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INSIDE
Cowboys'
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Page 1B

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 29

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Former President Gerald Ford dies at 93

Only president not elected to the office helped nation recover from Watergate

By **JEFF WILSON**
Associated Press Writer

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — Former President Gerald R. Ford, who declared "Our long national nightmare is over" as he replaced Richard Nixon but may have doomed his own chances of election by pardoning his disgraced predecessor, has died. He was 93.

The nation's 38th president, and the only one neither elected to the office nor the vice presidency, died at his desert home at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday.

"His life was filled with love of God, his family and his country," his wife, Betty, said in a statement.

Ford was the longest living former president, surpassing Ronald Reagan, who died in June 2004, by more than a month.

Ford's office did not release the cause of death, which followed a year of medical problems. He was treated for pneumonia in January and had an angioplasty and pacemaker implant in August.

Funeral arrangements were to be announced Wednesday.

"President Ford was a great man who devoted the best years of his life in serving the United States," President Bush said in a brief statement to the nation Wednesday morning. "He was a true gentleman who reflected the best in America's character."

Ford was an accidental president. A Michigan Republican elected to Congress 13 times before becoming the first appointed vice president in 1973 after Spiro Agnew left amid scandal, Ford



President Gerald Ford meets with Chief of Staff Don Rumsfeld, left, and Deputy Chief of Staff Dick Cheney in the Oval Office April 28, 1975.



President Gerald Ford

The only president in U.S. history never elected to the presidency or vice presidency. Gerald Ford was a former Michigan congressman who led the nation out of the trauma of Watergate.

1913 Born Leslie Lynch King Jr. in Omaha, Neb.; parents divorced soon after	1935 Graduated from University of Michigan, where he was a football star; offered two pro football contracts	1942 Joined Navy; served on aircraft carrier in Pacific	1964 Appointed to Warren Commission to investigate Kennedy assassination	1965 Chosen as House Republican leader	1974 Sworn in as president after Nixon resigned to avoid impeachment; pardoned Nixon unconditionally	895-day presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last U.S. Marines left Saigon Mounted "Whip Inflation Now" economic campaign Arms talks with Soviets began in Helsinki, Finland Used troops to rescue merchant ship Mayaguez, seized by Cambodia Two failed assassination attempts 	1998 Joined with Carter to call for Senate to censure, rather than impeach President Clinton	
1916 Mother married Gerald R. Ford in Grand Rapids, Mich.; changed her son's name to Gerald R. Ford Jr.	1935-1938 Football, boxing coach at Yale University	1941 Graduated from Yale Law School in the top quarter of his class; opened law office in Grand Rapids	1946 Elected to House of Representatives from Grand Rapids district; re-elected 12 times	1948 Married Betty Bloomer Warren; they have three sons, one daughter	1973 Appointed by President Richard Nixon to replace Vice President Spiro Agnew, who resigned in bribery scandal	1976 Lost to Jimmy Carter in closest presidential election in 60 years; retired to Rancho Mirage, Calif.	1979 Memoir, "A Time to Heal," published	2006 Died Dec. 26 at age 93

Area cotton crop better than forecast

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

After a record-breaking 2005, it was back to reality for area cotton producers in 2006 — but that reality could have been a lot worse.

Despite overall dry conditions this year — and some fields that were a total write-off — area producers had a year they're describing as better than expected.

When all is said and ginned, officials expect crop totals to amount to about half what was produced in 2005.

"Cotton doesn't need a lot of rain to grow, but we do need timely rains ... so this is a pleasant surprise what we've gotten this year."

—Lee Howard, Martin County Cooperative Extension Agent

"Last year was wonderful," said Martin County Extension Agent Lee Howard. "It broke records that had been standing since the 1940s. Then, we turned around and it was back to reality this year."

Another producer pleasantly surprised by this year's crop is Big Spring Gin

See **COTTON**, Page 3A

Food drive a success, worker says

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The pantries at the local Salvation Army may have been close to bare at the beginning of the holiday season, but thanks to the charity's annual food drive and plenty of generous donors, things are looking much brighter.

According to Paula Lafler, a social worker with the local charity, the annual food drive brought in 14,153 cans of non-perishable food items, considerably more than last

year.

"Last year we only brought in 9,715 cans," said Lafler. "I think it was a lean year because all of the relief efforts for hurricanes Rita and Katrina at the same time. However, we feel like things have picked up quite a bit this year, so we're very pleased with the outcome."

While the final tally does fall short of the 27,000 can goal set in November by Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney, Lafler said she's glad to see the citizens of Big Spring support the annual drive.

"I just can't say enough about the people and businesses in Big Spring," said Lafler. "They are the ones that make this program a success each year. They are the ones that really deserve a pat on the back. I just hope they know that all of us at the Salvation Army are very thankful for their help."

Lafler said the biggest donor this year was Goliad Middle School, which managed to collect 3,970 cans, with Big Spring High School coming in second with 2,007

To help, take non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army at 811 W. Fifth

cans. Rounding out the top three was Sands CISD, which kicked in 1,100 canned food items.

With the local charity's emergency food pantry getting a 14,000-plus can shot in the arm, Lafler said it should

See **DRIVE**, Page 3A

Truck crash claims life of Odessa man on Christmas Eve

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

An Odessa man was killed Sunday when the Peterbilt truck he was traveling in rolled over near the 174 mile marker of the Interstate Highway 20 South Service Road.

According to Department of Public Safety Operator Regina Sutton, Bill J. Forsyth, 67, of Odessa was pronounced dead at the scene by Howard County Justice of the Peace Benny Green after the rig he was traveling in rolled several times.

"The accident was reported at approximately 6:58 p.m. Sunday. Mr. Forsyth was traveling east on the Interstate Highway 20 South Service Road when he failed to negotiate a curve," said Sutton. "The truck struck the guard rail, rolling multiple times and catching afire. At some point there was an explosion."

Sutton said no other injuries were reported as a result of the crash, and investigators are unsure whether Forsyth was wearing a safety belt at the time of the accident.

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

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

LOCKHART RECEPTION

Howard County commissioners will hold a special retirement party for long-time County Judge Ben Lockhart Thursday from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the county courtroom, located on the second floor of the Courthouse.

Lockhart will leave office at the first of the year, and recently elected local rancher Mark Barr will take over the office. The public is invited.

VOLKER SERVICES SET

Funeral services for U.S. Army Spec. Robert Volker will be held Saturday morning, the family announced.

Volker, 21, of Big Spring, died Dec. 20 in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

The 2003 graduate of Big Spring High School was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, which is handling the services.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church, with burial to follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

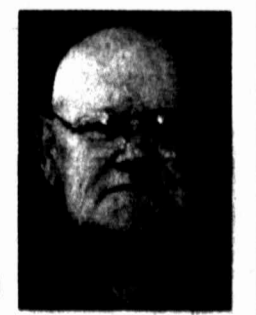
ACTING CAREER CUT SHORT

FORT WORTH (AP) — An understudy in a high school play has received two years probation for spiking the drink of a classmate who won the lead role.

Hours before opening night of "Hal" in February, Katherine Smith, 19, squirted an eyedropper of bleach into a Mountain Dew before giving it to a sophomore billed with the starring role, police said.

The sophomore didn't take a drink because she thought it smelled funny. School officials later alerted police.

In a plea agreement reached Thursday, Smith was sentenced on the charge of attempted assault of bodily injury.



Obituaries

Mary Gray



Mary Gray, 73, of Lake Thomas, died Monday, Dec. 25, 2006, in Conroe. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with John Snider, minister of Greenwood Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Gail Cemetery.

She was born Jan. 29, 1933, in Stanton and married J.W. Gray on Nov. 15, 1949, in Ira. He preceded her in death Aug. 28, 1984.

Mrs. Gray had lived at Lake Thomas since 1962 and had owned and operated cafes at Vincent and Lake J.B. Thomas. She and her husband also owned and operated J.W. Gray Dirt Contracting and after his death she continued to operate it until 1996. She served as an election judge for many years in Borden County. She was a member of Vincent Baptist Church.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy W. and Brenda Gray of Midland; three daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and Joe Stewart of Magnolia, Carrol and Danny Gibbs of Wichita Falls, Linda and Dennis Moon of Costa Rica; three brothers, Jimmie J. Bryant, and Eugene Bryant both of Big Spring, and Raymond Bryant of Lake Thomas; one sister, Dorothy Buchanan also of Lake Thomas; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to a hospice of your choice.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **JOLANDA GONZALES**, 37, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of displaying a fictitious motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3300 block of Drexel.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 300 block of 11th place.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 300 block of 11th Place

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.
Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
Thursday night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Lows around 40. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the west after midnight.
Friday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain in the morning...Then a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Lottery

ATLANTA (AP) — The jackpot in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$72 million Tuesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$60 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 7-12-25-44-53. The Mega Ball number was 3..

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Sash Road. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3900 block of Hamilton. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Northeast 10th and Main. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of East 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Annabel Madison

Annabel Madison, 68, of Midland, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2006, in an Odessa hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006, at the Westside Church of Christ in Midland with Van Pendergrass officiating. Interment is at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

She was born March 2, 1938, in Lamesa and married Glen Madison on Nov. 5, 1957, in Tarzan. Annabel was a longtime resident of Stanton and moved to Midland in 2003. She was a member of the Westside Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband, Glen Madison of Midland; three sons, Greg Madison of Stanton, and Jeff Madison and Randy Madison both of Dallas; one brother, Bobby Hanson of Lamesa; grandchildren; and great grandchildren.

Ann was preceded in death by one brother, Anthony Hanson.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Elmer Bolte

Elmer Bolte, 85, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006, in a Snyder hospital. Private family services will be held at a later date.

He was born Sept. 16, 1921, in Joliet, Ill. and married Bobbie Mae Halbrook April 1, 1944, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Feb. 9, 1996.

Elmer received his Silver Star and retired from the Webb Air Force Base when it closed. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Roxanne Wilson; one son, Michael Bolte; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and three great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

- **JOANNA SANCHEZ HIDROGO**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **CHANCE RAY LANG**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- **ROBBIN LYNN BARNES JR.**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and burglary of a vehicle.
- **JAMES KELBY BAILEY**, 29, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.
- **ERNEST GARCIA JR.**, 35, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **JAMES RAY COGBURN**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a warrant for violation of a protective order.
- **JEFFERY NATHAN JONES**, 21, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **RUBEN JAMES GONZALES**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to identify.
- **JOSHUA DON RICHTER**, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, failure to identify - giving false information, failure to maintain financial responsibility and a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Aida C. Gonzalez



Aida C. Gonzalez, 88, prominent Big Spring business woman passed away Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2006, at her residence. Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 29, 2006, at 10 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plegans and Deacon Johnny Arguello, officiating. Entombment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park Mausoleum. A rosary service will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Aida Gonzalez, wife of the late Leo Gonzalez was a longtime Big Spring resident and member of St. Thomas Catholic Church. She was born Dec. 20, 1918, in Del Rio and married Leo Gonzalez March 2, 1938, in Del Rio. He preceded her in death March 5, 1994.

She and her late husband were successful independent business people for Big Spring Tortilla Factory and the original owners of La Posada restaurant. She never sought headlines but worked quietly and gave generously to the community and also the churches throughout her life.

Mrs. Gonzalez was a very loving and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Survivors include her daughters, Cynthia Zertuche of Big Spring, Yvette Bouchard and son-in-law, Pete Bouchard of Pueblo, Colo., and Anna Marie Ortega and son-in-law, Ernest Ortega of Sioux Falls, S.D.; her grandchildren Allyson Santos of Pueblo, Colo., Natasha Wright of Denver, Amber Kopelman of Austin, and Eric Ortega of Sioux Falls, S.D.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest donations be made to Home Hospice, 111 East 7th Street, Big Spring, 79720.

The family wishes to thank Home Hospice for their excellent care of and dedication to Mrs. Gonzalez.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

NEWS/EMS

- **GAS LEAK** was reported in the 700 block of Wyoming.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Rebecca. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Village. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and Hearn. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported near the inter-

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2100 block of Cecilia. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Manor. One person was transported to SMMC.

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FORD

Continued from Page 1A

was Nixon's hand-picked successor, a man of much political experience who had never run on a national ticket. He was as open and straightforward as Nixon was tightly controlled and conspiratorial.

Former President Carter described him Wednesday as "one of the most admirable public servants and human beings I have ever known."

Ford took office moments after Nixon resigned in disgrace over Watergate.

"My fellow Americans," Ford said, "our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works. Our great republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule."

And, true to his reputation as unassuming Jerry, he added: "I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your president by your ballots. So I ask you to confirm me with your prayers."

He revived the debate over Watergate a month later by granting Nixon a pardon for all crimes he committed as president.

That single act, it was widely believed, contributed to Ford losing election to a term of his own in 1976. But it won praise in later years as a courageous act that allowed the nation to move on.

The Vietnam War ended in defeat for the U.S. during his presidency with the fall of Saigon in April 1975. In a speech at the end of his term, Ford said: "Today, America can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam. But it cannot be achieved by refighting a war that is finished as far as America is concerned."

Evoking Abraham Lincoln, he said it was time to "look forward to an agenda for the future, to unify, to bind up the nation's wounds."

Ford was in the White House only 895 days, but changed it more than it changed him.

Even to millions of Americans who had voted two years earlier for Nixon, the transition to Ford's leadership was one of the most welcomed in the history of the democratic process — despite the fact that it occurred without an election.

After the Watergate ordeal, Americans liked their new president — and first lady Betty, whose candor charmed the country.

In a long congressional

career in which he rose to be House Republican leader, Ford lit few fires. In the words of Congressional Quarterly, he "built a reputation for being solid, dependable and loyal — a man more comfortable carrying out the programs of others than in initiating things on his own."

When Agnew resigned in a bribery scandal in October 1973, Ford was one of four finalists to succeed him: Texan John Connally, New York's Nelson Rockefeller and California's Ronald Reagan.

"Personal factors enter into such a decision," Nixon recalled for a Ford biographer in 1991. "I knew all of the final four personally and had great respect for each one of them, but I had known Jerry Ford longer and better than any of the rest."

"We had served in Congress together. I had often campaigned for him in his district," Nixon continued. But Ford had something the others didn't: he would be easily confirmed by Congress, something that could not be said of Rockefeller, Reagan and Connally.

So Ford became the first vice president appointed under the 25th amendment to the Constitution.

On Aug. 9, 1974, after seeing Nixon off, Ford assumed the office. The next morning, he still made his own breakfast and padded to the front door in his pajamas to get the newspaper.

In 1976, he survived an intraparty challenge from Ronald Reagan only to lose to Democrat Jimmy Carter in November. In the campaign, he ignored Carter's record as governor of Georgia and concentrated on his own achievements as president.

Carter won 297 electoral votes to his 240. After Reagan came back to defeat Carter in 1980, the two former presidents became collaborators, working together on joint projects.

At a joint session after becoming president, Ford addressed members of Congress as "my former colleagues" and promised "communication, conciliation, compromise and cooperation." But his relations with Congress did not always run smoothly.

He vetoed 66 bills in his barely two years as president. Congress overturned 12 Ford vetoes, more than for any president since Andrew Johnson.

In his memoir, "A Time to Heal," Ford wrote, "When I was in the Congress myself, I

thought it fulfilled its constitutional obligations in a very responsible way, but after I became president, my perspective changed."

Some suggested the pardon was prearranged before Nixon resigned, but Ford, in an unusual appearance before a congressional committee in October 1974, said, "There was no deal, period, under no circumstances." The committee dropped its investigation.

Ford's standing in the polls dropped dramatically when he pardoned Nixon. But an ABC News poll taken in 2002 in connection with the 30th anniversary of the Watergate break-in found that six in 10 said the pardon was the right thing to do.

The late Democrat Clark Clifford spoke for many when he wrote in his memoirs, "The nation would not have benefited from having a former chief executive in the dock for years after his departure from office. His disgrace was enough."

The decision to pardon Nixon won Ford a John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2001, and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, acknowledging he had criticized Ford at the time, called the pardon "an extraordinary act of courage that historians recognize was truly in the national interest."

While Ford had not sought the job, he came to relish it. He had once told Congress that even if he succeeded Nixon he would not run for president in 1976. Within weeks of taking the oath, he changed his mind.

He was undaunted even after the two attempts on his life in September 1975. Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a 26-year-old follower of Charles Manson, was arrested after she aimed a semiautomatic pistol at Ford on Sept. 5 in Sacramento, Calif. A Secret Service agent grabbed her and Ford was unhurt.

Seventeen days later, Sara Jane Moore, a 45-year-old political activist, was arrested in San Francisco after she fired a gun at the president. Again, Ford was unhurt.

Both women are serving life terms in federal prison.

Asked at a news conference to recite his accomplishments, Ford replied: "We have restored public confidence in the White House and in the executive branch of government."

As to his failings, he responded, "I will leave that to my opponents. I don't think there have been many."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Courtesy photo
YMCA Board President Raul Marquez, right, presents Dr. Charles Warren with the Y's Distinguished Service Award in appreciation of his 37 years of service on the YMCA Endowment Board of Trustees.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1A

carry the Salvation Army for a few months.

"The cans that are left over from the Christmas holiday are what we use throughout the year for people that come in and don't have any food," said Lafler. "We usually try to give them enough to last two weeks."

"This should last us about four or five months, depending on the

demand," she added. "That's the one thing you just can't predict around here, how much you're going to need. Last month we gave out 111 food packages, so it's not hard to see how it can go pretty fast."

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

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25% OFF MEN'S JOCKEY BASICS Briefs, boxers, tees and more. Reg. 12.00-25.00. SALE 9.00-18.75	SALE 39.99 MEN'S & LADIES ATHLETICS NIKE, K-Swiss, New Balance, Reebok and more. Reg. 50.00-70.00.	50% OFF LADIES FASHION BOOTS By Markon, Skechers and more. Reg. 49.00-109.00. SALE 24.50-54.50

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BEALLS HOURS

MON. - CLOSED TUES. 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
WED.-SAT. 10:00 AM - 9 PM SUN. 12 PM - 6 PM

COTTON

Continued from Page 1A

Manager Brad Mikeska. Although totals will come in about half of what they were in 2005, Mikeska said this year went better than expectations.

"We're ginning more than we expected," he said. "We didn't get much rain, but it fell at the right time and kept this crop going."

Howard estimated that roughly 60,000 bales were produced in Martin County this year. Considering that many fields were shredded because of dry conditions, he considers those figures excellent.

"It was just so dry this year," he said. "Cotton doesn't need a lot of rain

to grow, but we do need timely rains ... so this is a pleasant surprise what we've gotten this year."

Most gins in the area are still running but expect to wrap up operations within the next few weeks.

Ginning totals to date for selected area gins are:
• Big Spring Gin — 16,500 bales.
• Co-op Gin of Big Spring — 19,325 bales.
• Co-op Gin of Ackerly — 18,337 bales.
• Flower Grove Gin — 15,144 bales.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331,

ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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Patrol: Fewer illegal migrant arrests along border

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press Writer

NOGALES, Mexico — Arrests of illegal migrants along the U.S.-Mexican border have dropped by more than a third since U.S. National Guard troops started helping with border security, suggesting that fewer people may be trying to cross.

U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested 149,238 fewer people from the start of July through November, down 34 percent from the same period last year, according to monthly figures provided Tuesday by U.S. Border Patrol spokesman Mario Martinez.

Arrests also had dropped by 9

percent for the same period from 2004 to 2005. If the downward trend continues, it would be the first sustained decrease in illegal immigrant arrests since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

National Guard troops started arriving along the border June 15, and 6,000 were in place by August.

Victor Clark, a Mexican migration expert in Tijuana, says many migrants fear they will confront U.S. soldiers on the border.

"The presence of the National Guard has had a big impact on migrants," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Border Patrol officials usually

attribute a drop in arrests to fewer people crossing.

"We have seen some tangible results," Martinez said. "But we'll have to see over the next few months if it holds up. We are optimistic."

The National Guard troops are not allowed to detain migrants and have been limited to monitoring surveillance cameras and body heat detectors, but they have freed Border Patrol agents and "have helped us tremendously to detect illegal migration traffic," Martinez said.

The United States plans to expand the Border Patrol from just over 11,000 agents to about 18,000 by 2008. The U.S. also

plans to build 700 miles of additional border fence.

Other measures may also be deterring crossers. In July, U.S. and Mexican officials started working together to prosecute human smugglers on both sides of the border.

U.S. immigration officials also have been raiding U.S. companies for illegal workers. Earlier this month, 1,300 people were detained in a sweep of meatpacking plants in six states.

Added to that, smugglers have increased their fees, charging as much as \$3,000 to hide migrants in their cars and drive them across the border. Before the National Guard

troops arrived, the price was about \$2,000.

Still, border experts say the downturn may be temporary while smugglers search for new routes and migrants come up with the money to pay the higher fees.

Edgar Velasquez acknowledges it's become tougher to cross. He spent three days walking in freezing temperatures through the remote mountain country west of Tucson, Ariz., and still was caught.

Agents found a body in those mountains Dec. 19. But that did not deter Velasquez, who said he planned to slip across the Arizona border during the holiday week.

Texas briefs

Damage from oil spill minimal, officials say

HOUSTON (AP) — A 42,000-gallon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was expected to cause minimal harm to the environment and coastline, officials said, as dive crews prepared to try to plug a ruptured pipeline.

Divers will inspect the medium crude oil pipeline on Wednesday to survey the damage and begin repairs. The spill occurred about 30 miles southeast of Galveston, U.S. Coast Guard officials said.

Andy Tirpak, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the environmental damage of the spill would be minimized because the population of juvenile fish is low at this time of year. Also, the oil is light enough to evaporate and disperse quickly.

Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline, which operates the pipeline, is bringing in a dive ship, the American Victory, on Wednesday morning to begin repairs, Coast Guard Petty Officer Mario Romero said.

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Adam Wine said winds and currents were carrying the sheen away from the coast.

UT president to study future of Confederate statues on campus

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas President William Powers Jr. said he plans to form an advisory committee to study whether something should be done about the numerous campus statues honoring the Confederacy.

The statues have in recent history become a topic of debate among students, professors and administrators. They include four bronze figures on the campus South

Mall honoring Confederate leaders such as Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States, and Robert E. Lee, the chief general.

Powers said he plans to appoint a committee of advisers early next year, probably including faculty members and students.

"The whole range of options is on the table," Powers said. "A lot of students, and especially minority students, have raised concerns. And those are understandable and legitimate concerns. On the other hand, the statues have been here for a long time, and that's something we have to take into account as well."

Two from Texas die in Iraq

A sailor and a soldier from Texas have been killed in attacks in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Tuesday.

Kyle A. Nolen, 21, of Ennis, died Thursday in Al Anbar Province after his vehicle drove over a land mine.

The Pentagon said Spc. John Barta, 25, of Corpus Christi, died Saturday in Buhritz of wounds suffered from enemy fire.

Store owners find lost airline luggage in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities were trying Tuesday to figure out how dozens of pieces of luggage belonging to air travelers ended up in a trash bin behind a Houston pet store.

FBI special agent Rolando Munoz said 68 pieces of luggage from various international flights were discovered. He said the luggage was turned over to Continental Airlines to sort out.

Sgt. Dana Wolfe, a spokeswoman for the Harris County Sheriff's

Office, which first responded to the luggage report, said the bags belonged to travelers at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

She said tags on the bags showed some of the travelers were going to or from London and Dubai.

The Houston Police Department is handling the case, Munoz and Wolfe said.

Mary Clark, a spokeswoman for Continental, said she didn't know if the contents of the bags were stolen.

Planes back into each other; no injuries

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two Southwest Airlines jets simultaneously pulling out from their gates at San Diego International Airport bumped into each other's tails Tuesday, officials said. No injuries were reported.

The accident prompted officials to return the planes to their gates and take the passengers off, said Marilee MacInnis, a spokeswoman for Dallas-based Southwest.

The planes — one bound for Las Vegas, the other headed to San Jose — were grounded for inspection, MacInnis said. There was no significant damage.

Seventy-two passengers on the Las Vegas flight and 125 aboard the San Jose flight waited nearly an hour before transferring to other planes, MacInnis said.

The cause of the fender-bender was under investigation, she said.

Drugs blamed for deaths of 2 truckers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two of the four people found dead inside their rigs at two San Antonio truck stops last month died from using methamphetamine, authorities said.

The bodies of Harry Ackroyd, 35, and Michelle Ackroyd, 32, were found dead inside a rig at the Petro Stopping Center on Nov. 1.

The Bexar County medical examiner's office said both died of methamphetamine intoxication, San Antonio television station KENS 5 reported on its Web site Tuesday.

Police have said the Ackroyds were a common-law couple and that Harry Ackroyd was a trucker.

Authorities determined earlier this month that Hubert Ray Hardesty, 53, died of natural causes. His body was found Nov. 27.

Authorities said a cause of death ruling is still pending for Byron Gonzales, whose body was discovered inside a rig at the Petro Stopping Center on Thanksgiving Day.

Police have said one theory they are investigating is whether bad drugs are being sold in the area of the stop.

Contract Bridge

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K J 8
♥ Q 6 3
♠ K 9 6
♣ A Q J 2

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

EAST
♦ 4
♥ A K J 2
♠ J 7 5 4 2
♣ 6 4 3

SOUTH
♦ Q 10 9 7 5
♥ 10 9 4
♠ A 8
♣ K 7 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3♦ Pass
4♦

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

There are times when a defender wants to send an urgent come-on signal to his partner, but lacks the necessary cards to do so in the usual fashion. In that case, he tries to get the message across by telling his partner what not to do.

Consider this deal where South gets to four spades and West leads the ten of clubs. If you look at all four hands, it's easy to see that the defenders can take four tricks before declarer can take 10. But this is more easily said than done. When West

sooner or later gains the lead with his ace of trumps, he will have to shift to a heart or else South will make the contract.

Unfortunately, East does not have a high heart that he can afford to discard as trumps are being drawn to show that he wants the suit led by partner. Nevertheless, if East-West cooperate perfectly, they can find the winning defense.

When the deal occurred, declarer tried to muddy the waters for the defenders by putting up dummy's ace of clubs at trick one (on which East played the three, a discouraging signal). South then led dummy's king of spades, hoping to lose the trick at once to the ace.

But West wanted to see his partner's discard on the next trump lead, so he held up the ace. On the next spade lead, East discarded the diamond deuce, another negative signal.

East's two discouraging signals in the minor suits got the message across to West loud and clear. East did not appear to have the king of clubs, nor was he interested in a diamond lead. Only one hope remained — hearts.

Accordingly, West took the spade ace at trick three and shifted to the eight of hearts, and East quickly collected three heart tricks to put the contract down one.

Tomorrow: Sylvia.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borden County Independent School District (I.S.D.) in Gail, Texas, is presently accepting transfer students for the spring semester of 2007.

The Borden County I.S.D. is a "Recognized District," as named by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the 2005-2006 school year. This past year, the district also received ten (10) Gold Star Performance awards from the TEA for high percentages of "Commended" students on all five TAKS testing areas, completion of the Recommended/Distinguished Achievement graduation planes, college readiness in both mathematics and language arts, student attendance, and completion of advanced academic courses.

The Borden County I.S.D. also has a rich tradition in the following:

- Maintaining a high-qualified faculty and staff
- Offering concurrent college credit for juniors and seniors (27 on-site college hours available)
- Promoting high college and post-secondary attendance rates at various universities.
- Successful and competitive University Interscholastic League academic teams.
- Successful and competitive University Interscholastic League athletic programs (six-man football, cross-country, basketball, track, tennis, golf, baseball, & softball)
- Active FFA chapter with successful and competitive leadership/judging teams
- Providing a safe and drug-free school environment

Please contact Mr. Jimmy Thomas, Borden County I.S.D. Superintendent, at (806) 756-4313 or (806) 756-4316 if you are interested in transferring your child for the spring semester of 2007.

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Bush: President Ford helped heal nation after Watergate scandal

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD — President Bush on Wednesday remembered former President Gerald Ford as a "man of complete integrity who led our country with common sense and kind instincts" and helped restore faith in the presidency after the Watergate scandal.

"On Aug. 9, 1974, he stepped into the presidency without ever having sought the office," Bush said. "He assumed power in a period of great division and turmoil. For a nation that needed healing and for an office that needed a calm and steady hand, Gerald Ford came along when we needed him most."

The president, who personally expressed his condolences in a phone call late Tuesday night with former first lady Betty Ford, called the former president a "man of integrity" who devoted the best years of his life to the nation. Bush said Ford commanded the Oval Office for 2 1/2 years with common sense and kindness.

Ford "reflected the best in America's character," Bush said.

Ford helped restore Americans' confidence in the White House after President Richard Nixon's downfall in 1974 through the "honorable conduct" of his administration, Bush said.

Bush, who is spending the week at his Texas ranch, made his statement before sunrise inside a hangar at a helipad outlined in blue-green landing lights. Dawn was breaking over the ranch after he finished expressing his sadness over Ford's death.

"Our 38th president will always have a special place in our nation's history," he said.

Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush, served in the Ford administration as a diplomat and CIA director. The president borrowed from the troupe of Ford advisers in making up his own presidential team

more than a quarter century later.

Vice President Dick Cheney served as Ford's chief of staff, while just departed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld served Ford in the same job.

Cheney called Ford a "dear friend and mentor" and hailed his former boss' role in bringing the nation out of what the vice president called the "greatest constitutional crisis since the Civil War."

"In that troubled era, America needed strength, wisdom, and good judgment, and those qualities came to us in the person of Gerald R. Ford," Cheney said in a statement. "When he left office, he had restored public trust in the presidency, and the nation once again looked to the future with confidence and faith."

Democrats and Republicans alike recalled Ford's willingness to work across party lines.

"President Ford was one of the kindest, most sincere elected officials whom I have known and with whom I have worked," said longtime Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va. "Although he and I were from different political parties, we often were able to find common ground and work together for our country."

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who served with Ford in the House, praised the former president for his commitment to his wife Betty and family.

"Jerry was warm, gentle, friendly, pleasant, courteous individual. He never used bad language, he loved his family, his kids and above all else he loved Betty," Dingell said.

White House chief of staff Joshua Bolten notified Bush about Ford's death shortly before 11 p.m. EST after getting the news from Ford's chief of staff. Deputy White House press secretary Scott Stanzel said Bush, who is scheduled to return to Washington on Jan. 1, will attend the funeral.

▶ Nation and world briefs

Quake off Taiwan's southern coast disrupts communications in much of Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Telephone lines and Internet service went dead across much of Asia on Wednesday after two powerful earthquakes damaged undersea cables used by several countries to route calls and online traffic.

Repairing the cables could take weeks because crews have to pull them up and transfer them to a ship for repair, said Lin Jen-hung, vice general manager of Chunghwa Telecom Co., Taiwan's largest phone company.

The quakes jolted Taiwan late Tuesday, setting off a tsunami alert on the second anniversary of the Dec. 26, 2004, waves and quake that killed 230,000 in nine countries from the Indonesian islands to east Africa.

No large waves materialized this time but two people were killed when their home collapsed.

Two cables were damaged, both off Taiwan's coast, Chunghwa said.

The company reported a 50 percent loss of overall telephone capacity, with connections to China, Japan and Southeast Asia most affected.

Ethiopian, Somali government troops force Islamic fighters to retreat from strategic city

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Attacking at dawn, Ethiopian and Somali government troops on Wednesday drove Islamic fighters out of the last major town on the road to Mogadishu, the Islamist-held capital.

Former warlord Mohammed Dheere, who controlled the town of Jowhar before it was captured by the Council of Islamic Courts in June, led the Somali government troops, said resident Abshir Ali Gabre.

"We will attack Mogadishu tomorrow, from two directions," Dheere told the crowd, although his statement appeared to overstep his authority. Dheere does not speak for the government or the Ethiopians.

Government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari confirmed the capture of Jowhar and said his troops were heading toward Balad, an agricultural village about 18 miles from Mogadishu. Smaller than Jowhar, it is the last town before the capital.

Thousands of Ethiopian and Somali government troops were seen in tanks heading toward Balad, said Nadifo Ali Tifow, a resident in Qalimow, a village 25 miles from Balad.

Plane carrying Tony Blair overshoots Miami runway; no injuries reported

MIAMI (AP) — A commercial jet carrying British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his family slightly overshoot a runway at the Miami International Airport, but no passengers were harmed and the plane was not damaged, officials said.

British Airways flight 209 from Heathrow Airport in London ran over a couple airfield lights after landing around 6:15 p.m., but did not leave the pavement and returned to the gate under its own power, airport spokesman Marc Henderson said. No injuries were reported.

The plane stopped just past the official end of the runway, said Laura Brown, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman.

Blair was among the 343 passengers on the plane, U.S. Secret Service spokeswoman Kim Bruce said. Blair receives Secret Service protection whenever he lands in the U.S., Bruce said.

Steve Atkins, the deputy press secretary for the British Embassy in Washington, said it was not uncommon for Blair to travel by commercial airliner, but declined to comment further.

Israel to renew pinpoint attacks against Gaza rocket launchers, but maintain truce

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel decided on Wednesday to resume pinpoint attacks against Palestinian rocket-launching cells in Gaza, jeopardizing what is already a shaky, month-old truce with Gaza militants.

The decision came hours after a Palestinian rocket seriously wounded two Israeli teenage boys in Sderot, a town in southern Israel close to the Gaza border. Shortly after the new policy was announced, a rocket was fired from Gaza but no injuries were reported, officials said.

Although Israel said it remains committed to the truce, the decision to strike against rocket launchers clearly raises the tension.

It also could undermine Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's recent efforts to bolster the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, who is in a standoff with Hamas. The Islamic militant group controls the Palestinian parliament and Cabinet.

Bush considers new course in Iraq as White House salutes Saddam death penalty ruling

CRAWFORD (AP) — President Bush went to his ranch Tuesday to rethink U.S. involvement in Iraq as his spokesman hailed a Baghdad court's decision upholding the death sentence for former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Saddam, who was deposed by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, is to be hanged within 30 days.

"Today marks an important milestone in the Iraqi people's efforts to replace the rule of a tyrant with the rule of law," deputy White House press secretary Scott Stanzel told reporters aboard Air Force One to Texas, where Bush was to meet this week with his national security team.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

7		9		2
	6	8	4	7
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		4	9	
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	8	7		1
	1	3	8	9
5		6		3

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And you have emergency service?

Children: They're quite a deal for the price

The beginning of a New Year is a time for resolutions. Sometimes a lot of thoughts go into these resolutions. Most of us believe that resolutions are good things. We all make resolutions from time to time and they usually occur on or around New Years, but they are forgotten after a few weeks.

As we think of the reso-

lutions for this year, let's consider our children. Our children are our most valuable asset and many times we don't think of them as part of our resolutions.

I was reading an interesting article not long ago that informed me that our government has estimated the price of raising a child in a middle income family from birth to eighteen is

\$160,140. Talk about sticker shock! That doesn't even touch college costs.

However, it isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into: \$8,896.66 a year, \$741.38 a month or \$171.08 a week. That's a mere \$24.24 a day! Just

over a dollar an hour. Still, you might think the best financial advice is not to have children. Actually, it is just the opposite. Let's examine what you get for your \$160,140.

- Naming rights. First, middle, and last!

- Glimpses of God every day.
- Giggles under the covers every night.
- More love than your heart can hold.
- Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- A hand to hold, usually covered with jelly or chocolate.
- A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites.
- Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.



DARRELL RYAN

For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for:

- retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof,
- taking the training wheels off a bike,
- removing a splinter,
- filling a wading pool,
- coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

Parent's Corner



As Members of the 8th Grade Junior High School band treat Moss Elementary students to a short program of favorite holiday songs in the photo above, Big Spring Independent School District Director of Federal Programs Darrell Ryan reflects on children and the joy they bring in this week's Parents Corner.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the:

- first step,
- first word,
- first date, and
- first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications and human sexuality that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits; and one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost. That is quite a deal for the price! So, as we consider our resolutions for this new year, let's include our children and grandchildren. For they certainly share our decisions and our resolutions.

Darrell Ryan, is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.

Bob Brock Ford Pre-Owned Vehicle Center's Christmas Red Tag Sale Event Save Thousands!!!

*** 2007 & 2006 ***

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2007 Ford 500 SEL - Silver Birch w/Shale Leather, 3.0 V-6, Fully Loaded w/11,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$25,800. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995	2004 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver Frost, Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/27,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$22,995	2002 Cadillac Escalade AWD - Sandstone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/41,000 Miles. Was \$29,995 NOW \$25,995
2007 Ford Taurus SEL - Windveil Blue w/Pebble Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, Loaded w/10,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,205. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995	2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995	2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995
2007 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Pebble Premium Leather, 3.0 V-6, Power, Moonroof, Fully Loaded, Only 13,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$25,100. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995	2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995
2007 Ford Taurus SE - Gold w/Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, Only 8,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,995. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Satin White, Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/45,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995	2001 GMC Yukon XL - Pewter w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner. Was \$13,995 NOW \$10,995
2007 Ford Taurus SE - Gold w/Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, Only 8,500 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,995. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	2004 Ford Focus 4-DR SE - Tundra Green, Cloth, Automatic, All Power, One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
2007 Ford Freestar SEL - White w/Leather, 2 V-6, Quad Bucket Seats, 3rd Row Stow In Floor, Dual Air, All Power, Local One Owner To List, 11,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995	2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995	1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$9,995
2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - French Silk, Stone Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/11,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$47,120. Was \$30,995 NOW \$28,995	2003 Lincoln Town Car Executive - Black w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/53,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$5,995
2006 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. Premium - Arizona Beige w/Camel Leather, All Power, 13,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$31,060. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2003 Mazda MX-5 Miata Convertible LS - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/40,200 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	2005 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995
2006 Mercury Grand Marquis - White w/Camel Leather, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,995. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	2004 Nissan Frontier King Cab - Silver, 4-Cyl., Automatic, Air, Local One Owner w/45,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
2006 Mercury Milan Premier - Vivid Red w/Camel Leather, 2.3-4 Cyl., All Power w/21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995	2004 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4X4 - Yellow w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/33,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995
2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 12,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	1999 Pontiac Grand Prix SE - Green w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned. Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995	2004 Ford Ranger Supercab - Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Dark Red, Gray Leather, 3.0 V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	1997 Lincoln Continental - All Power, Locally Owned w/58,000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$6,995	2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/47,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995
2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Local One Owner, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 10,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,995. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	2005 Ford Escape Limited - Red w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/18,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995	2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Blue/Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995
2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten w/Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 18,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$22,430. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995	2004 Lincoln Navigator Ultimate Edition - Silver w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/30,300 Miles. Was \$30,995 NOW \$29,995	2002 Ford Superduty F250 Supercab XLT 7.3 Diesel - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/only 37,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995
2006 Ford Taurus SE - White w/Flint Cloth, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995	2004 Ford Explorer XLS - Tan w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995	2001 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - Green/Tan w/Leather, All Power, Tonneau Cover, One Owner w/77,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Windveil Blue w/Leather, Sport Pkg., 6 Disc CD w/MP3, Spoiler, All Power, 11,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995	2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon, 4.6 V-8, All Power, Locally Owned, 87,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport Pkg., 21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Midnight Blue, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/52,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995	2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White, 4.6 V-8, All Power, 79,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2006 Ford Freestyle SEL - White/Beige, Pebble Leather, 3.0 V-6, Fully Loaded w/12,000 Miles., Moonroof. Was \$23,995 NOW \$20,995	2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Pueblo Gold, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/34,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995	2001 Dodge D150 Ram - Maroon, 6-Cyl., 5 Speed, Air, 60,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995
2006 Ford Freestyle SE - Redfire Metallic, Cloth, All Power, 10,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$19,995	2003 GMC Envoy XL SLT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/67,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995	2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT - Red w/Cloth, V-10, All Power, Locally Owned w/85,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
*** CARS ***	2003 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995	*** MOTORCYCLE ***
2006 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Black w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/4,300 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995	2004 Honda VTX 1300 - Red, Chromed Out, Windshield, Saddle Bags, Cobra Drag Exhaust, One Owner w/5,600 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$7,995

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Retiree has collection from Oz ... and beyond

By KEITH SHARON

Orange County Register
SANTA ANA, Calif.
— The guy is yelling at me.

"YOU'RE THE CONDUIT!" he screams.

I've never been called a conduit before. It's a plumbing term, I think.

He's the nicest guy, huge bristly mane of sandy hair (a very important detail about him, but more on that later) and he projects his voice, like he's an actor on a stage in Huntington Beach, Calif., where he lives, and his audience is in Kuala Lumpur.

"KEITH," he's still screaming. He's always screaming.

"YOU'RE THE CONDUIT! DON'T FORGET THAT! YOU'RE THE CONDUIT!"

I've just left his house, which is unlike any house I've ever visited.

This bellowing man has such an ordinary name — Mark Shapiro. If he were known as the Incredible Inedible Unforgettable Mark Shapiro, or something like that, it would sound so much more appropriate.

Shapiro, 60, is obsessed with a long-dead author of children's books who has taken over his life, and he wants this story to attract other people to his obsession because he has no idea what to do with the fruits of his obsession now that he is really obsessed.

Or at least that's what I think he's talking about.

I am just the conduit. Since he was a little kid, Mark Shapiro has lived at a high decibel level.

"You should read my early report cards," he said. "The teachers would always say, 'Mark is a good boy, but he talks loud.' I have heard that my entire life, mostly because I get excited in expressing myself. It really is a sign of me being happy."

When he was 5 years old, Shapiro's mother took him to a doctor who told him that he was unusually sensitive and perceptive for a child his age. It was a defining moment for the boy.

Since that diagnosis, he has believed he is special. "I can read people," he said. "I CAN READ YOU!"

Shapiro then proceeded to tell me that I was a "truth-teller" and that I have a bit of natural suspicion about the things people tell me. Of course, I was suspicious of his attempt to "read" me.

As a kid, he loved hanging out at his grandfather's house in Los Angeles. Abe Miller collected things. Anything. Cannon shells from World War II. Clocks. Stuff other people would call junk.

"I didn't see it as junk," Shapiro said.

For the better part of his adult life, Mark Shapiro has been hairy.

He went to college to be a journalist. In 1969, as a budding writer at Cal State Los Angeles, he crafted a story about the history of beards. As you might expect, he had a beard. In his story, which he will produce within seconds if you ask him, he predicted that, in 2019, the president of the United States would have a beard. It is not clear if he was referring to Hillary Clinton.



Orange County Register photo/Cindy Yamanaka
Mark Shapiro of Huntington Beach, Calif., is one of the leading collectors of L. Frank Baum (the author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*) paraphenalia in the world.

But instead of sticking with journalism, he decided to try teaching.

"YOU GET THREE MONTHS OFF!" Shapiro yelled.

He taught for 30 years. Many of them at a continuation school, where he taught all subjects to teenage mothers.

"It was tremendous," he said of his teaching career. "I got them to feel good about themselves. I got them to finish school."

Shapiro was a hippie-looking teacher with so much voluminous hair hanging over his shoulders his students began calling him "The Lion King."

"THAT'S JUST ME!" he yelled. "THAT'S NOT AN ACT!"

One day in the 1980s, Shapiro and his wife, Michelle, were desperately trying to find something they could enjoy together. They decided to start going to swap meets and collecting stuff.

Collecting stayed, the wife left. They divorced in 1992.

He started with 45-rpm records. (He now says he has 25,000.) Then he bought phonographs (now 25). Then jukeboxes (now 10).

His house is crammed with 200-year-old newspapers, autographed movie posters, musical instruments, kitsch of all kinds. There is memorabilia in his bathroom.

He lives in an overgrown garden of Americana.

In his nearly 15 years of collecting, Mark Shapiro has become widely known for one thing.

In 1992 at a swap meet in Long Beach, Calif., he saw a book for sale — "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum. He bought it for 50 cents.

A couple of months later, he saw a magazine that listed some valuable collectibles. His 50-cent book had a listed value of \$10,000 (now \$18,000).

Mark Shapiro began researching Baum, a for-

mer journalist (like Shapiro), who wrote 14 Oz books between 1900 and 1919, when he died. Shapiro bought books, board games, posters, trinkets — anything related to Baum.

He retired from teaching in 2001 and devoted most of his life to finding all things Baum.

He said he uses winnings from his other passion — horseracing — to pay for memorabilia. He usually buys Baum collectibles on the Internet from people who don't know they're worth very much. He said he rarely spends more than a couple hundred bucks.

"THEY NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'VE GOT," he yelled.

He now says he owns two first edition, first state books (those "first state" books were created on the first run of the presses before

some corrections were made). A mint condition first edition, first state "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" book has a \$35,000 to \$45,000 price tag at abebooks.com and bookfinder.com.

"I've seen other Baum books offered for \$37,000 or \$39,000, and they're not in the condition his are," said Mark Kirchner, a hand bookbinder in Newport Beach, Calif. "His are better."

Kirchner will never forget the first time he met Shapiro.

"I thought, 'My God, the Cowardly Lion just walked in,'" Kirchner said.

Shapiro says he has 310 first edition Baum books. Most are second state. The most he has ever paid for a book is \$4,000.

Shapiro has asked himself how, with so little money, he is able to win eBay auctions for all this valuable material? His answer: Baum is helping him.

"HIS SPIRIT IS IN ME!" he yelled. "THIS IS SPIRITUAL! I AM MEANT TO DO THIS!"

His theory is that Baum's spirit, knowing that Shapiro doesn't resell his items, wants him to have all the books.

Here's the problem with Mark Shapiro's collection. People rarely see it.

Since his divorce, he said, about 10 people have visited. He realizes that this is a problem.

That's where I come in. He wants this story to spread the word. Maybe someone from a museum will call and offer him some space. Maybe an elementary school will set up a tour.

Maybe someone will tell him what he's supposed to do with all this stuff. Baum's spirit, as powerful as it is, hasn't written an ending yet.

"IT'S FATE, KEITH!" he screams at me. "THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STORIES YOU'VE EVER DONE!"

I'm the conduit.

H-E-B Excellence Education awards

I'm Diane Sosa



"Mary Cassat, a famous female artist, once said, 'Life is like a canvas.'"

She went on to explain that it is up to each one of us to paint our own canvases, that we each are capable and responsible for our own destiny in this world. This is the kind of empowerment that I want to instill in my students, that they all have the ability to influence and direct their future. "

Diane Sosa
2006 Elementary Leadership Winner

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Wednesday, December 27, 2006

IN BRIEF

Rockets lose in McGrady's return

The Indiana Pacers played their best defensive game of the season to spoil Tracy McGrady's return to the Houston lineup. McGrady finished with 19 points but shot 7-for-22 from the field in the Pacers' 81-76 victory Tuesday night.

Phoenix Suns topple Trailblazers

Leandro Barbosa scored 20 points in a 6-minute span bridging the third and fourth quarters, and the Suns beat the Trail Blazers for their 16th win in 17 tries.

Barbosa, who had only two points at halftime and missed four of his five shots, was 8-of-9 in the second half and finished with 22 points.

Shawn Marion led the Suns with 23 points and eight rebounds. Raja Bell added 18 points, Jumaine Jones scored a season-high 13 and Amare Stoudemire had 12.

Zach Randolph topped the Trail Blazers with 18 points and 14 rebounds. Jarrett Jack also scored 18 and Juan Dixon had 13.

The loss was the second straight for Portland after five consecutive victories.

Utah Jazz defeat L. A. Clippers

Mehmet Okur scored 24 points, eight in the final 2 minutes, to lead the Jazz to the win.

Carlos Boozer had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Deron Williams added 21 points in Utah's first game back home after going 3-2 on a five-game Eastern Conference road trip before Christmas.

After Corey Maggette made a pair of free throws to cut the lead to 87-84 with 2:53 to play, Gordan Giricek and Okur hit back-to-back 3-pointers.

Maggette, who had 19 points for the Clippers, made a driving basket, but Utah answered with Boozer's tip-in and another 3-pointer by Okur.

Elton Brand scored 21 points for the Clippers.

Okur also had 11 rebounds.

Central Michigan wins Motor City Bowl

Central Michigan and Middle Tennessee State both came away from the Motor City Bowl convinced their programs will benefit from the experience.

Only one coach knows for sure that he'll be around to find out if that's true.

Led by interim coach Jeff Quinn, the Chippewas scored on their first two drives and added another score on defense early in the second half to beat the Blue Raiders 31-14 in the Motor City Bowl on Tuesday night.

Quinn said the momentum generated by Central Michigan's first 10-win season since 1979 will help recruiting and will give a boost to returning players, who had a taste of success

Dallas has 1 week to rebound

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — After most games, Bill Parcells defers to the old coaching line about "needing to see the tape" before knowing exactly what his team did wrong.

That wasn't the case after the Dallas Cowboys played far worse than the 23-7 score indicates in a loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday.

"I know what happened," Parcells harrumphed during his postgame news conference. "But I'm not going to enumerate because you guys would have to send out for Chinese food by the time I finish."

Among the problems that could fit on a fortune cookie: Bad defense, worse offense, no sense of what was at stake.

The Cowboys could have wrapped up the NFC East by beating the Eagles, but by scoring their fewest points and gaining their fewest yards of the season now need some luck to win the division for the first time since the days of Aikman, Irvin and Emmitt.

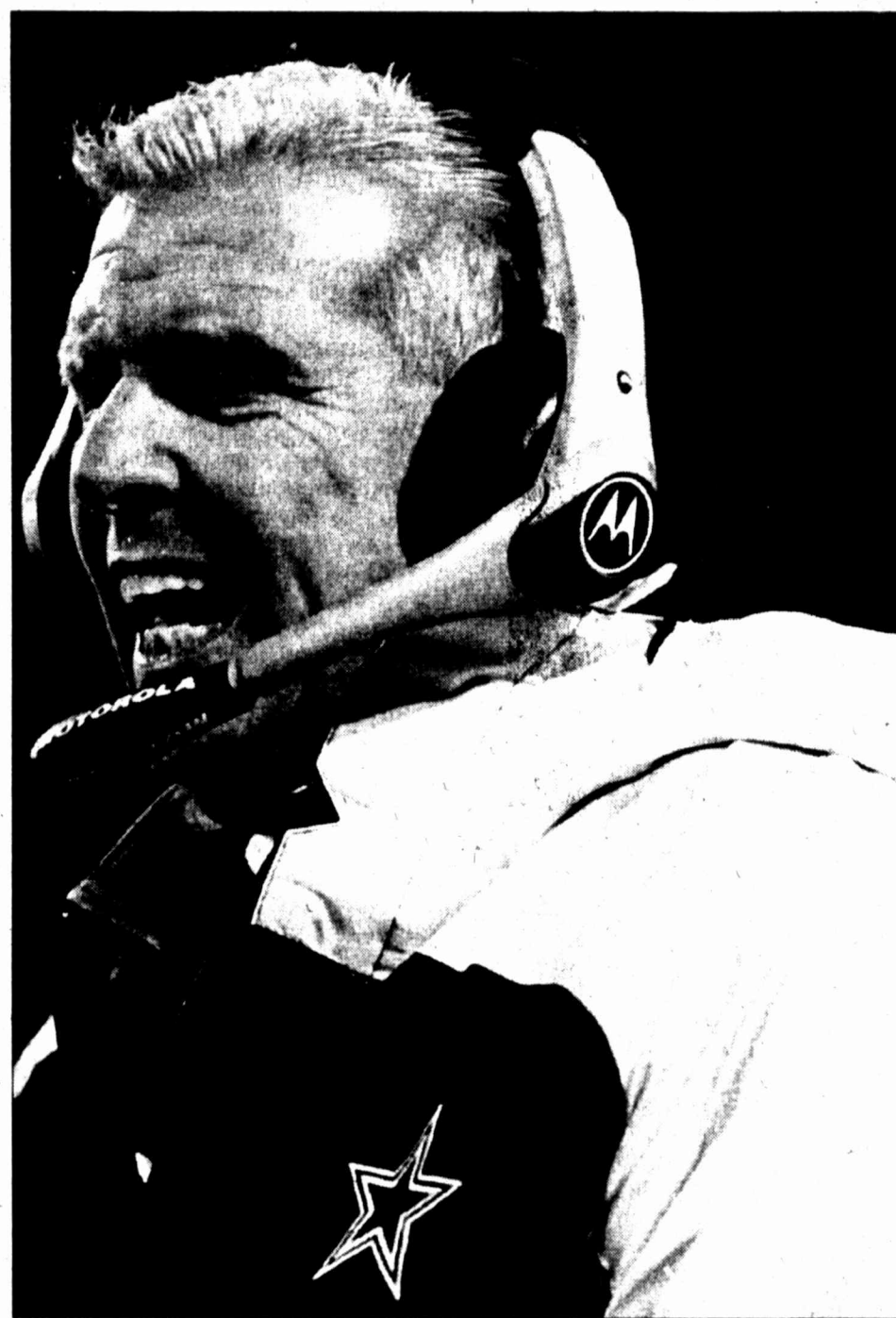
Dallas needs Atlanta to stop a 2-6 skid and win on the road at Philadelphia. The Cowboys also need to take care of their end by beating Detroit at home.

Should both things happen, Dallas would be the No. 3 seed in the NFC and would have a first-round home game, the first playoff game at Texas Stadium since 1998.

But if the more likely scenario plays out, Dallas will have the fifth seed, the top wild card. The Cowboys would then be headed to Seattle for the first round. There would be no home playoff game and all the "NFC East champions" merchandise advertised in Monday's newspaper would be exiled to some third-world country.

That explains why team owner Jerry Jones seemed like the most forlorn person in the locker room Monday night.

"Just pitiful. I'm just stunned," Jones said. "A game like this indicts us at the top, just straight



MCT photo/Ralph Lauer/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Cowboys head coach Bill Parcells reacts as his team drops another divisional game.

through. It's just disappointing. We ought to be able to have something very special happen to us with (Tony) Romo's emergence. ... You ought to be able to take the pieces that you carefully considered,

drafted and built, and those pieces ought to be able to be a good supporting cast, and that's not happening for us."

See DALLAS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Mavericks' Josh Howard launches a shot during the first half over the Charlotte Bobcats at the American Airlines Center in Dallas on Tuesday night.

Mavericks bounce Bobcats out of town

Mavs have now won seven straight

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki is likely headed for his sixth straight All-Star appearance, and this season he could have Dallas Mavericks teammate Josh Howard along as a sidekick.

Howard scored 27 points and Nowitzki added 23 as the Mavericks stretched their winning streak to seven games with a 97-84 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Tuesday night.

Howard, last week's Western Conference player of the week, went 10-for-19 from the field and grabbed eight rebounds. Dallas is 9-1 this season when Howard scores 20 or more points.

The Mavericks have put on a publicity blitz to get Howard All-Star recognition, but if he continues to perform at the current level, he won't need much help.

"No doubt he's an All-Star," teammate Greg Buckner said. "He's doing everything, playing the best ball on our team. We know Dirk's an All-Star. We'd like to have two. We think we're the best team in the league."

Howard, averaging 20.8 points over the last 14 games, would like to be in Las Vegas for the All-Star game on Feb. 18. If he isn't chosen, he'll be happy for a few days off.

"That's a kid's dream always," Howard said. "If the fans and coaches want me, I'll want to

play. But I'm not going to cry if I don't make it because there are a lot of good guys out there."

Howard credits better shot selection for much of his improvement.

"I was just out there taking the right shots," Howard said. "I try to be in the right position. It's timing, it's decisions. I know I can't chuck up everything. I've matured as a player."

Dallas seemed on the verge of a blowout, building a 57-45 lead early in the third quarter. But Charlotte responded with an 8-0 run to get within four with 5:55 left in the quarter.

Howard swung the momentum back to the Mavericks, scoring 11 points during the final 4:19 of the third quarter while Dallas was on a 21-11 run for a 78-65 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"We lost our focus as a team the first few minutes of the third quarter and we just went out and started playing better basketball," Howard said.

Howard contributed a four-point play and a three-point play during the late third-quarter flurry. On the three-point play, Howard dunked after rebounding his own miss, bringing the sellout crowd to its feet.

"He threw it up there and went after it with intensity," Charlotte coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "He knew he could go get it if he missed it. He's just a terrific play

See MAVS, Page 2B

Knight clings to his notion of basketball

Nobody should begrudge Bob Knight his next win, the one that nudges him past Dean Smith and into first place on college basketball's all-time Division I men's list.

If it helps, think how much earlier Knight might have reached this milestone if he hadn't

wasted so much time bullying the hired help and throw-instant-rums.



JIM
LITKE

But enough about that for a moment.

Turn on the TV any night this time of year and much of what you see on the floor Knight drew up some four decades ago. Just about every team runs some version of his motion offense, or man-to-man defense, but only he still runs both religiously.

It's Knight's notion of what the game should look like at any moment, a snapshot that's proven remarkably resilient in this digital age, when kids want to leap straight into the highlight reel, then dunk and never come down.

Before he ever coached a game, Knight was the sixth man on an Ohio State team that was as talented as they come and a lot more mature than they get nowadays. Using his time on the bench wisely, Knight cooked up a perpetual-motion scheme that made it possible for any kid — and not just stars like John Havlicek or Jerry Lucas — to wind up with the best shot, provided both he and the basketball were moving often enough. Belief in that system is the reason anybody who drives across Indiana sees backboards hanging above every patch of gravel or concrete across the countryside or braced against a telephone poll.

For all that, more than nostalgia props up the legend. Knight hasn't won a really big game in a long time — the last of his three national titles came in 1987, his last conference title in 1993, and his team's haven't advanced past the second round of the NCAA tournament in the past dozen years. He was losing recruiting battles regularly even before then, refusing to cater to a generation that valued exposure as much as excellence and daring anybody to make him change.

The talent deficit, though, eventually caught up with Knight. You could have stacked all the videotapes of a red-sweatered menace crossing the line with players, assistants, referees, reporters and even administrators outside his office door in Bloomington, but it wasn't until Knight started losing too many big

See KNIGHT, Page 2B

Oregon State player says Pac-10 deserves 0-2 bowl start

By R.B. FALLSTROM
AP Sports Writer

EL PASO — So far, the Pac-10 is getting kicked around in the bowl season. Oregon State safety Sabby Piscitelli said losses by Arizona State in the Hawaii Bowl and Oregon in the Las Vegas Bowl were well-deserved. "It's a little rough," Piscitelli said Tuesday. "It just looked like some teams weren't even prepared to play."

Coach Mike Riley's team gets its chance to boost conference pride on Friday against Missouri in the Sun Bowl. He was a lot more diplomatic assessing the situation.

"There's good teams everywhere, and we're playing a very solid, very good, very well-coached team, and we'll have to play very well to win," Riley said. "It's just like every game, it's how you play on that given day."

Hawaii beat Arizona State 41-24 on Saturday and Brigham Young spanked Oregon 38-8 on Dec. 21.

"That's their problem; I don't really care," running back Yvenson Bernard said. "I just worry about Oregon State."

Oregon State (9-4) takes a three-game winning streak into its game against Missouri (8-4), only the second meeting between the programs and first since 1956. Two other Pac-10 teams get a chance to reverse the 0-2 conference start before the Beavers, with UCLA (7-5) playing Florida State (6-6) on Wednesday in the Emerald Bowl and California (9-3) taking on Texas A&M (9-3) on Thursday in the Holiday Bowl. Missouri coach Gary Pinkel is impressed with a team that avoids mistakes on offense and leads its conference in turnover ratio and sacks.

"The other thing is they won a lot of close games," Pinkel said. "That certainly says a lot about the character of their team and the good job Mike has done."

Riley said his team's passion for the game has never been in doubt, even coming off a long layoff. Oregon State finished the regular season and qualified for its third bowl in four seasons with a 35-32 victory at No. 24 Hawaii on Dec. 2.

"One of the main things is really taking advantage of the

opportunity to really be well-prepared, and then not getting stale so that you hit that game at the right surge," Riley said. "I think finding the balance is big."

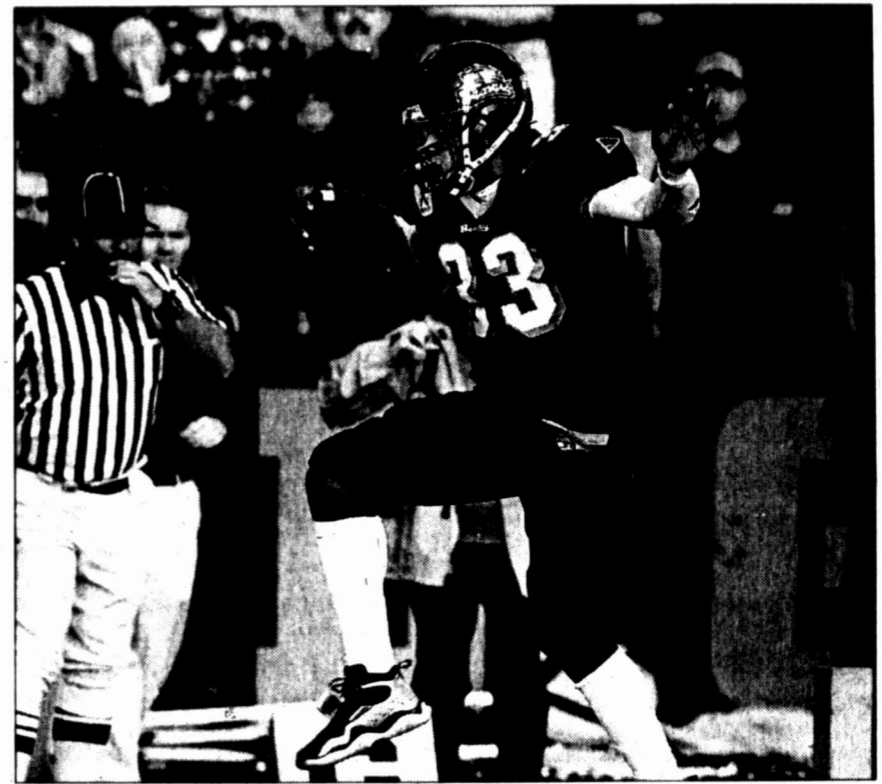
That said, Riley believes his players have maximized practice time all year.

"I said that way back in spring practice, and I said that when we were 2-3," Riley said. "These guys have good intentions, they work hard, and that's what got us here."

Oregon State is 7-1, also including a victory over then-No. 3 USC on Oct. 28, after a stumbling start with losses to Boise State, California and Washington State.

"We were 2-3 and really had two terrible games, and their perseverance and hard work started to pay off," Riley said. "I've never really had a concern about how these guys approach the games."

Sophomore Adam Speer will replace offensive guard Jeremy Perry, an All-Pac 10 pick who sprained his left knee in the Hawaii game. Speer has played in all 13 games but will be making his first career start.



MCT photo/Dean Rutz/Seattle Times
Steven Jackson of Oregon State steps lively into the end zone. The Beavers will play Missouri in the Sun Bowl, Dec. 29.

"Speer played most of the game against USC so it's not like he hasn't been in games before," Riley said. "He's got good experience and the guys

trust him and work well with him. "I'm not worried about his ability to be ready to play."

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

Dallas had so much to play for in its last two home games yet didn't play like a team worthy of a reward.

Before the stinker against Philadelphia, the Cowboys played New Orleans with second place in the NFC on the line. They responded with their worst defensive game of the season.

So much for Parcells' reputation of getting teams to peak at the right time.

The Cowboys' saving grace, of course, is that they are going to the playoffs regardless. So what they do in January will far outweigh anything that happens

in December.

Considering Dallas hasn't won a playoff game since 1996, a first-round win would still be the crowning achievement of Parcells' tenure.

"I told the team they can either be judged by this game, or come back and compete, which they're going to have the opportunity to do," Parcells said. "We've got to get together or that's how we're going to be judged. If we can beat Detroit and get into the playoffs and do something, then we'll be judged differently."

At least the Eagles helped show the Cowboys what areas they need to work on.

The defense was sorely exposed in its inability to come up with any pressure.

With Greg Ellis on injured reserve, DeMarcus Ware was so eager to make plays that he jumped offsidelines twice.

When he was blocked, Philadelphia quarterback Jeff Garcia had plenty of time to look at each of his receivers until one of them was open. Ultimately, Dallas' D was so worn out that the Eagles were able to run at will.

Romo and the offense never got in synch because of Philadelphia's ball-hogging. Three failed chances to score from the 1-yard line on an early drive seemed to haunt the Cowboys, too. (Not throwing to Terrell Owens more was another problem, according to Terrell Owens.)

Down only 16-7 in the third quarter, Parcells let Romo try passing his way

back into the game. It didn't work for a variety of reasons.

One series opened with a botched snap and false starts from both tackles. On third down, right guard Marco Rivera gave up a sack. Only left guard Kyle Kosier went back to the sideline without a major mistake.

Soon after, Dallas tried surprising Philadelphia with a hurry-up offense. The only surprise was the double-coverage Romo threw into in the end zone. Another interception sent fans to the exits with more than six minutes left.

"We're making too many mistakes. That's been our M.O. when we lose," said Romo, now 6-3 as a starter. "We'll find out how good we are when we get into the tournament."

KNIGHT

Continued from 1B

games that Indiana pulled the rug out from under him. When he resurfaced a year later at Texas Tech, he knew the talent gap would only widen.

Knight put down roots in Lubbock, anyway, a move that at the time seemed less about reclaiming past glory than methodically overtaking Smith and the D-1 record. Little has happened since to change the perception. Knight has upgraded slightly the caliber of players who might consider playing there, and he's had to relax some dearly held rules about haircuts and tattoos to accomplish even that.

But he's brought respectability and 20-win seasons to another town, and the same system that once drew the best players in the country to him like a magnet still worked well enough with middling talent to put Knight even with Smith heading into Thursday night's game against UNLV. If Knight doesn't get that one, he's almost certain to take sole possession of the top spot in either of the two home games that follow.

Some milestones carry a significance beyond their numbers, and when Smith went past Adolph Rupp back in 1997, more than a few members of the fraternity saw it as the fitting conclusion to an era of exclusivity.

The cold-hearted Kentucky baron stood astride the game for

more than 40 years, but only one black played basketball there during that stretch. Smith made integration a cornerstone of his program at North Carolina, not simply benefiting from the cause but actively championing it. That's why, in the days leading up to his supplanting Rupp at the top, Nolan Richardson, who is black and won a national title at Arkansas, said he would "sleep much better at night knowing Dean is the man."

There have been dozens of tributes to Knight already, and more to follow in the coming days. All of them will be about how he graduated kids and never, ever cut corners, but mostly about how much he bequeathed all the coaches who followed him.

That will be Knight's legacy, plain and simple, not the stubbornness that kept him clinging to a system and a disciplinary code that worked when the game was played mostly below the rim and players pushed the envelope with long hair and short shorts, instead of the other way around.

Some of those disciples, most notably Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who played point guard for Knight at Army and served his coaching apprenticeship there, too, soaked up the lessons and moved on. Knight is too competitive to wish Coach K or anybody else luck trying to go past him. But when — if — that time ever comes, Knight won't have any problems waving him by and even fewer regrets.

MAVS

Continued from 1B

er." Nowitzki, Dallas' top scorer who's been slowed by a sprained ankle over the past week, moved well enough to shoot 9-for-15 while contributing seven rebounds.

The Mavericks improved to 21-7, the best record in the league and a half-game ahead of the San Antonio Spurs (21-8) in the Southwest Division. San Antonio lost 114-107 at home to Milwaukee on Tuesday night.

Reserve Devean George had 12 points for Dallas.

Rookie Adam Morrison scored 17 points, Gerald Wallace had 16 and Matt Carroll 14 for the Bobcats, who've lost eight of 10.

Dallas coach Avery Johnson was concerned before the game with the Bobcats, who were com-

petitive against the Mavericks on Nov. 20 in Charlotte before Dallas used a late surge for a 93-85 victory.

Five of Charlotte's seven victories are against teams with win-

ning records.

Charlotte missed 11 of its first 12 field goal attempts in the second quarter as Dallas moved to a 49-41 halftime advantage. Howard and Nowitzki each had 14

points in the first half.

The Bobcats got off 78 shots, the same number as the Mavericks. But Charlotte made only 31, a shooting percentage of 41.

"Our problem is real simple," Bickerstaff said.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

American Profile

Riding the Pony Express

Yesterday's express mail

With today's instantaneous e-mail, it's hard to imagine that once, the fastest method of mail delivery was by horseback. Today, the Hashknife Pony Express is the nation's oldest continuous Pony Express affiliated with the U.S. Postal Service. Plus, overcoming New Year's resolutions hurdles and apple-pecan French toast.

American Profile

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WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Talemtundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (29) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (23) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCFI (64) Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News	Heridas de Amor	King of the Hill	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Curt Landry	News-Lehrer	MythBusters (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	Breakdown	Quest for
7 PM	George Lopez	George Lopez	La Fie Mas Bella	Bones (CC)	King	Marina	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Emporors of the Ice (CC)	Extreme Engineering	Movie: Never Been Kissed (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace (CC)	25 Strong	Movie: The	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	Starting New
8 PM	George Lopez	George Lopez	Mundo de Fieras	Bones (CC)	Criminal Minds	Amor Mio Amores	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Funnies	Light of the Southwest	When Parents Go	MythBusters (CC)	MXC	Without a Trace (CC)	Anniversary Special (CC)	Movie (CC)	College Basketball	College Basketball	Emerald Bowl	Spooked: The
9 PM	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Don Francisco	Becker (CC)	CSI: NY	Decisiones	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Sex and-City	Window to the Sea (CC)	Stunt Junkies	Movie: Never Been Kissed (CC)	MXC	Without a Trace (CC)		8:50 Movie: The Lizzie	Bradley at Northern Iowa	vs. UCLA	Waverly Hills	
10 PM	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	My Boys	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose	MythBusters (CC)	MXC	Las Vegas (CC)	Jamie Foxx	McGure Movie (CC)	Quite Frankly	SportsCenter	The Bermuda	
11 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Letterman	Un Rolo Vivo!	Late Night	10 Items-Less	N. McBride	Sign Off	Extreme Engineering	Movie: Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Movie: Scream	In Living Color	Phil of Future	2006 World Series of Poker	2006 World Series of Poker	Twilight Zone
12 AM	News (CC)	News (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brian	Update/Israel	John Hagep		MythBusters (CC)	A Dangerous Mind (CC)	Movie: A View to a Kill	American Gangster	Proud Family	2006 World Series of Poker	NFL Live	Twilight Zone	

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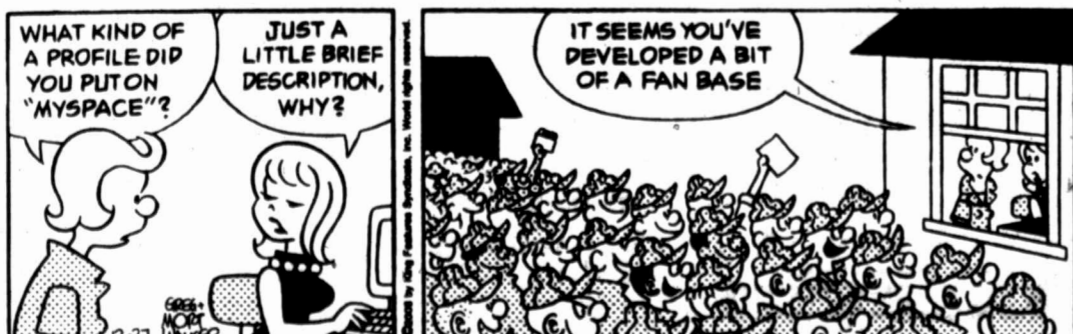
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2006. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the almost five-year-long journey helped to form the basis of his theories on natural selection and evolution.)

On this date:

In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.
In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.
In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.
In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act granting sovereignty to

Indonesia after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; a total of 20 people were killed, including five of the attackers, who were slain by police and security personnel.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, is 82. Rockabilly musician Scotty Moore is 75. Western swing musician John Hughey (The Time Jumpers) is 73. Actor John Amos is 67. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 63. Singer Tracy Nelson is 62. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 58. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 57. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 55. Rock musician David

Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 54. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 46. Country musician Jeff Bryant is 44. Actress Theresa Randle is 42. Actress Eva LaRue is 40. Rock musician Guthrie Govan (Asia) is 35. Musician Matt Slocum is 34. Actor Wilson Cruz is 33. Singer Olu is 33. Actress Emilie de Ravin is 25. Christian rock musician James Mead (Kutless) is 24.

Thought for Today: "Why must all the churches be closed at night? How often has the wanderer groaned in front of those closed doors?"

Paul Claudel, French author (1868-1955).
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Answer to previous puzzle

ACTOR	SOLO	CREW
SLOPE	IDOL	LIVE
HUGHES	ROAD	USED
YEA	EYER	MATERS
HARD	CALC	
REMOTE	PANTHER	
EVILS	SLID	PAIR
FIND	PAR	USNA
STET	TRIO	WREST
ADHERED	PASSES	
ELE	GALE	
CALL	HURT	AHA
ALAI	SQUEEZE	BOX
LOIN	ATMS	ERROL
MERE	PSST	DRAPE

Newsday Crossword ALL TOGETHER NOW by Kevin Donovan Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Military training pgm.
- 5 Mardi
- 9 Liver, for example
- 14 Arabian royal
- 15 Assistance provider
- 16 West Side Story heroine
- 17 Honey holiday event
- 20 Battling sides
- 21 Natural abilities
- 22 Like some bread dough
- 23 By (one way to learn)
- 24 With dropped jaw
- 27 Mental strain
- 32 Caribou cousin
- 35 Run off, as a couple
- 37 Made a landing
- 38 United Nations body
- 42 Singles
- 43 County in East England
- 44 Took in
- 45 Siberian plain
- 48 Domingo, for one
- 50 Some primates
- 52 Made mellow
- 56 Koran-based
- 60 Paper-folding art
- 62 Philatelist's pride
- 64 News people, collectively
- 65 Winter Olympics sled
- 66 Feed the pot

DOWN

- 11 Cheshire cat expression
- 12 "That a Shame"
- 13 Asks repeatedly
- 18 Hang around
- 19 Bowlers, for instance
- 22 17 Across
- 25 carte
- 26 Gdansk guy
- 28 Aries animal
- 29 Exile isle
- 30 River sediment
- 31 Eye annoyance
- 32 Fragile parts of personalities
- 33 Gave for a while
- 34 Lower joint
- 36 To be: Lat.
- 39 Uncommon sense
- 40 DC VIP
- 41 Out of the ordinary
- 46 Argentine plains
- 47 It's a long story
- 49 Unkempt
- 51 School, to Simone
- 53 Quebec neighbor
- 54 Put on a show
- 55 Partner of wines
- 56 Doctrines
- 57 Procedure part
- 58 Dog (Terhune novel)
- 59 Ugandan despot
- 60 Gymnast
- 61 Obag insert
- 63 Drag

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Mercury moves into Capricorn, and it's time to talk business. Communication takes a serious tone. Choose your words carefully. Think it through and plan your presentation. Throwing around ideas prematurely is dangerous — you don't want to wind up committed to something that in your mind is just a hypothetical situation you're playing around with.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes it seems as though the world's

filled with stodgy adults and you're the resident youthful exuberant. Really, there are more of you out there. In fact, two more young-at-heart types find you today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've given up a lot to establish a secure future for your-



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

self. Sometimes you wonder if it's worth it. Of course it is. Minor frustrations are part of the territory. Roll with it when you can, and when you can't, ask for help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're handed a treasure map. Well, maybe it doesn't look like a treasure map, but it does look vaguely like a plan. Follow the clues to gold or something equally valuable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though there's a part of you that has a sneaking desire to rule the world, most of you would be happy with calling the shots at work. Make sure higher-ups know how capable you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Worrying matters are dropped, not because they're completely solved, but because more important challenges call you to act. This is an indication of personal growth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The social scene is buzzing, but beware: If you listen too much to your friends, you'll get all caught up in a line of reason that, when all is said and done, doesn't make a lick of sense. Think for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're feeling increasingly spiritual. If you squint

your eyes, you can almost see the web of light that connects all beings. Show your compassionate point of view with practical action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An exciting someone has entered your world. Proceed with caution. Your best tactic is to stand back and observe. You're so powerful and alluring when you play it cool.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whatever your endeavor, you're completely engrossed, and you're doing it for yourself and no other. Perhaps that's why you come up with such an inspired result.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Arriving at a genius solution to your financial situation depends on asking the smart question. For example, why ask, "How can I get a raise?" when you can ask, "How can I double my money?"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take a trip some place you've never been, and shake the dust of the recent past off of you. You're ready for a fertile landscape full of new ideas. A Sagittarius person can help.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships get deeper, broader and

stronger. Friends band together for a common cause, like a ride to the airport or splitting the cost of a meal. The fun is more than you could put a price on.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Leo, born on July 23, 1983. For the past three months I've been seeing the number 11 quite a few times every day. I believe that it is a sign, but I can't figure out the meaning! What does the number 11 mean for me?"

The number 11 points you toward the eleventh sign of the zodiac: Aquarius. The qualities of Aquarius are inventive, innovative and futuristic. I think it's a sign to forge your destiny and ignore what fate is throwing at you, because the past is no indication of what you can create. The number 11 is also representative of magicians and magic. Reality folds and bends to your will when you have this number around you. A powerful time is upon you. If you still feel lost and aren't sure what to make of your gift, seek out an Aquarius mentor to guide you. This person helps you understand your power and how to home in on the life you want to invent. As a Leo,

this task should be easy for you. Leos are very in tune with what drives them. Enjoy this blessing from the stars — and good for you for paying attention!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Dashing Capricorn Jude Law may know a thing or two about living life in the tabloid spotlight, but he also refreshingly knows a thing or three about his lifelong passion — acting! Capricorn people can come off as emotionally cool, but this is because they are, down deep, so emotionally sensitive that they need to structure their environment to a great degree. I see his current hit "The Holiday" opening viewers to an extremely likable side of Law.

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

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Legals

Public Notice

Pursuant to Article 258.002(c) of the Texas Transportation Code, the Commissioners Court of Glasscock County, Texas provides this notice to the public of its intention to convene a public meeting to receive comment upon the adoption of a County Road Map including each road in which the County claims the continued existence of a public interest and a right of access and egress for maintenance of an existing County Road. The roads in which the County claims a public interest have been maintained for many years, beginning some time prior to 1981, have previously been listed in a notice included in the 2006-07 Ad Valorem Tax statement. A proposed County Road Map depicting each road in which the County claims a public interest is available for inspection by the public at the office of the County Judge in the County Courthouse, during business hours, commencing December 1, 2006.

The Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing on

1/24/2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Glasscock County Courthouse. At this time, pursuant to Article 258.002(b), Texas Transportation Code, any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may appear before the Commissioners Court to object or protest the County's claim of its right to continue maintenance of the public roads depicted on the County Road Map. Any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may also file a written protest with the County Judge at any time before the time and date of the scheduled public hearing. By way of this procedure, the County makes no claim affecting title, acreage, or ownership of the land, but seeks merely to establish and document the right of the County to continue maintenance of the existing county road in its present location and dimension.

Rebecca Balta
County Clerk
#5177 December 20 & 27, 2006 & January 3 & 10, 2007.

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Annie's Mailbox ®:
Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: During the past year, the mother and stepfather of some friends moved into a home that is just a couple of houses away from us. My husband and I have known these two for some years.

In the past, we've chosen to avoid our friends' parents as they both are drunks and the husband talks nonstop and has roaming hands. Unfortunately, my husband and I have become their favorite neighbors, and they often come over in the early evening to chat. They rarely leave, even when we tell them we have to eat dinner. They will tell us, "Go ahead. We'll entertain ourselves," which they do with the booze they brought. Sometimes I sense they are snooping around while out of our line of sight, so I often invite them to eat with us so we can keep an eye on them.

Annie, the man creeps me out. While he can be very funny, he only talks about what he owns and who he knows. But the worst part is he always positions himself near me and finds some reason to squeeze past me in tight corners. He is very quick to brush off any crumb that appears on my blouse.

The wife is totally oblivious to what is going on. I have discussed this with my husband, and we don't know how to avoid this couple. Even telling them we don't have time to visit doesn't deter them. If we close the door or walk away, they say they'll be back later. And they are.

Should I talk to our friends and ask for help with their parents? — Can't Stand Our Neighbors in Nuevo, Calif.

Dear Nuevo: We doubt your friends can help. You must be more direct. Tell your intrusive neighbors that you need time to unwind when you get home and you cannot have visitors. Every single time they pop in unexpectedly, tell them it's inconvenient and close the door. If you do it consistently, they will find their entertainment elsewhere. And if the hus-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

band gets too friendly, say in a loud voice, "Please keep your hands off me." In order for them to leave you alone, you must make your home less inviting.

Dear Annie: I am 92 years old. I was married to the most wonderful man for 70 years. We adored each other. A year ago, he began to have problems walking. Then came the cane, the walker and, just before he died, four months in a wheelchair. Every night I walked the floor crying, knowing he would soon be leaving me. A month before he died, he was in and out of a coma. Brokenhearted, I was forced to send him to a nursing home. I visited him every day from morning until night.

When he died in my arms, I was crying, yet I had this overwhelming wave of relief. How could I be relieved when I loved him so much? I cry every time I think of him and am consumed with guilt. Please help me. — Suffering in Florida

Dear Suffering: The relief you feel is normal. Your husband's death ended both his suffering and your anguish over his impending loss. It has nothing to do with the depth of your love and devotion. Please consider some grief counseling. The nursing home should be able to recommend someone.

Dear Annie: This is for "Had Enough," whose friend, "Bob," is grossly overweight and wrecks the chairs.

Chances are, Bob already knows he damages the furniture, so I think it's time "Had Enough" invested in fold-

ing camp chairs. My husband and I are big people, and one year at a local fair, we found someone selling camp chairs that hold up to 500 pounds. She can bring them out when Bob visits and put them away after.

She is not being rude to request that Bob sit in those chairs. It's HER house. And it may be a relief for him, too, not to end up on the floor after breaking another chair. Plus, everyone can relax and enjoy themselves. — Resting Easy

Dear Resting: What a great suggestion. Thanks for passing it along.

Dear Annie: I'm 34 and eight years sober. I am of a nontraditional faith, and derive much comfort and serenity from it. By nontraditional, I mean it's not one of the well-known organized religions. Most people are not very understanding about my choice, so whenever possible, I talk in general terms about my spirituality. Even in my recovery group, I do not share information about my religious beliefs.

The problem is my older sister, "Serena," who is out to reform our family and bring us all to her faith. I love my sister, but am fed up with the preaching and am ready to break off the relationship. I've tried to let Serena know that I have faith and spirituality, but it's not enough for her. She wants me to be with her in heaven when she dies.

I've listened with an open mind. I've studied her religion and chosen my own path. Please advise. — Just Another Alcoholic

Dear Another: Serena is determined to "save" you and will not be deterred. When she preaches, say, "Sorry, I'm not interested." If she persists, learn to turn a deaf ear, or get up and walk away.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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BIG SPRING HERALD

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A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Submit your information
by fax at 432-264-7205
Call us at 432-263-7331
Come visit us at
710 Scurry Street
www.bigspringherald.com