



Rabies vaccination drops getting under way

Approximately 2.8 million baits will be dropped from five specially equipped airplanes flying across 39 Texas counties.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Coyotes and gray foxes in South and West Texas will have something to smile about soon, as the Texas Department of State Health Services will once

again take to the air for its annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program.

Bait designed to appeal specifically to coyotes and gray foxes will be airdropped into counties such as Glasscock, Tom Green and other areas south and east

of Howard County.

Over the last 10 years, almost 25.4 million individual doses of oral rabies vaccine have been distributed across 352,100 square miles of Texas through the program, and according to health officials at DSHS, has led to dramatic drops in incidences of canine and gray fox rabies.

"No human cases of rabies in either area have occurred since the vaccine airdrop began,"

said DSHS veterinarian Ernest Oertli, ORVP director. "And no animal cases of canine or gray fox rabies have been recorded outside the original containment zones since the program's beginning. These are truly measurable success points."

The program, which began in 1995, was designed to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to help stop the spread of the rabies virus, and

eventually to eliminate rabies in these animals altogether.

According to statistics provided by DSHS, the number of canine rabies cases in South Texas has declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began to none in 2002 and 2003, one in 2004 and none in 2005 through November. Gray fox cases also have shown a dra-

See **RABIES**, Page 3A



Jeff Thompson, left, and Danny Wright, sample their efforts at the Fourth Annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 Chili Cookoff Saturday morning. Proceeds from the event benefited the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children in Need Fund.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Supreme Court nominee begins Senate hearings

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito off to his confirmation hearings today with best wishes and a demand that senators "give this man a fair vote and an up or down vote."

Alito was facing close questioning by the Judiciary Committee to determine his fitness to be the nation's 110th Supreme Court justice. But first, he got some last-minute encouragement from the president over breakfast at the White House.

Speaking to reporters afterward, the president called Alito "eminently qualified" to be on the high court and said he told the judge that "he's conducting himself with such dignity and class."

"Sam's got the intellect necessary to bring a lot of class to that court," Bush said as he escorted Alito before news cameras in the Rose Garden. "He's got the judicial temperament necessary to make sure that the court is a body that interprets the law and doesn't try to write the law."

Alito, a conservative,

15-year member of the federal appeals court in Philadelphia, was chosen by Bush Oct. 31 to succeed the retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman on the high court.

O'Connor, a justice since 1981, was a decisive swing vote on abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action and other highly contentious issues.

"My hope of course is that the Senate bring dignity to the process and give this man a fair hearing and an up or down vote on the Senate floor," Bush said. He added: "Sam, good luck to you."

Ten-minute opening statements by the panel's 18 members were likely to consume much of Monday's opening session, with direct questioning of Alito getting fully under way beginning Tuesday. The hearings are expected to last at least two days.

Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said Sunday he will wrap up the hearings this week. He has called for a committee vote by Jan. 17.

Republican leaders hope for confirmation by the full Senate Jan. 20, but Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, the committee's top Democrat, would not promise the schedule would hold.

See **ALITO**, Page 3A



Alito

Council to study grant for Moss Lake

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council is set to consider a number of different items, including first reading of a resolution accepting a \$150,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for improvements to the city's Moss Lake facility, when it meets Tuesday evening.

According to Todd Darden, Big

What: Big Spring City Council meeting.

Where: Council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday

Spring director of public works, the grant represents an opportunity for the city to expand the type of recreational activities supported by the

lake facility, including the addition of several off-road vehicle trails and tracks.

"We were awarded a \$150,000 trail grant for the Moss Lake facility," said Darden. "The application request for the grant was for improvements in the park that would add off-road travel for different types of off-road vehicles."

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

Deadline nears to pay property taxes without penalty

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

With the holidays still fresh in most local property owners' minds, the Jan. 31 deadline to pay their 2005 taxes may not be at the top of their to-do list.

However, County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles says it's not too early to think of avoiding a last-minute dash and some hefty fines and penalties that can add up rather quickly.

"Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 per-

cent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

Sayles said area residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month."

—Kathy Sayles,
tax assessor

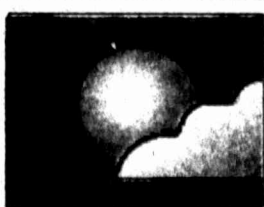
"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount

that's due. So if you haven't received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people

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LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING

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

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

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

MIRACLE MARATHON?

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — A bus driver has been charged with fraud and grand theft for allegedly completing a marathon while receiving workers' compensation for a back injury. Johnny Chavarria, 57, a driver for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, allegedly finished the Big Sur Marathon while receiving thousands of dollars in workers' compensation funds. Chavarria was arrested Friday following an investigation into the injury claim he filed in June 2003.

"You can't run marathons if you are not well enough to drive a Metro bus," said District Attorney Bob Lee. "It's not just wrong; it's criminal."

CHENEY TREATED

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney was taken to George Washington Hospital early today, experiencing shortness of breath, a spokeswoman said.

He was released four and a half hours later. Cheney spokeswoman Lea Anne McBride said Cheney was taken to the hospital at 3 a.m. He was released about 7:30 a.m. McBride said the foot condition was not related to surgery last September to repair aneurysms behind both knees or the 64-year-old vice president's lengthy history of heart problems — four heart attacks, quadruple bypass surgery, two angioplasties and a special pacemaker.

Obituaries

Lacey Low



Lacey Low, 92, of Big Spring died Saturday afternoon, Jan. 7, 2006, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness. Graveside services are 2 p.m. today, Jan. 9, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Elwin Collom of Home Hospice officiating.

She was born July 13, 1913, in Big Spring to John and Nora Gregory and married Greely Low Dec. 12, 1936, in Colorado City. He preceded her in death Jan. 23, 1970. She was a lifetime resident of Howard and Glasscock Counties and graduated from Elbow High School. She worked a number of years as custodian at the Glasscock County Courthouse in Garden City. She was a Baptist.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Evelyn Cauble, Mary Wood and Virginia Low Green.

She is survived by one son, Wayne Low and his wife, Linda of Sterling City; and one granddaughter, Carylon Frerich and her husband, Brian of Garden City.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Louise Dunlap



Louise Dunlap, 94, of Big Spring died Sunday morning, Jan. 8, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a long illness. Graveside services are 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006, at the City Cemetery in Cleburne.

She was born Aug. 14, 1911, in Monahans to Annie Laura and Albert Henry Garrett. She married Earl M. Dunlap, May 25, 1937, in San Antonio. She was a registered nurse, having worked a number of years at the Cleburne Hospital. She lived in Joshua and Burlison for a number of years, moving from Burlison to Big Spring 13 years ago. She is a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Darrell Dunlap in 1993 and six brothers and sisters.

She is survived by one grandson; one granddaughter; one sister, Geraldine Jessup and her husband, Calvin of Poughquay, N.Y.; and one brother, Paul M. Garrett and his wife, Rosemary of Big Spring.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. West winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

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

Friday...Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the mid 50s.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s.

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

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

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

Take note

- **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.
- **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.
- **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.
- **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.
- **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.
- **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

Police blotter

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

- **BOE LEWIS PAYNE**, 23, of 1509 Stadium, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **CHARLES YOUNG**, 36, of 601 Caylor, was arrested Saturday on a Howard County warrant.
- **JESUS RAMIREZ**, 45, of 503 Young, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger.
- **MAURICIO TORRES**, age not provided, of 1104 Austin, was arrested Saturday on three local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **MARIAN REED**, 52, of 1308 Wright, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ROBERT REED**, 50, of 1308 Wright, was arrested Saturday on charges of evading arrest with a vehicle and driving while license invalid - enhanced.
- **SCHEMICKIA CROSBY**, 23, of 1107 Pennsylvania, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 41, of Colorado City, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ**, 26, of 1509 Oriole, was arrested Saturday on a Howard County warrant.
- **BRANDIE JETTON**, 29, of 5200 Midway Road, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOE ALFARO LOPEZ**, 43, of 811 W. Sixth Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **TONY RAY BINGHAM**, 24, of 809 Creighton, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **VICTOR HERNANDEZ**, 39, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 142, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **KONI FOSTER**, 42, of 2009 Runnels, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended - enhanced.
- **MANUEL CHAVERA**, 30, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 202, was arrested Sunday on two Howard County warrants and two local warrants.
- **ANNA RHEA NICKLE**, 24, of 1302 Nolan, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants.
- **SHERRY CHANDLER**, 21, of 1810 Owen, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported:
 - in the 100 block of Third Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Ridgeroad.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Main Street.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 2500 block of Central.
 - in the 600 block of Elgin.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1300 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Scurry.
- **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1200 block of Nolan.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of McEwen. 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 1400 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported 24 miles north of Big Spring on North Highway 87. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of East Third Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 2500 block of Albrook.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported near the intersection of Second Street and Bell.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of FM 820 and Stuart Ranch. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 900 block of Northwest Second Street.

Distribution of Food

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

Sheriff's report

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

- **JUSTIN REX-KELL GARD**, 19, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **EMAD ABDEL KARAKAH**, 40, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **DONNA STRAIT**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- **RAYMIE BARAZA**, 44, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **ROSA MARIE JONES**, 49, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **LAYLA ANN DUNNAM**, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.
- **TOMMY ANDREW GONZALES**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation and suspend license for possession of a controlled substance.
- **PATRICK TERRAL KESLER**, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **ROY DWIGHT BIDDLE III**, 45, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for giving a false statement for property or credit.
- **FRANCIS MAURICE OVERTON**, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of bondsman off bond for two counts of violation of a promise to appear, no liability insurance, two counts of no driver's license and ride not secured by a safety belt.
- **LINDA GAIL NORMAN**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **CARRIE RAHAT-SAMARA**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **THOMAS RAY CAMARILLO**, 32, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid.
- **ADRIAN VANDERPOOL**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **EDWARD JAMES SPIVEY JR.**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **THOMAS WILBERT**, 34, 34, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of criminal mischief and criminal trespass.
- **TERRY DON FRYAR**, 47, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.
- **JOE ALFARO LOPEZ**, 43, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **MAURICIO H. TORRES**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- **JESUS TORRES RAMIREZ**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age.
- **ROBERT EARL REED**, 50, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.
- **TONY RAY BINGHAM**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **KONI FOSTER**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **SCHEMICKIN MARIE CROSBY**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **CHARLES T. YOUNG**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.
- **SHERRY LYNN CHANDLER**, 21, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
- **ROSALIO GONZALES**, 44, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ADOLFO LOZAMA**, 45, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JESUS MANUEL VASQUEZ**, 28, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DOMESTIC DISPUTE** was reported in the 300 block of West Third Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1300 block of West FM 818.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Firefighter

By The As

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News in brief

Firefighters battle small fires across state By The Associated Press

More than 60 wildfires were reported across the state Sunday but most were contained to 30 acres or less, fire officials said.

Jim Caldwell, a fire information officer for the U.S. Forest Service, said the biggest fires included one that scorched about 150 acres in Cherokee County.

Mahlon Hammetter, a fire prevention specialist for the Texas Forest Service, said the fire started Saturday when a boat trailer being towed without a wheel scattered sparks into the dry grass.

Another fire in Wood County burned 70 acres and forced the evacuation of 120 people, Hammetter said. Crews also fought fires in Erath, Upshur and Austin counties.

Caldwell said most of the fires were contained because of burn bans and more firefighting resources, such as aircraft.

"Now with all this in place, we are getting to the fires very quickly," he said. "Most of (the fires) were acted on very quickly and most of the structures were protected."

He stressed that the fire danger still exists.

Letter confirms Robert Johnson's Dallas recordings

DALLAS (AP) — The discovery of a long-lost letter offers rare insight into Robert Johnson's life and confirms that the bluesman recorded at a downtown Dallas building, music historians said.

Blues fans have long thought Johnson recorded 13 songs in 1937 in a building two blocks east of Dallas City Hall. The building was home to Brunswick Records at the time, but there was no known documentation to confirm where the recordings took place.

That was until San Diego blues enthusiast Tom Jacobson tracked down a 1961 letter unlocking the mystery.

In the letter, the producer of the recordings, Don Law, wrote that the session took place in a makeshift studio at the Brunswick Records office — a three-story building now owned by a drink distribution company.

Johnson died 18 months after the recordings at age 27, but his music lived on and was hugely influential on 1960s musicians like Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.

National Guard soldiers head for Egypt

WACO (AP) — Families said goodbye Sunday to about 450 Texas Army National Guard soldiers assigned to yearlong deployments in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

The soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, will be part of a multinational force charged with maintaining a 1979 peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

The troops from across Texas were scheduled to begin leaving Monday. The bulk of their job will be to monitor a 150-mile stretch of the Israel-Egypt border.

"You leave your homes here in Texas to carry out a mission of peace in the cradle of civilization," U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, said at a Waco deployment ceremony.

Lt. Col. Lee Schneel said relations between the two countries have been relatively peaceful, but the soldiers must remain alert.

The deployment marks the 49th rotation of a U.S. battalion into the multinational force.

Second arrest made in deaths of three

EDNA (AP) — A man wanted in connection with the August shooting deaths of three people at a home in Edna has been arrested trying to cross into the United States from Mexico, authorities said.

LeJames Norman, 20, was being held Sunday at the Jackson County Jail on \$1 million bond. He was arrested Friday night at an international bridge in Brownsville, Edna Police Chief Clinton Wooldridge said.

Norman and Kersean Ramey, 20, of Edna, are accused in the deaths of Celso Lopez, 38, Samuel Justin Roberts, 24, and Tiffani Marie Peacock, 18.

Ramey was being held in the jail on an unrelated charge Dec. 12 when he was charged in the deaths of the three. He was indicted on capital murder charges on Dec. 16.

An arrest warrant was issued for Norman on Dec. 11. Wooldridge said the case would be presented to the grand jury.

Police suspect the three died in a robbery gone bad, the *Victoria Advocate* reported in its Monday editions, citing an arrest affidavit.

The affidavit says the robbery was discussed for several days and that one of the victims recognized the masked attackers by their voices.

Elvis items auctioned for true love

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of pieces of Elvis Presley memorabilia were auctioned off over the weekend by a longtime collector trying to win back his girlfriend after she warned: "You leave the Elvis clothes or I'll leave you."

The items auctioned included three Elvis concert suits, two of which sold for \$125,000 and \$50,000, said Alan Lipkin, senior vice president of Regency-Superior, which organized the online auction. The third was still on the auction block.

Also sold were necklaces Elvis gave to girlfriends and friends, cufflinks he received from President Nixon and belt buckles he wore, Lipkin said.

The seller, Jim Curtin, collected 600 cartons of Elvis memorabilia for more than 30 years and met the star several times.

His unrelenting adoration eventually got the attention of Elvis, who personally presented Curtin with a white jumpsuit he wore in a Houston concert in 1974, according to the Regency Web site.

So why give up the lifetime collection?

"He's doing this to try to win back his girlfriend," said Lipkin.

RABIES

Continued from Page 1A

matic decrease from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to four in 2005 through November.

Approximately 2.8 million baits will be dropped from five specially equipped airplanes flying across 39 Texas counties, according to Oertli. The first flight took off last week from the Zapata County Airport in South Texas.

The second portion of the drop begins in mid-January from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton, with the last leg getting under way around Jan. 21 from Junction's Kimble County Airport.

Each bait contains 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine, which according to Oertli, cannot cause rabies in people or animals. He does warn

against handling them, however.

"Since each bait contains a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people have touched them, you should try to leave them untouched," he said.

Each bait is brown in color and measures approximately 1-1/4 inches by 1-1/4 inches by 3/4 of an inch, and is marked with a TDH toll-free number that people may call for information.

You can be infected with the rabies virus if you are bitten by an animal that has the disease. You can also get rabies if the saliva from a rabid animal contacts your mucous membranes or any open wounds you might have. If you have such contact with a rabid animal, only a series of shots can keep you from getting the disease.

According to the TDH Web site, located at www.tdh.state.tx.us, the

signs of rabies, especially in pets, can be subtle during the first stages of infection.

"If a pet is infected with the rabies virus, the way it acts may change," advises the Web site. "A friendly dog might want to be alone. A shy dog might want attention. Rabid dogs often become mean, roam, make strange noises and attack people and other animals. Rabid animals may drool and they sometimes swallow stones, sticks or other things."

"Later, as the rabid animal gets even sicker, it might have trouble chewing, swallowing, drinking or walking. It may not be able to close its mouth and may appear to be choking. Never try to clear the throat of an animal with these signs. If you see an animal acting this way, call the local animal control agency right away."

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

which includes motocross and all-terrain vehicles.

"The scope of the project includes the entire lake. We envision using every square inch of travel area for those off-road vehicles. As the city manager said, Moss Lake is a diamond in the rough and this will help maximize the use of the facility."

Darden said the overall project is expected to cost \$180,000.

"We can use the funds for signage and restroom facilities," said Darden. "We can use it for the actual construction of the tracks, management or the purchase of maintenance equipment."

"What we're going to be doing now is sitting down and writing a very detailed plan to take to the city council that will go in with our application that we should be receiving pretty soon from Texas

Parks and Wildlife so we can get their approval as well."

Among the agenda items listed for action are:

- Final reading of an ordinance approving a final plat of Lot 1, Block 1, David D. Long M.D. Family Medical Clinic Subdivision, a .39 acre tract out of a 128.7 acre tract of Section 1, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey.
- Approval of late homestead exemption refunds for the month of November 2005.
- Final reading of a resolution authorizing a loan from the city's capital revolving fund for the purchase of golf carts for Comanche Trail Golf Course.
- Approval for permission to advertise for bids for purchase and removal of the old Northside Community Center building.
- Approval of request for proposal and permission to advertise for lease purchase financing.
- Award bid for sale of surplus property located in Glasscock

County.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a landscape maintenance agreement between the city of Big Spring and the Texas Department of Transportation.
- First reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a special warranty deed covering a .91-acre tract of land out of Section 163, Block 29, Waco and Northwestern RR Co. Survey in Glasscock County.
- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an elections services contract with the Howard County Elections Administrator.
- First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a contract with caretakers for the Dora Roberts Community Center.

The meeting will get under way Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, at 307 E. Fourth Street.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

ple, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.

"They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a

receipt for their payment."

As the deadline nears, Sayles said many people are looking at their tax information for the first time, and not being prepared can cause last-minute problems.

"Some of them don't realize that they can apply for a homestead exemption," explained Sayles. "If they qualify, then we send them next door to the appraisal district office so they can apply for it. Once it's been approved by the

appraisal district we can adjust the amount they owe."

"The homestead exemption allows for a 20 percent reduction in what they owe the taxing entities, and then the school district gives an additional \$15,000 just for the standard homestead. There's also an exemption for people over 65 years old, which each entity gives more of a deduction for. On average it saves around \$300 to \$400 for each taxpayer."

For older taxpayers or those on disability, there is a special plan.

"There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said Sayles. "You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and Aug. 1. This is for people 65 and older or who are receiving disability."

The Howard County Tax Collector's Office can be reached at 264-2232.

ALITO

Continued from Page 1A

Alito was Bush's second choice to replace O'Connor. White House counsel Harriet Miers withdrew from consideration after conservatives questioned her judicial philosophy and qualifications for the Supreme Court.

"The challenge for Judge Alito in the course of these hearings is to demonstrate that he will protect the rights and liberties of all Americans and serve as an effective check on government overreaching," Leahy said in a pre-released excerpt from his opening statement. "The president has not helped his cause by withdrawing his earlier nomination of Harriet Miers in the face of criticism from an extreme faction of his own party."

Bush then turned to Alito, 55, who previously worked as a federal prosecutor and a lawyer in the Reagan administration.

Republicans say there is no reason to delay or filibuster Alito. Senators who have met privately with Alito say he told them that his 1985 written comments maintaining there was no constitutional right to abortion were part of a job application for the Reagan administration, which opposed abortion.

At the same time, he wrote in a separate legal memo while at the Justice Department that the

department should try to chip away at abortion rights rather than mount an all-out assault.

Specter, said in an advance copy of his opening statement that the hearing will be an opportunity for Alito to say publicly what he has been telling senators in private about how he would deal with the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision establishing a woman's right to an abortion.

"This hearing will give Judge Alito the public forum to address the issue, as he has with senators in private meetings, that his personal views and prior advocacy will not determine his judicial decision ...," said Specter, a moderate on the issue.

But no matter what Alito says, some Democrats will oppose him, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said in his opening statement, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

"I am reluctantly inclined to the view that you and any other nominee of this president for the Supreme Court start with no more than 13 votes in this committee, and only 78 votes in the full Senate with a solid, immovable and unpermeable block of at least 22 votes against you, no

matter what you say or do," the statement said.

Abortion and presidential war powers are expected to be the main focus of the opening rounds of questions.

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Lacey Low, 92, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Louise Dunlap, 94, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the City Cemetery in Cleburne.

Preferred Trim T-Bone Steak.....	\$5 ⁹⁹ LB.
Sirloin Bone-In Pork Chops.....	\$1 ²⁹ LB.
Cello Lettuce Iceberg.....	79¢ HEAD
Colorado Russet Potatoes.....	3 LBS. \$1 ⁰⁰
Maxwell House Coffee.....	\$6 ⁹⁹ 39-OZ.
Shurfine Coffee Creamer Lite.....	\$1 ⁴⁹ 16-OZ.
Shurfine Assorted Saltine Crackers.....	99¢ 16-OZ.
American Beauty Spaghetti or Roni.....	\$1 ¹⁹ 24-OZ.
Hunt's Spaghetti Sauce.....	99¢ 26-OZ.
Libby's Regular or Chicken Vienna Sausage.....	2/ \$1 ⁰⁰ 5-OZ.
Peter Pan Peanut Butter (Assorted).....	\$1 ⁹⁹ 18-OZ.
Yoplait Assorted Yogurts.....	2/ \$1 ⁰⁰ 6-OZ.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be careful
in school
safety zones

Now that the holiday season is over, we can begin to get back into some familiar routines. For many of us, that includes some type of arrangement for getting our children to school in the morning and back home again in the afternoon. For those of us who work, it can be a harried time. We're balancing their schedule with ours, trying to get to work, then maybe take a quick afternoon break so we can rush to the school and pick up the children and deliver them to a relative's house, daycare or home.

We've all been outside school buildings when the final bells ring. They are a beehive of activity, with children scampering everywhere, and cars lined up waiting. Obviously, the potential for an accident is increased. Fortunately, however, there have been few of those over the years.

That's because most of us observe the speed limits in school zones and are aware of the potential danger.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Slow down. Always obey the speed limit when traveling through neighborhoods and school zones.
- Be attentive. Watch for children gathering near bus stops and walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Remain alert. Hurried children may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

None of us is so busy, nor is there any emergency so important that we can afford to put our young people at risk by driving in an unsafe manner.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am curious to know if the City Council had ever passed an ordinance regarding vicious dogs.

My next door neighbor on the north side has three sharpei-pitbull mix that they send into their backyard everytime that they hear my kitchen door open. These dogs then go charging the fence and snarling and snapping at me or whoever goes through my side yard.

Three years ago at Christmas I heard their back door open as I was taking out my garbage and heard him say, "Get her! heh,heh,heh" and I turned to see the dogs charging the fence and the neighbor standing at his door. It was only partially open. I continued on my way and on my way back into my house I let him know that I had heard him. I then called

the P.D. and turned it in. The dogcatcher came out but the neighbors hid inside their house along with their dogs and I was told to "call the dogcatcher" if I saw anyone.

What I want to know is, if there is an ordinance about collaring dogs etc., how do you enforce it? Also, even with the prohibition of fireworks in town and the burn ban, someone in my neighborhood managed to set some off and at 2:17 in the morning. My son and I were outside in my backyard (with a six-foot privacy fence) putting out a fire that had been ignited by sparks from fireworks.

Are we paying taxes so that we can enforce the ordinances ourselves, or are the people of this community so bad that the law enforcement can't keep up with them?

ZONA LEE
BIG SPRING

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We ask, dear Lord, that you be with us this day that we may make you proud. Amen

Alito's opponents make case for him

As Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito approach, we are getting a closer glimpse at the mindset of the various special-interest groups joining to oppose the nomination. Through their public statements they have exposed themselves, not Judge Alito, as extremist.

Supporters of Judge Alito and other Constitution-respecting nominees should quit playing defense and start underscoring the liberty-threatening nature of the judicial anarchy essentially espoused by radical feminists and others opposing these nominees.

Since the failed nomination of Judge Robert Bork, these groups have grown increasingly emboldened, holding themselves out as the sacred guardians of constitutional rights against "reactionary" conservatives who would take us back to the days of "back-alley abortions" and virtual slavery for women and minorities.

Behind the misleading rhetoric, we discover these groups are selective defenders of the Constitution. Their judicial philosophy demonstrates no real appreciation for the overarching principle of limited government the Constitution was crafted to guarantee. They exhibit no understanding of such pivotal constitutional doctrines as the separation of powers and federalism that transform the idea of limited government from theory to reality.

Not only is their advocacy of "rights" highly selective, but their understanding of freedom itself is recklessly superficial. They are rarely motivated to protect the structural integrity of the Constitution and are purely results oriented.

If a particular congressional law mandates an outcome they deem desirable, they don't care whether it is beyond Congress's constitutional authority to enact. Conversely, if Congress passes a law entirely within its constitu-

tional authority but whose result they oppose, they demand the court act as a super-legislature and overrule Congress, though legislating is outside the court's constitutional scope.

For them, the end justifies the means, whether the "means" involves Congress perverting the Commerce Clause or trampling on states' rights, or the courts usurping legislative or executive authority. Indeed, these fanatical groups can talk all they want about the horrors of a Judge Alito, but they are the ones whom lovers of liberty and the Constitution should fear.

In the weeks leading up to the confirmation hearings, these groups have been circulating talking-points memos and organizing rallies and marches to mobilize public opinion against Alito.

To get a taste of their penchant for hyperbole and hysteria, visit the Web sites of the Feminist Majority Foundation, People for the American Way, the National Organization for Women, the Alliance for Justice, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Freedom Winter '06 or Young People Against Alito.

When you examine their most common objections to Judge Alito, you will find they are usually centered on the very things we should applaud in a judge. What they regard as denigrations of certain rights, we should understand as stewardship of the Constitution itself, without which we would have no rights. Examples abound:

When Judge Alito seeks to vindicate the core constitutional principle of equal protection in opposing affirmative action and quotas in college admissions programs, they mischaracterize it as his desire "to restrict African-Americans' admissions" to colleges. When Alito says Congress has no constitutional authority under the Interstate Commerce Clause to regulate intrastate activities involving machine guns, he is castigated as an advocate for "obviously dangerous" weapons.

When Alito voted to strike down a school district's euphemistically dubbed "anti-harassment" policy as a cleverly crafted ruse to restrict the free speech of certain



DAVID
LIMBAUGH

'Charities' fund sleazy politicians

We live in a great nation. The police blotter of the Mill Valley Herald in California informs us that the constabulary there had to be called out on account of a citizen "dressed like a penguin" who was "standing on a street corner playing a ukulele." Makes me proud to be an American.

What does not make me proud to be an American is a specific twist in the Jack Abramoff/Tom DeLay scandal — in fact, this makes me want to urp despite the fact that I have a strong stomach when it comes to political corruption. Practice, practice, practice, that's what Texas provides when it comes to sleaze and stink. Who can forget such great explanations as "Well, I'll just make a little bit of money, I won't make a whole lot?" And "There was never a Bible in the room?"

But this is a reach too far, just that little extra that takes normal putrid corruption and moves it to the ranks of "Excuse me, I have to throw up." Both Abramoff and DeLay and many of their web of colleagues have consistently used nonprofit organizations ostensibly formed for charitable purposes to launder money, to move peculiar proceeds and to pay for high-flying perks. Come on, guys, give us a break — if you're going to make a mockery of democracy and show your mastery at flipping money, wiring the system and fixing the odds — please don't use charitable organizations designed to help crippled children to do it.

That's Bad Taste. According to Associated Press, Tom DeLay "visited cliff-top Caribbean resorts, golf courses designed by PGA champions and four-star restaurants, all courtesy of donors who bankrolled his political empire."

"Over the past six years, the former House majority leader and his associates have visited places of luxury most Americans have never seen, often getting there

aboard corporate jets arranged by lobbyists and other special interests.

"Public documents reviewed by the Associated Press tell the story: at least 48 visits to golf clubs and resorts with lush fairways, 100 flights aboard company planes, 200 stays at hotels, many world class, and 500 meals at restaurants, some averaging nearly \$2,000 for a dinner for two.

"Instead of his personal expense, the meals and trips for DeLay and his associates were paid with donations collected by the campaign committees, political action committees and children's charity the Texas Republican created during his rise to the top of Congress."

How cynical does that make you? When I hear Speaker Dennis Hastert is returning his campaign contributions from Jack Abramoff or "donating it to charity," I wonder which little charmer of a Republican campaign fund masquerading as a charity he's sending it to.

The DeLay Foundation for Kids was set up 18 years ago and works on behalf of foster children. But it is also a way for companies to give unregulated and undisclosed funds: It's a way for companies to get into DeLay's good graces or, as Fred Lewis from Campaign for People says, "another way for donors to get their hooks into politicians."

Meanwhile, Abramoff was even more cavalier about "charity." He created the Capital Athletic Foundation supposedly to help inner-city children through organized sports. There is no evidence any of the money ever went to that purpose, but *The Washington Post* reports it went to a sniper school for Israelis on the West Bank, a golf trip to Scotland for Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio) and a Jewish religious academy in

They don't want justices to be fair-minded, objective, apolitical or sober practitioners of judicial restraint. They prefer confirmed activists who will twist or ignore the Constitution at will so long as certain policy results are achieved. It is their judicial philosophy, not Judge Alito's, that ought to be opposed with intensity.

politically incorrect students, such as those Christians who criticized homosexual behavior, they depicted him not as a champion of First Amendment freedoms but a homophobic bigot.

When he voted to uphold a police strip-search of a woman and her 10-year-old daughter as constitutionally reasonable under the circumstances (to prevent the hiding of illegal drugs) and based on a "common-sense and realistic" reading of the search warrant and its supporting affidavit, they cast him as a chauvinistic thief of privacy rights. When he had the audacity to write a Third Circuit opinion that Congress didn't have the power to require state governments to comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act, they tarred him as insensitive to employees rather than a laudable defender of state sovereignty.

Think about it. Alito's staunchest opponents are against him for precisely the reasons they should be supporting him: He would dispassionately interpret the Constitution. They don't want justices to be fair-minded, objective, apolitical or sober practitioners of judicial restraint. They prefer confirmed activists who will twist or ignore the Constitution at will so long as certain policy results are achieved. It is their judicial philosophy, not Judge Alito's, that ought to be opposed with intensity.

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Columbia, Md. Abramoff's hapless Indian clients were generous contributors: I wonder if he thought it was funny that Indians would more likely identify with Palestinians than Israelis.

Believe it or not, there are nonprofit organizations in this country where the CEO barely makes more than the janitor, where nickels and pennies are saved so the clients or the cause can get a little more. There are nonprofits where good and faithful servants have spent decades devoting their entire lives to helping those less fortunate than themselves — without ever going to a cliff-top Caribbean resort. There are nonprofits where extra-bright young people from top schools work for peanuts because they want to make a better world. While Jack Abramoff padded his bills and falsified expenses to tribal clients, there are people who work for minimum wages on Indian reservations to help some of the poorest people in America get a minimally decent chance at life.

Abramoff and DeLay and their crummy hangers-on haven't just cheated and lied. They have dishonored the work of many, many people who are devoted to helping others without even expecting a decent salary for it.

So, here's to a few of them here in Austin off the top of my head — the cheery, sleazy, brass "charity" of conscienceless climbers can never touch the real gold of all you do: Tom "Smitty" Smith, Peyton Wimmer, Sheila Enid Cheaney, Charlie and Pauline Sullivan, Ernie Cortes, the "twisted sisters" at the Center for Public Policy Priorities, Sister Patty Tenorio, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Casa Marianella, D'Ann Johnson, the Texas Observer, the Breast Cancer Resource Center and so many, many more. You are heroes.

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Big hope, Big letdown

Appetite suppressants are no get-out-of-weight free card

If only we could just not want to eat. Wouldn't that make staying healthy so much easier? We'd eat what we needed because it was the right thing to do for our health — like brushing our teeth — not because it was such a rewarding source of pleasure.

No such luck. We love food. We're hard-wired to want it. That's part of what assures survival of the species, and we further cultivate our appetites for it by associating food with every other kind of satisfying joy from birth onward — maternal comfort, familial stability, social interaction, celebration, etc. But enjoying food for more than physical sustenance is part of the reason we have an obesity crisis.

So appetite suppressants are the most widely used of the medicines and supplements used for weight-loss therapy. The logic is simple—if you have no appetite, you'll eat less and you'll lose weight.

Having no appetite could be a powerful defense against the world of "eat-more, eat-now" messages that constantly bombard Americans, stimulating our appetites by any means available.

A person who is suddenly finding it easier to pass on the junk and the massive servings can exercise a lot more control over the quantity and quality of their intake. And that's just the boost some people need to make a routine of healthy dietary changes, and that boost can sometimes come from a medication.

But it's no get-out-of-weight-free card. Chemically, appetite suppressants act on the central nervous system (CNS) to decrease appetite or cause the feeling of fullness that doctors call satiety. But appetite suppressants are also the most controversial because of potentially dangerous side effects.

Some appetite suppressants are addictive, and their effect tends to wear off if used over an extended time, such that people need to take larger doses to produce the same result, which in turn increases the risk of addiction, which in turn increases other risks.

Among prescription appetite suppressants, most people remember the Fen-Phen debacle. The combination of phentermine and fenfluramine or dexfenfluramine were prescribed for thousands of people with weight problems in the mid-1990s.

Fen-Phen was hailed as the new magic bullet, and there was tremendous excitement about it, as early trials showed

Caroline J. Cederquist, M.D. is a board certified family physician and a board certified bariatric physician (the medical specialty of weight management). She specializes in lifetime weight management at the Cederquist Medical Wellness Center, her Naples, Fla., private practice, you can also get more information about Dr Cederquist and her weight management plan by visiting www.DietToYourDoor.com



CAROLINE J. CEDERQUIST

promising results. People also had a sense of confidence about its safety and efficacy, because it had been through the rigors of FDA testing.

Phentermine is an androgenic, which means it is activated by the body's natural epinephrine (adrenaline) supply or another epinephrine-like substance. Like an amphetamine, it acts to stimulate metabolism and suppress the appetite.

Fenfluramine and dexfenfluramine also increased serotonin levels in the brain and enhanced the appetite suppression effects of phentermine while alleviating some of its unpleasant stimulant effects.

Fen-Phen was indeed effective in helping people lose weight, but it also turned out to be associated with numerous cases of valvular heart damage. Some people died, others were hospitalized. Even though the combination drug was subjected to extensive testing, this was a side effect that researchers hadn't discovered before it was released to the public and subject to broader use.

In 1997, fenfluramine and dexfenfluramine were withdrawn from the U.S. market, to much objection and outcry from patients—presumably those without heart damage—who were successfully losing weight with the help of Fen-Phen. Only phentermine remains available.

The Fen-Phen situation remains an oft-cited example of the very real danger of drug interactions. Even with the rigorous testing the drug was subjected to in controlled studies, the problem with heart trouble wasn't detected until it was released and began to be used by thousands of patients. Only then did the frequency of heart problems become clear.

Another weight-loss medication that was pulled is Phenylpropanolamine.

Once sold under prescription as Destrin, and over the counter in various weight-loss products and cold treatments, it was removed from the market in 2000 after a large study found that it increased the risk of hemorrhagic stroke.

Sibutramine (Meridia) was approved for weight-loss treatment in 1998, just in time to fill the void left by Fen-Phen. Not surprisingly, an eager public seized upon it as the new hope.

Like fenfluramine and dexfenfluramine, sibutramine affects the function of serotonin in the brain, though sibutramine goes about it differently, and it doesn't produce the adverse side effects on the heart. Sibutramine at 10 to 30 mg per day has helped patients reduce their weight by up to 10 percent over six to 12 months, which is above average. In three studies, up to 25 percent of lost weight was regained within one to six weeks of stopping medication, and in another study, up to 80 percent of weight lost was regained within three months of stopping medication.

But patients who stay on sibutramine typically gain back less than 20 percent of the weight lost.

And there's the rub! Unlike most weight-loss medications, sibutramine actually is approved by the FDA for long-term use of more than 12 months, so patients may be able to get a supportive regimen of medication for a longer period with sibutramine.

But once again, there's no perfect safe solution. Other safety concerns about sibutramine led to its removal from the market in Italy, and France and Great Britain are considering similar action because of reports of heart attack, stroke, arrhythmia, and some deaths in patients taking sibutramine, even though a clear causal relationship hasn't been established.

Doctors and researchers know that sibutramine does increase blood pressure and heart rate, but no one knows yet if it's responsible for causing heart attack or some other serious adverse effects.

Until this is better understood, if your doctor suggests using sibutramine, remember that diligent tracking of your blood pressure will be essential.

And if you already have coronary artery disease, heart failure or high blood pressure, remember that the purpose of losing weight is to improve your health.

The amount of loss you could get from sibutramine would not justify recklessly elevating your current risks, so you probably should not be on sibutramine at all.

Personal Trainer

Obstacles for the overweight

Moderate exercise, combined with a sensible, low-calorie diet, is excellent for weight loss; how to get over the hurdles and get going:

Difficulty	Possible solution
Low motivation or confidence	Exercise with a partner or group; keep an exercise diary; celebrate your progress and physical improvement.
No time to exercise	Write down weekly exercise goals; get support from friends or family.
No facilities or equipment	Do daily activities in way that boosts calories used; try walking.
Previous bad experience	Walk or do other low-intensity exercise; try to overcome your negative thinking; get support from friends, family.
Difficulties from weight	Choose activity suited to larger bodies, like biking; remember that activity will become easier with practice.
Poor balance	Try swimming, other non-weight-bearing activities.
Anxiety, worry	Go slowly; keep your exercise fun; do it with a friend.

© 2005 KFF
Source: The Physician and Sportsmedicine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Policies for life! set

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

Club and church News should be concise and may not be written in first person. Each must contain a contact name and telephone number.

Wedding announcements, 50th anniversary or greater announcements, engagement announcements and quinceañera articles with photos are published within three months of the event in the Big Spring Herald's weekend

edition at no charge.

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

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

The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to life@bigspringherald.com.

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Administration Building
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EATORS

IN BRIEF

Spring date for football banquet
The Big Spring ISD football banquet will take place Thursday at the high school gymnasium. The public is invited to attend and tickets may be purchased in advance from Kay Cook at the ATC by calling 264-3662 or from Gene or Lana Piercefield at 816-1134. The cost is \$10.

Chicano Golf Association sets first meeting of year
The Chicano Golf Association has set an organizational meeting for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama meeting room. All members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Applewhite named OC at Rice

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Texas quarterback Applewhite has been named the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Rice. Applewhite's hiring comes a week after former Tulsa assistant Todd Graham was named to replace retiring Ken Hatfield as the Owls' head coach. Graham said Applewhite brings instant credibility to the program which went 1-10 in 2005.

"We want to spread the field and throw the football, and every quarterback and receiver in this state will be interested in Rice with Major as our offensive coordinator," Graham said.

Applewhite, 26, was the quarterbacks coach at Syracuse last season. In 2003-04, he worked as a graduate assistant at Texas.

Applewhite finished his career as UT's all-time leader in passing yards (8,353), passing touchdowns (60), passing attempts (1,065), and total offense (8,059). Texas went 22-8 with Applewhite as the starter and won four straight bowl games while Applewhite was there.

Applewhite, a Baton Rouge, La. native, was the Big 12's freshman of the year in 1998 and shared the league's offensive player of the year honors as a sophomore in 1999.

Free throws key for Lady Raiders in win

LUBBOCK (AP) — Success from the free throw line was the difference for Texas Tech as it evened its conference record in a season of struggling.

"The fact that we were 15-of-18 from the free-throw line as a team tonight was probably the biggest factor in the game," Lady Raiders coach Marsha Sharp said following her team edge over Texas A&M Saturday night. The loss snapped a 10-game win streak for

Texas superstar decides on NFL

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — After leading Texas to its first national championship in 36 years, quarterback Vince Young has decided to make himself eligible for the NFL draft.

Young scheduled a 3 p.m. news conference in Austin to announce his intention to leave the Longhorns rather than return for his senior season, an anonymous source within the Texas athletics department told The Associated Press.

Young led the Longhorns to a 41-38 Rose Bowl win over top-ranked Southern California Wednesday with an 8-yard touchdown run with 19 seconds left. He accounted for 467 yards — 200 running and 267 passing.

He is the winningest quarterback in UT histo-

ry with a 30-2 career record.

That performance intensified speculation that he would leave school early and also started a debate about whether he would be the No. 1 pick in April's draft if he declared.

Young is UT's all-time leader in total offense (9,167 yards), career touchdowns (81) and career rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (37).

This season Young became the only player in NCAA history to pass for 3,000 yards (3,036) and rush for 1,000 (1,050) in one season. His 4,086 total yards are a Longhorns single-season record.

He won the Davey O'Brien Award for the nation's best quarterback and the Maxwell Award for the top college football player.

Texas Tech falls to Aggies in Big 12 opener

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Down by nine with leading scorer Joseph Jones in foul trouble, Texas A&M coach Billy Gillispie knew someone else would have to step up or the Aggies were doomed.

Cue skinny and scrappy junior Acie Law, who scored 21 points, including 14 in the second half, to erase a steep halftime deficit and lead Texas A&M to a 63-55 win in the Big 12 Conference opener for both schools.

Texas A&M trailed 34-22 before going on a 15-2 run on the strength of tough defense and hot shooting by Law and Dominique Kirk.

"Law really got away from us in the second

half," said Texas Tech coach Bob Knight. "They just geared it up a little bit more."

Kirk made two 3-pointers in that span and Law's bucket with just under 14 minutes remaining put Texas A&M (11-1, 1-0 Big 12) ahead 37-36. It was the Aggies' first lead since they were up 2-0.

Texas A&M scored 13 second half points off nine Red Raiders turnovers.

The win breaks a streak of 10 straight losses in conference openers dating back to 1995 for the Aggies.

The last time Texas A&M won a league opener was a 90-80 victory, also over Texas Tech, in the old Southwest Conference.

The Aggies have won 11



KRT photo/Tom Pennington, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Actor Matthew McConaughey greets University of Texas quarterback Vince Young as he comes out for warmups as No. 2 Texas beat No. 1 USC, 41-38, Wednesday in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Young declared himself eligible for the NFL draft Sunday.

Houston looks to DC Gray

• Texans interview Gray as search for coach continues

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Buffalo defensive coordinator Jerry Gray met with the Houston Texans on Saturday, the only defensive coach interviewed to replace fired coach Dom Capers.

Gray is the fifth candidate to meet with Texans owner Bob McNair, consultant Dan Reeves and McNair's son, Cal, about the vacancy created when Capers was fired after a 2-14 season.

The Texans have also interviewed three offensive coordinators — Denver's Gary Kubiak, Miami's Scott Linehan and Kansas City's Al Saunders — and Houston receivers coach Kippy Brown. San Diego offensive coordinator Cam Cameron has an interview on Sunday.

Gray said his chances are helped by the success this season of Chicago's Lovie Smith, Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis and Carolina's John Fox — all former defensive coordinators who have led their teams into this year's playoffs.

"Hopefully, that's a positive for me," Gray said.

Like Kubiak, Gray has ties to Texas — he grew up in Lubbock, was a star safety at Texas in the early 1980s, played for the Houston Oilers in 1992 and coached the defensive backs at SMU in 1995.

"Texas is Texas," Gray said. "There's no place like going back to home."

If the Texans don't hire him, Gray might not have a job to fall back on in Buffalo.

The Bills' 5-11 season triggered the firings of five coaches and president and general manager Tom Donahoe.

Gray said he'll discuss his status with Coach Mike Mularkey after he's completed a few more interviews next week. He would not specify which other jobs he was pursuing.

The Bills plunged to 29th in the NFL's defensive rankings in 2005 after finishing second in 2003 and '04. Pro Bowl linebacker Takeo Spikes missed most of this season after tearing his Achilles tendon, the most significant of several injuries that ravaged the unit.

The Texans' defense was the only one worse than the Bills in the AFC, but Gray sees potential.

"They've got young safeties, they've got a lot of decent tacklers who are aggressive," Gray said. "The thing you can do is you can kind of mold those guys into what you want. I think they've got a leg up on a lot of people."

The Bills beat the Texans 22-7 in the season opener and Gray spent part of his interview explaining what was wrong with the Texans' offense, the NFL's third-worst in 2005.

"I told them what I thought was best for their offense and some adjustments we've got to make," he said.



KRT photo/Erich Schlegel, Dallas Morning News
Texas' Daniel Gibson, front, goes for a shot against Colorado's Martane Freeman during their game in Austin Saturday.

No. 1 Central Arizona cruises past Howard

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

HOBBS, N.M. — The Hawk women ran into trouble against No. 1 Central Arizona Saturday, losing in Hobbs, N.M., 77-35.

Howard trailed 43-16 at halftime and was never

really a match for the nation's top-ranked team.

The Hawks fell to 6-11 on the season. They have one more game before the conference season starts. That contest will be played Tuesday at the

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Kanas steals show in Big 12's opening day

By STEVE BRISENDINE
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — On the day the Big 12 Conference opened its 10th basketball season, Kansas' last non-conference game stole the show.

Nebraska's upset of No. 12 Oklahoma wasn't far behind, though.

The Jayhawks earned their first victory of the season over a ranked team — and the attention that comes with blowing out a perennial powerhouse on national television — with a 73-46 rout of No. 19 Kentucky on Saturday.

Kansas' victory, behind 24 points and 12 rebounds from freshman Brandon Rush, was the Wildcats' worst loss in nine seasons under Tubby Smith.

"I wouldn't say this was a statement game for us," said center C.J. Giles, who scored 10 points for Kansas (9-4). "We weren't vying for other people to see what we were made of. We knew what we were made of. We've played hard, practiced hard, we're getting better and we're starting to show it now."

In the first conference matchup of the day, the Cornhuskers stunned Oklahoma 59-58 on Joe McCray's 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds to go.

"It's a big push toward the next step," said Charles Richardson Jr., who had 15 points for Nebraska (11-3, 1-0 Big 12). "We got the win and right now we have to look ahead to Kansas State and another 2-0 start in the Big 12."

Nebraska's victory started a trend: Home teams went 5-0 in conference play on Saturday.

No. 15 Texas had the easiest time of it, beating Colorado 89-64 as P.J. Tucker scored 24 points and tied his career high with 15 rebounds.

Texas A&M came back from a 34-25 halftime deficit to beat Texas Tech 63-55, while Missouri's 69-61 win over Oklahoma State improved the Tigers to 7-0 in conference home openers under coach Quin Snyder.

Iowa State held off Kansas State's late comeback — with the help of two late turnovers by the Wildcats — to win 72-70.

A turnover also figured prominently in Nebraska's upset of the Sooners (9-3, 0-1). McCray's winning 3-pointer came after Oklahoma's Terrell Everett threw an errant pass to the Cornhuskers' Wes Wilkerson, with the Sooners clinging to a 58-

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BIG 12

Continued from Page 1B

56 lead. "That's basketball," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "McCray gets the handoff on a dead run and turns around and makes the 21-footer."

Texas (12-2, 1-0), which also got a career-high 18 points from Kenton Paulino, has won four straight since getting embarrassed 95-78 at home by Tennessee on Dec. 17.

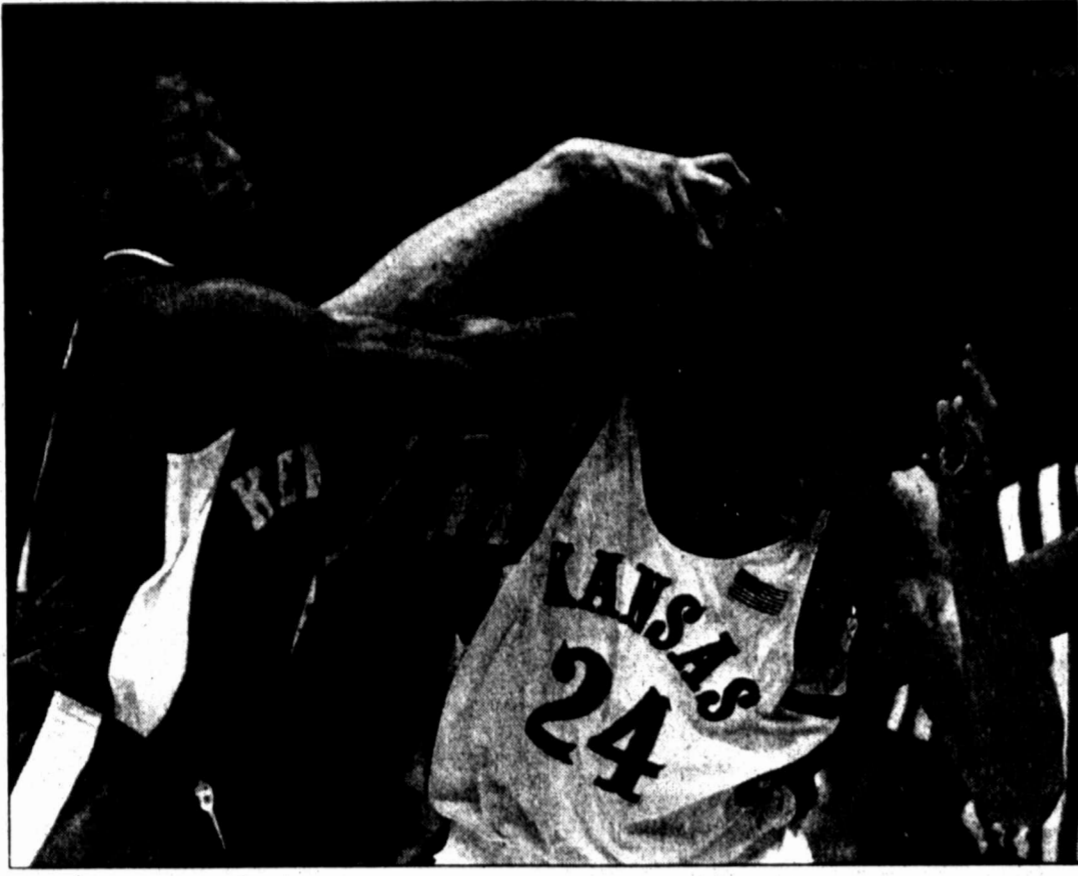
"The losses helped us. I know they're painful lessons to learn, but that's why you play the schedule you play," coach Rick Barnes said. "It gets you ready."

Colorado (10-2, 0-1) had scored more than 110 points in two of its previous three games.

"I call this a big boy game," said Colorado coach Ricardo Patton. "It's for men, not for babies, not for guys who are going to be weak with the basketball."

At College Station, Acie Law scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half to lead Texas A&M (11-1, 1-0) to the comeback victory after the Aggies trailed Texas Tech (8-7, 0-1) by as many as 12 points in the first half.

That offset a subpar outing by Texas A&M's leading scorer, James Jones, who spent much of the game in foul trouble and finished with six points — well below his team-leading average of 16.6



KRT photo/Frank Anderson, Lexington Herald-Leader
Kentucky's Ravi Moss, left, fouls Kansas' Sasha Kaun in the Jayhawks 73-46 victory Saturday in Lawrence, Kan.

points. "We are not going to quit," Law said after A&M broke a string of 10 straight defeats in conference home openers. "Things won't go our way all the time. We just continued to fight and got things to go for us, and they made mistakes."

Jimmy McKinney and Thomas Gardner each scored 23 points for Missouri, each taking turns carrying the scoring load for the Tigers (8-4, 1-0).

McKinney — whose 23 points were a career high — scored 15 points in the first half, while Gardner

had 16 points after the break.

"It didn't matter who was guarding me, and it doesn't matter who's guarding me from here on out," McKinney said. "I'm just shooting because my time is running out."

"Hey, I'm going out with a bang and whatever happens, happens."

Oklahoma State (10-5) has lost four of its last six games against Missouri.

Kansas State (9-3, 0-1) had a chance to win its first road game in three tries, then gave it away.

Cartier Martin's 3-point shot with 50 seconds left got Kansas State within 70-69,

but the Wildcats' David Hoskins traveled with 16 seconds left.

The Wildcats got one more chance when Will Blalock missed a 1-and-1, but Curtis Stinson stole the ball with 4.7 seconds to go and then hit two free throws to seal the win for Iowa State (11-3, 1-0).

Blalock's 24 points led the Cyclones, who won their fifth straight game despite blowing a 13-point lead in the second half.

"Down the stretch, our defense has to be better," said Iowa State coach Wayne Morgan. "I don't like the way we finished the game."

Carolina's defense shuts out Giants in first-round win

By JENNA FRYER

AP Sports Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The Carolina Panthers beat the New York Giants at their own game, in their own place. Steve Smith scored a pair of touchdowns and Carolina rattled Eli Manning into four turnovers to lead the Panthers to a 23-0 win over New York in the first round of the NFC playoffs Sunday.

The Panthers used a stout defense and a strong running game — the same principles the Giants used this season to win their first divisional title in five years.

Playing nearly as well as they did in their Super Bowl season two years ago, the Panthers (12-5) handed New York its first playoff shutout in 20 years.

"Everybody may say we're a Super Bowl team — we're not," Smith cautioned.

Manning was intercepted three times, then fumbled late in the game in front of a nearly empty Giants Stadium. Tiki Barber was held to a season-low 41 yards rushing, while the Giants managed just 109 yards total offense while becoming

the first home playoff team to be shut out since 1980 when the Los Angeles Rams beat Tampa Bay.

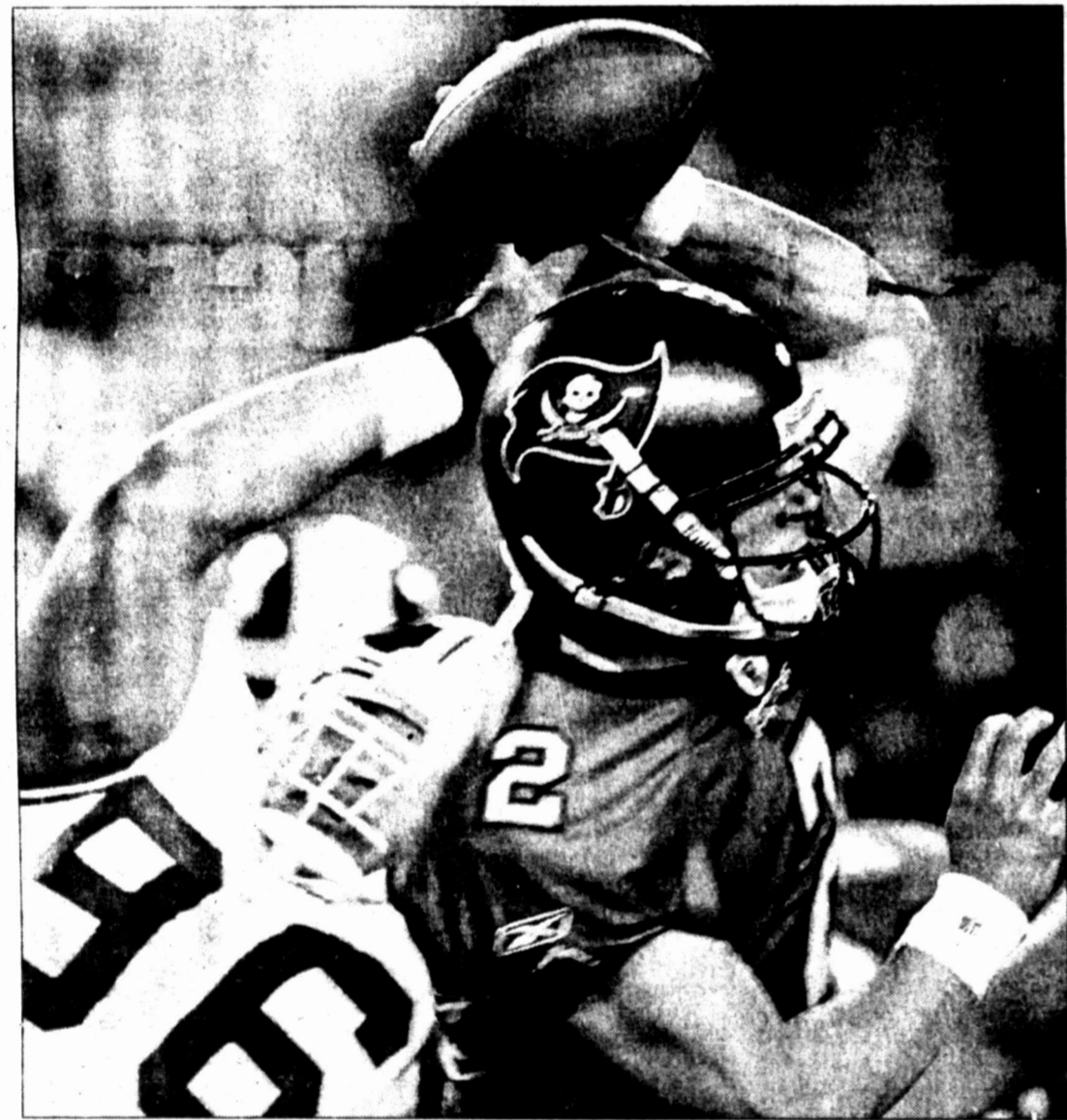
It was exactly the performance expected from a John Fox-coached team. He and the Panthers seemed to be ahead of the Giants on almost every play as he marked his return to the Meadowlands, where he spent five years as their defensive coordinator before taking over in Carolina in 2002.

"It was strange," Barber said. "They were in our huddle a little bit. They kind of had us dissected and figured out and we couldn't get anything going consistently."

DeShaun Foster ran for 151 yards by going straight at the Giants' depleted linebacker corps, kick-starting a running game that has been spotty all year.

Smith had 10 catches for 84 yards. He scored once on a 22-yard catch from Jake Delhomme, then ran a reverse in 12 yards.

But the game belonged to Carolina's defense, which was insulted earlier in the week when Osi Umenyiora said the Panthers had the second-best defensive ends in the NFL.



KRT photo/Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel
Tampa Bay Buccaneers' quarterback Chris Simms (2) is pressured by the Washington Redskins' Cornelius Griffin (96) in the second half of the Redskins playoff victory Saturday in Tampa, Fla.

Defense leads Washington to playoff win over Buccaneers

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer
TAMPA, Fla. — With Joe Gibbs back in the playoffs for the first time in 13 years, the Washington Redskins looked like a Super Bowl contender again.

Well, at least on defense.

LaVar Arrington's interception set up Clinton Portis' 6-yard touchdown run, Sean Taylor returned a fumble 51 yards for another first-quarter score and the Redskins held on for a 17-10 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFC wild-card round Saturday.

Taylor was later ejected for spitting in the face of a Bucs player, further depleting an injury-riddled unit that held off two Tampa Bay scoring threats in the closing minutes, including a near catch in the end zone that could have tied the game with just less than three minutes to go.

Chris Simms lofted a

perfect spiral to Edell Shepherd on third-and-10 from the Washington 35, but the Tampa Bay receiver lost control of the ball as he was coming down in the end zone.

Simms, unaware the pass was ruled incomplete, began celebrating near the sideline — and the Bucs' stadium crew set off premature fireworks. Tampa Bay asked for a video review, burning its final timeout, but the call was correctly upheld by instant replay.

The victory was the sixth straight for the Redskins (11-6), who advanced to a divisional round game next Saturday at Seattle (13-3). It also avenged a 36-35 loss to Tampa Bay (11-6) this season, a game the Bucs won on Mike Alstott's 2-point conversion run with less than a minute remaining.

"This is great," Redskins quarterback Mark Brunell said. "We've played our best football in December, and

to get a playoff win on the road, as you know, is very difficult to do. Our defense was incredible. You can't say enough about them. They won the game for us."

Gibbs, who came out of retirement two years ago, took over sole possession of third place on the career playoff wins list for a coach, improving to 17-5 in the postseason, including three Super Bowl titles during his first stint with the Redskins from 1981-92.

The Hall of Fame coach is known as an offensive innovator, but the Redskins won this one despite gaining only 120 yards to Tampa Bay's 243. John Hall's 47-yard field goal were the only points produced by an offense that averaged more than 33 points per game the last three weeks of the season.

Brunell went 7-of-15 passing for 43 yards and one interception, and Portis was limited to 53 yards.

Patriots roll past Jacksonville

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Watch out, the New England Patriots look like champions again, and that should send a chill through the rest of the NFL.

Tom Brady, Willie McGinest and the Patriots set an NFL record with 10 straight postseason victories by beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-3 on Saturday night.

Pursuing an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl title, New England battered the

overmatched Jags. Brady, who has quarterbacked all 10 of those postseason wins, tied a playoff career high with three touchdown passes, and McGinest set NFL postseason marks with 4 1/2 sacks and 16 for his career.

New England's milestone surpassed the nine straight playoff victories by Green Bay in the 1960s and set up a road trip next weekend to either Indianapolis or Denver, depending on the outcome of Sunday's Pittsburgh-Cincinnati matchup.

While Brady had touchdown throws of 11 yards to Troy Brown, 3 to David Givens and 63 to Ben Watson — the tight end did all the work on that one — the defense never let Jacksonville's offense breathe. Cornerback Asante Samuel was particularly active with a 73-yard interception return early in the fourth quarter that clinched it, and New England finished with six sacks overall.

Jacksonville didn't get a first down until about 11 minutes remained in the second quarter.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum against No. 3 Trinity

Valley Community College at 6 p.m.

Sophomore Latoya Taylor led the Hawks against Central Arizona with 14 points, while

freshman guard Chanel Jones-Delas added seven points. Freshmen Kim Gilyard and Tonisha Martin each finished with six points.

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Dear Prudence

Dear Prudie: I'm at my wife's end. For starters, my mother-in-law isn't the greatest mother to my husband, unless there is something going wrong in our relationship. She sticks her nose in where it does not belong and fills his head with the most addebrained advice about how to relate to the kids and me.



MARGO HOWARD

First, she tells him to move back home with her. (She lives in Germany!) Second, she was never there for him growing up but wants to make up for it now that he's in his 30s. She talks about how he needs to leave me, make a better life for himself and forget about his family. He has the attitude that she's always right and that I'm the one to blame for all his shortcomings.

I wish he would just tell her to mind her own business, but he seems unable to stand up for himself when it comes to her. I know that family comes first, but I think we should be the family that comes first! Ready To Pull My Hair Out!

Dear Read: Actually, it sounds like you're ready to pull your mother-in-law's hair out, and who can blame you? This is an awful situation. In something akin to Stockholm syndrome, it is not unusual for a kid who has suffered neglect to cleave to that parent when he or she finally decides to pay some attention. It is nothing less than outrageous that your m-i-l is counseling her son to leave you and his children.

What you need to do is call his bluff and make an appointment with a couples counselor. (It may turn out that you should leave him.) In any case, you have to get this sorted out. — Prudie, immediately

Dear Prudence: I have a bit of a problem. Well, more than a bit. Last June, my boyfriend of two years and I separated. OK, he dumped me. I'm 20 years old, in a great college, but I can't seem to get over this.

We had made all kinds of plans — where we would live, our children's names, our dogs' names, everything. The only explanation he gave me was that he'd heard rumors about my supposed infidelity from mutual friends, and the rumors changed his feelings about me. Well, I was crushed, simply devastated.

A few months went by, and he started calling again, and for about a month it was like old times. Then he stopped talking to me and started dating other people. He says he still has feelings for me, but that our not being together is for the best. It sounds to me like he's keeping me on the back burner just in case he can't find anything better.

It is hard to let go because I'm still in love with him. I just feel like I'm never going to be able to get over it and move on. Am I destined to be a 50-year-old bitter woman pining for her lost love? — Lost

Dear Lost: Hard to believe, but when you're 50, you might not even remember this chap's name. Despite the way you're feeling now, you are just at the beginning of your romantic life.

Prudie has a mechanistic suggestion for you: Harness some underlying anger to break the bond with this man. If you feel no anger, you should. Anybody whose relationship can be turned on its head because of rumors shows a complete lack of trust in you, not to mention commitment, and that should make you furious.

Next time he calls — if he calls — tell him you agree that not being together is for the best. That ought to settle his hash. And you will feel sooooo much better. — Prudie, knowledgeably

Dear Prudence is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearprudence@creators.com

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The astral vibes are industrious, hitting hard with a strong emphasis on tangible accomplishment. The Taurus moon and Capricorn sun are like two workers on a chain gang, singing in harmony so the toilsome work passes quickly. At the end of the day, you'll likely have miles of "track" for your projects to ride on the rest of the week.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Join forces with the unknown! Maybe it's a book you have wanted to read, a new friend or a walk in nature.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Treating yourself to something nice is a good way to remind you that your well-being is just as important as the well-being of the ones you take care of with such sweet attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Physical beauty will probably be over-valued today. But Mother Nature has such subtle and magnificent ways that the very act of observation can be deeply moving. Be careful not to read too much into what you see, though.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Specific training will have you making better money in no time! So, sign up for a class, or buy a tutorial DVD. Do what it takes to get current with your skills and your technological tools.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Partners really want to support you, recent action aside. This is no time to be coy. Tell loved ones what you expect, and then quietly wait for them to deliver. Less talk is better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Projects seem like

long, uphill roads, but don't let this illusion deter you from a successful path. Commit. Tonight features a whirl of activity and a chance to prove yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You tempt and are tempted. Remind yourself of goals that would thrill you if they were attained sooner rather than later, and get back on the right path. Go for it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Enthusiasm puts you ahead of the competition, but only if it's genuine. You're just not good at faking anything today. Tonight, twice-told tales change in the telling: Be skeptical until you hear it from the source.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shadows tell us only where the light is not. You have the keen ability to bring a wondrous light to a previously darkened place. The experience will illuminate something nobody knew was there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Trends and statistics are broadcast daily, but you have something that reaches beyond all of this. Pay attention to your inner broadcast as you work and relax. This program is where your most brilliant ideas come from.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Forgive yourself for the thing you are still holding against yourself. The burden lifted will enable you to move with lighter, easier and more playful steps toward your intended goal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's a good day to take a lesson from mice. Unlike stubborn humans, it only takes mice three times through a cheeseless maze to decide to try something new. When it's not working, go a different direction.

AQUARIUS **ASTROLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS:** The tenderness you feel for your fellow human gives this year a depth of feeling like nothing you've experienced thus

far. Compassion is not just a word you read in books about popes, saints and the Dalai Lama — it's an emotion and an ability you carry with you wherever you go.

Turn some of that compassion toward yourself this month, and you can finally rid yourself of a pesky problem. Your personal life picks up in March, when one sparkling individual ushers you into his or her world. Put your talents out there to be judged and applauded in April. Funding for a special project comes through in May. Some of you get serious about a new love in June. Your life expands in material ways in July, but you may decide that owning more is not the way toward peace of mind. Getting rid of old stuff is critical to being able to handle new responsibility. Ask for more creative work, and by August, you'll be pinching yourself saying, "Is this really what I get paid to do?" Libra and Taurus are fantastic business partners. Love connections are immediate with a Scorpio or a Virgo.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "What would you say" to music superstar Dave Matthews (Jan. 9, 1967)? Whatever it is, this humble and grateful artist would listen because hardworking Capricorns appreciate their success and are all about giving back. The never-stop-touring-and-recording-and-touring-again Matthews will take a well-deserved break this year to focus on relaxing and spending time with family and friends.

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.

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Ed Santos shows off his Sidekick that allows him to connect to the Internet and MySpace.com. Santos has stickers and logos with his likeness, below and of course his mullet.

Mullet, giveaways make marketer hottest, coolest among teens on Web

By JOHN GITTELSON

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Ed Santos has a mullet hairdo — as in early MTV, Billy Ray Cyrus, "Joe Dirt."

As in, "Business in front; party in back."

It's so not cool, it's comic. But Santos writes his own rules when it comes to cool.

"Because it's the biggest joke of a haircut, I'm going to make it cool," says Santos, sitting in the Santa Ana, Calif., offices of Wahoo's Fish Tacos, where he works as marketing director. "That's my job: to make things cool."

As he speaks, Santos types on two computer screens and scans his Sidekick phone, messaging "friends" on MySpace.com, where he has become a virtual celebrity known as "Rock Da Mullet."

Da Mullet has more than 46,000 "friends" — MySpace speak for people he has approved for his site — making him one of the most popular people in today's online center of the youth universe. MySpace is a multimedia crossroads where anyone can create a home page, bare their soul, meet friends, and share photos and music — all for free.

Santos has a lot of "friends," though he's not No. 1. A blonde named "Forbidden" who describes herself as 24, from "The OC you have never seen" lists 628,000 friends.

Santos, 38, developed a following by playing the clown and giving out stuff: Gwen Stefani concert tickets, Vans sneakers, passes to Mountain High Resort. When he asks which is better, Xbox or PlayStation, the best answer gets a Tony Hawk "American Wasteland" video game. He isn't just being nice. He's a guerilla marketer.

He's promoting Wahoo's and other brands — Monster Energy drinks, Sector Nine skateboards, Archie's Ice Cream, Draven shoes. They plant their logos and Web links on his MySpace site, counting on the association to enhance their image.

"Everybody wants these," Santos says, holding a clutch of concert tickets. "But to get them, they've got to read my site. Basically, what I do is product placement."

With 42 million members mostly age 18 to 34, MySpace is a place lots of marketers covet. Since launching in 2004, MySpace has grown to the point that it now gets more page views than

Google, eBay or AOL and is gaining fast on Web leaders Yahoo and MSN.

"What he's doing gets to the heart of MySpace," says Tom Anderson, 29, president of Los Angeles-based MySpace. "It's a good way to promote all sorts of things."

On a typical day, Santos receives about 20,000 messages, arriving from points as distant as Scotland and Australia.

While he works for Wahoo's, Santos gets his share of the bounty from his online success — tickets, posters signed by X-Game stars, a red-and-yellow wallet that says "Ed" made for him by designer Paul Frank. He got a 2005 Nissan Titan pickup painted with flames and the logo for Corona-based Hansen Beverage Co., the parent of Monster Energy drinks.

"Eddy has a great following with kids," says Paul Palacios, Monster Energy's music marketing director. "They see him almost as a rock star. Everywhere he goes, we want to be."

Wahoo's owner Wing Lam says he likes tying his business to the events and brands Santos promotes because they can bask in mutual coolness. Lam also appreciates the price. "Nothing," Lam says, forming a zero with his thumb and index finger.

Santos declines to say how much he earns from his promotions. On his MySpace profile, he states an income of \$75,000 to \$100,000, but he doesn't specify whether that's just his salary. In fact, he doesn't mention that he works for Wahoo's.

Mary Gilly, professor of marketing at UC Irvine's Paul Merage School of Business, says she thinks it's unethical for Santos to promote Wahoo's without disclosing where he gets paid.

"There's already enough dishonesty on the Internet without it being used for guerilla marketing," she says, adding that her students think differently. "My freshmen didn't have a problem with stealth marketing," she says. "I wasn't successful in getting them upset."

Santos says his appeal depends on creating a mystique. "If it's just me working at Wahoo's, then I'm just a guy who makes tacos," he says. "But here I'm the Mullet Guy. They don't know why, but now Wahoo's is cool. So I've done my job."

Santos' Web site is a collage of scantily clad women, riffs on his '80s-style haircut and more logos than a NASCAR driver's jumpsuit. He's



both energized and embarrassed by his MySpace fame. Despite his flip persona, he takes his responsibilities seriously. He has a son, 16, by a former wife, and a daughter, 6, by his current girlfriend, and knows the burdens of parenthood.

He refuses to make "friends" with people who post swastikas or racist remarks. He awards prizes with caution. It's the thoughtfulness — in addition to giveaways and a goofy haircut — that make Da Mullet a hit.

Jimi Sepulveda of Riverside, Calif., says he started buying Hansen's drinks after "meeting" Santos online and seeing his truck. Santos gave Sepulveda's daughter Arianna, 14, tickets to the Stefani concert, choosing her because she is blind. The ticket giveaway was a promotion for SqueezeOC, a weekly published by the Orange County Register's parent, Freedom Communications.

Arianna wrote a thank you note: a poster that spelled out "Rock Da Mullet" in Braille.

For Santos, life was not always about the mullet. He grew up in Los Angeles and moved to Orange County, Calif., in 1988. He spent most of the 1990s working for Black Flys, a Costa Mesa sunglass company. During that era, he wore a mohawk, got tattooed and began inserting Maori-style hoops in his earlobes. But friends — real ones, not MySpace — laughed at old photos of him with the mullet. So he decided to grow it back in 2002.

Then he began promoting himself independently, plastering decals of his mug around Orange County before moving to MySpace.

"I first started liking him because of his hair," says Kimberly Martinez, 19, of Duarte, Calif., known on MySpace as "Chickameow."

"I thought it was funny, and then it turned out to be cool, and then I got some tickets from him to a movie premiere."

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My young-adult son, "Elliot," delivers pizza for one of the top chains. His assistant manager constantly harasses my son about being gay, which he is not. He even has gone so far as to write things in the bathroom.

Would this qualify as sexual harassment? Elliot already has complained to the local manager and the area manager, and nothing has happened. He is getting quite depressed about it. The assistant manager has connections in the company, so this could be the reason.

Elliot also has seen this assistant manager, along with others, take breaks to smoke — and I don't mean cigarettes. Elliot doesn't join them, and he has asked me not to contact the authorities.

My son has seen several counselors about personal problems but hasn't found anyone he is truly comfortable talking to. Life is hard even for the kids who do the right things. Is there any way I can help him? — Worried Mom

Dear Mom: First, keep in mind that it is common for young men to tease one another about being gay, and if your son overreacts, it will encourage a bully to escalate the torment. If the company will not address the issue, your son can take legal action,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

but he may not be willing to do this. (Let's leave the pot smoking out of it.) We also recommend he lodge a complaint a little higher up the chain.

It sounds as if Elliot may have other emotional issues going on. We strongly recommend that he look for another job immediately, and in the meantime, seek additional counseling. It can take time to find the right "fit," and Elliot's track record with counselors may actually reflect his own unwillingness to open up. Keep trying.

Dear Annie: My husband is a farmer. I married him four years ago, knowing he has a seasonal job. He is a good, faithful, funny, smart man. So, here's my problem: "Carl" never has time for the family. Our youngest child calls other family

members "Dad." We are so far on his back burner, we barely reach the stove.

Carl always has something else to do with his meager free time. He works with other family members, and their farming needs come before us. When he's not busy harvesting, he's working on equipment. I've told him his schedule makes us feel unimportant to him, but he replies, "You could help more."

What can I say to make him realize that someday the kids will be gone and so will the chance for memories? I feel like I'm single without the right to look, and boy, am I lonesome. — Spinning My Tractor Wheels

Dear Spinning: You cannot expect Carl to change how he does his job, so find ways to work around it. Vague complaints that "you don't spend enough time with us" are not going to work. Instead, plan a "family night" once a week. Put it on Carl's calendar, and inform the other family members that the evening is taken. Ask Carl to try it for the children's sake, and let's hope he enjoys it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



MARGO HOWARD

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NEIDER

MONDAY

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DENNIS THE MENACE



"GEE! THEIR INDOORS IS BIGGER THAN OUR OUTDOORS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This snowman will be finished in no time, Daddy, with all of us helpin' you!"

HAGAR



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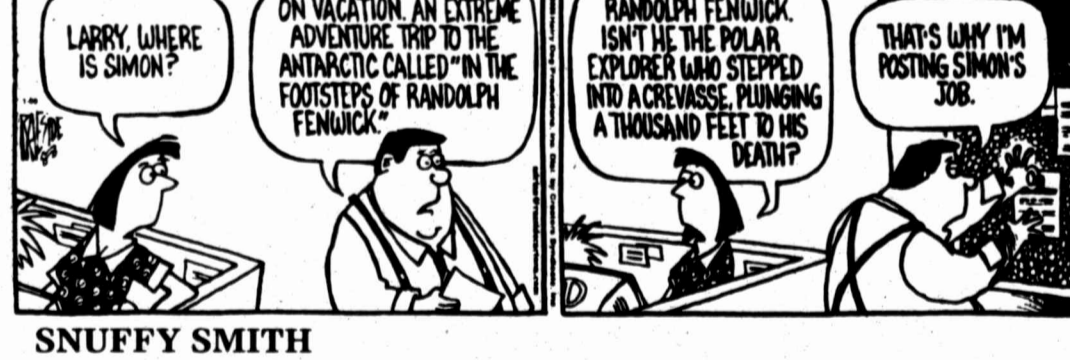
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2006. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 9, 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, Calif.

On this date:
In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, N.J.
In 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union.
In 1861, the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, S.C., retreated after being fired on by a battery in the harbor.
In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines.

In 1964, anti-U.S. rioting broke out in the Panama Canal Zone, resulting in the deaths of 21 Panamanians and three U.S. soldiers.

In 1968, the Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported biography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 on board.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Herbert Lom is 89. Author Judith Krantz is 78. Football Hall-of-Famer Bart Starr is 72. Sportscaster Dick Enberg is 71. Actress K. Callan is 70. Actor-singer Jimmy Boyd ("I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus") is 66. Folk singer Joan Baez is 65. Actress Susannah York is 65. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 62. Pop singer Bill Cowell is 58. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 56.

Singer Crystal Gayle is 55. Rock musician Eric Burdon is 43. Actress Joely Richardson is 41. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 39. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 39. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 28.

Thought for Today:
"Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark." — Agnes de Mille, American dancer-choreographer (1905-1993).

Answer to previous puzzle

MARACAS	GETOFF
ERASURE	PARABLE
ASPIRED	LIAISON
NET SAIGON	LEAD
INUSE	MODEM
NARC BEN	DENVER
GLEANINGS	WEEDS
RANT	TRES
RAGED	SPEEDTRIP
ABIDED	EEL
VIMARIVAL	ADDED
LEACHES	EMERILIA
ENTRUST	STORAGE
DESERT	TACKLED

Newsday Crossword NEWSPAPER NAMES by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Seafood selection
- 5 Pave once more
- 10 Annoying insect
- 14 "Get out of ___"
- 15 Ralph Kramden's wife
- 16 Doily material
- 17 At any time
- 18 Recessed spot
- 19 Store sign
- 20 They reduce glare
- 22 Choir member
- 23 Chinaware for pekee
- 24 Editorial marking
- 26 Clothing
- 29 Taking a cruise
- 33 Applaud
- 37 Overcook, as a roast
- 39 Stadium group
- 40 Oscar-night autos
- 42 Life story, for short
- 43 Where Seoul is
- 44 "Am not!" retort
- 45 Gardener's purchase
- 47 Period in office
- 48 Hopes for
- 49 Dog bather
- 51 Door fastener
- 54 Handbag handles
- 59 One of the Three Bears

DOWN

- 1 Treasure holder
- 2 Vaudeville show
- 3 Sports complex
- 4 Arctic floaters
- 5 Owed at the tavern
- 6 Yale students
- 7 Personal quirks
- 8 Felt sore
- 9 Della or Pee Wee
- 10 Regularly travel the world
- 11 California wine valley
- 12 Super serves
- 13 Redesigned U.S. currency in 2006
- 21 Turkey part
- 25 Don't have
- 27 Massages
- 28 To the point
- 30 Ticked off
- 31 Water pitcher
- 32 Eden resident
- 33 Cat's weapon
- 34 Old Italian money
- 35 Congregation's response
- 36 As soon as possible
- 38 Christmas song
- 41 Sammy of baseball
- 46 Pie or cake
- 50 ABA member
- 52 Sports info
- 53 Jet flier
- 55 Threw a fit
- 56 On top of
- 57 Prairie
- 58 Auctions off
- 59 Tadpole's home
- 60 Region
- 61 10 Across or 49 Across
- 63 Short skirt
- 64 Daredevil

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