



United Way effort hits \$250,000 mark

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

With the 2007 United Way campaign deep into its final stages, officials are confident that its goal can still be reached.

The local UW of Big Spring and Howard County drive is still about \$50,000 short of its stated goal of \$300,000, but many large contributors have yet to be heard from, Executive Director Cynthia Scott said.

And the really good news,



Scott

we'll reach our goal."

Most UW divisions are on target to reach their goals for this year, but she noted that the

Scott added, is that this year's effort should far out-strip last year's campaign.

"We're going to exceed last year by at least \$20,000 to \$25,000 — at least," Scott said. "And I'm very confident that

Loaned Executive division — which annually pulls in the biggest share of donations — still has several annual contributors yet to finish their campaigns.

That, plus overall response to this year's campaign, left Scott feeling good about the drive's chances of reaching its goal.

"I think we're doing really well," she said. "Donations are coming in a lot faster than last year ... The people who (annually) donate are giving more

than they usually do, and we're getting a lot of first-time donations, as well."

Scott hopes to have the drive wrapped up in the next week or so.

The UW allocation committee will meet Dec. 6 and 7, at which time it will figure final allocations to beneficiary agencies.

Agencies assisted by the United Way include: YMCA, Victim Services, Girl Scouts, Westside Day Care Center, Westside Community Center,

Salvation Army, Northside Community Center, Isaiah 58, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, CASA of West Texas, Council on Aging, Buffalo Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America, Big Spring Humane Society, Boy's Club of Big Spring and American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter.

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

AFTER-THANKSGIVING SALES



Friends Gwen Waight, left, and Rayla Rucker get an early start on their Christmas shopping as they shop for clothes at Beall's in Big Spring Mall Friday morning. Officials reported steady sales on the first day of the Christmas shopping season.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Group gets serious about raising funds for teens' Christmas

□ To help, contact Pat Hardison at 270-8277.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Area residents can help out a worthy cause and take a shot at winning a brand new rifle, as the local Community Angels program kicks its fundraising efforts into high gear for the holiday season.

According to Pat Hardison, spokesperson for the Community Angels effort, a local gun dealer has donated a rifle to help the group's effort to provide Christmas gifts for area low income teens.

"Bruce Broughton has donated a Winchester 30/30 rifle to help us raise money for the program," said Hardison. "Broughton is an amazing gunsmith and even



Hardison

brought in more than \$300."

Hardison said the rifle will be given away Dec. 15, with tickets available for \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets.

"We managed to raise approximately \$400 from our recent Oz fundraiser at the Heritage Museum, so things are really moving along nicely this year," said Hardison. "First Presbyterian Church recently picked up 30 of our teen angels, so we have a little more than 30 left to buy gifts for."

See TEENS, Page 3A

U.S. troops find reason to give thanks

By HANNAH ALLAM

McClatchy Newspapers

AL-TAJI CAMP, Iraq — For American soldiers serving in the most dangerous place on Earth, Thanksgiving brought gratitude for life's pleasures: an autumn leaf mailed from home, a love note in an e-mail inbox, the taste of pumpkin pie.

The dining halls of this outpost in central Iraq were transformed Thursday into a cozy shelter from the war that raged outside. The walls were bedecked with streamers in fall's golden hues, chow lines overflowed with turkey and

"I'm just thankful for my health and that I made it through," Stewart said. "And I'm thankful for my friend. We pray together and keep our spirits up."

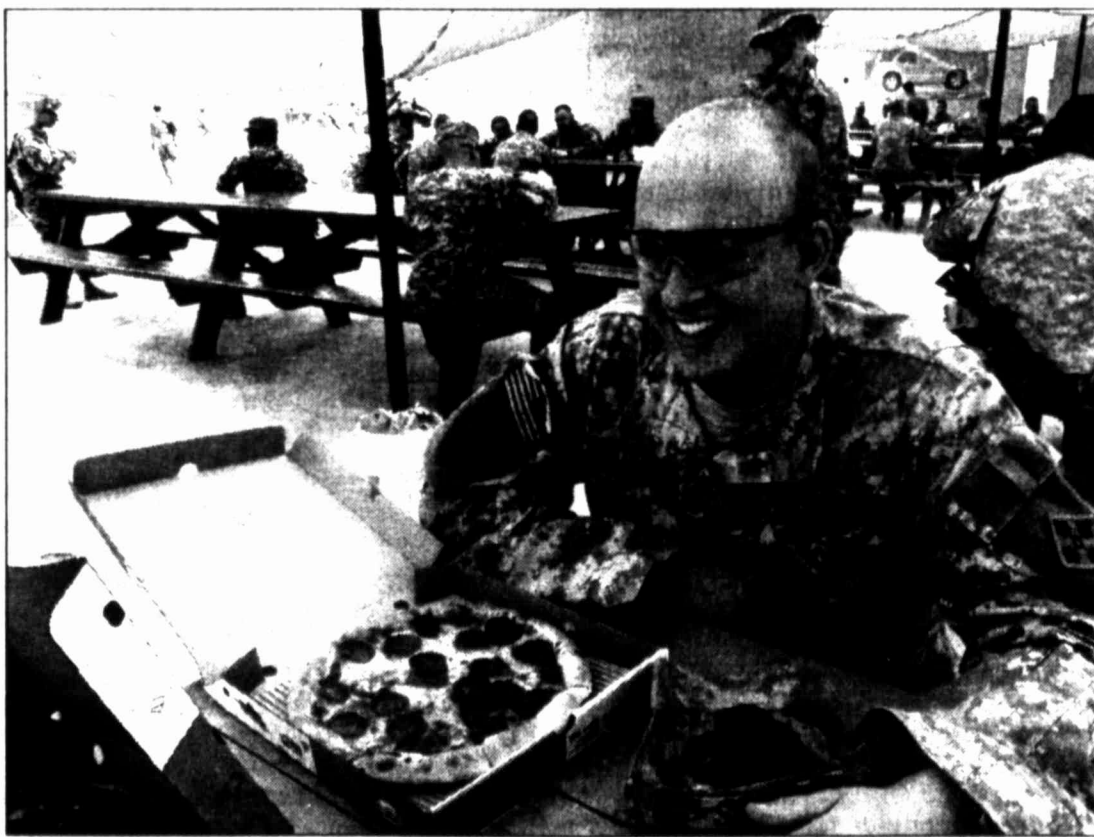
dressing, and soldiers toasted their survival with dainty plastic flutes of cranberry juice.

Not far away, a series of car bombings and mortar strikes in the Shiite

Muslim stronghold of Sadr City killed as many as 160 Iraqis and wounded more than 200 in one of the deadliest sectarian attacks since the war began. Guards at the Iraqi Health Ministry in Baghdad fought off a violent insurgent takeover attempt. The U.S. military announced the deaths of three Marines during combat operations in Anbar province, bringing to 52 the number of American troops killed this month.

It was yet another bloody day in Iraq, and all the more reason to give

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Trying to avoid the long lines for the traditional Thanksgiving meal, Sgt. John Adams of Orlando, Fla., opts for pizza at Camp Taji in Iraq. Adams is with the Army's 1st Cavalry and is in the early stages of a year-long deployment.

MCT photo/Hannah Allam

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SANTA LETTERS

The Big Spring Herald traditionally publishes Letters to Santa Claus near Christmas Day as a service to the community.

Letters from children in kindergarten, first and second grade, public, private and home schooled, as well as those in preschool, day care and Head Start may be submitted for publication.

All letters should be received by Friday, Dec. 8. Each letter should contain the child's name as well as school or classroom affiliation. Submit letters to the Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431 or e-mail composing@bigspringherald.com. For more information, call 263-7331.

COAT DRIVE ONGOING

1955 Hyperion Club is sponsoring a coat drive.

The dropoff points are Al's and Son Barbecue, Harris Lumber and Hardware and Specs and Co. The drive will last approximately one month.

The club will distribute these coats to as many different organizations as possible, depending on how many coats are received.

Some of the organizations will be West Side Community Center, North Side Community Center, Big Spring State Hospital and public schools. Comet Cleaners and Classic Cleaners have volunteered to clean the coats.

SANTA COMING TO MALL

Big Spring Mall will welcome Santa beginning Dec. 2.

Santa will be available for children from noon until 4 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Also on those dates, the Salvation Army will have a gift wrap area for donations. December 9, the Big Spring High School and Big Spring Junior High choirs will perform from noon until 3 p.m.

Mall shoppers are also invited to view an art display presented by the Big Spring Evening Lions Club on behalf of junior high students.

Shoppers are also encouraged to participate in a food drive hosted by Sears. Donations will go to local food bank.

Police: Gunman, hostage die in 23-hour standoff in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — A gunman and a female hostage were killed during a 23-hour standoff on the city's South Side, police said Friday.

The gunman apparently shot the hostage and then himself, police said.

"At no time did the Chicago Police Department fire a weapon," 1st Deputy Superintendent Dana Starks said.

The gunman and victim, who were neighbors, were the only people found in the apartment — despite reports from the gunman and the victim that a second hostage was also inside, Starks said.

The standoff began early Thursday after an armed man took his young neighbor hostage inside their apartment building.

Police SWAT team members entered the apartment just after 1 a.m. Friday after officers heard a shot fired, Starks said.

The gunman and his 22-year-old hostage were pronounced dead at a hospital. Police have not yet released their identities.

Sherry McKenzie said Thursday that one of the hostages was her niece, Tasha Cooks, 22.

She said Cooks used the apartment phone to call her great-grandmother ear-

lier in the day. Asked if she was OK, Cooks responded, "Not really," and hung up, according to McKenzie.

The gunman's sister pleaded with her brother to cooperate with authorities Thursday afternoon. Later, frustrated relatives and neighbors began shouting at police to do more to end the standoff.

Jazz singer Anita O'Day dies at 87 at Los Angeles hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anita O'Day, whose sassy renditions of "Honeysuckle Rose," "Sweet Georgia Brown" and other song standards that made her one of the most respected jazz vocalists of the 1940s and '50s, has died. She was 87.

O'Day died in her sleep early Thursday morning at a convalescent hospital in Los Angeles where she was recovering from a bout with pneumonia, said her manager Robbie Cavolina.

"On Tuesday night, she said to me, get me out of here," Cavolina said. "But it didn't happen."

Once known as the "Jezebel of Jazz" for her reckless, drug-induced lifestyle, O'Day lived to sing and she did so from her teen years until this year when she released "Indestructible!"

"All I ever wanted to do is perform,"

she said in a June 1999 interview with The Associated Press.

"When I'm singing, I'm happy. I'm doing what I can do and this is my contribution to life."

Sony finds defect in some digital cameras, will repair for free

TOKYO (AP) — Sony said Friday it found a defect in some of its popular Cyber-shot compact digital cameras and offered to repair affected cameras free of charge.

The liquid crystal display screens of eight camera models might not display images correctly, images could be distorted or cameras might not take photos at all, Sony Corp. said in a statement.

Affected are eight Cyber-shot models sold between September 2003 and January 2005 in Japan and in a similar period globally, according to Sony spokesman Chisato Kitsukawa.

Sony will repair for free only cameras that show signs of the problems, Kitsukawa said.

He refused to say how many cameras might be affected.

It's the second time in just over a year that Tokyo-based Sony announced defects in its digital cameras. It cited

similar problems with 20 other digital camera models last October and offered free repairs.

Retailers usher in the holiday season with expanded hours

The nation's retailers ushered in the start of the holiday season Friday with expanded hours, generous discounts and free money in the form of gift cards.

In a slowing but still steady economy, retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. were increasing the sales pitch to shoppers, hoping to grab customer dollars. A growing number of stores and malls threw open their doors at midnight to jump-start the season, and CompUSA Inc. and BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. even opened on Thanksgiving for the first time to grab customer dollars before the competition does.

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, which promised its most aggressive price strategy ever this holiday season, is using heavily discounted flat-screen TVs like Viore 42-inch plasma TVs for \$988 to attract shoppers to its doors for its 5 a.m. opening on Black Friday, so named because it was traditionally when the surge of shopping made stores profitable.

TROOPS

Continued from Page 1A

thanks, said soldiers from the Army's homebound 4th Infantry Division and the recently returned 1st Cavalry Division.

"Most of them are just thankful to be able to survive each day. They're thinking about their families, but they're also thinking about the mission," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, on a Thanksgiving visit to his troops. "They're trying to turn the violence around, but this country is right on the edge. Iraq has enormous potential if people would stop killing each other."

The rigors of war cast a pall even over the festivities at al-Taji Camp, where troops were on "blackout," banned from making holiday calls home because of a soldier's suicide earlier this week. Blackouts are standard procedure intended to prevent relatives from learning prematurely about a soldier's death or injury.

Two of the medics who responded to the suicide sat at picnic tables outside to avoid the crush of hungry troops at the dining hall. A day away from returning home to Florida, the pair dug into pizzas and contemplated their year in Iraq. As first responders on the front line, they were the ones who collected body parts and tended to the wound-



Sgt. Nuala Taylor of Savage, Minn., eats a Thanksgiving meal with fellow soldiers from the Army's 1st Cavalry at Camp Taji in Iraq.

ed after mortar hits, roadside bombs and other insurgent violence.

"I guess this is it. Until next year," Sgt. John Adams of Orlando, Fla., said with a sigh. "I've been here about 12 months now."

"347 days," corrected Sgt. James Register, 35, of Tallahassee, Fla.

"I just want to be able to go home and not worry

about going down the road and having a bomb go off or getting shot at. That gets old," Adams said.

Many soldiers said they relied on PlayStation tournaments, poker games, football watch parties, spy novels and prayer to take their minds off the family dinners they were missing at home. Others looked

inward, seeking refuge in memory.

"My favorite, favorite season in Minnesota is fall," said Sgt. Nuala Taylor, 32, of Savage, Minn., whose son mailed her two stones and a leaf

to boost her morale. "Oh, Lake Minnetonka. We'd go to the apple orchards, eat seasoned honey sticks. And I love the color of the leaves."

Back in Chief Warrant Officer Shealeana Stewart's hometown of Pass Christian, Miss., near Biloxi, her family would just be waking up to prepare a feast that blended traditional fare with the seafood of the Gulf Coast.

Stewart, 32, would soon join them after spending a year in Iraq overseeing a warehouse stocked with engine parts, spare tires and other potentially life-saving equipment. Her close friend, Chief Warrant Officer Tera Thomas, 34, of Havre, Mont., arrived last month to take over supervision of the warehouse.

With rifles slung across their backs, the friends stood in a long line for trays of turkey and talked about the sisterhood of female soldiers. They shared tips for streamlining supplies as well as hints on finding moisturizer in a war zone.

"I'm just thankful for my health and that I made it through," Stewart said. "And I'm thankful for my friend. We pray

together and keep our spirits up."

Soldiers agreed they rarely divulge the extent of the bloodshed in Iraq during precious calls to their families. Instead, they fill the phone lines with mundane talk of bills, birthdays, homework, anything to avoid the tough questions: When are you coming home? What's life like over there?

"I leave most of that to myself," said Pfc. Daniel Bogucki, 22, of the 172nd Stryker Brigade out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

In the dining hall, Bogucki ate a slice of pumpkin pie and declared it no match for his grandmother's. It was his second Thanksgiving in Iraq and, he hoped, his last.

When asked to describe the hardest part of his 16-month tour of duty, he put down his fork and gazed at the table.

"Losing my, losing my ..."

Tears streamed down his face, and he didn't finish the sentence.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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William C. "Bill" Bennett, 78, died Tuesday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Judy Allen, 65, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 3:30 PM Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

TEENS

Continued from Page 1A

Hardison said the Community Angel program began several years ago when several area residents realized teens were being left off the list of local youth being helped by the charity's annual Angel Tree program.

"Several years ago our group got involved with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program," said Pat Hardison, spokesperson for the Community Angels effort. "And they do a great job of making sure the children have presents, and they provide food for the holidays to the mothers and fathers. However, we felt like it left the area teenagers hanging out in the wind."

Hardison said the need

to provide Christmas gifts for local low-income families with teens was quickly answered.

"We saw a problem and we decided to go out and solve it," said Hardison. "We had the Salvation Army pass the teen angels onto us and we began gathering donations and gifts. It went so well, we've done it every year since. Last year we not only got presents for the teens, we also adopted several of the angels that were left on the Salvation Army's tree at the end of the adoption process."

For more information on the giveaway or to make a donation, contact Hardison at 270-8277.

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

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★ BOOK OF THE DEAD (PG)	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:10
★ CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00

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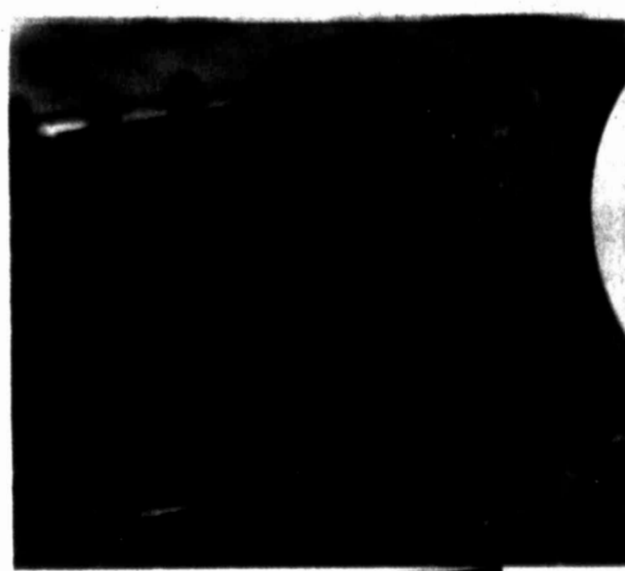
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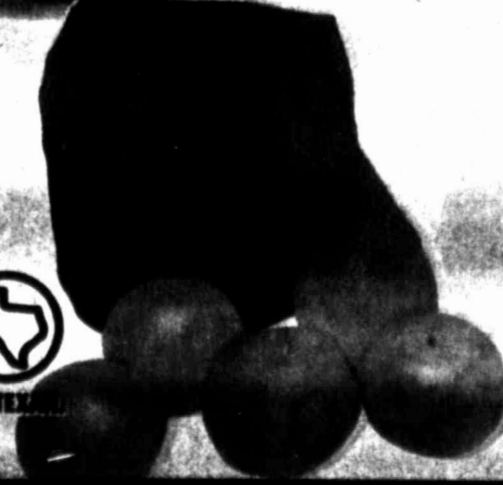
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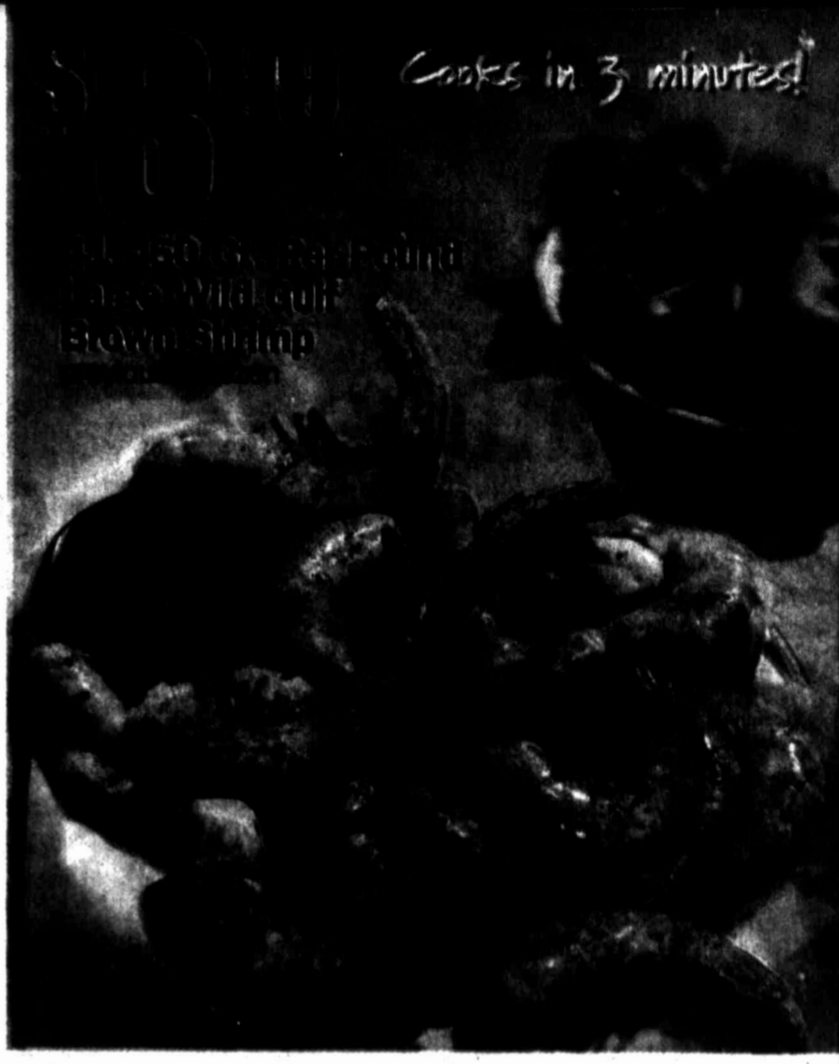
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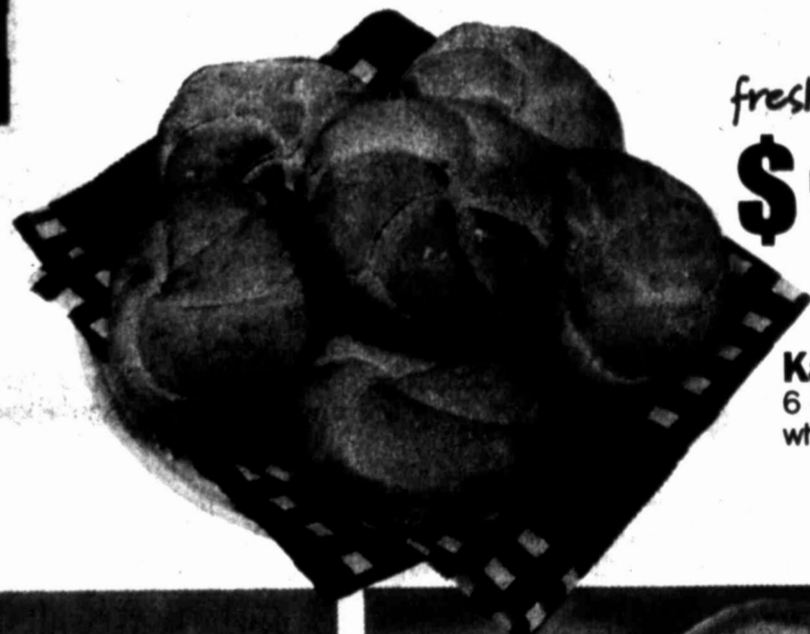


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News briefs

Police say hand-washing dispute led to stabbing

FORT WORTH (AP) — Police say an assailant charged a group of men in a bar parking lot, stabbing one of them, because he apparently grew angry that one of the men didn't wash his hands in the bathroom.

Police responding to the Tumbleweeds Sports Bar early Thursday morning found Eric Jennings Kisiah, 27, being restrained by several men outside the bar.

Kisiah had confronted a group of three friends at the bar because he was upset about one of them not washing his hands after using the restroom, according to a police report.

Witnesses told police that Kisiah called the men names and told them that they were dirty. Before leaving the bar, he threatened to "slash their throats," one of the men told police.

Kisiah was hiding near a shrub outside the bar and charged the men as they left. After the fight, the friends realized Morgan Jackson's shirt was soaked in blood and he had been stabbed, according to the police report.

Jackson, 25, was listed in good condition Thursday evening at a Fort Worth hospital after undergoing surgery. Police say he was stabbed three times in his left torso and once in his back.

Police found an 8-inch knife with what appeared to be blood on it nearby the attack.

Kisiah was arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Corpse found in vehicle

ROWLETT (AP) — Authorities continued searching Thursday night for a man who they believe was driving a sport utility vehicle that held the owner's dead body inside.

A Dallas County sheriff's deputy first noticed the SUV speeding through a stop sign in Rowlett and followed it

Wednesday night. But the driver didn't stop after the patrol car flashed its lights.

In a rural part of northeast Dallas County, the SUV pulled into a long driveway and the passenger and driver fled the vehicle on foot. The deputy saw a gun fall from the rear waistband of the driver, said Deputy Raul Reyna, a Dallas County sheriff's spokesman.

That led to the discovery of the dead man inside the SUV.

"If they had stopped, the officer probably would have written a ticket, and that would have been it," Reyna said. "The body was on the floorboard, behind the rear seats. Unless he had searched through the (SUV), he probably wouldn't have seen it."

The victim was wrapped in a plastic tarp and apparently died from blunt-force trauma to the back of his head. He was identified as Gonzalo Hernandez, 27, of Dallas.

Investigators think Hernandez, who had a criminal record with drunken driving, assault and drug charges, may have been killed during a drug deal, Reyna said.

Authorities found Sergio Cardenas Gonzalez, 37, hiding in a creek Wednesday night not far from the SUV. Gonzalez told investigators he was a hitchhiker and had no idea there was a body in the car.

Investigators study plant blaze

PASADENA (AP) — State investigators are examining a chemical plant's railcar loading area after a fire broke out this week.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality investigation resulted from a blaze at the Albemarle Corp. plant along the Houston Ship Channel on Tuesday, said Steve Hawkes, the company's environmental manager.

One employee was injured and treated for first- and second-degree burns over 15 percent of his body.

The fire engulfed a railcar and sent flames more than 30 feet into the air. Black smoke rose from the tank car and could be seen for miles from the plant, which is in the Houston suburb of Pasadena. The Houston Ship Channel was temporarily closed because of the fire.

A leak at the end of a sampling of aluminum alkyls from the railcar is thought to have started the fire. The substance, often used to make plastics, ignites if exposed to air, Hawkes said.

Plant officials will begin repairs after the area is completely secured, Hawkes said.

"Everything looks like it is being handled properly," TCEQ spokesman Terry Clawson said. "The water is being contained and on site and will be treated."

Man's conviction thrown out over questions about cell phone

HOUSTON (AP) — The whereabouts of a cell phone played a role in the state's highest criminal court throwing out the conviction of a man who served about half of a 15-year prison sentence for aggravated assault.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted a writ of habeas corpus Wednesday to 29-year-old Gilbert Amezcua, who has been in prison since his 1998 conviction in the brutal beating of a Houston woman who was in a coma for 10 days after the workplace attack.

When she regained consciousness, Kathy Bingham couldn't tell police who attacked her, but when asked again later, she whispered "Gilbert," according to court records. She also testified during the trial that Amezcua, a co-worker, was her attacker.

Roland Moore, Amezcua's attorney, argued on appeal that Harris County prosecutors failed to consider another co-worker named Alonzo Gilbert Guerrero, who the appeals court said exchanged Bingham's cell phone for drugs shortly after the attack.

Guerrero, who had a criminal record that included assault at the time of the attack, is serving a seven-year sentence for a burglary.

When police asked her about the missing cell phone, Bingham said she hadn't noticed it was gone. The appeals court faulted Amezcua's trial attorney for not raising the issue.

"While there is no direct evidence that Guerrero was the attacker, the circumstantial evidence supports such a conclusion," the appeals court wrote in its 5-4 ruling.

According to testimony from the trial, Guerrero argued around the day of the attack with Bingham's brother about Guerrero's alleged harassment of her. But Bingham also had a heated argument with Amezcua about the same time.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Baldwin Chin said prosecutors will meet next week to decide whether to release Amezcua or retry the case. Moore said his client could be released on bail as early as next week.

"This is the best present I've ever gotten," Moore said of the ruling.

Man gets life sentence for shooting East Texas trooper

TYLER (AP) — A man accused of being involved in a shootout with authorities during a car chase pleaded guilty Wednesday to seriously injuring a state trooper.

Francisco Saucedo was expected to receive a life sentence in exchange for pleading guilty to aggravated assault of an officer.

The charge stems from the shooting of Department of Public Safety Trooper Steven Stone.

Saucedo and Ramon Armando Ramos were accused of shooting Stone after he pulled them over for speeding in March.

Stone was shot at least three times, including in his chest and shoulder. The altercation was captured on a video camera in Stone's patrol car.

Texas shoppers respond to midnight opening

ALLEN (AP) — It took Sean Humphreys four minutes to pick out seven articles of clothing at this Polo Ralph Lauren store — and that was at 12:04 a.m. Friday, marking the mythical beginning of holiday shopping season.

Humphreys was among hundreds who arrived for the midnight opening at the Premium Outlet center located about 25 miles north of downtown Dallas.

"I wanted to see if I could get anything early, he said. "Stuff gets picked through pretty quickly."

Within an hour, the open-air center's activity resembled midday — rather than midnight — shopping.

Cars jammed feeder roads leading to the center, where slightly more than 60 percent of the retailers opened immediately after midnight.

Customers searched for the best parking spot, sometimes creating their own space when marked spots were unavailable.

They arrived, some of them in bedroom slippers, and quickly found themselves standing 30 deep at the checkout lines.

"It's crazy," said Missy Pease, who met her mother Betty Skow for the outing that began with visits to Banana Republic and Kenneth Cole stores. "I expected a few people, but I didn't expect this."

It was a rare midnight opening, but one that is slowly gaining in popularity among retailers nationwide.

Chelsea Premium Outlets, the center's owner, experimented with the early start last year and more than tripled the number of participating centers this year, including three of its Texas outlets.

Shoppers drove as far as 60 miles to get first crack at sales reaching half off at some clothing stores.

While Humphreys sorted out his choices, Kae Saephan was first in line with her purchase, three shirts for her daughter.

"This is the first time I've done something like this and I just wanted to check it out," she said while her three sisters hit other stores. "I love shopping and I wanted to see what deals were out there."

Others arrived with a more determined purpose.

Rajesh Raghupati arrived with a coupon and left the Haggard store with seven sweaters and fleece pullovers picked out and paid for within 20 minutes.

The 31-year-old said he can't estimate how much

he'll spend this year, but figures his costs will rise considering he has a newborn son.

Meanwhile, Eric and Julie Ezar wasted little time in a KB Toys store, where Eric left hoisting a clear bag full of games and toys over each shoulder and loaded the family's Ford Expedition before moving on to another store.

The couple traveled about 50 miles and quickly paid out about \$250 for toys to be wrapped for their son and daughter.

"We're almost done," said Eric Ezar, adding

that the early shopping is typically left to his wife. "That was easy. Kinda fun, too."

Andre Hamilton was

equally successful by hitting four clothing stores and spending about \$450 within 45 minutes.

"I pretty much stayed

away from stores where the lines had 30 or 40 people," he said.

"Otherwise, it hasn't been that bad."

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Church News

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Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The members invite you to worship with them at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Nursery is provided.

First United Methodist Church

The congregation of First United Methodist Church would love to welcome you to our services. We regularly meet on Sunday morning for worship at 8:30 a.m. and again at 10:50 a.m. This Sunday, our pastor, Dr. Shane Brue will deliver our message, "Christian Conflict Resolution," scripture Matthew 18:15-17. Sunday school for all ages will begin at 9:45 a.m. The G.I.G., for 4-6 grades, will meet at 1:30 p.m. Baker's Chapel AME Church will host the Joint Area Worship this Sunday at 6 p.m., with pastor, Donita Lea. There will be no youth meeting Monday.

And for those who like to sing, you are invited to take part in this year's production of The Living Christmas Tree. The Living Christmas Tree is Dec. 2-3 which is free to the public but everyone will need a ticket, and they are now available in the church office.

First United Methodist Church is located in

downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry. Open doors, Open minds, Open Hearts.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on text taken from John 18:33-37 at worship service Sunday. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take Ten starts at 10:35 a.m.

Opportunities for the week include: Sunday is Pot Luck Sunday. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite dish and stay for lunch after church. Following the luncheon, the "Hanging of the Greens" will be held and the church will be decorated for Christmas. Tuesday, the Presbyterian Women will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, the youth group will meet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Also Wednesday, Bible study is held at 5:17 p.m. and choir practice is 6 p.m.

Members are reminded to bring non-perishable food to donate to less fortunate families during the Holiday season. Those items are to be placed in the grocery basket in the narthex.

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

Friends of Unity

Friends are proclaiming December 2006 as World Healing Month. The theme is "Let there be peace on Earth and Let it

begin with Me." For information, call 263-6311 or come by the Center.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Fr. James Liggett's sermon will be "Christ the King."

For more information about St. Mary's, call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

The Angel Food Ministries of North Birdwell United Methodist Church will be taking orders for December this Saturday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at West Side Center and Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the church, located at 2702 North Birdwell Lane.

For those who already have a menu, please note that the Lakewood Christmas CD is not counted as a special. You may order it in addition to one special for each regular order.

December delivery will be on the 16th between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Any orders not picked up during that time will be donated and will be sold.

The Area Methodist meeting will be Sunday, beginning at 6 p.m. at Baker's Chapel A.M.E. at 911 North Lancaster. The Rev. Donita Lea from

Coahoma UMC will be the speaker. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

The annual Christmas program at North Birdwell UMC will be Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. The Gospel Jubilees will be presenting a program of gospel and Christmas music. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Worship services are Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school classes for all ages are available at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 810 Scurry Street

Sunday worship services are at 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m.

Advent services in December are scheduled on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. These will be on Dec. 6, 13 and 20. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6 p.m. Christmas Day worship services are at 10 a.m.

Don't forget Operation Ongoing Support. November's care package items are non-medicated eye drops, pens (black ink), stationery or postcards, instant oatmeal (fun flavors, individual servings), Christmas hard candy and ATT Phone card fund.

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m. for Sunday school, 11 a.m.

for morning service and Young People's church, and again at 6 p.m. for evening service. Nursery services are available for all Sunday services.

The Wednesday evening service is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m. Please join us this Sunday or Wednesday.

Salem is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters and is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. For information, call 394-4655.

Baker's Chapel AME Church

Baker's Chapel AME Church, located at 911 N. Lancaster, will celebrate its 80th year in service to Big Spring and the surrounding communities Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. We invite all past mem-

bers and friends to join in the celebration of our history.

If you have any photos or memorabilia of any kind that may be displayed during this time, contact Gladys Thompson at 267-2939 or Willia Ledford at 268-8233.

East Side Baptist Church

Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Morning praise and worship is at 10:45 a.m. Afternoon praise and worship is at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Youth 4 Christ meets at 6 p.m. and mid-week Bible study is held at 7 p.m.

The Toney Brothers are in concert on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

East Side Baptist is located at 1108 E. Sixth St. and Settles. For more information, call 267-1915.

Religious relic crusader battles online auction giant

By BRIAN MURPHY
AP Religion Writer

Hardly an hour goes by without Thomas Serafin or one of his cyber-sleuths checking what eBay has to offer.

They're not hunting for bargains and never place a bid. Their interest is bone shards, bits of wizened flesh and a contemporary twist on the sacred and the profane: How the ancient trade in the most coveted religious relics has moved into the global flea market of online bidding.

"You can find bone fragments supposedly from St. Augustine being hawked on the Internet along with trinkets and antiques. There is something very wrong here," said Serafin, a professional photographer and Catholic activist based in Los Angeles, who has led an expanding campaign since the late 1990s to block the online sale of objects purported to contain the remains of

Christian saints. Last month, Serafin's group, the International Crusade for Holy Relics, opened a new front that's truly worthy of a David and Goliath metaphor: a call to boycott eBay.

It seeks to pressure the world's largest online auction site to close alleged loopholes used to bypass its ban on allowing bids for human remains.

Hani Durzy, spokesman for eBay, said the San Jose, Calif.-based company is "very willing to reopen talks" with Serafin's group about its concerns after discussions broke off about a year ago.

"As far as the boycott, well, we've really seen no impact to speak of," said Durzy. "We don't know if it's even still in place."

But Serafin said the symbolism is what's important.

"Yes, it's just a blip on the screen," he said. "But we want to make a point.

They are taking the same position as Judas. They are selling out the church."

Interest in religious patrimony of all types — from icons to stained glass — has soared in recent years, along with the blockbuster novel "The Da Vinci Code," the Christian-themed "Left Behind" series and major museum exhibits devoted to art and spirituality. At the same time, a flood of ecclesiastical items has entered mainstream antiquarian markets from once-flourishing churches that were closed because of shrinking congregations or population shifts away from older city neighborhoods.

But the sale of so-called "first-class relics" — bone, flesh, hair, nails and fragments of other

body parts — remains a murky subculture, one that's increasingly shifting from the back rooms of dealers' shops to the Web's worldwide mall.

Dozens of religious items are on eBay at any time. Most are ordinary objects such as icons, medals or prayer cards. But Serafin believes the strongest interest is for the first-class relics, which he says has accounted for up to 40 percent of the eBay relic listings at times.

"This is where the real action is," he said. "This is where our fight is."

Serafin describes his motivation as part conscious raiser and part consumer crusader.

He calls the sale of such relics deeply offensive to believers in their sanctity.

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World briefs

Car bomb blast kills 22 in northern Iraq, following bombings in Baghdad slum

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A car bomb exploded in northern Iraq on Friday, killing at least 22 people and wounding 26, police said.

It was the first major attack by suspected insurgents since bombings in Baghdad's Sadr City Shiite district killed more than 200 people the day before during widespread sectarian violence in the capital.

Friday's blast outside a car dealership in Tal Afar, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad, came as funeral processions began for the scores of Iraqis who were killed on Thursday by car bombs and mortars in Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood, the deadliest attack since the war began.

Followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr warned they will suspend their membership in parliament and the Cabinet if Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki meets U.S. President George W. Bush in Jordan next week, a member of parliament said.

Bush and al-Maliki were scheduled to meet Wednesday and Thursday in Amman, the Jordanian capital. The al-Sadr bloc in parliament and government is the back bone of al-Maliki's political support, and its withdrawal, if only temporarily, would be a severe blow to the prime minister's already shaky hold on power.

Poll shows Chavez with big lead ahead of Venezuelan presidential vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez holds a wide margin over his main challenger as he seeks a third term in Dec. 3 elections, according to an AP-Ipsos poll that also revealed many government opponents are worried they could face reprisals for how they vote.

About 59 percent of likely voters said they would vote for Chavez for a third term, while 27 percent said they would support opposition candidate Manuel Rosales. Thirteen percent of those surveyed by the polling firm Ipsos for The Associated Press said they were undecided or wouldn't answer.

Since Chavez was first elected in 1998, the leftist president has become perhaps Latin America's most

controversial leader while gaining notoriety worldwide as an outspoken critic of the U.S. government.

At home, he has presided over a society sharply divided by politics and along class lines. After the opposition tried unsuccessfully to oust Chavez in a 2004 recall referendum, lists of petition-signers for the recall circulated on the Internet and CDs sold on the streets. Some Chavez opponents complained they faced discrimination or were fired from government jobs.

The poll showed 57 percent of respondents were at least somewhat concerned that people could face reprisals for how they vote — 79 percent of Rosales supporters and 46 percent of Chavez supporters.

Nine months after her escape from airport, award-winning dog becomes urban legend

NEW YORK (AP) — In the nine months since escaping her travel cage at Kennedy Airport, Vivi the wayward whippet has joined the Central Park coyote, high-rise tiger, Harlem Meer caiman and Molly the fugitive feline in New York's ever-growing pantheon of urban animal legends.

She was reported dozens of times, roaming cemeteries with other dogs, or hanging around stores in the borough of Queens, in some cases miles from the tarmac where she disappeared while awaiting a flight home to California on Feb. 15. A day earlier, she had won an Award of Merit at the annual Westminster Kennel Club show.

Owners Jill Walton and Paul Lepiane offered a reward for Vivi's return but have kept a low profile. This week, their lawyer, Joyce Randazzo, said they still hope to recover the sleek, 4-year-old brindle and white whippet, formally known as Champion Bohem C'est la Vie, and the reward, an unspecified amount, still stands.

According to a map published Nov. 18 by The New York Times, Vivi was reported at more than 45 different locations before Aug. 7, when the sightings suddenly stopped, raising fears that she might be dead or left the area.

Richard Gentles, director of administration for Animal Care & Control of New York City, said his organization dispatched rescue teams after "five or six calls" on Vivi in the past several months, but all

proved negative.

"For a dog like that to be able to survive this long would be very difficult unless somebody picked it up," Gentles said. "I hope it's true that somebody has the dog and doesn't recognize it. It does happen."

Former New York Times managing editor Gerald Boyd dies of lung cancer at 56

NEW YORK (AP) — When Gerald M. Boyd was named managing editor of The New York Times, he knew he would set precedents. He was the first black journalist to hold that post, one of the top jobs at one of the world's most distinguished newspapers.

"I'm not about to dwell on the firstness of all of this," Boyd said when he was appointed in 2001, "but if somewhere a kid of color who reads about this can smile tomorrow or dream a little bigger dream, then that makes me very happy."

Boyd died Thursday at his home in Harlem. He was 56. His wife, Robin Stone, said he had been diagnosed with lung cancer in February but had kept the condition private from most of his friends and colleagues.

The Times made unwelcome headlines during Boyd's tenure — two years after his appointment, he resigned amid a reporter's plagiarizing scandal.

"Every wife would say she'd want her husband to be known as a great person, wonderful husband, father and good citizen," his wife, a fellow journalist, said from her home. "But as I've said before, as a journalist, he was my hero; and I know he was a hero to many journalists in the profession."

Thousands watch Thanksgiving Day parade

NEW YORK (AP) — Wind and rain could not keep thousands of spectators from crowding Manhattan streets to see Big Bird, Snoopy and other signature balloons and floats of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The weather, however, prompted city officials to order the balloons flown lower than usual, none rising beyond 17 feet, for safety. But that didn't seem to bother 9-year-old Sarah Barker.

"It means a better view," she said. She wasn't kidding — Snoopy made his way downtown past her, his right paw seemed to almost touch the wet street.

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Sp

IN BRIEF

Iowa accepts Alamo Bowl bid invitation

Iowa accepted a Tuesday to play in Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

The Hawkeyes making their Alamo Bowl appearance, will face a opponent.

In 2001, Iowa against Texas drew the second-largest crowd in Alamo history.

Youth basketball registration begins

Registration for YMCA Youth Basketball League is available through sixth grade.

The registration line is Friday, and the fee is \$40 per player.

Practices will be held on Saturday starting Jan. 13.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring basketball officials are needed

The Big Spring Basketball Association is looking for officials at this time.

Anyone interested in officiating the upcoming 2006-07 season at Junior High, Freshman and Sub-Varsity basketball games should contact Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300 or 263-8733.

Youth basketball tournament updates

The Midland Youth Basketball Winter Tournament covering seven states is now taking applications.

The local tournament is available for a \$100 count package. Anyone interested in participating should contact MAYB at 284-0354 or mayb@mayb.com.

Six-Man football playoff pairings

Garden City vs. Wellman-Union (7-1), 7 p.m. to Klondike.

Meadow (11-0) vs. Davis (9-1), 6 p.m. tonight, Crane.

Paducah (8-3) vs. Throckmorton (7-3) tonight, Aspermont.

Newcastle vs. Trinidad, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Hico.

May (10-0) vs. Richland Springs (7-3) p.m. tonight, Comanche.

Santa Anna (6-3) vs. Calvert (10-1), 7 p.m. tonight, Gatesville.

Dell City vs. County (7-4), 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Pecos.

Saturday, Pecos vs. Sanderson vs. Tunnell Field, Lenoir.

Whitharral vs. Lenoir (4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Silverton.

Cotton Center vs. Samnorwood (6-3) p.m. tonight, Silverton.

Region III and IV vs. Vernon Northside vs. Apple Springs tonight, Avalon.

Woodson (7-3) vs. Milford, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Hamilton.

Paint Rock vs. Gatesville p.m. tonight, Rising Star.

Zephyr vs. Treadwell, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Treadwell.

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

Iowa accepts Alamo Bowl bid invitation

Iowa accepted a bid Tuesday to play in the Dec. 30 Alamo Bowl in San Antonio. The Hawkeyes (6-6), making their third Alamo Bowl appearance, will face a Big 12 opponent. In 2001, Iowa's win against Texas Tech drew the second-largest crowd in Alamo Bowl history.

Youth basketball registration begins

Registration for the YMCA Youth Basketball League is available for boys and girls in first through sixth grade. The registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 1 and the fee is \$40 per player. Practices will begin Dec. 11 and games will be held on Saturdays starting Jan. 13. For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring basketball officials are needed

The Big Spring basketball Association is looking for officials at this time. Anyone interested in officiating the upcoming 2006-07 season for Junior High, Freshman and Sub-Varsity basketball games should contact Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300 or 263-8731.

Youth basketball tournament update

The Mid America Youth Basketball Winter Tournament, covering seven states, is now taking applications. The local tournament is available for a \$125 discount package. Anyone interested in participating should contact MAYB at (316) 284-0354 or e-mail mayb@mayb.com

Six-Man football playoff pairings

Garden City (10-0) vs. Wellman-Union (9-2), 7 p.m. tonight, Klondike.
Meadow (11-0) vs. Fort Davis (9-1), 6 p.m. tonight, Crane.
Paducah (8-3) vs. Throckmorton, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Aspermont.
Newcastle vs. Trinidad, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Hico.
May (10-0) vs. Richland Springs (10-0), 7:30 p.m. tonight, Comanche.
Santa Anna (8-2) vs. Calvert (10-1), 7:30 p.m. tonight, Gatesville.
Dell City vs. Borden County (7-4), 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Pecos.
Sanderson vs. Jayton (8-3), 7:30 p.m. tonight, Tunnell Field, Lenorah.
Whitharral vs. Lefors (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Silverton.
Cotton Center vs. Samnorwood (6-5), 7:30 p.m. tonight, Silverton.
Region III and Region IV Vernon Northside (10-1) vs. Apple Springs, 1 p.m. tonight, Avalon.
Woodson (7-4) vs. Milford, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Hamilton.
Paint Rock vs. Gustine, 6 p.m. tonight, Rising Star.
Zephyr vs. Iredell (9-2), 7:30 p.m. tonight, DeLeon.

Romo serves Thanksgiving feast, 38-10

QB sets record for TDs

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The more Tony Romo plays, the stranger it seems that he spent the first 3 1/2 years of his career on the bench. Having won NFC offensive player of the week honors and outplaying Peyton Manning in his last two starts, Romo took his growing reputation even higher Thursday by tying a Dallas Cowboys record with five touchdown passes in a 38-10 victory over Tampa Bay.

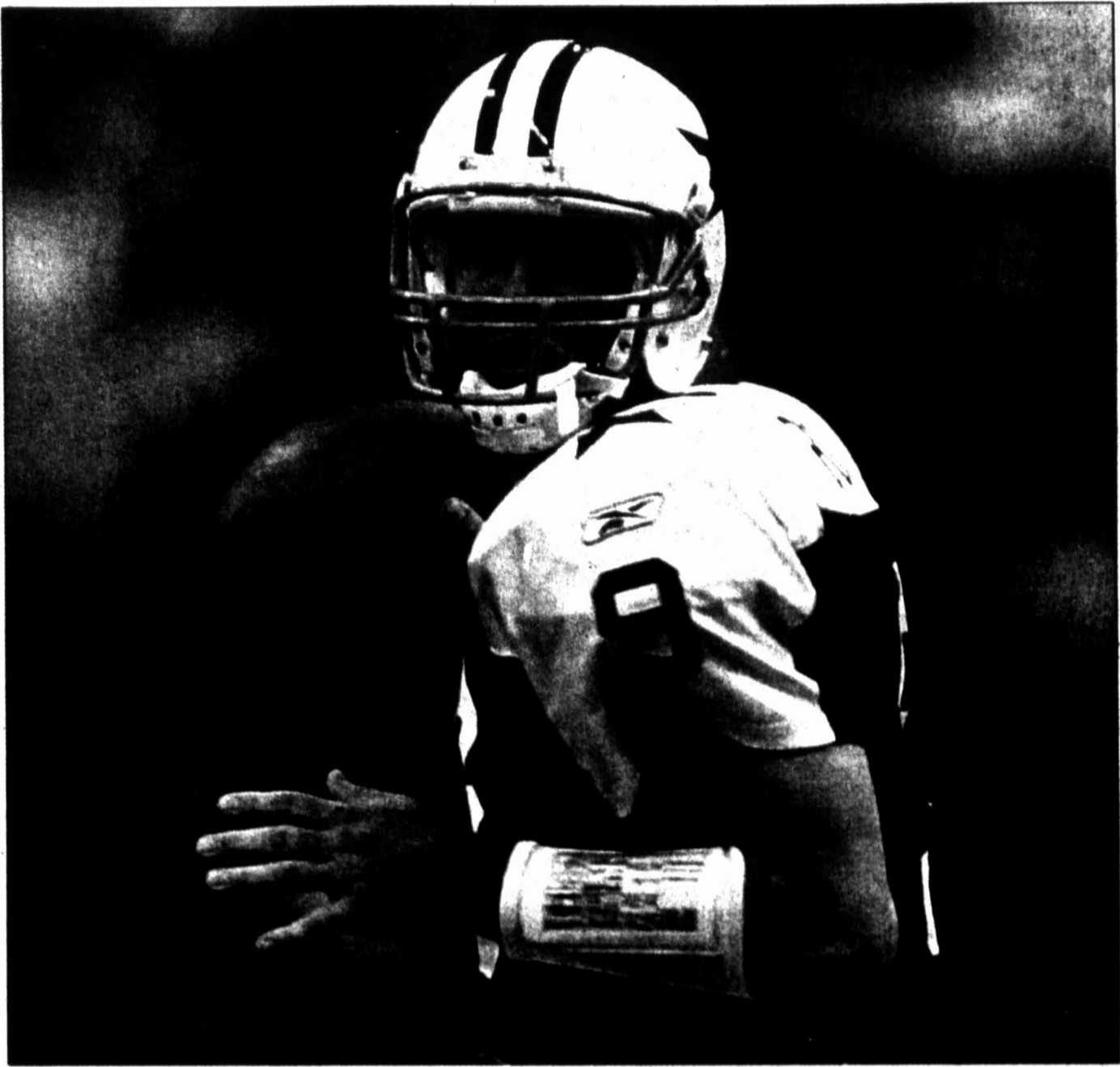
It was the ninth time it's happened in team history and the first time on Thanksgiving. More impressive: Troy Aikman never did it in regulation and Roger Staubach never did it.

As wild as it seems to mention Romo with those Hall of Famers — especially because this was only his fifth start — he's certainly proving worthy, especially to the fans chanting his last name during Fox's postgame show.

Dallas has won three straight for the first time this season and is 4-1 since Romo took over for Drew Bledsoe. Now 7-4, the Cowboys go into the weekend with a half-game lead over the New York Giants in the NFC East and are second only to Chicago in the conference.

Tampa Bay (3-8) drove 80 yards for a touchdown on the first drive of the game, but got only a 46-yard field goal the rest of the game. Rookie Bruce Gradkowski threw two interceptions, both of which resulted in Dallas touchdowns.

Romo led the Cowboys to five touchdowns in a span of six drives from late in the first quarter to the middle of the third. They



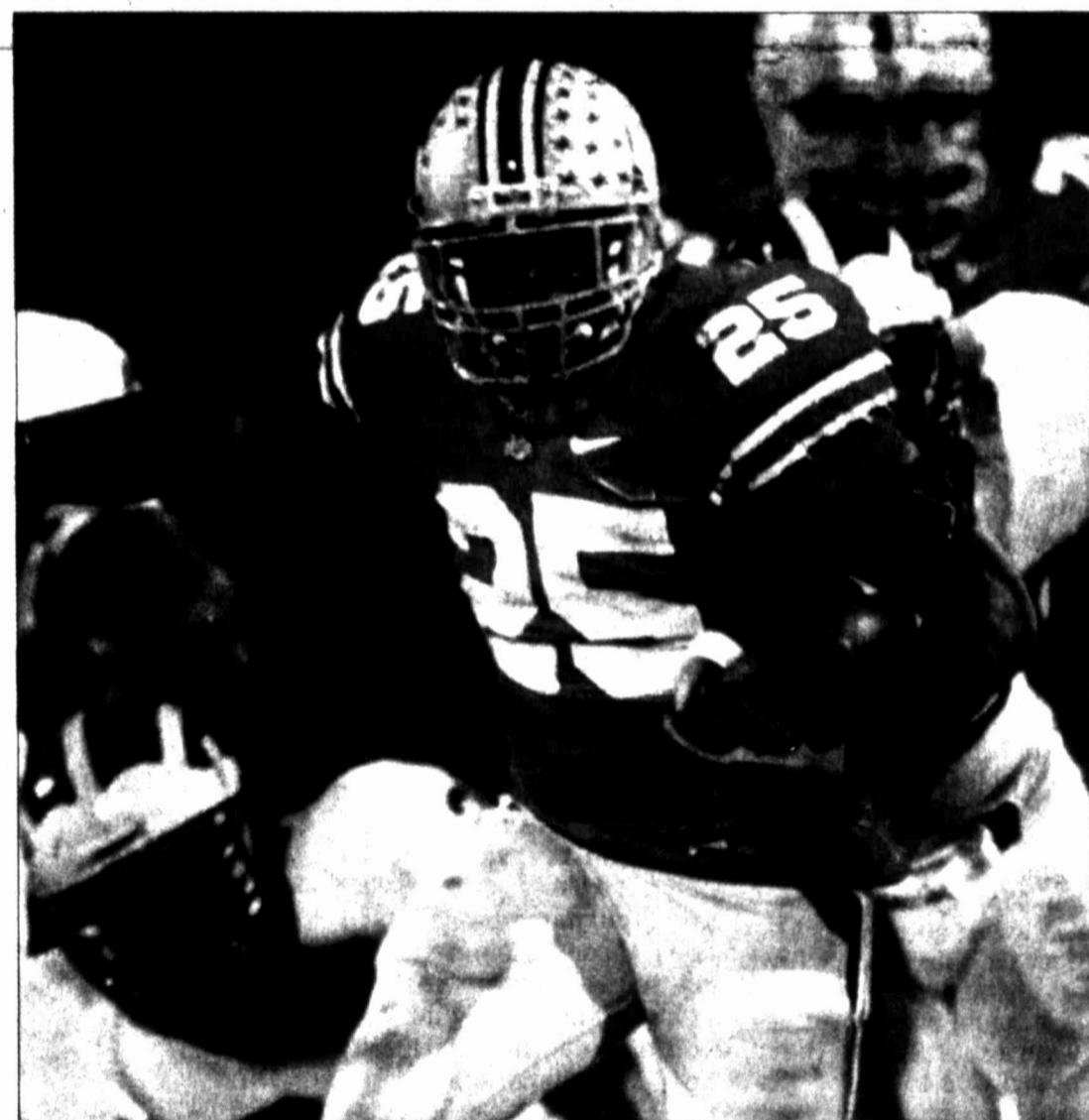
The Dallas Cowboys' Tony Romo looks to pass against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Thursday, in Irving. Romo and the Cowboys won 38-10 behind five touchdown passes — a new Dallas record.

might've gotten a sixth TD, but settled for a 22-yard field goal from Mike Vanderjagt on the next series. Romo was 22-of-29 for 306 yards.

He completed 13 straight passes in one stretch and was 8-of-9 in the second half; he's 28-of-30 after halftime over his last three games.

Having come into the game 0.5

See ROMO, Page 2B



No. 1 ranked Ohio State's Antonio Pittman eludes the Michigan defense for a touchdown during third quarter action in Columbus, Ohio, Saturday. The Buckeyes defeated the Wolverines 42-39, and earned the right to play in the Fiesta Bowl for the national championship.

Woods wins PGA Grand Slam title

By JAYMES SONG
AP Sports Writer

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii — It started shaky but ended the same way for Tiger Woods — surrounded by hula dancers on the 18th green, wearing a floral lei and posing with a trophy.

Woods rallied to win the PGA Grand Slam of Golf for a record seventh straight time, closing with a bogey-free 6-under 66 on Wednesday to beat Jim Furyk by two strokes.

The British Open and PGA champion, who started the day three

shots behind Furyk, finished the 36-hole tournament with an 8-under 136 total to earn \$500,000, giving him more than \$3 million in career Grand Slam winnings.

"I certainly played better than I did yesterday," Woods said. "Gave myself some chances. ... Overall, I really hit the ball crisp and clear today, which was nice."

Furyk, the world's No. 2 golfer behind Woods, closed with a 71 to take home \$300,000. U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy (74) was six strokes back and earned \$250,000. Mike Weir (74) was last at 1

over and made \$200,000.

Woods has owned Poipu, also winning in 1998, '99, '00, '01, '02 and '05. He finished second to Ernie Els in '97 in his only other appearance in the event.

Last year, Woods closed with a 64 to win by seven strokes over Phil Mickelson, despite losing six pounds because of a stomach virus.

"I've always loved coming here," he said. Furyk opened with a 67 for a one-stroke lead over Ogilvy and a three-stroke lead over Woods. But he

SEE PGA, Page 2B

No. 1 versus who? BCS college shuffle

A few weeks back the talk of who should play for the BCS National Championship in Arizona heated up, with only a handful of games left this season, the topic has never been hotter.



MIKE GRIMES

Ohio State is the clear No. 1, but after that, nothing is certain in the Bowl Championship Series mess.

Michigan, currently ranked No. 2 and having completed its schedule, is waiting to see if it will be invited to the Tostito's Fiesta Bowl for a rematch of last week's road loss to the Buckeyes.

With two games remaining for Southern California — one of

which is against No. 5 ranked Notre Dame — there is a strong possibility that the Trojans will leap the Wolverines and earn the right to play for the title.

Despite having the most impressive loss of all the one-loss teams, the Wolverines should need for USC and Florida to both lose again before they punch a ticket to the desert.

For the Trojans it is simple. Destroy Notre Dame this weekend and garner additional votes from the human pollsters, just as they did on Nov. 12 when they knocked off Oregon by 25-points.

That win launched USC past the Florida Gators and into the third spot in the polls. With a road game to end the season at UCLA, the Trojans have a grand opportunity to play for in their third

See BCS, Page 4B



Tiger Woods grins as he accepts the Gary Player Cup after his win at the WGC Bridgestone Invitational earlier this year.

NOV

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2006

Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGIES

Is Aussie Parry really that scary?

NBC announcer Johnny Miller is not one to mince words, so it wasn't shocking when he described Australian Craig Parry's swing on national TV two years ago as "bad enough to make Ben Hogan throw up." Miller got his just desserts, though, when Parry not only went on to win the Doral Ford Championship, but did so by holing a 6-iron on 18 for an eagle to win in a playoff, prompting Miller to swallow some "humble pie."



PARRY

But now the popular Aussie, known as "Popeye" for his bulging forearms, is so far down on the money list that he won't make the top-125 exempt list, and since he refuses to go to Q-school, we won't see him on the PGA Tour as a regular.

The star was the course

Trump the Extravagant was there, so were talented Tom Watson, Annika the Great and Natalie "Perfect Wheels" Gulbis, but the brightest star of the Manhattan Golf Classic, a charity skins game, was the golf course.

The game was held last month on Governors Island, positioned 800 yards off the tip of Manhattan, in the middle of New York Harbor. Also located on the island is Fort Jay, built to protect New York in Colonial times. The golf course is very short, and uses multiple tees for its six greens. One tee is in the fort itself.

Did you know?

The Governors Island course is the only golf course in New York state with a Manhattan ZIP code.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Players from Australia, Italy and Scotland have won three of the last four U.S. Amateur Championships. America regularly gets pummeled in the Ryder Cup. Great Britain and Ireland have won four of the last six Walker Cups, and The No. 1 player in American college golf is from Spain."

Golf writer **Dave Seanor** on the state of American golf. And the United States has lost in most other sports this year, including basketball, soccer, tennis, Little League baseball, world professional baseball, rugby and luge. I guess that makes us "luge-ers" all around.

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS



Cox News Service

592

The most cuts made on the PGA Tour. This record is held by veteran Jay Haas (above), who is currently a "young gun" ripping up the Champions Tour. That's an average of 19 cuts a year, and he's maintained his scoring ability over 31 years. After two rounds of the PGA Championship at Medinah this August, Haas shot 75-68, the same total he shot at Medinah in the 1975 U.S. Open.

GOLF SPOKEN HERE

'Burrowing animal'

Under the rules of golf, a "burrowing animal" makes a hole for habitation or shelter. These include a rabbit, mole, groundhog, gopher or salamander. You may take a free drop from a hole made by a burrowing animal. But a hole made by a non-burrowing animal, such as a dog, is not an abnormal ground condition unless so marked as "ground under repair," so you don't get free relief.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Since you're using a three-quarter swing, the danger is you'll push off your back foot, trying for power. Coming back to the ball, your back foot should remain on the ground even though your weight is in your front hip. Notice in the photo at left how Nationwide Tour player Scott Hend's trail foot hasn't flipped up yet here and he's halfway to impact. In the photo at right Hend's three-quarter follow-through matches his three-quarter backswing. Why? Because the long irons off the tee are accuracy clubs. Save the power swings for the driver.

Stay in control with long irons

Whatever else golf is, it's a game of control, and all good players have a shot in their arsenal designed to accomplish this.

Johnny Miller gives some good advice: "If amateurs played every hole and never hit anything off the tee except a 5-wood and just plunked it down the middle, I think they'd be shocked at how they would score. Everyone thinks they have to belt it out there nine miles, but there's still room on tour for guys who hit the ball 250 to make a huge living."

The "go-to" shot I'm suggesting you develop off the tee is the long iron, and it can be a score saver.

Long irons have received a bad rap from most observers, but under the correct circumstances, your 2-, 3- and 4-irons can be very accurate off the tee. I don't recommend them off the fairway unless you're a good player, but contrary to popular belief, the long irons off a tee don't have as large a variance pattern as a driver. So when you need to get the drive on the short grass, the long iron might be the play.

Technique

It all starts with your address.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is a teaching professional at Nantucket Golf Club on Nantucket Island, Mass. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

Take your normal stance, with the ball off your left cheekbone, then simply move your trail foot a couple of inches back until the ball is located off the logo on your shirt. The tendency is to play the ball too far forward and then slide to get to it, but you can't slide and hit the long-iron shot correctly.

The swing itself is simply a three-quarter motion with a big chest turn while you keep your knees flexed and level. The common error here is to straighten the back leg, but this must be avoided in order to bring the clubhead to the ball on a shallow, rounded arc that will keep the shot low and hot. At the top of the swing, your hips are level with your belt buckle pointing well behind the ball.

Starting down, take care to shift your weight to your front leg and resist the urge to turn on

the power. And don't jump off your trail foot — it's not until impact that the rotation of your front hip unplugs your back heel.

Notice how straight touring pro Scott Hend's left arm is in the photos above. It's perpendicular to the clubshaft, forming an angle of power. It's that way because he's kept everything moving. Any stopping or slowing of the chest and your arms will flip the club over, causing a bad pull, or worse, a pull hook.

There are two "big keys" and a "heads up" for this specialty shot:

Big Key No. 1: Keep your arms even with your shoulders both at the top and at the finish of the swing. You should create a symmetry between the backswing and your follow-through.

Big Key No. 2: Make sure your right arm (trail arm) is straight at the finish. The only way to do this is to keep your chest rotating through the shot.

Heads up: This is a shot that can't be muscled, so don't try to overpower the ball. If it wants to fade, then let it. I've found that for most golf swings that's the most comfortable ball flight — i.e., low and cutting, but you'll find that out through practice.

DON'T MISS IT

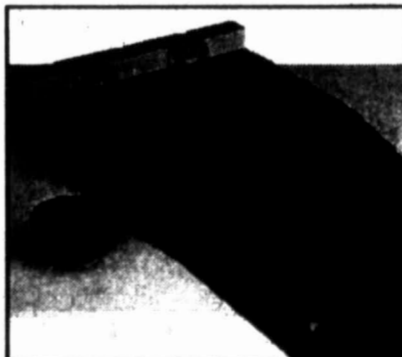
Winter putting practice

Not everyone can go to Florida for the winter, so if you live where it snows, here's an indoor putting green that will keep your putting touch sharp while you wait for the spring. It's the Challenger Putting Green from Gibas Golf Products.

According to the sales brochure, the Challenger's "...

adjustable feet on the base set up those difficult side angle breaks to practice on and perfect for improved scoring during actual games."

The Challenger is 18 inches wide and 9 feet long, and rolls up for easy storage. Find it at www.gibasgolf.com by clicking on Practice Accessories.



TEERING OFF

Tempo should remain steady for every swing

In 1970, Englishman Tony Jacklin was in position to become the first British player to win the U.S. Open since 1920. Leading the field after three rounds, he arrived at his locker on Sunday morning to find a sign posted on it by his good friend Tom Weiskopf. The message was brief: TEMPO.

Jacklin won going away. "Tempo" is probably one of the most misunderstood words in golf. Most everyday golfers confuse tempo with swinging slowly, when in fact, tempo means to swing the club at the same pace throughout your swing.

This is an important distinction because some people can't do anything slowly, and if they think they have to swing the golf club slowly, it screws up their game. The key is to swing at a consistent rate so your motion doesn't have one of those tension-creating moments where you try to speed the club up or slow it down.

The way to set your own personal tempo is to adapt the pace of your everyday life into your golf game. If you do things quickly, copy Tom Watson's tempo. If you're laid-back, copy someone like Fred Couples. As long as you keep the pace consistent throughout your swing, you'll always have good tempo.

Putting also demands good tempo, and it should match your personality, too. For example, if you're an aggressive long putter, you can't be concerned about facing the inevitable short putts back to the hole after you've run the first one past it. These short ones don't bother a good putter because he keeps the club moving at the same pace through the ball.

Remember: Never changing your pace is what good tempo is all about.

SCHEDULE

**All Times EST
PGA TOUR CHALLENGE SEASON Skins Game**

- Site: La Quinta, Calif.
- Schedule: Saturday-Sunday
- Course: Trilogy Golf Club at La Quinta (7,085 yards, par 72)
- Purse: \$1 million (Nos. 1-6, \$25,000 each; Nos. 7-12, \$50,000; Nos. 13-17, \$70,000; No. 18, \$200,000)
- TV: ABC (Saturday-Sunday 3:30 p.m.-6 p.m.)
- Players: Fred Funk, Fred Couples, John Daly, Stephen Ames
- Last year: Funk won in his first appearance in the event, taking the final 15 skins to finish with \$925,000.

AUSTRALASIAN PGA TOUR/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR

- Australian Masters
- Site: Melbourne, Australia
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday
- Course: Huntingdale Golf Club (6,980 yards, par 72)
- Purse: \$1.15 million
- Winner's share: \$208,000
- TV: The Golf Channel (Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, 11 p.m.-2 a.m.; Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon)

JAPAN GOLF TOUR

- Casio World Open
- Site: Kochi, Japan
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday
- Course: Kochi Kuroshio Country Club (7,220 yards, par 72)
- TV: None

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Use your playing profile to determine which club to use in every situation

Here's a handy way to review the relative strengths and weaknesses of your game in preparation for creating your strength and weakness profile. Take a yellow pad and draw a line down the middle, then label the two columns "strength" and "weakness." Down the left side, list all the shots you hit during a round — short irons, fairway woods, lag putts, etc. — and evaluate each one, annotating it in the appropriate column.

Keep a running list for 10 weeks until you have a handle on your play-

ing profile. What do you do with this information? You use it to play the game by evaluating each situation and then choosing a club that is on the strength side. For example, reviewing your stats, you discover that you're not very accurate with your short irons.

So when it's time to lay up on a par-5, the smart move is to lay up so you have a 6-iron (a mid-iron you hit well) left to the green vs., say, a 9-iron, even though the nine iron is supposed to be easier to hit.

ASK THE PRO

Q: How do I find out what ball I should play? — B.A., from the Web

A: Assuming your clubs are fitted properly, you can best find your ball by testing various balls with launch equipment. The ideal spin rate and launch angle will maximize not only distance off the driver, but also accuracy with the irons.

But there is more to golf than the long game. Buy three major brands of balls that have the characteristics you've identified on the launch monitor and take them to a practice area. Play some pitch shots, hit some chips and roll a whole bunch of putts, all the while monitoring the balls for feel and control. Select the one that feels best.

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

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Jets' Ferguson ready to meet with Texans' first pick Williams

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Sports Writer

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — D'Brickshaw Ferguson first met Mario Williams early in their college careers. The two were reacquainted a few months ago at the NFL draft.

They're about to get a lot closer.

The New York Jets' rookie left tackle will be engaged in one of the more intriguing matchups Sunday when he lines up against the Houston Texans' defensive end.

"I'm going to practice and prepare as if I'm going against Jason Taylor or anybody else I would face," Ferguson said in his usual soft, even-keeled tone. "I think he's a very talented athlete and I have to prepare accordingly."

Ferguson was the No. 4 draft selection out of Virginia in May, going to the Jets three picks after the Texans chose Williams out of North Carolina State. After last facing each other as sophomores in college, both were in New York on draft day and spoke briefly during the event.

"I don't think our focus at that time was, 'I want to go against you in the future,'" Ferguson said.

"We were just happy for each other getting the opportunity to play in the National Football League and support each other."

Not surprisingly, both players have had moments of inconsistency in their rookie seasons. Ferguson has mostly held his own each week facing some of the best pass rushers in the game, including Miami's Taylor, Indianapolis' Dwight Freeney and New England's Richard Seymour.

"Every week, I'm going to have a matchup," Ferguson said. "For me, that's what I've come to expect - that's what I know. Next week or the week after, you can ask me the same exact question and I'll still be here saying, 'Well, I've got another quality opponent I have to go against.' But I know that every week, I'm going to get somebody who's at the top of their game."

Although he isn't exactly in that class yet, Williams still presents a daunting task for offenses. He has 28 tackles and leads Houston with 4 1/2 sacks, but has been struggling with an inflamed arch the past few weeks. He was listed as probable on the Texans' injury report Thursday, although he didn't fully

participate in practice. Williams has also had to deal with the overwhelming expectations that come with being a No. 1 overall pick - especially when so many fans were hoping the Texans drafted Reggie Bush.

"He went through a three- or four-week span where he played really well," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "I don't want to say that's dropped off the last two weeks, but he has struggled physically."

Jets coach Eric Mangini said Williams might also line up against veteran Anthony Clement on the other side of the field at times.

"Mario moves around a little bit, so it won't necessarily always be with D'Brickshaw," Mangini said. "He would be working against both Brick and Anthony, so both guys need to get ready for that."

At 6-foot-6 and 312 pounds, Ferguson is considered somewhat small when it comes to offensive tackles. Mangini jokingly said Thanksgiving might present a good opportunity for Ferguson to add some extra padding.

"I've got to find out what kind of turkey he's eating," Mangini said with a big smile.

Chiefs beat Broncos in NFL's first Thanksgiving tripleheader

By DOUG TUCKER
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt was one of the millions of football fans that felt frustrated because they couldn't get the Denver-Kansas City game on television.

Hunt had lobbied the NFL for the game for 37 years, but couldn't watch it as the Dallas-area hospital he was admitted to on Wednesday did not have the NFL Network, which carried the game as its first live game telecast to about 40 million of America's 111 million television homes.

So Sharron Hunt Munson placed the telephone next to her TV at home and her dad listened to the game that way.

"I know how disappointed he was when he couldn't be here," said Chiefs president Carl Peterson.

No doubt Hunt got a lift when quarterback Trent Green dedicated the 19-10 victory on Thursday to the Chiefs' owner, who had lobbied the league to let someone besides Detroit and Dallas host a Thanksgiving game.

"Lamar, I hope you're feeling better," an emotional Green said. "This win is for you."

Hunt, 74, who has missed only a handful of games since founding the franchise, was not hospitalized in an emergency situation, said his son, Clark Hunt.

"He's doing much better," said Clark. "He had a lung issue and needed to go to the hospital and let them take a look at it. This game has been important to him really going back to the AFL days. He's worked since the merger to try to get the game back here."

From his bed, Hunt listened as NFL rushing leader Larry Johnson gouged Denver's fifth-ranked run defense for 157 yards and Lawrence Tynes kicked four field goals for the Chiefs (7-4), who charged into a second-place tie with the Broncos (7-4) in the AFC West.

Johnson, raising his league-leading rushing total to 1,202 yards, consistently burned the Broncos with 8- and 10-yard gains, using his usual assortment of power moves and start-and-stop elusiveness. The Broncos came in giving up a shade better than 90 yards per game on the ground.

"I felt real good," said Johnson. "Overall, it's just your energy. You know that the whole nation is going to be watching you. It's the only game at night and it feels like a Monday night football game."

Johnson scored the Chiefs' only touchdown on a 1-yard vault late in the second quarter following a crucial mistake by the Broncos' Ebenezer Ekuban, who was called for roughing the passer on a failed third-and-4 play from the 9.

"There were a lot of crucial situations when we didn't step up and make the plays when we should," said Denver cornerback Champ Bailey. "One thing we've got to realize is we've got a lot of football left to play."

Making the night even more festive was an in-house standing-room-only crowd of 80,866, the largest since 1972, the year the Chiefs opened the facility that many call the loudest outdoor stadium in the league.

"Our fans were awesome," said Chiefs defensive end Jared Allen. "We took energy from them all night."

Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer tossed a 1-yard pass to Stephen Alexander for Denver's only TD and dropped to 0-6 in six starts in Kansas City. He was 25-for-39 for 216 yards and no doubt speculation will pick up steam over whether rookie Jay Cutler is about to be promoted.

Plummer was asked who he figured would start in 10 days against Seattle.

"Can I just not answer that question please?," he asked reporters. "When I find out, I'll find out whenever and whatever it is."

BCS

Continued from 1B

straight national championship game.

Assuming Southern Cal completes the season at 11-1, with victories against 10 bowl-eligible teams, including Arkansas, Nebraska and Notre Dame — they should have the right to challenge Ohio State.

The Florida Gators are in the toughest football conference (Southeastern) in the country and they have

one loss — on a questionable referee call, no less — on its resume.

The Gators have beaten 10 bowl-eligible teams. With a road game against Florida State this weekend and a SEC Championship game against Arkansas on Dec. 2, they need to win out with style.

The 62-point thrashing they put on Western Carolina may be needed to be duplicated unless the Trojans slip this weekend. If not, Florida will be left out of the mix when the Fiesta Bowl

extends its two invitations.

Opinions as to who should be ranked No. 2 and be granted the right to play for the mythical title are as different as the mascots of these three universities. With each of these teams having one loss, and a few other teams I refuse to mention, a case can be built for each one.

If all else fails, I say the team with the highest GPA of the three should go play the Buckeyes. That would make more sense than

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Body-im

By LIZ DOUP

South Florida Sun-Sea

Living with an eating disorder was easy. Alisa Fliss could age on 290 calories, vomit 15 times a day to keep her body thin. What she's doing now...

That's eating normal and keeping food on the table while balancing her life as a divorced mother and a language teacher at Ch. McAuliffe Middle School. Sitting in a coffee shop recently, Fliss, 32, petite and looking like a woman she is now, tries to reconcile the one in that film who one starving herself to death.

"Recovery is so hard," says Fliss, four women featured in "Thin," a recent HBO documentary. "Sometimes I feel the worst I've felt in my life. But now I feel better than I ever did."

The film followed her of Delray Beach, Fla., and three others through treatment at the Renfrew Center, an inpatient eating disorders center in Coconut Creek, Fla.

"Each time I see a different person whose reactions from pain to pride, first time, I didn't like person I saw there. So alone, so into me. The disorder was my friend."

But she's proud part of a film that lights a life-threatening problem affecting millions of people in the United States. Anorexia bulimia — bingeing, purging the food, mental disorder. Controlling food is as a coping mechanism numb emotional pain. **feel a sense of control.**

There's no quick fix Fliss knows. She's through multiple hospitalizations and, with past seven years, treatment program she's doing well now. "I want to be recovered for my recovery," says. "There's hope, proof of it."

At the Renfrew Center, the camera follows and the others as gossip, break the news and even compete the sickest and thinnest. It plays the center's manicured campus, treatment, often covered by insurance, at \$1,500 a day.

Because of confidentiality and the subject's privacy, Renfrew took opening its doors to Gayle Brooks, vice president and clinical director of The Renfrew Florida. But the was worth it.

"I found the film full, dark and edgy," says. "But I think it's the truth." Though the four struggled after release — one tried therapy — "many do remarkably well," Brooks says.

Though Fliss has both anorexia and bulimia, the documentary focuses more on bulimia. Though appears thin, she looks as emaciated as others.

In the film, she describes a binge which she consumed dozens of doughnuts, muffins and three food biscuits, plus. Then she vomited. She speaks about ultra thin as a punishment, as if it's sales award. "If I'm dying to get there, it," she says.

She talks about when a pediatrician her mother told her daughter was fat.

Body-image references still dot woman's conversation in recovery

By LIZ DOUP

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Living with an eating disorder was easy.

Alisa Fliss could manage on 290 calories or vomit 15 times a day, all to keep her body thin.

What she's doing now is tough.

That's eating normally and keeping food down, while balancing her life as a divorced mother of two and a language arts teacher at Christa McAuliffe Middle School.

Sitting in a coffee shop recently, Fliss, 32, pretty, petite and looking fit, tries to reconcile the woman she is now with the one in that film. The one starving herself to death.

"Recovery is so much harder," says Fliss, one of four women featured in "Thin," a recent HBO documentary. "Sometimes I feel the worst I've ever felt in my life. But misery feels better than feeling nothing."

The film followed Fliss, of Delray Beach, Fla., and three others through treatment at the Renfrew Center, an inpatient eating disorders center in Coconut Creek, Fla.

"Each time I see it, it's different," says Fliss, whose reactions swing from pain to pride. "The first time, I didn't like the person I saw there. I was so alone, so into myself. The disorder was my best friend."

But she's proud to be part of a film that spotlights a life-threatening problem affecting 5 million people in the United States. Anorexia and bulimia — bingeing, then purging the food — are mental disorders. Controlling food is used as a coping mechanism to numb emotional pain and feel a sense of control.

There's no quick fix as Fliss knows. She's been through multiple hospitalizations and, within the past seven years, three treatment programs. But she's doing well now.

"I want to be recognized for my recovery," she says. "There's hope. I'm proof of it."

At the Renfrew Center, the camera follows Fliss and the others as they gossip, break the rules and even compete to be the sickest and the thinnest. It plays out on the center's manicured, tree-lined campus where treatment, often covered by insurance, can cost \$1,500 a day.

Because of confidentiality and the subject's sensitivity, Renfrew took a risk opening its doors, says Gayle Brooks, vice president and clinical director of The Renfrew Center Florida. But the result was worth it.

"I found the film powerful, dark and edgy," she says. "But I think it portrayed the truth."

Though the four women struggled after their release — one tries shock therapy — "many women do remarkably well," Brooks says.

Though Fliss has battled both anorexia and bulimia, the documentary focuses more on her bulimia. Though she appears thin, she doesn't look as emaciated as the others.

In the film, she describes a binge in which she consumed a dozen doughnuts, two muffins and three fast-food biscuits, plus more. Then she vomited it up.

She speaks about getting ultra thin as an accomplishment, as if it were a sales award. "If it takes dying to get there, so be it," she says.

She talks about being 7, when a pediatrician told her mother that her daughter was fat. At 14,

Fliss began using laxatives to quickly eliminate food. Then diuretics. Then restricting what she ate or eating, then vomiting. Her journal shows a daily diet of 290 calories. One egg white. Five pieces of candy. A bite of chicken. Coffee ...

Most dramatically, the camera follows Fliss home after treatment. At one point, she gently removes her Maltese,

Beau, from the bathroom, so she can vomit, even as the camera rolls.

Before the filming, Fliss worked as a pharmaceutical rep. Had she been a teacher at the time, she wouldn't have done the film, she says. She's concerned about reaction from her students and their parents though she has already reassured her classes: "I've told them, I'm the same teacher I

was before (this aired)."

After the film was made in 2004, Fliss continued to struggle. At one point, she overdosed on diuretics trying to deplete enough sodium to provoke a heart attack.

"I thought I was doing this for my children and family, that their lives would be easier," she says. "They could say, 'She died of an eating disorder.'"



MCT photo/Rhonda Vanover/South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Alisa Fliss, 32, of Delray Beach, Fla., is featured in an HBO film on women who were treated at Renfrew Center, which treats eating disorders.

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6	News (CC)	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Han, Montana	College Basketball	(CC) NBA	Movie: Path of Destruction
7	Entertainment	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2	Movie: Shark 2
8																			
9	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)
10	News (CC)	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
11	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)	Extra (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE

11-24

“WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A TURKEY DOG, DENNIS?”

“SURE, BUT WHAT DO I PUT ON IT? MUSTARD OR CRANBERRY SAUCE?”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

11-24

“Remember, Billy — when you don’t get what you want, at least you get experience.”

HAGAR

11-24

WHAT’S WRONG WITH ME, DOC?

YOU DRINK TOO MUCH, YOU EAT TOO MUCH, YOU’RE SHORT OF BREATH, YOU DON’T GET ENOUGH SLEEP, YOU DON’T EXERCISE, YOU HAVE BAD KNEES AND A BAD BACK, YOU NEED GLASSES, YOUR TEETH ARE BAD, YOUR HEARING IS GOING, YOU HAVE A SINUS CONDITION, YOUR HAIR IS DIRTY AND YOU HAVE DANDRUFF...

CAN YOU WRITE ME A PRESCRIPTION?

BLONDIE

11-24

WELL, HOW WAS THE START OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE MALL?

GOOD! VERY GOOD!

AND NOW I’M GOING TO COOK A FABULOUS DINNER FOR YOU, HONEY

UH-OH... IT WAS THAT GOOD?

BC

separatist

11-24

ONE WHO USES A DIVIDED PLATE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER.

WIZARD OF ID

11-24

SEND DOWN YOUR BEST MAN!

WHAT!...

THEY’VE FOUND OUR WEAK SPOT

AGNES

11-24

YOU MIGHT WANT TO WEAR YOUR COAT, AGNES. IT’S A BIT CHILLY.

GRANMA, I THINK I AM A BIT MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN YOU GIVE ME CREDIT FOR.

AND AS A RESPONSIBLE PERSON, I EVALUATED THE TEMPERATURE AND RESPONSIBLY DECIDED THAT A COAT WAS UNNECESSARY. IT’S WHAT RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE DO. WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

THE SIDEWALK IS SO VERY COLD ON THE LEFT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR RIGHT SHOE AGAIN.

HI AND LOIS

11-24

CAN YOU DRIVE ME TO JERRY’S?

THAT’S ONLY A FEW BLOCKS, YOU CAN WALK.

BUT I’M TIRED.

MY PARENTS MADE ME WALK A MILE AND A HALF TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

THAT’S ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO HITCH UP THE HORSE AND BUGGY.

THE OTHER COAST

11-24

I’M LOOKING FOR A STORAGE DEVICE.

SURE, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO STORE?

DIGITAL PHOTOS I TOOK ON MY HOLIDAY IN A CAMPER VAN WITH MY NI-LAUS, THREE TEENAGE BOYS, FOUR DOGS AND TWO CATS.

COMPUTER

SNUFFY SMITH

11-24

I THOUGHT YOU WUZ GONNA HALP ME WIF TH’ CHURNIN’, JUGHAID !!

COMIN’, AUNT LOWEEZY !!

ONE, TWO, THREE--ONE, TWO, THREE--CHURN THAT BUTTER NOW, SING WIF ME !!

BEETLE BAILEY

11-24

Z

HOW CAN BEETLE FALL ASLEEP STANDING UP?

THE SECRET IS TO LOCK YOUR KNEES

HE ALSO ANSWERS IN HIS SLEEP

Z

GREG-A-MUCK WALKER

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2006. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

On this date:

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species,” which explained his theory of evolution.

In 1863, the Civil War battle for Lookout Mountain began in Tennessee. Union forces succeeded in taking the mountain from the Confederates.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers based on Saipan attacked Tokyo in the first raid against the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, hijacker “D.B. Cooper” parachuted from a Northwest Airlines 727 over Washington state with \$200,000 in ransom — his fate remains unknown.

In 1985, the hijacking of an EgyptAir jetliner parked on the ground in Malta ended violently as Egyptian commandos stormed the plane. Fifty-eight people died in the raid, in addition to two others killed by the hijackers.

In 1987, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to scrap shorter- and medium-range missiles.

Today’s Birthdays:

Columnist William F. Buckley is 81. Country singer Johnny Carver is 66. Rock-and-roll drummer Pete Best is 65. Rock musician Donald “Duck” Dunn (Booker T & the MG’s) is 65. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 64. Former White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater is 64. Motion Picture Association of America President Dan Glickman is 62. Actor Dwight Schultz is 59. Actor Stanley Livingston is 56.

Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie; The Romantics) is 51. Record producer Terry Lewis is 50. Actress Denise Crosby is 49. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 44. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 44. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 36. Actress Lola Glaudini is 35. Actor Colin Hanks is 29. Actress Katherine Heigl is 28.

Thought for Today: “Slander injures three: the slanderer, the person who hears the slander, and the person slandered.” — From the Talmud, a collection of writings that constitute the Jewish civil and religious law.

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Newsday Crossword NO GREAT SHAKESPEARE by R. Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Classroom fixture

5 Permanent thing

9 Breakfast-buffet selection

14 Picnic spoiler

15 Somewhat

16 Still in the game

17 Farm unit

18 Cole Porter alma mater

19 Stiff

20 December Duck?

23 Born

24 “High” time

25 Put up

29 Smug smile

31 Upper limit

34 Guarantee

36 ABA member

37 Cocky Aesop character

38 Laughing at Love?

41 At this point

42 Gilbert & Sullivan princess

43 Arden, for one

44 Afore

45 Perpendicular

47 Calgary Stampede, e.g.

48 Greenland founder

49 Neighbor of Pak.

51 Illinois Lover?

58 Payroll deductions

DOWN

1 “Rats!”

2 A pop

3 Lineage info

4 Had no doubt

5 Gotham City bigwig

6 Weakens

7 Beneath contempt

8 Time without end

9 The Miraculous Mandarin composer

10 Unfamiliar

11 Byte starter

12 Malevolent

13 Walked first

21 Opening

22 In a way

25 Soak in the tub

26 Show the way

27 River to the Rhone

28 Fortune founder

30 Polite address

31 Gave a hoot

32 Sprang up

33 Marinara alternative

35 Actor

37 Good guy

39 Learned

40 Do without

45 Magic word

46 No-goodnik

48 Correct, as copy

50 Part of the Norwegian scenery

51 Sitar tune

52 Farm team

53 Iditarod end

54 Group (together)

55 “Hmmm...”

56 Correct, as copy

57 Hompipe dancers

58 Toe preceder

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By Holiday MAT... The Sagittarius mission is under... There's a phrase for each zodiac sign, and the one associated with Sagittarius is "I perceive." This is the time of year to expose yourself to new perceptions, open your mind and really them in.

Annie

Dear Annie: I've been a member of a local chapter of a prominent national organization for a little over three years... When I see Claire these other women sense no animosity even told Claire that her, and I also like of the women who suddenly give her a hard and I don't want to sides.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Sagittarius solar mission is underway. There's a phrase for each zodiac sign, and the one associated with Sagittarius is "I perceive." This is the time of year to expose yourself to new perceptions, open your mind and really soak them in. This practice increases your productivity, since it's impossible to reflect out what was never absorbed.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). States of mind are infectious. It feels as though someone else's feelings, desires or hang-ups have been transferred to you. But what you do with this is totally unique.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You radiate maturity. You let others need you instead of needing them.

For this reason, you're chosen for an important job or taken into a powerful person's confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Life is guesswork. You'll guess wrong a few times today, but so what? So you don't get what you expect, and life is much more interesting because of this!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a simple but spiritual time for you. You're not alone — even when you are, technically, alone. You're swimming in an ocean of living energy and in constant communication with all of the forces around you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The stars favor your financial dealings, especially if they involve the far-off future. Time is the most important factor in your financial plan. Figure out a way to make time work for you by stashing a little money away every day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want to take care of everyone, but sooner or later everyone has to

learn to take care of themselves. You can, however, help by teaching others practical and spiritual steps.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're embracing what's new and different. It keeps you alive and fresh! After all, active change prevents the passive change of gravity exerting its heavy plan.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just as you slip into a familiar rhythm, something startles you out of it. This is the way genius gets born. Your inventive mind needs a wake-up call every now and again — the stars provide it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If someone has the nerve to enter into your private life, learn your secret or mentally pluck a molecule from your spirit, you'll enjoy them more. You're at ease with audacity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You get so wrapped up in what you know and what's normal to you that you may mistakenly assume that your

way is normal to everyone. It's not. You're fascinating, especially to a Pisces or Taurus person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're busy with the business of making your deeds as dashing and chivalrous as possible. In other words, living large. All your risk taking is attractive to a conservative person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You voice a happy tone in spite of inconvenience or discomfort. It's like you're singing in the rain. It's just one of the ways you enforce and nurture your outstanding character.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: The Sagittarius sun pushes us out the door and into the world for new spices to add to our love soup. **ARIES:** Being in love keeps you up at night, a head full of ideas that may or may not be true. **TAURUS:** Your traditional approach to dating is officially stale. Get new information and a different approach. **GEMINI:**

When you spend time with your crush, it becomes less of a crush and more of an actual relationship. **CANCER:** You make initial contact. It's all-important.

However it goes, the rest of the relationship follows suit. **LEO:** Avoid even mentioning your "ex." At all. **VIRGO:** You're down to earth, sincere and funny. What more could a partner want? You're perfect! **LIBRA:** You and a partner have differing ideas about what's romantic — go with your partner's idea. **SCORPIO:** Little gestures tell on you. When you love someone, you can't help but give this person your undivided attention. **SAGITTARIUS:** You watch for a signal to proceed in love, and you're very successful because you're willing to wait. **CAPRICORN:** When you're comfortable, you can enjoy yourself. So get comfortable. Let yourself warm into romantic situations. **AQUARIUS:** Love feels like a bungee jump. **PISCES:** Friendship is the

anchor that keeps a romance alive and well.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: There's a bit of a rub between zodiac neighbors Sagittarius and Scorpio. Sometimes it's contentious friction, and other times, like this weekend, it's delicious friction — the stuff chick flicks are made of. You don't have to believe the same things to fall deeply in love. Arguing can be courtship, as long as neither takes the subject too seriously. This weekend, they play love like a game.

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.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I've been a member of a local chapter of a prominent national organization for a little over three years. In recent months, "Claire," a member of our ladies auxiliary, has been venting her frustrations at me over her perceived treatment from other ladies in the group. I've listened to her when she wanted to get something off her chest, but lately I'm left wondering if these frustrations are real or imagined.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

When I see Claire with these other women, I sense no animosity. I've even told Claire that I like her, and I also like some of the women who supposedly give her a hard time, and I don't want to take sides.

I've spoken to our chapter president about this, worried that Claire might quit. We need all the volunteers we can get. And Claire's husband, who is very supportive and valuable to our organization, would undoubtedly quit as well. The president said he would speak to Claire and her husband, but in the meantime, should I remain a "listening post" next time she vents? — Impartial Listener

Dear Impartial: Claire may be hypersensitive to minor slights, she may want attention, or she may, in fact, not get along with these women. If you can allow her to vent without registering approval (nod absently while she goes on), that would probably help Claire see you as a friend. If you don't want to hear her complaints, however, it's perfectly OK to distance yourself as politely as possible.

Dear Annie: One in 31 adults has arthritis, and there are 300,000 children with arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation is the largest private non-profit contributor to arthritis research. We are doing our best to get information to the community.

Some types of arthritis include:

Osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease in which the cartilage that covers the ends of bones in the joint deteriorates, causing pain and loss of movement as bone begins to rub against bone. It is the most prevalent form of arthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease in which the joint lining becomes inflamed as part of the body's immune system activity. Rheumatoid

arthritis is one of the most serious and disabling types, affecting mostly women.

Gout, which affects mostly men. This painful condition most often attacks small joints, especially the big toe. Fortunately, gout almost always can be completely controlled with medication and changes in diet.

Ankylosing spondylitis, a type of arthritis that affects the spine. As a result of inflammation, the bones of the spine grow together.

Juvenile arthritis, a general term for all types of arthritis that occur in children. Children may develop juvenile rheumatoid arthritis or childhood forms of lupus, ankylosing spondylitis or other types of arthritis.

Systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus), a serious disorder that can inflame and damage joints and other connective tissues throughout the body.

Scleroderma, a disease of the body's connective tissue that causes a thickening and hardening of the skin.

Fibromyalgia, in which widespread pain affects the muscles and attachments to the bone. It affects mostly women.

Arthritis is not just an "old person's disease." Arthritis and related conditions cost the U.S. economy nearly \$86.2 billion per year in medical care and indirect expenses. The Arthritis Foundation wants you to know who we are. We look forward to meeting new faces and building relationships. For more information, log on to www.arthritis.org or call the Arthritis Foundation nearest you. — Carla Bourg, Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Carla Bourg: Thanks for writing. We hope our readers will log on to your website for more information or contact their local foundation.

Dear Annie: I have been

married for 23 years and have three beautiful children. We live in the same city as my mother-in-law. Mom rarely attends our children's activities, but drives two hours to see the other grandchildren's soccer games and ballet recitals. She only calls when she needs something and then demands that we come over immediately and mow her lawn or change a light bulb.

Mom is rude to everyone, but what's most painful is how hurtful she is to our children. Last month, all the cousins spent the week with Grandma. Our children

asked if they could spend the night, and she said no, it would be too many kids. She promised to call and have them come over later, but it didn't happen. The day before the cousins went home, they showed up in my backyard eating ice cream and told my kids about all the fun things they did with Grandma. Our children were never invited to go swimming, to the park or mini golfing. How cruel not to include them, but how nasty to rub it in their faces.

Mom criticizes our home, our activities, the clothes we wear, you

name it. I try to be polite and mostly avoid her. I have thought about standing up to her, but she has a very quick tongue and is a master at manipulation. Any suggestions on how to cope with the monster-in-law? — Outlaws in Iowa

Dear Iowa: How does your husband feel about this? Can he stand up to his mother? She should absolutely know that her blatant favoritism is ruining her relationship with the grandchildren, not to mention with her son and daughter-in-law. However, if you can't convince her to change her

ways, keeping your distance is the best option. Your children should not be subjected to such unkindness.

Dear Annie: Can you do one more on having a lot of female children? Coming from a family of four girls, I remember my father responding to good-natured ribbing by saying, "Before I was married, I spent all my money on cars, clothes and girls. Now that I have children, I spend all my money on cars, clothes and girls." Poor man, all he ever wanted was his own bathroom. — Portsmouth, N.H.

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 2006

Bell a

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Director

Michael Bell, inter West Texas VA He since July, has been of the facility.

The appointment Veterans Affairs Nicholson and anno



Krystal Hughes of m show this Christmas

Shopp

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

No sales records but local retailers hopefully back into to-good sales du stages of the Chr season. Sales are not up

No su

By THOMAS JENKI

Staff Writer

Efforts to bring County Jail into with state regula hopefully back into with the Texas Co Jail Standards — focus of county co meeting Monday m

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