



BEST AT THE SHOW



Berkley Iden, a freshman at Coahoma High School, accepts her grand champion steer buckle from Mike Moates, president of the Howard County Junior Livestock Association, during the organization's show Saturday afternoon. See page 5A for more photos from the livestock show.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Abortion

Demonstrators gather for Roe vs. Wade anniversary

By MARTIGA LOHN

Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL — Thousands of abortion opponents massed outside Minnesota's Capitol on Sunday to protest the 33rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and call for a ban on public funding of abortion.

"We must stop abortion in our state," Scott Fischbach, head of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, told a crowd of sign wavers clad in parkas, winter boots and collars turned up against a cutting wind. "Things are changing in this country."

The Minnesota Choice Coalition planned to celebrate the anniversary with a reception and two rock concerts.

Demonstrations across the country this weekend reflected the growing tension about the issue at a time when the makeup of the court is about to change with the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Many abortion opponents said they were heartened by President Bush's choice of Alito to replace O'Connor, a moderate who was often the court's swing vote.

Alito's refusal during his confirmation hearings to agree with assertions by Democrats that Roe v. Wade was "settled law" upset abortion rights activists.

"We have a dream today that someday soon this will not be an anniversary of sadness, but an anniversary of justice restored," said Minnesota's Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

In San Francisco, thousands of abortion opponents shouldering signs with slogans such as "Peace Begins in the Womb" marched Saturday, while abortion rights supporters along the march route waved clothes hangers and shouted "Bigots go home."

See ROE, page 3A

TPW grant to get final vote from City Council

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to give the final go-ahead Tuesday for a resolution accepting a \$150,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for improvements to the city's Moss Lake facility.

The grant requires the city to ante up 20 percent of the project's total cost, which currently sits at



Darden

approximately \$180,000, and as soon as environmental and historical surveys clear the additions, pave the way for a number of improvements.

"We were awarded a \$150,000 trail grant for the Moss Lake facility," said Todd Darden, director of

public works for the city of Big Spring. "The application request for the grant was for improvements in the park that would add off-road travel for different types of off-road vehicles, which includes motocross and all-terrain vehicles.

"The scope of the project includes the entire lake. We envision using every square inch of travel area for those off-road

vehicles. As the city manager said, Moss Lake is a diamond in the rough and this will help maximize the use of the facility."

Darden said the council's final approval will allow the city to move forward with the next part of the grant process.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife has given us the pre-clearance through the signing of this contract to start with our archeologi-

cal and historical studies," said Darden. "It's called a phase-one environmental impact study and requires the archeology of the area and the environmental run off to make sure the building of the track won't interfere."

"With this contract now signed, we can go out and hire the consultants necessary to do those studies for us. We'll be contacting people and sending out

bid requests to those consultants in the near future."

Also on Monday's agenda is:

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a special warranty deed covering a .91-acre tract of land out of Section 163, Block 29, Waco and Northwestern

See COUNCIL, page 3A

Chili just the sideshow at cook-off

Seeing old friends, making new ones main attraction for most

By ANDREIA MEDLIN

Staff Writer

Some come to win, some come to show off their wares, but mostly they come to see old friends and make new ones.

The rest is gravy — or, rather, chili.

The chili was as warm as the cooks who made it at Saturday's Boss Hog Chili Cook-off held at the Harley-Davidson Shop in Big Spring. "It's just a big time for everybody," said Dan Wright who along with Jeff Thompson made up the team affectionately known as "Two Fat Guys."

With 20 teams participating in the cook-off, "the competition is stiff," said Howard Walker, owner of the Big

Spring Harley Davidson shop.

The first three places received cash prizes; the remaining seven get bragging rights and memories to last a lifetime.

"Some of these people only get to see each other once a year," said Sherman Powers of Big Spring, who has participated in the cook-off since its inception in 1989. "I was here when it was held in an old burned-out building down on First Street."

Meanwhile, the judges were busy with the task at hand.

One a scale of one to 10, the judges based their decisions on color, taste and aroma.

"It's something you have to have your heart in," said judge Ben Anderson of Big Spring.

"You have to take your time and be respectful of the people

who make the chili."

Ben's wife, Dixie, who is the "real judge" according to him, enjoys the social aspect of the event. "We get to meet new people and make new friends and it goes to charity," she said.

"This is a real good thing for Big Spring. It brings in people from all over and it's good for the economy," said Ben.

Both agreed they are proud to have been a part of the fund raiser and plan on doing it again next year.

"We plan on doing it every year and are real proud to have been in it."

Winning teams at the 17th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cook-

See CHILI, page 3A



HERALD photo/Andreia Medlin

Sherman Powers of Big Spring, stirs his winning pot of chili at Saturday's 17th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off. Powers, who has participated in the event since its inception, placed fifth in this weekend's competition.

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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, officials said.

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.

BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet are on sale now.

The banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$22 per person before Jan. 23 and \$27 per person from Jan. 23-28. No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Jan. 28. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Guest speaker will be Pat McGaughey of McGaughey Enterprises Inc. on "Maximizing Your Chamber Membership." Persons interested in attending are asked to RSVP or pick up tickets at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third, or call 263-7641.

SAVING A KEEPSAKE

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Fred Murray was just trying to pick up a cheap video camera at a local Goodwill. He ended up saving some irreplaceable memories.

Inside the \$8 camera was an 40-minute tape that showed the first moments in the life of a baby girl, being weighed and measured and held by a grandfather. It also showed a family reunion.

Murphy tracked down the tape's owner, Sherry Ewing of Grand Blanc, and returned it to her Friday.

"The only people who would have seen that tape would be family. So I guess you're family now," Ewing, 46, told Murray. "Thank you so much."

Obituaries

Randall Louie Sherrod

Randall Louie Sherrod, 86, died at his Glasscock County home Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006. A memorial service was held today, Jan. 23, 2006 at the First Baptist Church in Garden City.

He was born Aug. 5, 1920, in Breckeridge. He married Velma Zora Christie in April of 1941. She preceded him in death Oct. 26, 2005.

He was a Glasscock County Commissioner for many years, an auctioneer at Big Spring Live Stock Auction and a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. He was honorably discharged from the military.

He is survived by his children, Jimmy Randell Sherrod, John Edward Sherrod and Velma Lee Sherrod Blakeney; one brother, Leslie Sherrod of Big Spring; and one sister, Jessie Mae Johnson of Sand Springs.

Memorials may be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in Amarillo or West Texas Boys Ranch in San Angelo. Services were under the direction of Ross Funeral Home of Sterling City.

Sheriff's report

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

• **JOSE ADAM BENAVIDEZ**, 30, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• **MISTY MICALE BRYAN**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of burglary of a habitation and interfering with an emergency phone call.

• **MIKE GONZALES MANZANAREZ**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and no liability insurance.

• **MICHAEL NEAL BIRMELIN**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **GREGONO RANGLE ALANIZ**, 54, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury - family violence.

• **JOSEPH MICHAEL COOK**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of speeding, no liability insurance, no driver's license and theft.

• **JONATHAN ANDREW ARRENDONDO**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **JORGE LUIS GARZA**, 31, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• **BOBBY JOE LOPEZ**, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of theft.

• **WILLIAM RAYMOND CLEMENTS**, 37, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ROBERTO DUTCHOVER PEREZ**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor - third or more offense, enhanced.

• **CYNTHIA GAYE FRYAR**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **BRITO GONZALES**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon - switchblade/knuckles.

• **ANASTASIA LOZANO**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **HARVEY DALE STOUT III**, 30, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid and a motion to proceed with adjudication.

• **JAMES PATRICK CARSON**, 41, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **FREDDIE JOE HINOJOSA**, 28, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended (capias), violation of a driver's license restriction, violation of a promise to appear and theft by check.

• **RONALD GENE HENRICHS**, 48, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ISIDRO MELENDEZ**, 69, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **ANTHONY PAUL RUSSO**, 34, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JERRY RAY MANN II**, 25, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

• **JACOB JACKIE RIOS**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• **JOHNNY LEE JOHNSON**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• **RODNEY WAYNE TUBBS**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. The next meeting is Feb. 6. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month 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.

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.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

• **LAHOMA RENEE GOODBLANKET**, 27, of 6805 Interstate Highway North Service Road, was arrested Saturday on a local capias warrant.

• **JOHNNY LEE JOHNSON**, 33, of 2537 Gunter, was arrested Saturday on charges of resisting arrest and public intoxication.

• **JACOB JACKIE RIOS**, 38, of 712 Lorilla, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• **FERNANDO ARRIAGA**, 29, of 606 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Sunday on a Lynn County warrant, a local citation and a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **KAREN HARRISON**, 57, of 507 Johnson, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant.

• **ALEX SANCHEZ**, 20, of 307 E. 19th Street, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant.

• **ROBIN DENT**, 46, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of College.

• **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 2100 block of Johnson.

• **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1200 block of Mobile.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 1800 block of Benton.
- in the 2100 block of Runnels.
- in the 100 block of Indian Ridge.
- in the 1700 block of Settles.
- in the 3600 block of Connally.
- in the area of 13th Street and Owens.
- in the 4200 block of Theo.
- in the 600 block of 18th Street.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Monday:

• **MEDICAL** was reported on Val Verde Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 2700 block of Larry. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 500 block of Donley. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported at FM 1584 and FM 1054. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 7500 block of N. Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of March. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 5800 block of Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to VAMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Settles. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Morrison. Service was refused.

Take Note

• **SPRING CITY SENIOR CENTER** offering class to make pressed-flower book marks at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, sponsored by Mountain View Lodge.

• **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING** is Wednesday. Contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 or obtain an application at the chamber office, 215 W. Third.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Jan. 30. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

• **CRIMSON SOUL** in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Cowboy's Steakhouse, Bean's World Cafe and at the door.

• **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.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

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

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• 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.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in 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.

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

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Light and variable winds.

Tuesday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the lower 60s. Light and variable winds becoming north around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Northeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 30s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Thursday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 60s.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-13-16-21-26. Bonus Ball: 29.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-4-14-26-30.

Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-6

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Bush Unplugged: Audience Q-and-A is the new feature of presidential speeches

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Move over, Oprah. President Bush is making himself into television's newest talk show host by making audience participation a feature of his appearances.

Bush has been taking questions from audience members in recent speeches, and the White House says none has been prescreened. It's a throwback to the folksy style on the

campaign trail that helped him win re-election and a departure from the heavily scripted speeches that were the norm last year.

And his answers have resulted in some revelations — both personal and political.

The White House has grown so comfortable with the format that most of his appearance Monday at Kansas State University was reserved for Q-and-A with the audience.

And unlike the more intimate settings where the president has taken questions before, this appearance was set in front of a coliseum full of several thousands, including students, soldiers from nearby Fort Riley and invited guests.

Bush has taken a wide variety of questions in three appearances during the last six weeks. Many of the people he has called on have fawned over him, thanking him for his

wartime leadership, saying they pray for him and bringing best wishes from other fans in their family who couldn't be there.

"It's always good to have a plant in every audience," Bush joked last week in Sterling, Va., after a woman rose and said she was proud of him.

But he has gotten some tough questions, too, such as the one from a woman in Philadelphia last month who challenged the

administration's linkage of the Iraq war to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Bush said Saddam Hussein was a threat and at the time was widely believed to have weapons of mass destruction — which later proved false.

In response to another question in Philadelphia, he estimated 30,000 Iraqis had died in the war, the first time he publicly put a number on Iraqi deaths.

Texas briefs

Bush, Abrahamoff shown together in photos

WASHINGTON (AP) — Although President Bush says he doesn't recall meeting convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the two have reportedly turned up in photos together.

Both Washingtonian and Time magazines have reported the existence of about a half-dozen photos showing the two together.

Time reported on its Web site Sunday that its staff members have seen at least six photos featuring Bush and Abramoff, who has pleaded guilty to federal charges stemming from his lobbying practices and has pledged to cooperate with investigators. They appeared to have been taken at White House functions, according to the reports.

The White House has acknowledged that Abramoff attended some events at the Executive Mansion, and spokeswoman Dana Perino said Sunday it's not surprising that the two would have met.

E-mails detail how Perry staffers handled Katrina influx

HOUSTON (AP) — A collection of e-mails from Gov. Rick Perry's staff

and administration during the state's initial response to the influx of Hurricane Katrina refugees reveals concerns about security and bickering among local officials, as well as discussion of protecting Perry's image.

The e-mails were released to the Houston Chronicle under the state's Public Information Act.

Kathy Walt, Perry's spokeswoman, told the newspaper the correspondence, issued between Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, doesn't capture the intensity of those moments after thousands of Louisiana and Gulf Coast residents streamed into Texas after Katrina hit in August.

The first wave of refugees landed in Houston and Perry's staff felt security was quickly deteriorating at the Astrodome, where many were housed initially.

"I have real concern developing about lawlessness breaking out in Texas as a result of our generosity," Walt wrote. "We need to make certain we do not exceed our ability to provide necessities for those we are agreeing to take."

Death shifts focus to black fraternities

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)

— The death of a University of Oklahoma fraternity member from Texas has brought scrutiny of the safety measures of predominantly black Greek-lettered organizations.

That's unfortunate and unfair, said Alpha Phi Alpha alums who said members are not prone to violence but do many good things for their communities.

Paul Shanor of Carrollton, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha's OU chapter, died Jan. 15 after he was shot at a Holiday Inn in Stillwater. Three others were injured.

Two men arrested in the crime were not students of any university or fraternity members, police said.

The tragedy reflects violence in society, but not Alpha Phi Alpha, said Jonathan Easter, an OU graduate from Oklahoma City.

"This is a random occurrence that happens around the country very frequently at many different venues other than black fraternities," Easter said.

Oklahoma State University is temporarily banning campus parties hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha and other Pan-Hellenic groups. It is the second such ban in 18 months.

Nation, world briefs

Suicide car bomber kills three in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide car bomber killed at least three Iraqis Monday near the Green Zone housing the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government, and the U.S. military said two American airmen died in a roadside bomb blast north of the capital.

Intensive efforts continued to secure the release of kidnapped American Jill Carroll, 28, with U.S. and Iraqi authorities conducting joint operations in a bid to free the journalist. Carroll was abducted in Baghdad on Jan. 7.

The suicide bomber targeted a police patrol near the Iranian Embassy, which is close to the checkpoint into the Green Zone known as the "Assassins' Gate," said the top Baghdad police officer, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Razaq al-Samarie.

Two civilians and a policeman were killed and six Iraqis wounded, including five more policemen, al-Samarie said.

The two U.S. airmen were killed and a third was wounded in an attack on a convoy Sunday near Taji, where a U.S. air base is located 12 miles north of Baghdad, the military said.

U.S. Navy seizes pirate ship off Somalia

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Navy boarded an apparent pirate ship in the Indian Ocean and detained 26 men for questioning, the Navy said.

The 16 Indians and 10 Somali men were aboard a traditional dhow that was chased and seized Saturday by the U.S. guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill, said Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain.

The dhow stopped fleeing after the Churchill twice fired warning shots during the chase, which ended 54 miles off the coast of Somalia, the Navy said Sunday. U.S. sailors boarded the dhow and seized a cache of small arms.

The dhow's crew and passengers were being questioned Sunday aboard the Churchill to determine which were pirates and which were legitimate crew members, Hull-Ryde said.

Expulsion of U.S. envoy sought in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Lawmakers in northwestern Pakistan on

Monday demanded the government expel the American ambassador to Pakistan in response to a U.S. airstrike that killed 13 people.

The unanimous resolution by the provincial assembly was unlikely to move the federal government to accept such a demand.

The lawmakers also condemned the Jan. 13 attack on three houses in the village of Damadola.

Halliburton cited in Iraq contamination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Water supplied to a U.S. base in Iraq was contaminated and the contractor in charge, Halliburton, failed to tell troops and civilians at the facility, according to internal documents from the company and interviews with former Halliburton officials.

Although the allegations came from Halliburton's own water quality experts, the company once headed by Vice President Dick Cheney denied there was a contamination problem at Camp Junction City.

"We exposed a base camp population (military and civilian) to a water source that was not treated," said a July 15, 2005, memo by William Granger.

Roe

Continued from page 1A

"Abortion rights have been slowly whittled away while we haven't even been looking," said Kitty Striker, 22, who decorated her hair with small coat hanger replicas for the counter-protest. "That's what's so shocking and so scary to me."

In Idaho, nearly 400 abortion protesters marched at the Statehouse Saturday, including Reid Richardson and his 5-year-old stepdaughter, Allie Zebley, who carried sign with her ultrasound photo and the words, "This is me at 16 weeks."

About half that number gathered Sunday outside the Idaho Capitol in sup-

"Abortion rights have been slowly whittled away while we haven't even been looking. That's what's so shocking and so scary to me."

Kitty Striker
Pro-choice activist

port of abortion rights.

"When American women are barred from accessing health services at the whim of a politician's religious beliefs, we are not in a democracy at all," said Bree Herndon-Michael, a member of the Idaho Women's Network.

The largest abortion demonstration was expected Monday in

Washington, D.C., where anti-abortion activists planned to converge on the mall to hear speakers supporting their cause and march on the Congress and Supreme Court.

Many who support abortion rights held a candlelight vigil in front of the Supreme Court Sunday night, waving signs that read: "Alito-No Justice

For Women," and "Keep Abortion Legal."

The nation's high court made abortion legal on Jan. 22, 1973. But efforts to restrict or outlaw the procedure have been just as enduring; 34 states have passed laws requiring parents either to be notified or to give consent when their underage daughters seek abortions. This year, abortion foes

in Minnesota will try to encourage the Legislature to ban public funding of abortions for Medicaid recipients, which has been required since a 1995 state Supreme Court decision. They are also campaigning against the reelection of a justice who supported the decision.

In Michigan, a group of ministry leaders used the anniversary to launch a new anti-abortion organization, Michigan Chooses Life. One goal is to support efforts to get a measure on the 2006 ballot that would change the state constitution to legally define a person as existing at the moment of conception. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan has said that even if the measure does succeed, it will be challenged in court.

Chili

Continued from page 1A

- Off:
1. TNT
 2. Roosters and Chicks
 3. Two Fat Guys
 4. Jeremy Cloause
 5. Sherman Powers
 6. Carl Wyrec
 7. Four Beaches
 8. Max Green
 9. Mas Agua
 10. Ken Hill

- Best in Show winners
1. TNT
 2. Carl Wyrich
 3. Mas Agua

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Council

Continued from page 1A

RR Co. Survey in Glasscock County.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an elections services contract with the Howard County Elections Administrator.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a contract with caretakers for the Dora Roberts Community Center.

• First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a letter of agreement for the Sid Richardson Big Spring Plant to purchase de-mineralized water from Power Resource Ltd.

mayor to execute a lease with Phillips Fabrication covering building No. 9, located at 3000 Bell Street on the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

• Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a consultation agreement with C2C Consulting Services to conduct a cable operator franchise audit of Cox Communications.

• First reading of an ordinance amending the

ambulance fee schedule by amending Chapter 13, Section 210 of the city code.

• Discussion regarding wastewater service outside the city limits.

The meeting will get underway Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We can't afford to ignore Iran

When even the Europeans, including the Russians, grow alarmed about an Asian nation's nuclear moves, you know the situation is serious. Such is the case with Iran's announcement this week that it will resume efforts to enrich uranium a step, it says, toward making fuel for nuclear power plants, but more likely is a move toward making nuclear weapons.

The British foreign secretary, Jack Straw, said, "There was no good reason why Iran should have taken this step if its intentions are truly peaceful and it wanted to resolve longstanding international concerns."

Now there is talk of going to the U.N. Security Council for action, possibly to impose economic sanctions against Iran if it doesn't stop its plans to enrich uranium. The alarm might not be so great if the Iranian government had a long record of stability and no stated ambition beyond protection of its own frontiers.

But Iran has been through enormous internal turmoil over the past 25 years, with religious zealots in power and suppressing dissent. Its new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, recently said that Israel "must be wiped off the map." Israel is widely understood to have some nuclear weapons, but no one has ever feared it would use them for anything but as a deterrent to invasion.

In contrast, an Iranian government run by religious zealots determined to wipe out the Jewish state and armed with nuclear weapons, which also could be used against neighbors and U.S. forces guarding oil shipping lanes, could set off a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Such a race atop the world's greatest supply of oil would menace regional stability and the international economy. Most Americans weary of Iraq might be inclined to ignore Iran, especially those distrustful of President Bush. But other nations have been trying for two years to accommodate Iran's stated desire for nuclear power while keeping it from developing nuclear weapons.

It would be too dangerous for the U.S. government and its people to ignore Iran. Like it or not, the U.S. economy has an enormous stake in Middle Eastern oil supplies. And the longer we can put off the spread of nuclear weapons to every nation that wants one, the safer the world will be.

Austin American-Statesman

How To Contact Us

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

Let's rewind and remember

"It is time to check and reverse the growth of government, which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed."

It could be a clip from one of today's talk-radio shows. After all, federal spending has jumped 33 percent since President Bush took office. Washington now spends nearly \$22,000 per household, the most since World War II. Government is doing so much "for" us, it's difficult to keep track of everything it's doing "to" us.

But the quote above actually comes from Ronald Reagan's first inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1981.

Reading that speech again 25 years later — an exercise that would benefit many conservative policy-makers today — shows how far our country has come since then, and how far we still have to go.

"It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel and are proportionate to the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government," Reagan told his countrymen back then.

Those "troubles" included high unemployment, gas lines and the Iranian hostage crisis. His predecessor's attempts to respond to those troubles had failed. Indeed, in his famous "malaise" speech in 1979, President Carter basically told the American people to get used to a lower standard of living.

Reagan chose a different route: Cut taxes to generate economic growth. Stabilize the value of the dollar to ease inflation. Trim federal spending. Ease regulation.

Getting government out of the way allowed the American economy to flourish. GDP growth averaged 3.2 percent a year during the 1980s.



Unemployment dropped and, with inflation under control, so did interest rates. Reaganomics produced a genuine economic miracle, and we're still enjoying its effects: to this day.

Over seas, too, Reagan launched a new era. "As we renew ourselves: here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom," he announced.

Renewal was especially important, since earlier that day Iran had finally released the 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days. American pride was at a low ebb. But Reagan rebuilt our military, allowing Americans to regain our confidence and allowing the United States to remain

the beacon of democracy.

Of course, Reagan's reforms weren't always enacted. "It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the federal government and those reserved to the states or to the people," Reagan added in his inaugural.

Unfortunately, this worthy goal was thwarted. As American affluence grew, we also allowed our government to grow — one of the reasons it now spends so much and promises even more than it can ever afford.

Reagan was always optimistic, though, as we should be today.

"The economic ills we suffer have come upon us over several decades," he said. "They will not go away in days, weeks, or months but they will go away. They will go away because we, as Americans, have the capacity now, as we have had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom."

Some of the challenges we face today are different than the ones Reagan faced in 1981. Today, for example, we have to solve illegal immigration and fix unsustainable programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Some, though, are all too familiar, such as federal overspending, which was "mortgaging our future," Reagan said.

But we'll solve those problems, just as we solved the problems of unemployment, inflation and malaise in Reagan's time. Because, as he would remind us 25 years after he took office: We're Americans. Solving problems is what we do.

— Ed Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org), a Washington-based public policy research institution.



Ed Feulner

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A culture with a death wish

When social conservatives argue that legalizing same-sex marriage could lead to legalized polygamy, same-sex marriage advocates either laugh or sneer. It's a scare tactic, they say. It'll never happen.

Last year, however, as Canada legalized same-sex marriage, Prime Minister Paul Martin commissioned a \$150,000 study to debunk the polygamy argument. Big mistake: The study confirmed the scare tactic by recommending that Canada repeal its anti-polygamy law.

It also suggested that a legal challenge to Canada's anti-polygamy laws would succeed. "Why criminalize behavior?" asked Martha Bailey, one of the study's three law-professor authors. "We don't criminalize adultery."

Confession time: I am one of those who, for years, has argued that legalizing same-sex marriage would not open the door for polygamy. The limit for marriages would remain two, I argued. Two doesn't mean three or four.

Wrong. In these politically correct times, do-gooders expand definitions until words — or institutions — lose all meaning. Marriage can mean what you want it to mean.

And: If you don't prosecute all crimes in a category, you can't prosecute one.

That's essentially what Bailey argued.

The study recognized the "strong association between polygamy and gender inequality." Then the authors apparently decided that Canadian law should eliminate any legal unfairness — in inherently unequal marriages.

One Kuwaiti wife can't move to Canada to live with her husband and another wife. That's unfair to the wife and unfair to Muslims. The study noted, "The parties most likely to suffer from this rule are the left-behind wives." To eliminate that inequity, these professors are ready to provide legal cover for all polygamous (and polyandrous) marriages.

"There's a logical extension to it," laughed Rob Stutzman, who worked on the Proposition 22 campaign in 2000, a measure that limited marriage in California to a union between a man and a woman. "If you accept the premise that marriage should be whatever relationships people want to enter into," he said, polygamy is legit.

Brad Luna of the Human Rights Campaign, which supports same-sex marriage, finds any linkage of polygamy to same-sex marriage "offensive." He warned against reading too much into one Canadian study. In America, he said, "two people is the defining element in our system of government on contractual marriage."

Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, who has pushed for same-sex marriage in California, noted "a unique nature of a relationship with two. If you go beyond two, you can't draw a line anywhere else that isn't arbitrary." I agree, but the Canadian study gives me pause. The authors use a very American argument: that adults already are living in de facto polygamous relationships, so

why make their arrangements illegal?

The answer is that even if authorities cannot and should not jail adults for group cohabitation, the state should not extend legal protections to those unions.

Extending marital protections to same-sex couples bestows equality. Extending protections to unequal unions protects inequality.

The Washington Times interviewed polygamous Mormons who argued they lead happy, harmonious lives. That may be, but the practice is poison for cultures at large. Rich men marry many wives. Poor men do not. Women have few opportunities and limited rights. It can't be good for the kids. Consider polygamy's most famous son: Osama bin Laden, whose father sired 54 children with 22 wives.

Many elites argue that Canada is 10 years ahead of America when it comes to gay rights. But when legal scholars are so progressive that they are willing to shove marriage back to the Stone Age, they reveal a culture with a death wish.

American advocates for same-sex marriage may want to reconsider supporting civil unions in lieu of same-sex marriage. Or some way to limit marriage to two adults.

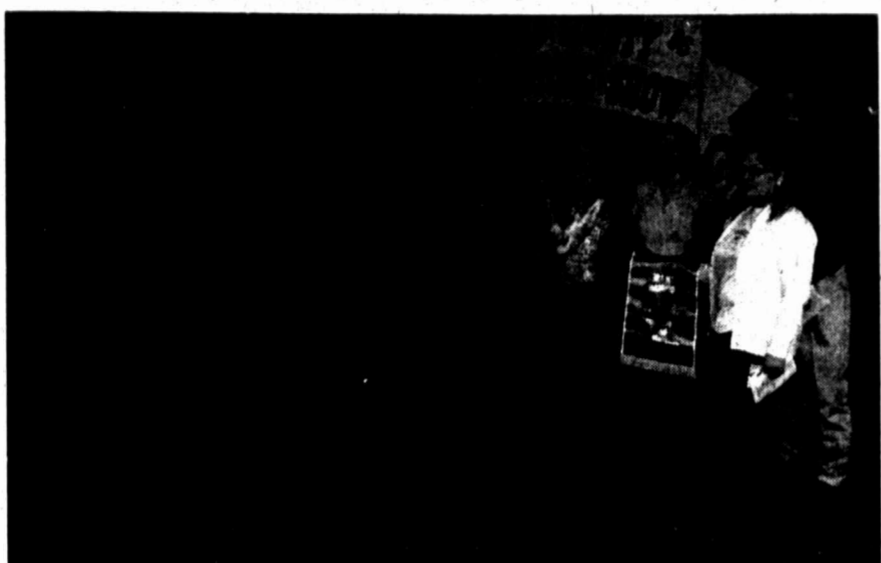
This isn't the nanny state. It's the opposite. If you want to keep the government out of family life, don't legalize marriages that, when they dissolve, split property (and kids) between one husband and three wives.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@sfnchronicle.com.
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Debra Saunders

Howard County Junior Livestock Show



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Laurel Nix, a fifth-grade student at Coahoma Elementary, holds on to her reserve grand champion steer as the animal's buyers, Amanda and Mike Blissard and young Myka, representing Cat Construction, look on.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Brittnee Nix, a junior at Coahoma High School, holds on to her grand champion lamb as the animal's buyer, Ronnie Wood of Big Spring Farm Supply, hold's the champion banner.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Rusty Martin, right, a seventh-grade student at Coahoma Junior High, shows off his grand champion goat alongside the animal's buyer, Kenneth Martin, who represented Partee Drilling.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Brayden Iden, a seventh-grade student at Coahoma Junior High, shows off his grand champion barrow banner with the animal's buyer, Dellina Hanes, assistant store director for the local H-E-B.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Dustin Fontana, a fifth-grade student at Coahoma Elementary, poses with his grand champion rabbit. Also pictured are the animal's buyers, Mildred Buchanan, left, Linda Berry, Lucy Griffith, Patricia Barr, Wanda Driver, Marie Etheridge, Carolyn Brooks and Nancy Howard, also known as the Blue Ribbon Belles.



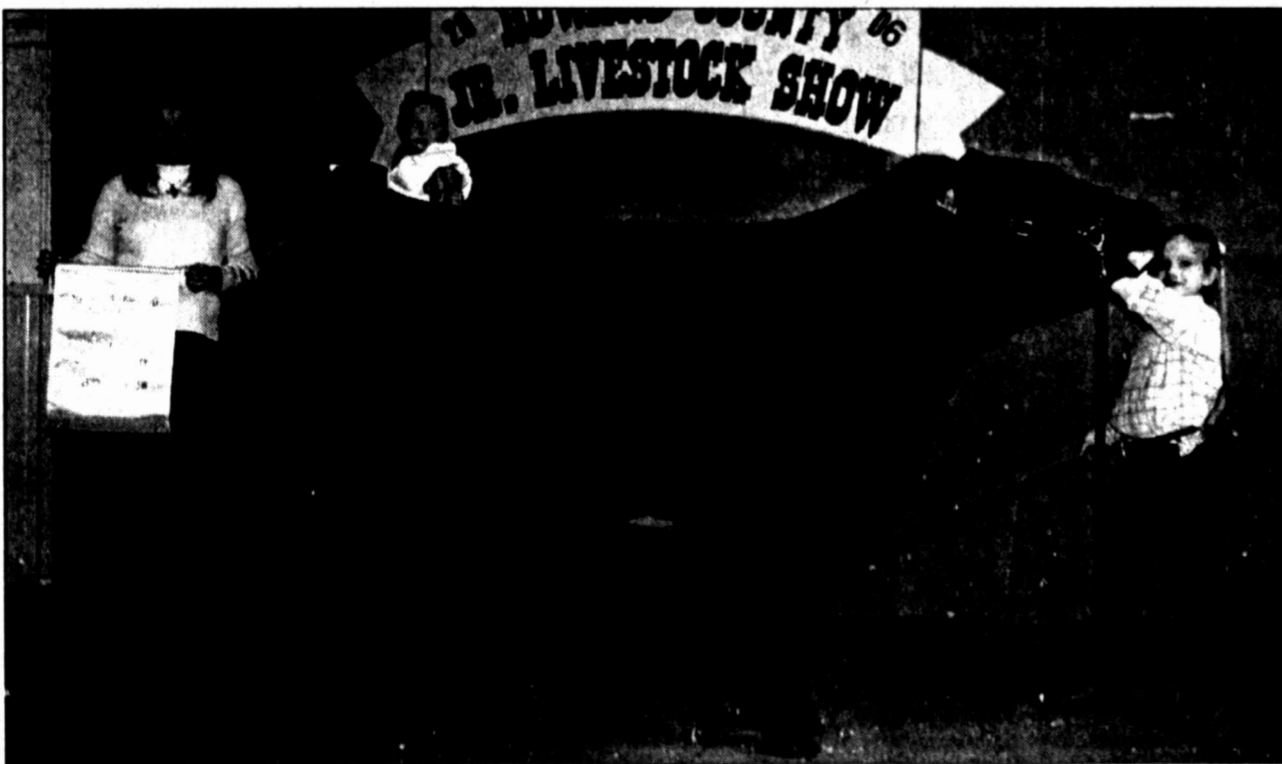
HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Landon Booker, a fifth-grade student at Elbow Elementary, shows off his reserve grand champion barrow alongside the animal's buyer, Ronnie Wood of Big Spring Farm Supply.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Shelby Jones, right, an eighth-grade student at Forsan, poses with her reserve grand champion goat and the animal's buyer, Connie Newell of Cowboy Construction.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Shelby Jones, an eighth-grade student at Forsan, shows off her reserve grand champion lamb alongside the animal's buyer, Kenneth Martin of Partee Drilling.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Laurel Nix, a fifth-grade student at Coahoma Elementary, holds on to her reserve grand champion steer as the animal's buyers, Amanda and Mike Blissard and young Myka, representing Cat Construction, look on.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Max Macik, a seventh-grade student at Coahoma Junior High, poses with his reserve grand champion rabbit along with the animal's buyer, Sherry Wegner of the Sherry Wegner Agency.

Cranked up, iPods are not music to your ears

By KAREN SHIDELER

Knight Ridder Newspapers
WICHITA, Kan. — If Ray Hull's "artificial ear" is telling the truth, it's time to invest in hearing-aid companies. Our iPods and other personal music players are destroying our hearing, he says.

But it's our fault, because we turn the volume up and leave it up, and we insist on ear buds that concentrate the sound. Hull is a professor at Wichita State University and a nationally recognized expert on noise and hearing loss. He was quoted in a number of national publications a few years ago in connection with his study showing that the noise level in most aerobics classes could cause hearing loss.

Lately, he's been asking people to lend him their ear buds, without changing the volume setting, so that he can check sound

levels with his "artificial ear" testing equipment. It measures how sound is received in a human ear.

He's found sound levels as high as 120 decibels. That, he said, is the equivalent of standing 100 feet behind a Boeing 707 at full thrust for takeoff. At that setting, your hearing can be permanently damaged after 3.7 minutes — about the length of one song.

With ear buds, "there's no escape from the intensity," Hull said, so the inner ear "essentially anesthetizes itself."

It's the same effect you get when you walk into a nightclub and think "Wow, this place is loud" but 15 minutes later don't notice the noise. The damage is still being done.

Dangerous Decibels, an Oregon public health project, estimates that of the roughly 40 million Americans with hearing

loss, 10 million cases can be attributed to noise-induced hearing loss.

To protect your hearing, Hull suggested turning your music player on full volume, then quickly backing it off about 30 percent.

"That's going to be much safer," he said. Even at that level, give your ears a rest after an hour.

For home theater systems, consider ear protection or turn down the volume. To be sure it's at a safe level, you can check it with a sound-level meter that will cost you about \$50, Hull said. A level no higher than 90 to 95 decibels for a 1 1/2-hour movie should be safe.

And if the thought of needing hearing aids at a young age isn't enough to deter you, Hull points out that loud noise can damage your balance as well.



Travis Heying/Wichita Eagle/KRT
Dr. Ray Hull, of Wichita State University, holds up a decibel meter that registers 80db in an ordinary hallway. Hull, a nationally recognized expert on noise and hearing loss, will ask people to lend him their ear bud headphones to test the volume level with his "artificial ear."

Grisly find shocks transplant patients

By WENDY RUDERMAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers
PHILADELPHIA

Ideally, donated body parts of the dead are supposed to rejuvenate the living.

But an alleged New York-based corpse-snatching scheme has left hundreds of transplant patients feeling like the walking dead.

Some now fear that their own bodies harbor HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious viruses after being implanted with illegally harvested body parts that were not properly screened for disease.

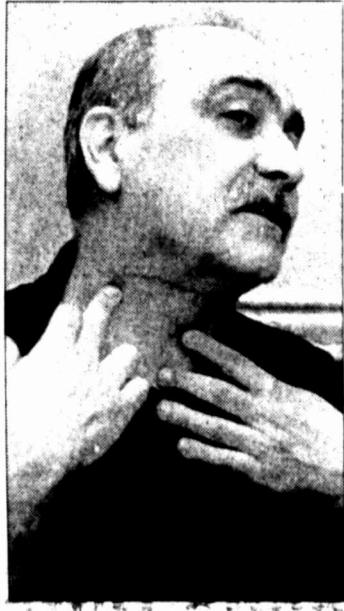
"I could be walking around with the bones of a drug addict, an IV-drug user," Deptford resident Anthony J. Vitola said in an interview last week. "And there is nothing I can do about it. They are in my neck now. That's the angry part. I'm walking around with stolen parts. This whole experience is like a bad movie — and I can't walk out of the theater."

As first reported by the *New York Daily News* in October, the former director of a Brooklyn funeral home and a former dentist were allegedly cutting up corpses and selling the parts to tissue processors without family consent.

The macabre scheme — described by Vitola's lawyer as a "human chop shop operation" — has left victims on both sides of the grave: People who underwent skin grafts, dental implants or orthopedic surgeries. And dead people, including famed British-born broadcaster Alistair Cooke, carved up and mined for parts without their relatives' knowledge.

The case also has rattled a growing billion-dollar transplant industry made up of legitimate tissue-and-bone harvesters, processors and distributors who ship the parts to hospitals around the country.

Vitola, who had three damaged neck disks replaced with cadaver bone in July, is one of 58 patients who received tissue, bone or tendons during surgeries at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, N.J., before the parts were recalled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



Clem Murray/Philadelphia Inquirer/KRT
Anthony Vitola shows the scar on his neck where doctors inserted a bone that was harvested illegally from a cadaver at a New York City funeral home.

Shore Memorial was one of many hospitals that purchased these body parts from a distributor with links to a former oral surgeon who ran a body-parts harvesting business and is now at the center of the investigation.

Three Shore Memorial patients recently tested positive for infections — two for hepatitis and one for syphilis, said Andrew D'Arcy.

Shore Memorial spokeswoman Margie Barham said the hospital had no idea that the body parts were stolen and was a "victim of this, as well."

The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office is investigating Michael Mastromarino, a former dental surgeon from North Jersey; Joseph Nicelli, the former Brooklyn funeral-home owner and embalmer; and several New York funeral homes.

New York and federal authorities have indicated that they believe that Mastromarino paid funeral directors for access to corpses and then sold the illegally obtained parts to legitimate tissue-and-bone processors in New Jersey, Georgia, Texas and Florida.

Investigators, who have been exhuming bodies from New York cemeteries, discovered in November that the leg bones of an 82-year-old Queens woman were replaced with plastic plumbing pipe.

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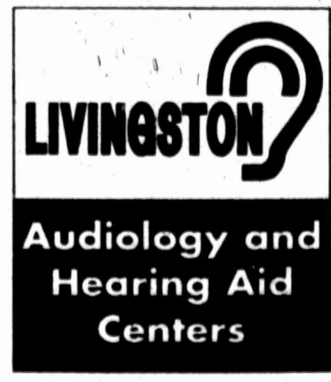
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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

Garrard match for Sportsman Club

The Western Sportsman Club will be hosting a M. Garrard match Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1 p.m. at the club range nine miles out on the Andrews highway (Highway 176).

For more information, contact 283-1345.

No. 1 Duke falls to hungry Hoyas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Georgetown fans surged on the court at the buzzer, celebrating a win that evoked the Hoyas' powerhouse days of John Thompson and Patrick Ewing — an 87-84 victory over No. 1 and previously unbeaten Duke.

The Blue Devils (17-1) have never been 18-0, and paint-defending, layup-producing Georgetown wasn't about to let it happen Saturday, despite J.J. Redick matching his career high of 41 points for Duke.

With surprisingly easy backdoor moves and open 3-pointers, the unranked Hoyas shot 61 percent, built a double-digit lead deep into the second half and nervously survived the frantic final minutes to preserve the upset.

Brandon Bowman scored 23 points, and Jeff Green had 18 for the Hoyas (12-4), who had lost nine straight against ranked opponents and hadn't beaten a No. 1 team since an 85-69 win over St. John's on Feb. 27, 1985. The victory marks the first defining moment for the school under coach John Thompson III, son of the Hall of Fame coach who guided the Hoyas for more than two decades.

Redick played like the All-American he is, but Shelden Williams scored a season-low four as the Hoyas' defense left the big man no room to maneuver in the paint.

Duke methodically cut a 16-point deficit to two on Williams' layup with 4:08 remaining, but Jonathan Wallace answered with a reverse layup, and Darrel Owens capped a chaotic sequence with a fast-break dunk to get the lead back to six.

Bowman's fast-break dunk made the score 82-74 with 1:15 left, but poor Hoyas free-throw shooting — 7-for-12 over the final 1:46 — gave Duke a final chance to tie that ended with Wallace stealing the ball from freshman point guard Greg Paulus.

Roddick suffers fourth-round exit

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Andy Roddick made an early exit from his second straight Grand Slam, losing 3-6, 4-6 in an upset Baghdad, Australia.

Howard gears up for arch rival in showdown

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The highly-anticipated Western Junior College Athletic Conference showdown between the top-ranked Howard men's basketball team and the No. 13 Midland College Chaps is finally here.

The arch rivals will meet for the second time this year — the first time in WJCAC play — tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum beginning at 7:50 p.m.

The game will feature two athletic teams and,

according to Howard assistant coach Jason Sautter, the game will come down to rebounding and turnovers.

"If we don't rebound and match Midland's intensity we could be in trouble," said Sautter. "Whoever rebounds the ball better will win the game."

"Turnovers will also be key because I feel like if

we can get more possessions than they can we will be in good shape."

Both Howard and Midland have begun conference play 2-0, but neither team liked how they played in their respective WJCAC contests.

"I think both coaching staffs feel like we have a lot of room for improvement," said Sautter. "We

are both national tournament caliber teams, but neither one of us has played as good as we can this year."

Midland, which has won 10 straight games since losing to Howard back in November, is led by point guard Tim Crowell, who doesn't score a lot of points, but is clearly the team's floor leader.

The leading scorers of late have been Ricky Smith and Midland-native Davlin Davis. Davis scored 19 points in the team's win over

Clarendon Thursday, while Smith added 13. Rodrigue Mels, who scored 15 points in the previous game, is the team's best shooter.

Howard is 18-0 on the season and ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA's latest poll. The Hawks are led offensively by freshman point guard Benny Valentine and sophomore forward Louis Rodgers. Valentine is averaging a team-high 18 points per

See **SHOWDOWN**, Page 2B



Keeping Fairley on floor key for Hawks

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
Keeping sophomore all-conference center Latoya Fairley on the floor will be one priority of the Howard College women's basketball team Monday as the Hawks host Midland College in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

Fairley scored 17 points against New Mexico Junior College on the road Thursday during Howard's opener in conference play. However, she only played 16 minutes because of early foul trouble and picked up her fifth and final foul with about seven minutes to go in the game.

"One of our keys to the game is keeping Latoya out of foul trouble so she stays on the floor," said Howard assistant coach Eric Rodewald.

The Hawks played Midland earlier this season during the WJCAC preseason tournament and lost 73-58. The team trailed by just seven at halftime.

Howard, which enters Monday's game with a 6-13 overall record, had 30 turnovers in the game and got outrebounded 30-20 and gave up 12 offensive rebounds.

"We have to put a greater value on the ball

and limit our turnovers," said Rodewald. "It will also be as important to block them out and not give them second shots. If we can minimize Midland's points off turnovers and second-chance points, we should be in a good position to win the game."

Midland enters the game 16-4 overall and 1-1 in conference play. The Lady Chaps are coming off a 13-point home win against Clarendon College after losing to Frank Phillips in their WJCAC opener. Courtney Owens scored 18 points to lead Midland, while Nola Taylor took 16 shots and finished with just 12 points. Against Howard, Midland was led by Rachel Brazell's 14 points and Rhea Carter and Addie Lees each added 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Fairley is Howard's leading scorer, but was held to just 11 points in the first meeting. The guards played well for the Hawks against Midland, however. Freshman Chanel Jones-Delas had 14 points and freshman Kim Gilyard finished with 12, while sophomore Jennifer Pena had eight points. Tomisha Martin, who scored 12 points Thursday in a loss against New Mexico Junior College, could also be key inside for Howard.

The women's game will tipoff at around 5:50 p.m. Howard is 4-2 at home this year.



FAIRLEY



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antwaan Randle El (82) celebrates in the fourth quarter as the Steelers headed toward a 34-17 victory over the Denver Broncos in the AFC Championship game at Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver, Colo., Sunday. The win sent the Steelers to Super Bowl XL in Detroit, Mich., February 5.

'Big Ben' leads Pittsburgh to AFC title, trip to Super Bowl

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP Sports Writer
DENVER — The wildest road trip since "Animal House" rocks on.

The next stop for Big Ben, The Bus and all those Terrible Towels will be the Super Bowl in Detroit, thanks to a 34-17 dismantling of the Denver Broncos on Sunday in the AFC title game.

"We were sitting, looking at an outside shot to be in the Super Bowl," Steelers linebacker

Clark Haggans said. "This is an unbelievable feeling to be here right now."

Unbelievable and almost unprecedented. Led by 275 yards and two passing touchdowns from Ben Roethlisberger and a touchdown by Jerome Bettis, the Steelers became the first team since the 1985 Patriots to win three road games en route to the Super Bowl.

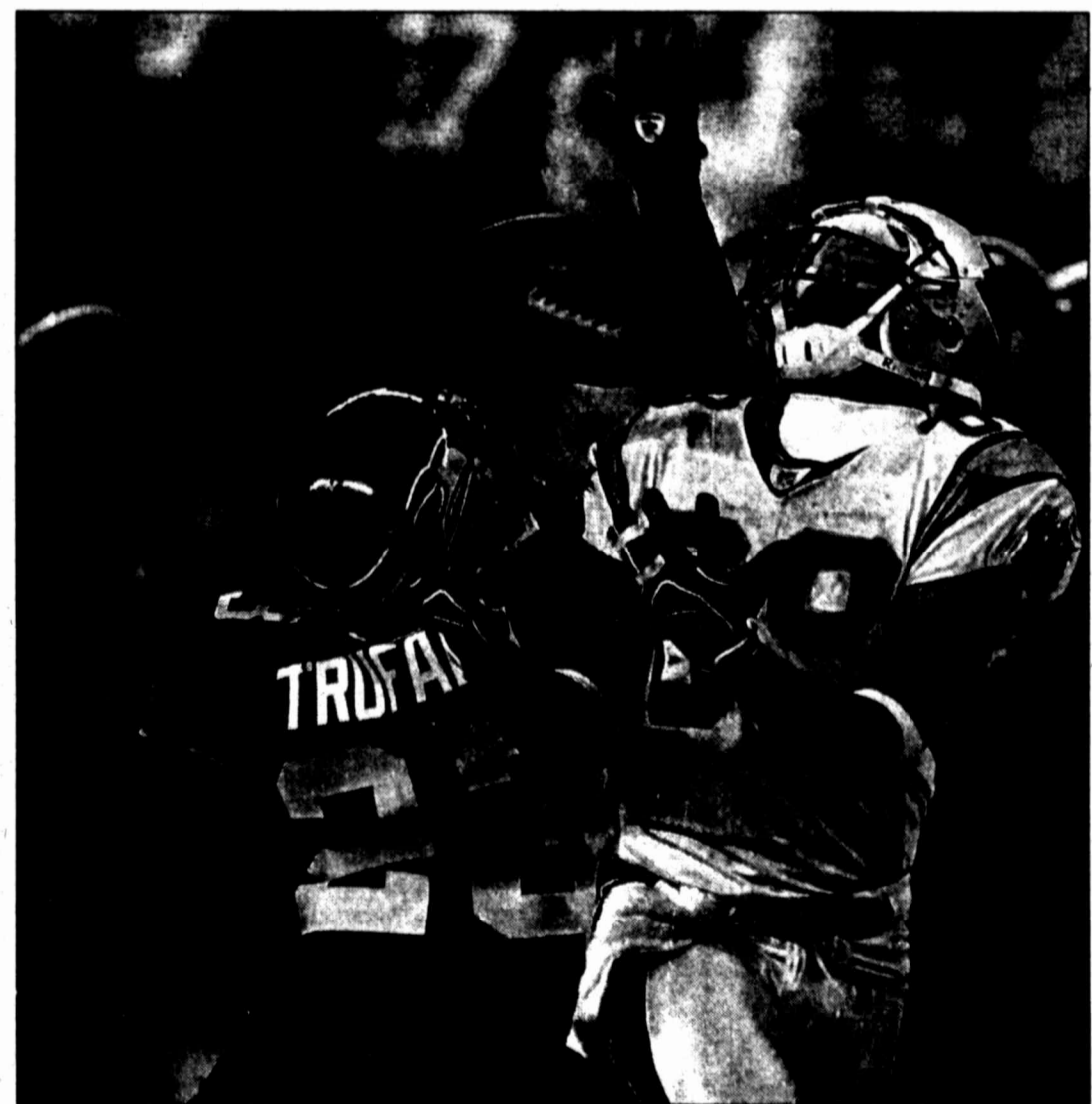
Counting the regular season, they've played five of their final six

away from Pittsburgh.

And while there's no Otter or Boon — the movie characters who called for a road trip when things got tough for the Delta House fraternity — this Pittsburgh group has plenty of characters of its own.

There's Bettis, The Bus, who stuck around for a 13th year with hopes of playing in his first Super Bowl, in his hometown of Detroit.

See **AFC**, Page 2B



Carolina Panthers wide receiver Steve Smith (89) has his pass knocked away by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Marcus Trufant during action in the NFC Championship game at Qwest Field in Seattle, Wash., Sunday.

Seahawks shut down Panthers, advance to Super Bowl after win

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer
SEATTLE — With their MVP back in business, a fierce defense and all the comforts of playing at home, the Seattle Seahawks had everything they needed to get to their first Super Bowl.

And they did, easily. Shaun Alexander came back from last week's concussion to rush for a team playoff-record 132 yards and two touchdowns Sunday, and Seattle pressured Carolina stars Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith into oblivion in a 34-14 rout for the NFC championship.

The Seahawks picked off three passes in winning their 12th straight home game and shattering the fifth-seeded Panthers' stunning post-season road run.

The NFC's best team

during the season, the Seahawks (15-3) will have to beat yet another wild card, the Pittsburgh Steelers, in the Super Bowl in Detroit on Feb. 5. Pittsburgh beat Denver 34-17 earlier in the day.

"We're not done yet," quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "We've got another game we've got to go win."

While Alexander paced the ball-control offense, it was the defense that really carried the Seahawks. It yielded only 62 yards, three first downs and no real threats in the first half.

Then, with Carolina desperate, Seattle allowed virtually nothing until it had a 20-point lead.

Mike Holmgren, only the fifth coach to lead two franchises to the Super Bowl — he won in 1997

See **NFC**, Page 2B

NFC

Continued from Page 1B

and lost in 1998 with Green Bay — praised his defense this week for the enormous pressure it applied to opponents all season. That defense led the league in sacks and was always in Delhomme's face, helping force two first-half interceptions that were decisive.

The Panthers weren't helped when starting running back Nick Goings was sidelined in the first quarter after a massive hit by linebacker Lofa Tatupu. They already were minus their top two runners, Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster.

The Seahawks had their horse, though, and by the second half, they could turn to Alexander. As he always has this season, he delivered some big runs as the crowd chanted "M-V-P, M-V-P."

Hasselbeck finished off the Panthers (13-6) with a gorgeous pump fake that had cornerback Chris Gamble on all fours. Darrell Jackson caught the 20-yard pass for a 27-7 lead, and it was time to celebrate in the Pacific Northwest.

Alexander grabbed the George Halas Trophy and carried it down the field as majestically as he totes a football.

Seahawks owner Paul Allen raised the team's 12th man flag, then waved a white towel to whip the crowd of 67,837 into a frenzy. What really got the fans going was when Holmgren sent in backup quarterback Seneca Wallace as a wideout, then Hasselbeck threw to him. Wallace made a superb over-the-shoulder catch for 28 yards.

One player later,



KRT photo/Jeff Siner, Charlotte Observer
Seattle Seahawks receiver Seneca Wallace (15) is congratulated by quarterback Matt Hasselbeck (8) after the pair connected on a long pass against the Carolina Panthers in the first quarter of the NFC Championship game at Qwest Field in Seattle, Wash., Sunday.

Jerramy Stevens slipped uncovered down the middle for a 17-yard TD pass.

Josh Brown made it 10-0 with a 24-yard field goal set up when Delhomme forced an ill-advised pass for Smith into triple coverage and rookie Tatupu speared it.

Seattle's big-play defense was at it again on the next series. Delhomme's lollipop throw for Keary Colbert instead fell into the waiting hands of Marquand Manuel, who weaved through traffic for 32 yards to the Panthers 17. Alexander swept left for 15 yards before his 1-yard run made it 17-0.

But the Panthers weren't making any mira-

cle comebacks against a defense that kept them off-balance all day. Led by Tatupu and Manuel, plus a fierce pass rush pace that forever was in Delhomme's face, the Seahawks made Smith invisible the rest of the way. Rocky Bernard had two sacks as the Seahawks dominated up the middle.

Of course, the Panthers almost never had the ball; Seattle held it for nearly 42 minutes.

And after Michael Boulware got the Seahawks' third interception — surpassing Delhomme's career play-off total — late in the third quarter, all doubt was removed.

SHOWDOWN

Continued from Page 1B

game and also gets 2.4 steals per game, while shooting 44 percent from behind the 3-point line. Rodgers is averaging 14 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

The team's most versatile player might be sophomore Charles Burgess. Burgess, who is committed to Texas Tech and will play for the Red Raiders next fall, does everything for Howard. He is averaging 12 points per game and also averages 6.3 rebounds, 5.1 assists and nearly two steals per game.

Dezmon Harris and Richard Forbes also average double figures for the Hawks.

"To sum up what this game means to both

teams ... you've got two teams tied for first in the conference and both are ranked in the top 15 in the nation," said Sautter. "The rivalry goes back to last year at the regional tournament. We have tons of respect for their program and we know they will always come ready to play."

The Hawks won the first meeting, 67-58, in the Odessa College Thanksgiving Shootout. The game was tied at halftime, but the Hawks began the second half on an 18-2 run and then held on late in the game with clutch free throws and some big shots from Valentine.

"Our defense stepped up in the second half of the last meeting," said Sautter. "To be honest, we are still looking to play a full 40-minute game like we expect to.

WJCAC Standings					
Women			Men		
Odessa	2-0	17-0	Howard	2-0	18-0
Frank Phillips	1-1	13-5	Midland	2-0	16-2
Clarendon	1-1	9-11	South Plains	2-0	15-3
Midland	1-1	16-4	Clarendon	1-1	10-7
New Mexico	1-1	10-7	Odessa	1-1	13-5
Howard	0-1	6-13	Frank Phillips	0-2	11-7
South Plains	0-1	13-3	New Mexico	0-2	10-8
			NMMI	0-2	4-12
Tonight's Games			Tonight's Games		
Midland @ Howard			Midland @ Howard		
Odessa @ Clarendon			Odessa @ Clarendon		
South Plains @ Frank Phillips			South Plains @ Frank Phillips		
New Mexico does not play			New Mexico JC @ NMMI		
*all games start at 5:50 p.m.			*all games start at 7:50 p.m.		

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AFC

Continued from Page 1B

There's Roethlisberger, Big Ben, the second-year quarterback who looked every bit the veteran in this one, completing 21 of 29 passes and keeping the Steelers going on six of seven crucial third-down situations in the first half.

There's the coach, jujawed Bill Cowher, who worked the sideline in his usual manner, jabbing his finger at Bettis, then hugging him, smiling and scowling, too. This was tough love at its best — and good enough to move the Steelers back to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1995.

And all those loyal Pittsburgh fans. An estimated 8,000 came to Denver and they stayed well after the game, waving their Terrible Towels in the corner of Denver's Invesco Field until security finally had to ask them to leave.

"It feels great today, I'll tell you that," owner Dan Rooney said. "The coach already told me we're going to the Super Bowl to win it, not just to be there."

Outschemed, outplayed and pushed around all day, the Broncos (14-4) shuffled off to their locker room, heads down, after their first home loss in 10 tries this season.

"We did not complete the mission and it's frustrating," linebacker Ian Gold said. "But anytime you make it to the AFC championship game and you lose, you hope to lose to a team like that."

Indeed, it's hard to deny the Steelers (14-5) are deserving. Their next game will be against Carolina or Seattle for the fifth championship — the

elusive "One For The Thumb" — the franchise couldn't get in the 1970s heyday of Bradshaw, Swann, Stallworth and Harris.

Against Denver, the Steelers came out passing, not running, much the same way they did when they upset Indianapolis last week. Roethlisberger called pass plays on seven of Pittsburgh's first 11 snaps and threw completions on five of those.

The first drive resulted in a field goal. On Denver's next possession, Pittsburgh's Joey Porter blitzed to force a Jake Plummer fumble. Five plays later, Roethlisberger hit Cedrick Wilson for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead, quieting the Invesco Field crowd much as the Steelers did in Indy last week and Cincinnati the week before.

After a Denver field goal, the Steelers essentially salted this game with a 14-play, 80-yard drive that ate up nearly 7 1/2 minutes and had the Broncos defense totally off balance and gasping for air.

Bettis capped it by bulling in from the 3 for a 17-3 lead to put him well on his way to the Super Bowl. Cowher smiled widely for that one, remembering Bettis' near disaster on the goal line last week in Indy.

The Broncos trailed by two touchdowns, yet they had escaped worse predicaments in the past.

But there was no Drive, no Fumble, no comeback and no you-know-who on the field this day.

John Elway was on hand, but sitting in a luxury suite, watching the Broncos fall short of the ultimate destination for the seventh straight year since he led them to their

second championship. Plummer, who had played so well in the lead all season, finally faced some comeback pressure and failed miserably. He went 18-for-30 for 223 yards with two lost fumbles and two interceptions.

Trailing by two touchdowns late in the first half, Jake the Snake lobbed a terrible pass into the flat that was easily intercepted by Ike Taylor. Moments later, Bettis ran it in from 12 yards for an apparent touchdown on third down.

A penalty nullified that, but it only set up Roethlisberger for his best throw of the day — a 17-yard touchdown that barely cleared the fingertips of Al Wilson and Nick Ferguson, before finding Hines Ward tucked neatly in the back of the end zone.

That made it 24-3. Roethlisberger ran to the sideline and celebrated by pretending to fire six-shooters from his hip. Yep, he was on target all day in this one — 24 yards to Heath Miller, 17 more to Wilson, 21 to Ward and 18 to Wilson again, all after being given ample time against Denver's ill-timed blitz.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Denver pulled within 27-17 and got the ball back at its 20.

But Plummer lost a fumble on fourth-and-10 and that pretty much made it official: The Steelers would be back in the big game after becoming the first team to beat the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 seeds in the playoffs.

As the clock wound down, Cowher was still going full tilt on the sideline, jabbing his finger at Bettis, preaching ball control and no repeat of last week's fumble in Indy.

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Texans hire Broncos OC Kubiak to be head coach

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON

Denver coordinator Gary Kubiak will be hired as coach of the Houston Texans, bringing an offensive mind to a team that failed miserably this season with a defensive coach at the helm.

Texans owner Bob McNair said during a Sunday news conference that the hiring won't be completed until later in the week because the Texans could not negotiate a contract with Kubiak until the Broncos were eliminated from the playoffs.

McNair's announcement came about an hour after Denver lost to Pittsburgh in the AFC championship game.

"Hopefully we'll have him down here this week and he will then be assembling a staff," McNair said. Rumors have abounded for weeks that Kubiak would be the Texans' second coach. He was considered one of the hottest coaching prospects in the NFL, but this will be his first head coaching position. He spent the last 11 years with Mike Shanahan in Denver, helping the team to back-to-back Super Bowl wins.

Kubiak was a candidate for the job the first time around and was interviewed in 2001 before the Texans picked Capers.

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LOYAL SHANNON BOYLES, Deceased, were issued on January 19, 2006, in Cause No. P-13371, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: JEWEL ERNESTINE BOYLES.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: JEWEL ERNESTINE BOYLES
209 Park Avenue
Del Rio, Texas 78840
DATED the 19 day of January, 2006
Joshua Hamby
Attorney for Estate
State Bar No.: 24034471
306 Scurry Street
P.O. Box 2199
Big Spring, Texas 79721-2199
Telephone: (432)263-8395
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services Big Spring

The moon and Jupiter transit through the passionate (and sometimes rather extreme) sign of Scorpio, stirring up a kind of soul hunger. The sun and Mercury in Aquarius suggest bonding with friends to sate the need. Know that when friends ask for help, the problem may be deeper and more pressing than their carefree tone implies.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

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22). There's no time to waste waiting for outside approval. Your inner voice now tells you things that no one else will. It will also confirm a thing or two that you know to be true. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People around you are giving to a special purpose. The best resource you can give is a little part of yourself. Your talent and personal touches are more valuable than money. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Three ways to feel better: One, smile more. Two, visualize what you want as already here. Three, stop comparing yourself to others. Your uniqueness is invaluable in the grand scheme. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Financial success means keeping abreast of new developments. The stars suggest: Read! How-to books save you money. Contracts signed now are extraordinarily lucky for you, as long as you understand every line. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The key to fulfilling your needs is to talk about them. Verbalize, chitchat, and prattle on. One person leads you to the next until you've met the one who can help. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're right there on the cutting edge. New trends offer you a killer chance to make some money. Capitalize on your position while the market is hot. The blush of love is on your

cheeks tonight. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Frustration is natural. People in positions of power are seemingly out of reach. Don't dismay. You have the right kind of charm to lure royalty down from the throne. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Projects in the balance are accepted but not on the terms you anticipated. Negotiate until you get the best deal. This afternoon, you need answers, and others have only questions. Be fine with not knowing. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Taking a chance is smarter than it may appear right now where communication is concerned. By voicing an idea or secret about yourself, you will invite deep understanding. ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Cancer, born July 12, 1963. I seem to have remarkable luck as far as my professional life goes, but I have not been able to settle down and get married. I meet many men and have had several serious boyfriends, but my fear of commitment is really holding me back. At the moment, there are two guys I am interested in, a Pisces and a Leo. I think the Leo is more of a player, even though he has tried to say otherwise. I have decided to hedge my bets on the Pisces, but I don't want to make a mistake. Can you

give me any advice?" You're right — the Pisces man will make a stellar lifelong mate. You want a man who will take care of business at home, and Leo wants to let the good times roll. The trick is getting your Pisces to feel safe enough to let his love flow; he has more intense feelings for you than he lets on. Be not afraid: Once you attach yourself to this man, your relationship satisfies you on so many levels that you forgot why you stayed single for so long. CELEBRITY PROFILES: Some Aquarians have it all when it comes to looks, talent and intelligence, and Alicia Keys exemplifies this envious combination. Always looking to improve herself and never satisfied with the end result (which, most of the time, is sheer perfection), Keys will take time off in 2006 to focus on more personal matters. I see a marriage and a pregnancy for her by the end of the year. If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Dear Prudence

Dear Prudie: I am 30, and my husband is 33. He doubles as my parent and high-school principal. Over the past couple of years (we've been married four-and-a-half years), my life seems to have become one long lecture for every infraction imaginable, some serious (leaving my tax return until the last minute), some not (leaving my makeup in the kitchen). It is to my eternal shame that I am absent-minded and occasionally a blithering idiot. I have a demanding job for which I earn a reasonably good salary, so between that and my stressful home life, I can't seem to remember anything from one day to the next. I understand why he feels frustrated, but I feel battered. My life revolves around the prospect of Getting Into Trouble. And the truth is, I am tired of the hectoring tone, the self-righteousness, and the shouting. If I were a man, I would describe myself as henpecked. I don't know what the female equivalent is. I have lost count of the times I have told him to let it go, to leave it alone, but to no avail. He doesn't think he's wrong, you see; as far as he's concerned, "he is doing it for my own good." He has rejected outright the possibility of counseling. I love him — when he's nice — but when he's bad, he's horrible. Help! — Pressure Cookie



MARGO HOWARD

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

ANNIE'S MAILBOX(R) Dear Annie: I read your column religiously, and now I finally have a reason to write. My wife's sister, "Susan," passed away several months ago. Susan was a nice, sweet person who left behind two adorable daughters — "Kerri," a professionally employed young adult, and "Lainie," who is in high school. I am fond of both of them. Kerri has taken custody of her younger sister, and they are doing quite well financially. Emotionally, I'm not so sure. My wife and her sister were like best friends. In fact, my wife took care of Kerri for many years when Susan worked evening-shift jobs. Kerri was an integral part of

our family, and we treated her the same as our children. However, since Susan's death, Kerri and my wife do not get along AT ALL. It started right after the funeral, and now Kerri has become cold, distant and hurtful to my wife. Kerri also has alienated many other family members as well. To make matters worse, Susan, on her deathbed, asked me to watch over Kerri. I want to abide by Susan's wishes but am finding it very difficult when my wife and niece hate each other. I've tried talking to my wife and asking her to forgive the hurt, but she will not budge. I am afraid to talk to Kerri because I don't want to risk alienating her and cutting off all ties.

morally disagree with the homosexual lifestyle. People have the right to choose how they will live and with whom. However, they don't get to choose if others will accept it or not. — Redlands, Calif. Dear Redlands: We hope that's not the case for "Part." There is a difference between acceptance and approval. Parents should accept what their child is and deal with it, even if they don't like it. Pretending otherwise is pointless and hurtful. Dear Annie: I am writing in response to all

Dear Kailua Kona: How can we resist a letter that uses the word "kerfuffle"? Thanks for pointing out an interesting exception to a pervasive problem. Dear Annie: I'm a 17-year-old guy. In most of life, I am pretty happy. The only problem is my shyness, especially when it comes to women. I know that some girls have liked me, but for some reason, I cannot even force myself to talk to them. It really tears me up inside to think of the opportunities I've wasted. Is there anything I can do to overcome my shyness and talk to girls, especially ones I like? Or should I accept the fact that I will be living the rest of my life exploding inside while my mouth says nothing? Is medication an option, or is it too drastic? I just want to have a social life. — A Little Hopeless in Colorado



KATHY MITCHELL

Dear Colorado: Only you know how crippling your shyness is. There has been some success treating social anxiety with behavioral therapy. Talk to your parents about getting a referral from your doctor, or check out the Anxiety Disorders Association of America (www.adaa.org) at 8730 Georgia Avenue, Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

the kerfuffle in your column about women who object to men staring at their breasts while conversing with them. I agree it's a rude and reprehensible habit, but there may be something else going on. I am only in my late 40s, but I am quite deaf. (Turns out Mom was right about all that loud music.) Since I tire of endlessly asking "What?" I have learned to read lips. This means that many times during conversations, my eyes dip lower than eye contact. I have had more than one woman reproach me for staring at her breasts. To this I generally reply, "I'm sorry, I was reading your lips because I am so deaf. Did you complain I was 'snaring your breaths' or 'bearing your stress'?" They usually get the point. — Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (64)
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Piel de Otono	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Rough Racing: Driver X (CC)	Stooges (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie: Harlem Nights	That's-Raven	With Smith Women's	College Basketball: Syracuse at Pittsburgh	Surface (CC)
7:30 PM	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	Contra Viento y Marea	Skating With Celebrities	King How I Met	El Cuerpo del Deseo	Surface (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Charles Scott	Antigua Roadshow	Biker Build-Off (CC)	Movie: The Blues Brothers	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)		Monsters, Inc.	College Basketball: Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8:30 PM	Emily's-Why Jake-Progress	Emily's-Why Jake-Progress	Alborada	24 (CC)	Two-Half Men Counting Alex	Corazon Part Decisiones	Las Vegas (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)			Tennis:	College Basketball: Stargate SG-1 (CC)	
9:30 PM	The Bachelor Paris (CC)	The Bachelor Paris (CC)	Cristina	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	CSI: Miami Raymond	Decisiones	Medium (CC)	Family Guy	Movie: Back to the Future Part II (CC)	American Chopper	Movie: Mad	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Zack & Cody	Australian Open - Men's	Oklahoma State at Texas	Stargate SG-1 (CC)	
10:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: Back to the Future Part II (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Rough Racing: Driver X (CC)	Max 2: The Road Warrior	UFC Unleashed	In Living Color	That's-Raven	That's-Raven	Women's Quarterfinals	Battestar Galactica	
11:30 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night	Family Guy	Biblical Israel Scrivner	Sign Off	Biker Build-Off (CC)	Movie: The	TNA IMPACT! (CC)	The X-Files (CC)	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future Kim Possible	College Basketball: Utah State at Nevada (CC)	The Outer Limits (CC)	Twilight Zone
12:30 AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	Becker (CC) King of the Hill	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Pagado	Conan O'Brien	12:15 Movie: The 6th Day	Update/Israel John Hagee		Monster Garage (CC)	Blues Brothers	MXC Blind Date	The X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Lizzie McGuire	ESPN Holly.		

DENNIS THE MENACE

"WE DON'T HAVE 'ROOM SERVICE' IN THIS HOUSE, YOUNG MAN. NOW, GET YOUR LITTLE SELF DOWN HERE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"If I could have a pet turtle, I promise to take it for a walk every day."

HAGAR

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO BUY A NEW BOAT
WHY ARE YOU TAKING ALL THOSE WEAPONS?
FIRST WE HAVE TO HAGGLE OVER THE PRICE

BLONDIE

DID YOU GET ANYTHING OUT OF THAT MOTIVATIONAL TALK I GAVE TO THE EMPLOYEES THIS MORNING?
I SURE DID BOSS
WHAT PART REALLY TOUCHED YOU?
THE PART ABOUT FILLING OUT A JOB APPLICATION
YEAH, THAT PART ALWAYS CHOKES ME UP, TOO

WIZARD OF ID

HALF-COCKED
A ROOSTER THAT WAKES YOU AT 2 AM INSTEAD OF 4 AM

AGNES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE MONEY TO SEND OUR HIGH SCHOOL BAND ON A TRIP?
YES
... AND I'LL DOUBLE IT IF YOU DON'T COME BACK!

HI AND LOIS

I AM BORED WITH TV. I THINK IT'S TIME TO DABBLE IN PALMISTRY. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
KEEP IN MIND, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I AM DABBING IN PALMISTRY.
BY RIGHTS, I CAN'T EVEN CLAIM THAT I AM A DABBLER UNTIL THE END OF THIS READING.
I THINK THE FIRST DABBLER IS CALLED A DIBBLE.

THE OTHER COAST

THIS WINTER WEATHER IS REALLY GETTING ME DOWN
I KNOW WHAT MIGHT CHEER YOU UP
THE UMBRELLA TOUCH IS NICE
THINK TROPICAL

SNUFFY SMITH

ERNIE, YOU BOUGHT AN SUV! THE GAS COSTS WILL BANKRUPT YOU!
THIS BABY DOESN'T NEED TO STOP AT GAS STATIONS.
SO THAT'S AN ELECTRICAL CORD IN YOUR HAND?
SIPHON HOSE.

BEEBLE BAILEY

WELL, IF IT AIN'T SNUFFY SMIF, TH' WORLD'S BIGGEST THIEVIN', CHEATIN' LIAR !!
LOOK HERE, SNOPE'S, IF YA GOT SUMPIN' TO SAY, COME RIGHT OUT AN' SAY IT !!
THAT'S NO NEED TO BUTTER ME UP FURST !!

BEEBLE BAILEY

EVERY TIME I SEE YOU LATELY, YOU'RE JUST SITTING DOING NOTHING
I KNOW!
I GAVE UP EVERYTHING FOR THE NEW YEAR!

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2006. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 23, 1973, President Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.

On this date:
In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1920, the Dutch government refused demands from the victorious Allies to hand over the ex-kaiser of Germany.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1943, critic Alexander Woolcott suffered a fatal heart attack during a live broadcast of the CBS radio

program "People's Platform."

In 1964, the 24th amendment to the Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified.

In 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy ship Pueblo, charging its crew with being on a spying mission. (The crew was released eleven months later.)

In 1985, debate in Britain's House of Lords was carried on live television for the first time.

In 1989, surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in his native Spain at age 84.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-N.J., is 82. Actress Jeanne Moreau is 78. Actress Chita Rivera is 73. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 72. Actor Gil Gerard is 63. Actor Rutger Hauer is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jerry Lawson (The Persuasions) is 62. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 59. Singer Anita Pointer is 58. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 56. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 56. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 56. Rock musician Danny Federici (Bruce Springsteen and the

E Street Band) is 56. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 53. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 49. Singer Anita Baker is 48. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 47. Actress Gail O'Grady is 43. Actress Mariska Hargitay is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Nelson is 35. Actress Tiffani Thiessen is 32.

Thought for Today: "Never continue in a job you don't enjoy. If you're happy in what you're doing, you'll like yourself, you'll have inner peace. And if you have that, along with physical health, you will have had more success than you could possibly have imagined." — Johnny Carson, American talk show host (1925-2005).

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Answer to previous puzzle

A	T	T	E	M	P	T	L	A	N	S	I	N	G
N	O	U	V	E	A	U	A	V	I	A	T	O	R
A	B	R	E	A	S	T	C	A	N	T	A	A	
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Untrue
 - 6 Bugler's evening call
 - 10 Meat and vegetable meal
 - 14 Detest
 - 15 Just (slightly)
 - 16 Angel's topper
 - 17 Dutch cheese
 - 18 City near Phoenix
 - 19 Etc., for one
 - 20 Religious sch.
 - 21 Peter Pan pirate
 - 24 Modeling wood
 - 26 Plants seeds once more
 - 27 Small horses
 - 29 A teen's room, maybe
 - 31 Writer Levin et al.
 - 32 Historical times
 - 34 Computer-support pros
 - 39 Kite attachment
 - 40 TV news time
 - 42 Biblical shipbuilder
 - 43 Bowling lane
 - 45 Highest digit
 - 46 Singer Guthrie
 - 47 Poses a question
 - 49 Knock down, in football
 - 51 Chaperone
 - 55 Treaties
 - 56 Stormy weather phenomenon
 - 59 CSI: Miami network
 - sombreros
- DOWN**
- 1 Pesters
 - 2 Slender woodwind
 - 3 Brief, as a description
 - 4 Lawn material
 - 5 Ancient seer
 - 6 West Florida city
 - 7 Aid in a crime
 - 8 Leaning Tower town
 - 9 Elevator alternative
 - 10 Old Iranian rulers
 - 11 Forbidden
 - 12 Arm joint
 - 13 Has a job
 - 22 Beasts of burden
 - 23 Tree dwelling
 - 25 Theater walkway
 - 27 Bread with a pocket
 - 28 Verbal exam
 - 29 Long skirts
 - 30 TV sports channel
 - 33 Skating place
 - 35 Make into law
 - 36 Bottle opener
 - 37 School corridor
 - 38 Sandal, for one
 - 41 Silver or steel
 - 44 Three feet
 - 48 Home audio system
 - 50 Stage performers
 - 51 Singer
 - 52 Be generous
 - 53 Interrupt on the dance floor
 - 54 Beginning
 - 55 Frogs' homes
 - 57 Gossipy Barrett
 - 58 Fishhook attachment
 - 60 Military installation
 - 61 Storage building
 - 65 Pod vegetable

HOLD TIGHT by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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