



## Aiming for excellence

*Teacher secures grant to help students read*

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A local teacher's efforts have secured a grant to help improve reading abilities of local elementary students.

Sandy Shelhamer, a first-grade teacher at Bauer Magnet School, applied for the grant through the Mars Foundation of Washington, D.C. last summer to help enhance the school's Leveled Library.

Leveled reading programs allow students to improve their reading skills as fast as their individual talent allows. It also concentrates on instruction of small groups, instead of entire

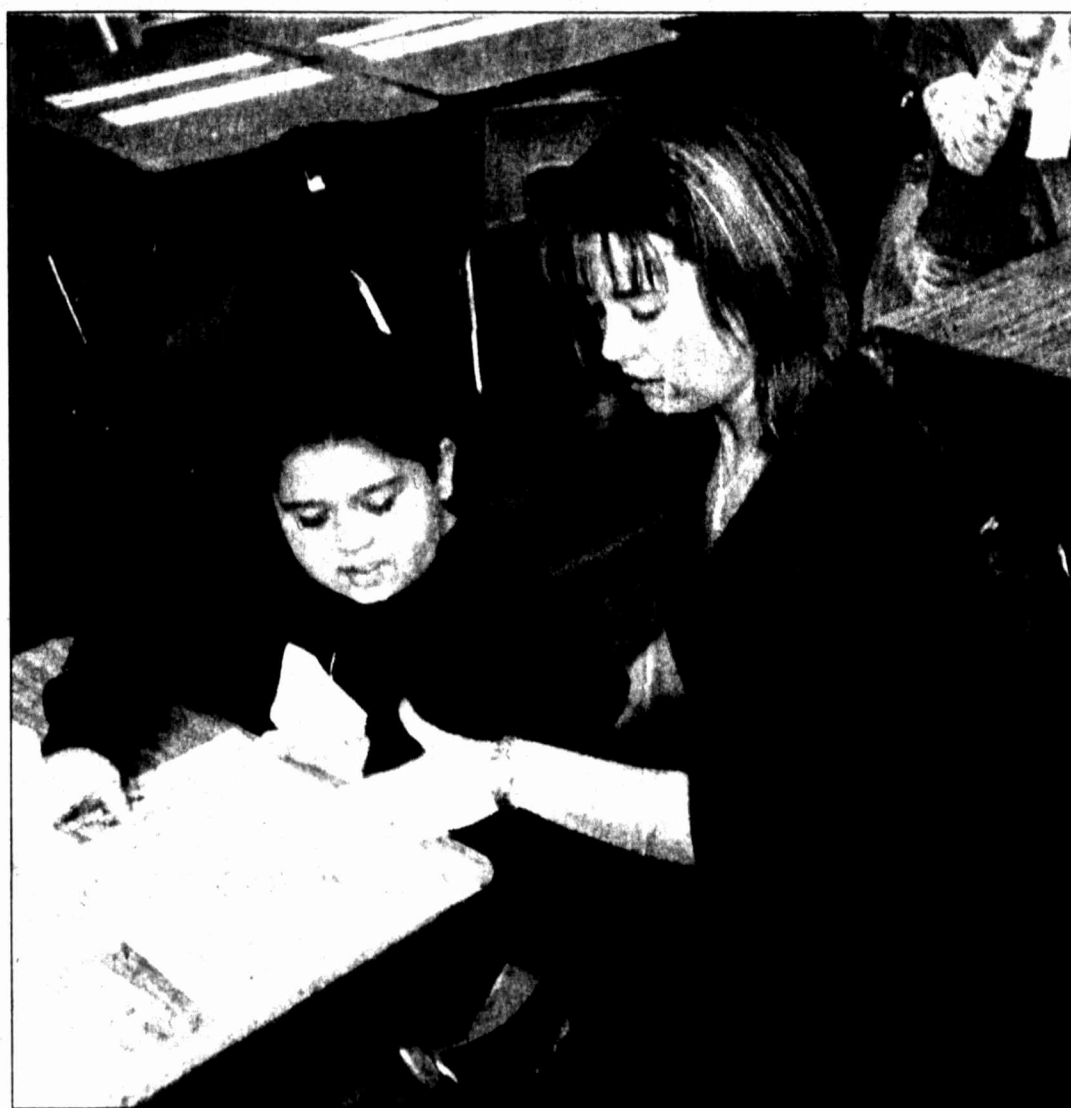
classrooms.

"Not everyone reads at the same level," Shelhamer said. "This way, the students find that reading is not too much of a challenge, nor is it too easy."

"(Leveled reading) gives students reading lessons they can understand at the grade level they're at and allows them to proceed at an accelerated rate," said Darrell Ryan, director of curriculum for the school district. "It has been a very successful program."

Thanks to Shelhamer's efforts, the school received a \$500 grant from the foundation that

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
Bauer Magnet School first-grade teacher Sandy Shelhamer helps one of her students with his reading Wednesday afternoon. Shelhamer recently helped secure a \$500 grant for the school to expand its accelerated reading program.

## On tap tonight

### Howard College

5:45 p.m., Howard College Luminaria and holiday activities. Begins with a Frito pie supper. Santa arrives at 6 p.m. Other activities include the Coahoma Kids Choir at 6 p.m., New Dimensions at 7 p.m. and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf students performing "My Little Angel" at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited at no charge.

### Hangar 25

6 p.m., Reception for William R. Banks Jr., Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month, officer's briefing room, 1911 Apron Drive. No charge. Public invited.

### Municipal Auditorium

7 p.m., "A Winter Fantasy," concert presented by choirs from all five local elementaries and Goliad Intermediate. Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Free to the public.

## City taking its time in replacing attorney

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

City of Big Spring officials are taking a slow-and-steady approach in the search for a new city attorney.

The city attorney post, which is a part-time position, will become vacant at the end of the year when Jean Shotts steps down after six years at



Shotts

the job. Shotts, who also represents about 25 other Texas municipalities in the same capacity, recently submitted his letter of resignation to city officials.

"It was a combination of factors, mostly economic," Shotts said in giving

the reason for his resignation.

Shotts served two stints as city attorney for Big Spring. He first assumed the post Jan. 1, 1998 and served until March 1990. He then returned to the city payroll in April 2000.

In addition to serving Big Spring as city attorney, he also represents various other communities, including

Brownfield, Wolforth, Crosbyton and Paducah.

Despite his wide-ranging duties, Big Spring remains special, he said.

"Big Spring was the first town I became city attorney at," he said. "This is where I basically started learning the job."

Mayor Russ McEwen expressed regret at Shott's decision.

"I'm disappointed,"

McEwen said, "because Jean has done a good job for us and I hate to see him go."

Shotts' resignation came two days after Big Spring City Council approved a motion to seek bids for a full-time city attorney. In that Nov. 16 meeting, McEwen said he was not dissatisfied with Shotts' performance, but said the council should

explore all opportunities. Councilwoman Jo Ann Staulcup said she was opposed to going out for bids because she believed Big Spring did not need a full-time attorney, which would require a secretary and office space. After discussion, the council voted down a Staulcup motion not to go out for

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## Settles back on slate for Moore Board

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring directors will give further consideration to a \$3 million question when they hold a special board meeting at noon Friday in the Chamber of Commerce board room.

The Settles Hotel Development Co., a Dallas-based firm that recently signed an agreement to purchase the Settles Hotel building in downtown Big Spring, recently asked the Moore board for a \$3 million grant to help finance renovations of the building, which has been vacant



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan  
Ethel Pringle holds a toy baby, one of thousands of toys Spring Tabernacle will be giving away during its Toys for Children ministry Friday.

## Spring Tabernacle faithful excited as toy project nears

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Ethel Pringle holds the baby close and smiles.

"See his little cheeks?" she says of the life-size doll. "He looks so real, just like a little baby."

"Except you don't have to have to diaper it," she adds, with a wink in her eye.

This is not Ethel's first Toys for Children giveaway at Spring Tabernacle Church. Nor it is the first for Dewey Byers, Karla Chavarria,

John Arista, Terry Miller or Ingrid Miller — all volunteers — and certainly not for Mona Lue Tonn.

"We're really excited about Friday. We're looking forward to it," says Mona Lue, who has continued the ministry at Spring Tabernacle since her husband, Arnold, passed away earlier this year.

The Toys for Children project began in 1995 and it's obvious by the piles and piles of neatly stacked toys and clothing that it is still going strong.

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### To reach us:

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

### DRIVE THROUGH NATIVITY

First Church of the Nazarene will hold its 20th edition of the Live Drive-Through Nativity Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the church grounds.

The event will be held nightly from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There is no admission fee; donations are accepted, however.

The 17-scene production involves more than 130 costumed participants and depicts the life of Christ from birth through his ascension to heaven.

Those who go will be presented with an audio cassette or compact disk providing commentary about each of the scenes as they drive through. For more information, call the church at 267-7015.

### HOWARD COLLEGE PLAY

Howard College will present "A Christmas Carol ... More or Less," starring Stefano LoVerso and Mary Irey, this weekend at Hall Center for the Arts on campus.

The play is about a divorcing couple who are forced to produce a two-person version of "A Christmas Carol." In the end, the story of reconciliation affects even them.

There are four performances: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

This holiday comedy is free to the public and presented by the Howard College Drama Department.

### 18 Shopping Days Til Christmas



Inside The  
Big Spring Mall  
267-6335



## Obituaries

### Walter Voight

Walter Voight, 59, of Houston, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 4, 2006, at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Shane Brue of First United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 26, 1947, in Big Spring to Roberta and Charlie Voight. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served in Japan. He was an electrician and a member of the Methodist church.

He is survived by two sons, Robert Voight of Houston and Matthew Voight of Lubbock; father, Charlie Voight of Big Spring; one brother, Charlie Voight Jr. of Schertz; and two sisters, Charlotte Rainey of Lubbock and Katherine Young of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janice Voight and his mother, Roberta Voight.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

### Altie Lambright



Altie Lambright, 96, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006, at her residence. Funeral services will be 4 p.m. Friday at Baptist Temple with the Rev. Mark Winn, First Baptist Sand Springs, officiating. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

She was born Feb. 2, 1910, in Eula to Telula Lee and James Hester. She married R. B. Lambright on April 24, 1927, at the Missionary Baptist Church in Lamesa. He preceded her in death Aug. 30, 1973. She was the manager of Nabors Laundries for a number of years and was a member of Central Baptist Church in Elbow.

She is survived by two granddaughters, Altie Winn and her husband Mark, and Barbara Reilly, all of Big Spring; four grandsons, Bill Ballard and his wife, Pat of Culpepper, Va., Courtney Ballard and his wife, Kelli and Tim Ballard and his wife, Kim, all of Big Spring, and Kent Ballard and his wife, Tammi of Guthrie; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Enola Myrlene Ballard and Telula Nadine Lambright; six sisters; and two brothers.

The family will be at 119 Hooser in Sand Springs. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Support Groups

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

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

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

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

**MONDAY**  
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

**TUESDAY**  
• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle.

## Police blotter

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

- RUBEN GUTIERREZ, 29, 206 N.E. 10th, was arrested on an Austin Police Department warrant.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1000 block of 21st.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.
- THEFT was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80 and the 900 block of Willia.

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

- SHANA RENEE ROBBINS, 37, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft and a bondsman off bond warrant for theft by check.
- DENVER RAY HEFFINGTON, 21, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation.
- RICKY RAY WINTERS JR., 20, was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Mesa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Sunset. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. Service was refused.

## Take Note

• A RED DRESS LUNCHEON will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Heritage Museum. Guests are invited to wear their red dresses and a fancy red hat. An award will be given to the woman with the best hat. Lunch will be provided by the Heritage Museum Events Committee. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Wednesday to reserve a place. Seating will be limited to 60 guests. For more information, contact the Heritage Museum at 267-8255 or go by 510 Scurry.

• THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP will have its final meeting Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. It will include a gift exchange. If you have any questions, contact Tracey at 263-4948.

• HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS, part of the Big Spring Heritage Series, are available for the holiday season; however, only a few remain. Sales of the ornaments supports community history and the museum. For information, contact Hangar 25 at 264-1999 or come by 1911 Apron Drive.

• 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 before distribution.

• DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES is giving flu shots Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 or no charge if you bring your Medicaid or Medicare card. Flu shots will be offered to everyone. For more information, call 432-263-9775.

## Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
  - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
  - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
  - Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month reception honoring William R. Banks Jr., 6 p.m. at the museum. The public is invited.
  - Howard College Luminaria lighting ceremony, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Hall Center amphitheater. Music by the Coahoma Kids Choir and New Dimensions. Free admission.
  - Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
  - A Winter Fantasy — a special presentation by choral groups of Bauer Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Marcy Elementary, Moss Elementary, Washington Elementary and Goliad Intermediate schools — begins at 7 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. There is no admission charge.
  - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
  - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
  - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
  - First Church of the Nazarene Drive Through Nativity, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. No admission fee; donations accepted.
  - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.
  - Howard College Christmas play, a two-person version of "A Christmas Carol," 8 p.m. in the Hall Center for Performing Arts.
- SATURDAY**
- Howard College Christmas play, a two-person version of "A Christmas Carol," 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Hall Center for Performing Arts.
  - First Church of the Nazarene Drive Through Nativity, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. No admission fee; donations accepted.
  - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

## Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Lows in the low to mid 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.  
Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.  
Friday night—Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.  
Saturday—Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.  
Saturday night—Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.  
Sunday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.  
Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 13-20-21-23-34-47. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$11 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-8-15-28. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$29,383. Winning ticket sold in: Geronimo. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-2-6

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World briefs

Iraq study group leaders to testify on report that offers no major course changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Praised by some and panned by others, the report of a high-level commission on ways to wind down the war in Iraq offered no startlingly new ideas but said a U.S. defeat still could be averted.

The co-chairmen of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, former secretary of state James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., were taking their 96-page report before a Senate committee Thursday to face questions on their assessment of conditions inside Iraq as well as their recipe for stabilizing the country and beginning the withdrawal of American forces.

Senate votes overwhelmingly to confirm Robert Gates as new secretary of defense in 95-2 vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted overwhelmingly to confirm Robert Gates as defense secretary, with Democrats and Republicans portraying him as the man who will help overhaul President Bush's Iraq policies.

The 95-2 vote Wednesday was a victory of sorts for Bush, who named Gates to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld at the Pentagon on Nov. 8, a day after voters gave Democrats control of Congress for next year.

Even so, much of Gates' support stemmed from his pledges to consider new options in Iraq. Overshadowing the vote was the release of an independent study lambasting Bush's approach to the war, increasing pressure on the White House to change course.

"I am confident that his leadership and capabilities will help our country meet its current military challenges and prepare for emerging threats of the 21st century," Bush said in a statement after the Senate vote.

He said Gates had shown during his confirmation hearing this week before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he is "an experienced, qualified, and thoughtful man who is well-respected by members of both parties and is committed to winning the war on terror."

Missing San Francisco man found dead in Oregon mountains after lengthy search

MERLIN, Ore. (AP) — A San Francisco man who struck out alone to find help for his family after their car got stuck on a snowy, remote road was found dead Wednesday, bringing an end to what authorities called an extraordinary effort to stay alive.

Authorities planned to announce the results of an autopsy on Thursday.

Searchers had been following James Kim's footprints in the snow and searching by helicopter since his wife and two young daughters were rescued Monday. They also found pieces of his clothing, which they believed he left and arranged to give searchers clues to his whereabouts in Oregon's Coast Range.

Before rescue crews could drop packages with clothing, emergency gear and provisions, a search helicopter spotted Kim's body at the foot of the Big Windy Creek drainage, a half-mile from the Rogue River, where ground crews and helicopters had been searching for days.

10 U.S. troops killed in Iraq; 8 Iraqis killed, dozens wounded in mortar attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Ten U.S. troops were killed in Iraq on Wednesday, a major blow on the same day a high-level panel in Washington recommended gradually shifting U.S. forces from a combat to a training role.

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group released recommendations for changing course in the country, saying President Bush's policy in Iraq "is not working." The Iraqi government said the U.S. report did "not come as a surprise," and it agreed that Iraq must take the lead in its own security.

"The situation is grave, very grave in fact, and cannot be tolerated," Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh said on the pan-Arab satellite TV channel Al-Arabiya. "Absolute dependence on foreign troops is not possible. The focus must be on boosting the Iraqi security forces."

The U.S. military said in a statement that 10 Americans had died in four separate incidents but gave no further details, pending notification of relatives. In addition to the 10 casualties, the U.S. command said two U.S. soldiers were

killed Sunday in Baghdad and a Navy sailor were killed in Anbar province on Monday.

The latest deaths raised to at least 30 the number of U.S. troops who have died this month.

Elections to restore Fiji to democracy may be 2 years away, interim prime minister says

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — The leader of this nation's fourth coup in 20 years grew increasingly isolated Thursday, as his hand-picked prime minister said the move was illegal, the nation's traditional leaders refused to back him and the international community expressed disdain.

The prime minister — military medic Dr. Jona Senilagakali — said Thursday it was unclear when democratic elections will be held in the South Pacific nation.

"That could be tomorrow, that could be next week, it could be in the next two years or more," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "Hopefully in 12 months, two years, we'll be able to have a general election."

Military commander Frank Bainimarama insisted that he had acted to save Fiji's democracy, which he said had been used as cover for the corruption of the officials he deposed. He has promised to return the nation to democracy.

Disputing Bainimarama's claims that the coup was working within the constitution, Senilagakali said: "There's no doubt about it, it's an illegal takeover."

The country's powerful council of tribal chiefs also refused to back the coup, throwing its support instead behind the nation's president, whom it appoints.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard attacked Bainimarama's efforts to justify his act.

"For all its flaws and the fact that it was struggling in many ways, Fiji had re-embraced democracy and what's happened is wrong, it's brutal and it's an unlawful military takeover," Howard said.

Bush to meet with Blair to chart new directions in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush faces urgent pressure to find a fresh strategy in Iraq as a new defense secretary heads to the Pentagon and a scathing bipartisan commission report says his war policies have failed and that "time is running out."

The Iraq Study Group's report said the situation in Iraq was "grave and deteriorating" after nearly four years of bloodshed and more than 2,900 American deaths. The report gave weight to the president's talks on Thursday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his closest ally in the unpopular war.

Bush, possibly with counsel from Blair, could embrace some or all 79 of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations. The president also could ignore them and chart his own new course based on internal reviews being done at the Pentagon, State Department and the White House.

"It's clear that the present situation is not one that could be sustained or accepted," White House press secretary Tony Snow said Wednesday.

The panel's recommendations ranged from gradually withdrawing U.S. combat forces during the next year to ramping up the training of Iraqi security forces to enlisting diplomatic help from Iraq's neighbors — not only to resolve problems in Iraq but to find an end to the long-running conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

NASA makes final preparations toward Thursday shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — NASA began moving the scaffolding that protects the space shuttle for bad weather early Thursday, despite lingering clouds and other weather woes that cast doubt on whether Discovery will blast off this week.

Discovery was scheduled to blast off Thursday evening and streak by a nearly full moon, taking seven astronauts on a mission to rewire the International Space Station.

As NASA resolved technical concerns Wednesday, two lurking weather problems gave NASA less than an even chance of launching Thursday. The official likelihood of good weather Thursday is only 40 percent and that drops to 30 percent Friday and nudges back up to 40 percent Saturday.

The biggest problem is a bank of low clouds that are sticking around because of a cold front coming through. NASA rules prohibit launching in low clouds because engineers need clear skies to observe the shuttle during ascent and in case of emergency, the shuttle commander needs to be able to see clearly enough to guide Discovery on a difficult back-flip maneuver to land back at Kennedy Space Center.

TOYS

Continued from Page 1A

"We've really been blessed this year," says Ethel. "Just look at all of this stuff."

Sunday school room after Sunday school room is full of potential gifts — stuffed animals in one, dolls in another.

Cars, trucks and airplanes line shelves in another room. Down the hall, there is a large room filled with clothes and shoes, sorted by age group, some for boys, some for girls. There is a room with toys and clothing for babies.

One of the items is a baby swing that operates off batteries.

"I've put lots and lots of batteries in things," said Dewey Byers, who has also done a lot of electrical work on the toys to get them running well and "kid ready."

In between the rooms are bags filled with stocking stuffers. And lots and lots of oranges.

All of the toys and clothing are clean and bright — a testament to the hard work volunteers have spent getting ready for Toys for Children Day, which is Friday.

Last year, Spring Tabernacle handed 262

children five presents each. That's in excess of 1,300 gifts to young boys and girls who might not otherwise had presents during the holidays.

Actually, they don't give the gifts directly to the children — that would result in a mele even Santa wouldn't want to imagine. Rather, the gifts are picked out by the parent, parents or guardian of the children.

"We ask that they don't bring their children unless they have to," says Mona Lue. "We just don't have enough volunteers to watch the children while someone takes the parent around to pick out toys. So if they must bring children, they need to bring someone to supervise them as well."

The toy giveaway starts at 10 a.m. at the church, located at 1209 Wright St. Any family that has a need is eligible. There is no registration, no need for proof of income. The program operates on faith.

"If they have a need, that is all we need to know," explains Mona Lue.

Those wanting to learn more about the Spring Tabernacle ministry can call Mona Lue at 263-0544. Leave a message if necessary.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

for several years. While supportive of the project, Moore officials expressed the need for caution before granting the firm's request.

"It's important that we do this right," board member Frank Parker said at the director's November meeting. "We have to make sure we follow all of the steps on this, and the first one is to get a letter of opinion from our attorney saying what we can and can't do."

The board decided at that meeting to first get a letter of opinion from its attorney on the legality of the action, then prepare a letter of intent to provide the needed funds.

Total cost to renovate the landmark has been estimated at between \$10 million and \$12 million.

Moore Development would provide \$3 million, with the rest coming from SHDC, officials said.

In November, SHDC agreed to purchase the Settles from the city of Big Spring for \$75,000.

Preliminary plans for the historic downtown building include commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

was immediately used to purchase books for the Leveled Library.

It was money that could not have come too soon to the school.



Shelhamer

"Our leveled library has a very small selection of leveled books available," Shelhamer stated in her grant application. "Many teachers face the problem of exhausting the resources that are available ... The goal of adding more books to the leveled library is to provide more materials that are appropriate for students' reading levels for small group instruction."

How well the leveled reading program works will be assessed this school year through teacher observation, as well as progress on report cards and student performance on TAKS and other standardized tests.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

bids, 4-3, and by the same margin accepted a motion to seek bids.

Shotts will remain on the job until the start of the new year. After that, city officials will begin the process of finding a replacement, McEwen said Wednesday.

"Obviously, we will advertise for people who are interested in interviewing for the position," he said. "But we haven't published the post yet."

McEwen added that there was no time frame in place for finding Shott's replacement.

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

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Marcella Fay Davis, 65, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Harold Wayne Branson, 65, died Sunday. Private family services will be at a later date.

Altie Lambright, 96, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Baptist Temple with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

Walter Voight, 59, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Royce Griffith, 72, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be 10:00 AM Saturday at East Fourth Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Drive-Through Nativity is real weekend must

Another of Big Spring's traditions of the Christmas season will be unveiled Friday night when the First Church of the Nazarene Drive-Through Nativity opens for a 20th consecutive year.

The nativity will hold nightly performances from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday on the church's grounds at 1400 Lancaster. Admission is free, but any donations visitors would like to make are greatly appreciated by the church and its congregation.

More than 3,000 people are expected to tour the nativity during its weekend run.

Featuring live characters and animals, the nativity portrays 17 scenes from the life of Jesus, from his birth through his death and resurrection.

Visitors will be handed a compact disc or audio tape which will provide the narration to each scene. Tapes are also available in Spanish.

About 150 people have been involved in this year's project, and the church's pastor, the Rev. Byron Brown, says the nativity is staffed by two shifts.

The story behind the nativity, as well as how the performers present that story, is what brings so many people to the church grounds each Christmas season, Brown explained.

"The fact that it has live characters ... seems to bring the story a sense of reality," he said. "And then there's the sheer size of it. It's one of the largest, if not the largest, nativity in Texas. Each night it literally takes hundreds of people to pull this off."

Anyone needing additional information can contact the church by calling 267-7015.

As we have noted before, Big Spring celebrates the Christmas season in a manner that can be matched by few communities anywhere, and the Drive-Through Nativity is an integral part of the Yuletide's festivities.

The season got under way last weekend with the Community Christmas Parade and the First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree. The Drive-Through Nativity takes center stage this weekend prior to the start of next week's debut of the Festival of Lights.

So, we encourage everyone to make the Drive-Through Nativity a part of their weekend plan. You won't be sorry. We're sure of that.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not lose sight of what You want for our life, Lord.  
Amen

# Breyer's dangerous jurisprudence

Many conservatives reportedly chose not to vote in November to protest the Republican Party's abandonment of conservative principles. One potential consequence of that boycott could be a forfeiture of the chance to finally secure a majority of "originalist" justices on the Supreme Court.

Granted, it was going to be tough enough for President Bush to win confirmation for another conservative nominee to the court in the face of a militant minority should a vacancy occur, but now that the Democrats have control it will be virtually impossible.

This is something disgruntled conservatives should contemplate before sitting the next one out. It is also something Republicans should consider before abandoning conservative principles to the point of alienating their base.

Chris Wallace's "Fox News Sunday" interview of Justice Stephen Breyer is a sobering reminder of the impact of the elections on the judiciary. Wallace asked Breyer about his book, "Active Liberty," released a year ago in which Breyer supposedly defended his practice of rejecting "originalism" in constitutional interpretation.

In the book Breyer wrote, "Since law is connected to life, judges, in applying a test in light of its purpose, should look to consequences including contemporary conditions, social, industrial and political, of the community to be affected." In my book, I noted that Breyer admitted he frequently makes decisions about a law's constitutionality using standards

other than merely interpreting the text of the Constitution or the Framers' intent.

Breyer said, "I tend to emphasize purpose and consequences. Others emphasize language, a more literal reading of the text, history, and tradition — believing that those help you reach a more objective answer."

I documented how Breyer's judicial approach plays out in his decisions. For example, he defended supporting patently inconsistent rulings in two separate cases involving Ten Commandments displays in front of courthouses in Kentucky and Texas based on the likely consequences of the Court's rulings.

Because the Texas monument had been on display for many years without incident he voted that it was constitutional. But the display before the Kentucky courthouse was much newer and likely to cause religious conflict, so he voted that it was unconstitutional.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist with a law degree to recognize that Breyer usurps legislative authority in rendering judicial decisions on such a basis. It is the prerogative of legislators, not judges, to weigh a law's impact on the community.

Who can reasonably deny that Breyer's approach diminishes the predictability and reliability of the law and the rule of law? It makes Breyer, in effect, a policy maker rather than a judge.

If the Ten Commandments cases don't rock your boat, consider the real life application of Breyer's judicial philosophy to free speech — a liberty every red-blooded American purports to cherish.

Breyer admits that he voted to uphold the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill, though he acknowledges that regulating campaign expenditures amounts to regulating speech "because no one can run for office and have his

message heard without money. So the First Amendment is involved."

But looking at consequences again, Breyer concludes he doesn't want the rich donors' speech to "drown out everybody else's. So maybe we have to do something to make that playing field a little more level in terms of money."

In other words, Breyer consciously suppresses speech selectively to ensure that all speech is equally projected. Breyer is simply imposing his political views through constitutional interpretation, seeking — as liberals do — to guarantee equality of outcomes rather than opportunities.

If you're still not alarmed, just think how Breyer's reasoning could be applied in other cases. We all know that liberals — long-ing for the days of the liberal media monopoly — have been frustrated over their inability to compete in the marketplace of ideas via talk radio.

Especially with the failure of "Air America" to mitigate conservative dominance and level the talk show playing field, liberals are salivating at the prospect of reinstating the "Fairness Doctrine" to emasculate conservative talk through the coercive power of government in a way the free market stubbornly refuses to.

Though I have long been aware of the liberals' dark conspiracy to resurrect the Fairness Doctrine to shut up their political opponents, I didn't fear the scheme, believing it couldn't pass constitutional muster.

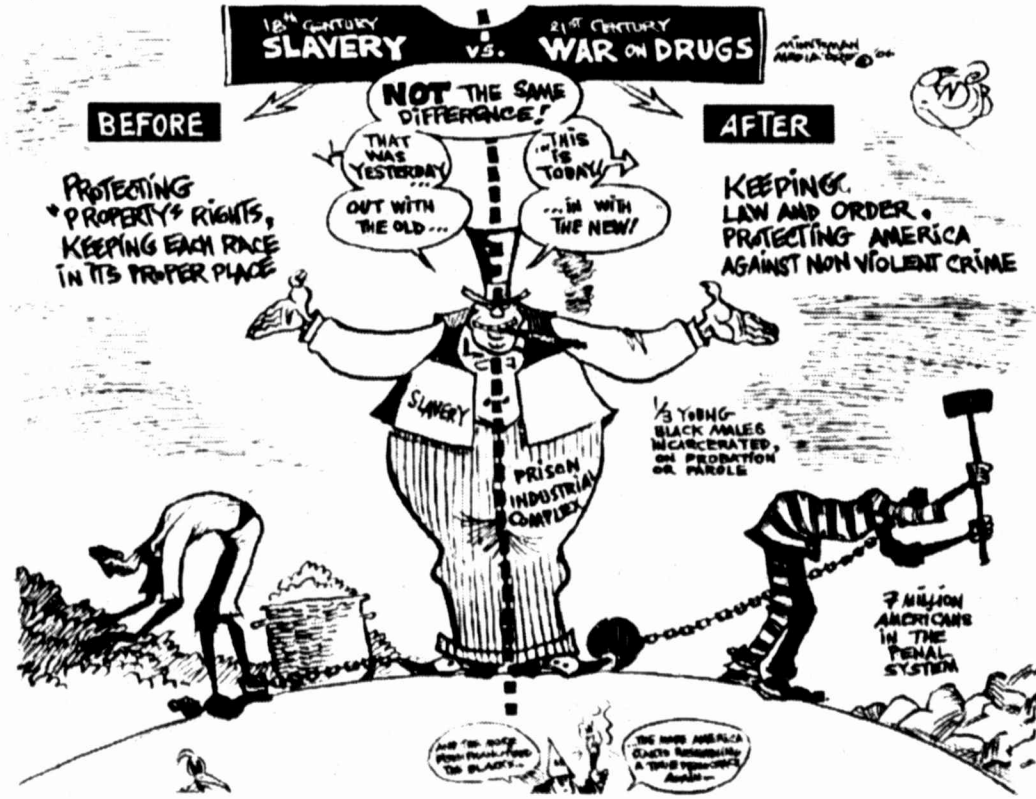
But after reading Breyer's spooky thought processes on constitutional jurisprudence, I realize I was way too sanguine.

Conservatives must never underestimate how important the composition of the courts is to the preservation of the Constitution and our liberties.

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DAVID LIMBAUGH



# Anti-drug laws damaging society

Cliff Thornton, the recent Green Party candidate for governor, is a man of commendable substance and character. One of his seminal comments during the campaign was "We've got to understand that the drug war is meant to be waged, not won."

Others have said much the same about the War on Terror, and all are right, but the election showed that the public might at least have caught the drift about terrorism. Not so about drugs. Voters still seem ready to punish politicians who seem to be "soft." This faulty faith in an incarceration ideology, promoted especially by the prison-industrial complex, is painfully damaging to society.

Take Hartford. New research has found that one child in six there has a parent in jail. Very few of these got sentenced for stock fraud or embezzlement. White-collar criminals are from the suburbs, and mostly they just get fines and probation. The heavy sentences are reserved for drugs and related crimes. Indeed, there exists a kind of puritanical belief that those of us who maintain freedom from such substances will vouchsafe a place for ourselves in heaven, as long as we persecute those who have fallen.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

Fortunately, our own purity is not considered smirched by occasional recourse to alcohol. This distinction between the two substances was clarified during the great temperance reformation in the 1930s. That's when Prohibition was finally repealed.

But while the glass of wine and the martini have long been welcomed back into the Kingdom of Heaven, not so the joint. Not even if you're deathly ill and cannabis is the only pharmaceutical that can bring relief. It carries the stigma of Subsequent Sin. Even baptism by incarceration cannot fully erase its stain.

The cost to society of this anti-drug religion has been enormous. And not just to hopeless junkies either. It's racial too. Drug laws purposely are drawn to punish blacks and Latinos with especial harshness. Not coincidentally, we also tie in restrictions on their right to vote. In some states, there is a lifetime prohibition.

But for the rich the rules are somewhat milder. "The New York Times" reports that in Manhattan, polite and well-groomed dealers will now deliver pleasantly packaged, high-quality marijuana to your door. No more murky street corners with lurking cops and bullets.

In Europe, this Reformation is much further along. Very few people over there go to jail for drugs these days. Users of pot are ignored and addicts of the harder

stuff are offered treatment. In some places, hopeless heroin victims even are given controlled amounts of it, often stabilizing them and sometimes straightening them out.

In this country, we're much more ideological. We deny pot to the desperately ill for fear it will "send the wrong message." We send mercenaries onto Afghani farms to tear out poppies, thereby fomenting a resurgence of the Taliban. We jail harmless drug users, isolating them from education, employment, family, and treatment, thus driving more and more citizens onto welfare and into crime.

Yes, there have been improvements. While our state still over-punishes for cocaine possession, at least it's now equal for blacks and whites. Penalties used to differ greatly for possession of crack cocaine (cheaper to buy) and the powder (expensive). Eleven states—not us—also allow medical marijuana use, though the feds are thrilled to jump in and arrest sufferers anyway. And California widely offers treatment instead of jail. Still, the drug war nationally continues to fuel crime syndicates, destroy families, and breed corruption here and in Mexico. That's a heavy price to pay for a false religion.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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# TOYS FOR CHILDREN



Bro. Terry Miller, evangelist from Winnipeg, Canada, Dewey Byers, Karla Chavarria and John Arista, left to right above, hold bags of stocking stuffers to be given away Friday during Spring Tabernacle's Toys for Children project.

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Good Judgment Is a Key Factor

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 7 6 3  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 7 3  
♣ A 8 4 2

**WEST**  
♠ 10 5 2  
♥ A 10 8 6 5  
♦ J 2  
♣ 9 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q 9 4  
♥ 1 9 2  
♦ 10 8 5 4  
♣ Q J 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A J  
♥ K Q 7  
♦ A K Q 9 6  
♣ K 10 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
3 NT

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Most of the decisions one makes at the table are clear-cut. There is an obvious bid or play to make, and it is made without much thought.

But there are times when what should be done is not so clear, and these are the times when good judgment is the decisive factor and when failure to judge correctly can prove very costly.

For example, take this case where you're in three notrump. West leads the heart six, and East plays the jack. Do you win the jack, or do you duck it?

If you duck, East returns a heart, and West, a first-class defender, lets you win the trick. You are now a dead duck, whatever you do next, and you go down one.

Now let's go back to trick one and take the jack of hearts with the king. If you blithely cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, hoping the suit divides 3-3 or West has four of them, this is not your lucky day. If and when you lead another diamond, East takes it with the ten and returns a heart, and down you go.

Then how should you play the hand, you might ask? The answer is that you should win the first trick, cross to dummy with a club and then return a diamond, planning to finesse the nine if East follows low.

True, the nine loses to West's jack, but you are then on Easy Street. Whatever West returns, you score two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs and are well-rewarded for the extra energy you expended at the outset.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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Contact the Herald at 263-7331 or e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com

# One of the best kept secrets in Howard County

Howard College has been a major part of Howard County and the surrounding area for 60 years. Yet when I came to work here in August of this year, I quickly learned how little I actually knew about Howard College and everything it does for the communities it serves while providing a top notch educational opportunity!



CINDY SMITH

In writing this column for you, the readers, I want this to be an opportunity to share details about our "family tree" that don't always touch the lives of the ordinary citizen. I want you all to become more aware of who we are, what life is like at Howard College and what we have to offer you, no matter who you are. Writing a column is something new to me and to Howard College but I feel certain that if you stick with us and become an avid reader of "Howard HawkLines" you will quickly learn more about Howard College and what might be waiting around the corner for you in the world of education.

As I was thinking of topics for this inaugural piece of work, I had difficulty in knowing where to start. There is so much to share and I find it difficult to choose just one subject! Do I talk about our great faculty, the people who work behind the scenes to make it all come together, the new and innovative classes and programs we have, our four campuses, our outstanding president and board of trustees or, better yet, the best students in the community college world. All of these things and more make up "who we are" at Howard College and I think it is important for you to get to know us a little better.

Hawks are keenly intelligent, aggressive birds of prey. There are many different species yet they all have commonalities that link them together. They are believed to have eyesight that is eight times more powerful than a human and they use their eyesight to perfect their life-sustaining hunting and feeding habits. The hawk is much like our student body ... but let me explain that in greater detail. Out student body is varied in "species" yet they all have a passion for knowledge in common; they are keenly intelligent and are increasing their intelligence on a daily basis. They each have their own superior gifts and talents and they are

learning to use those skills to improve their quality of life through education. Let's take a quick look at our student body and you'll see what I mean. Did you know that we have 15 students from California or that we have students from Canada, France, India, Nigeria and Serbia? It is true, a large majority of our students are from Howard County but we also serve 13 counties and 29 different school districts. We are a premiere community college that reaches out to all learners and offers an affordable, high quality educational opportunity to everyone who enters our doors. We have students as young as 68 or

15 — proof that it's never too early or late to broaden your horizons and learn something new. One hundred and three of our students represent Howard College in athletics and we have even more students who participate in various college clubs and activities such as Phi Theta Kappa, HC Diplomats, Baptist Student Ministry or the Student Government Association. We had a record enrollment in the Fall of '06 and I am confident that we will see another record breaking semester in Spring '07. Approximately 32 percent of our students are taking at least one class through our Distance or Online learning opportunities — that's more than

## HOWARD HAWKLINES

1,000 students utilizing our state of the art technology to increase their brain power! And thanks to our high quality dual credit/concurrent program, it is safe to say that more than 800 high school students are getting on the fast track to their college education. Howard College is proud to say that 67 percent of our students have received some form of financial aid which has served as the key to unlock the educational world for many. We truly are a college for everyone and are proud of our diversity.

Howard College is home to many different "hawks" and try as I may, there is no way I could ever share all the information about each one them in one column. But never fear, I'll be here every other week to bring you into the Howard College family and let you in on one of the best kept secrets in Howard County. Until then, always remember ... "Howard College ... For Learning, For Earning, For Life!"

Cindy Smith is the director of information for Howard College.

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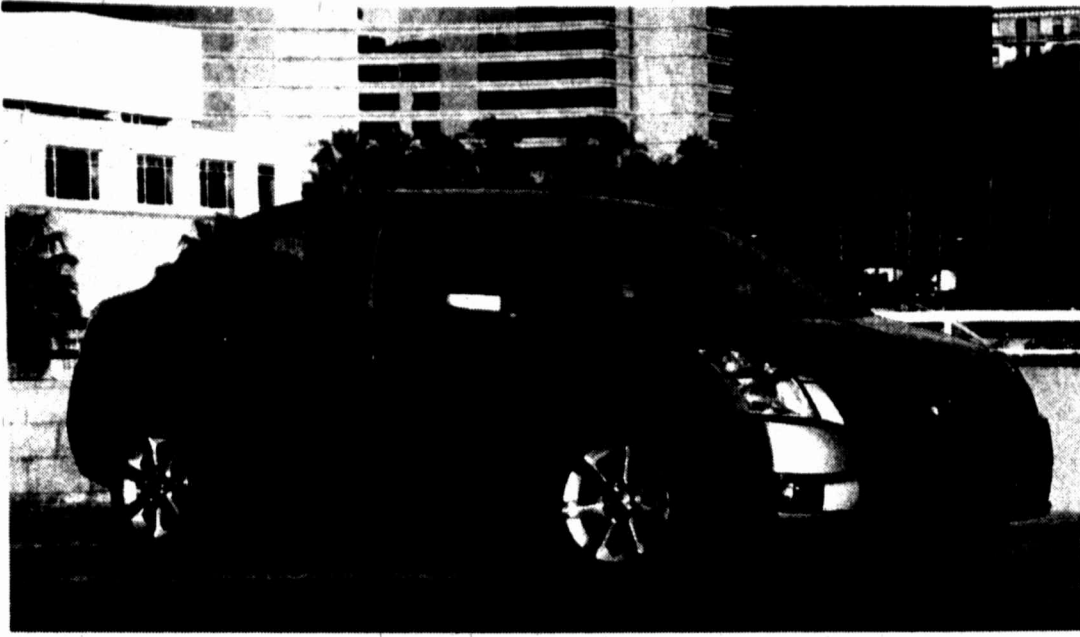
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Nissan's 2007 Sentra



Nissan's 2007 Altima

# Something new:

Sentra, Altima redesigned and key to Nissan's success

By MATT NAUMAN  
San Jose Mercury News

Nissan has been selling its mid-size Altima sedan in the United States since fall 1992. The company built its first Sentra on American soil in March 1985, at its then-2-year-old Tennessee factory, but it first put cars with that name on sale here in 1982.

This short history lesson comes courtesy of Nissan, which put its sixth-generation Sentra on sale last month and its fourth-generation Altima on sale last week.

Rather than mere placeholders in some historical timeline, the Sentra and Altima are key players in the success or failure of Nissan. How important? In 2005, they represented about 375,000 sales for Nissan's U.S. dealers. The two models were 80 percent of all Nissan cars and nearly 40 percent of all Nissan vehicles — cars, trucks, vans and sport-utility vehicles — purchased by U.S. buyers.

Both Sentra and Altima get new exterior and interior designs for 2007. They share Jell-O smooth styling that's flowing and minimalist. It mixes European and Japanese design sensibility. That's no surprise as Nissan is now part of Renault, a French automaker.

Other than their common design language and newness, the two cars share little.

The Sentra is a four-door compact built off Renault-Nissan's Global C platform. It carries a new 140-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, and is priced from \$14,750 to \$18,400. It is manufactured in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

The Altima is a mid-size sedan, a rival of the Toyota Camry and Honda

Accord. It's a shorter car than the previous version, which will improve its sportiness, Nissan executives said. Buyers can pick from a revised 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine that makes 175 horsepower or a new 3.5-liter V-6 that produces 270 horsepower. Priced from \$17,950 to \$28,400, the Altima is made in Tennessee and Mississippi.

These are the essential cars that keep Nissan in U.S. driveways. They're important as Nissan, whose revival over the past decade has been well documented, recently reported its first global operating profit and sales declines in several years. A successful launch also sets the stage for more glamorous products such as the GT-R sports car that arrives in 2007.

"These cars aren't the darlings of the performance set and they won't get a lot of enthusiast press ink, but they are just the kind of bread-and-butter sellers that keep dealerships hopping," said Jack Nerad, executive editorial director at Kelley Blue Book.

Here's a look at the two new Nissan models.

**SENTRA:** Nissan has sold more than 3.8 million Sentras to U.S. buyers since 1982, but the 2007 model represents significant change, said Ken Kcomt, the car's chief product specialist. Exterior and interior design work was done at Nissan Design America in San Diego and some other development work was done at Nissan's North American Technical Center in Detroit.

Nissan is marketing the new Sentra to echo boomers, a 71 million-person group born from 1977

to 1996. "In studying these echo boomers, we found them to be very, very busy," Kcomt said. "We thought of the car as being a mobile backpack for them."

Design-wise, the stereo was put more prominently on the dashboard and the shifter was moved from between the seats to a higher location to make the car more functional for users. Dimensionally, the Sentra grows 2.3 inches longer, 3.2 inches wider and 4.0 inches taller. Its wheelbase increases by a dramatic 5.9 inches.

"It produces a cabin that's significantly larger than the competitors," said Kcomt. Rivals include the Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Mazda3 and Chevrolet Cobalt.

Powering the Sentra is a 140-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder. It features variable-valve timing and makes 147 pound-feet of torque. It represents a significant leap from the 2006 Sentra, which featured a 1.8-liter four that made 126 horsepower and 129 pound-feet of torque.

"When consumers shop, they compare horsepower numbers," Kcomt said. "When they drive, they're comparing torque."

The only available transmission is Nissan's Xtronic CVT (continuously variable transmission), which works like an automatic but doesn't have gears.

Touting its larger size and more powerful engine makes sense, Kcomt said, but the car's budget-conscious buyers will certainly ask about fuel economy, too.

Those numbers rise, thanks in large part to the CVT, from 28 mpg in the city and 34 on the highway in 2006 to 29/36 in

2007, according to U.S. government ratings.

Neat features on the car include an eight-CD holder that fits above the visor and can be taken out of the car; cup holders that adjust to hold large 32-ounce soda cups and small cell phones; small nets in addition to the usual behind-seat pockets; and a trunk divider that makes for a place to hide items.

Dual front, side and side-curtain air bags are standard, anti-lock brakes are an option on all models and a stability control system isn't offered.

**ALTIMA:** Compared with the Sentra, changes to the Altima are less significant. Still, Nissan executives insist the car's improved driving characteristics are worth noting.

"This generation Altima represents both an evolution and a revolution," said Pete Haidos, the car's chief product specialist.

The current Altima was a "huge success" for Nissan, Haidos said. Annual sales grew from 153,000 in 1999 to 255,000 in 2005. That made it the fourth-most-popular car on the U.S. market last year.

In wheelbase, width and height, the 2007 Altima varies little from the 2006 version. But its 2.5 inches shorter to give it a more aggressive look. That reduction in length is coupled with a new front suspension and a stiffer body. The goal, Haidos said, is to make the Altima "the world's best performing front-wheel-drive sedan."

Analyst Nerad describes the decision to make a shorter Altima "a risk in a segment where bigger is usually seen as better." Owners of the current

version complained about torque steer and the car's interior quality. Both areas have been improved, Haidos said. The car has less body roll but still offers good ride comfort. The cabin gets a new look, complete with chrome trim, padded armrests, bigger seats and a new instrument panel design.

The car's four-cylinder engine gets 100 new parts. Its performance numbers don't change — 175 horsepower and 180 pound-feet of torque, but Nissan said both acceleration and fuel economy improve. It describes the 3.5-liter V-6 as a "next-generation" engine. Horsepower grows from 250 in 2006 to

270 in 2007; torque is up 9 pound-feet to 258.

A six-speed manual or a CVT can be had with each engine. Six air bags, a push-button starter with a smart key and dual-zone air conditioning are standard on all models.

The typical Altima buyer is 45 years old. About three-fourths of owners are married. But, the Altima's appeal to men and women varies based on its engine, Haidos said. With the four-cylinder, 61 percent of buyers are women. With the V-6, 57 percent are men. With Toyota's Camry, women represent 56 percent of four-cylinder buyers and 55 percent of V-6 buyers.


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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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# TAKS overhaul to be legislative priority

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Legislative leaders said Wednesday that revamping standardized testing for high school students will be a top priority during the upcoming legislative session.

Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said he'll ask lawmakers to approve a plan to replace the sweeping Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills with end-of-course exams in each of the core high school subjects. The proposal also could require high school juniors and seniors to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams at state expense.

The 140-day legislative session starts Jan. 9.

Teachers already have expressed opposition to end-of-course exams.

"All you're doing is taking one big test and making that many more tests that they still have to pass to pass the course," said Adam Rondeau, a spokesman for the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

The high-stakes nature of the TAKS test came under fire during this year's gubernatorial campaign. Many teachers and parents have complained that too much time in the classroom is spent preparing students for the test.

The federal No Child Left Behind law requires states to use standardized testing to mea-

sure students' progress each year. Teacher bonuses also are tied to test results.

"I think now is the time we need to start moving towards end-of-course exams," Dewhurst said. "It'll eliminate a lot of the concerns and the criticisms by our teachers."

Dewhurst acknowledged that the proposal was still in the planning stages and many details had not been finalized.

An advantage of moving to end-of-course exams would be that students are tested only in the subjects that they have taken, said Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, who heads the Senate Education Committee.

Under the TAKS structure,

for instance, a 10th grade student taking algebra might still be tested on geometry curriculum, even though the student hasn't yet taken geometry, Shapiro said.

"The teacher is having to teach them geometry to answer the questions on this cumulative TAKS test," Shapiro said.

Students take the TAKS every year starting in the third grade, and cannot advance to certain grades unless they pass certain subjects. Proficiency in all six subjects is required for graduation. Schools face sanctions ranging from staff changes to closure if too many students fail for four years in a row.

"We've got to maintain some objective standard to evaluate

how we're doing vis-a-vis other states," Dewhurst said. "And I think an SAT test or an ACT test where every student is required to take it is probably a good medium. Again, that's more of a comprehensive test so we won't have that concern about teaching to the test."

The TAKS test could get a makeover in lower grades too.

"We're probably going to reformulate that TAKS test also," Shapiro said. "I think there needs to be some changes."

Dewhurst and Shapiro both said they'd also like to overhaul the way school facilities are funded and pass legislation to address charter schools during the session.

## State briefs

### Girl in foster care dies from injuries

DALLAS (AP) — The arrest of a 14-year-old boy for allegedly causing the death of his 6-year-old foster sister by body slamming her has prompted an "unprecedented" review of homes associated with the private foster agency that placed the girl, a state spokesman said.

Katherine Frances died Tuesday from injuries DeSoto police say resulted from her foster brother throwing her to the ground at least four times on Sunday.

The boy, who is the son of the foster parents who were caring for Katherine and her three siblings, is being held in a juvenile detention center on suspicion of murder.

The DeSoto foster-care home was until recently overseen by Mesa Family Services, an agency that was already under scrutiny for the deaths of two young children in its homes in the past 17 months.

"What we have done is launch an unprecedented intervention effort to address the deaths in homes formerly overseen by Mesa," said Patrick Crimmins, spokesman for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. "The plan is designed to ensure the safety of more than 300 children in foster homes in more than 20 Texas counties."

The state stopped placement of children in Mesa's homes earlier this year after the September death of a 16-month-old girl in Corsicana and the August 2005 death of a 3-year-old girl in Arlington. Both died of head injuries.

Police questioned Yeoman after being contacted by Denver station KUSA-TV asking about Yeoman's record.

Sepia Photo Promotions, which operates the display at the Westminster Mall, in a statement said it dismissed Yeoman and his wife, who managed the display, after learning of Yeoman's record.

"Mr. Yeoman was removed as a result of the investigation into his past and not as a result of any inappropriate handling of children..." the Cypress, Texas-based company said in a statement.

Rangers, helicopters from the Texas Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement agents and private prison workers.

### Carjacker gets 50 years, joins mom in prison

DALLAS (AP) — A self-described white supremacist who committed two carjackings and then conspired with his mother to threaten the victims of those crimes was sentenced to 50 years in prison Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis said the lengthy sentence was appropriate for Gary Dale Stanley Jr., 42, citing his "violent and dangerous criminal conduct" and his "egregious criminal record," according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper.

In September 2005, Stanley attempted to rob a Rowlett woman and carjacked two others, leading authorities on two chases during the spree. Police eventually stopped pursuit because Stanley was driving recklessly through school zones and past school buses. Stanley was arrested later when an officer spotted him riding a stolen bicycle.

While he was in prison, his mother, Margaret Menough, 58, called the victims and warned them to drop the charges and refuse to testify, authorities said. She threatened their lives and the lives of their family members.

Authorities intercepted calls between Menough and her son in which the pair discussed threatening and intimidating the women.

Menough pleaded guilty to two counts of tampering and was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison.

### Idaho inmate remains on the loose

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho inmate who fled a private Texas prison four days ago remained at large Wednesday while authorities searched with helicopters and tracking dogs, the Idaho Department of Correction said.

Scott Noble Payne, 43, escaped Sunday evening from the Dickens County Correctional Center, run by Florida-based Geo Group Inc.

Payne, serving time for aggravated battery and lewd and lascivious conduct, is one of 463 Idaho inmates who have been shipped to Texas, Minnesota and other out-of-state facilities since last year due to overcrowding in prisons at home.

Idaho inmates at private prisons in Texas have been the subject of controversy, with a previous breakout in June and allegations of abuse that preceded the firing of some Geo Group staff and the transfer of inmates to other prisons — including Dickens County.

So far, Payne has eluded searches by the Texas

### Police: Registered sex offender did not break law working as Santa photographer

WESTMINSTER, Colo. (AP) — Police found no wrongdoing by a registered sex offender employed as a photographer taking pictures of children on a mall Santa's lap, though the Texas company that operates the display on Wednesday said he has been dismissed.

Jonathan Yeoman had no court restrictions preventing him from being around children, Westminster police spokeswoman Stephanie Topkoff said. Yeoman is a registered sex offender because of a 19.2 conviction of child molestation in Indiana.

Being a registered sex offender does not automatically prevent someone from being around children, Topkoff has said.

"We have received no complaints of any criminal offense on the part of Mr. Yeoman," Topkoff said.

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# Sports

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Thursday, December 7, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### Odessa Roughnecks holding tryouts

Football tryouts will be held this Saturday for the Odessa indoor football team at Ratliff Stadium, beginning at 8 a.m. The roughnecks have signed several key players over the past three seasons and they are expecting to do the same this weekend. Interested players should contact the teams office for registration at (432) 332-pass (7277) or visit the team website at www.roughnecks.com

### TCU Frogs defeat UTSA, 62-46

Brent Hackett scored 15 points, including three 3-pointers, to help lead TCU to a 62-46 win over Texas-San Antonio on Wednesday night.

Alvarado Parker came off the bench to add 12 points for the Horned Frogs (5-3). He led the team with eight rebounds.

The Roadrunners (3-6) held TCU scoreless for the first six minutes of the game, but the Horned Frogs went on a 23-8 run to take the lead for good. TCU led 28-20 at the half.

Melvin Smith led Texas-San Antonio with 11 points. Keith Spencer added 10 points and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds.

The Roadrunners hit only 33 percent of their field goals and turned the ball over 16 times.

### Garnett and T-Wolves shoot down Rockets

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves showed the league's stingiest defense that they can play a little bit of it, too.

Pushing Yao Ming out of the post as much as possible and denying Tracy McGrady as many shots as they Kevin Garnett turned in the usual, with 24 points and 12 rebounds, but his long arms against Yao were more influential.

"Defense wins, though. That's what the fans want," Garnett said. "It might not be the prettiest game. Not the alley-oops or the flashy plays, but we're winning the game and that's what's important."

Yao had 14 points — more than 11 under his average — and eight rebounds, shooting 5-for-19 from the field. McGrady, though, he had 10 rebounds and seven assists, finished with 14 points on 5-for-21 shooting.

### Dallas Stars shut out Phoenix Coyotes

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Turko made 23 saves for his 27th NHL shutout and Stars

## Howard College basketball classic arrives

MIKE GRIMES  
Sports Editor

The Howard College Women's Basketball Whitten Inn Classic will tip off this Friday afternoon at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The first game of the classic will feature Jacksonville College vs. Ranger College at 4 p.m. That game will be followed by Howard Hawks vs. Hamilton College at 6 p.m. Hamilton has made the trip from Nebraska to participate in the Classic.

"The Whitten family is excited to have the teams staying with us this weekend," Nati Robles, the Whitten Inn manager said. "We really wanted to give back to the community and thought that this was a great way to touch the lives of student athletes. We are hoping that these young women will enjoy their visit to Big Spring and we know they will find comfort at the Whitten Inn. We are both proud and privileged to be a part of this basketball classic."

On Friday there will be a triple header, as the No. 5 ranked men's team will welcome Trinidad State College to town as a featured game starting at 8 p.m.

One ticket will allow all patrons access to the three basketball games.

"We have some pretty good teams coming in here this weekend," said Eric Rodewald, the Sports Information Director at Howard College.

"Jacksonville gave Midland a really good game early in the season, they should be a fun team to come out and watch. Ranger gave us a tough game earlier in the year and even



Howard's Kandace Griffin (21) is greeted by teammates before the Hawks take the court against Wayland Baptist Tuesday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Friday at 4 p.m. the Whitten Inn Classic will tip off at the Coliseum.

though we beat them, I know they would like nothing better than to come in here, into our house and hand us a loss in this classic."

On Saturday, Jacksonville will square off against Hamilton at noon and Howard will face Ranger College in the final game at 2 p.m.

"We're hoping that everyone will come out and support the teams we have brought in this year," Rodewald added. "It's going to be a great opportunity to see three games on Friday and then to see a couple of games on Saturday. It is definitely going to be worth seeing."

For the Howard Hawks men's

and women's basketball teams, this will be the final game in December.

The two teams will return to the court after the winter break and conference play is set to begin at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Jan. 13, as both teams host I-20 rival, Midland College.



Defensive MVP Colter Schwartz stops the ball carrier and causes a fumble in early season action for the Bearkats.



Bo Eggemeyer rushed for over 1,900 yards as a junior this season. He was tabbed offensive MVP for his efforts.

## 'Kats dominate all-district team

MIKE GRIMES  
Sports Editor

When the football awards were announced this week in Class Six-Man Division I — District I football, the Garden City Bearkats took MVP honors for offensive and defensive player of the year and coach of the year.

After winning the district with a 10-0 record in his first season at Garden City, it came as no surprise that Vance Jones was picked as Coach of the Year.

With a total of 23 starters on offense and defense named for All-District awards, the Bearkats filled over half (13) of those positions and then added another six players who were voted to the second team.

The offensive MVP was running back Bo Eggemeyer.

Eggemeyer rushed for 1,971 yards and 33 touchdowns this season. He not only led the district champions in rushing as a junior, but he also set a Garden City school record when he rushed for 289 yards on Oct. 27, when the Bearkats defeated Rankin.

The defensive MVP was senior linebacker Colton Schwartz.

Schwartz led the Bearkats with 157 total tackles — 25 were for a loss — had three fumble recoveries and four interceptions this season.

The following players received First Team offensive awards:

Quarterback: Evan Jansa (Sr.) Garden City.

Running back: Bo Eggemeyer (Jr.) Garden City, Kyle Johnson (Sr.) Garden City and Adrian Hernandez (So.) Fort Davis.

Full Back: Jadon Morgan (Sr.) Rankin.

Receiver: Taylor Niehues (Sr.) Garden City.

Tight End: Sam Long (Sr.) Garden City.

Center: Robert Ortega (Sr.) Fort Davis.

Spreadback: Garrett Avalos (Jr.) Rankin.

Utility Back: Jacob Alvarado (Jr.) Fort Davis.

Kicker: Taylor Niehues (Sr.) Garden City.

Special Teams Player: Chase Obrien (Sr.) Garden City.

The following players received First Team defensive awards:

Nose Guard: Kyle Johnson (Sr.) Fort Davis.

Defensive Linemen: Jadon Morgan (Sr.) Rankin and Blain Walker (Sr.) Garden City.

Linebackers: Colton Schwartz (Sr.) Garden City and Taylor Fields (Sr.) Grady.

Corners: Jacob Alvarado (Jr.) Fort Davis and Cade Halfmann (Sr.) Garden City.

Safeties: Joe Ramos (So.) Fort Davis and Jason Flores (Sr.) Garden City.

Utility Player: Roy Rodriguez (Jr.) Grady.

Punter: Jerad Bradford (Sr.) Garden City.

The following local players received Second Team offensive and defensive awards:

Center: Ryan Machicek (Sr.) Garden City.

Utility Back: Jared Bradford (Sr.) Garden City.

Defensive Lineman: Luis Zuniga (Sr.) Garden City.

Cornerback: Nick Sanchez (Jr.) Garden City.

Safety: Taylor Niehues (Sr.) Garden City.

Utility Player: Pancho Zuniga (Jr.) Garden City.

## Knight reflects back to OSU days

RUSTON, La. (AP) — Bob Knight reflected back on his own playing days after his latest coaching milestone, summing up his thoughts as only Knight can.

The 66-year-old Knight tied legendary Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp for second place on the career victory list Wednesday night as Texas Tech beat Louisiana Tech 66-59. Knight's 876th victory also moved him within three of tying former North Carolina coach Dean Smith for the most in Division I history.

When asked about tying Rupp, who coached at Kentucky from 1930-1972, Knight talked about the years he played at Ohio State.

"The thing I remember about Adolph Rupp is that one time I scored seven points against the ornery son of a bitch to help beat him," Knight said, referring to Ohio State's 87-74 victory over the Wildcats in the 1961 NCAA tournament. "That's a lot bigger in my memory than this."

The coach and his players did all they could to play down the significance of the win.

When the final buzzer sounded, Knight quickly walked over to shake hands with Louisiana Tech coach Keith Richard then headed off the court with his head down. Except for one other salty comment from Knight, neither he nor his players acknowledged the milestone after the game.

Knight began his coaching career at Army in 1965. Six years later he moved to Indiana, where he won three national championships and coached for 29 seasons.



# That's Racin'

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Go online and check out [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com) for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

"I can't even tell you what an honor that is. It's historic and mind-boggling."

— Nextel Cup champion Jimmie Johnson, on joining Lee Petty, Richard Petty, Cale Yarborough and Jeff Gordon as the only drivers to win both the Daytona 500 and the series title the same year.



## POLL POSITION

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who would be your choice for NASCAR driver of the year?

Cast your vote at:  
[www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

## RACIN' NOTES

### Coleman signs with Joe Gibbs Racing

Brad Coleman, 18, has signed to drive 17 Busch races in the No. 18 car for Joe Gibbs Racing next year, sharing that ride with Nextel Cup veteran Tony Stewart and second-year Busch driver Aric Almirola.

The Houston native raced in the ARCA stock car series this year, earning eight top-five finishes in nine total starts averaging a third-place finishing position for the season.

— That's Racin' staff



The Joe Gibbs Racing No. 18 Busch series car will be driven by Brad Coleman, Tony Stewart and Aric Almirola next season.

### Track plan in metro New York area derailed

International Speedway Corp. President Lesa France Kennedy says the company thinks metropolitan New York is a "prime location" for a major motorsports facility, but ISC has decided the site it had picked won't work.

ISC, which owns several speedways used for NASCAR races such as in Daytona Beach, Fla., Talladega, Ala., and Darlington, S.C., announced Monday it will discontinue its effort to develop a track on 676 acres it owns on Staten Island.

The company said it "will explore alternative strategies" for the land.

In a news release, ISC cited "the inability to secure the critical local support that is necessary to secure the required land-use change approvals for a speedway development."

ISC wanted to build a three-quarter-mile track with about 80,000 seats on the site. But an April public hearing on the plans was called off after an hour when a borough council member got into a physical confrontation with a supporter of the plans.

Opponents cited the impact large crowds would have on local residents. Staten Island has fewer public transit options than New York's other four boroughs.

— David Poole

### DirecTV to let race fans track drivers' every turn

NASCAR and DirecTV has announced "HotPass," five channels on the satellite television service that will be dedicated to drivers in each 2007 Nextel Cup race.

On each channel, at least five cameras will follow one car exclusively: one on the track, three in the pits and one in the car, providing a driver's-eye view.

Each channel will have its announcers, calling action regarding that team's progress. It also will have in-car audio and real-time statistics.

Each channel also will have the network video feed in a "cell" on the screen. A viewer can switch to the network audio feed at any time.

HotPass will be available to DirecTV customers only. It will be offered as a free trial for the Daytona 500 in February, and after that it will be \$29.99 a week. The season package will be \$79 if purchased by Jan. 31, or \$99 after. The package will go on sale next Wednesday.

The service will not be commercial-free — network commercials would air on the main feed, but the HotPass "cell" would remain live from the track.

— David Poole

# MEMORABLE MOMENTS

NASCAR writers share their superlatives for the '06 season

## DAVID POOLE

David Poole covers NASCAR for The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

**Best driver:** Kevin Harvick. Jimmie Johnson had a tremendous year, but Harvick won 14 races in NASCAR's top two series. He ran away and hid to win the Busch Series title and was in the championship mix in the Nextel Cup right until season's end.

**Best race:** The best thing that could happen to NASCAR would be more racing like the side-by-side battle Jeff Burton and Matt Kenseth staged late in the Dover 400. Burton's return to Victory Lane after a long absence made this one special, too.

**Most appropriate coincidence:** David Gilliland won a Busch Series race at Kentucky Speedway and was instantly transformed from a driver hardly anybody had ever noticed to The Next Big Thing. The race team for which he drove to that magical victory? Hype Manufacturing.

**Wish I'd said that:** "I miss the days when I'd look up and see Brooks & Dunn and the other country stars here. Dale Earnhardt died and Dale Jr. came in and all of a sudden it went to acid rock and then we went to Hollywood. Then we went to marketing to the 20-year-old kids."  
— Rusty Wallace, at Daytona on the five-year anniversary of Earnhardt's death.

**Worst excuse:** One Nextel Cup driver said comments he made in an interview had been "taken out of context" on Thatstracin.com, despite the fact that the Web site carried a transcript of the entire interview.

## JIM UTTER

Jim Utter covers NASCAR for The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

**Best driver:** Kevin Harvick. A Busch Series championship and nine wins. Qualified for his first Chase, won five races and finished fourth in points. Jimmie Johnson won the battle, but Harvick won the war.

**Best race:** UAW-Ford 500. The fall Talladega race featured a controversial, dramatic last-lap wreck ending with Brian Vickers turning his teammate Johnson and leader Dale Earnhardt Jr. and spawned a popular YouTube video.

**Comeback of the Year award:** Jeff Burton. He is always a popular interview, and it was nice change getting to talk to him about his performance on the track rather than such gripping topics like safety innovations.

**Worst NASCAR excuse for bad TV ratings:** The baloney that NBC didn't do enough to promote its races. With a sport that trumpets 75 million fans, did they all forget races are on Sunday?

**Best "you-had-to-hear-it-to-believe-it" moment:** Dale Earnhardt Jr. actually getting drowned in boos after wrecking Carl Edwards to win the Busch Series race at Michigan in August.

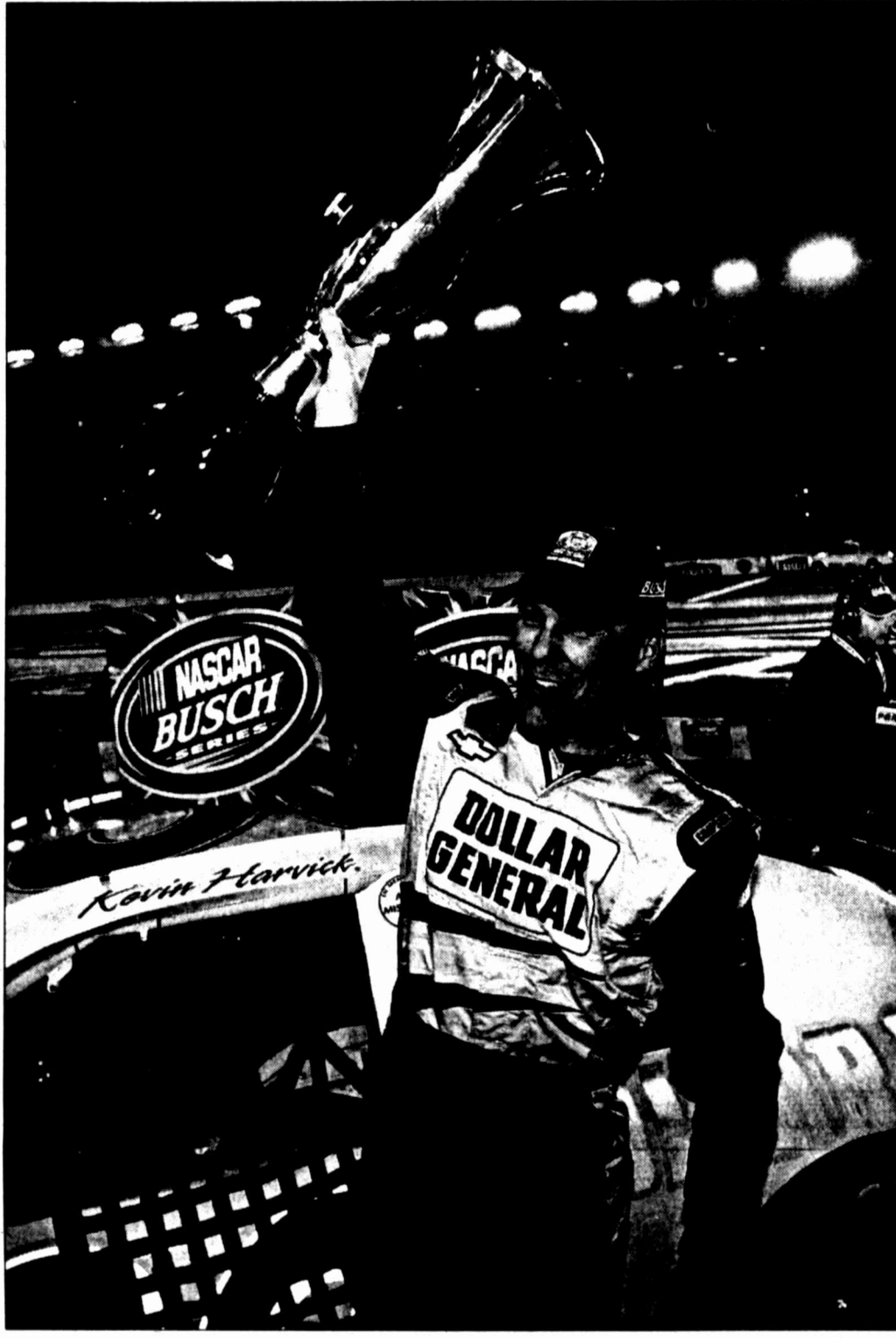
## SARAH ROTHSCHILD

Sarah Rothschild covers NASCAR for The Miami Herald

**Best driver:** Kevin Harvick. Although he finished fourth in the Cup standings, his feats in both the Cup and Busch Series were impressive. He had five Cup wins and nine Busch series victories. He finished with the largest lead in Busch history, a whopping 824 points ahead of second-place driver Carl Edwards.

**Best race:** UAW-Ford 500. Brian Vickers' last-lap spin of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmie Johnson at Talladega Superspeedway proved to be arguably the most dramatic moment of Chase for the Cup and the season.

**Best quote:** "I feel like the chimp that gets to fly the rocket."  
— Boris Said, after winning the Pepsi 400 pole.



Kevin Harvick's 14 race victories in NASCAR's top two series, in addition to winning the Busch Series championship, earned him votes for best driver of the year.

**Biggest reason for NASCAR to take pause:** Television ratings were down in 32 of 36 races and empty seats were apparent. NASCAR doesn't release attendance figures but less than half of the races sold out.

**Best 15 minutes of fame:** Unheralded David Gilliland winning the Busch race at Kentucky Speedway on June 17. He became the first non-Cup regular to win a Busch race in 2006 and the buzz afterward from his victory helped him land a full-time Cup ride at Robert Yates Racing.

**Worst NASCAR move:** The Car of Tomorrow hasn't even run in a race, but the universal car slated for debut in March 2007 has been a public relations disaster. Two-time champion Tony Stewart went so far as to call it a "flying brick," and Jeff-Gordon characterized it as "ugly."

## JOHN STURBIN

John Sturbin covers NASCAR for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

**Best driver:** Jimmie Johnson. Tony Stewart and Kevin Harvick fans will disagree, but the first-time series champion won the Daytona 500, Brickyard 400 and led the Chase for the Nextel Cup in top fives (5), laps-led (486) and bonus points (50).

**Best race:** UAW-Ford 500, Talladega

Superspeedway. Running third, Brian Vickers (inadvertently) took out race-leader Dale Earnhardt Jr. and then-Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson to record his controversial first Cup victory.

**Best quote:** "Just because I stayed in the (No.) 6 car 19 years doesn't make it wrong for me to move on, it just makes it weird. As far as I'm concerned, I'll always be No. 6, and I think a lot of people will feel the same way."

— Mark Martin, on ending his career at Roush Racing.



Montoya

**Best 15 minutes of fame:** Juan Pablo Montoya. The former Formula One and Indy-car star generated tons of interest with his initial Cup series debut. Imagine the international hysteria when Montoya wins that inevitable first pole and race in 2007.

**Biggest reason for NASCAR to take a pause:** The sky is not falling, but NASCAR's TV ratings nose-dived in 2006. If NASCAR chairman/CEO Brian France thinks switching to ABC/ESPN will offer a quick fix for that, he's in denial.

## Mohr or less, the Nextel Cup awards was a slight improvement

NASCAR deserves credit for finally figuring out a way to cut the Nextel Cup awards banquet to less than a four-hour marathon.

Last Friday night's event crowning Jimmie Johnson as the sport's 2006 champion moved with decided dispatch. The goal was to be done by 10:15 p.m. and, by golly, that's almost exactly when the confetti cannon fired to mark the ceremony's end.

Shorter was absolutely better. But still, you wonder about some of the choices that were made in the streamlining process.

Chad Knaus, the driving force behind the No. 48 team that carried Johnson to the sport's pinnacle, sat at the head table on stage in the Waldorf-Astoria's Grand Ballroom. But he never got to leave his seat during the ceremony. The crew chief's award, and the speech that follows its presentation,

was among the things moved from banquet night back to Thursday's luncheon as part of the revamped format.

It's odd, though, that NASCAR could find no time for its championship crew chief in Friday's ceremony but still carved out 20 minutes for a monologue by comedian Jay Mohr and another 20 minutes or so for him to banter with the drivers who accepted their awards before Johnson.

Mohr had his moments. He riffed on the "NASCAR haircut,"

a look sported by several drivers that Mohr said resembled a female gym teacher's do. He said Matt Kenseth is so dull he makes Al Gore look like Little Richard. Mohr's filmed parody of Allstate commercials featuring Kasey Kahne, while perhaps a bit homoerotic for a NASCAR crowd, was

clever.

Still, a little less Mohr could have meant a couple of minutes for Knaus to be acknowledged alongside his driver on the sport's big night in the big city.

The rigid limits NASCAR puts on the drivers' speeches have sucked the emotion out of this event. This isn't a celebration of a racing season. It's a cotillion, where the point is dressing up in fancy clothes and figuring out what fork to use with which dinner course.

When was the last memorable champion's speech? Jeff Gordon still gets grief for crying at his first acceptance, but at least that showed his passion for what he'd accomplished. There was no passion in the Grand Ballroom on Friday. NASCAR made people check it at the door.

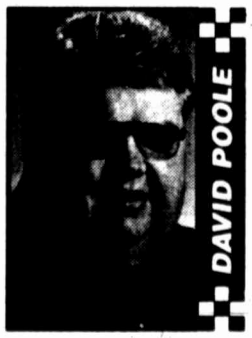
The members of the championship team are stuck up in the second balcony and ordered to behave themselves like ladies and gentlemen. Nobody dared to hoot or to holler. Mark Martin

couldn't even get one lousy standing ovation from the crowd despite the fact he's stepping away from full-time Cup competition after a brilliant career.

The banquet got shorter this year not because NASCAR thought fans were weary of how long it had become, but because the corporate swells on the guest list starting making excuses not to attend because the blasted thing was too long for them, too.

The real way to fix the banquet is the same as it has always been. Bring fans in. Let the championship team sit down front and encourage them to show their emotions. Let the champion pick his favorite musical act and have NASCAR pay to have that group come in and play for an hour.

In other words, take off the monkey suits and let loose a little. But it'll never happen. Shorter, therefore, was better. It wasn't better than just plain better would be, but it was better. And for that, at least, we are grateful.



DAVID POOLE



Comedian Jay Mohr jokes around with driver Tony Stewart at the 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup awards banquet in New York.



THURSDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (64)
6:30	News (CC)	News	Hondas de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Vuda de Blanco	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehr	48 Hours	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Live (CC)	Phi of Future	College Basketball	2006 College Football	Movie: The
7:30	Ugly Betty (CC)	Ugly Betty (CC)	La Fesa Mas Bella	Til Death	Survivor: Cook Islands	Manna	Name Is Earl	Friends (CC)	Update/Haag	Proud Heritage	A Haunting	Movie: The Green Berets	CSI: Crime Scene	NBA Basketball	The Parkers	Movie: The Cheaters	2006 Slam Dunk/3-Point	Awards Show (CC)	Movie: The
8:30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mundo de Fieras	The O.C. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Amor Mio	Scrubz (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Return to Balance	Surgey Saved My Life	Comes, Shook the World	TNA IMPACT!	Detroit Pistons at Dallas	Griffiths	High School Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: The Scorpion King	
9:30	Men in Trees (CC)	Men in Trees (CC)	Aqua y Ahora	Becker (CC)	Shark (CC)	Decisiones	ER (CC)	Movie: Snow Day (CC)		To Be Announced	Comes, Shook the World	UFC Unleashed	NBA Basketball	Mavenicks	Comics (CC)	Life Derek Phil of Future	Alabama at Notre Dame		
10:30	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	The Hour of Healing		Charlie Rose (CC)	Sensing Murder (CC)	Movie: Halls of Montezuma	UFC Unleashed	Basketball: Miami Heat at	James Fox	Zack & Cody That's Raven	With Smith Fantasy	Movie: The Bone Snatcher (CC)	
11:30	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Letterman	Laura / Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	15 Movie: Groundhog	Betty Swann	Sign Off	A Haunting	Inside the UFC	Sacramento Kings (CC)	Inside the NBA	BET After Dark (CC)	Phil of Future	Rodeo: Wrangler	NFL Live (CC)	Movie: The
12:30	AM News (CC)	PGA Wrap-Up	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Show	The Insider	Pagado	Update/Israel	John Hagee		Surgey Saved My Life	Movie: Target	The Dudesons	Geek-Ray Vis	Proud Family Sister, Sister	National Finals - Eighth	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MR. WILSON ISN'T IN ONE OF HIS 'HO-HO-HO' MOODS TODAY, IS HE?"

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

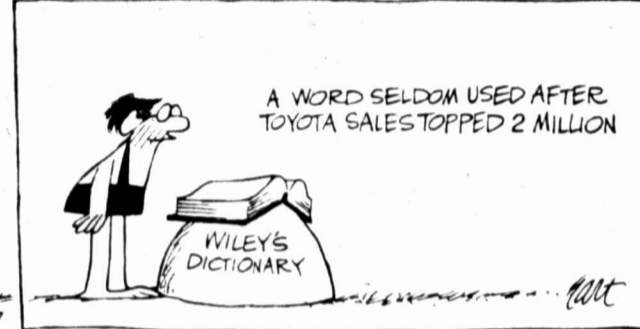
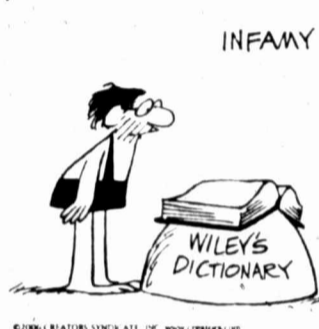


"...But she's sure to get a lot of laughs out of your spelling."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



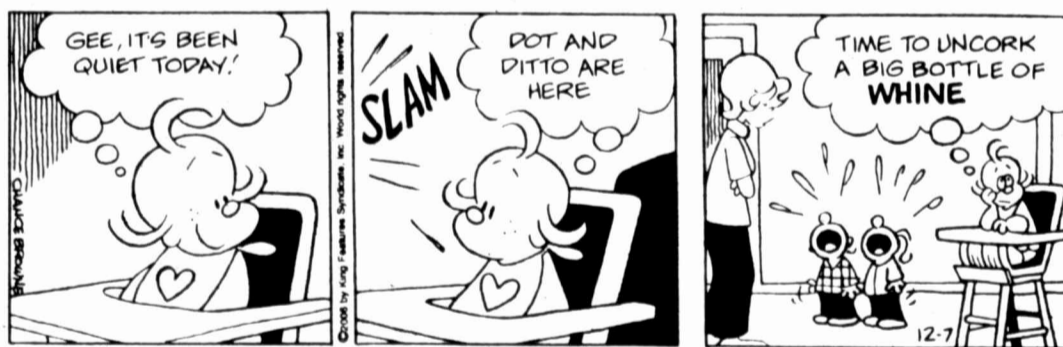
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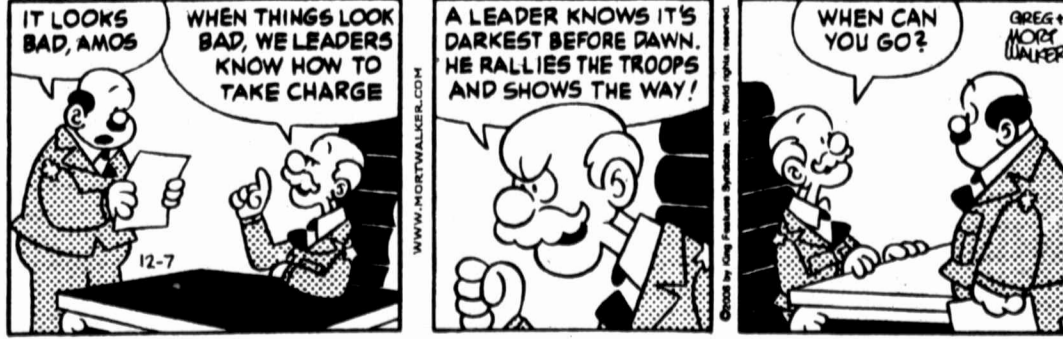
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2006. There are 24 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On this date: In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States. In 1836, Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States. In 1946, fire broke out at the Wincoff Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Wincoff. In 1963, during the Army-Navy game, videotaped

instant replay was used for the first time in a live sports telecast as CBS re-shown a one-yard touchdown run by Army quarterback Rollie Stichweh. (Navy beat Army, 21-15.) In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla. In 1972, Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, was stabbed and seriously wounded by an assailant who was then shot dead by her bodyguards. In 1983, in Madrid, Spain, an Aviac DC-9 collided on a runway with an Iberia Air Lines Boeing 727 that was accelerating for takeoff, killing all 42 people aboard the DC-9 and 51 aboard the Iberia jet. In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger and the two pilots, causing the plane to crash. In 1988, a major earthquake in the Soviet Union

devastated northern Armenia; official estimates put the death toll at 25,000. Today's Birthdays: Actor Eli Wallach is 91. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 75. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 74. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 69. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 66. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Johnny Bench is 59. Country singer Gary Morris is 58. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 57. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee chairwoman Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 54.

Answer to previous puzzle

FRESH	CLAM	SNOW
GOTTA	AIDA	LIVE
SATAN	BEAN	ACED
DUNGEON	MAS	TIE
DONT	TIE	
BEHIND	APED	SKI
ALAN	STEEL	PIN
BARGAIN	BASEMENT	
ETD	USUAL	ANTE
LEG	ROBT	BIDDER
	PAL	TELE
CELLARD	DWELLER	
JUDO	TARE	SILAS
IBET	ERIE	AKITA
BENZ	DEBT	YESSES

Newsday Crossword PLEASE BE SEATED by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Headed for home, perhaps
- Part of two constellation names
- Louisiana dialect
- Last name in espionage
- Domino dots
- Memorable mission
- Hazzard County deputy
- Tiff
- Wandering one
- Judge's arrest authorization
- Take upon oneself
- Fair-to-middling
- Winter hrs. in Walla Walla
- A returning student
- Like Mont Blanc
- Lambda followers
- Informers, informally
- Soon
- Kinsey's creator
- On
- Gavel wielder
- S&L adjunct
- "Hurrah!"
- Haughty one
- Cosby's first prime-time role
- The Supremes, for example
- Words to a soldier
- Las Vegas performer
- Significant
- Memorable times

DOWN

- Queen of
- Bowling-alley divisions
- Tiger's clubs
- Something thrown at the Olympics
- Like some hairdos
- Philbin's cohort
- Practices for a bout
- Syllables from a baby
- Are
- Meter starter
- Sched. data
- Monies owed
- Recipe armts.
- Belgian artist
- Magritte
- Prefix pertaining to stars
- Italian pastry
- Very much
- Predicament
- Thuman of Kill Bill
- Signal one's agreement
- Places to find drs.
- Now, for short
- Michelangelo masterpiece
- Haughty one
- Something thrown at the Olympics
- U.S. Open org.
- Miracle on 34th Street store
- Geeky
- Lathered up
- Days of Lives
- A smaller amount
- Sip from a flask
- Sharp answers
- Machu Picchu site
- Onetime Olympic Airways owner
- Words of denial
- Spree
- Likely
- to bumble
- Fairy-tale baddies
- Size size
- Family car
- Wipe clean
- On sea
- O.K. Corral figure
- T-shirt sz.
- Logger's tool
- Ship's sail

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**Help Wanted**

**FULL TIME** day cook. Willing to work, positive attitude. No experience necessary, will train. Apply at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry. No phone calls.

**HELP WANTED-** We are looking for part time night Auditor. Starting pay \$6.00. Also need Full-time maintenance person. Experience in Commercial property. Starting pay \$7.50. Must pass back ground check. Please apply at Comfort Inn, 2900 E. I-20. No phones please.

**MEDICAL RECORD** Clerk needed full time. Experienced from Hospital or Doctors Office. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 or call 1-800-873-1831.



**NEED AN** experienced HVAC technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.

**NEED EVENING** Dishwasher part-time. Must be 16 yrs. old. Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill, 2401 S. Gregg.

**NEW CHRISTIAN** FM radio station needs full time sales person. Start immediately. E-mail resume to tdwork@gmail.com.

**NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION** JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711



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**PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION** Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Looking for reliable and caring CNA's to join our team. Apply at 3200 Parkway Rd.

**PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION** Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

**PIZZA INN** NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

**POLLARD CHEVROLET** is taking applications for the parts department. Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred. Some heavy lifting. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply at 1501 East 4th St.

**STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS** Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

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Working as a Mechanic you will perform all necessary preventative maintenance on gasoline and diesel engines, pumps, hydraulic systems, brake adjustments and overhauls.

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- Experience with hydraulic systems a plus  
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**Help Wanted**

**THE BIG** Spring Independent School District is accepting applications for Full Time Evening Custodian. Benefits available. Apply in person at the Bus Barn. 3600 E. 11th Place. (432)264-4108.

The Martin County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking personnel for a housekeeper on an as needed basis. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

**THE MARTIN** County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

**TRUCK DRIVER**

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

**WANTED: 29** Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.WorkNowNotLater.com

**WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY** Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

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**Items for Sale**

**BACK FROM** Lease- 14'x40' Office Building with 1/2 bath \$399.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**OAK FIREWOOD.** Premium oak firewood for sale. Satisfaction guaranteed. Full cord \$275.00/half cord \$150.00. Delivered and stacked. (325)648-2818/(512)913-8297.

**QUILTING MACHINE** for Sale. Professional quality Gammill Premier model DC 18-8. Eighteen inch throat, 12 ft. bed. Assembled but never used. Paid \$4,750 dollars. Call (432)267-2976 to view, in Big Spring, Texas, 9:00am-9:00pm.

**SPECIAL PURCHASE-** 12'x16' Barn/Workshop. \$78.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**WHY PAY** Rent? 10'x16' Storage Buildings \$59.00 a Month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

**Lost and Found**

**FOUND KITTEN,** 8 months old in the area of Goliad School. Call (432)263-3144.

**Miscellaneous**

**\$139 QUEEN** BED. Pillowtop/orthopedic mattress set. Plastic wrapped. Warranty. Call 806-549-3110.

**Miscellaneous**

**5 TO 6** person Hot-Tubs as low as \$84.00 a month. Delivery/Financing available. 432-563-3108.

**6-PIECE BEDROOM** set: All wood, complete bedroom. List \$2250. Sacrifice \$750. Call 806-549-3110.

**ALL NEW** Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.

**BRAND NEW** Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$149.00. 432-349-4043.

**CAKES:** Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

**COMFY COUCH** and loveseat. Microfiber \$489, Leather \$799. 806-549-3110.

**COOKWARE-** FOR Christmas presents!! Beautiful 17-piece sets! 7-ply surgical stainless steel! Waterless and Greaseless! Retail \$2000, now \$368! vapoal.com 1-800-434-4628.

**DINING ROOM** table and chairs, Cherry mirror finish. \$229. Must sell now. Call 806-549-3110.

**DISTRIBUTOR OVERSTOCK** NASA- memory foam mattress sets - conforms to body. \$399. Call 806-549-3110.

**DOUBLE/FULL MATTRESS** and box. Brand new, warranty. \$129. Call 806-549-3110.

**KING PILLOWTOP** Mattress Set. Brand New still in Plastic. Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

**LARGE DINING** room table, 6 chairs, buffet, hutch, still boxed \$999. 806-549-3110.

**MOVING!!! QUEEN** mattress set \$125. Twin mattress set \$99. NEW, CLEAN. Washer \$225. 806-549-3110.

**NASA MEMORY FOAM** Mattress Set. Conforms to body. New in plastic. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$399.00. 432-349-4043.

**NEW KING** mattress set. In plastic, full factory warranty. \$249. Call 806-549-3110.

**Miscellaneous**

**QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC** Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/Warranty. \$129.00. 432-349-4043.

**SACRIFICE;** 6 pc sleigh bedroom set. Still boxed. \$499. 806-549-3110.

**SLIGHT DAMAGE-** 12'x16' Storage Building. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

**SOFT MICROFIBER** sofa and loveseat with coffee tables. BRAND NEW condition. \$499. Call 806-549-3110.

**URGENT SELL** - King mattress set \$210. Full mattress set \$109. PERFECT CONDITION Microwave \$225. 806-549-3110.

**ZERO ACHES,** NASA memory foam mattress set. List \$1599. Sell \$399. Warranty. 806-549-3110.

**On the Farm**

**HONEY HAYGRAZER @ \$50 & \$60.** 5x5 round bales, 1,000 lbs. Call (806) 487-6624.

**Pets**

**AKC Cocker** Spaniel Puppies. 2 Males, 3 Females, \$350.00 each. Call (432)816-4907.

**AKC REGISTERED** Golden Retriever puppies. \$300. Ready before Christmas. First shots. Call (432)267-7884.

**FREE TO** good home 2 female spayed and declawed cats. Call 664-4417 or 264-9317.

**Real Estate for Rent**

**104 WEST** 13th. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. \$300.00 month or \$550.00 with All Bills Paid, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

**HIGH PRIVACY** one bedroom house. Downtown near church & grocery store. \$265. Smoking & pets prohibited. Credit & background required. McDonald Realty. (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

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

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Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms

New Appliances & Fixtures  
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Ask about our Move-In Special!

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**2606 CARLETON.** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, CHA. \$550.00 month plus deposit. Call (432)263-6997.

**4215 DIXON,** 3 Bdrm, 1 bath. Call 432-267-3841 or 517-0642.

**4221 HAMILTON.** 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

**608 HOLBERT,** clean, 3 bedroom, 1 bath and garage. CHA. Contact information on location.

**6305-1/2 EAST MIDWAY RD.,** 3 bedroom 1 bath Duplex. Sand Springs area. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

**FOR LEASE** 40x120 Building with 2 offices, 4 over head doors on 2 acres, fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

**SEVERAL OFFICES** available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

**Real Estate for Sale**

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

**ABSOLUTELY DARLING** 1211 Lloyd, \$44,900.00 OBO. Owner Financing Available. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully decorated. Just waiting for the right family. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

**CUTE LITTLE** Cottage w/backyard playhouse. \$39,900 OBO. 1108 Mulberry. Owner Finance Available. Call for information Kim Pollard, Heart of The City Realty 432-213-2842.

**FINANCING AVAILABLE** on 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas with CH/A. Call (432)268-1375 for appointment.

**Vehicles**

**(2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans**  
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**ANSWERS**

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**CLASSIFIED AD**

Write one word on each line:  
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**Up to 25 words:** Sunday Only \$19.50 One weekday only \$12.25 Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 Three Consecutive days \$20.25 Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 Two weeks \$51.00 Three Weeks \$64.50 Four weeks \$75.00 Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75 Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

**Enhancements** Price per word for entire run: Bolding \$1.00 Centering \$1.00 Italics \$1.00 Price for entire run: Blind Box \$10 Photo \$4.00 Graphics \$1.00 Logos \$1.00 Prices include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINES:**  
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

**CLASSIFICATIONS:**  
Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Money Order Check  
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**TWO POLARIS Scrambler 400 ATV's.** One set up for racing or trail. One set up for trail. \$6,000 for both. Call (432)816-6138 or 264-1939.

**NOBODY ASKS FOR IT**

Help STOP Sexual Assaults

Call 263-3312

Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sale to satisfy landlord's lien of household items of the following tenants now stored at Great Dane Storage, 1510 West 4th Street, Big Spring, TX 79720.  
Darrell Freeman  
Melissa Whited  
Sales to be held at the Spring City Auction, 501 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX to the highest bidder after December 17, 2006.  
#5178 December 7 & 14, 2006.

Legals

**Notice of Availability For An Environmental Assessment Criminal Alien Requirement 6 Procurement**

**U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) plans to make available on December 11, 2006 to interested governmental and private entities and individuals an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the award of multiple contracts to house in total approximately 7,000 federal inmates at existing Contractor-Owned/ Contracted-operated facilities located in Arizona, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, or Texas. This document is provided to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The EA evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with multiple contracts to house in total approximately 7,000 inmates. Alternatives considered include facilities near the following municipalities: Big Spring, Texas; Eden, Texas; Post, Texas; Pine Prairie, LA; and Pecos, Texas.

**de Prisiones**

El 11 de diciembre del 2006, la Oficina Federal de Prisiones (Oficina), del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, planea tener disponible a agencias gubernamentales y privadas y a individuos una Evaluación Ambiental (EA) para el otorgamiento de varios contratos para alojar aproximadamente 7,000 presos federales en instalaciones Contratistas-Proprietarios/Operados por Contratista en Arizona, California, Louisiana, Nuevo Mexico, Oklahoma o Texas. Este documento esta proporcionado para cumplir con los requisitos del Acta Nacional de Polizas Ambientales de 1969, segun enmendadas. La ER evalua los impactos potenciales asociados con varios contratos para alojar aproximadamente 7,000 presos en total. Las alternativas bajo consideracion incluyen instalaciones en las siguientes ciudades: Big Spring, Texas; Eden, Texas; Post, Texas; Pine Prairie, LA; y Pecos, Texas. La Accion Propuesta se basa en la necesidad de alojar extranjeros delictivos federales de baja seguridad, que son adultos y hombres y que no son ciudadanos Americanos. Esta EA considera los impacto potenciales al ambiente natural y construido incluyendo el uso de la tierra, la economia, la calidad de aire, el ruido, el transporte, servicios publicos, aspectos culturales y esteticos, y recursos hidrológicos y biológicos, entre otros asuntos en cada instalacion. La Oficina solicita comentarios sobre la EA. El periodo para recibir comentarios de 30 dias termina el 11 de enero del 2007. Los comentarios sobre la EA deben ser enviados a: Pam Chandler, Chief, Site Selection & Environmental Review Branch, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20534. Tel: 202-514-6470 /Fax: 202-616-6024. La agencia no tomara una decision final en la Accion Propuesta antes del 11 de enero del 2007. Copias de la EA estaran disponibles para el repaso del publico en la biblioteca del condado de Howard (Howard County Library), 500 Main Street, Big Spring, TX; biblioteca publica de Post (Post Public Library), 105 E. Main Street, Post, TX; biblioteca de Pine Prairie (Pine Prairie Branch Library), 1111 Walnut Street, Pine Prairie, LA; biblioteca de Pecos, TX; y la biblioteca publica de Eden (Eden Public Library), Eden, TX 76837. #5171 December 7, 2006

**BY HOLIDAY MATHS**

Mercury follows Mars into Sagittarius. It's not enough to see new vistas; we have to talk about them, too. In doing so, you'll find many others on your wavelength. The more people you enroll in your vision, the quicker you'll be able to manifest it. Also, it's the ideal time to learn a new language, get your passport or explore a foreign culture.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You remain faithful to your cause, mostly because your cause is as needy as ever. There is joy in this. It may take stepping backward to find the objectivity necessary to receive that joy.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Being in love stimulates your overall creativity. With energetic forces on your side, you effectively change for the better your spending habits, beauty routine, lifestyle or all of the above.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** There is a certain kind of intelligence in groups that doesn't show in any one individual of the group. It's helpful to acknowledge this now — it could save you some frustration.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** A long line of reasoning may be sound, but unless it's also memorable, it won't be followed. Condense your ideas into as short a form as possible.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You own yourself. But you may have sold your work already long ago. Does this take some of the "pow" out of your production level now? Get back your enthusiasm by doing something that doesn't pay you a dime.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're like a detective, bound to get to the root of a problem. Clues are abundant. Keep in mind that someone who is talking too much may be trying to conceal information.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you didn't struggle to maintain your identity, you could easily be overwhelmed by the tribe. But you do struggle. The pride of ownership you'll win at the end is worth it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Everything may be profound, but seeing it as such at all times is a sure way to halt production on your so-called real life. Still, you could find yourself frequently awe-struck today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're in a position to mention names and give illustrated points. Think twice before doing so. The most diplomatic way is probably to be aware of particulars and confine yourself to generalities.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're lucky when you select a self-improvement focus. No virtue can reach its highest usefulness without diligent cultivation. You're presented with opportunities to practice embodying the virtue of your choice.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It's been said that children and fools always speak the truth. You're neither, and yet you find a way to deliver a more or less honest answer. Innocent charm is just part of your genius.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Suddenly, you find it in your heart to forgive your enemies — maybe because now enough time has past. But more likely because you think it would annoy them.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm an Aquarian, born Jan. 23, 1972, and am dating a Sagittarius (Dec. 6, 1961). We seem like a match, as we're both very independent and require the same amount of time together, which isn't very much — about once a week. This is a relationship that seems to work for us, but other people don't see it as a relationship. I think we're very close, and getting closer. Can you explain why this might work for us?"

**Aquarius, it's harder for you to take things seriously or to get serious about relationships. After all, it's just another kind of friendship, right? With an Aries moon and Mars also in Aries, I'll bet you're driven by your work, your interests, your impulses — and not into asking permission to do anything. Your Sagittarius has four luminaries in the sign of the archer, so he's always on the go. The fact that you have once a week together is his version of a major commitment. Even when things progress to living together, you two will still be constantly doing your own thing and enjoying each other on your own schedule. As for those who don't understand, they probably never will. Luckily, they don't have to for you two to continue to have a fantastic time together.**

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Divalicious Desperate Housewife Teri Hatcher proves that 40 is most definitely the new 30! Her fire-sign star power gives a special sizzle to the biggest series currently on television. Hatcher has worked long and hard to get to this most deliciously dazzling stage of success. And she smartly enjoys every second of it, savoring it all and sharing it alongside daughter Emerson Rose.

HOLIDAY MATHS

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 25 years and have two sons. "Dan" is a wonderful husband and father.

Dan has a friend who calls him constantly — several calls a day, most days of the week. "Chuck" always has a reason to call. "Where is milk on sale?" "Where's a good place to golf?" "Sometimes it's just, 'What are you doing today?'" He even calls during our vacations. Dan knows how upset I



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

am with his annoying and pesky friend. We have small children who require our attention. Chuck is married, and his wife is always working or involved with other activities. They don't have children.

Dan tries to ignore the calls, but Chuck keeps at it, either on our home phone or Dan's cell phone, until my husband responds or calls him back. Dan knows how much Chuck irritates me — we've even had arguments about it — so now he waits for me to leave before he returns the calls.

I have asked Dan to tell Chuck that the overwhelming calls annoy me and he must limit them. But Dan is afraid of hurting Chuck's feelings and refuses to talk to him about it. Dan says our life is strong and no one can come between us, and I need to let it go. Is he right? — Frustrated Wife in Saginaw, Mich.

Dear Saginaw: We're wondering why Chuck's feelings are more important to Dan than yours. No one should be calling your husband several times a day for no particular reason, interrupting family vacations and annoying you. Chuck expects Dan to provide his entertainment. Dan needs to set some limits, and Chuck needs a hobby.

Dear Annie: My best friend, "Lisa," has been dating "Larry" for a year. Lisa is 56 and has never married, although she has been in several long relationships. She has a beautiful home, a good job and many friends. Larry has been married

twice, has a rundown home, doesn't work and has no friends.

Since Lisa has been with Larry, I have seen less and less of her. He is very demanding of her time to the point of smothering her (her words, not mine). She claims she's not happy in this relationship, but won't do anything about it. She has all but cut me out of her life.

My husband and I have invited the two of them over a few times, but Lisa always has an excuse why they can't come. I don't know what she sees in a man with no job and three kids with two different women. I recently discovered Larry is on a website for registered sex offenders, and the description frightened me. Do I tell Lisa? I'd be devastated if I lost her friendship. — Scared for My Friend

Dear Scared: Tell Lisa you found her boyfriend on this website, and let her check it out on her own. We also worry there may be some abuse going on in a relationship where Lisa is isolated from her friends. If you want to save the friendship, say nothing derogatory about Larry. Ask Lisa if she needs help, but otherwise try to be supportive of her needs while minimizing the criticism.

Dear Annie: Over and over I hear about women who don't get enough affection (without sex). Where are the articles and books for men who don't get enough affection?

I'm a 30-something man. I do housework, listen and try to give my wife a loving home life, yet I still feel like a deviant for expecting emotional and physical affection. I'm not expecting you to miraculously fix the relationship. I guess I just want to know how odd I really am. — Hopeful

Dear Hopeful: We suspect you are not odd at all. Most men appreciate affection from their wives. Unfortunately, too many couples confuse affection with foreplay, and that is where a lot of problems begin.

Dear Annie: I have two older brothers. One recently died and the other is strange beyond words. "Dennis" has been married several times and is a father and grandfather. However, he is estranged from all his children. Worse, the rest of us are not allowed to have his grandchildren over because their parents fear we would allow Dennis to see the kids.

Dennis' children won't tell us what happened to cause such animosity, but we have our suspicions. Two years ago, Dennis was supposed to take my children for ice cream, and he left town with them and returned six hours later. I was frantic. The problem now is that Dennis insists our late brother's grandchildren call him "Grandpa." He dropped by with these children, and when the 7-year-old called him "Uncle," Dennis yelled at him, saying, "I am your grandfather! Remember that!"

Later, I called my nephew and asked if he was aware of the situation. He was not, and also did not know his kids had left the area with Dennis. They came home well after midnight on a school night.

I told my nephew that Dennis forcing the kids to call him "Grandpa" is an insult to his father. He says it is not. And he still allows Dennis to take the kids for "rides." We are so afraid Dennis is going to drive off and not come back. I don't think I can stay out of this because I fear for the safety of those children. What can I do? — Concerned Aunt in California

Dear Aunt: We don't blame you for worrying, although Dennis does return the children, albeit later than expected. Dennis has a few screws loose, but if your nephew has no objection to Dennis' field trips, and doesn't mind about the "Grandpa" business, there isn't much you can do. Can you speak to the children's mother? We hope she will take this more seriously than your nephew.

**Year End Sales Event** **YEAR END**

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Brock Discount.....\$630

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Brock Discount.....\$1,770

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