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Red Raiders rally past Virginia in Gator Bowl
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 2, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 27

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Filing deadline 6 p.m. today

Several Howard County offices to have contested races

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Local political hopefuls planning to run for office in the March primaries will need to move quickly if they haven't already filed their candidacy, as today's 6 p.m. deadline to sign on the dotted line rapidly

approaches. Among those planning to run for the office of Howard County sheriff in 2008 are Pat Carter, currently the lone Democratic candidate, and Charles Morgan and Stan Parker — both having filed to run on the Republican ticket. Incumbent Dale Walker, who

had not yet filed with either party as of this morning, has indicated he plans to seek reelection, and has named a campaign chairman, a legal prerequisite to running for office, according to Howard County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom. Walker has run as a Democrat

in the past two elections. If Walker files with the Democratic Party, he would face Carter in the March primaries, while Morgan and Parker would vie for the Republican nomination. The race for the Precinct 3 seat on the Howard County Commissioner's Court has also

drawn a number of hopefuls, as Steve Gray — the most recent candidate to throw his hat in the ring — announced he will be running on the Republican ticket. Gray will have to face off against a trio of opponents to

See **FILING**, Page 3A

Tax aides needed at Sr. Center

Volunteers and computers needed

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

With tax time right around the corner, AARP is preparing to get its annual Tax-Aide program under way and is in need of volunteers — and more importantly, volunteers armed with laptop computers — to help prepare tax forms for the area's needy.

Local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the organization is in need of computers — and volunteers to man them — for the annual effort.

"This time of the year we're usually out looking for volunteers, but this year is a little different," said Hopkins. "Some of our computers we use for the tax program have cratered, and if we can't get some new ones in soon, we may be forced to go back to paper returns for the year."

"I'm really hoping some of the people out there

See **AIDE**, Page 3A



Alli Norman, 14, of Brighton, squeals as she hits a bump while sledding at Kensington Metropark west of Detroit. The fourth biggest snowfall in southern Michigan history dumped up to 16 inches overnight, making travel treacherous and leaving an estimated 30,000 without power.

Record snows continue across broad region of U.S.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Snow fell across parts of New England for the third day in a row Wednesday, adding to last month's record accumulations and closing schools. Flurries also extended into

the Ohio Valley, and some children had an extra holiday as classes were canceled in parts of West Virginia and Ohio. Temperatures fell to freezing levels as far south as the Florida Panhandle, and

wind chill readings were below zero in parts of northern Kentucky. Following the snowiest December on record, many areas of New Hampshire got

See **SNOW**, Page 3A

Who's filed?

Howard County Sheriff (four-year term)

- Charles Gary Morgan (Republican)
- Stan Parker (Republican)
- Pat Carter (Democrat)

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 1 (four-year term)

- Bennie Green (incumbent, Republican)

County commissioners, Precincts 1 (four-year term)

- Yolanda Mendoza (Democrat)
- Emma Brown (Democrat)

County commissioners, Precincts 3 (four-year term)

- Dick Dubose (Democrat)
- Winston Paschal Odum (Republican)
- Jimmie Wayne Long (Republican)
- Steve Gray (Republican)
- Fred Green (Republican)

Tax Assessor-Collector (four-year term)

- Kathy Sayles (incumbent, Republican)

County Attorney (four-year term)

- Mike Thomas (incumbent, Democrat)
- Josh Hamby

Constable, Precinct 1 (four-year term)

- Bill Holden (Democrat)
- Kneel B. Stallings (Republican)

District Attorney (four-year term)

- Hardy Wilkerson (Republican)

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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.

ROAD RAGE DEATH

SAN ANTOINO (AP) — In an apparent case of road rage, a motorist shot a driver to death who threatened him with a baseball bat.

Police said that the shooting just after midnight on New Year's Day appeared to be in self-defense, so they didn't plan to charge 24-year-old Brian Correa.

"It was apparent to us that he was defending himself," said police spokesman Sgt. Gabe Trevino.

Correa shot the 24-year-old driver three times with a handgun, a police report said. The Bexar County medical examiner's office identified the deceased driver as Tomas Garza.

6 INJURED IN ODESSA

ODESSA (AP) — Six people have been injured in an early morning apartment complex fire in Odessa.

City spokeswoman Andrea Goodson said all six suffered burns in the Tuesday morning fire. It was ignited by a candle in a bedroom of one of the units.

Goodson said two of the injured were treated and released. Two were transferred to a Lubbock hospital and two remained hospitalized in Odessa.

An apartment belonging to a couple and another unit where a family of four lived were the most extensively damaged. The other 14 units in the building suffered smoke and water damage.

STUDY: RX IMBALANCE

CHICAGO (AP) — Emergency room doctors are prescribing strong narcotics more often to patients who complain of pain, but minorities are less likely to get them than whites, a new study finds.

Even for the severe pain of kidney stones, minorities were prescribed narcotics such as oxycodone and morphine less frequently than whites.

The analysis of more than 150,000 emergency room visits over 13 years found differences in prescribing by race and ethnicity in both urban and rural hospitals, in all U.S. regions and for every type of pain.

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NEW LISTINGS

Sports

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

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Wednesday, January 2, 2008

IN BRIEF

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area subvarsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

2007-2008 NCAA Division I-A college bowl schedule

TODAY

Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: \$17 million
West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

THURSDAY

Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$17 million
Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

SATURDAY

International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: \$750,000
Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

SUNDAY

GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: \$750,000
Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

MONDAY

BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
Payout: \$17 million
Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TODAY

Big Spring boys basketball at Lubbock Cooper, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Plainview, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Haskell, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Haskell, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Midland Classical, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Midland Classical, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring boys basketball vs. Brownfield, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Midland Trinity, 6 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Midland Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Stanton, 8 p.m.

JAN. 11

Big Spring girls basketball at Frenship, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Frenship, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Anson, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Anson, 8 p.m.

Jones' big gambles key to Cowboys' success

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Of all the moves Jerry Jones made to shape the Dallas Cowboys this season, only one seemed like a sure bet: Swapping the No. 22 pick in the 2007 draft for Cleveland's top pick in '08.

Funny thing is, that might be the only one that didn't work out.

Jones lived up to his gambling-man reputation last offseason with curious coaching hires,

questionable free-agent signings and other debatable decisions. Yet, it turns out that the guy who built a fortune by drilling for oil where others saw nothing but dirt knew what he was doing — or just got really lucky.

Decide for yourself.

With the Cowboys having tied a franchise record with 13 wins, and getting ready to enter the playoffs as a No. 1 seed for the first time since their last Super Bowl victory, here's a look back at the risks Jones took, the rewards he's reaped ... and the

one that got away.

COACHES

• On Feb. 8, Jones introduced Wade Phillips as the replacement to Bill Parcells.

A bit of a surprise pick over Norv Turner, Jones went into salesman mode at the introductory news conference. There was some bluster about Phillips being a native Texan like Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson, and the nugget of him having coached at the high school, college and pro levels in the Lone

Star State. Jones also pushed Phillips' winning career record, while glossing over the big play-off-0-fer on his resume.

Jones even dropped a few tears. "We needed to get it right," he said. "In my mind we got it right."

• When Phillips took over, his offensive coordinator already had been hired for him.

Jones signed Jason Garrett on Jan. 25 because of a now-or-never agreement with the Miami

See **GAMBLES**, Page 2B

Raiders stage another comeback

Late field goal beats Virginia in Gator Bowl

By **TRAVIS REED**

Associated Press Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Facing swirling wind and a 41-yard field-goal try with 2 seconds left, Texas Tech's Alex Trlica wasn't worried. He had experience with game-winning kicks.

The senior's last try as a Red Raider was good Tuesday, and so was Tech's outrageous comeback story. Down by 14 in the fourth quarter, the Red Raiders rattled off 17 points in about 6 minutes to stun Virginia 31-28 and win the Gator Bowl.

So what went through Trlica's mind during Virginia's timeout to ice him?

"I try not to think about it," Trlica said.

Tech's Graham Harrell had 44-of-69 for 407 yards and three TDs. All-American Michael Crabtree had nine catches for 101 yards and a touchdown and the Red Raiders did just enough to win.

They were lucky to have a chance, after nearly giving the game away with costly penalties and a fumble. Harrell moved the ball, but Tech's high-octane offense couldn't put up points through three quarters. Though they won, the Red Raiders actually had fewer points than all but two games this year, both October losses to Missouri and Colorado.

"Those guys are hard to hold down, and we held them down for a long time," Cavaliers coach Al Groh said. "There were two possessions where we should have had the ball that we didn't — the inside kick to start the second half and fumble at the end of the game."

The teams together shredded the 63-year-old Gator Bowl record book, as Harrell set new marks for passing yardage, attempts and completions, and Virginia tailback Mikell Simpson broke off a 96-yard TD run. It was



Texas Tech receiver Danny Amendola (20) makes a third-quarter touchdown catch over Virginia defender Ras-I Dowling during the Gator Bowl football game Tuesday in Jacksonville, Fla. The Red Raiders took a 31-28, come-from-behind win over the Cavaliers.

AP photo/Phil Coale

the longest in NCAA bowl history by a running back, and second-longest in history behind Oregon State QB Terry Baker's 99-yard scamper in the 1963 Liberty Bowl.

Tech seemed sunk after a 73-yard drive in the fourth quarter failed to produce any points. It ended on Virginia's 1-yard line with an incomplete pass to Crabtree, with the clock at 5:38.

But the Cavaliers couldn't get a first down the next possession, so Tech had another chance. Harrell took them 51 yards in nine plays to make it 28-21, completing the drive with a 20-yard TD pass to Crabtree.

Then, Virginia practi-

cally handed the Red Raiders a score. The ball was knocked out of the hands of backup Virginia quarterback Peter Lalich at the 4-yard line, Tech recovered and Aaron Crawford's run a play later tied it at 28.

"I feel like we got better and better as the game went on," Tech coach Mike Leach said.

Virginia wasn't the same after losing Jameel Sewell at the start of the fourth quarter. He was running the offense well, completing 14-of-23 passes for 78 yards and running nine times for 32 yards.

Sewell was helped off the field after being tackled on the opening play of the fourth quarter. He

didn't return until the last drive, and by then it was too late.

"It's still shocking right now to know that we were up 28-14 and couldn't hold it," Simpson said. "We knew they had an explosive offense, but our defense was playing good the whole game. The turnover late in the game really hurt us."

Virginia forced one of the country's most prolific and efficient passers into two safeties in the first half. They happened similarly — Harrell was backed into his end zone and desperately tossed the ball toward his linemen, earning two grounding calls that counted for four Virginia points.

The second time he shouldn't have been in that position anyway. Tech got the ball at its own 11, then was set back to the 6 with a delay of game penalty.

It was one of numerous mental mistakes the Red Raiders overcame, including a third-quarter fumble and two defensive penalties in the fourth quarter that kept Virginia going.

"We had quite a few bad breaks, a lot of which we created ourselves," Leach said.

Harrell said he was never worried. Tech didn't even enter a hurry-up offense when he got the ball back at the Red Raider 49 with 5:38 left and a 14-point deficit.

Georgia, USC post big BCS blowouts

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP Football Writer

Georgia vs. Southern California, it might have been a heck of a game.

Maybe even a national championship game.

We'll never know for sure, but the Bulldogs and Trojans closed their seasons with emphatic victories in the Bowl Championship Series on Tuesday that had to leave college football fans wondering, "What if?"

Led by elusive freshman Joe McKnight and steady senior John David Booty, No. 6 USC beat Illinois 49-17 in a record-setting Rose Bowl romp.

Healthier than they've ben all

season, the Trojans (11-2) may very well be playing better than any team in the country right now.

"Everything that was out there for us, we took," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "The rest of it is up for discussion. But would I love to still be playing right now? Sure would. We'd go out there any time, any place, any venue and throw our football out there and see what we could do."

No. 4 Georgia (11-2) could also make a claim to the title of best team right now. The Bulldogs (10-2) closed the season with their seventh straight victory, dismantling Hawaii 41-10 in the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome, where LSU and Ohio State will

play for the national championship next week.

"We're the best in the land," Georgia linebacker Marcus Washington said. "We should be playing next week."

It'd be hard to argue against either the Bulldogs or Trojans being No. 1 after the way they rang in the New Year. If nothing else they got a head start on getting to next year's national championship game. Both will be ranked in the top-five to end this season and should be in the mix for preseason No. 1 to start the 2008 campaign.

While Georgia and USC took all the drama out of the final two of the six New Year's Day bowls, the earlier games were mostly

entertaining.

Michigan sent coach Lloyd Carr into retirement with a 41-35 victory over Florida and Heisman Trophy Winner Tim Tebow in the Capital One Bowl. Texas Tech scored 17 points in the fourth quarter to beat Virginia 31-28 in the Gator Bowl. Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge finished his career with a big game and the Volunteers beat Wisconsin 21-17. Missouri routed Arkansas 38-7 in the Cotton Bowl behind a record-breaking game by running back Tony Temple.

In Pasadena, Calif., the Rose Bowl got the Big Ten-Pac-10 matchup it covets, but Illinois,

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 2B

Obituaries

David George Summers



David George Summers, 58, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, in a local hospital. No services are planned at this time.

He was born June 1, 1949, in Sweetwater.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, David and Megan Summers of Big Spring; one brother, Steven Summers of Big Spring; and three grandchildren.

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

Lottery

ATLANTA (AP) — A single player has won the grand prize from the latest Mega Millions lotto drawing.

Lottery officials said the winning ticket from Tuesday night's drawing — worth \$33 million — was sold in Texas.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 13, 16, 25, 30 and 54. The Mega Ball number was 11.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-13-15-25-31.
Number matching five of five: 3.
Prize per winner: \$7,092.
Winning tickets sold in: Boerne, Corpus Christi, Midland.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-0-6-1. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-2. Sum It Up: 7.

Take Note

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.


• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

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Police blotter

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

• **JASON LEE DIAZ**, 27, of 1111 Ridgeroad, was arrested Tuesday on 10 local warrants.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1300 block of Mulberry.
- in the 1100 block of Gregg.

• **DEADLY CONDUCT/DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
- in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

- in the 3200 block of Cornell.
- in the 1600 block of Tucson.
- in the 1600 block of Kentucky.
- in the 1300 block of Wood.
- in the 1700 block of Purdue.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 800 block of Baylor.
- in the 4200 block of Dixon.

• **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 53 inmates at the time of this report.

• **JOHN JAY FLORES**, 36, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of failure to appear - motion for enforcement; theft by check; a motion to revoke probation for contempt of court/child support; and public intoxication.

• **LESLIE ANN PEREZ**, 26, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid.

• **JASON LEE DIAZ**, 27, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **MERRILL CLAYTON CAMPBELL**, 39, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of fugitive arrest - larceny (Utah warrant); and no driver's license.

• **STEPHEN CORY WATERS**, 25, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **GABRIELA MORA RENTERIA**, 23, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense; possession of a controlled substance; and possession of marijuana - more than two ounces less than four ounces.

• **CHRISTINA JEAN DIAZ**, 24, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SAMUEL ALEXANDER SMITH**, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of arson.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Johnson. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter. Service refused.

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson. Service refused.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 172 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. Service refused.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1400 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Princeton. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Ann Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. South winds around 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 70.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

It's Time to Move On!!!
Quita's Hair Fashions is closed
as of Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Wanda Hendrickson -213-3244
Carol Self-270-0325
Ann Townsend-816-3322
We are now at:
Sally's Hair & Nail Salon
1201 E. 11th Place
267-7373

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

• Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Dance at the Senior Center to Monroe Casey and the Prowlers, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
• Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

Support Groups

MONDAY
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call Alex at 264-6921 or 1-800 392-8677.

TUESDAY
• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings have been canceled. They will no longer take place at the Howard County Library. If you have questions, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers

BIG SPRING HERALD
www.BigSpringHerald.com
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432-263-7331 (Main Switchboard) **432-263-7335** (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-7p.m. Sun. 8a.m.-noon)
432-264-7205 (Fax)
Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250
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Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256
The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.
Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

GAMBLES

Continued from Page 1B

Dolphins that was part of the deal to even interview the former Cowboys backup quarterback.

Garrett was hired to be either the head coach or the offensive coordinator. Once Phillips got the big job — and, because of his background, ownership of the defense — the offense was turned over to a guy who'd been a position coach for only two seasons and had never called plays or built a game plan.

Jones was convinced the Princeton grad had a bright future. Now, the rest of the league agrees. Garrett is going to be highly sought this offseason after his unit set or challenged every significant offensive record in team history, with quarterback Tony Romo, receiver Terrell Owens and tight end Jason Witten shattering several, too.

CONTRACTS

• Since being the second overall pick coming out of college, Leonard Davis was known for two things in Arizona: Being big and being a bust.

Yet, Jones was convinced that Davis would thrive in Dallas. So convinced he gave him a jumbo contract, nearly \$50 million overall, almost \$19 million guaranteed.

The Cowboys didn't even know whether Davis would play guard or tackle. He wound up at right

guard — and will wind up this season in Hawaii, having made the Pro Bowl.

He'll be joined there by safety Ken Hamlin, another free-agent signee by Jones who made the Pro Bowl for the first time in his career.

• Terrell Owens was such a big part of the offense, it's hard to imagine this season without him.

Jones couldn't. That's why he never flinched at bringing T.O. back for a second season, despite all the drama, trauma and everything else that surrounded his first season on the club.

Jones insisted he was keeping Owens even before Parcels decided whether to return. Then, when searching for new coaches, he asked candidates how they'd use him. Everyone told Jones what a huge asset he was.

Phillips, Garrett and Romo made it happen, with Owens scoring 15 touchdowns, the most in club history and tops in the NFC. He challenged his career bests in every category, setting the mark in yards per catch at 16.7.

• Romo's status provided a case study in Jones-onics.

Having gone from backup to darling during in 2006, Romo came into '07 as the unquestioned starter, especially after Brady Quinn fell into the Cowboys' lap at the draft and Jones opted to trade the pick instead. (More on that later.)

Still, there were questions about whether Romo was a one-year

wonder. Some wondered if his season-ending blunder in the playoffs would mess with his head. And if that didn't, maybe the fact he was going into the final year of his contract would.

Jones was willing to give Romo a new deal, but it wasn't going to be for top dollar. He'd have to earn that.

Distraction? How about motivation. Romo never griped about negotiations, he just upped the ante week after week, until getting a \$67.5 million deal in late October.

IN-SEASON DECISIONS

• Greg Ellis was hurt, in many ways.

Worried about the recovery from a torn Achilles' tendon and concerned about his job status after Dallas drafted a rookie to replace him, Ellis' saga turned into an Owen-like soap opera. Except it had a happy ending.

Jones summoned Ellis into his office one day and settled all his fears, in part by picking up the tab on an insurance policy. He returned for the next game and was soon back in the starting lineup. He ended up with a career-high 1212 sacks despite missing three games and starting only 10.

• Always looking for a bargain, Jones checked out suspended defensive tackle Tank Johnson when other teams wanted nothing to do with him.

Then nose tackle Jason Ferguson went down in the opener and the Cowboys signed Johnson

a few weeks later.

Johnson got a sack in his first game after his suspension ended, but has been somewhat unnoticed since. Still, the Cowboys are glad to have him — especially for the league minimum — as a backup newly minted starter Jay Ratliff.

• Speaking of Ratliff, his play earned him a hefty new deal this season. Ditto for receiver Patrick Crayton, who had a breakout season as the No. 2 receiver in place of the injured Terry Glenn.

• Ah, yes, Terry Glenn. Glenn had knee surgery during training camp, then was hurt again in his first practice back and headed to another surgery.

As much as Parcels coveted every spot on his 53-man roster, it's doubtful he would've held one open for a 33-year-old guy known for his speed who was headed back under the knife. But Jones did and it paid off when Glenn suited up for the season finale. He didn't catch a pass, but he'll be active in the playoffs. And with T.O. getting over an injury, T.G. could become a vital weapon in the playoffs. If both turn out to be healthy, defenses better beware.

THE ONLY 'OOPS'

• Jones was most in his element on draft day, when Quinn slid to Dallas at No. 22.

Jones loves high-profile players, especially at quarterback, and a Notre Dame stud would've been great marketing. But the Cowboys were sold on

Romo, so Jones began wheelin' and dealin'.

He knew Cleveland was interested in Quinn at the top of the draft, so he figured the Browns were still interested. He got them to surrender their top pick in '08, which he was counting on being in the top 10, if not closer to the head of the class.

It sure seemed that way when Cleveland lost its opener, traded its starting quarterback and went with an unheralded replacement instead of Quinn. Well, Derek Anderson turned out to be darn good, and so did the Browns.

Cleveland didn't make

the playoffs, but won more games than two teams that did. Unless one of those teams, Tampa Bay or Washington, makes the Super Bowl, the Cowboys will wind up with the 22nd pick. Again.

"How do you start off with a rookie quarterback and end up with maybe the (22nd) pick in the draft?" Jones said last week, laughing at his own misfortune. "I had plans for that pick. ... But we've got two picks, and one of the neat things is that that gives you a lot of ammunition. You can do a lot of things with two picks."

Gonna bet against him?

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 1b

which sneaked into the BCS only because Ohio State made it to the national title game, wasn't up to the task.

McKnight gained 170 of USC's Rose Bowl-record 633 yards. The 49 points tied a record, too.

The game featured 1,078 total yards of offense, but only for a brief time was did Illinois look like a threat to the Trojans.

Illini star Rashard Mendenhall broke a 79-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter to make it 21-10.

Minutes later, Mendenhall took a screen pass 55 yards, and Ron Zook's 13th-ranked Illini (9-4) had hope. A year after going 2-10, winning the Rose Bowl didn't seem impossible.

But two plays later, USC's Brian Cushing recovered a fumble in the end zone, one of four Illinois turnovers.

"You can't turn the ball over," Zook said. "Whether they were forced or we weren't playing with consistency and the intensity you have to have, I'm not sure."

Moments later, McKnight picked up a lateral on the bounce went 65 yards, setting up Booty's 2-yard TD pass to Fred Davis. That made it 28-10 and the rout was on.

In New Orleans, Georgia brushed aside unbeaten BCS crasher No.10 Hawaii (12-1) every

bit as easily.

Knowshon Moreno ran for a pair of touchdowns in the opening quarter and the Bulldogs' defense made life miserable for Colt Brennan, a Heisman Trophy finalist and catalyst for the nation's highest-scoring team. He was sacked eight times, threw three interceptions and lost two fumbles, one of them recovered for a Georgia touchdown by Marcus Howard.

**Capital One Bowl
Michigan 41,
No. 9 Florida 35**

At Orlando, Fla., Chad Henne threw for 373 yards and three touchdowns, Mike Hart ran for 129 yards and two scores and Michigan sent Lloyd Carr out a winner by beating Florida for its first bowl win since 2003.

Henne, Adrian Arrington and Mario Manningham torched Florida's secondary all game. Arrington caught nine passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns, and Manningham added five catches for 78 yards and a score for the Wolverines (9-4).

The Gators (9-4) kept it close thanks to four turnovers and big plays by Tebow and Percy Harvin, who ran 13 times for 165 yards and a TD, and caught nine passes for 77 yards and a score.

**Cotton Bowl
No. 7 Missouri 38,
No. 25 Arkansas 7**

At Dallas, Missouri made its case for having deserved a chance in one of the elite bowl games.

Temple, a 5-foot-9 senior who is often overlooked

in Missouri's pass-heavy offense led by Chase Daniel, broke Cotton Bowl records with 281 yards and four touchdowns.

Darren McFadden ran for 105 yards and a touchdown in what could be his final college game.



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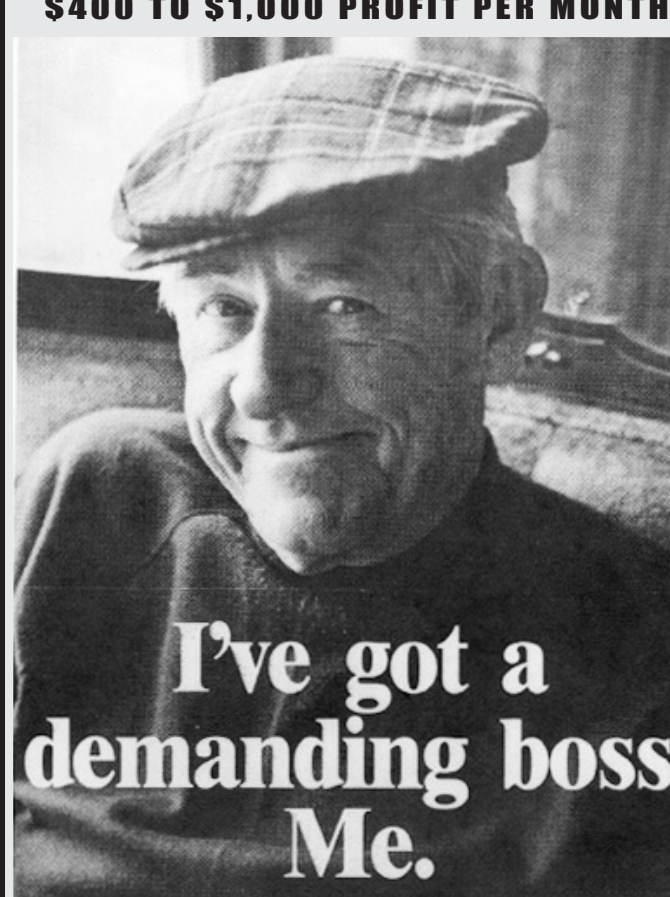
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<p>1</p> <p>By Phone... 263-7331</p>	<p>2</p> <p>By Fax... 264-7205</p>	<p>3</p> <p>In Person... 710 Scurry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>By e-mail... classifieds@ BigSpringHerald.com</p>	<p>5</p> <p>By Mail... P.O. Box 1431</p>	 <p>HERALD</p>
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Help Wanted

PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REP. needed for busy office. 11:30am-4:30pm., M-F. Holidays and Weekends Off. Phone and computer skills required. Good attitude a must. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2157, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

PIZZA HUT is now hiring for delivery drivers- up to \$20 per hour, cooks- up to \$8 per hour and wait staff- up to \$15 per hour. Apply in person, 2601 S. Gregg.

PIZZA INN
EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

RADIOLOGY TECH. Big Spring. Fax resume: 1-315-388-4142. chacker@twcny.rr.com or call 1-800-841-1990.

SALES REPS NEEDED
Local Company Seeking experienced, motivated, energetic Sales associates. Must have great people skills, sales experience & calling experience. Call (432)599-8018 or Apply at Big Spring Pack and Ship.

SALES REPS NEEDED
Local Company Seeking experienced, motivated, energetic Sales associates. Must have great people skills, sales experience & calling experience. Call (432)599-8018 or Apply at Big Spring Pack and Ship.

SALESPERSON For souvenir and gift co. Local established territory. Salary + commission, benefits and 401K. Fax 888-854-9572.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Comfort Inn needs housekeeping from 9:00-3:00. Above Competitive pay. Also need Part-time Maintenance. Apply at Front Desk @ 2990 East I-20. No phone calls please.

WANTED REPAIR Maintenance Supervisor for Local Laundromat Business. 25-30 Hours per week. Pay starting at \$9.00. Mechanical experience a must. Will train. Application 1208 Gregg.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: **Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks.** Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.

Items for Sale

SATURDAY: January 5 9am-1pm Only. American Limestone has stone panels, bits & pieces at low cost. Corner of 1st Ave. and Wright Ave., Southeast side in Air Park.

Miscellaneous

2007 61/2 Ft X 12 Ft Utility Trailer with dove tail and ramp. Brand New. \$850.00 Cash. Call 432-935-4322.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

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BEARDLESS WHEAT Seed for sale. End of Season Special. Call (432)268-3084.

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ADORABLE. NEW Years Puppies! 1/2 Cocker Spaniel/ 1/2 Mini Schnauzer. 6 males. \$25.00. (432)935-6228.

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BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD
• Swimming Pool
• Private Patios
• Carports
• Appliances
• Most Utilities Paid
• Senior Citizens Discount
• 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished

PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS
800 W. Marcy Drive
263-5555 267-5444

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms &
1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS

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New Appliances & Fixtures
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\$300/MO! BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 20 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

1206 EAST 11th Place. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, 2 car garage, CH/A, living/ dining room. \$950.00 Month plus deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. (432)267-2296.

1212 MULBERRY. 2 Bedroom 2 bath with CH/A. \$425.00 month, \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

1734 PURDUE 3 Bdr, 2 bath, CH/A, Tile floors, Large Kitchen and living area. \$770.00 month, \$595.00 deposit. Call 432-816-1330 after 4:00 p.m.

1746 PURDUE 3 Bdr., 1 bath, livingroom, den, car garage. \$995.00 Month, \$495.00 deposit. Call 432-263-3689.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

3 BEDROOM, 3 bath, CH/A, 10 acres great for horses. \$750. Month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)267-4536, (417)276-8083.

605 LINDA Lane 3 Bdr. 1Bath CH/A. \$575.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. 1408 Tucson, 3 bdr. 1 bath, CH. \$450.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call 432-263-1792, 432-816-9984.

622 STATE 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CA/CH with garage. \$500.00 month, \$300.00. No HUD. Call (432)270-3848.

FURNISHED APT. extended stay hotel. Weekly \$245.00 plus tax, monthly \$700.00 and up. Microwave and fridge. Call 1-800-677-8175.

NICE BRICK Office Building at 2000 South Birdwell Lane, 3300 sq. feet, with 11 Offices and ample parking. \$1500 Per month. Please Contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Sunset Ridge Apartments
2911 W. Old Hwy 80
1 & 2 Bedrooms
432-263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

2810 CORONADO Ave. 2700 sq feet, 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 3 living areas, fireplace, dishwasher, sprinkler system. \$150K. Call 432-816-4029 or 816-5397.

3-1-1 618 Ridgelea Approx. 9000sq ft. Metal roof, siding, storm windows, 6ft. cynder block fence, 12x16 building in back. \$37,000.00 Owner w/not finance. Call 817-308-7700

6-1/2 ACRES CISD, with water well, duplex rentals. Call 432-517-0642 for more info.

BEAUTIFUL- CUSTOM Built 2002 home on 9 acres. 4/5 Bdrm, 3.5 bath, inground pool, 1200 sq. ft. Storage/shed, horse stalls. Price Reduced. Call 361-492-0270.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars opposing Pluto begs the question, what are we fighting? And is it worth the cost? Some fights are worth digging our heels in, like battling a terminal disease — while others consume rather than create energy.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Either way, Mahatma Gandhi had a winning strategy: "Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you believe in holiday miracles, extend your belief to a post-holiday miracle right now. Magic can happen if you only believe hard enough. And you, more than any other sign, have the will to believe hard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're talented in your own right, but it's your turn to be a fan. Support your loved ones by acknowledging their unique gifts. When you can really give it up for others, you can give it up for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your greatest fulfillment happens when you take the leadership role. If you don't see anything you're enthusiastic about, you'll have to create it. Once you make your mind up, helpers flock to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you dream, you

dream bigger than anyone around. Achieving high aims takes the same amount of effort as achieving low ones, so aim high, higher, highest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a huge difference between doing a job and pursuing a career. You're tempted to go where the money is, but the real money will come when you follow your bliss.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Pull a few favors to get your project off the ground. In fact, those who help you will have an even better feeling toward you. An exchange with someone older is loaded with wisdom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you still don't have enough money, it's not you — it's just that the financial path you're on is not the road to riches. The same habits won't bring different results. A Capricorn facilitates your financial makeover.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your personal life is blossoming. It's heaven when friends share friends with you. The enthusiasm of new people you meet is a reflection of your own excellent energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Romance permeates your environment, though it's not necessarily the kind that involves being in love. Maybe you feel all giddy over a business arrangement or a sweet deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You make time for your top priorities

and begin to create a new kind of life. Tonight, your show of appreciation makes all the difference in a loved one's attitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are two options today. Go with the one that seems scarier. The thrill is good for your health. Those looking for love find it close to home. In fact, they often find it AT home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You need more encouragement and support — not more criticism and tough love. Be careful not to invite people or situations into your life that will oppose the natural development of your talents.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Scorpio born Nov. 19, 1965, and I'm in love with a Libra born Oct. 17, 1965. We broke up 20 years ago and are now in each other's lives again. Is there a second chance for us, or should we let go of the past on move on with our own lives?"

There's excitement and chemistry surrounding this relationship, and familiarity, too. In wondering what caused your first breakup, I'd gander Libra was playing the field so you two never reached the level of intimacy exclusivity allows. My question is: If you've yet to have a grown-up relationship, then what's changed in him that allows you to believe it will work this time? His Venus in Sagittarius joins Mars and the south node, all

angled by Saturn. He's a rolling stone of romance, a Casanova. He'll sweep you off your feet, but he's heckled by real commitment issues.

Given that people can and do change, astrology can't tell us where he is in the journey. Summer 2008 will bring this material up. Don't let yourself be deceived. There's a reason why loyalty is hard-wired into you and every Scorpio — without loyalty, the relationship won't take you where you want to go.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: For Christy Turlington, super-modeling was a means to an end. Her face launched a thousand products, but a true Capricorn, she strived to marry image to personal substance. Capricorns are shrewd business people, and Christy used her connections to launch her own clothing and skincare products. With her Saturn in Aries, she's an entrepreneur at heart.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Real Estate for Sale

DISNEY AREA Stay 7 Days 6 Nights 2 adult Disney tickets. Paid \$750.00 will sell for \$249.00 Good for one year (915)233-2017.

FORECLOSURE 3 bd, 2 ba Only \$30,005! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

ONE BEDROOM, one bath, with garage and carport. Fenced backyard. Owner will finance with \$1,900 down, \$290 month. Call (512)321-3333. (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

OWNER FINANCE, \$5000 down. 1901 Morrison. Call (432) 264-9907.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 1413 Sycamore and 508 State. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

Vehicles

2003 MERCURY Grand Marquis LS, only 15,000 miles, light blue, 4-door sedan, V-8, auto, air, power, cruise, leather, like new. \$13,000. Sale by owner. (432)267-7273

2005 NISSAN Altima V-6 with chrome rims, sun roof & dual exhaust very well kept. Transferring Military need to sell. \$16,000.00. OBO. Call 432-270-8531, 360-990-1767.

2007 NISSAN Versa, 9,000 miles, auto, air, power, cruise, CD/ radio, gray hatchback, very roomy, like new, excellent MPG, \$14,000. For sale by owner, (432)267-7273.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on January 10, 2008 for Office and Printing Supplies.

Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on January 14, 2008 for their consideration.

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
#5644 December 27, 2007 & January 2, 2008

su|do|ku
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ANSWERS

7	4	9	8	6	5	1	3	2
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Annie's Mailbox[®]: Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I'm 30 years old, and for the past two years, I've been seeing a wonderful man who's 48. "Taylor" is recently divorced and has two grown children. We get along great and seem to be a perfect match. We are very much in love and intend to get married someday. Which leads me to my question:

I've never had kids. I was married for eight years and divorced just before meeting Taylor. I never had any interest in having children with my ex. Now I will have two stepkids. I love children and I've grown fond of his, but I worry what they will think of me.

When I was 13, my dad married a woman 14 years his junior who's made our life hell for the past 17 years. I don't want to be the "wicked stepmom." I want to be a friend to them and a help to their father. I'd never try to take their mother's place. I guess what I'm asking is, how can I be a good stepmother to these kids? What are some things to remember? — The Good Witch in Salem, Mass.

Dear Salem: You are wise to want a warm and solid relationship with these children, and your experience as a stepchild should be helpful. Encourage your future husband to maintain a friendship with his ex, and don't let your insecurities make you pushy and demanding. Keep the lines of communication open at all times. You can find information, support groups and resources through the National Stepfamily Resource Center (stepfamily@auburn.edu), c/o Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies, 203 Spidle Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849.

Dear Annie: Our family

is small and we enjoy it when our relatives gather on holidays. Unfortunately, my middle-aged sister has disrupted these otherwise happy events for several years. She takes casual comments out of context and becomes offended, angry and tearful. She attacks others and then leaves the house without bothering to resolve differences. It's becoming a pattern and we don't know what to do. We love her and want to include her, but we're afraid of what will set her off. We wonder if there are psychiatric or alcohol problems, as her behavior is more pronounced when she drinks.

I'm afraid if we confront her, she'll cut off all contact. Is this a time for tough love or kid gloves? — A Family That Wants What Is Best

Dear Family: There are definite mental health issues here, but unless your sister recognizes that her behavior is off-kilter, it won't matter. Kid gloves can be stressful, and tough love works only if you are willing to lose contact. One of you could take her aside and say you've noticed she seems unhappy and, because you love her, you want to help. However, if you insist on including her regardless of her behavior, you will have

to ignore the small things, keep the conversation superficial and apologize often, saying you didn't mean to upset her. Then quickly change the subject to something that will deflect her anger. Lots of luck.

Dear Annie: This is for "Stressed in Georgia," who used pot for stress relief. As a clinical social worker, when I hear that someone suffers from extreme anxiety and anger, that antidepressants make it worse and pot helps, my first thought is to send him back to his doctor, preferably a psychiatrist, for further evaluation of his mood disorder.

He may have a bipolar disorder, in which case he needs a mood stabilizer, not an antidepressant. Many people who suffer from undiagnosed mood disorders on the bipolar spectrum try to self-medicate with recreational drugs, legal and illegal, and end up addicted. He needs a chance to find legal help that works. — Longtime Therapist in Wisconsin

Dear Therapist: Thank you for your expertise. If anyone sees themselves or a loved one in this letter, please talk to your doctor.

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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News briefs

Researchers work on cocaine vaccine

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Baylor College of Medicine researchers in Houston are working on a cocaine vaccine they hope will become the first-ever medication to treat people hooked on the drug.

"For people who have a desire to stop using, the vaccine should be very useful," said Dr. Tom Kosten, a psychiatry professor who is being assisted in the research by his wife, Therese, a psychologist and neuroscientist. "At some point, most users will give in to temptation and relapse, but those for whom the vaccine is effective won't get high and will lose interest."

The vaccine, currently in clinical trials, stimulates the immune system to attack the real thing when it's taken.

The immune system — unable to recognize cocaine and other drug molecules because they are so small — can't make antibodies to attack them.

To help the immune system distinguish the drug, Kosten attached inactivated cocaine to the outside of inactivated cholera proteins. In response, the immune system not only makes antibodies to the combination, which is harmless, but also recognizes the potent naked drug when it's ingested. The antibodies bind to the cocaine and prevent it from reaching the brain, where it normally would generate the highs that are so addictive.

Church leaders call on Harris County DA to resign due to scandal

HOUSTON (AP) — Religious leaders have called on Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal to

resign because of a scandal over e-mails detailing his affectionate relationship with his secretary.

The Houston Area Pastor Council, an interracial and interdenominational group of about 150 ministers, called on Rosenthal to resign as district attorney.

The Harris County Republican Party, while not asking for Rosenthal's resignation, has requested he withdraw from the March 4 GOP primary, giving up his 2008 re-election campaign.

Rosenthal, whose current term lasts until the end of the year, has remained defiant, saying he plans to run for district attorney and win. E-mails from Rosenthal to his secretary, Kerry Stevens, surfaced last month as part of a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

None of the e-mails are explicit, but they contain the phrase "I love you" more than a dozen times, and Rosenthal asks Stevens to let him hold her.

Bridge security guard killed

EL PASO (AP) — A security guard at the Paso del Norte Bridge died after a confrontation with a male pedestrian who was crossing into Juarez, police said.

Police, who are calling the death a homicide, were still investigating what exactly happened that led to the guard's death on Tuesday.

"We know that (the security guard) was physically assaulted but we are still trying to determine what injuries were received and what inflicted those injuries," police spokesman Officer Chris Mears said Tuesday night.

The security guard, who was working for a company contracted to maintain order at toll booths at the

bridge, was taken to Thomason Hospital where he later died.

Police said that a man was detained at the scene and witnesses were being interviewed.

The names and ages of the two men were not immediately released.

Austin hopes to cut landfill waste to nothing

AUSTIN (AP) — The city of Austin is hoping a new plan will help reduce its landfill waste to nothing.

The city has hired a California firm, Gary Liss & Associates, to write a zero-waste plan — a strategy to reduce to zero the amount of garbage sent to landfills by reusing, recycling and composting materials instead.

Several cities, such as Seattle and San Francisco, and countries either have or are writing zero-waste plans.

The goal of Austin's plan will be to reduce the garbage sent to landfills by 20 percent per capita by 2012 and to achieve zero waste — an international standard set by the U.N. Environmental Accord — by 2040.

"With the focus on global warming in the past few years, more communities seem to feel comfortable adopting the zero waste goal," said Gary Liss, who has written zero-waste plans for cities like Palo Alto and Oakland, Calif. "These plans could dramatically affect climate change by reducing the methane from landfills and changing the flow of materials through the economy."

Solid Waste Services Director Willie Rhodes said the city will also boost recycling with the opening of a single-stream facility in Southeast Austin.

FILING

Continued from Page 1A

win the March bid, however, as fellow Republican candidates Winston Paschal Odom, Jimmie Wayne Long and Fred Green are also in the fray. Incumbent William Crooker announced in late 2007 he would not seek re-election.

The race for the

Precinct 1 seat on the commissioner's court could very well be decided in March, as Democratic challenger Yolanda Mendoza will attempt to unseat fellow Democrat and incumbent Emma Brown in the primaries. There is no GOP candidate at this time.

Howard County Constable Bill Holden has also filed to run for re-election on the Democratic ticket, and

while he has yet to draw a party opponent, Kneel B. Stallings has filed to challenge on the Republican card.

County Attorney Mike Thomas has also filed for re-election with the Democratic Party, drawing an opponent in local attorney Joshua Hamby, who filed to run on the Republican ticket.

Howard County Tax Collector and Assessor Kathy Sayles and Justice

of the Peace Bennie Green both filed for re-election on the Republican ticket. Neither race has garnered and opponent.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson reported this week he has filed to run for re-election with the state's Republican office. Wilkerson has not yet drawn a challenger.

Deadline to file for the March primary is 6 p.m. today, according to

Bloom. Candidates must file with their respective county party chairman — Margarita Durand-Hollis (264-0973) for the Republicans, and Ro Gore (466-3073) for the Democrats — by the deadline.

Candidates must also

file preliminary paperwork with Bloom, who may be contacted at 264-2273.

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

AIDE

Continued from Page 1A

have laptops — loaded with Windows XP or later — they can donate to the program. Laptops are easier to secure and work with when it comes to the program. And if someone wants to volunteer and already has a laptop, we can always load the software on it for them and let them use their own. That would really be the ideal situation."

Hopkins said the pro-

gram is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax

returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them.

"Being a volunteer is very easy. You don't have to be a number whiz or have any experience in accounting. You just need to be computer-literate and have a basic understanding of the tax forms and how to fill them out. Everything else is going to be covered in the training classes."

Hopkins said tax help will be available at the

Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning the first Monday in February, with the AARP program set to wrap up for the year the last Monday before the annual April 15 tax filing deadline.

For more information on the program or to volunteer, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

SNOW

Continued from Page 1A

about a foot of snow on New Year's Day, with a couple of inches added during the night and a couple more likely Wednesday. Storm totals could reach 18 inches in parts of Maine and New Hampshire and up to a foot in Vermont.

The latest snowfall in New England followed a storm on Monday that made for the area's snowiest December in decades. December's snowfall at Concord, N.H., totaled 44.5 inches, topping a record of 43 inches that had stood since 1876. Burlington, Vt., got 45.7 inches, far above its 17.2-inch December average, and

Portland, Maine, amassed 37.7 inches for its third-snowiest December on record.

"It's been unbelievable. It just keeps coming," said Bill Swain, spokesman for Maine's Sugarloaf USA ski area, which got 70 inches of snow in December.

The snowfall delayed the start of the 2008 state legislative session in Augusta, Maine, from Wednesday morning until the afternoon.

On the southern fringes of the storm on Wednesday, show was scattered from Ohio through eastern Kentucky and West Virginia into parts of Virginia and Maryland.

Up to 6 inches of snow was possible Wednesday at higher elevations of West Virginia and east-

ern Kentucky, although 1- to 2-inch accumulations were likely in most areas, the weather service said.

At least 40 of West Virginia's 55 counties closed all public schools Wednesday because of snow-covered roads and freezing temperatures.

Dozens of schools also were closed Wednesday in southeastern Michigan, where a six-hour burst of snow early Tuesday dumped as much as 16 inches in a three-county area north of Detroit, the weather service said.

"This will be a memorable storm for the amount of snow it dumped in such a short amount of time," weather service meteorologist David Shuler said. He said it was the region's heaviest New Year's Day snowstorm on record.

The storm blacked out 10,000 customers Tuesday in northeast Ohio, where 15 inches of snow fell at in Pierpont, east of Cleveland. About 4,000 more lost power Tuesday evening in southwest Ohio when circuit breakers failed because of the cold.

There were no immediate reports of deaths blamed on the weather. Snow covered a highway in northeast Indiana where a van overturned early Wednesday, killing two women, but State Police Cpl. Derek Fisher said he could not say if the weather contributed to the crash.

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Bird Poop Grebe rescued from unlikely landing spot

Covered with dried mud, the pickup followed the dirt road as if from memory. Every bounce from the ruts was familiar to both the man and his vehicle. Since his job required his sojourn into the desolate parts of the county, he enjoyed the solitude and his encounters with nature. Surprised by what lay ahead, the man applied the brakes.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Struggling to rise, a small bird in the center of the road had a light film of caliche covering its feathers. The truck coming toward it had caused the creature to panic. Unable to hide or quickly dive and swim away, the bird was frightened when its quiet rest was interrupted. Even more alarming was the crunch of the boots and the size of the man that approached. It had never encountered such a threatening experience.

Quickly, the large, rough hands surrounded the wiggling creature. Taken to the pickup, the bird was wrapped in a towel for the trip to town.

Telling me he thought it might be a waterbird, R.C. gently handed over his squirming package. Through the terry cloth was sticking its short, slender pointed bill. Protruding from the other end of the towel

were the bird's legs and partially webbed, lobed toes. "It's a grebe," was my answer to the puzzled look on his face.

When I asked him if he had found it on a paved surface, R.C. shook his head and replied, "No. The middle of a caliche road." Sometimes grebes and loons mistake the sheen of asphalt for water. Too late they learn that their landing site has made it impossible for them to become airborne again.

We both wondered why a bird that runs on the surface of a lake or pond would decide to land in an area that had no bodies of water. "Maybe it was just exhaustion," was my only thought.

If the little grebe were unhurt and capable of swimming, it would be ready for release. Showing R.C. that the bird's legs were at the back of its body rather than in the middle, I explained that we would place the grebe in the bathtub filled with water. Insuring us that its feet and legs worked properly, the bird would be set free as soon as we could get to a lake. "You've made my day," was part of my thanking him for rescuing the grebe.

In the bathtub, the drabness of its winter plumage was offset by its scarlet eyes. The soft, thick feathers on the upper chest gave the buxom swimmer a more than ample appearance. Dark gray to black above, and white to gray below, the American eared grebe enjoyed paddling the length of the tub. The



Courtesy photo

The bathtub offered the eared grebe the reassurance of propelling itself through water again. To feel the soothing comfort that a lake or pond would offer encouraged the bird to splash and hurl water in celebration.

whitish patch back of each ear helped in our identification.

Convinced of its ability to swim and run, we headed to Comanche Lake. Lifting the grebe from the carrier, I could feel the eagerness of the bird to return to water. After placing it on the water, we watched it immediately dive out of sight. Having swum a short distance, it reappeared. Pleased with its surroundings, the grebe leapt into the air and plunged straight down with closed wings.

Almost as quickly as it dove, it resurfaced, only to do it again.

While it might have been clumsy on land, it was energized by its precision diving, underwater swimming and feeding.

In the deep open water, the bird was finding small fish, aquatic insects and their larvae. Water plants, flies, moths, midges and its own body feathers would complete its diet.

Freezing weather on northern lakes had forced the eared grebe to migrate. Its unfortunate landing had resulted in another chance on an inland body of water. Rested and well fed, the bird would in the near future rise quickly out of the water some moonlit night to continue its flight to a winter haven.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

WASHES

Continued from Page 5A

and Spa lets owners lavish their pets with blueberry facials and bubblebath paw treatments, even canine massage and Reiki, a Japanese stress reduction technique using touch.

"It's a little new agey, I know, but people are doing it for themselves. Because their pets are also part of the family, they're doing it for their pets too," said Stacey Kimberly Rogers, co-owner of the business.

If that seems too serious, dogs can lighten up with a monthly "yappy hour" where they can socialize over a bowl of nonalcoholic, no-fizz, beef-flavored "Happy Tail Ale."

"Fun is the operative

word. You've got to have fun," Rogers said.

Mark Goodwin agrees with the idea of having fun, but said reducing stress is important, too. He said he and his brother launched their dog wash idea partly because

Mark was feeling stressed out by his primary job as an environmental consultant.

They're trying to keep it fun, even though this is the busy time of the year because it's getting cold outside.

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Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2008**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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WEDNESDAY

Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



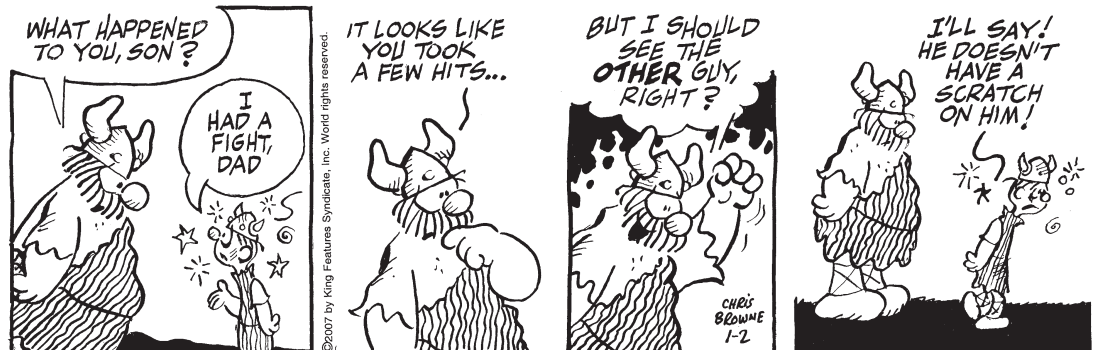
"MY DAD THINKS HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT, BUT MY MOM IS ALWAYS RIGHT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

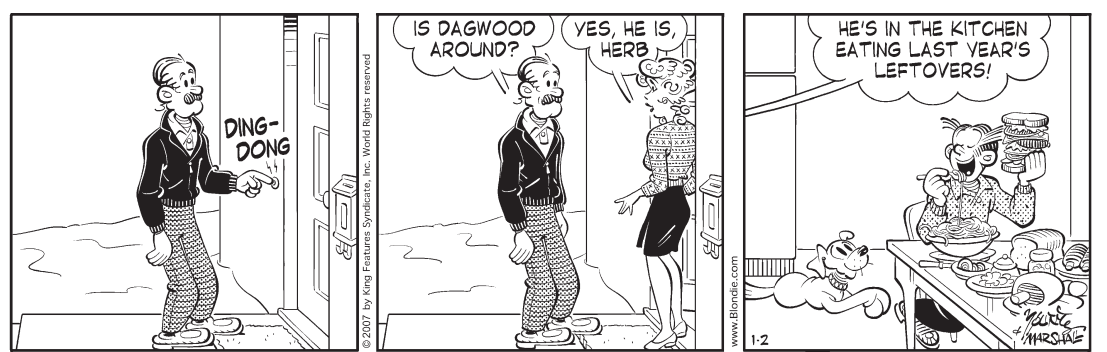


"Oh, boy! Does this mean we don't have to be good anymore?"

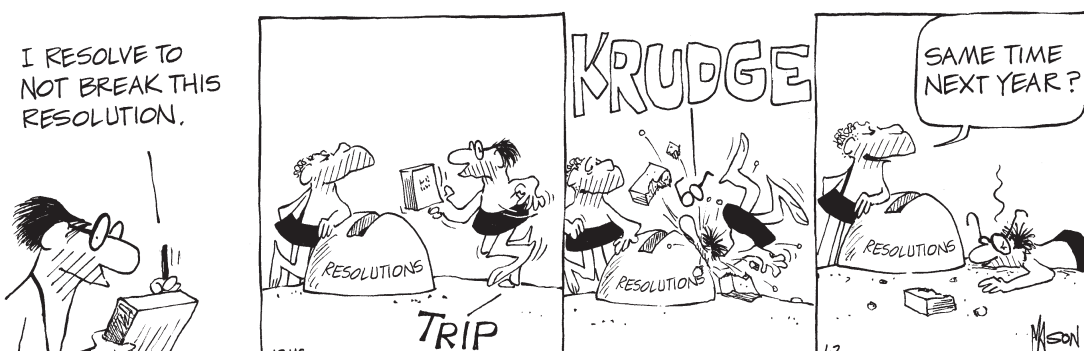
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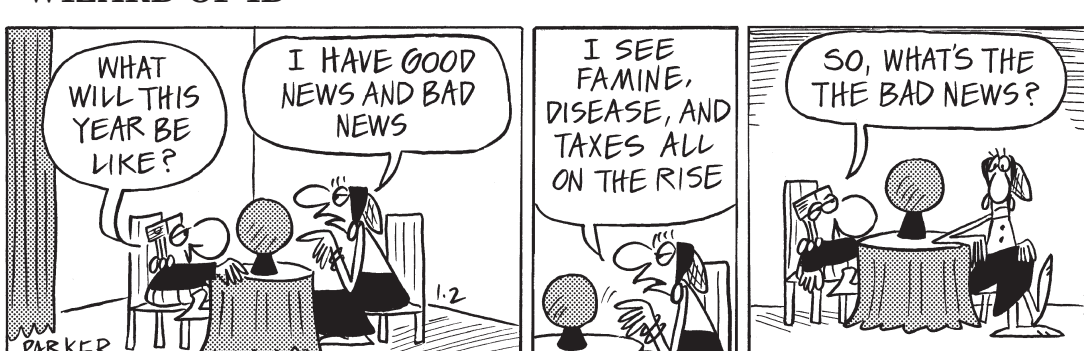
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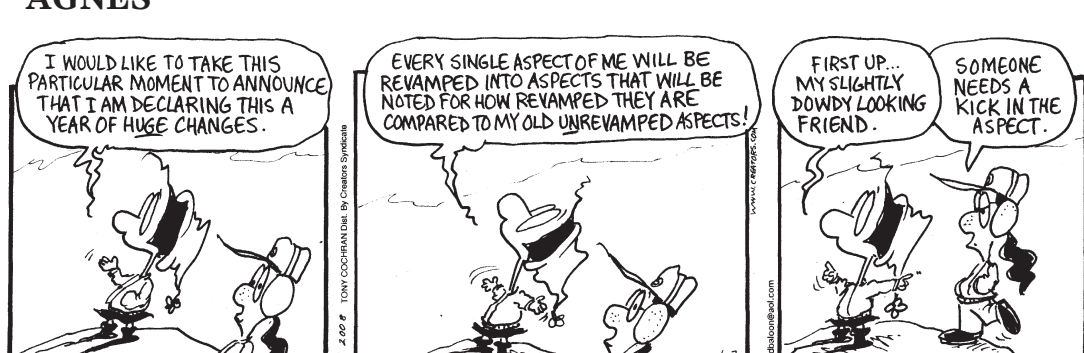
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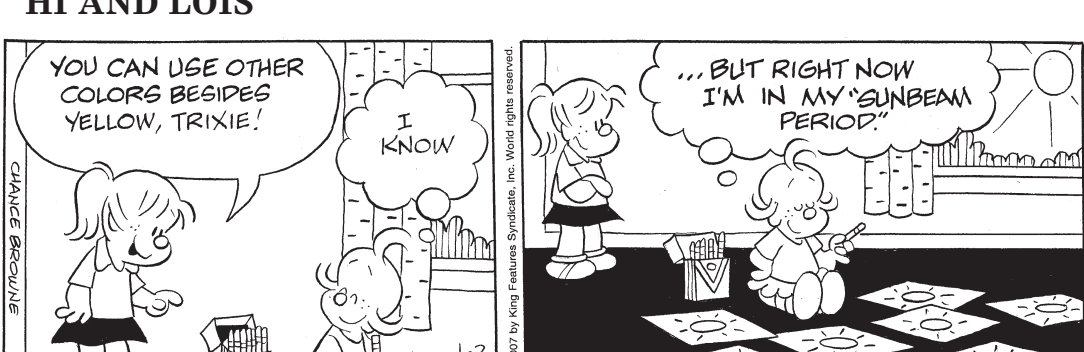
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2008. There are 364 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 2, 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.
On this date:
In 1492, Muhammad XI, the sultan of Granada, the last Arab stronghold in Spain, surrendered to Spanish forces.
In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.
In 1929, the United States and Canada reached agreement on joint action to pre-

serve Niagara Falls.
In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)
In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.
In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.
In 1965, the New York Jets signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath to a contract reportedly worth \$427,000.
In 1974, President Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles per hour (federal speed limits were abolished in 1995).
In 2006, a methane gas explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, claimed the lives of 12 miners, but one miner, Randal McCloy Jr., was eventually rescued.
Ten years ago: The defense trial rested its case in the penalty phase after calling nine witnesses who pleaded for his life. (Nichols was sentenced to life in prison on federal convictions of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter involving the deaths of eight federal law enforcement officers. He was later convicted of state murder charges in Oklahoma, and sentenced to 161 consecutive life sentences.)
Today's Birthdays:
Country musician Harold Bradley is 82. Former television evangelist Jim Bakker is 69. Actress Wendy Phillips is 56. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 47.

Answer to previous puzzle
ACTS PRIM BASIN
SPIT LURE ABODE
ALTO ASIA DEFER
PULLONESLEG TAD
SEEDS SLEEP
NOTCH FRYERS
NEW ROPES SEDAN
APES ART DATA
REAPS SOUPS LAP
CEREAL SNOOP
ACRES TRUST
MOW COMPUTERKEY
ANITA ELSE PINE
TIRES LEER LEON
STEAM LASS ERRS

Newsday Crossword

ROOKIES by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Ritz
5 Wearing loafers, say
9 Practices boxing
14 Utah ski resort
15 Cobbled together
16 Reef material
17 Frankenstein's helper
18 Teen fave
19 Still in the game
20 Factory input
23 Understand
24 Guitarist
25 Show contrition
27 Completely wrecks
31 "Am not!" retort
33 Japanese dog
34 Auth. unknown
35 Govt. workplace watchdog
39 Dr. Seuss book
42 Novelist
43 Paretsky
44 Tick off
44 Place for a pimiento
45 Snack with tea
47 Primitive fellows
48 Butter or oleo
51 "Unknown," on a sched.
52 Rainbow gradation
53 Party time
60 Hitting
62 Be hysterical
63 Dry as dust
64 Mapquest.com offering
65 Otherwise
66 "Well done!"
67 Sign up
68 Call for
69 Sharp as a tack
9 Fish features
10 Officeholder
11 Crop up
12 Poe bird
13 Winter forecast
21 Poe's middle name
22 Concert venue
26 Popular pet
27 Gets to "it"
28 Gumbo veggie
29 Stadium section
30 Relaxing
31 Go for fish
32 Wine choice
34 Not "fer"
36 Leveling piece
37 Hold title to
38 Congregation comeback
40 Chip away at
41 Without face value
46 Horse's gait
47 Dropped off
48 Don't hog
49 Add, as weight
50 Show otherwise
51 Tied up in knots
54 Small songbird
55 Ivy League school
56 Dropped sharply
57 Toledo's lake
58 Bad habit
59 Idyllic place
61 Had

Crossword grid with numbers 1-69 indicating starting positions for the clues.