \$25 million: Bankrolling one new production a year and helping build new audiences for a company that faces a box office shortfall of at least \$4 million.

Millions seem a pittance compared to the deal the Bass family made about 10 days before Mercedes Bass offered the Met \$25 million. For \$1.6 billion, cash, the family agreed to sell a natural gas company founded by Perry Bass — Sid's father — and his uncle, the legendary wildcatter Sid Richardson.

The largest previous gift to the Met from an individual — \$20 million — came from longtime benefactor Sybil Harrington of Amarillo. However, the caveat was that the money had to go to the Met's endowment.

The \$25 million from the Bass couple "is unrestricted. The money can be used where the Met sees fit..."

### Sharon undergoes emergency brain surgery

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon returned to the operating room for emergency surgery Friday after a brain scan revealed a rise in intracranial pressure and some bleeding in his brain, doctors said.

Sharon's blood pressure also rose and one of his brain lobes expanded slightly, said Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the director of Hadassah Hospital, where Sharon is being treated. Sharon's aides rushed to the hospital to be with him during the surgery, his second in two days.

"It was decided to bring the prime minister to the operating room in order to deal with these two issues, to drain the bleeding and to decrease the intracranial pressure," he said.

Doctors did not elaborate on Sharon's prognosis.

Dr. Avi Cohen, director of the neurovascular unit at Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba, said the prognosis was poor. "It certainly does not forecast good things regarding (Sharon's) ... ability to recover," Cohen, who is not a member of Sharon's medical team, told Israel's Channel 2.

### Miners' notes reveal final moments

TALLMANSVILLE, W.Va. (AP) — Tom Toler identified the body of his youngest brother. And then he was handed a message from the dead man. In wobbly printing, written in ink on the back of an insurance application, 51-year-old miner Martin Toler Jr. said goodbye. For now.

"(I'll) see them on the other side," the note said. "It wasn't bad. I just went to sleep. I love you."

His brother, a miner himself for 30 years, was so shocked by the simple, eloquent farewell that he didn't think to ask — standing there in a newly opened morgue in a long-closed elementary school — just exactly where his brother had stashed the piece of paper. In his pocket? In his lunchbox?

"It just shook me up when they gave it to me," he said. And as he read the boxed letters fashioned with a shaky pen, "I took it to mean that it was written in the final stages. I'd call it more or less scribbling."

### Bloodshed in Iraq leaves 132 dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Suicide bombers infiltrated a line of police recruits and a crowd of Shiite pilgrims as insurgents killed 125 civilians and seven U.S. troops, escalating attacks while political factions worked to forge a coalition government.

The stark surge in post-election violence produced familiar but heartrending images Thursday, the fourth deadliest since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

A woman and an infant girl in a bright red jumpsuit lay in a pool of blood, their faces covered by a sheet as men ferried the wounded in pushcarts in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad. Ball bearings lay scattered on the bare earth next to Shiite Islam's holiest shrine in

Iraq. After the devastating attack in Ramadi, a Sunni insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of the capital, police recruits got back in line to continue the screening process, said Marine Capt. Jeffrey S. Pool. They were apparently desperate for a relatively well-paying job in the impoverished area.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite, denounced the violence as an attempt to derail the political process at a time when progress was being made toward a broad-based government that would include the Sunni Arabs and thus possibly weaken the insurgency.

### Democrats weigh Alito confirmation vote delay

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats are considering a plan that could delay a committee vote on Samuel Alito's Supreme Court nomination for at least a week, slowing what could have been a quick confirmation for President Bush's pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter had hoped to hold a committee vote on Alito's nomination Jan. 17, a little over a week from Monday's start of the federal appellate judge's confirmation hearings.

Senate leadership aides said Thursday that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., that Democrats will invoke their right to hold the Alito committee vote over for one week. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity because the move had not been announced yet.

Democrats insisted that a final decision has not been made. "We want to see how the hearing goes, procedurally and substantially, before allowing them to accelerate the vote for a week," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., a member of the Judiciary Committee. "That's what we've always said."

"No decision has been made," Reid spokesman Jim Manley added.

### DNA to be retested for Virginia man executed in '92

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Death penalty opponents praised Gov. Mark R. Warner's order for DNA testing that could determine whether Virginia sent an innocent man to the electric chair in 1992.

Warner said Thursday he ordered the tests because of technological advances that could provide a level of forensic certainty not available when initial DNA tests were conducted.

If the tests show Roger Keith Coleman did not rape and kill his sister-in-law in 1981, it will mark the first time in the United States that an executed person has been scientifically proved innocent, according to death penalty opponents.

"This is a proper action for the governor to take," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center. "It's not right to shy away from a difficult question or even shy away from reopening cases when there is a chance that something new might be learned."

Coleman was convicted and sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder

of 19-year-old Wanda McCoy, his wife's sister, who was found raped, stabbed and nearly beheaded in her home in the coal mining town of Grundy.

### Pat Robertson links Sharon stroke, God's wrath

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson suggested Thursday that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's stroke was divine punishment for "dividing God's land."

"God considers this land to be his," Robertson said on his TV program "The 700 Club." "You read the Bible and he says 'This is my land,' and for any prime minister of Israel who decides he is going to carve it up and give it away, God says, 'No, this is mine.'"

Sharon, who ordered Israel's withdrawal from Gaza last year, suffered a severe stroke on Wednesday.

In Robertson's broadcast from his Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach, the evangelist said he had personally prayed about a year ago with Sharon, whom he called "a very tender-hearted man and a good friend." He said he was sad to see Sharon in this condition.

He also said, however, that in the Bible, the prophet Joel "makes it very clear that God has enmity against those who 'divide my land.'"

### CDC report: Down syndrome more common in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP) — Down syndrome in the United States is more common than previously thought, at one case for every 733 live births, according to a new government report containing what are regarded as the most reliable estimates yet on the prevalence of 18 types of birth defects.

Previously, Down syndrome, a type of retardation caused by a genetic mutation, was estimated to occur in a range of one in every 800 live births to one in every 1,000.

The report, released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, also found that cleft lip occurs in about one in every 1,000 births, and cleft palate in about one in every 1,500.

The report was celebrated by advocacy groups that help families affected by birth defects. They noted that the new numbers are based on statewide data, while previous estimates were derived from selected clinics and hospitals.

### Two TV stations won't air 'Book of Daniel' series

NEW YORK (AP) — Two television stations are refusing to broadcast a new NBC series about an Episcopal priest who abuses painkillers, has a gay son, a promiscuous straight son, a daughter who deals marijuana, and a wife who drinks too much.

Conservative Christian groups have condemned the depiction of Jesus as blasphemous, accusing the writers of portraying Christ as tolerant of sin in talks with the priest.

NBC affiliates KARK in Little Rock, Ark., and WTWO in Terre Haute, Ind., said sensitivity to viewers led them not to air "The Book of Daniel," which debuts Friday. In Little Rock, the WB affiliate has arranged to show the drama instead.

## Mine survivor in critical condition

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The lone survivor of a coal mine explosion began a series of oxygen treatments and was opening his eyes and showing other signs he may not be in a coma, doctors said Friday.

Randal McCloy Jr. was taken by ambulance Thursday from West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial Hospital to Allegheny General Hospital, where he remained in critical condition.

Dr. Richard Shannon, who is leading the team of doctors treating the miner, said McCloy, 26, was in stable condition but critically ill as a result of the carbon monoxide poisoning.

Doctors in West Virginia had said

Thursday that he was in a coma, but Shannon said signs indicated he was not, though doctors can't be sure because he was sedated.

"He moves spontaneously. He opens his eyes. He bites on the (breathing) tube — all signs to suggest he is not in coma," Shannon said.

His family also sensed a reaction from him. "I know he knows when I'm there because when I'm there, he gets excited," his wife, Anna, said.

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**Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA**

HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive \$16,167.00 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities; USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and / or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Cynthia Scott at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201 or come by 808 Scurry for an application. The deadline for the submission of applications is January 18, 2006.

**What's in, what's out in gardens and yards for 2006**

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM  
KRT

If you like to be part of the "in crowd," you'll want to be "out" — as in outdoor cooking, entertaining, reading, relaxing and gardening.

Higher fuel costs are expected to drive these 2006 trends, as more of us stay closer to home on weekends and for vacations, according to industry experts. Also, laptop computers let us work wherever we choose, even while we catch a few rays of sunshine.

"Our back yards and patios now serve as playgrounds, living rooms, kitchens, home offices and havens," says Susan McCoy, president of the Garden Media Group, which annually tracks gardening trends.

"The walls of the home seem to have come tumbling down and now the homeowner's focus is on decorating the outside of the home on the deck, the patio and all around their property."

Now, before you say, "I don't want to take care of a big yard and a lot of flowers," you should read on and realize that getting outdoors isn't about pushing the lawn mower all morning and weeding the flower beds all afternoon.

Gardening is about getting smarter with your choices and chores. Shop for "self-cleaning" plants that don't need fading flowers removed, and think twice about maintaining a lot of grass.

"The trend is toward less square footage in lawns and more mixed beds that are easier to maintain," says Les Parks, nursery manager at Smithfield Gardens in Suffolk, Va.

And, if big trees are not your thing because you have a small yard or worry about a hurricane toppling them, take comfort in knowing that shrubs are replacing trees in space-challenged yards.

"We are definitely seeing gardening trends leaning toward small spaces, including vertical gardening," says Bruce Barton at The Flower Pot in Yorktown, Va. "Lots of climbers, vines and trellis shapes."

So, sit back and daydream about spring, sketch out some ideas for an easy-do look in your yard and take note of what's in, what's out for living the good life.

Create a lived-in garden. Showplace gardens are fine for picture books, but not for real-life living. To kick back at home, put up an entertainment tent or gazebo, fire up the grill and pipe the music outdoors. You may even want to hook up your flat-screen TV outdoors in some location where it's protected from the weather.

"I know a man who takes his flat-screen TV outside, plugs it in and watches football in the hot tub," says McCoy.

You'll also read more about "outdoor bedrooms" joining the likes of outdoor kitchens and living rooms, letting you stay past dark and watch the stars twinkle overhead.

Realize less is still more. Minimalism continues to be trendy indoors

and outdoors. Skip buying every knickknack you see, and, instead, concentrate on a few quality eye-catching items. In other words, resist the plastic and look for fashionable materials in pots and sculpture, including ceramic, terracotta, finished concrete, marble and even bronze. In the end, you have simple elegance without the fussy look of clutter.

Get boom without bloom. If your lot is the size of a postage stamp, you can still pack a lot of power into your garden. Avoid using just flowers to give you pizzazz. Look for double-duty plants, meaning shrubs, perennials and groundcovers that feature variegated, puckered and fine-textured foliage before and after the bloom time, says Parks.

One example is PeeDee Gold Ingot liriopse, a groundcover that emerges yellow in spring and matures to a deep gold and produces the traditional purple-spiked flowers. Sun Goddess hydrangea with its golden foliage and pink flowers is a wonderful double-duty shrub.

Try "pot-scaping." The one-dimensional look of containers lined or clustered along the deck or patio moves into "pot-scaping" for the entire landscape. Pots of plants are showing up in beds and borders, or standing alone like an eye-catching exclamation point. Busy homeowners find decorating their yard with "spots of pots" is an easy way to splash color throughout the yard. Try tucking a few pots of colorful annuals and tropicals among evergreens and you'll love the look. Small trees and shrubs, as well as annuals and perennials, thrive in pots as long as the containers are suitable in size and offer good drainage.

But, take care when creating your pots. "Plants in too many colors and textures look as tasteless as wearing plaids, stripes and prints together," says Elvin McDonald, garden editor at Better Homes & Gardens. Plant several of one variety per container, or several different varieties, all in one color family, per pot. Then, group the colorful containers together for an avalanche of color.

Color lives indoors, not just outdoors. Homes with wide-open spaces and sunrooms are just the place for houseplants. Many of these houseplants also do double-duty, decorating your spaces outdoors during the summer and going indoors for the winter. Orchid sales are still skyrocketing, joined by dwarf banana plants, begonias, lemon and orange trees and even annuals like coleus and geraniums.

Water gardening trickles down. Water gardening has dropped off as an in-ground activity, but container water gardens and fountains in varying sizes are taking over as easier, still-soothing ways to enjoy the sounds and sights of water. You'll find some new concepts in water gardening, including the "fire-and-

water" look in fountains made from resin, concrete or copper.

"Indoor water features were everywhere and the natural look is in," says Tish Llana, owner of Countryside Gardens in Hampton, Va. She's attending shows to buy for the coming season. "Most of the fountains look like rock and the water flows out into rock basins. I've seen this before but the quality of the materials is much more realistic now."

Eat what you grow. Our increasing desire to eat healthier and live longer means we want to grow some of our own fruits and vegetables. In fact, vegetable and herb gardening is the new status symbol of luxury gardening because it says you care and take the time. The smaller, compact forms of veggies makes it easy to grow them in containers or among your shrubs and perennials.

Also, families are finding vegetable gardening is an ideal way to teach kids outdoors and active.

"If we can teach our children where foods come from, we can teach them to be healthier for life," says George Ball Jr., president of the seed company W. Atlee Burpee.

**What's in:**

- Lived-in gardens
- Simple elegance
- Small-space gardens
- "Pot-scaping"
- Boom without bloom
- Living color indoors
- Fountains
- Home-grown edibles

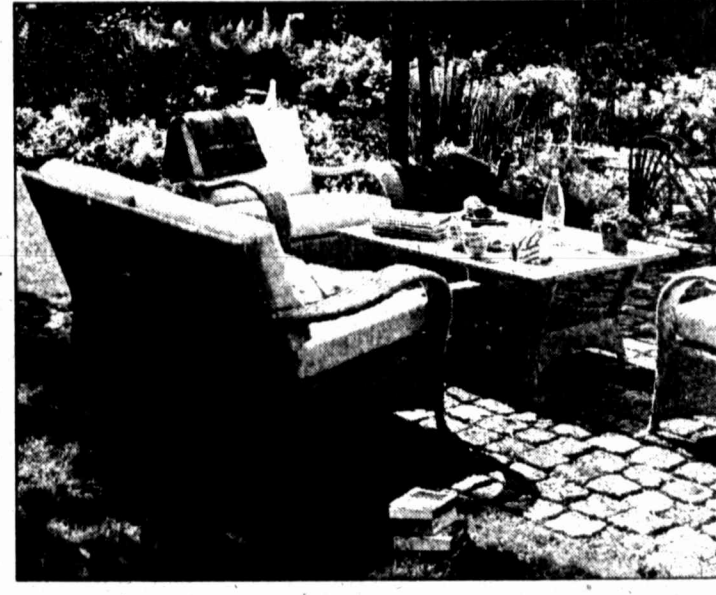
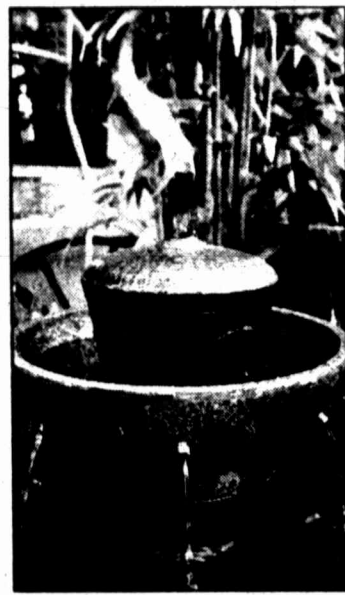
**What's out:**

- Showplace gardens
- Fussy gardens
- Colossal landscapes
- One-dimensional containers
- Just flowers
- Plant-less houses
- Ponds
- Fast-food

**Trend-setter:**

- Visit these company sites for information about their 2006 gardening items:

- Campania International at [www.campaniainternational.com](http://www.campaniainternational.com)
- Hines Horticulture at [www.hineshort.com](http://www.hineshort.com)
- Messenger at [www.messenger.info](http://www.messenger.info)
- Raymond Evison Clematis Collection at [www.evisonclermatis.com](http://www.evisonclermatis.com)
- Simply Beautiful at [simplybeautifulgardens.com](http://simplybeautifulgardens.com)



- Soil Soup [www.soil-soup.com](http://www.soil-soup.com)
- Conard-Pyle Co. at [www.starroses.com](http://www.starroses.com) and [www.starplants.com](http://www.starplants.com)
- W. Atlee Burpee at [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com)

Decorating outdoors, above, can be as fun as indoors by creating a relaxed living area in your garden or backyard. The fountain of fire, top photo and left, placed at Countryside Gardens in Hampton, Va., is shown Dec. 27, 2005. The fountain, \$650, is one of the new gardening trends for 2006.

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**First Presbyterian Church**  
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# Church News

## Club News

### East Side Baptist Church

Sunday Fun Time starts each Sunday morning at 9:45 followed by family service at 10:45 a.m.

Evening praise and worship is at 6 p.m. and Wednesday Bible study begins at 7 p.m.

The "Robby Wright Family" is in concert Feb. 11-12.

### Birdwell Lane Baptist

Birdwell Lane Baptist is located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship services are 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Jim Liggett's topic this Sunday is "The Baptism of Jesus."

The Permian Basin Deanery meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Odessa.

St. Mary's Vestry meets at 6 p.m. Monday in the library.

For more information about St. Mary's, call 267-8201 or visit the Web site at [www.stmarysbst.org](http://www.stmarysbst.org).

St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

### First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles will speak on text taken from Mark 1:4-11 at worship service Sunday.

Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m.; Take 10 is at 10:35 a.m.; worship service follows at 11 a.m.

The annual congregational meeting is Sunday

at worship service. Other activities for the week are a youth group meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Bible study at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel and choir practice follows at 6 p.m.

An officers retreat is tentatively planned for Jan. 14 with the place to be announced.

First Presbyterian is located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth streets.

### East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. for all age groups and the worship service starts at 11 a.m. Acteens, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Mission Friends and Mission Babies are offered for children and youth of all ages Sunday nights at 5.

Choir practice begins Sunday night at 5.

The evening service is at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible study is offered for youth and adults at 7 p.m. The church is located at 401 E. Fourth.

For more information call Amy at 267-2291.

### First United Methodist Church

Sunday, the Rev. Jim Wright will preach at worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school classes meet from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Chairpersons of all ministry areas, boards and committees should contact the church office to put meetings on the calendar.

Handbells resume rehearsals Wednesday at 6 p.m. and the Chancel Choir rehearses at 7 p.m.

A new Beth Moore study titled, "The Patriarchs: Encountering

the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," begins Jan. 26. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 16 in the church office. The cost for the workbook is \$15. Anyone who would be interested in leading an evening or Sunday afternoon study should contact Pam Steel.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

### Iglesia de Cristo

Iglesia de Cristo Anderson y Green, con Predicador, Miguel Bustillos. Domingos servicios 10 a.m., Miercoles 7 p.m. Telefonos 432-689-6374 y 432-684-7852.

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### McGee Chapel Church of God in Christ

New leaders are Bennie and Debra Johnson. Sunday school is 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11:30 a.m. Wednesday service is 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 1000 N.W. Third St. For more information, call 267-6605 or 432-944-4891.

### Life Church

There are two contemporary worship services Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Children's ministry is provided during both services, such as Noah's Ark for children age 0-3, Zoe Land for children age 4-9 and God's Squad for preteens age 10-12. Church meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. Small groups, including college, young adults and senior high meet throughout the week.

Bean's World Cafe is open for business at the Boxcar in downtown Big Spring. For more information, call 432-263-7714. Life Church is located at 600 E. FM 700.

### YoungLife

YoungLife is a non-profit Christian organization for high school students that meets at 7:59 p.m. each Monday night of the school year. WyldLife, a junior high school outreach, meets at 7:13 p.m. every other Tuesday.

Both clubs meet at the YoungLife building, 13th and Owens streets. Volunteer adult leaders are needed. For more information, call director Shelly Warren at 213-4819.

### New Covenant

New Covenant also offers an exciting mid-week service, featuring a Young Ambassador's program every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Game nights, study-hall session and Bible drills are some of the activities. Sunday morning worship services are 11 a.m.; the doors open at 10:30 a.m.

The church is located at 1607 E. Third street. For more information, call 264-0015 or e-mail [nccwcl@yahoo.com](mailto:nccwcl@yahoo.com).

### Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone offers a family atmosphere of praise and worship. Children in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to Sunday children's activities. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool.

The church is located at 12th and Owens streets. Call Pastor Craig Felty at 263-3072 with any ques-

tions.

### First Baptist Church

Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m., with morning worship following at 10:45 a.m. The Rev. Dennis Teeters begins a new sermon series on physical problems. This Sunday's sermon title is "Paralysis: The Paralysis of Analysis." Evening worship is at 6 p.m.

Upcoming concerts include "Testify," a male trio, that will be in concert Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. and "The Stamps Quartet," that will be here Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

February 19, "The Singing Women of West Texas" are scheduled to sing. This concert begins at 6 p.m.

All of these concerts are free. Love offerings will be taken to help these groups in their ministry.

### Salem Baptist Church

Sunday school is at 10 a.m., morning service is at 11 a.m., and evening service at 6 p.m. The Wednesday evening service is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

### Friends of Unity

Chapter 8 of the Gospel of John is the study at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Prayer and meditation time is 5:30 p.m. Wednesday and the Course in Miracles group is at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Jim Sims, Unity minister, teaches higher consciousness classes at noon each Tuesday.

This group currently is studying the works of Joel Goldsmith and Eckhart Tolle.

These classes and all others are open. For information, call 267-8783.

### Captain Elisha Mack Chapter of DAR

On Veterans Day, Sue Ann Damron and Charlene Ragan represented the Captain Elisha Mack Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution when the fifth floor alcove furniture was dedicated.

The chapter helped pay for the furnishings in this area. Damron and Ragan also served refreshments.

The chapter also placed a book on New Hampshire in the Howard County Library in memory of Helen Dawson, the organizing regent. She was 92 years old when she died in October.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the DAR may contact Mary Schuelke at 432-353-4337 or Sue Ann Damron at 432-393-5790.

The Captain Elisha Mack Chapter meets the second Saturday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Big Spring Country Club. January meetings are for members only in order for the chapter to fill out annual reports.

### Rehearsals set

Rehearsals for "A Celebration of American Music: George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess" with the Big Spring Symphony Chorus begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 in the First United Methodist Church's choral rehearsal room.

John Giordano received permission from the Gershwin estate for this special arrangement, just its second public performance. For more information, contact Dr. Keith Graumann at 267-1626.

### life! policies and publication deadlines

The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions from all area churches and clubs for publication in the Friday edition.

Church News should be concise and may not be written in first person.

The goal of Church News is to inform the public about upcoming church events and opportunities. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number.

Club News is published to inform the public about meeting times and locations as well as activities. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number.

Photos are accepted. Submissions are due by noon each Wednesday for Friday publication and will be edited for content, style and space.

Contact life! at 263-7331 or e-mail [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com).

Wedding announcements, 50th anniversary or greater announcements, engagement announcements and

quinceañera articles with photos are published within three months of the event in the Big Spring Herald's weekend edition at no charge.

Birth announcements, Who's Who and In the Military, with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All photos submitted must be of good quality for reproduction purposes.

All articles are edited for style and content and must contain a connection to Big Spring and Howard County.

Articles are due in the Herald's office by noon each Wednesday for weekend edition publication.

All announcements must be typed on a Big Spring Herald form and contain just the information requested. The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com).

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### IN BRIEF

#### Big Spring sets date for football banquet

The Big Spring ISD football banquet will take place Thursday in the high school cafeteria.

The public is invited to attend and tickets may be purchased in advance from Kay Cook at the ATC by calling 264-3662 or from Gene or Lana Piercefield at 816-1134. The cost is \$10.

#### Chicano Golf Association sets first meeting of year

The Chicano Golf Association has set an organizational meeting for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama meeting room.

All members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

#### Bills hire Levy as VP of operations

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy was hired as the Buffalo Bills' vice president of football operations, returning to the team he led to four straight Super Bowls appearances in the 1990s.

In becoming the NFL's oldest active front office executive, the 80-year-old Levy takes over a struggling team that's coming off a 5-11 season and missed the playoffs for the sixth straight year. The move comes a day after the Bills fired president and general manager Tom Donahoe.

#### Mora fined for use of cell phone

NEW YORK (AP) — Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora was fined \$25,000 by the NFL for using a cell phone on the sidelines during the team's overtime loss to Tampa Bay on Dec. 24.

The league prohibits the use of cell phones or any other form of communications by coaches or players on the field — other than the regular phones used by teams to communicate between the sideline and press box.

#### Edwards getting closer to becoming coach of Chiefs

NEW YORK (AP) — Herman Edwards could be coach of the Kansas City Chiefs by Friday.

A person familiar with the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Jets and Chiefs were rapidly coming to a resolution on compensation for the coach. If the two sides agree, and the NFL approves the deal, Edwards could be out as Jets coach almost immediately.

The Chiefs have to give up draft picks to hire Edwards because he is still under contract with the Jets.

## BSHS girls begin district season at home against L.V.

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

The District 4-4A girls' basketball season begins tonight in Big Spring as the Lady Steers attempt to get off to a strong start in league play against rival Lake View at 7:30 p.m.

The Maidens enter the game with an 8-13 record and are led by junior Michelle Ruiz, who averages just more than 10 points per game, and Kelli Williams.

Lake View has won five of its last six games, which may give the team confidence heading into district action despite winning just three league games the past five years. All three District 4-4A wins came against Big Spring, two of which were recorded last year when the Maidens finished 2-8.

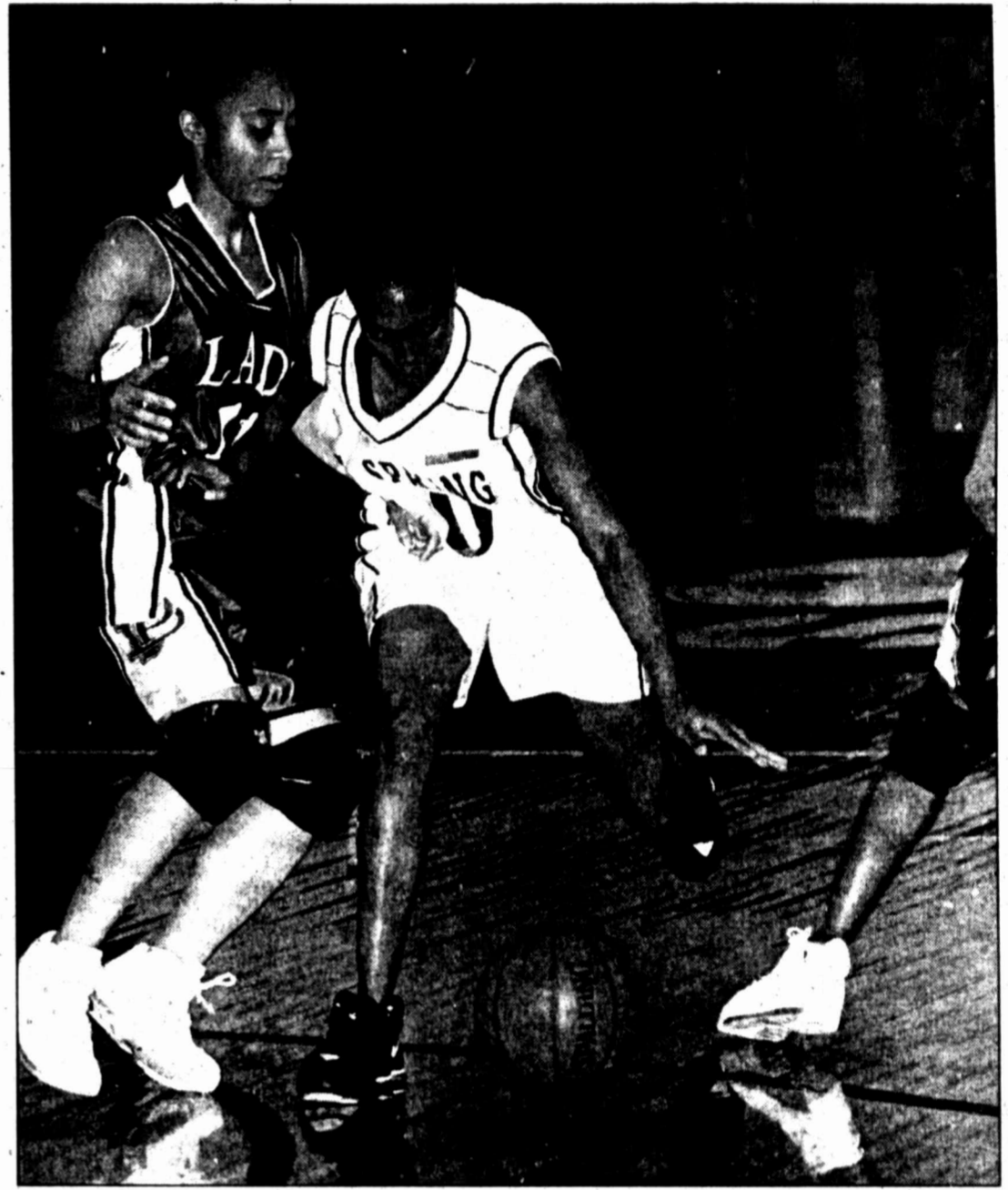
Big Spring has struggled most of the nondistrict season with turnovers and poor shooting, but can erase all of that tonight with a win as the "new season" begins.

The Lady Steers are led by seniors Raegan Ritchey and Carmen Davis. They enter the district season coming off a defeat at the hands of Amarillo Palo Duro, but played the game without two starters — junior Mallory Dunn and senior Chalesa Johnson. Johnson missed the game due to injury and is not expected to play tonight. Dunn was vacationing with her family in Hawaii during Tuesday's game. Her status for tonight was unknown at press time.

The district season for Big Spring is again expected to be a tough challenge. Plainview, Frenship and Lubbock Estacado — like the past few years — are heavy favorites to get into the postseason this year. Big Spring can get into the mix if the Lady Steers can get wins in their first two league games. They travel to arch rival Andrews Tuesday.

The Big Spring boys

See AREA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Big Spring senior Carmen Davis slips through two defenders Tuesday during the Lady Steers' loss to Amarillo Palo Duro. Davis and Big Spring open District 4-4A play tonight at home against rival Lake View.



KRT photo/Vernon Bryant, Dallas Morning News  
Texas quarterback Vince Young, right, walks onto the stage as Jay Leno bows down during the taping for his appearance on the "Tonight Show" Thursday in Burbank, Calif. Texas beat Southern California, 41-38, at the 92nd Rose Bowl Game Wednesday.

## Texas benefits from 'replay'

By KEN PETERS  
AP Sports Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — Only one of the five video reviews during the Rose Bowl overturned a call on the field.

Then, there was the call that wasn't even reviewed.

With USC leading 7-3 in the first half, Texas quarterback Vince Young scrambled for 10 yards

down to the Trojans 12. As Young was being tackled, he lateraled to Selvin Young, who took off into the end zone.

The television instant replay showed Young's left knee on the ground when he tossed the ball to his teammate.

The Longhorns quickly lined up for the extra point, and once that play began, it was too late to review the touchdown.

Texas went on to win 41-38.

Under rules used for the Rose Bowl, coaches can't ask for a review. Only the official in the video booth can make that decision. Big Ten Conference officials worked the game between the Big 12 and Pac-10 conference champions.

A coach's only recourse

See REPLAY, Page 2B

## McGrady, Houston gets win over Cavs

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — As he headed toward the locker room door, Larry Hughes paused to say good night to a few teammates, who wished him good luck during his upcoming surgery.

The Cavaliers will need it more without him.

Tracy McGrady scored 34 points, Juwan Howard added 16 and made two clutch jumpers down the stretch as the Houston Rockets won impressively on the road again, 90-81 over the Cavaliers, who are about to lose Hughes for up to two months.

McGrady surpassed 30 points for the fourth straight game as the Rockets, who have been ravaged by injuries to center Yao Ming and others this season, followed up a win at Washington by handing the Cavaliers just their fourth loss in 17 home games.

McGrady did most of the damage, controlling the game's flow during his 43 minutes on the floor.

"I've got to be more aggressive on offense and assertive on defense because the big fella is

out," said McGrady, who has missed eight games with back problems. "I have to attack more and it seems that when I do, we are playing well. I've got to continue to do that."

McGrady outdueled LeBron James, who had 32 points, nine rebounds and five assists but couldn't prevent Cleveland from falling to 1-1 since learning that Hughes could miss two months with a broken finger.

In the only other NBA game Thursday night, Indiana beat Golden State 99-89.

The Rockets were able to benefit from Hughes' absence and a sluggish performance by the Cavaliers, who won at Milwaukee on Wednesday. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 17 points for the Cavs, who didn't help themselves by going just 8-of-18 on free throws and making only seven of a season-high 29 3-pointers.

Cleveland coach Mike Brown was not happy with his team's selection of shots.

"We took too many 3s," Brown said. "We got some decent looks, but

See HOUSTON, Page 2B

## Houston searching quickly for Capers replacement

By CHRIS DUNCAN  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans are looking inside and outside the organization to find a replacement for fired coach Dom Capers.

Receivers coach Kippy Brown and Kansas City offensive coordinator Al Saunders met Thursday with owner Bob McNair, general manager Charley Casserly, consultant Dan Reeves and McNair's son, Cal. Miami offensive coordinator Scott Linehan interviewed Wednesday.

Brown, 50, has worked for the Texans since 2002, their first season. He

promised to make changes if hired, but added that he thought only a few were needed.

"I think we're close," Brown said after his interview at Reliant Stadium. "There are specific things that allow you to win close games that we didn't win. I've got some ideas on how to fix some of that."

The Texans averaged only 253 yards per game, third-worst in the league, but Brown didn't think the team's poor performance would hurt his chances of getting the job.

Instead, Brown said his knowledge of Houston's personnel and rapport

with the players give him an edge.

"I have a better feel for what we need to do to become a playoff team than anybody coming in here," Brown said. "I think the players would rally behind me."

Brown's only head coaching experience in 27 seasons came in 2001, when he led the Memphis Maniax of the now-defunct XFL.

Brown served as running backs coach for the New York Jets from 1990-92, spent two seasons at the University of Tennessee, then returned to the pros with Tampa Bay in 1995. He spent four

seasons with the Miami Dolphins, coaching the running backs for two seasons before he was promoted to offensive coordinator under Jimmy Johnson.

In 2000, Brown coached running backs in Green Bay.

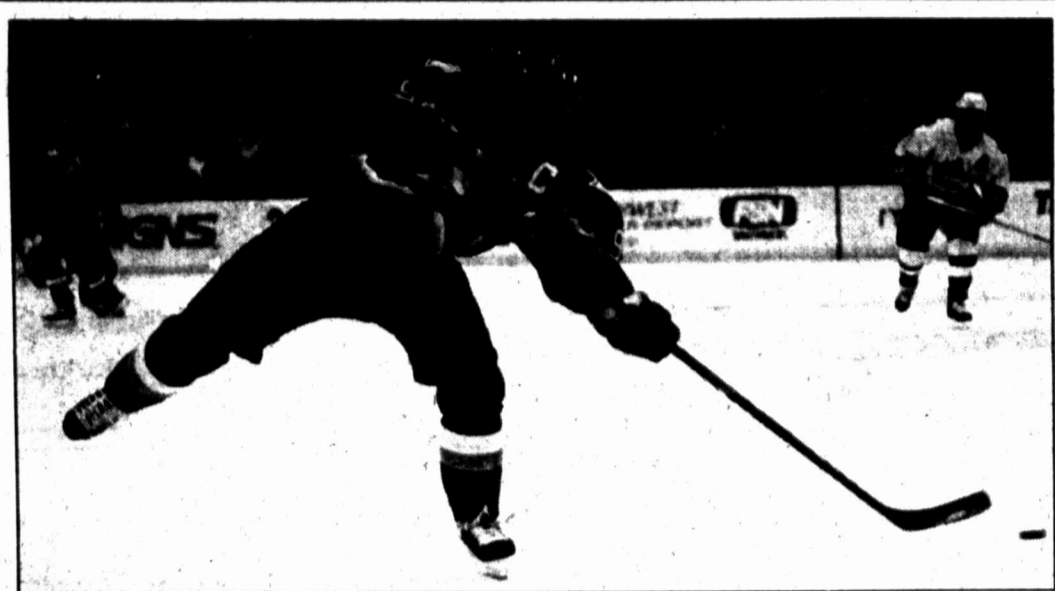
Brown said he has been discussing jobs with other teams but that the Texans' job topped his list. He didn't specify the other openings.

"Most people understand that if you have an opportunity like this one, they'll wait," he said. "They know these opportunities don't come around very often."

Saunders, 58, has also interviewed with the Minnesota Vikings and is a candidate to replace retiring Dick Vermeil with the Chiefs. Saunders has spent 15 seasons in Kansas City — 1989-98 under Marty Schottenheimer and the last five with Vermeil.

Kansas City had the NFL's best offense for the second straight season in 2005, averaging 387 yards per game.

Also under Saunders, the Chiefs led the NFL in scoring in 2002 and 2003, the first AFC team to do that in back-to-back seasons since San Diego in 1981-82.



KRT photo/Louis DeLuca, Dallas Morning News  
**Dallas Stars' Mike Modano shoots and scores the Stars' third goal during third period action. The Stars defeated the Canucks 3-1 at American Airlines Center, in Dallas Wednesday.**

## Seattle's Alexander captures MVP, Manning takes second

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — Shaun Alexander set an NFL record for touchdowns, led the league in rushing and ran away with The Associated Press Most Valuable Player award Thursday.

And with free agency on the horizon, the Seattle running back could parlay his sensational year into unprecedented riches.

Alexander spearheaded the Seahawks' rise to the best record in the NFC, 13-3, including a victory over the league's only 14-2 team, the Colts. It was the most productive season in Seahawks history, one in which Alexander scored 28 touchdowns and rushed for 1,880 yards.

That earned him 19 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. He ended the two-year reign of Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning, who received 13 votes.

"I think that is a team goal," Alexander said of winning the award. "The way I always looked at MVPs was it was a player that did really, really good on a really, really good team. That is why I am even more excited about this year, because I

have put together some great numbers, but we have a great team."

Those great numbers included 11 games rushing for 100 yards or more, topped by 173 against Arizona on Nov. 6. He scored 27 TDs on the ground and one as a receiver to break Priest Holmes' seasonal record by one.

His lowest output was in a Monday night game in Philadelphia, a 42-0 romp in which he played only the first half and had 49 yards in the snow.

Alexander became the only player in NFL history with at least 15 TDs in five straight seasons and the fourth with consecutive 20-touchdown years. He became Seattle's career rushing leader this season.

"It's just like all the things — the rushing title, the MVP, all those things — it's exciting to talk about," said the sixth-year pro out of Alabama. "But I don't think it would mean that much until after I retire, because then it would actually hit me what it means."

"Right now, we're on this ride and it's just kind of one of those things; everything is kind of numb to us. It's all exciting. We're already in the

second round of the playoffs, we've just got a bunch of cool things that we are really not used to."

Seattle would like to get used to having Alexander in the backfield. But he could leave in the offseason.

He was designated the Seahawks' franchise player before this season and accepted the team's one-year, \$6.323 million offer — with a proviso. The team agreed not to use the same franchise tag on him in 2006.

So either the Seahawks come up with a huge financial package, or the MVP could be scoring touchdowns and gaining all those yards elsewhere next season.

"It is a business," he said. "The Seahawks have to make their own decisions. I am going to be happy for whatever they do."

Alexander is the first Seahawk to win the award. He also is the first running back voted MVP since Marshall Faulk in 2000.

Trailing Manning in the balloting were New England quarterback Tom Brady with 10 votes, New York Giants running back Tiki Barber with six and Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer with two.

## HOUSTON

Continued from Page 1B

the some shots just wouldn't go in."

The Cavaliers know they've got a tough road ahead without Hughes.

"It's definitely going to be an adjustment without Larry," guard Eric Snow said. "He's our second leading scorer, our second best player and our best perimeter defender."

Despite an off night, Cleveland, which trailed by 17 in the third quarter got within three in the fourth, and was only down 84-78 when Howard dropped two straight jump shots to put the Rockets back in charge.

Rafer Alston had 18 points for Houston, whose list of injured players includes Yao, Derek Anderson and Bob Sura. Yao has begun light workouts following surgery on an infected big toe and

expects to return in two to three weeks.

McGrady had 23 in the first half and looked as if he could score at will before the Cavaliers finally slowed him down in the second half.

But he hit several big shots, including a swooping layup with 2:19 left to put the Rockets ahead by six. It's the first time McGrady has scored at least 30 in four straight games since joining Houston in 2004.

"You can't stop him," James said. "You can only hope to contain him and hold the others. But Juwan hit some big shots and they helped him out."

Guarded primarily by James, McGrady scored his 23 on 18 shots in the opening half that ended with Cavs fans grumbling about the club's lack of defense. McGrady scored 10 points on jumpers in the final 4:59 as the Rockets closed with a 15-2

run to take a 49-35 lead.

### Pacers 99, Warriors 89

At Oakland, Calif., Stephen Jackson had 27 points, five rebounds and three assists and Indiana jumped to a quick lead it nearly relinquished in the waning moments.

Derek Fisher made two free throws with 1:46 left to get Golden State within 91-89, before Jackson scored and was fouled on the other end but missed a free throw.

Austin Croshere added 17 points, nine rebounds, two assists and two steals for the Pacers. Fred Jones added 11 points before fouling out with 4:11 left.

Mike Dunleavy had 19 points, six rebounds and four assists for Golden State. Baron Davis had 16 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, and rookie Ike Diogu added 16 points and a career-high 12 rebounds for his first double-double.

## REPLAY

Continued from Page 1B

after a call on the field is to call a timeout and hope the official in the booth will take the time to look more closely at a play.

Young thought there was no reason to review the lateral, saying, "My knee wasn't down."

It didn't appear that way on the replay.

The first review of the game overturned a missed call. Texas safety Michael Griffin sprinted toward the right side of

the end zone, leaped in front of a USC receiver and snared the ball. Field officials ruled that Griffin was out of bounds.

When the replay was shown on the stadium's big board, the Longhorns fans booed because Griffin clearly got a foot down before he went out. The review gave the ball to the Longhorns.

Later, Reggie Bush's somersault into the end zone for USC was reviewed, and when field officials announced that the play stood, there was more booing from the

Texas section of the stands.

The final review, with a minute remaining, came when Brian Carter caught a 9-yard pass from Young, was tackled immediately, then the ball squirted out.

The video replay showed that Carter was on the ground when a USC defender ripped the ball from his arms, so the Longhorns kept the ball at the USC 36. They scored the winning touchdown shortly after that.

The five reviews took a total of 6 minutes, 1 second.

## AREA

Continued from Page 1B

will travel to Lubbock Cooper tonight and the game will tip-off at 7:30 p.m.

In other local action, the Howard College women's basketball team will take on Cisco College in Hobbs, N.M. Former Howard guard Ariel Rhodes, who played for

the Hawk women last season, now plays for Cisco. The Hawk women take on nationally-ranked Central Arizona in Hobbs, N.M., Saturday. Both games in New Mexico begin at 2 p.m. Howard returns home Tuesday to face nationally-ranked Trinity Valley at 6 p.m.

The Coahoma boys basketball team hosts Eula tonight at 8 p.m., while the Bulldogettes begin District 4-2A play on the

road against Hawley.

Garden City, Grady and Sands open District 7-A play tonight. The Bearkats and Lady Kats host Dawson at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively, while both Grady teams will travel to Borden County. Sands travels to Klondike.

Forsan does not play tonight, but opens district play at home Tuesday against McCamey.

## National Football League — Wild Card weekend

AFC

Saturday

Jacksonville @ New England, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati, 3:30 p.m.

NFC

Saturday

Washington @ Tampa Bay, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday

Carolina @ New York Giants, noon

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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.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars and Jupiter are in a debate over what it means to be lucky. Mars insists that you make your own luck through hard work. Jupiter says that feeling lucky is what attracts luck. The Aries moon chimes in with a bargain for us h u m a n s : Begin it, and you'll be lucky. There's nothing more auspicious than not knowing your own limitations.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Lessons have to do with recognizing your authentic self and your unique attributes. It's really not hard to tell the difference between what's yours and what you're taking on for someone else. Dare to shed a false identity.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The good part is, your imagination is incredibly active! Keep a vigilant focus on positive thoughts or fear will creep in. After all, being in a state of chronic readiness for escape or battle is

no fun, and it's not productive, either.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your inner dialogue becomes increasingly turbulent unless you take measures to counteract the noise. External silence will help you hush your inner chatter. Carve out 10 minutes to sit quietly and simply be.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). There's no need to risk an adventure alone. At least three people you know are willing to go with you, and at least one among them has pursued the endeavor before and would serve as a guide if asked.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Some treasures are hidden underground, but most are found in the pages of a book, the words of a friend, the embrace of a loved one. The list goes on. Today is filled with such gold and jewels.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll achieve beyond the so-called normal range of achievement—something to be proud of, but, of course, you expect it from yourself. Celebrate the small victories. They are more significant than you realize.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Emotional alarm clocks go off at their highest volume and intensity. It is easy to panic and important that you don't. The sound is not meant to startle you but simply to wake you up.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pain is an unavoidable part of life, and yet we work so hard to avoid it. It's an ideal day to face what you perceive will be unpleasant. By doing, so it somehow becomes less icky.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Chances are, you're getting a lot of different kinds of advice, but it all boils down to the same thing: Fish or cut bait. Right now, in order to win your prize, you may have to let it go.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're happy, relaxed and having so much fun! Seeing your way could hit your ex (boss, love or friend) like a bucket of cold water — they don't know you quite as well as they thought they did.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your search for love yields results. If you are honest, you'll see that those results are somehow equal and opposite of what you are putting out. Know your purpose, and you'll attract the same.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Impatience is your enemy. It compels you to take action out of fear, which causes mistakes. Take the time to get it right and you won't waste the time it takes to do over.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** Loved ones are put to the test this weekend. Try not to score too harshly! **ARIES:** Feeling unsatisfied also makes you feel more alive. **TAURUS:** You are sorely missed — someone will be thrilled by your call. **GEMINI:** Those close fear the changes in your life, but you must take care of yourself first. **CANCER:** You'll be quick on the uptake — flirting is so easy! **LEO:** The dating process should be taken lightly — funny stuff happens. **VIRGO:** You are in power, and others make a move toward you before you even think about love. **LIBRA:** Releasing the need to control is a major key to romantic success. **SCORPIO:** Love requires you to rise to the occasion, which you do. **SAGITTARIUS:** Romantic strategy is your forte. **CAPRICORN:** What once would have caused a rift between you and a loved one can now be dealt with in a snap. **AQUARIUS:** You are charmed by someone who seems to have been sent from Central Casting. **PISCES:** Love enters your life when you break out of your Friday night rut. Rent a karaoke machine, and torment your neighbors for the evening.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEK-END:** It's an excellent weekend for Virgo and Capricorn to share an experience. Both can be rather serious, goal-oriented and ambitious. And both desire very strong, enduring family ties. Learning to trust will be this couple's growing edge. Virgo and Capricorn are each willing to let a relationship weather a test of time and loyalty if they think there's a chance for living happily ever after.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TOM GREEN

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDITH LUCILLE GOSSETT, Deceased, were issued on December 30, 2005, in Docket No. P-13363, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas to GREGORY VERL GOSSETT and ROBERT HUGH GOSSETT, Independent Co-Executors.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Greg Gossett

Gossett, Harrison, Reese,

Millican & Stipanovic, P.C.

P.O. Drawer 911

San Angelo, TX 76902

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

DATED: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

GOSSETT, HARRISON,

REESE, MILICAN &

STIPANOVIC, P.C.

P.O. Drawer 911

San Angelo, TX 76902

(325)653-3291

Telecopier No. (325)655-6838

By Greg Gossett

State Bar No. 08225000

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE OF EDITH LUCILLE GOSSETT, DECEASED #4830 January 6, 2006

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ACKERLY

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The City of Ackerly will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM on January 10, 2006 at the City Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow for final public comments regarding the completion of the Texas Community Development Program - Water System Improvements (Contract Number 723001). The general public is invited to attend and participate.

Should any non-English speaking citizens desire to address the City during the public hearing and needs the assistance of an interpreter, the City will attempt to provide one if sufficient notice is provided. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Secretary to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City Secretary at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Mayor  
City of Ackerly  
#4831 January 6, 2006

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Crown Quest Operating, LLC, c/o Box 953, Midland, TX 79702 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres/ Clearfork Mary Foster, Well Numbers: 479W, 481W, 483W, 485W. The proposed injection wells are located 13 miles SW of Westbrook in thelatan, East Howard in Mitchell County. Fluid will be injection into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2300 to 3300 ft.

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

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792. #4832 January 6, 2006.

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BIG SPRING Friday, 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 DEN I'M KE CALLING BC WHAT CALL THING YOUR WI PARKE AG WHA HODU IT IS MAE TO HI DA A KI THIP C TH WH AN A BE YOU JOI MA ZI

FRIDAY

Table with 24 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M KEEPING TRACK OF HIS ESCAPADES. I'M CALLING IT 'THE DENNIS BOOK OF RECORDS.'"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"My mom said, instead of magazine subscriptions, we should sell housecleaning services."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2006. There are 359 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 6, 1412, according to tradition, Joan of Arc was born in Domremy. On this date: In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.) In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married. In 1838, Samuel Morse first publicly demonstrated his telegraph, in Morristown, N.J. In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state. In 1942, the Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper arrived in New York after making the first round-the-world trip by a commercial airplane. In 1945, future president George Herbert Walker

Bush married Barbara Pierce in Rye, N.Y. In 1967, U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Deckhouse Five, an offensive in the Mekong River delta. In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of being the "freeway killer" who had murdered 14 young men and boys. One year ago: Attorney General-nominee Alberto Gonzales, under scorching criticism at his confirmation hearing, condemned torture as an interrogation tactic and promised to prosecute abusers of terror suspects. Birthdays: Pollster Louis Harris is 85. Bluegrass performer Earl Scruggs is 82. Author E.L. Doctorow is 75. Actress Bonnie Franklin is 62. Rock singer-musician Syd Barrett is 60. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 55. Singer Jett Williams is 53. Rock musician Malcolm Young (AC/DC) is 53. Movie director Anthony Minghella is 52. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 51. Golfer Nancy

Lopez is 49. Rhythm and blues singer Kathy Sledge is 47. TV host Nigella Lawson is 46. Rhythm and blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 46. Movie director John Singleton is 38. TV personality Julie Chen (CBS' 'The Early Show') is 36. Actor Danny Pintauro (Who's the Boss?) is 34. You gain 500 points, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. ... You must do the thing you think you cannot do." Eleanor Roosevelt, American first lady (1884-1962).

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: WOVE, LHASA, SICTVI, ALAN, TINTS, THEE, GINGERSNAP, YEAR, EVERY, SAKE, LAMB, RESORT, SENDUP, SERF, ASSET, OAFS, EARTHY, HER, LXI, CAMERAS, ONE, DEN, ATEOUT, STYX, EDENS, ECTO, PETREL, HANDED, JARS, EROS, LARGE, ALIT, BIGPICTURE, ZONE, ICIER, AGED, ZETA, DANCE, SSTTS

Newsday Crossword

COMPLIMENTARY by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Ingredient in some salads 6 High-five, basically 10 Bed board 14 Clumsy mistake 15 Floor piece 16 Be down with 17 Honorific for José 18 "Absolutely!" 19 Uranium unit 20 Start of some advice 23 Actress MacGraw 26 Movie, slangily 27 Warmed up in the microwave 28 Newsmen Koppel 29 Outdoor 32 Doesn't stand straight 34 Part 2 of advice 39 "Breaky Heart" 40 Like a gymnast 42 Religious image 43 Part 3 of advice 45 A CSI location 46 Place into liquid 49 Part 4 of advice 50 City in the Tonkin region 53 Veronica Mars network 54 QB's stat 55 End of advice 59 Martial god 60 Move like the Blob 61 Key letter 65 Actor Auberjonois

- 10 Castaway's residence 11 Shop tool 12 Steer clear of 13 Day worker 21 Laotian currency 22 New Age glow 23 Brother of Prometheus 24 Parasite 25 British Columbia neighbor 30 Bête 31 CIO partner 33 Greenwich Village sch. 35 1002 36 Modify to new conditions 37 Desert wanderer 38 Small cuts 40 Ticket phrase 41 Precious stone 44 Literary celebrity 45 "Monkey Trial" reporter 47 Dutch artist 48 Hot spring 50 On board 51 Change, as a bill 52 Intrusive 55 Hounds' prey 56 Gardener, at times 57 Basso Pinza 58 Shakespeare's shrew 62 Key letter 63 Something in a pen 64 "Darm" in Düsseldorf

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for words.

# Golf Insider

## PGA TOUR

### Ready or not, time to tee off

By ALAN TAYS  
Cox News Service

Mark Calcavecchia shed no tears when he learned that Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Retief Goosen and Padraig Harrington are skipping this week's Mercedes Championships, the opening tournament on the PGA Tour's 2006 schedule.

"I text-messaged Tiger and said, 'No Hawaii for you, more cash for me' — something like that," Calcavecchia told reporters this week in Kapalua on the Hawaiian island of Maui, where the tournament started Thursday.

But kidding aside, Calcavecchia thinks the absence of some of the Tour's biggest stars for a season-opening event for 2006 winners isn't good for the Tour.

"I think they should be here," said Calcavecchia, whose victory in last year's Bell Canadian Open was his first since 2001 and put him in the Mercedes for the first time since 2002.

"It's bad for the tournament. Good for me, bad for the tournament. I don't have to beat Tiger, Phil, Retief or Padraig."

"I wish they were here, though. I think they should be."

Only 28 players are in the field, including two-time defending champion Stuart Appleby, who came from four shots off the lead on the final day to win last year.

"I don't know where 12 months has gone," said Appleby, whose wife, Ashley, gave birth to the couple's first child, daughter Ella, three days after he won at Kapalua last year.

Woods, the 2006 Player of the Year and leading money-winner, is taking a break after playing in four unofficial and international events since The Tour Championship. "I just need some time away from the game," Woods said on his Web site. "As much as I enjoy going to Kapalua Resort, it's been a long season and I have played a lot of golf. I need a break."

Woods intends to begin his 2006 PGA Tour season at the Buick Invitational near San Diego Jan. 26-29.

Mickelson hasn't played since the Las Vegas event in October. He hasn't played in the Mercedes since 2001.

South African Goosen plans to make his 2006 debut in February at the Dubai Desert Classic.

Ireland's Harrington, whose just-concluded year included his first PGA Tour win, at the Honda Classic, and the death of his father, is in the midst of a nine-week break.

Eleven players are competing in the Mercedes for the first time, including Jason Gore. Gore qualified by winning last year's 84 Lumber Classic in September, just three weeks after he had earned a "battlefield promotion" to the PGA Tour by winning three times on the Nationwide Tour.

Gore was talking with his caddy during a practice round at Kapalua on New Year's Day when it hit him how far he has come.

"I think we were on the seventh tee, and I turned around and I looked at this big blue sign and it said 'Mercedes Championships,'" Gore said. "It's like, 'Holy smoke.'"

"All of a sudden you get a flashback of everything that's happened and everything you've dreamed about for so many years. It's kind of right here and right now. That pretty much kind of sums it up."

## GOLF SPOKEN HERE

### "WORM BURNER"

This shot is not a dainty little topped shot, but one that rolls along the ground "with authority."

## THE GOLF DOCTOR

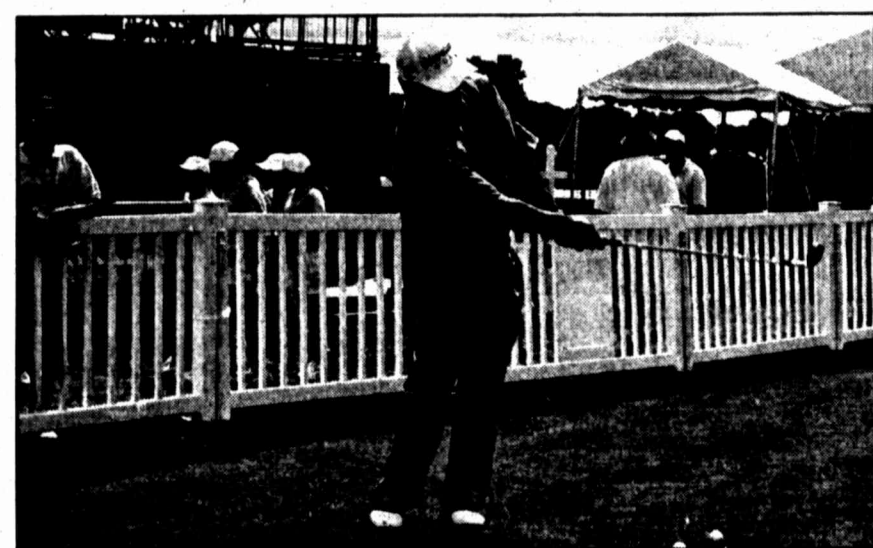
### Most embarrassing moment of 2005

You might think the obnoxious conduct of Rory Sabbatini, who played though his own group on the 17th hole at the Booz Allen Classic, was the low point of the year. He was so exasperated at the snail's pace of his playing partner, Ben Crane, that he left Crane behind and proceeded to the 18th tee alone.

But this act born of frustration was not nearly as embarrassing as Billy Casper's ego-driven performance at the Master's, where his to-hell-with-everyone attitude was front and center.

It's hard to tell what Casper shot — some say it was 105, others 106 — but it was

## IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



For all swings, the shoulders go through an arc. At address your front shoulder is at point A. When it finishes its turn, it's at point B, at the end of your backswing. Now your shoulder must retrace its journey on the arc, going through A until arriving at point C (above and left). This is the route the shoulders must take for the club head to make a square, on-plane hit regardless of the club.

# KNOW YOUR ABC'S

The amazing thing about the two tour players pictured here is that although one is hitting a driver and making a full-powered swing that will send the ball some 300 yards, and the other is hitting a pitch shot that will travel no farther than 40 feet, their shoulders move in an identical arc from the top of their swings.

Granted, the driver swing has more coil and a much bigger shoulder turn at the top, but the fact that the shoulders have such a full range of rotation through the shot and into the finish during both the pitch and the drive is instructive.

For all swings, the shoulders go through an arc. At address your front shoulder is at point A. When it finishes its turn, it's at point B, at the end of your backswing. Now your shoulder must retrace its journey on the arc, going through A until arriving at point C (its position in the photos). This is the route the shoulders must take for the club head to make a square, on-plane hit regardless of the club.

To be a bit more precise, the up-and-down part of the motion is controlled by your front shoulder. As your body turns during the backswing, your lead shoulder travels in a semi-circle, backward and downward. Don't try to dip

## ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: [TJInsider@aol.com](mailto:TJInsider@aol.com).

your shoulder; it will travel on the correct downward path on its own if you're bent correctly from your hip joints.

Whether a pitch or a power drive, your swing back to the ball starts with an upward and forward movement of your front shoulder. This will return your club face to the ball on the exact path that it left, thereby ensuring that your club face arrives at impact looking at your target.

Caution: Allowing your front shoulder to move upward during your downswing is not the same as raising or lifting your whole body as you swing back to the ball. Don't change your spine angle to play the pitch or to make a full-powered swing. Simply let your front shoulder go through its ABC's.

The danger with the pitch is that using such a full shoulder turn

during the downswing and into the finish is counterintuitive. It just doesn't make sense that you could rotate your shoulders so much for such a short shot, but you do.

The danger with the driver is that because of its length, the driver swing encourages a flat shoulder turn that violates the ABC route the shoulders must take for the club head to make a square hit.

To avoid violating your ABC's, practice the following for both short and long shots:

1. Place a club across your shoulders along your collar bones and secure it by pressing the shaft against your shoulders with both hands.
2. Concentrate on the up-and-down nature of the shoulders as you turn to simulate a swing.
3. Notice that during your backswing the tip of the club that was over your front shoulder (point A) drops down and backward even though your spine angle remains the same.
4. As you start your rotation back to the ball (from point B), the tip of the club moves back up and forward toward its original starting point (A).
5. As you continue to rotate your shoulders, the tip passes through point A and continues on its arc to finish at point C.

## DON'T MISS IT

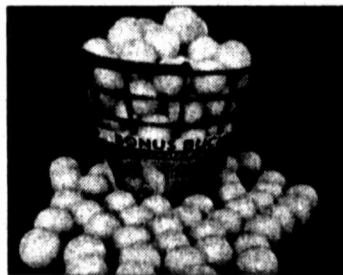
### Golf at home

"Turn your neighborhood, back yard or school yard into your own golf course." So says the ad for The almostGOLF Ball. It's a trainer that weighs a fraction of a regulation ball, goes 100 yards accurately and "is com-

pletely safe around cars and windows."

I use it in my teaching when I want to remove the golf ball as a factor. And the ad is correct: It won't break windows or dent cars. Find it at [www.golfaroundtheworld.com](http://www.golfaroundtheworld.com).

—T.J. Tomasi



## TEEING OFF

### Keep anger in its place

By T.J. TOMASI  
Universal Press Syndicate

Anger is a primary human emotion that's essential for survival. But like anything, it can be misused, becoming a weakness rather than a strength. Those little temper tantrums on the golf course after every bad shot may not seem like much, but they can do serious damage to your game.

To determine if anger is working against you on the golf course, monitor your emotions as they ebb and flow during a round. Conduct a post-round replay and chart every swing in terms of anger and the mode you were in.

There are three basic modes the human brain creates: analytical, physical and emotional. As you play golf, you need to be in the correct mode at the correct time.

**Analytical Mode:** The analytical mode is a state in which you consider events logically and determine solutions rationally. You're detached and methodical. This mode is ideal for solving a puzzle or deciding how to get your golf ball from point A to point B.

**Physical Mode:** When you're in your physical mode, you're performing an action, such as swinging your golf club.

**Emotional Mode:** This is your interactive state where you mark events with emotive responses.

Every swing starts in the analytical mode when you position yourself behind the ball. Then you flow into the physical mode when you strike the ball. Finally, you're in your emotional mode after the ball has gone to target.

If anger is present, it should appear only in the emotional mode. If it regularly shows up in either your analytical or physical mode, then chances are that anger is working against you and you need to intervene using disassociation.

The ability to change from an associated state to a disassociated state gives you control over your anger. A disassociated state is one of objectivity and dispassion in which you are involved in a particular event as an observer and evaluator. You care, but no major-league emotions affect your performance.

In the associated state, the emotional mode reigns and you are intimately linked to the outcome — a bad shot or an unlucky bounce floods you with anger that, if you aren't careful, can spill into the other modes and ruin your game.

If you find yourself losing it on the golf course, you can learn to switch states by disassociating with the bad outcome.

Next week we'll study a technique that allows you to be in control of the powerful emotion of anger.

## SCHEDULE

All Times EST  
**PGA TOUR**  
**Mercedes Championships**  
• Site: Kapalua, Hawaii.  
• Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.  
• Course: Kapalua Resort, The Plantation Course (7,411 yards, par 73).  
• Purse: \$5.4 million. Winner's share: \$1.08 million.  
• Television: ESPN (Thursday-Saturday, 7-10:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m.).

**PGA EUROPEAN TOUR/JAPAN GOLF TOUR/ASIAN TOUR**  
**Royal Trophy**  
• Site: Bangkok, Thailand.  
• Schedule: Saturday-Sunday.  
• Course: Amata Spring Country Club (7,322 yards, par 72).  
• Purse: \$1.5 million. Winner's share: \$125,000 per player.  
• Television: The Golf Channel (Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon).  
• Format: Team match play. Saturday, four morning best-ball matches, four afternoon alternate-shot matches; Sunday, eight singles matches.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When I loosen up, I'm going to make Johnny Miller sound like Mary Poppins."

— Nick Faldo, on his new job as an announcer. Does he mean "look" like Mary Poppins?

## ASK THE PRO

**Q:** I struggle with iron play. I slide too much forward on my downswing, causing a steep downswing and then a cut across the ball to compensate. I either get pulls or weak pushes. Not knowing which is coming makes distances hard to predict.

I've been told by some to rotate more than slide. When I try to rotate, everything goes left. Then I compensate by coming out of the shot and the ball goes weakly to the right.

How can I start my downswing properly to avoid the dreaded slide? — Bruce, from the Web  
**A:** The downswing comprises two moves — a shift/drop and

then a turn.

To start down, the first move is to transfer weight to your left side as the club drops down toward the right foot. The club falls until waist high without turning the chest or shoulders. At this point, the body begins its rotation.

So, it's shift/drop THEN rotate. Any other combination, such as your slide, is death.

Practice in a mirror one step at a time, then hit balls in slow motion and at regular speed until you get it.

To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: [TJInsider@aol.com](mailto:TJInsider@aol.com).