

# The Daily Roar

Daily Newspaper created by the Soldiers, for the Soldiers

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

January 16, 2009



by Cpt. Dusty Gray, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.

Students from the Flowers of the Future school in Salman Pak send greetings back to their “partners” at Rylander Elementary School in Katy, Texas, Jan. 11.

## Texas, Iraqi students partners in academics

**By Lt. Col. Wayne Marotto**  
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.

BAGHDAD – Students from Rylander Elementary School, located in Katy, Texas, partnered with students at the Flowers of the Future school in Salman Pak, Iraq, during a school supply drop by a team of MND-B Soldiers from Task Force 2nd

Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The Texas students collected more than 1,000 school supply items, to include glue, scissors, crayons, markers, books, paper and pencils. The money to pay for the shipping costs to Iraq was do-

nated by Katy area businesses.

Capt. Stephen Johnson, who is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., along with his wife, Tracy, and Ashley Josey, all of whom are from Katy, Texas,

**See Students Pg. 3**

## Progress toward reconciliation continues with second Sol graduation

**By Ray McNulty**  
8th MP Bde. PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD – One month ago, 948 former Sons of Iraq (Abna al Iraq) registered as recruits to endure the rigorous training to become Iraqi Police officers at al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center. Upon completion of the course, nearly 900 of the perspective law

officers officially joined the ranks of the IPs, or Shurta, to do their parts in helping to maintain the rule of law in Iraq’s communities following their Jan. 14 graduation ceremony.

Numbering 894 men and three women, they are the second

**See Sol Pg. 2**

# 2nd STB Soldiers keep TUAVs flying

**By Capt. Andrew Camp**

*2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.*

FOB KALSU, Iraq –Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are inextricably linked with Army operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although relatively new additions to the Army inventory, TUAVs provide commanders with real-time video to observe targets and determine the position and movements of enemy units on the battlefield.

The TUAV Platoon, Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, operates the RQ-7B Shadow TUAV in support of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in Najaf and Qadisiyah provinces.

“Prior to 2004, Army TUAVs were consolidated at Division level and above,” said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Trayer, TUAV platoon sergeant. “With the Army’s move towards modularity, Shadow TUAV platoons are assigned to each Brigade’s military intelligence company. This gives the brigade its’ own organic aerial reconnaissance and surveillance assets.”

The Shadows operated by the platoon is a direct descendant of the RQ-2 Pioneer, the Army’s first TUAV, fielded in 1986. The Pioneer was used with great success during the first Gulf War and as a result of lessons learned during the war, the Army began searching for a TUAV with increased range, payload and endurance.

In response, Aircraft Armament Industries developed today’s Shadow. The 4th Inf. Div. first fielded them in 2002, said Trayer, a native of Frankfort, Mich.

Since their arrival in September, the platoon has flown over 240 missions in support of not only the 2BCT Soldiers, but also Iraqi Army and Police units.

The real-time video provided by the Shadow has been used to support Iraqi patrols, raids and to provide observation for security of major cultural and religious events, such as the Ashura pilgrimages from Najaf to Karbala, added Trayer.

“Supporting the (Iraqi Security Forces) is one of our most important missions,” said Trayer.



by Staff Capt. Andrew Camp, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Pfc. Matthew Purcell, Shadow air vehicle operator, completes the final pre-flight inspection of an RQ-7B Shadow TUAV before takeoff at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. Purcell is a native of Hot Springs Village, Ariz.

# Sol graduations; proof Government kept promise

**Sol, From Pg 1**



by Staff Sgt. Jessika Malott, 8th MP Bde. PAO

A graduate of Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center demonstrates how to confiscate a weapon from criminals during the graduation ceremony Jan. 14.

IP class drawn from former Sol to graduate from the academy. Last month, the graduating class of 1,031 IPs included 19 female Shurta.

“These two graduations are tangible proof that the Government of Iraq has kept its promise. It offered Iraqi Police jobs and training to former Sons of Iraq in recognition of their service,” said Maj. Gen. Khadim, the Provincial Directorate of Police for Baghdad, through an interpreter. “We will continue to extend a salute of respect and partnership to those who wish to serve with us.”

Registration has begun for the next class of IP candidates, who will begin training before the end of January. Early indications point to another history making class which is expected to include nearly 500 female recruits.

“This transition of Sons of Iraq into the Iraqi Police is a visible sign of reconciliation,” said Col. Byron Freeman, the commander of 8th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and a native of Norfolk, Va. “Every graduation like today’s is a clear sign of progress. This effectively heals sectarian conflict with a sought after job.”

Since Oct. 1, the Sol program, which was previously administered by Coalition Forces, has been the responsibility of the Government of Iraq. Prior to October, the Sol numbered nearly 100,000 throughout Iraq. The timely addition of the Sol galvanized Coalition Force efforts and contributed to the successful pursuit of special group criminals.

## Wolfhounds, INP conduct air assault mission in Istaqlal



by Sgt. Brad Willeford, 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

ISTAQLAL, Iraq – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, currently attached to 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., Multi-National Division – Baghdad, board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter following the completion of a combined operation, with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division Jan. 13. The operation was focused at identifying and removing illegal weapon caches in the Istaqlal Qada.

## MND-B Soldier teaches students importance of giving

### Students, From Pg 1

helped to coordinate the school supply partnership.

Johnson, whose son, Warner, attends Rylander Elementary, said he wanted to teach his son and his classmates the importance of giving. He asked his sister-in-law, Kathleen Briggs, a teacher at Rylander Elementary, to help his son and classmates collect the school supplies.

“They (Iraqis) give their children the best education that they can, and these supplies will significantly enhance their education,” said Johnson.

The school supplies were distributed by a civil affairs team from Task Force 2-6 Infantry at the grand opening of the newly renovated school.

Approximately 700 students attend the school, which employs 15 teachers and has 17 classrooms.

“This is a great day for the children of the Marquez Mada’in,” said Lt. Col. Michael ShROUT, of Renton, Wash., commander of TF 2-6. “Their school was refurbished by local Iraqi labor, secured by Iraqi Security Forces and the Sawah.”

The school was refurbished with labor provided by 90 students from the Salman

Pak area. The students provided their service through the Civil Service Corps Program, and the funding provided by Coalition Forces. ShROUT said the project is one in a series of infrastructure improvements in the Salman Pak area.

The excitement of the moment was apparent as the Soldiers handed out the school supplies to the Iraqi students, who adopted the Rylander Rhino mascot for the day.

“The smiles on the faces of the children and the parents gives us a sense of accomplishment,” said Capt. William Richardson, a native of Tehachapi, Calif., the commander of Company C, Task Force 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. “Many of the parents and local leaders have told me they attended the school and are very happy it has been restored. It is an important part of the personal history for many in this community.”



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Stephen Johnson, a Soldier in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, meets with Rylander Elementary School students Jan. 11 who collected and donated more than 1,000 school supply items for Iraqi students at Flowers of the Future Elementary School in Salman Pak, Iraq.



by Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, MND-B, PAO

# Player of the day

Today's player of the day is SGT Scott, a DIVENG Operations NCO and data manager. With his newly acquired skills in Microsoft Access, he has been a huge asset in tracking all IED and Cache events that occur in MND-B. Scott is without a doubt today's player of the day

## David Letterman's Top Ten Least Impressive David Copperfield Tricks

10. Sitting through an entire XFL game
9. Spelling "Kryzyzewski"
8. The slowly disappearing throat lozenge
7. The backwards-aging magician thanks to plastic surgery
6. Levitating "little David," if you know what I mean
5. The tweed sport coat that still smells like grandpa
4. Explaining how "Spy Kids" is the number one movie in the country
3. Getting really baked and making entire box of Twinkies disappear
2. Making relationship with Claudia Schiffer disappear
1. Pulling Siegfried out of Roy

## ◆ This Week in 4th Infantry Division History ◆

**VIETNAM 1969** – The offensive in the Chu Pa Mountains continued. Retreating NVA soldiers were attempting to get back across the Cambodian border or link up with other NVA units in western Kontum Province. As indicators of their route became available, the Division combat assaulted battalion size elements to meet their retreat. 1-14 Infantry and 1-35 Infantry continued to harass the NVA and drive them northward, while 2-8 was positioned near Kontum City. 1-8 Infantry was combat assaulted to occupy the high ground west of Polei Kleng and 1-22 Infantry was combat assaulted south of Dak To to protect the 2nd Brigade's northern flank from infiltration.

# Daily Iron Games

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

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

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

### Thursday's Sudoku challenge results

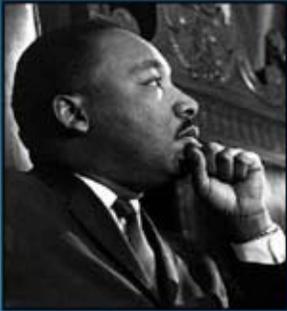
4	5	8	2	6	1	3	9	7
9	3	6	7	4	5	8	2	1
1	2	7	9	8	3	5	4	6
8	4	3	1	5	2	7	6	9
5	9	1	6	3	7	4	8	2
6	7	2	8	9	4	1	5	3
3	6	9	4	1	8	2	7	5
2	1	4	5	7	9	6	3	8
7	8	5	3	2	6	9	1	4

# Safety Sense

If you had a fire tonight, where would it start and how bad could it be? What have you done to ensure you won't have a fire? Start today, looking for surge protectors that are over used. Look for extension cords running through doors or windows, or worst yet, running through water or daisy chained. See if all your fire extinguishers are charged and located in highly visible areas. Check with your FOB Fire Department or supply about exchanging bad fire extinguishers for good ones. If we all do a little bit to prevent fires, we will have fewer fires.

Multinational Division-Baghdad

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**



*"...Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."*  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
MND-B EO Program Manager  
Maj. Peter Stanonik

Jan. 19 2009  
7 – 8 p.m.

Division Chapel  
Camp Liberty, Iraq

Hosted by 926<sup>th</sup> EN BDE

*"Remember! Celebrate! ACT!"  
A Day On, Not A Day Off!*

*Chaplain's Inspiration*

"Make your life a mission, not an intermission." We are called to a mission. It seems that the highest possible reward for any man's labor is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it. Let us make a difference today in our mission and remain steadfast and loyal instead of seeking an intermission.

II Thessalonians: 3:10 "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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CIOP-IN 7 Jan 09

**CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

MEMORANDUM FOR See Distribution

SUBJECT: Criminal Intelligence Bulletin (0007-09-CID101) Suspicious Website Targeting Army Personnel

- Reference: The following information was originally derived from email correspondence from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), dated 5 Jan 09, and is considered reliable.
- The Command Intelligence Operations Center (CIOC) was notified by DTRA of a website targeting Army Personnel, claiming to offer low-cost personal computers, laptops, and online educational resources. The website, [www.armyvedcenter.com](http://www.armyvedcenter.com), offers computers with preloaded training software as a bundle package. According to the website, access to career training in Microsoft Office, Web Design, and Graphic Arts can be obtained by utilizing their service. The website also has testimonials by supposed Army Soldiers.

The online application form to purchase computer and software requires the Soldier to submit Personally Identifiable Information (PII) (i.e. Social Security Number, Date of Birth) and specific military information (i.e. Enlistment Date, Estimated Time of Separation, Unit of Assignment). The Soldiers are also required to provide official documentation, such as a Leave and Earning Statement, to verify that they are active or retired Enlisted Soldiers. The service/product costs approximately \$3,500.00, paid over a two year period. The only authorized method of payment is by allotment from the Soldier's pay. Active duty status qualifies the Soldier for no money down and easy payment options. The website also claims to have the capability to rebuild a Soldier's bad credit with "a low cost student loan" (05 Jan 09, [www.armyvedcenter.com](http://www.armyvedcenter.com)).

- CIOC Analyst Comment: This website illustrates the extent individuals will go to potentially defraud Soldiers. While this site's intent may be to assist financially unstable Soldiers; the potential to manipulate such Soldiers further into debt is significant. The cost of the training service and computer/ laptop through the website is approximately \$3,500.00 to be paid \$143.00 each month, over two years by automatic allotment, ensuring the company receives their payments. The website advertises the computers in such a way to attract Soldiers (i.e. Desktop computers: Predator, Terminator, Warrior, Stealth, and Laptop Computers: Sniper II & III). However, the computers are otherwise 'no-name' and are worth roughly \$500.00, by comparison to other computers with similar components'. The potential profit for the company over the 24 months is approximately \$3,000.00 at the expense of the Soldier. The company has the potential

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to offer the Soldier a \$500.00 product, while charging an interest rate of approximately 340%<sup>1</sup>. The website's training courses include, but not limited to: Microsoft Word Applications (PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Access, etc), Windows Vista, and Photoshop. Training opportunities obtained at [www.armyvedcenter.com](http://www.armyvedcenter.com) are already available to all active Soldiers, retired Soldiers, and DA civilians at no cost from Army e-learning. The website does not readily identify any apparent correlation to the US Army. Furthermore, the website does not include a disclaimer stating the PII provided by the Soldier would not be sold to other agencies; leaving Soldiers vulnerable to other various marketing schemes and solicitations. The PII and military information provided could also be collected in an effort to assess a unit's strength by providing sensitive Operational Security (OPSEC) to nefarious individuals or organizations.

This same marketing tactic has been used by other companies, such as [Blue Hippo](http://www.bluehippo.com), to defraud the general US population. The Blue Hippo scam is currently undergoing court ordered refunds to individuals who were promised low-cost computers as a means to rebuild bad credit<sup>2</sup>. Although there is no proven evidence that [www.armyvedcenter.com](http://www.armyvedcenter.com) is not a legitimate company earnestly intended to offer Soldiers educational opportunities and an avenue to repair bad credit, there are similarities to the illegitimate marketing tactics of Blue Hippo.

- This message is intended for direct release to all activities/agencies Army wide. Suggest entire message be reproduced and shared with Commanders and Education Center Personnel as a means to educate and protect Soldiers from fraud and to recognize other similar schemes.
- Point of contact for this CIB is Ms. Kim Marie Humphrey, Criminal Intelligence Specialist, at telephone (703) 806-2159, email: [kim.marie.humphrey@conus.army.mil](mailto:kim.marie.humphrey@conus.army.mil), or the undersigned.

Report Prepared By: *Kim Marie Humphrey*  
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.foxnews.com/HP-Payroll-Scheme-S3200N-58228004?vc=cs=nl>  
<sup>2</sup> [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)  
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2


**Hometown Briefs**

**Operation: Neighborhood sinkhole**
*The Gazette*


Closing a street, drilling a hole in the pavement, spewing out water that turns to a sheet of ice and shattering the quiet with blasts of air might annoy residents in some neighborhoods.

Folks on Country Club Circle are thrilled.

That's because the old coal mines that run under their homes, relics of Colorado Springs' forgotten days as a mining town, sometimes cause sinkholes, which sometimes cause houses and yards to collapse. The Colorado Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety is nearing the end of a geophysical study on the subterranean chambers, and the agency will soon begin filling them with grout or a sand slurry. It marks the first time either has been done in Colorado on a mine tunnel that has not already collapsed.

"That would be awesome, absolutely awesome, and it certainly can't hurt our (property) values if we get a clean bill of health," said resident Dawson Davis.

A large chunk of Colorado Springs, roughly from the area around Colorado Springs Country Club northwest to Rockrimmon, was mined from the late 1800s to the 1950s.

Since there were no mining reclamation laws on the books, the snaking underground chambers were simply left open and abandoned, and houses were built above as Colorado Springs expanded.

The last major collapse was in 2005, when five houses on Country Club Circle, near Union Boulevard and North Circle Drive, were threatened.

**Preventing colds, as easy as vitamin ZZZ**
*Killeen Daily Herald*


During a recent study in Chicago, researchers recruited healthy adults to test whether regular and restful sleep could serve as a deterrent to the cold virus.

Seventy-eight men and 75 women, all healthy and willing to go one-on-one against the rhinovirus and ranging in age from 21 to 55 years old, agreed to have the cold virus sprayed up their noses, then wait five days to see if they got sick. Habitual eight-hour sleepers were much less likely to get sick than those who slept less than seven hours or slept fitfully.

Researchers paid the healthy adults \$800 and provided them lodging in hotel rooms in order to closely observe their behaviors after receiving the cold virus.

"The longer you sleep, the better off you are, the less susceptible you are to colds," said lead author Sheldon Cohen, who studies the effects of stress on health at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

"Inadequate sleep has a major impact on the normal functions of our body. Most people think that losing an hour of sleep here and there has no effects on us, but we begin to build up a sleep debt that slowly takes a toll on our bodies over time. That's when we become more susceptible to getting sick, among other problems," said Samantha Camp, a registered polysomnographic technologist and the sleep lab manager at Metroplex Health System in Killeen.

During the sleep-cold study, the participants' sleep habits were recorded for two weeks. Every evening, researchers interviewed them by phone about their sleep the night before. Subjects were asked what time they went to bed, what time they got up, how much time they spent awake during the night and if they felt rested in the morning.

**Prison monologues**
*The Honolulu Star Bulletin*


McKenzie Hoover was skeptical when she heard that a group of inmates would be speaking at her school.

"I felt that it was counterproductive," she said.



But the 11th-grader at La Pietra School for Girls has a different opinion after watching "Prison Monologues," a theatrical production based on the works of Women's Community Correctional Center inmates from the book "Hulihia: Writings from Prison."

"As they started to speak and I heard what they had to say, I realized that they wanted to reach out and not be that typical prisoner," McKenzie said.

Particularly inspiring, she said, was prisoner Xavia Ellisor, who spoke of killing someone while driving drunk.

Before that, she said, she was a college student with everything: a 2-year-old son, new car, good job. "I want people to know that you can live a totally privileged life and something like this can happen to you just by making the wrong choice," she said. "When I get out of prison, my son will be a freshman. I'll have missed his whole childhood. I can attribute that to a night of making bad choices."

Yesterday was the first time "Prison Monologues" had been performed outside prison. The suggestion to do so came from inmate Cynthia Williams.

"I've been in and out of prison for 13 years ... now I have 11 more to go," Williams said. "It starts out with silly things - sharing a beer with a friend when you are 12 or sneaking a cigarette. Next thing you know, you are smoking weed, doing drugs and living in a cardboard box downtown."

Another inmate, Daphne Hookano, said she isn't looking for sympathy, but hopes that the kids will hear - and heed - her message.

"Prison is a scary place to be," she said. "It takes away your freedom and it takes you away from your family. I went to college and had a good job, but drugs became my thing. She told the students, "I want to take you on a journey through a life that started out normal, but somewhere in time turned chaotic, worthless and desperate. I was trapped in a powerless, unmanageable addiction that has wasted two-thirds of my life."

**Board does reversal on school tests**
*The Fayetteville Observer*


At a special meeting this morning, the Robeson County School Board rescinded a decision made earlier this week to move up end-of-course tests so students could watch or attend the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

Board members said they had heard complaints from parents that moving the tests to this Friday didn't give students enough time to prepare.

The tests, which determine whether students meet state and federal mandates, were moved back to their original start date of next Tuesday — Inauguration Day.

Board member John Campbell suggested the move to Friday tests after concerns that the inauguration might distract students from the tests.

But Campbell asked for a compromise today. He wanted to see the tests delayed until after the inauguration. But the board voted for next week's original test date instead.


**Hometown Briefs**

**Helicopter consultant's report defended**
*The Capital Journal*


Police Chief Ron Miller defended the credibility of consultant Keith Johnson on Wednesday after he wrote in a report that crashes have killed five Topeka police helicopter unit officers – when it was actually three.

“Mr. Johnson has conducted 30 such law enforcement assessments, and his credibility is intact,” Miller wrote in an e-mail to *The Topeka Capital-Journal*

On Monday, the police department received the assessment from Johnson’s Culver City, Calif.-based consulting firm, which was hired to conduct a top-to-bottom review of Topeka police flight operations after the April 5 crash of the department’s Robinson R-44 helicopter at Washburn University. The department’s helicopter unit has been grounded since the crash.

Johnson’s report is 204 pages long when appendices are included, said city spokesman David Bevens.

An executive summary that was part of the information Johnson provided to the city included an assertion that the helicopter unit has had “5 fatal injuries” since its formation in 1971.

In reality, there have been three fatalities, Miller noted Wednesday.

**An Iron Curtain air mattress**
*The Local*


What divided people 20 years ago is now an excuse for a slumber party. A team of Berlin-based designers has created mattresses and guest beds based on the former Berlin Wall, complete with graffiti and famous slogans.

“We came up with the idea for the design initiative Create Berlin,” co-creator Juliane Zöllner, told the *Local* on Thursday. “They wanted designers to deal with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall and the shape of the old concrete elements inspired us.”

Together with her business partner Carolin Biegert and designer Josephine Rank, Zöllner produced six squishy pieces of German history last summer. The 1.7-metre “walls” are covered with soft grey fabric with famous graffiti slogans like “no one has the intention to build a wall,” and “workers and farmers don’t need a wall.”

They have already been shown at an exhibition in London, Berlin’s new contemporary art centre the Temporäre Kunsthalle, and even graced the office of the German ambassador to England, Zöllner said.

“It is obviously interpreted with a smirk, but I could imagine that some people might not see themselves in the mattresses,” the artist said, adding that so far, people have accepted the idea with a sense of humour.

“We thought we could afford to take on the subject without being dead serious because we all come from different parts of Germany and have experienced the time of the Wall from various angles,” the 34-year old explained.

Each of the six art pieces cost €900, but anyone who wants to buy the whole lot will get a slight discount at €5,000. But for those who don’t want to spend that much, the team developed the idea further and came up with inflatable and transportable Berlin Wall guest beds available for €150.

“There is no factory or anything. We sew them by hand on request,” Zöllner said, adding that the funny Berlin souvenirs might soon be available in shops.

**Divide teaching into levels**
*The Montgomery Advertiser*


A commission appointed by Gov. Bob Riley has recommended that Alabama establish a system that allows teachers to advance in their careers and receive higher pay without having to leave the classroom for an administrative post.

The Governor’s Commission on Quality Teaching on Wednesday recommended a system where teachers advance to higher levels by meeting certain education and experience requirements. Each level would come with additional responsibilities for mentoring and leading other teachers.

At a news conference at the Capitol, the commission recommended that the teaching profession be divided into the following levels: apprentice teacher, classroom teacher, professional teacher, master teacher and learning designer.

The commission, made up mostly of teachers and school administrators, began its work in 2006. Earlier recommendations resulted in the creation of a mentoring program for teachers and the adoption by the state Board of Education of new standards for teachers.

State Schools Superintendent Joe Morton said it would be up to the Alabama Board of Education to implement the recommendations of the commission.

Morton said he expected the different levels of teaching to be introduced on a trial basis in one or two school systems. Legislators are considering cuts to the education budget because of the economic slowdown. Because of that, Morton said there might not be money available initially to put into the program.

The commission chair, former national teacher of the year Betsy Rogers of Birmingham, said currently if teachers want to advance in their careers financially or professionally they have to go into administration or leave the teaching profession.

**Texas Youth Commission to lay off 100**
*The Dallas Morning News*


The Texas Youth Commission will lay off 100 people and eliminate 330 more vacant positions, news that comes the day after an influential state panel recommended merging the scandal-torn agency with the state’s juvenile probation system.

The firings announced today are the result of ongoing reforms at the dramatically downsized TYC — not the Sunset Commission’s Wednesday night recommendation. With just 2,200 youth offenders, the TYC is now a fraction of the size it was before a 2007 sexual abuse scandal that prompted an overhaul of the agency.

“We have made some really tough but good decisions to have a smart staffing plan,” TYC executive director Cherie Townsend said.

The cuts will not affect the staff-to-inmate ratio at state lock-ups, Townsend said. Nor will they be the last round of layoffs at the agency, which she said may soon consider closing some of its facilities.

The staffing cuts and consolidation debate both hinge on the same question: Where is it most appropriate and cost-effective to serve juvenile offenders? The juvenile probation department does all its work at the local level. The TYC now oversees just a tiny fraction of Texas’ juvenile criminals in its large, remote prisons.

On Wednesday night, lawmakers on the Sunset Commission, which reviews state agencies and recommends reform legislation, voted 6-5 to consolidate the TYC with the state’s juvenile probation department.

## Sports

# Paul nearly has quadruple-double; Spurs top Lakers

Associated Press

Chris Paul made a big statement in Dallas. Down the road in San Antonio, the Spurs sent a message to the Los Angeles Lakers. Turning a point guard showdown with Jason Kidd into a rout, Paul nearly had a quadruple-double in New Orleans' 104-97 victory over Dallas on Wednesday night, finishing with 33 points, 11 assists, 10 rebounds and seven steals.

"Every night I just try to take what the defense gives me," Paul said. "They were going under ball screens and forcing me to shoot, so that's what I had to do."

In San Antonio's first game against the Lakers since losing the Western Conference finals in five games last year, Roger Mason completed a three-point play with 10 seconds left to give the Spurs a 112-111 victory.

"I just didn't want to ruin it. I knew we needed that point," Mason said.

In other NBA games Wednesday, it was: Sacramento 135, Golden State 133 in triple overtime; Boston 118, New Jersey 86;

Philadelphia 100, Portland 79; Indiana 110, Detroit 106 in overtime; New York 128, Washington 122; Chicago 102, Toronto 98; Oklahoma City 114, Utah 93; Atlanta 97, the Los Angeles Clippers 80; and Miami 102, Milwaukee 99.

In Dallas, Paul had his fourth triple-double of the season, one he's certain to savor because it came against Kidd, the active leader in the category and the guy who started ahead of him on the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team.

"Either you get the ball out of his hands and leave the shooters around him open or you let him beat you and that's what he did," Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki said.

New Orleans pulled ahead at the start of the fourth quarter, sending the Hornets to their first regular-season victory in Dallas since Jan. 24, 1998.

Jason Terry led Dallas with 28 points, Nowitzki had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Kidd had seven points, seven assists and seven rebounds.

"I won't fault our effort," Dallas coach

Rick Carlisle said. "We just didn't play as good as a game that we needed to play."

In San Antonio, Mason won it after Kobe Bryant hit a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left to give the Lakers a two-point lead. Mason finished with 18 points, going 3-of-4 from 3-point range and 7-of-11 overall.

"He has the confidence to do it, and he has the license to do it," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "We all trust him."

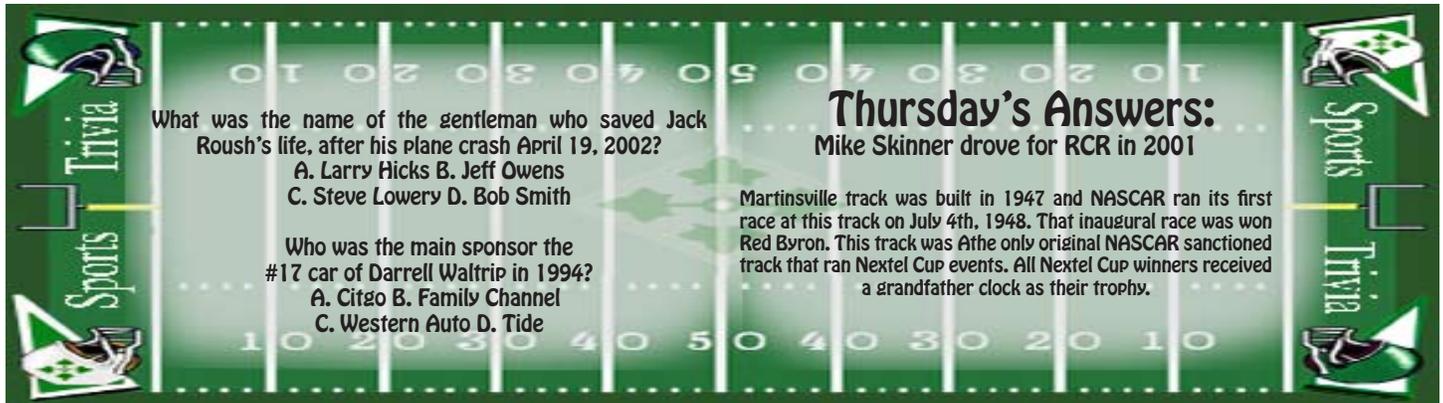
Manu Ginobili led San Antonio with 27 points, and Bryant had 29 for Los Angeles. Both teams are 10-2 in their last 12 games.

"It's tough to lose a game like that," Bryant said.

Kings 135, Warriors 133, 3OT

At Oakland, Calif., John Salmons hit a 17-footer with 1.6 seconds remaining in the third overtime and Sacramento held on to end a 12-game road losing streak.

Salmons finished with 25 points, a career-best 14 rebounds and seven assists for Sacramento, and Brad Miller had a season-high 30 points and a career-high 22 rebounds.



**What was the name of the gentleman who saved Jack Roush's life, after his plane crash April 19, 2002?**  
A. Larry Hicks B. Jeff Owens  
C. Steve Lowery D. Bob Smith

**Who was the main sponsor the #17 car of Darrell Waltrip in 1994?**  
A. Citgo B. Family Channel  
C. Western Auto D. Tide

**Thursday's Answers:**  
Mike Skinner drove for RCR in 2001

Martinsville track was built in 1947 and NASCAR ran its first race at this track on July 4th, 1948. That inaugural race was won Red Byron. This track was the only original NASCAR sanctioned track that ran Nextel Cup events. All Nextel Cup winners received a grandfather clock as their trophy.



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