Ken Lay eager to reclaim his reputation

That may be too great a task even for a man with the former chairman’s determination.

By JOHN C. ROBER

When Ken Lay is not in the courtroom or a downtown office fighting to keep his defense intact, he mostly keeps to a quiet life style, spending much of his free time with his five children and 12 grandchildren.

He has maintained that the Enron executive turned energy company CEO knows nothing of the criminal charges stemming from Lay’s collapse last Monday and his defense, in large part, is that he was unaware of any wrongdoing at Enron and thus the bankruptcy was caused by a “run on the bank.”

“I have maintained that I knew absolutely nothing about the nature of what is being brought up by the United States government,” Lay said during a surprise visit to U.S. Federal Court in Houston.

Today, though, he is largely out of the public view. He was scheduled to be in the church and social areas where addiction has been replaced by hushed whispers.

Despite that, he continues to exercise in public. He remains a member of River Oaks Country Club, where he can be seen playing golf or tennis.

Lay, 64, who was named Time magazine’s Person of the Year in 2001, has been to the site of the Enron collapse, where he met with employees.

Lay also spoke briefly about his defense to the Chronicle’s Spotlight on Houston.

“I think this is going to be a very tough battle,” Lay said.

That may be too great a task even for a man with the former chairman’s determination.

Main at 808: Smugglers in Mexican uniforms retreat when seen by Texas officers

By JAMES PINKERTON

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Mexican officials on Tuesday were investigating a bizarre encounter between Texas brethren and heavily armed intruders who were wearing Mexican military uniforms while evidently encroaching on private property.

The incident, whichSocketed a “run on the bank”....
**MERGER: Executives kept negotiations quiet**

Executives kept negotiations quiet. The rumors swirling around The WB and UPN came to a close on May 25, when Warner Bros. announced that The CW would launch on Sept. 18.

Although officials say the prime-time programs will be the "best" of both networks, they will not be shown with a time period.

The network will explore the "big" shows in the time slots that were successful for the WB and UPN, but they will be shown with the UPN's name.

"Small audience" shows that are not very popular among the target audience, such as "Beerhead" and "Half and Half," could be canceled or retooled.

But there are still a few shows that could not make it to the CW. One is that, in addition to the WB and UPN, many shows included in the merger are canceled.

Two, a minus, is that studios have a maximum of four shows on the CW. This means that some shows, such as "The Rockford Files," will not be aired on the CW.

The network will also have a new programming format. The CW will not be able to launch for the 2006-2007 season.

The new programming format will be similar to that of The WB, which launched on Sept. 1, 1995. The network will have an advantage over the WB, which closed down this fall to form a new network.

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**Local impact**

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