



Powerful gusts spark fires across North Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Strong winds blowing across North Texas toppled everything from Christmas trees to power lines as the gusts fed grass fires in at least six counties, forcing firefighters to battle blazes across thousands of acres.

Blowing dust ripped through the Crossroads area Sunday, thwarting farmer's efforts at reining in the cotton crop. Reports of minor damage were

reported to some outbuildings north of Big Spring.

The area struck worst, however — Amarillo "enjoyed" snowfall — was North Texas.

Gusts topped more than 50 mph Sunday, sparking fires in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Johnson, Parker and Tarrant counties, authorities said.

A particularly destructive fire began west of Cleburne and spread north into neighboring

Tarrant County, burning 1,000 acres and 24 structures along the way, Johnson County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cpl. Pam Jetsel said. She said the destroyed structures included six homes.

Cleburne is about 30 miles south of Fort Worth.

One person was hurt in Johnson County, but officials told *The Dallas Morning News* that they were unsure of the

extent of the injuries.

Many of the North Texas fires were started by power lines downed by the strong winds. Sparks from a train caused a fire near Argyle in Denton County.

"When the conditions are so dry and the wind is so high, any kind of spark can be dangerous," said Tom Reedy, a spokesman for the Denton County Sheriff's Department.

The heavy load of calls reporting fires caused the county's computer-aided dispatch system to crash, Reedy said. Dispatchers handled the system manually for hours.

In Fort Worth, the winds toppled a 66-foot tall Christmas tree. The Douglas fir landed on a parked Lexus, but no one was injured when the tree fell.

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As tree goes up, so should your safety awareness

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With the Thanksgiving holiday officially behind them, many area residents will soon get into the Christmas Holiday spirit by decorating their homes, inside and out.

And while the holiday season is certainly a time to be treasured by all ages, Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said it's certainly not a good time to let your guard down when it comes to fire safety.

"Examine your holiday lights before you hang them," said Condray. "Replace any missing or broken parts. You should check them by setting them on a non-flammable surface and leaving them plugged in for 10 to 15 minutes to make sure they don't melt or smoke."

"When you're hanging the lights, be sure to keep them away from flammable materials such as curtains, and make sure the cords aren't near any sources of water. Never connect more than three sets of lights to an extension cord, and to prevent overheating, pinching and fraying cords, avoid

"Check the water often. When the time comes that the needles begin falling off in large amounts, dispose of the tree."



Condray

running lights under rugs or behind furniture."

While lights and ornaments are the most obvious sources of danger during the holiday season, Condray said one of the most overlooked is usually the centerpiece of a home's Yuletide decorations — the Christmas tree.

"Look for a deep green color, strong natural scent and needles that are still firmly attached to the limb," said Condray. "The trunk should be cut on an angle to increase the area for water absorption and should be sticky with sap. Keep the trunk immersed in fresh water, as we do with fresh flow-

See **SAFETY**, Page 3A

A DAY OF SHOPPING



David and Jewel Fowler wrap up their day of shopping at the Big Spring Mall Saturday afternoon. The Fowlers were among the thousands of area residents who took advantage of the after-Thanksgiving sales in and around the Big Spring area.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Christmas parade set for Saturday send off

Herald Staff Report

There's still time — not much, though — to join in the 20th annual Herald Community Christmas Parade this Saturday.

Late entries will be placed at the end of the parade, since line-up has to be determined early, said Elizabeth Flores, parade coordinator. Late entries are not eligible for prizes.

An almost-record number of entries have been confirmed for the

parade, which gets under way at the intersection of 24th Street and Gregg Street.

Sixty entries have been received. That number represents an increase over last year and is just short of an all-time record, according to Flores.

The theme for this year's parade is "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

Judges will be members of the *Herald's* Reader Advisory Board.

For more information, call 263-7331.

Progress continues, albeit slowly, along the Ports to Plains Corridor

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Having been recently re-elected to the Ports to Plains board of directors, Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker said the program has made a tremendous amount of headway in the past few years.

Crooker should know, having been a part of the effort to build the four-state trade corridor since its inception.

"We've made tremendous progress over the past couple of years," said Crooker. "Folks in



Crooker

Washington D.C. know us and have been able to put faces with the program, which is a big help. Also, the last transportation bill to come out of the capitol got \$110,000 to be split up among the four states — Texas,

Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado — participating in the corridor."

Crooker said another leap forward for the program — from a local standpoint — is the Big Spring reliever route, which would

alleviate the congestion anticipated as a result of the Ports to Plains effort by taking truck traffic around Big Spring and away from Gregg Street.

"We hope to see the reliever route completed in approximately eight to 10 years," said Crooker. "The route is quite vital from our standpoint along the corridor. Truck traffic along Highway 87 is still increasing, and is expected to continue to grow. In Laredo, which is also part of the corridor, they've seen steady increases in truck traf-

See **CORRIDOR**, Page 3A

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

SANTA LETTERS

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

Letters from children in kindergarten, first and second grade, public, private and home schooled, as well as those in pre-school, daycare and Head Start may be submitted for publication.

All letters should be received by Friday, Dec. 9. Each letter should contain the child's name as well as school or classroom affiliation. Submit letters to the *Big Spring Herald*, P.O. Box 1431 or e-mail composing@bigspringherald.com

For more information, call 263-7331.

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Free tickets to a Big Spring Christmas tradition are now available.

The First United Methodist Church will hold public performances of the Living Christmas Tree this weekend — Saturday and Sunday.

Dress rehearsal for the event will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, with the first performance following at 8 p.m.

A second performance will be held at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Free tickets for the performances are available at the church office on 400 Scurry St.

For more information, contact the church at 267-6394.

27 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GETTING YOUR CARDS OUT EARLY LIKE I AM! ADMIT IT! GO AHEAD! ADMIT IT!!



Obituaries

Bob Munsell



Bob Munsell, 67, of Big Spring, waged a heroic battle with acute myeloid leukemia and went to be with his Lord at 2:25 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005, at the First Baptist Church, Big Spring with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor, and Don Brodie officiating and interment will be at 4 p.m. at Pecan Cemetery in Dublin.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Bob was born Aug. 9, 1938, and married Beverly Cole Jan. 30, 1981.

Bob was an active member of First Baptist Church, where he gave unselfishly of himself to others. He was known for always greeting others with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. Bob also participated in volunteer work at the veterans hospital on Sundays.

After retirement from Hunt Oil Company in Knox City, he was employed with Texas Railroad Commission Oil and Gas Division of Big Spring.

His hobbies included gardening and watching his precious grandchildren grow up.

Bob is survived by his wife, Beverly of Big Spring; his children, Robert Matthew Munsell and wife, Stacey, of Big Spring; Latisha Munsell of Big Spring; Stephen Lee Munsell and wife, Karen of Odessa; Deana Lynn Eaton and husband, Ernie of Gardendale; six grandchildren, Maddie, Meagan and Montie Munsell of Big Spring, Stephanie and Kari Munsell of Odessa, and Ray Eaton of Gardendale; one sister, Judy Littleton and husband, James of Stephenville; two brothers, James Munsell and wife, Dorinda of Carlton and Kenneth Munsell and wife, Marsha of Andrews; one niece; and six nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Mark and Mable (King) Munsell; his brother, Freddie Joe Munsell; his nephew, Donnie Lee Munsell; and his great-nephew, Ryan Heath Moody.

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

Paid obituary

Jose A. 'Joe' Torres Sr.



Jose A. "Joe" Torres Sr., 83, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005, at his residence. Prayer service is 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel, led by Joel Lopez. Vigil Service is 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel, led by Teresa Rocha. Funeral Mass is 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2005, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Felix Cubelo officiating. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Aug. 7, 1922, in Lockhart and was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe and he was awarded four Bronze Stars. He married Trinidad Nunez and she preceded him in death in 1967. He later married Mary Rodriguez and she preceded him in death in 1991. He was an insurance agent and later was a manager for Byron Harris's service stations and he also owned several cafes in Big Spring. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by three daughters, Lúpe Lopez and Sylvia Miramontes, both of Big Spring and Juanita Rubio of El Paso; two sons, Joe Torres Jr., and Jesse Torres, both of Big Spring; one stepson, Raymond Chavez of Big Spring; two sisters, Rachel Martinez and Ofelia Alvarez, both of Midland; one brother, Pablo Torres of Midland; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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

Weather

Tonight—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. West winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. Light and variable winds.

Tuesday night—Clear. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday—Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Thursday—Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s.

Thursday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 60s.

Friday night—Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery: 3-16-18-25-30 (three, sixteen, eighteen, twenty-five, thirty)

...

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-8-11-33-39. Bonus Ball: 1. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Number matching five of five: 0. Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 10. Prize: \$1,974.

Number matching four of five: 427. Prize: \$100.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 367. Prize: \$102.

Number matching three of five: 17,299. Prize: \$5.

Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 4,485. Prize: \$5.

Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 19,274. Prize: \$3.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$25 million.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-8-5 (four, eight, five)

Police blotter

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

• **KIMBERLIE PINEDA**, 24, 2318 Brent, was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

• **MIGUEL BURCIAGA**, 18, 1320 Utah, was arrested on a charge of resisting arrest.

• **ORLANDO MONTANEZ**, 24, 301 E. 19th, was arrested on two local and two capias warrants.

• **SUSAN CLEMENS**, 39, 4207 Parkway, was arrested on a Hockley County warrant.

• **CHAD LEE PUGA**, 21, 1505 Tucson, was arrested on two local warrants.

• **STEPHANIE ALVAREZ**, 21, 616 Caylor, was arrested on four local warrants.

• **EMILIA ALVAREZ**, 18, 1002 N. Main, was arrested on two local warrants.

• **JOSHUA HYDEN**, 29, 1708 Owens, was arrested on a Bell County warrant.

• **PHILLIP BERRY**, 25, Abilene, was arrested on a Howard County warrant and three local warrants.

• **JAMES JONES**, 35, Post, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported on the 1400 block of Wood, 1200 block of 11th Place, the 700 block of Lancaster and the 1700 block of FM 700.

• **TAMPERING WITH A GOVERNMENTAL RECORD** was reported on the 100 block of Seventh.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported on the 1000 block of Eighth.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported on the 900 block of Nolan, the 500 block of Aylesford, the 700 block of Bell and the 1200 block of Wood.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on the 2600 block of Fairchild.

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported on the 1200 block of Third.

Sheriff's report

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

• **FRANKIE RUBIO**, 46, was arrested on a charge of tampering with a government record.

• **ALBERT MARTINEZ JR.**, 27, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **MICHAEL YANEZ**, 32, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ERICA MORENO OCHOA**, 26, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a motion to adjudicate for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **NORMAL LEE TIMMERMAN**, 29, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **BERNARDO FRAUSTIO PEREZ JR.**, 41, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on charges of failure to identify fugitive from justice and bondsman off bond warrants for driving while license suspended and issuance of a bad check.

• **JESSE ROGER OLGUIN**, 22, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of furnishing alcohol to a minor.

• **JACKLYNN WATSON**, 27, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **CHELSEY MARIE MIRELES**, 17, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of failure to identify.

• **MARCUS ALEXANDER RICE**, 44, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of failure to appear.

• **SANTOS OVIDIO CRUZ**, 36, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of failure to appear.

• **REBECCA RIVAS**, 26, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft by repetition.

• **DAVID GEORGE SUMMERS**, 56, was arrested on a charge of theft by check.

• **BRYAN PEARSON**, 19, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **BEVERLY R. ARMSTRONG**, 43, was transferred to county jail by BSPD after being arrested on a charge of failure to identify giving false or fictitious information.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the Suburban East lot.

• **PHONE HARRASMENT** was reported in the 100 block of Colorado Road.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 300 block of Robinson Road.

Take Note

• **THE BIG SPRING SYMPHONY PRESENTS 'A SYMPHONIC CHRISTMAS'** at 2 p.m. Dec. 17 in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets available at the *Big Spring Herald* or call 264-7223.

Got Your Flu Shot?

If you are a child, a parent, a grandparent, a healthcare worker, a teacher, a student, a pregnant woman, a childcare provider, a Tinker, a soldier, a sailor...

...be sure to get your shot!

Flu Shots available at:
Leonard's RX Pharmacy
Weekdays From:
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

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

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

• **Concerned Citizens Council** meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

• **Senior Circle** meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

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

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported on the 200 block of Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of Hillside. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 700 block of FM 700. Three people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Father Delaney. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3000 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3300 block of Maple. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4100 block of Calahan Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Third and Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Marijo. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg. Service was refused.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of North Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 4500 block of North County Road 25. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Lamar. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

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

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

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

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1200 block of East Third. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in Coahoma. One person was transported to VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 176. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Son of missing Plano woman charged with murder

PLANO (AP) — The 23-year-old son of a missing Plano woman was arrested and charged with her murder, authorities said.

Paul Edward Hancock was being held Sunday in Collin County Jail with bail set at \$50,000. He was charged in the death of Ellen Williams Hancock, 62, who disappeared Saturday and remained missing Sunday, police said.

Paul Hancock told authorities Saturday that he awoke to find his mother missing and their apartment in disarray. But police said they found signs of foul play in the unit that mother and son shared with Paul Hancock's girlfriend.

Police spokesman Det. Mike Johnson declined comment Sunday on the investigation or the search for the missing woman.

Apartment complex resident Debbie Boyd said the arrest both surprised and appalled her.

"It's very unfortunate because she was a good lady," Boyd said. "I really hate it because she lived and breathed for that boy."

One dead, two wounded after shooting at San Antonio motel

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — One man died and two people were wounded when a man opened fire at a San Antonio motel, police said.

Sgt. Elias Tobias said the gunman arrived at the Alamo Lodge at about 5:30 p.m. and fatally shot an unidentified man in the head.

Tobias said a woman was shot several times and another man suffered a graze wound to the leg after the gunman chased him to a nearby creek, firing several shots.

The woman was transported to Brooke Army Medical Center and was listed in

critical condition Sunday night, the San Antonio Express-News reported. Authorities did not release her name or the name of the wounded man.

Tobias said police were searching for three men who fled the scene in a sport utility vehicle and a sedan.

Authorities said they found drug paraphernalia at the scene.

Woman mauled to death by dogs while working in yard

THORNDALE (AP) — A pack of six dogs mauled a 76-year-old woman to death as she worked in her front yard, authorities said.

Lillian Loraine Stiles was riding on a lawn mower in her front yard Saturday when she was confronted by the dogs, described as a pit bull-rottweiler mix, said Milam County Sheriff Charlie West.

Investigators think Stiles was heading back into her house after getting off the lawn mower when she was attacked. She suffered severe bites over her entire body and was pronounced dead at her home, authorities said.

Weldon Smith, of Rockdale, tried to help Stiles and was bitten on his leg. He ran to alert the woman's husband, Jack Stiles, who was inside the couple's home at the time of the incident. Jack Stiles retrieved a gun and fatally shot one of the dogs, The Eagle reported.

The other five dogs were seized by the sheriff's department and taken to a veterinary clinic in nearby Cameron. Thorndale is located about 70 miles west of College Station.

The animals belonged to Stiles' neighbor, Jose Hernandez. West said he was unaware of previous complaints or reports regarding the dogs.

An autopsy on Stiles will be performed by the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office.

The sheriff's department will send the

findings of its investigation to the Milam County District Attorney's Office, which will decide if any criminal charges will be filed against Hernandez.

Jack Stiles said relatives were stunned by his wife's death.

"It's really hard to grasp and realize that she's gone," he said. "We're really at a loss. You wonder why these things happen."

Lillian Loraine Stiles is survived by her husband, three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Review finds problems in Fort Worth police crime lab

FORT WORTH (AP) — Improper practices and other problems were uncovered at the Fort Worth police crime lab during a two-year investigation by the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.

However, the shortcomings didn't lead to suspects being wrongly accused or convicted, the probe found.

The investigation uncovered two homicides in which DNA evidence shouldn't have been used at trial; scientists from the chemistry section using a procedure not readily accepted; a firearms examiner conducting reviews in the chemistry section; and improperly stored evidence that dated back 40 years.

Police officials say many of the problems have since been fixed, and prosecutors agree that there have been improvements.

The lab's chemistry and firearms sections obtained accreditation this year, and the latent prints and serology divisions also are seeking accreditation. Staff, including an experienced crime lab manager hired last year, and new equipment has been added.

The lab's DNA section closed in 2002, and all DNA work is now outsourced.

The investigation, led by Assistant

District Attorney Mark Thielman, was prompted in part by prosecutors deciding not to seek the death penalty in a murder case in October 2002 because of concerns about DNA evidence.

Family of suspect suing Wal-Mart after man's death

HOUSTON (AP) — Family members of a shoplifting suspect who suffocated during a struggle with Wal-Mart store employees are suing the retail giant.

The death of Stacy Clay Driver, of Cleveland, was ruled a homicide by the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office. It was caused primarily by asphyxia from compression to the neck and chest. Hyperthermia with methamphetamine toxicity were the secondary causes, medical examiners said.

Driver's family is seeking unspecified damages against Wal-Mart, saying the retailer should demonstrate that loss-prevention employees, who work to spot thefts, meet training standards.

Driver, 30, suffocated Aug. 7 after employees of the Wal-Mart in Atascocita pinned him face-down and handcuffed his hands behind his back.

Employees chased Driver into the store parking lot after accusing him of stealing a \$94 gift card, and a struggle that lasted up to 30 minutes ensued, witnesses say.

Driver begged employees to call an ambulance and let him get up during that time, said witness Charles Portz, a Houston attorney.

Harris County prosecutors are expected to present the findings from the investigation to a grand jury. The grand jury will have to determine if deadly force was justified, said District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal.

"Something like that isn't supposed to happen, especially in this country," said H.C. Driver, the suspect's father. "I have believed up to now in the justice system, and I hope it continues to work."

Greyhound bus overturns in California; pregnant woman among the dead

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A Greyhound bus drifted off a freeway, rolled and then slid at least 100 yards on its side before hitting a tree Sunday, killing a pregnant woman and another passenger, authorities said.

Officials said driver fatigue may have contributed to the crash. The previous night, the driver had traveled from Fresno to Los Angeles, then left Los Angeles shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday. He had been on the road for about four hours when the bus

overturned.

Dozens of passengers among the 44 people aboard the San Francisco-bound bus were hurt, at least seven of them with major injuries.

Rescuers had to use hydraulic equipment to cut away seats and the

metal frame of the bus to reach four of the survivors, authorities said.

Faro Jahani, 50, of San Francisco, and Martha Contreras, a 23-year-old Santa Maria resident who was seven months pregnant, were killed in the crash, said Lt. Dan Minor

of the California Highway Patrol.

Firefighters had to cut through nearly all the framework of the bus just to reach Contreras, who was trapped by a support beam. They couldn't save her fetus, said Santa Fire Capt. Keith Cullom.

CORRIDOR

Continued from Page 1A

fic each quarter."

Ports to Plains, a corridor plan designed to open

trade routes between Mexico, and eventually Canada, was designated by federal highway legislation as one of the 43 "High Priority Corridors" in the U.S. last year.

And while the progress

made recently on the corridor is impressive, Crooker said a long road still lays ahead.

"It will be many years before we see the completion of the Ports to Plains program," said Crooker.

"One of the objectives of the corridor is to make it all at least four-lane highways, and as of now we've completed nearly two-thirds. There's still a long way to go however. It's definitely a long-term pro-

ject." For more information on the Ports to Plains corridor, visit the project online at www.portsto-plainscorridor.com.

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

ers, to keep the tree fresh.

"Check the water often. When the time comes that the needles begin falling off in large amounts, dispose of the tree. This is a sign of a dry and very dangerous tree."

Condray said where you keep your Christmas tree can be as important as how you keep it.

"You need to make sure you keep your Christmas tree away from any heat sources, such as heating vents and fireplaces," said Condray. "That includes lighted candles.

Be sure bulbs are positioned so they don't come into direct contact with the needles or ornaments. Also be sure the tree isn't blocking any entrances or exits to the home."

Condray also suggests keeping dangerous items such as garland, which can contain poisonous materials such as mistletoe, and glass ornaments out of the reach of visiting children. Older ornaments should also be checked to make sure they don't contain hazardous materials such as lead-based paints.

And after the holiday is over, Condray said local residents should be sure

to dispose of their trees and other holiday decorations promptly to keep them from becoming a danger beyond the Christmas season.

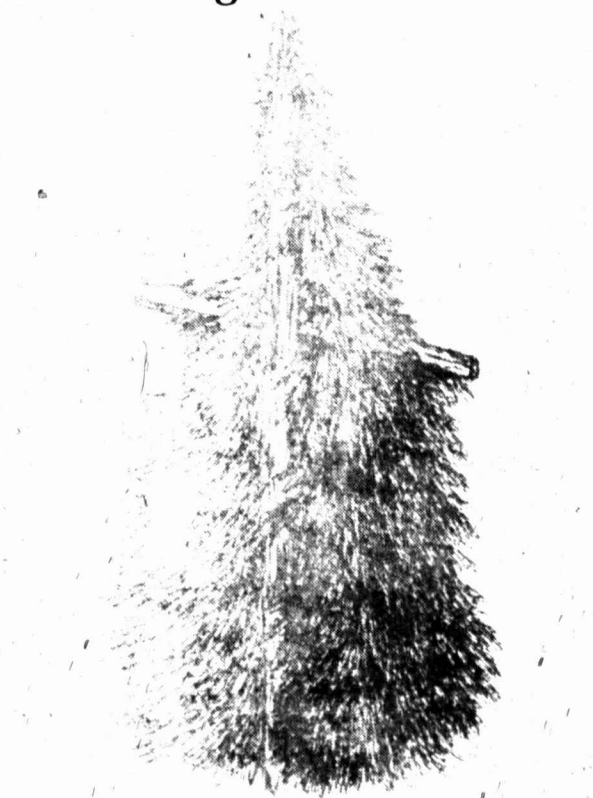
"Taking down the Christmas tree each year isn't nearly as fun as putting it up," he said with a laugh. "But the longer a tree stays up, the more of a fire hazard it becomes. It's best to discard your tree no later than one month after the holiday, or when the nee-

dles begin to fall off.

"When you're ready to dispose of your tree, take it to a tree recycling center or have it hauled away by a community pick up service. Never store it in the garage, as the needles will burn much like tinder — quickly and fiercely."

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Belated justice for a terrorist

When the government brought Ahmed Omar Abu Ali back to the United States from Saudi Arabia, there was every reason to expect his trial on terrorism charges to test the ability of U.S. courts to try cases laden with diplomatic and national security issues. Mr. Abu Ali, an American citizen, was arrested at the Saudi university at which he was studying.

His family alleged that on behalf of the U.S. government, he was held for the better part of two years without charge or access to counsel. When his parents brought suit in this country, the government fought the lawsuit not only with secret evidence but with a secret legal theory. It then brought him home and charged him with plotting to kill President Bush and conduct major terrorist operations.

Mr. Abu Ali, in turn, claimed that he had been tortured and had confessed falsely under duress an allegation that, given Saudi Arabia's human rights record, was plausible. Sorting out the question of his guilt and the linked question of his treatment seemed a tall order indeed.

Last week, a jury in federal court in Alexandria, Va., convicted Mr. Abu Ali on all charges against him.

The trial, which was conducted remarkably smoothly, answered a lot of the troubling questions the case posed. It now appears, for example, that Mr. Abu Ali was not arrested at the behest of American authorities but on the initiative of Saudi authorities investigating terrorism in their own country.

After a lengthy set of hearings on Mr. Abu Ali's allegations of torture, U.S. District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee produced a detailed opinion rejecting them and holding that Mr. Abu Ali's incriminating statements about his plans and activities were voluntary and, therefore, admissible as evidence against him. The jury evidently agreed.

The trial had certain peculiarities; key witnesses testified from Saudi Arabia by videoconference. But in the main, the result is an outcome that has happened too infrequently in the war on terrorism: a conviction in a major case following the regular rules.

The Bush administration has often emphasized the difficulty of trying terrorism cases in federal court. Certain cases, like that of Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, have tended to validate the concerns. The result has been an instinct to seek alternatives: military commissions, for example, or long-term detention without trial.

But Mr. Abu Ali's case illustrates the benefits of proceeding whenever possible under the existing criminal justice system. At the end of a trial under the auspices of a conscientious judge, it's hard to see him as a victim of any particular civil liberties abuse at the hands of his own government. Rather, there is now a lengthy public record justifying his imprisonment.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

• Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

• Sign your letter.

• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

• We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not get sidetracked by earthly problems today,
Lord, but concentrate on Your heavenly love.

Amen

Scandal time for Congress again

In 1989, the Keating Five scandal erupted. Savings and loan scam-artist Charles Keating had donated some \$1.3 million to five U.S. senators' pet political funds — they intervened on his behalf with federal regulators. The collapse of Keating's shaky thrift cost taxpayers an estimated \$2.6 billion. Democratic Sens. Alan Cranston, Dennis DeConcini and Don Riegle retired. Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, won re-election, while GOP Sen. John McCain, the least culpable and most repentant of the unfab five, committed himself to rid politics of the taint of bad money.

Move over Keating Five. Make way for the Abramoff thirtysomething. As The Associated Press reported last week, top lobbyist Jack Abramoff appealed to some three dozen members of Congress to write to Interior Secretary Gale Norton urging her to block an Indian casino in Louisiana that threatened other casino tribes that had hired him.

The AP investigation found: "At least 33 lawmakers wrote letters to Norton and got more than \$830,000 in Abramoff-related donations as the lobbying unfolded between 2001 and 2004." The AP reported that House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., raised \$21,500 for a political action committee at Abramoff's restaurant. Seven days later, the gentleman from Illinois wrote to Norton against the Louisiana casino.

The Coshattas tribe — an

Abramoff client — wrote two checks to political funds affiliated with Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, before Abramoff asked them to reroute the money to other GOP groups.

The Washington Post has chronicled the first-class trips DeLay made to the United Kingdom and South Korea on the lobbyist's dime.

Some Democrats are caught up in the scandal, too. AP also reported that the Coshattas issued a \$5,000 check to the political group of Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid the day after Reid sent a letter to Norton. Over four years, Team Abramoff gave Reid's political funds more than \$66,000.

Team Abramoff enriched the political coffers of Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif., by \$64,500 from 2001 to 2004 according to AP.

Offices for the above lawmakers are outraged that anyone would suggest that these fine officeholders wrote these letters for filthy donations.

Doolittle spokeswoman Laura Black noted, "It should come as no surprise that Congressman Doolittle should sign a letter opposing Indian gaming since he has an established 25-year record of fighting against the expansion of all forms of gaming, here in California and across the country." Doolittle opposed California's state lottery.

Then maybe the surprise is that two Big Casino tribes donated \$16,000 to the war chest of this upright gambling foe.

Another surprise: As part of his work for the casino tribes, Abramoff apparently funneled \$1 million to the anti-gambling Ralph Reed, former leader of the

Christian Coalition.

The Nov. 28 Weekly Standard reports how Abramoff associate Michael Scanlon — formerly of DeLay's office — approached Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, and asked him to assert into the congressional record remarks that attacked the owner of a Suncruz Casinos — "Mr. Speaker, how Suncruz Casinos and (owner) Gus Boulis conduct themselves with regard to Florida law is very unnerving," said Ney — without mentioning that Abramoff was trying to buy Suncruz at a cut rate.

Scanlon pleaded guilty in federal court last Monday to a count of conspiring to bribe public officials. While it is unclear if or how much time Scanlon will spend behind bars, he has agreed to pay \$19 million to Indian tribes that had paid some \$82 million to Abramoff and Scanlon. In return for their millions, Abramoff referred to his clients, according to e-mails, as "monkeys" and "troglodytes."

It seems as though every decade or two, a scandal comes along that shows how members of Congress can forget where they came from and whom they represent. They start thinking that they're such swell guys they can bend the rules. They can take big money from people with whom they shouldn't be that cozy, then throw their weight around with federal bureaucrats in matters that belong to other states. They figure their constituents won't know or won't care.

Maybe they think we're monkeys and troglodytes, too.

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What's become of Dick Cheney?

When did Dick Cheney turn into Dan Quayle? Or rather, why did he decide that he had no choice but to assume that role?

The vice president once known as a senior statesman has become a subject of ridicule, a draft-dodger instead of a diplomat, a foul-mouthed stand-in for Spiro T. Agnew instead of the respected former White House chief of staff who the young George W. Bush looked to for guidance in choosing a vice president.

It was a technical glitch that put an X over Cheney's face in CNN's broadcast of his broadside the other day, but it was Cheney's descent into caricature that made the mistake look like it could be something more.

Had it been anyone else, the glitch would have been immediately seen to be just that. Because of who Cheney has become, the conspiracy theorists and the screamers couldn't help themselves. And who could blame them? It was Cheney, after all. They had the same reaction they would have had, for the same reason, had the X appeared over Quayle's face. Or Agnew's. No difference. Not anymore. How low can you go, Dick?

Dick Cheney wasn't always such a joke. He used to be more respected than his boss, which was why

he was put in charge of the vice presidential search, and why he was then chosen as better qualified than any of the candidates he had vetted. Cheney used to be thought of as level-headed and smart, sensible and experienced, respected on both sides of the aisle — words that would never be used to describe him today. He was part of the team that surrounded the first President Bush, now considered the sensible one, the one who has been shut out of the Oval Office by his increasingly isolated son and his perennially bunker-bound vice president.

Dick Cheney today sits in the middle of a swirl of rumors, not the least of which have to do with whether he will even finish his term. The nicest thing that is said about him is that he is the administration's harshest attack dog, lashing out at opponents, often with a foul tongue. His former chief of staff is under indictment. His two top aides were mentioned in the indictment. The investigation of his office continues. And yet he has the audacity to question the motivation and good faith of the administration's critics.

They are finally challenging him. Democrat John Murtha, much-decorated Marine veteran, made clear last week that he was tired of getting lectures about patriotism from a vice president who received FIVE deferments during the Vietnam War. Cheney the Draft-Dodger responded by patronizing Murtha and attacking his

colleagues for engaging in "revisionism of the most corrupt and shameless variety."

But just who is engaged in revisionism is far from clear: Cheney's claim that both Congress and the administration had the same intelligence leading up to the war is flatly inaccurate. The administration had access to far more information than Congress did, and its control of the intelligence and its shaping of it is very much in dispute.

Meanwhile, Cheney's Republican colleagues in the House look like the children they are by preferring stunts to debate. Instead of a serious debate about any timetable for withdrawal, they responded to Jack Murtha's courageous speech by concocting a high school charade, forcing a day-and-night-long debate and vote on a silly resolution calling for immediate withdrawal that no one in the chamber supported and everyone knew was doomed to fail.

Its only purpose was to try to embarrass Murtha. Instead, it showed the Republicans off as Cheney's bad boys, children instead of leaders. I wouldn't let my 12-year-old get away with such behavior. But that's what Dick Cheney has been reduced to. I liked the grown-up better. So did most Americans. Dan Quayle seems like an adult these days. My apologies for comparing him to Dick Cheney. What an insult.

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Forsan High School Band members recently received their individual medals after placing second at the State UIL Class 1A Marching Contest in San Antonio. It marked the highest ever finish for the band, which made its fourth straight appearance at the state contest.



Ray Stukel shows off a look of concentration as he helps peel potatoes for the Salvation Army's annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



Russ Keeney Jr. keeps the local charity's bell ringing in front of Wal-Mart Friday afternoon as the annual Kettle Drive gets under way.

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Ellis Pecan Halves.....	\$2 ⁹⁹ 6-OZ.
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Kelloggs Rice Krispies (13.5-oz) Crispix (12-oz).....	2/\$5 ⁰⁰
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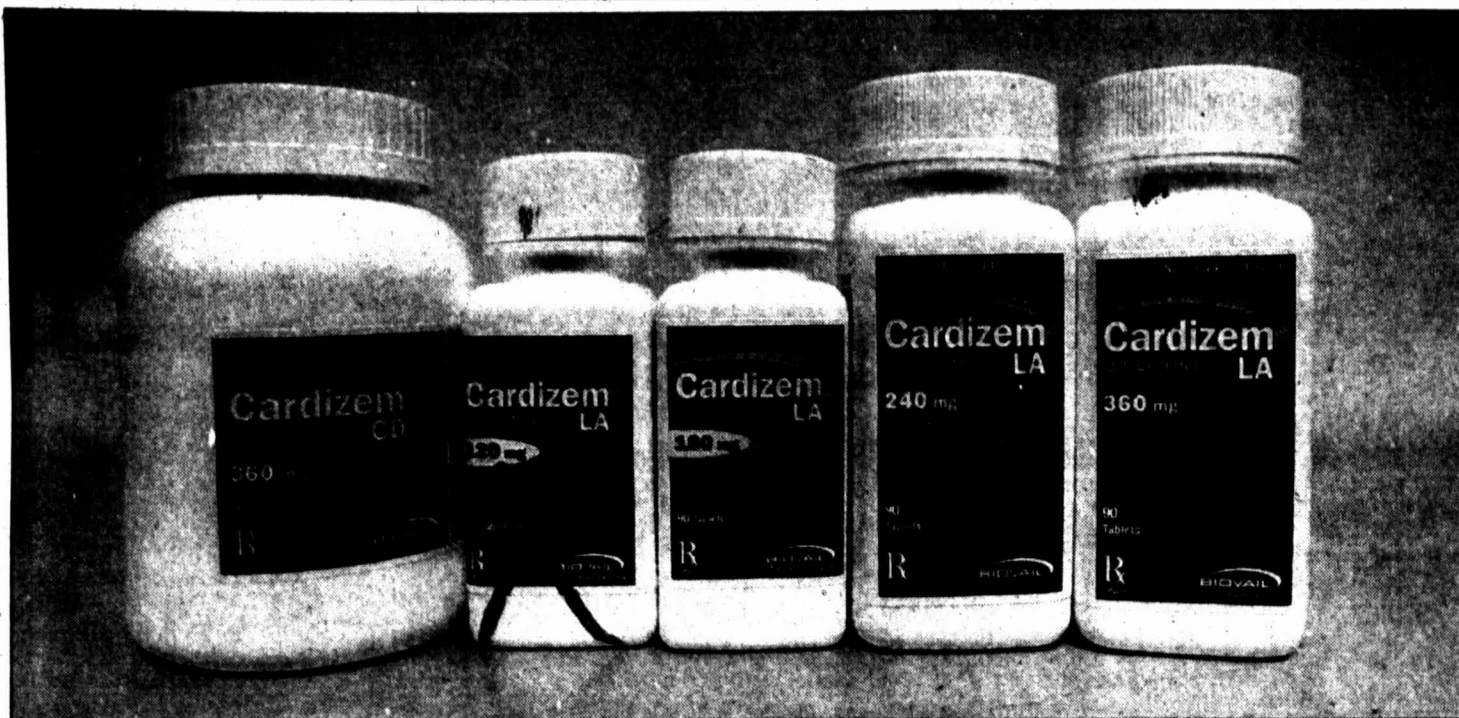
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The different doses of Cardizem, used to treat high blood pressure, has led to prescriptions that were incorrect.

Multiple forms of same drug are resulting in frequent errors

By DAWN FALLIK
Knight Ridder News

PHILADELPHIA — Dr. James Kmetzo knows that Diltiazem is usually the drug of choice for high blood pressure.

But then his choices explode. Cardizem, Dilacor and Tiazac are all brand names for Diltiazem. But should he prescribe Cardizem CD, Cardizem SR, Cardizem LA, Dilacor XR or Tiazac? All four come in varying doses, some taken once a day, some twice, some crushable, others not.

Most of the time, it's the insurance coverage and pharmacist that decide. "I know that it's Diltiazem and I can write any two letters after it and it gets filled correctly," said Kmetzo, a cardiologist.

Not always. Last month, the Food and Drug Administration called a closed-door meeting with pharmaceutical companies and watchdog groups to address the issue. They agreed to study the problem, but the solution remains elusive.

Many of the CD, XL and SR medications are designed to treat heart disease or mental illness, such as depression or anxiety. Most are higher-dose forms meant to be released slowly. Doctors say taking a more potent form incorrectly can result in seizures or a sudden drop in blood pressure, leading to fainting, falls and even death.

In 1996, an 83-year-old woman died after mistakenly being switched from immediate-release medication for her high-blood pressure to a time-release formula. By chewing the Cardizem CD tablets instead of swallowing them, she released the drug more quickly into her bloodstream, according to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, an industry watchdog group.

Experts say the problem worsened as more drugs

in multiple forms came on the market. Several pharmacists said they typically saw incorrect prescriptions two or three times a shift.

In an ongoing study at the Albany Medical Center, the director of pharmacy found that more than 600 errors annually were the result of those two letters at the end of a drug's name.

Patients often aren't paying attention. Consumers read their medication labels less than half the time, according to a 2005 study by the American Pharmacists Association.

"There are a lot of errors, and some have had a significant impact on patients, causing permanent impairment and death," said Linda Hanold, chair of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention, which coordinated the conference.

"It's not an epidemic, but as more and more drugs enter the market, there's more confusion, and we need to address the issue now when it's still early."

The suffix issue started about 20 years ago when drug companies began developing new versions of medication. The original goal had good intentions — to develop slower-releasing pills to be taken once or twice a day instead of multiple times.

Because it was the same medication, the drug companies had to find a way to distinguish the new time-release forms from the earlier pills. They started adding two letters at the end of the name: XL, CD, SR and LA.

The letters have no standard meaning. The letters "SR" on one drug, such as the blood pressure medicine Verapamil SR, means it is given once a day. On another drug, Wellbutrin SR, it's twice a day. Sometimes generic

version letters do not match the brand name.

There are no FDA regulations on suffixes, said Michael Cohen, president of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, which wants the names to be standardized. When the letters started appearing, he said, mistakes started happening almost immediately. In the last decade, his group received hundreds of medication mix-up reports due to suffix mistakes.

"Walk into any pharmacy and ask about this problem — everyone is talking about it," said Cohen, a pharmacist himself. "There's no directory of these suffixes, and we don't know what they mean; the letters are just meaningless."

Richard Centafont, director of pharmacy for Philadelphia's Main Line Health, said it's a matter of vigilance on the part of the doctor, the pharmacist and the patient. "We see some doctors forgetting to write them down; and the suffixes themselves are so confusing that they can be construed for Roman numerals," Centafont said. "It can be very dangerous."

The pharmaceutical industry acknowledges the problem but does not know how to fix it. The FDA and other agencies do not specifically look at mistakes due to suffix errors.

"We don't know how the mistakes are occurring and how large the problem is," said Rosemary Cook, an assistant vice president for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association in Washington, the industry's main lobbying group.

FDA officials say they take suffixes into consideration when approving a drug name and have changed some names. One problem with regu-

lating names is how to address those already on the market.

"That's our dilemma, because the last thing we want to do is cause more confusion," said Carol Holquist, director for the division of medication errors in the FDA's office of drug safety. "What was promising about the meeting was that everyone recognized it was a problem."

For Kmetzo, the best solution is to streamline drug production.

"We don't need that many different Cardizem drugs, so the industry is bringing it on themselves," Kmetzo said. "Go work on other drugs instead that we can use."



The Texas A&M University System
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Prescription assistance

More than 40 million Americans have no health insurance, and millions more have no prescription coverage.

Many Americans cannot afford to buy their medicines — yet prescription medications are an essential part of patient care.

Many Americans must make a choice to pay rent, buy food or get prescriptions filled.

To help alleviate this dilemma, many pharmaceutical companies offer prescription assistance programs. Some manufacturers offer a limited supply of free or low-cost medications to patients in need through their patient assistance programs.

These programs are intended to serve as a "last resort" for patients unable to use other financial assistance programs.

Each pharmaceutical company establishes its

own rules and guidelines.

These guidelines are usually listed on their Web sites.

Online information about patient assistance programs can be found at NeedyMeds

(www.needymeds.com), RxAssist (www.rxassist.org) and Helping Patients (www.helpingpatients.org, helpingpatients.org).

Patients may also obtain prescription assistance applications from their physicians, church or community health organizations.

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GOOD NEWS: First test results show that new hearing device helps improve natural hearing.



"As part of this statewide product study, five leading manufacturers of hearing aids are looking for people that will qualify as product testers to try a new innovative hearing solution," said Richard Davila of Livingston Hearing Aid Centers. "We are proud to participate in this study and each qualified participant will be paid \$50 to complete the study (a nominal security deposit is required)."

If you are having hearing problems and have considered trying hearing aids, this product study is an excellent opportunity to try the latest in digital hearing technology.

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Page 1B
Monday, November 28, 2005

IN BRIEF

Sign-ups for YMCA hoops under way

Registration for the Big Spring YMCA youth basketball league is taking place now until Saturday.

The league is for boys and girls ages 5-12. Some 13-year-olds may play depending on their date of birth.

Practices are scheduled to begin Dec. 19. Kids who played last season may play on the same team from last year.

All games are scheduled to be played Saturdays beginning Jan. 7.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Big Spring sets volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic for girls aged third through eighth grade has been set up for Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The clinic will take place at the BSJH and it will be instructed by J.E. Thomas, who is the Midland College assistant coach.

The cost is \$25 per player.

For more information or to register, contact Della Partee at 267-4038.

Notre becomes BCS eligible after victory

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Darius Walker ran 6 yards for the winning touchdown with 55 seconds remaining and took a direct snap to run in for the 2-point conversion, and No. 6 Notre Dame became eligible for the Bowl Championship Series with a 38-31 victory over Stanford Saturday night.

Brady Quinn passed for 432 yards and three touchdowns but also threw two interceptions, and Notre Dame survived a wild final few minutes for its fifth straight victory since a 34-31 loss to No. 1 USC on Oct. 15. Walker ran for 191 yards on 37 carries.

The Irish (9-2) won seven of their final eight games under first-year coach Charlie Weis.

D.J. Fitzpatrick missed a 29-yard field goal wide left with 2:15 to play after his earlier extra point missed off the left upright and then his 42-yard field goal attempt in Notre Dame's next possession went wide left.

Stanford took advantage.

The Cardinal, who will miss a postseason trip in coach Walt Harris' first year, went ahead 31-30 with 1:46 left after backup quarterback T.C. Ostrander's 4-yard touchdown pass to Matt Traverso.

Jeff Samardzija caught two touchdown passes and Travis Thomas ran 8 yards for a score with 9:44 left for the Irish, who played in front of three representatives from the Fiesta Bowl and beat Stanford for the fourth straight time.

Defense leads to another tourney win for Hawks

Valentine wins second straight tourney MVP award

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ODESSA — Aggressive defense and an early run on offense enabled the Howard College men's basketball team to claim another tournament title Saturday night as the Hawks downed Lee College of Baytown, 65-47.

"I was pleased with our effort on the boards and our overall defensive play," said Howard head coach Mark Adams. "We wanted to not give Lee second chance shot and we did a good job with that against a good rebounding team."

The Hawks allowed fewer than 60 points in all three games at the tournament and freshman point guard Benny Valentine, who stands 5-7, won his second tournament MVP award. Valentine hit four more 3-pointers Saturday and finished with a game-high 18 points.

"He answered the call for us in back-to-back to games, which can be tough to do at this level," said Adams.

And the game Saturday was decided at halftime as Howard trailed 5-2 before rolling off 14 straight points to take a 16-5 lead. Eight of the 14 points were scored by Valentine, while sophomore Louis Rodgers added a putback and freshman Richard Forbes hit a 3-pointer.

The Hawks were on cruise control the rest of the half offensively, but the defense, like it has done all year, shut down Lee. The Running Rebels didn't do much running as they put up only 20 points at the break and trailed by 18 points.

Valentine hit a 3-pointer late in the half just before sophomore Charles Burgess was fouled with no time on the clock. The foul triggered a technical foul on Lee head coach Roy Champagne. Burgess hit his two personal foul free throws and Rodgers connected on one of his two technical shots and



Members of the Howard College men's basketball team circle up with the Odessa College Thanksgiving Shootout championship trophy in hand Saturday after the Hawks defeated Lee College by 18 points in the title game. Howard's defense held all three opponents at the tournament to fewer than 60 points.

Howard led 38-20 at the break.

The two teams played even in the second half, but the Hawk lead was too much for the Rebels to overcome.

Sophomore Dezmon

Harris scored the first three points of the second half and pushed the advantage to 21. The Hawks eventually pushed the lead to 24 points, their largest of the game, after three straight layups from

Bougari Konate, Rodgers and Valentine.

The Rebels got as close as 16 points on more than one occasion in the second half before Howard

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Florida's win takes Noles out of top 25

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — First Oklahoma fell from the Top 25, then Michigan was gone. Tennessee dropped out a month later and now Florida State.

The Seminoles became the latest Top 25 fixture to fall from The Associated Press poll this season, dropping out on Sunday after losing their third straight game.

Florida State is unranked this week for the first time since late November 2001.

With much of the Top 25 idle last weekend, and no big upsets in the limited schedule, there was little movement in the media poll.

Southern California, which was off this week, is No. 1 for a record 32nd straight poll. USC finishes its season Saturday against UCLA.

Texas is No. 2, but the Longhorns lost four first-place votes this week to USC after a tougher-than-expected 40-29 victory at Texas A&M. Texas plays Colorado in the Big 12 title game. If USC and Texas stay undefeated, they'll play in the Rose Bowl for the Bowl Championship Series title.

No. 3 LSU, No. 4 Penn State and No. 5 Virginia Tech held their places in the latest rankings.

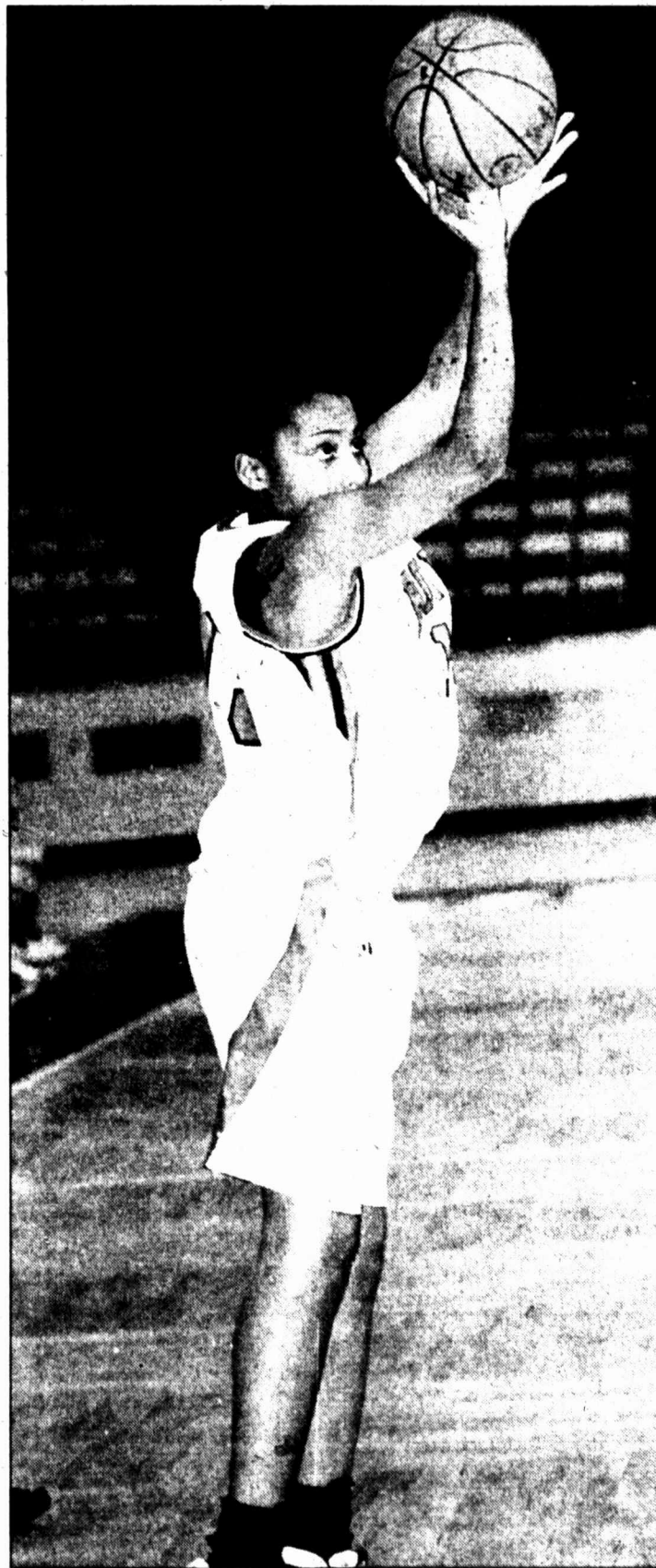
Florida State is the seventh team ranked in the AP preseason top 15 to fall out of the rankings at some point this season.

The others are Tennessee, Michigan, Oklahoma, Iowa, Louisville and Purdue.

Oklahoma was preseason No. 7 but lost two of its first three games and has been unranked since. The Sooners had been ranked in every poll since 2000.

Two weeks later, Michigan fell out of the AP Top 25 after a 2-2 start, ending a streak of 114 straight weeks in the rankings. It was the longest streak in the

See RANKINGS, Page 2B



Howard freshman Chanel Jones-Delas gets an open look at the basket during action against Garden City C.C. at home last Wednesday. The Hawks defeated NJCAA Division II No. 4 Mesa College Saturday in Arizona.

Howard women get complete effort as Hawks defeat Mesa

Four reach double figures as Howard gets big road victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

MESA, Ariz. — A total team effort got the Howard women's basketball team a big win Saturday as the Hawks defeated Division II No. 4 Mesa College by 23 points on the road.

Howard had four players score in double figures and another one reach nine points and used a big second half to win 78-55.

"We played probably our best game of the year," said assistant coach Eric Rodewald. "We limited our turnovers and played 100 times better than Friday."

The Hawks gave up just 18 points in the second half on defense and set three season-bests on the offensive end as Howard shot 48 percent from the field, 87 percent from the line and 43 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Howard controlled much of the first half, but Mesa ended the first 20 minutes with a 12-2 run to cut the deficit to 39-37 at the break. Howard led by nine with 8:45 to go in the half and then extended that to 12 with just under seven minutes to go.

The first five minutes of the second half were pretty much even, but Howard went on an 8-0

run to push its advantage to 10. The lead grew to 14 points with 8:44 to go and then again to 14 with 5:35 to go. The Hawks finished the game with a 12-5 advantage over the final 5:30 and pulled away for good.

Freshman Chanel Jones-Delas scored a team-high 18 points, grabbed seven rebounds and dished out five assists. She hit four 3-pointers in the game.

Sophomore Latoya Fairley added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while freshman Kim Gilyard provided 16 points off the bench, as well. Gilyard shot six for 10 from the floor and made all four of her free throw attempts.

"Kim and I talked before the game and I told her I needed to look for her shot more and she did a nice job for us offensively," said Rodewald.

Sophomore Jennifer Pena added 12 points, two 3-pointers and five assists, while freshman Valerie Burnam scored seven points, grabbed five rebounds, dished out three assists and had three steals in 24 minutes.

"Valerie played really well and was in the bench a lot and came up big



GILYARD

Texans blow big lead against Rams, fall in overtime

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans have sunk so low that St. Louis Rams rookie third-string quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick looked like a star against them.

In the first NFL action of his career, Fitzpatrick threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Curtis in overtime to cap an improbable comeback and give the Rams a 33-27

win over Houston.

Houston got the ball first in overtime but had to punt it away when David Carr was sacked on third down.

St. Louis (5-6) rallied from a 21-point halftime deficit and scored 10 points in the final 30 seconds of the fourth quarter to force overtime.

Isaac Bruce scored on a 43-yard pass with 26 seconds left and the Rams recovered an onside kick on the ensuing kickoff.

Torry Holt caught a 19-yard pass that set up Jeff Wilkins' 47-yard field goal that tied the game at 27 with four seconds left.

The Rams recovered from a horrible first half with just 117 yards and six first downs, to gain 312 yards and 16 first downs in the second half.

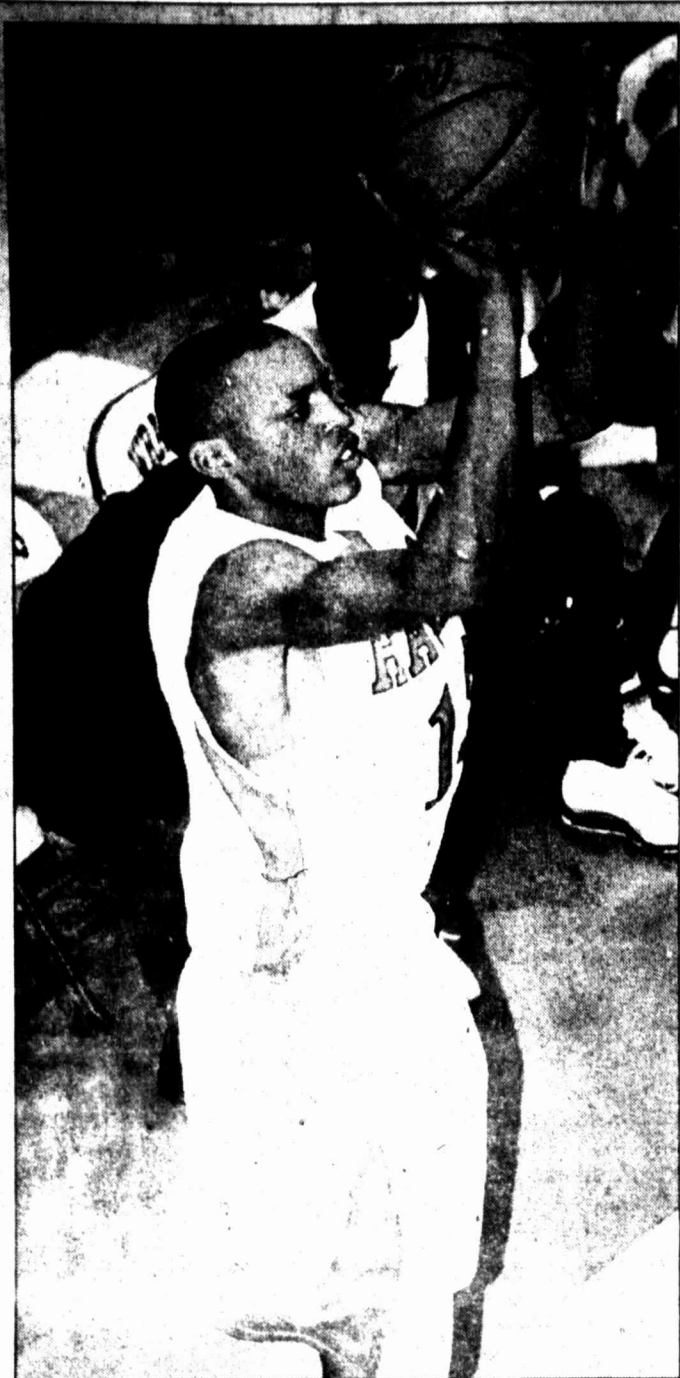
Fitzpatrick, a seventh round draft pick, proved an able replacement in his first NFL action after backup Jamie Martin left late in the first quarter

and blew the lead, head coach Scott Lineer said. The Rams had three touchdowns, despite being sacked five times.

The Rams entered the game with a 1-11 record, but were led by a shoulder injury.

Lineer piled up 24 first half points but fell apart in the second half, only adding a field goal the rest of the game.

See HOUSTON, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard sophomore Louis Rodgers puts up a jumper from the corner during the Hawks' win over Lee College in the championship game of the Odessa College Thanksgiving Shootout Saturday. Rodgers finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

won by 18.

"The game was decided in the first half," said Adams. "We were just trying to use clock and be patient. It was a pretty second half, but we were able to get the job done."

Rodgers had a nice effort behind Valentine as he finished with 16 points and eight rebounds and helped stop one of the country's premier post players on defense.

"Louis battled inside and showed a lot of toughness (Saturday)," said Adams. "He is starting to mature as a player."

The premier post player from Lee is Mike White. White was voted to the all-tournament team, but was held to just nine points by Howard — more specifically Rodgers. Herve Benogle, Benson Akpan and Konate, White did manage to grab 10 rebounds, but was just three-for-nine from the field.

"Our challenge in this

game was to stop one of the nation's premier post players and we held him to nine points," said Adams.

Harris finished with nine points, four rebounds and four assists for Howard.

Burgess struggled from the field and finished with seven points, but he pulled down six rebounds. Konate also grabbed six rebounds for Howard.

"Charles doesn't get enough credit on this team," said Adams. "We asked him to do everything for this team."

The Rebels were led by Archie Rose, who finished with 11 points and six rebounds.

Howard's defense held Lee to 31 percent shooting from the field. The Rebels made just three out of 20 3-point attempts, as well. Howard shot 41 percent in the game and made four more 3-pointers with the same amount of attempts.

The Hawks will host regional rival Weatherford Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum beginning at 4 p.m.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

for our team," said Rodewald.

Freshman sharp-shooter Sara Rondeau added nine points on three 3-pointers.

If there was any negative from the game, it was Howard's inability to secure the defensive rebound.

The Hawks made up for that by committing just 10 turnovers.

"We gave up 17 offensive rebounds and Mesa got 13 points off second chance opportunities," said Rodewald. "We took care of the ball though."

Howard will return to action Saturday at 2 p.m. as the Hawks take on Weatherford College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Hawk women improved to 5-8 after Saturday's win.



BURNAM



RONDEAU



KRT photo/Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel
Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Carnell Williams (24) rushes against the Chicago Bears in the first half. The Bears defeated the Buccaneers, 13-10, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., Sunday.

RANKINGS

Continued from Page 1B

nation at the time and dated to Oct. 18, 1998. The Wolverines, ranked fourth in the preseason, have since started a new streak.

Last month, Tennessee dropped out for the first time in three years after the third of what turned out to be four straight losses. The Vols began the year ranked third.

In Sunday's poll, idle Ohio State jumped to No. 6, slipping past Notre Dame, which dropped a spot to No. 7 after needing a late touchdown to beat Stanford 38-31 and become eligible for the BCS.

Oregon is No. 8, followed by Auburn and Miami.

No. 11 UCLA begins the second 10, ahead of West Virginia, Georgia, Alabama and TCU.

Louisville moved up a spot to No. 16 in the AP poll.

No. 17 Florida defeated then-No. 23 Florida State 34-7, sending the Seminoles to three consecutive losses for the first time since 1983.

Florida State (7-4) dropped out of the Top 25 for two weeks in 2001, but finished the season ranked 15th.

Before that season, the Seminoles last were unranked under coach Bobby Bowden in September 1989 when they started the season with losses to Southern Mississippi and Clemson.

Florida State plays Virginia Tech in the ACC title game Saturday.

Texas Tech is No. 18, followed by Boston College and Michigan.

No. 21 is Wisconsin and Clemson is 22nd.

Fresno State lost to Nevada 38-35 and dropped seven spots to No. 23. Georgia Tech fell four spots to No. 24.

Iowa moved back into the rankings for the first time since sliding out in late September. The Hawkeyes finished their season two weeks ago at 7-4.

Philadelphia files tampering complaint against Cowboys

NEW YORK (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles have filed a tampering complaint against the Dallas Cowboys after Dallas owner Jerry Jones suggested on a radio show that his team is often interested in players such as suspended wide receiver Terrell Owens.

"In general, I am a risk-taker. We've gone down that road," Jones said when asked if the Cowboys might be interested in Owens. "I probably have a propensity to try and make things work. ... A top receiver could flourish with Drew

Bledsoe. That's always appealing."

NFL spokesman Michael Signora confirmed Sunday the Eagles filed the complaint over Jones' remark and said "the matter is under review."

Owens was suspended for four games by the Eagles on Nov. 5 for criticizing quarterback Donovan McNabb, fighting with team "ambassador" Hugh Douglas and other actions deemed detrimental to the team. Last Tuesday, the suspension was upheld by an arbitrator.

After the suspension ends, the Eagles are expected to deactivate Owens for the rest of the season.

He is expected to be traded or released for next season.

NFL bylaws prohibit "any interference by a member club with the employer-employee relationship of another club or any attempt by a club to impermissibly induce a person to seek employment with that club or with the NFL."

The Eagles' complaint was first reported by Fox.

HOUSTON

Continued from Page 1B

Carr threw for a season-high 293 yards and three first half touchdowns, but couldn't find the end zone after that.

Andre Johnson had 159 yards, also a season-high, and a touchdown. It was his first 100 yard game and first touchdown catch of the season.

Carr hadn't thrown more than one touchdown pass in a game in almost

a year. So when he threw his third of the first half, a 10-yarder to Corey Bradford just before half-time, he was so jubilant that he chased Bradford down and wrapped him up before playfully tackling him in the end zone.

That jubilation was short-lived however as the Texans found a new way to lose this week, squandering their biggest lead of the season on Sunday.

Early in the game Carr had his way with a secondary that was missing

both its starting cornerbacks and its strong safety.

Fitzpatrick's performance is even more impressive considering that the Rams played the entire second half without Pro Bowl left tackle Orlando Pace, who left the game in the second quarter with a hamstring injury.

Holt scored on a 19-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter and Steven Jackson got the Rams within seven points on a 1-yard run midway

through the fourth.

Jackson finished with 25 carries for 110 yards, improving the Rams' record when having a 100-yard rusher to 38-0 since moving to St. Louis in 1995.

Holt finished with 10 receptions for 130 yards and Bruce had four receptions for 94 yards.

A 20-yard reception by Bruce late in the second quarter made him the 11th player in NFL history to top 12,000 yards receiving.



KRT photo/George Bridges, Knight-Ridder Tribune
Washington's Walt Harris (27) in overtime as the Chargers beat the Redskins, 23-17.

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DEAR PRUDENCE

Dear Prudence: My neighbors went on vacation and asked me to bring in the mail and feed their dog. This sounded fine, because they were only supposed to be gone a few days.

But after they were gone for a while, they asked me to do other things. They insisted I start sleeping over to watch the dog because the dog couldn't be alone. I was supposed to leave the dog outside during the day, but then the dog kept jumping over the fence, and if she was tied up, she barked and wouldn't stop until you untied her.

This became a problem for the other neighbors, so I called the owners and asked what I should do. (Oh, yes, by this time, a few days turned into a week and a half.) They told me to take the dog with me wherever I went! This was ridiculous and I said so, because I couldn't take the dog with me to work.

Then I left the dog inside for a few hours, and she ripped up everything and made the house a mess. The neighbors insisted I clean it up even though it wasn't my fault and they'd been gone longer than what was originally planned. They were supposed to come back today, so I thought the nightmare would be over, but now they say they don't know when they are coming back! A few days have turned into nearly three weeks!

Prudie, I am fed up with this dog and all the attention it needs. I was only supposed to do this for three days - and only to feed it, but the whole thing has turned into a life-consuming activity! I don't know what to do. Help! - Frustrated Neighbor

Dear Frus: Prudie is simply stunned by the loony neighbors so cavalierly taking advantage of your good heart, and cannot help but think of the adage, "No good deed goes unpunished." And what do you mean they insisted? You are a neighbor, not an indentured servant.

You have without a doubt

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been a good schnook for too long, and here's what you should do. Call these nuts and tell them they have two days to return home or the dog is going to an animal shelter. They broke their word to you with the "only gone a few days" business; breaching an oral contract, if you will.

As for the demands (i.e., sleeping there!), it is too bad you didn't tell the neighbors to take a flying leap... or words to that effect. Prudie, harrumphingly.

Dear Prudence: My husband and I hope you can settle a dispute. We will be going on an adults-only trip with our museum group next month. We'll be gone for 10 days, and our two sons, ages 13 and 15, are begging us not to move a grown-up into the house as a sitter.

They promise they'll follow all the rules just as if we were home. They say they are responsible kids and they'll look after each other. (They are pretty good kids.) Their father thinks this might be OK; I do not. What say you? - Skittish Mom

Dear Skit: To quote that sage Betty Bowers, "Nature... abhors a vacuum. Paris Hilton notwithstanding." Two young teenagers, in Prudie's opinion, do not belong home alone without supervision. There is no reason to cave in to the kids' wishes. You would just spend the trip worrying about what they were getting into or up to. (At ages 16 and 18... maybe.)

Tell the boys that you do find them responsible, but you and their father feel they're not quite at an age where they can be on their own, and you would feel irresponsible if there were no grown-up in charge. And do show a united front on this, or the sitter's life will be hell. Have a lovely trip. - Prudie, conscientiously

Dear Prudence: I am a 27-year-old woman who's been dating this guy for a month. I can say he is the perfect man I've always wanted in a relationship. It has been wonderful since we started dating.

But a few days ago, I saw some very disturbing videos on his PC. It is him in sex videos with different women. I can't imagine he actually recorded and kept these videos. It is horrible to see someone I like so much having sex with some other girls. And now I can't stop thinking about it. It has started to disturb me a lot and might cause me to end this relationship.

What should I do? A friend told me that I should get over it, since everyone has their own past, and surely I can't find a virgin male at this age anymore. - Eunice

Dear Eun: It is true, my dear, that we all have a past, but most of us do not have movies of it. The things you need to determine are whether or not these, um, home movies were agreed to by the female participants... and if you have been immortalized on video without your knowledge.

There actually are a number of "alarm clocks" and "smoke detectors" that are just fake housing for hidden video cams that take advantage of night-vision technology. (If you're wondering how Prudie would know of such things, she didn't; her favorite techie genius, Andy Ihnatko, clueless in.) And just to hear, videos of what's-in-name and "different women" are a far cry from not being a "virgin male."

Prudie's advice is to bring up the subject and see where it goes. Romeo's responses will surely give you the guidance you need as to whether or not to get over it, or get over him. - Prudie, suspiciously

Dear Prudence is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearprudence@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered. © 2005 SLATE.COM DISTRIBUTED BY CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Scorpio moon is a poet. Her poem is short — a few well-chosen words are all she needs to bring her message to humanity — she breathes a haiku into the night sky.

Reflecting the sun/the moon a Narcissus pool/burning with surprise.

Just as the sun is startled by his reflection in the Scorpio moon, we will be amazed at what others see in us.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your babe-in-the-woods innocence attracts both wolves and angels. Everyone seems to have an opinion about your personal life, and no one knows any better than you do. Listen to your heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You could find yourself indiscriminately

yelling out, "serenity now!" like George Castanza's dad on "Seinfeld." You'll get your wish tonight when it's just you, your thoughts and your dreams.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Paying your dues is part of the equation. Once you've mastered the way things have always been done, everyone is eager to support you in branching out. Elder family members have much to contribute.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In order to do the undoable, you must first think the unthinkable. Outrageous friends are your best source of inspiration. When you're laughing about a problem, you're very close to the answer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People who truly love you are not threatened by your ability to stand strong on your own. A relationship is maturing — moving from interdependence to integrated lives and a

shared future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may feel slightly removed from what's going on — like you're looking at life through a camera instead of participating in the fun. No worries. You'll feel normal again once your mind works out that consuming issue.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a do-it-yourself kind of day, so roll up your sleeves. Independent action not only gets the job done sooner, but it also builds confidence. Your definition of success isn't universal. Still, your accomplishment will impress others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Formulas and shortcuts bring speedy results. However, in order to get the job done correctly, you need the right tools. A Taurus and a Cancer point the way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Hold out for the best. Even excellent offers will be topped if you believe you can have more. Commitments in

love are around the bend. Are you ready?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You question the tenets that have been your foundation. This doesn't make you weak or unfaithful. If you never doubt something, how do you really know if you believe it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the ability to understand complicated matters. When you don't understand, at least you have the wisdom to listen quietly, without judgment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Avoid getting hung up with unchanging forces. Move on when you feel it's time! Someone who says they will reconsider is likely to stick to the same decision but offer different reasons for doing so.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Is astrology a cult? Is New Age a cult? Is Metaphysical Studies a code name for a cult? My sister is always following

the next guru, looking into her past lives and going to healers, psychics, astrologers and the like. As her older brother, I'm worried about both her soul and her pocketbook. What do you think I should do?"

One of my favorite encyclopedias, the online Wikipedia, defines a cult as a cohesive group of people ... devoted to beliefs or practices that the surrounding culture or society considers to be far outside the mainstream. By that definition, I believe your sister is involved in cultish activities. But then so are people who are strictly committed to re-enacting "Star Trek" episodes, performing experimental theater or eating a raw-foods diet. Be careful not to impose your own belief system on her spending habits. Some folks find it acceptable to spend money on cars and boats, and for others, spiritual exploration is an acceptable use of money.

Who is to say what's right? Keep a cautiously open mind and a big-brotherly hope that she finds what she's looking for.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Kooky comedian Howie Mandel is a high-energy, outspoken Sagittarian with Venus (love) and Mars (career) in the sign of the centaur as well. Reality television shows and the non-stop comedic touring stage are where he puts himself today, but I predict a return to a major television series in a role similar to his pivotal one on "St. Elsewhere" over 20 years ago.

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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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been married to a wonderful man for 16 years, and we have five well-behaved children. Our families are very close. Things were blissful until my husband's brother married "Linda" and they had a baby boy, now 5 years old. This child is an absolute terror. During family

gatherings, little "Cartman" physically attacks all his cousins. He has bitten my children numerous times and has ripped the hair out of my 5-year-old daughter's head repeatedly. When we try to pull him off the kids, he goes after us. The entire visit is spent rescuing children and

mending wounds. Linda makes very little effort to discipline her son. She might turn around, put down her cigarette and tell Cartman to stop bothering his cousins. He laughs at her and continues the abuse. The last time this happened, we left the party early. Linda later apologized, and we tried again, but the same thing happened.

My children are scared to death of this child, and I refuse to go to another family event if Linda brings her terror of a son. The entire family has tried talking to her, but she makes excuses and says strict discipline will make him more violent. My husband told her that if she will not deal with her son, he will not hesitate to discipline him if he attacks our children. Linda became furious, threatened us with legal action and left obscene messages on our phone.

The problem is that my aging in-laws want us to get together for the holidays. My children are begging me not to go, and I have no desire to put them in harm's way. What can I do? — Once Bitten

Dear Once Bitten: That boy is crying out for boundaries and discipline, and his parents are abdicating their responsibilities. And by parents, we mean Dad, too. Where is your brother-in-law in all this? Your husband and/or his family should approach him and suggest parenting classes, available through the YMCA, and perhaps behavioral counseling.

If he refuses, you should inform your in-laws that you will not be bringing your children to family events until they are older and better able to protect themselves. Of course, if your husband wishes to attend on his own, please don't stand in his way.

Dear Annie: My son, "Tony," is an alcoholic, and nothing I say or do seems to help. Once, he managed to stay sober for a week, but that's because he could not afford to buy any beer. He has many drinking

making alcohol the main focus of his life.

Tony lives with me, pays rent and helps with the groceries. He also takes care of the yard and my car, and we go to church on Sundays. Could I be enabling him somehow by letting him stay here? — Worried Mom

Dear Mom: Alcoholics cronies, and I worry he is just wasting away, must want to stop drinking, and it doesn't sound as if Tony is there yet. Please check your phone book for Al-Anon (al-anon.alateen.org) and go to a meeting. It will give you some answers, as well as some help.

Dear Annie: Last week, I received an invitation that left me speechless. It stated in large bold type that it was a "Gift Card Bridal Shower," and instructed me to buy the

blushing bride-to-be a gift card from one of two suggested stores.

The whole thing is so crass, I'm not sure I'll attend. My sister disagrees. She applauds the gift-card-only shower and says she's sick of

wasting weekends watching people open spatulas. I have to know what you think. — Offended in Michigan

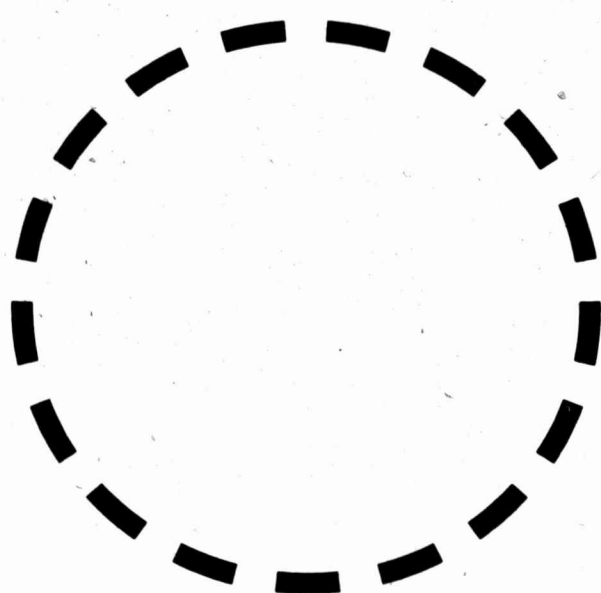
Dear Michigan: We understand why busy brides just want to get to the punchline, but we think showers should be festive gatherings with "oohing" and "aahing" (even for spatulas) and are sorry to see it turn into a detached gimme-grab.

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

To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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6:30	News (CC)	News	Piel de Otono	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormenta	News	Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe	News-Lehrer	Blaker Build-Off	Classics	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's Raven	With Smith	Monday Night	Stargate SG-1
7:00	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Contra Viento	Prison Break	King	El Cuerpo del	Update/Israel	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	Arriaga	Rough Raging	Movie: The	CSI: Crime	Movie: The	Movie: Jason's	Movie: That's Raven	Basketball	Countdown	Stargate SG-1
8:00	NFL Football	NFL Football	La Esposa	Prison Break	Two-Half Men	Corazon Part	Las Vegas	Friends (CC)	Light of the	Arriaga	Monster	Movie: Tommy	CSI: Crime	Movie: The	The Parkers	Naturally Sadie	Import Racers	Bompad	Stargate SG-1
9:00	Steelers at	Steelers at	Cristina	My Wife-Kids	CSI: Miami	Noticias	News	Family Guy	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	American	Movie: The	UFC	Movie: The	In Living Color	That's Raven	Import Racers	Import Racers	Movie: The
10:00	Colts (CC)	Colts (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	Family Guy	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	American	Movie: The	UFC	Movie: The	In Living Color	That's Raven	Import Racers	Import Racers	Movie: The
11:00	News (CC)	News	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Letterman	Noticias	News	Family Guy	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	American	Movie: The	UFC	Movie: The	In Living Color	That's Raven	Import Racers	Import Racers	Movie: The
12:00	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	Armas y	Becker (CC)	Letterman	News	Family Guy	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	American	Movie: The	UFC	Movie: The	In Living Color	That's Raven	Import Racers	Import Racers	Movie: The

DENNIS THE MENACE



GINA'S OUT OF TOWN, JOEY'S SICK, MR. WILSON'S NAPPING... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS MARGARET.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



Can somebody else fill in for Daddy reading my story? He dozed off.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



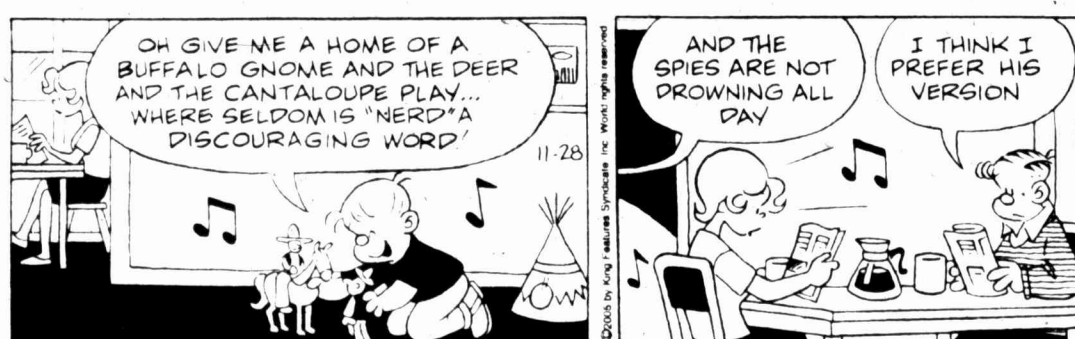
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2005. There are 33 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 28, 1942, nearly 500 people died in a fire that destroyed the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston.

On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1919, American-born Lady Astor was elected the first female member of the British Parliament.

In 1925, the Grand Ole Opry, Nashville's famed home of country music, made its radio debut on station WSM.

In 1943, President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin met in Tehran during World War II.

In 1958, the African nation of Chad became an

autonomous republic within the French community.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner IV on a course to Mars.

In 1975, President Ford nominated Federal Judge John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court seat vacated by William O. Douglas.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1985, the Irish Senate approved the Anglo-Irish accord concerning Northern Ireland.

In 1990, Margaret Thatcher resigned as prime minister of Britain during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who conferred the premiership on John Major.

Today's Birthdays:

Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 76. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 69.

Singer Randy Newman is 62. Movie director Joe Dante is 59. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 59. "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 56. Actor Ed Harris is 55. Actress S.

Epatha Merckerson is 53. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 49. Actor Judd Nelson is 46. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón is 44. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 43. Comedian Jon Stewart is 43. Actress Garcelle Beauvais-Nilon is 39. TV personality Anna Nicole Smith is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 37. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 31. Actress Scarlett Pomeroy ("Reba") is 17.

Thought for Today: "The first duty of love is to listen."

Paul Tillich, American theologian (1886-1965).

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Answer to previous puzzle

1 CONFESS WEB CAME MR PEANUT ORIOLE BATTLE MURDER EVITA FIREPLACE DENY MEMENTO FEDON WORM SNAPAT NEATIDEA COTEDOR ETONIAN TROTOUT SAGELY VANE NYMET REGALIA BALM UPANDETEM MONEY SANEST NOSERING ENTREE OSOLEMIO RESOLD LANDSEND

Newsday Crossword

TIME FOR BED by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

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ACROSS

- 1 One of the Three Bears
- 5 Diver's device
- 10 Campus area
- 14 Stuntman
- 15 Tiny amounts
- 16 Strongly recommend
- 17 Princess of India
- 18 Breakfast bread
- 19 English nobleman
- 20 Long-billed diving bird
- 22 Airline to Israel
- 23 Stalin's predecessor
- 24 Elevator direction
- 26 Spinning toys
- 29 National bird
- 33 Stepped heavily
- 37 Cashews, e.g.
- 39 Bother
- 40 Form of jazz
- 42 Stew vessel
- 43 Scoundrel
- 44 Capital of South Korea
- 45 Fly high
- 47 Fleecy females
- 48 West Point freshman
- 49 Salon tints
- 51 Scottish girl
- 54 Piece of celery
- 58 Strong wind
- 61 Type of small plane
- 65 Laundry measure

DOWN

- 1 Job benefit
- 2 Be of use
- 3 Rigatoni relative
- 4 Make even
- 5 Audit, as a college course
- 6 Doves' sounds
- 66 Send out for pizza
- 67 Cain's brother
- 68 Prefix for freeze
- 69 Change, as a law
- 70 JFK or LBJ
- 71 Not shallow
- 72 Citrus fruits
- 73 Lighten
- 7 Western state
- 8 Stationed
- 9 Houston baseballer
- 10 Antique furniture style
- 11 Russian river
- 12 Taj Mahal city
- 13 Wooded valley
- 21 to be tied (angry)
- 25 Not strong
- 27 Young dogs
- 28 Got up
- 30 Chew like a beaver
- 31 Valentine card word
- 32 Needle holes
- 33 Recipe amount: abbr.
- 34 Fishing-rod attachment
- 35 Slender woodwind
- 36 Ice-cream cone order
- 38 Remain
- 41 "Not guilty," for one
- 46 Faxes again
- 50 Greyhound stop: Abbr.
- 52 Shoplift
- 53 Hindu guru
- 55 Open-mouthed
- 56 Zodiac sign
- 57 Leg joints
- 58 Cheerful
- 59 Top-notch
- 60 Not on time
- 62 Thing on a list
- 63 Prime-time hour
- 64 "If all fails..."

