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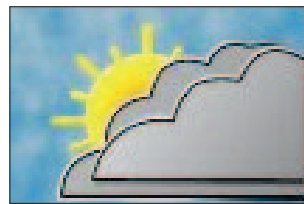
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY
JANUARY 3, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 28

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Three arrested for arson

Two had direct ties to volunteer fire department

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A trio of Big Spring men — two of which were formerly firefighters with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department — were arrested this week and charged with arson, according to county law enforcement officials.

Samuel Alexander Smith, 20,



Smith

Gross

Spivey

Marvin Eugene Gross, 19, and Edward James Spivey, 19, were arrested and charged with arson in connection with sever-

al grass fires in and around Howard County, according to Howard County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Mark Hall.

"The fires were being investigated by VFD Chief Tommy Sullivan," said Hall. "There were several of them, but I can't go into where or when they were reported because the investigation is ongoing."

Hall said two of the three sus-

pects are former HCVFD firefighters.

"Gross was a firefighter with the VFD at the time of his arrest," said Hall. "Smith had been a firefighter with the VFD a while back, but was terminated by Chief Sullivan."

Sullivan said Smith was let go by the VFD because he failed to meet standards approximately two years ago, while Gross was

terminated upon his arrest Monday.

Hall said the fires were caused by fireworks, but the blazes were anything but an accident.

"Although fireworks were used to start the fires, we have evidence to support they were set intentionally," said Hall.

See **ARSON**, Page 3A

Walker files for sheriff

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker announced Wednesday he will run for re-election — but not on the Democratic ticket.

Walker, who has run as a Democrat in the last two elections, has filed to run for the Republican nomination for sheriff in the March primaries.

"It's not a situation where I was unsatisfied with anyone individually in the Democratic party," said Walker. "I just feel more comfortable with the Republican party on a personal level. I'm pro-life and a Christian, and I just feel the Republican party is more in-line with my personal beliefs."

Walker's decision to file with the local GOP will

See **WALKER**, Page 3A



Walker

HOOPS ACTION



Big Spring Steers point guard Jerrell Williams brings the ball up the court in the Steers' varsity basketball game against the Lubbock Cooper Pirates Wednesday in Lubbock. The Steers almost overcame an 18-point deficit, but fell short, 72-67. See article, Page 1B.

Mom files assault complaint

Accuses coach of kicking son

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Big Spring police are investigating an alleged assault involving a Big Spring Independent School District coach and student.

Tris Clemons, mother of the student, filed an assault complaint Dec. 22 against Derek Workman, a junior high school coach and social studies teacher.

Clemons accused Workman of kicking her 17-year-old son in the mouth on or about Nov. 17 while the boy was at the residence of a female coach whose name she couldn't recall.

"My son was sleeping on the floor (at the female coach's house)," Ms. Clemons said. "He said he looked up and saw (Workman) ... and the next thing he knew, the coach kicked him, and started yelling and screaming at him." The student then left the resi-

See **COMPLAINT**, Page 3A

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To reach us:

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.

Chili cook-off set Saturday

By **VALERIE AVERY**

Special to the Herald

If you haven't planned on creating a pot of chili for this Saturday's chili cook-off, you can still participate by bringing an appetite.

Tickets cost \$5 for the Sixth Annual Chili Cook-off sponsored by the local Fraternal Order of Eagles lodge. All proceeds benefit the West Texas Centers for MHMR Children In Need Fund.

Cooking begins at 8 a.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third. Judging begins at

noon and sampling begins soon afterward.

Proceeds from the tasting and entry fees benefit the Children in Need fund, which helps purchase school supplies, clothing, tuition for summer camps and helps meet other financial needs of special children who are receiving services from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

The Children in Need fund is used to assist children served by West Texas Center's 23 counties who need material items that don't fit into a "one-fit catchall" that often is required by gov-

ernment organizations.

The Eagles group has donated thousands of dollars each year to the fund through its chili cook-off.

For more information, call 432 263-6862.

West Texas Centers for MHMR is the state-designated Mental Health Authority for 23 counties in rural West Texas. Mental Health and Mental Retardation services are provided to more than 2,000 consumers and their families each month.

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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

Page 1B
Thursday, January 3, 2008

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers start District 4-4A play at home Friday

Big Spring's Lady Steers basketball team begins District 4-4A play at 7:30 p.m. Friday night in Steer Gym.

The Lady Steers host the No. 8 Plainview Lady Bulldogs.

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

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

FRIDAY
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.

Hawk women start new year with a win

By ERIC C. RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

THATCHER, ARIZ. — Winning is the way to bring in the new year right and the Howard College women's basketball team did just that Wednesday night in Arizona.

The Hawks fought off a pesky Eastern Arizona College squad for a 63-52 victory.

Although the Hawks took some good shots early, Howard struggled from the field, trailing Eastern Arizona 8-7 with a little over 12 minutes remaining in the

first half. Howard responded with an 8-0 run to take a 15-8 lead with 8:06 left until halftime. The Hawks outscored Eastern 19-12 over the final eight minutes thanks in large part to sophomore shooting guard Kandace Griffin who connected on six 3-pointers to propel Howard to a 34-20 halftime lead.

Howard built a 45-26 lead with 13:25 left in the second half before Eastern Arizona trimmed the lead to 15 points, 54-39, with 7:21 remaining in the game. The Hawks looked to close out the game when Veronica Wilson pen-

etrated and found Griffin wide open for what would have been her seventh 3-pointer and a commanding 18-point lead.

Unfortunately, Wilson was called for a charge to nullify Griffin's trifecta and allowed Eastern Arizona to swing the momentum. Eastern Arizona outscored Howard 13-9 to close out the game as the Hawks held on for the 11-point victory.

Griffin led the Hawks with 18 points.

Sophomore center Aqueelah Watkins was the only other Hawk in double figures with 11

points. Monica Jones had nine points and Danielle Cota added eight.

Watkins led the Hawks with eight rebounds while Jones added six boards and four steals.

With the win, the Hawks improve to 13-3 overall and play South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Eric C. Rodewald serves as Howard College's Sports Information Director and is also the assistant women's basketball coach.

Cooper holds off Steers' comeback bid

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — Free throws can easily decide a basketball game, especially when only one team is shooting them.

Big Spring's Steers suffered a their third consecutive loss Wednesday to Lubbock Cooper's Pirates, 72-67. The game was decided at the charity stripe with the Pirates connecting on 32 of 41 free throw attempts.

Meanwhile, the Steers was awarded just eight foul shots, connecting on five of them. The one-sided foul calls were clearly frustrating the Steers, who trailed by 18 points at intermission after Cooper converted 14 of 16 free throws in the second period.

"It's always frustrating to take a loss like that when they hit a lot of free throws," said Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris, whose complaints about the foul differential fell on the referee's deaf ears during the course of the game. "They hit a lot of free throws in the second quarter, but I guess our hands were on them since the refs made the calls. We never adjusted to how they were calling the game. I was very proud of how the team came back and made it a game after trailing by 18 points. We just can't get down that much."

Big Spring outscored Cooper in every period except the second. Trailing by three heading into the second stanza, the Pirates tied the game at 23-all, then went on a 19-2 run with most of the points coming from the charity stripe.

Big Spring's Lance Gross finally broke the run with a basket at the one-minute mark, but the damage was done. The Steers trailed 45-27 at halftime.

"We just couldn't make any shots and fouled too much in the second period. We frustrated ourselves," Morris said. "Once we pulled out of it, then everything went well for us. Just that one big quarter for them beat us."

Big Spring cut the lead to nine in the third stanza, but trailed by 10 heading into the final frame. However, a Jason Walker 3-pointer trimmed the lead to five points, 70-65, with 46 seconds left to play. The Steers' pressure defense forced a Cooper turnover, giving the Steers the ball back with 40 seconds remaining.

However, Cooper jumped in a Big Spring passing lane, forcing the Steers to send the Pirates back to the free throw line once again. Sticking with the game's theme, Cooper was good from the charity stripe, icing the game.

Walker scored a game-high 30 points, including 18 in the second half. He also had four rebounds and five steals. Terrence Clemons was the only other Steer in double figures with 14 points.

Austin Taylor led Lubbock Cooper with 18 points and Shain Rebber had 11.

The Steers hope to break their losing streak before beginning District 4-4A play when they host Brownfield at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Steer Gym.

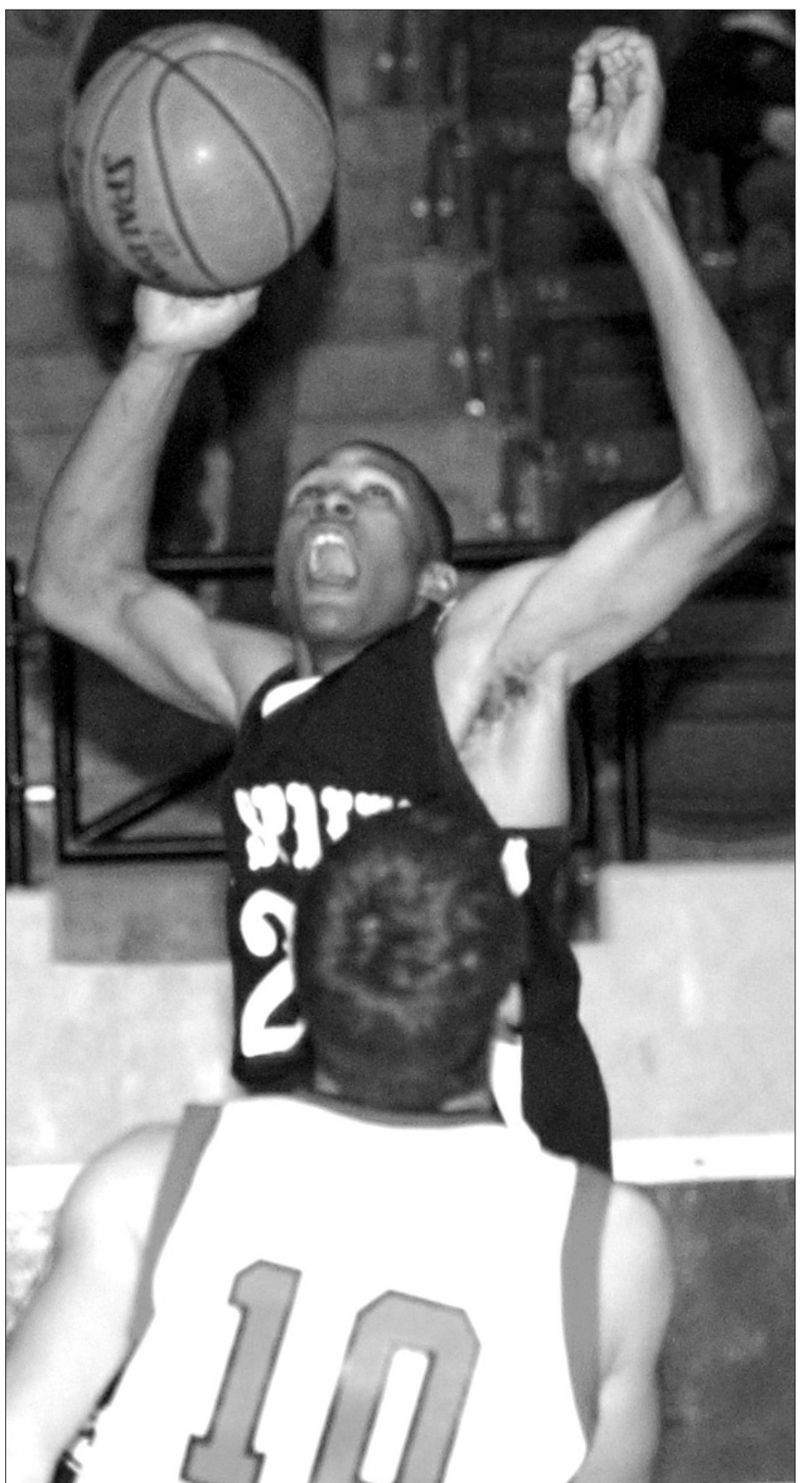
"It'll be good to have a home game and get back into a routine," Morris said. "It's tough to coordinate practices over the holidays. Most of the time the entire team isn't there and then games are thrown in on off days. Every high school basketball team has a holiday lull it has to overcome. We haven't played a home game in over a month. Getting back in Big Spring should help a lot."

Big Spring 20 7 20 20—67
Cooper 17 28 12 15—72

Big Spring (10-8): Terrence Clemons 14, Lance Gross 6, Jerrell Williams 7, Tyrone Clemons 2, Jason Walker 30, Tyler Tannehill 5, Matt Ritchey 3.

Cooper (14-6): John Mark Hatslett 8, Nate Hood 8, Austin Taylor 19, Taylor Johnson 7, Todd Howell 5, Shain Rebber 11, Jacob Jones 7, Alex Jaskoviak 7.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.



HERALD photo/Gary Don Hull
Big Spring's Jason Walker goes up for a dunk over a Lubbock Cooper defender in the Steers' 72-67 loss Wednesday in Lubbock.



AP photo/Ross D. Franklin
Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops yells at his team in the second half of the Fiesta Bowl against West Virginia Wednesday in Glendale, Ariz. The Sooners lost their third straight bowl game, 48-28.

Mountaineers hand OU third straight bowl loss

By ANDREW BAGNATO

AP College Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Bill Stewart didn't have to lobby to become West Virginia's next coach.

Led by elusive quarterback Pat White, the 11th-ranked Mountaineers gave him a resounding endorsement in a 48-28 Fiesta Bowl victory over No. 3 Oklahoma on Wednesday night. Stewart served as interim replacement for Rich Rodriguez, who bolted for Michigan last month.

"They gave me my marching orders to get this team ready, and that's what we did," Stewart said.

Stewart later said he'd "cherish" the job but would support whomever the university hires.

His players say it should be Stewart. White, who ran for 150 yards and threw for 176 and two touchdowns in a 48-28 victory, began stumping for Stewart on the field after the game.

"He deserves it," White said.

"A great man. A great coach. All the players respect him and all the players love him. You couldn't ask for a better man to lead us to victory today."

Fullback Owen Schmitt, who scored on a 57-yard run called Stewart the "glue" that kept the Mountaineers together during a rocky month.

"We're a family," Schmitt said. "That's why we prevailed."

An emotional Stewart relished what he called "a colossal win for our program."

"I never had a Gatorade bath," said Stewart, a native West Virginian who has been an assistant for most of his career. "It was special."

The Mountaineers didn't need Rodriguez. They had White, a relentless defense and a rushing attack that raced for 349 yards, most allowed by Oklahoma in a bowl game.

Since arriving in the desert last week, the Mountaineers (11-2)

See FIESTA, Page 2B

Obituaries

Jackie Zitterkopf



Jackie Zitterkopf, 68, of Big Spring, died Friday evening in a Midland hospital. Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, at the Midway Baptist Church with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor, officiating and Raford Dunagan assisting. Graveside services were held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, at the Rosehill Cemetery in Merkel.

She was born June 8, 1939 in Celina to W.A. and Vivian Wilson. She married Johnny L. Zitterkopf on July 1, 1960 in Coahoma and he preceded her in death on Jan. 23, 1994.

Jackie came to Coahoma with her family in 1948 and later moved to Garden City where she graduated from high school as valedictorian in 1957. Jackie received her degree in 1960 from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene and taught the 4th and 5th grades at Coahoma Elementary School for 16 years until retiring. Mrs. Zitterkopf was a member of the Midway Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Darren Zitterkopf of Arlington and Brent Zitterkopf and wife Mary of Big Spring; one granddaughter, Brooke Michelle Zitterkopf and one grandson, Blake Michael Zitterkopf, both of Big Spring; one brother, Andy Wilson and wife Gloria of Ozona; one sister, Carolyn Smith and husband Bob of Clearlake, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

Jackie was also preceded in death by two infant daughters, Allison Kay in 1961 and Cecelia Dianne in 1965.

The family suggests memorials be made to Midway Baptist Church Building Fund, 6200 South Service Rd., Big Spring 79720 or to the American Diabetes Association — Midland Chapter, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220 E, Midland 79705.

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

Paid obituary

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.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• 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. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **GILBERT SILVA**, 20, of 704 Willia, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of disorderly conduct.
- **ROMEL STEVENS**, 34, of 1102 Mulberry, was arrested Wednesday on four local warrants.
- **MARK KIRBY**, 34, of 801 W. Marcy, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container/second offense.
- **ADOLPH LABBE**, 33, of 703 Craigmont, was arrested Thursday on a charge of hindering officers.
- **JERRY DON DUFFER**, 20, of 2506 Hunter, was arrested Thursday on a charge of hindering officers.
- **LESTER DUFFER**, 27, of 5511 Midway Road, was arrested Thursday on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 700 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- **TERRORISTIC THREAT OF A FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD** was reported in the 100 block of Lancaster.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2400 block of Runnels.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.
- **LUIS ADOLFO PENA**, 29, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
 - **MATT CASEY EDWARDS**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft of property and theft of property.
 - **GEORGE MICHAEL BERNHARDT**, 59, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
 - **MICHAEL MENDOZA**, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
 - **IRENE PAREDEZ FLORES**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of theft, fraudulent possession of a prescription and credit/debit card abuse.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2800 block of Lawrence. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 3100 block of S. Highway 87. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported near the 171 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.
- **GAS LEAK** was reported in the 900 block of S. Main Street.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-18-25-30. Number matching five of five: 1.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 22-28-32-44-52-54. Number matching six of six: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-1-1-3. Sum It Up: 6.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-1-6. Sum It Up: 14.

Weather

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds around 15 mph.

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

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the upper 20s.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

9248 **701 E. 2nd 267-6411**

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- 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 Ministries, 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 meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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Nowitzki leads Mavs past Golden State, 121-99

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki wasn't about to admit anything.

According to him, the 29 points, eight rebounds, six assists and three blocks he had in leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 121-99 victory Wednesday night were all part of just another night at the office — even if they came against the Golden State Warriors, his team's nemesis and the club that's most to blame for people saying he didn't deserve to be MVP last season.

So for the real answer, listen to what his teammates said after seeing the big German carry them to their most lopsided victory of the season.

"He exorcised some of his demons," Jerry Stackhouse said. "It's something that needed to be done."

"He just refused to allow them to double-team him," added Jason Terry. "This was definitely his best game of the year. I liked everything he did."

Following a game plan drawn up by Golden State coach Don Nelson, the mastermind behind Nowitzki's ascent in the NBA, the Warriors chopped Nowitzki and the Mavericks down in last year's playoffs, knocking out the eventual MVP and a 67-win team in the first round of the playoffs.

Other teams have cribbed Golden State's strategy to try neutralizing Nowitzki this season. While some teams have made it work, Nowitzki wasn't about to let the Warriors pull it off again.

Nowitzki settled in closer to the basket than usual, then took open jumpers or charged the rim whenever he sensed single coverage and passing whenever a second defender came at him. He also decided what he wanted to do much quicker than usual. On defense, Nowitzki was so active that he had two blocks on one possession.

"I think Dirk just played his game, like the MVP," said Stephen Jackson, who along with Baron Davis led Golden State's playoff upset. "I thought he played great. I think if I

could put my hand on one thing it was that he was more patient on the block. I think he just stayed under control. He definitely carried them tonight."

Warriors forward Al Harrington noticed, too.

"Dirk was aggressive. He wasn't passive," said Harrington, who scored 21 points. "He was determined to put his team on his back and play at an MVP level."

Jackson and Davis didn't, starting a combined 2-for-14. While Jackson finished with 25 points, Davis never recovered, scoring just 10 points on 2-for-14 shooting. He missed his first five shots, made a 3-pointer, then missed his next three, including a long 3 that pounded into the backboard about a ball's width wide of the rim. He even missed his first two free throws.

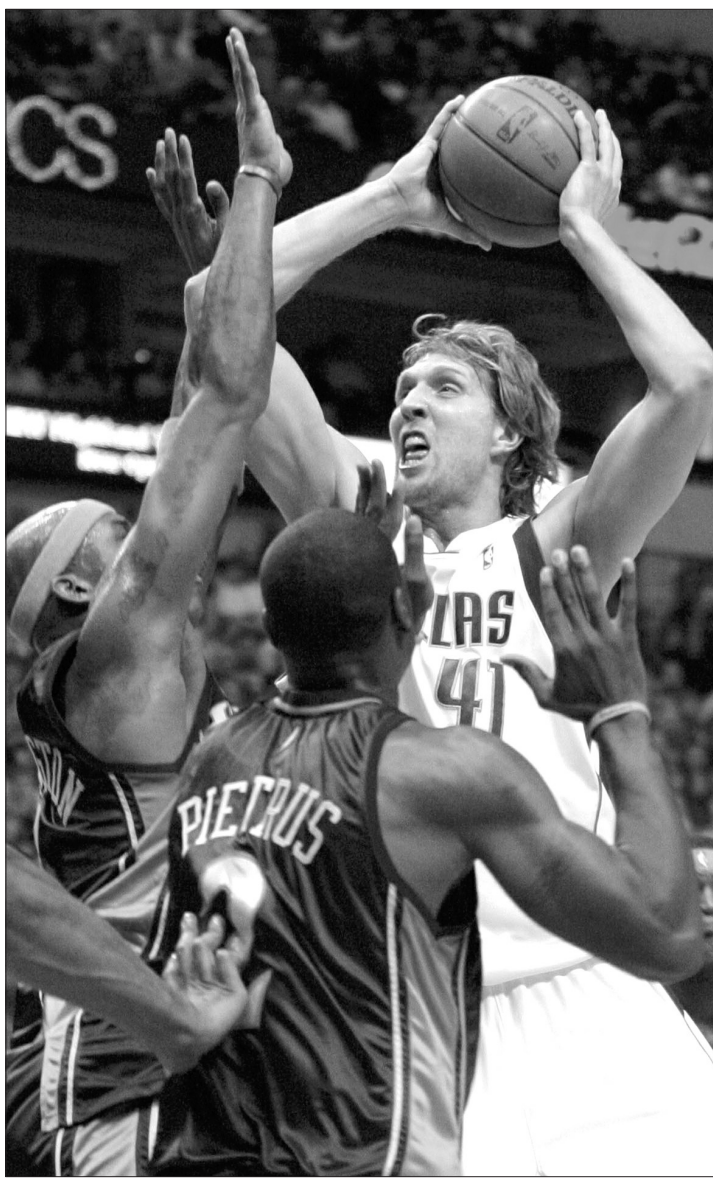
The Mavericks grabbed control early and never let up, especially not when Golden State finished the third quarter trailing by only four.

Dallas scored the first 11 points of the final period and broke things open with a 19-4 run. The emotion on Nowitzki's face throughout that surge showed how much this game meant to him, even if he denied afterward that he was trying to bury the memories of last spring.

"I don't believe in all that stuff," he said. "I had a bad series, I didn't shoot well, so to me that's behind me. I don't really think about that much any more."

OK, then, how about trying to prove he can handle the way Golden State covers him?

"It's not only Golden State," he said. "A lot of teams crowd me now. Whenever I spin, they



AP photo/Matt Slocum
Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) goes up over Golden State's Al Harrington (left) and Mikael Pietrus in the Mavs' 121-99 win.

come from my blind side. It's nothing new any more. I've just got to be strong, kick it out if the double team is there and pick my spots to be aggressive."

Terry said Nowitzki made it look so easy because he's practiced so hard to defuse that kind of defense.

"When you work on something all summer long, you come into a game and know how they're going to play you," Terry said. "It was like practice for him."

After going 1-6 against the Warriors the past two regular seasons, the Mavs are 2-0 this season, beating them once with Jackson and once without. The other was a 120-115 win in Oakland in November when he was suspended. Golden State

had been 18-7 since his return, having won two in a row and four of five.

Josh Howard had 19 points and 13 rebounds, including a 3-pointer and three-point play during the fourth-quarter surge. Erick Dampier had 13 points, giving him double digits in consecutive games after having done so only once all season. He, too, was in a spirited mood with rare bursts of energy at both ends, mixing dunks and blocks.

Devin Harris scored 17, Stackhouse had 15 and Brandon Bass had 12 points and 11 rebounds for only the second double-double of his career; the other came in the other game against the Warriors this season. This one also came after being benched the previous game.

Pistons 106, Wizards 93

Richard Hamilton had 20 points to become the 10th-leading scorer in Pistons history, and he added nine assists and seven rebounds to help visiting Detroit earn its 10th consecutive victory.

Celtics 97, Rockets 93

Kevin Garnett scored 11 of his 26 points in the last 7 minutes, adding nine rebounds to help host Boston beat Houston for its seventh consecutive victory. Paul Pierce scored 19 points and assisted on four key baskets down the stretch as the Celtics improved to 27-3 to match the best 30-game start in the shot-clock era.

Cavaliers 98, Hawks 94

LeBron James scored 32 of his 36 points in the second half and Larry Hughes made a crucial

juniper down the stretch to lead the Cavaliers past visiting Atlanta.

Trail Blazers 90, Timberwolves 79

Brandon Roy scored 24 points and visiting Portland beat woe-filled Minnesota for its 14th victory in 15 games.

Al Jefferson had 29 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who are a league-worst 4-27 and off to the poorest start in franchise history.

Nets 96, Magic 95

Jason Kidd made a key defensive stop and nearly had a triple-double, helping New Jersey overcome a 15-point deficit at Orlando.

Vince Carter had 18 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Kidd had 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Kidd also set two career milestones after entering the game one assist shy of 9,000 and three rebounds short of Magic Johnson for fourth place on the career list for guards.

Bulls 109, Bobcats 97

Ben Gordon scored 22 points, Luol Deng added 21 points and 13 rebounds and Chicago continued its strong play under interim coach Jim Boylan with a win at Charlotte.

The Bulls improved to 3-1 under Boylan, who replaced the fired Scott Skiles. Rookie forward Joakim Noah had a career-high 17 points and six rebounds. Joe Smith scored 16 points and keyed the Bulls' third-quarter comeback as Chicago scored 48 points in the paint.

Grizzlies 90, Pacers 72

Pau Gasol scored 30 points and visiting Memphis beat Indiana to snap a five-game losing streak. Gasol also had 12 rebounds and shot 11-for-19 from the field.

Rudy Gay scored 24 points and Mike Miller had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, extending Indiana's losing streak to five.

Peterson named NFL's top offensive rookie

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Like most great players, Adrian Peterson is never satisfied.

He led the NFC in rushing with 1,341 yards despite playing in only 14 games, set the NFL single-game rushing record with 296 yards against San Diego, made the Pro Bowl and became the first rookie ever to top 200 yards rushing twice in a season.

Still, when asked to reflect on a stellar first season that made him the run-away winner of The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year award, Peterson merely shrugged his shoulders.

"I feel like I had an all right season," Peterson said Wednesday. "But I left a lot out there on the field. This off-season is going to be all about just correcting those things and coming back sharp and ready to

get it started."

Through the first eight games of the season, Peterson was as dominant as any rookie runner has ever been.

He burst on to the scene with 224 yards rushing against Chicago on Oct. 14.

Three weeks later, his historic day against the Chargers gave him 1,081 yards at Minnesota's midpoint, putting Eric Dickerson's rookie rushing record of 1,808 yards in jeopardy.

But a knee injury against Green Bay the following week sidelined him for two games, enough time for opponents to devise a way to slow down the No. 7 overall draft pick out of Oklahoma.

Peterson topped 100 yards only once the rest of the way as opposing defenses stacked the box with eight, or even nine, men to hold him in check.

Peterson said there are a lot of areas in which he can improve,

including "running against different fronts, especially eight or nine-man fronts; catching the ball in open space. Just really being detailed a lot now and just correcting the little things that make the world of a difference."

It's hard to imagine "a world of difference" being possible in Peterson's breathtaking game. He is one of the few backs in the league who can flatten an opposing linebacker by lowering his shoulder, break a safety's ankles with a paralyzing juke in the secondary and flat-out run away from a cornerback in the open field.

"From an early time, a week after the draft when we had about 50 free agents in here, you knew he was going to be a special guy," Vikings coach Brad Childress said.

And he did it all with a down-to-earth, humble demeanor that endeared him to teammates in the locker room.

"Mostly I'm just happy for him," center Matt Birk said. "I think he deserved it. Great guy. He works hard, and that's the biggest thing. You like to see guys that work hard have success."

He received 46 of the 50 votes from a nationwide panel of media members who regularly cover the NFL. Cleveland left tackle Joe Thomas received the other 3 votes.

"It's a great honor to join a list with names like those," Peterson said Wednesday when told that Jim Brown, Emmitt Smith, Eric Dickerson and Billy Sims also won the award. "They are guys that I looked up to growing up. It's a goal that I set before the year started, to win rookie of the year, so it feels great to accomplish that."

Peterson is the fifth Viking to win the award, joining Paul Flatley in 1967, Chuck Foreman in 1973, Sammy White in 1976 and Randy Moss in 1998. Only

Foreman was a running back; the other three were wide receivers.

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young won it last year.

Now it's time for a little rest and relaxation.

Like the rest of the Vikings, Peterson was monumentally disappointed when they lost the last two games of the regular season to fall out of playoff contention. But the silver lining is that he will finally be able to get away for a little bit following a season in which everyone wanted a piece of the NFL's newest star.

"I got to get away and just relax," he said. "It feels like I've been on a world tour for so long since I started playing in the league. But this is what it's all about. This is what you dream about when you were little. But it's definitely going to feel good to get some time to relax my mind."

FIESTA

Continued from Page 1B

said they had bonded behind Stewart. And they vowed to rebound from a 13-9 loss to Pitt that knocked them out of the Bowl Championship Series title game.

The Mountaineers were right on both counts, turning in an emotional effort and overcoming the loss of star tailback Steve Slaton to a first-quarter leg injury. Noel Devine replaced Slaton and ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns — a 17-yarder and a 65-yarder that clinched the game in the fourth quarter.

The Mountaineers became the first of six teams to win under an interim coach this bowl sea-

son. They improved to 2-0 in the Bowl Championship Series.

"It's a great night to be a Mountaineer," Stewart said as he accepted the Fiesta Bowl trophy while thousands of West Virginia fans celebrated in the grandstand.

Stewart said his players "never, ever quit believing."

Oklahoma (11-3) endured another disappointment on the same field where the Sooners lost a classic Fiesta Bowl to Boise State one year ago. The Sooners have dropped four straight BCS games.

"It's not very positive," said coach Bob Stoops, who led OU to the 2000 national title. "You get to this position, you're obviously doing a lot of things positive and good. But you need to finish out and play well in these games."

The Sooners had no answer for White, whose 79-yard touchdown pass to Tito Gonzales in the fourth quarter was the longest in Mountaineers bowl history.

Meanwhile, West Virginia's fourth-rated defense limited the potent Sooners to well below their scoring average of 43.4 points per game, third in the nation.

"That was very impressive," Stewart said. "Our guys fought hard."

The Mountaineers harassed Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, sacking the nation's top-rated passer three times and intercepting him in the end zone. Bradford completed 21 of 33 passes for 242 yards and two touchdowns.

"I just wasn't myself," Bradford said. "I wasn't going

through the reads. I was forcing things."

The Sooners rallied from an 18-point deficit against Boise State last January, taking a late lead before the Broncos forced overtime, where they won on a trick play.

This time, OU trailed 20-6 at halftime. But the Sooners cut it to 20-15 on Chris Brown's 1-yard run midway through the third quarter.

Then Stoops made two curious calls. First, he decided to go for two points. But Bradford's pass fell incomplete.

Then Stoops ordered an onside kick. The ball didn't go 10 yards, and West Virginia took over on OU's 39.

"We had the momentum, so if you get the onside kick, you have the chance to really give them a blow," Stoops said. "I

thought we had the momentum. The opportunity was there. We just didn't execute."

The Mountaineers needed six plays to capitalize, scoring on Devine's 17-yard run.

West Virginia made it 34-15 on Darius Reynaud's 30-yard run with 20 seconds to go in the third quarter.

The Mountaineers went 75 yards in three plays — 42 on an electrifying run by White, who weaved through tacklers along the left sideline.

After the Sooners scored on a 19-yard pass from Bradford to Quentin Chaney, White found Gonzales down the middle for a 79-yard TD that made it 41-21.

"People doubt us all the time," White said. "But we work hard, and we did the job."

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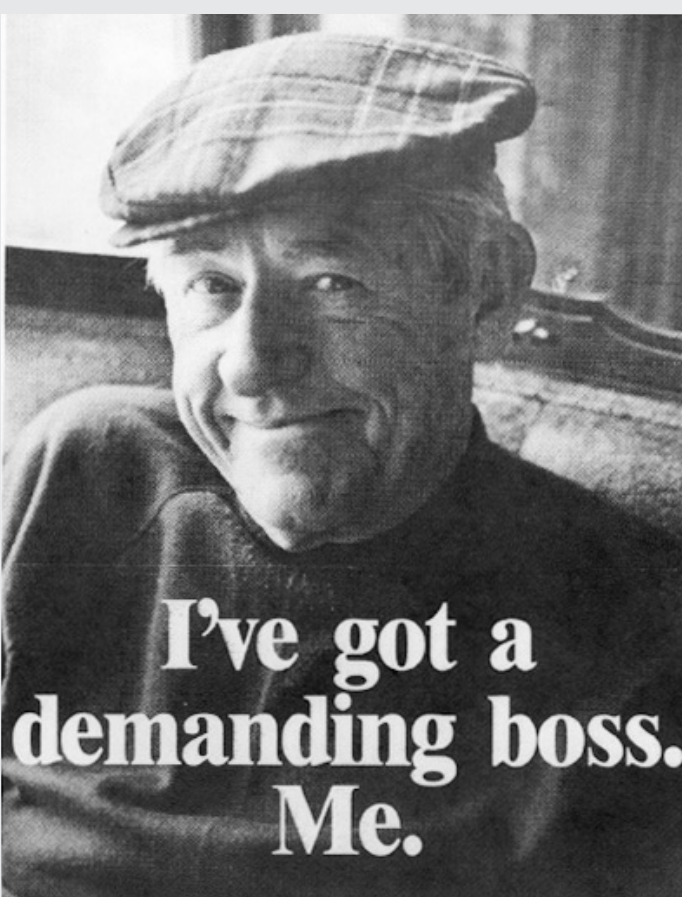
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5	1	7	4	3	8	6	2	9
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ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The water-and-earth combination of the Scorpio moon and Capricorn sun has the regenerative, detoxifying effect of a celestial mud bath. Divine! Just as rainwater cleanses the earth, feeling the full extent of our often complex emotions heals body and soul, releasing any stagnant emotional energy we've been holding in our bodies.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Nobody gives you power — you just take it. The initiative you show, especially socially and personally, makes you so attractive that wherever you go, you'll notice that you have admirers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're resolution of a tense situation brings a combination of relief and letdown. What will you possibly do with your extra time and energy now that this "hole" has been plugged? You'll find something quick.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just because things happen doesn't mean you have to react. Choose your reactions. Stop yourself from feeling like the victim. Get centered on the belief that you have enough of everything you need to succeed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Correct protocol is important. Follow the rules, even if they are not the same rules you normally follow. When in Rome O and if you're not sure what's appropriate, ask Capricorn.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You seek relationships that support you as you improve, striving to be more authentic in all you do. Pisces could be the answer. When you're sure you'll be loved no matter what, you are truly free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's love aplenty around you now, including the love of those who have passed. Relationships thrive with equal parts freedom and attachment — you strike an easy and natural balance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's so much work to get done. Buckle down and finish what's on the list, then dial your best friends and make some plans. You need something fun to look forward to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The work ahead of you is different from anything you have tried in the past. Don't be afraid. By doing what you cannot do, you learn how. Sagittarius or Pisces will be a mentor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You probably will not be able to read the mind of that mysterious loved one. But try anyway. The effort is sweet, and you may get close to the truth just because you want to understand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is still some organizing to do. Once you get your thoughts and your space in order, you'll start experiencing episodes of perfect, beautiful, fortuitous synchronicity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). According to Clark's Law: The universe is not only stranger than we imagine, it is stranger

than we CAN imagine. Enjoy the weird surprises that are in store for you tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You care what people think. So, make social pressure work for you! Telling everyone your intention will help you stick to your plan. Reminders of past loves are everywhere tonight.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My date of birth is Aug. 15, 1949. My daughter and I just moved to Cape Coral, Fla., and although you would think that I should be just as happy here, I cannot help this lonely feeling that there is something that I should be doing with my life, but I just cannot figure it out! What am I missing?"

You have a funny conflux of influences happening right now. It's like the universe is saying, "You've mastered being a grownup — now experience your childlike wonder again." Having your second Saturn return (currently) is a monumental midlife passage. You're a single mom facing the expanse of the second half of life. I'm also hearing elusive Neptune lingering around your Leo sun through 2008. You're very much an Alice in Wonderland, waiting to fall down the rabbit hole. Reality doesn't want to make sense anymore! Fall. Play, resurrect some secret dreams and longings, and invite art, spirituality and imagination into your daily life. Disorientation will lead you to rediscover the world through the looking glass of your Leo childlike nature.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: After 29 years in a rocky marriage, my husband had an affair with an employee that led to their living together for seven months. When he came home, he felt there was no need to discuss anything, saying it was out of his system, water under the bridge, and that I was to get over it. That was six years ago.

This was hardly my husband's first affair, but the real problem is, the woman still works for him and won't go away. For years now, I have been unsuccessfully trying to "get over" her buying him clothes and calling him at home every day and twice on weekends. They discuss everything from what's on television to projects he can help with at her house. She comes over when I am not home. When he broke his arm last year, she was his first phone call from the hospital.

My husband considers this woman his friend and insists he is just helping her out. He goes to her house to visit her friends when they are in town. He treats her like his best buddy and wants me to stay out of it. They go on out-of-town trips together, often passing through his mother's town where they stop and visit. The woman takes gifts to my mother-in-law, who likes her, even though she knows everything.

I want this woman out of our lives. At the very least, I want her to stop buying his clothes. I have asked him to refuse her gifts, but he says he tells her if she is out shopping and sees any deals, to buy them. Please give me your advice. — Lost Wife
Dear Wife: Wake up,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

honey. Your husband is still having an affair — emotionally, if not sexually. Some women are willing to put up with cheating husbands, in which case, there's no point complaining about the clothes. However, we hope you will consider counseling — for yourself — to help get a better handle on the situation and make some decisions about your future.

Dear Annie: Let me start off by saying I keep a very clean house. I have a relative who comes to visit and refuses to eat here. "Aunt Alice" brings her own bottled water and tea bags, and usually declines any offer of refreshment, saying she's either eaten already or plans to stop for dinner on her way home.

During a recent family emergency, Aunt Alice stayed overnight. I bought her a loaf of her favorite bread, but she didn't touch it, saying, "I never eat bread." I also left her a bottle of the wine she always orders when she's out. She didn't open it and told me, "I don't drink that brand." That's so lame. She must think I'm an idiot.

Aunt Alice makes me feel like my house is contaminated. I wonder if

she does this with other people or if I'm the only one. What gives? — Driving Me Crazy

Dear Driving Me Crazy: Aunt Alice may have a germ phobia and behave this way with everyone, but the only way to know is to ask her. Say, "Aunt Alice, I love you dearly, but I've noticed you won't accept any food or drink at my house. It makes me sad. Is there a problem?" If she won't open up, stop trying to figure it out and deal with her as she is. She can't help herself.

Dear Annie: Your answer to "Sleep Deprived in Oregon" was right on. She said her husband suffered from back pain, leaving her to get up every night with their 4-month-old baby.

I'd like to add one additional thought. I am a physical therapist and have been treating back patients for over 30 years. I believe if her husband has the physical ability to make babies, there is no reason he can't share in the care of that baby. — Just My Professional Opinion in Greensboro, N.C.

Dear Professional Opinion: You aren't the only physical therapist who shares this opinion. Thanks to all who wrote.

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.

Odds and Ends

Louisiana men claim restaurant banned them because they ate too much from the buffet

HOUMA, La. (AP) — A 265-pound man says a restaurant overcharged him for his trips to the buffet, then banned him and a relative because of how much they consumed during their visits.

Ricky Labit, a 6-foot-3 disabled offshore worker, said he had been a regular at the Manchuria Restaurant, eating there as often as three times a week. But on his most recent visit, he said a waitress gave him and his wife's cousin, Michael Borrelli, a bill for \$46.40, roughly double the buffet price for two adults.

"She says, 'Y'all fat, and y'all eat too much,'" Labit said.

Labit and Borrelli said they felt discriminated against because of their size.

"I was stunned, that somebody would say something like that. I ain't that fat, I only weigh 277," Borrelli said.

Accountant Thomas Campo, who spoke for the restaurant because the owner's English is limited, said the men were charged an extra \$10 each on Dec. 21 because they made a habit of dining exclusively on the more expensive seafood dishes, including crab legs and frog legs.

"We have a lot of big people there," Campo said. "We don't discriminate."

The argument over the bill grew heated, and police were called. The police report states that the disagree-

ment was settled when the restaurant said the bill was a mistake and, to appease Labit, the meal was complimentary.

Labit said he insisted on paying but was told not to come back. He complained that when seafood on the buffet line runs out, the restaurant only grudgingly cooks more. Campo said the proprietress tries to reduce waste of quality food.

Expecting a \$150 payoff, Michigan couple learn winning lottery ticket worth \$250,000

BAD AXE, Mich. (AP) — A lucky couple expecting to cash in their winning Michigan Lottery ticket became a bit peeved when a store clerk turned down their request.

Bad Axe gas station and convenience store owner Eli Kabban said the man and woman showed up Wednesday morning with what they thought was a \$150 winning ticket they'd bought Friday.

They complained when the clerk told them they would have to collect their winnings in Lansing, the state capital, 150 miles away.

Kabban said he took the couple into his office and explained the ticket was actually worth \$250,000. He says they were "in shock" at the news.

The couple asked that their names not be released, but Kabban told radio station WLEW-FM that they are getting financial advice on how to handle their wind-fall.

Wisconsin town is flush with pride as it celebrates with annual 'Toilet Bowl'

HUSTISFORD, Wis. (AP) — It might lack the pomp and pageantry of the Rose Bowl, but for some residents of this small community northwest of Milwaukee, their annual "Toilet Bowl" is the biggest game of the year.

"This is the biggest thing in Hustisford," said Phil Nehls, one of the event's founders. It was held Tuesday for the 43rd time.

Begun as a pickup game of tackle football among friends to work off their New Year's hangovers, the event has grown into a fundraiser for the local fire department.

As they presided over Tuesday's parade, King Justin Perschke and Queen Bobbi Niemuth ducked toilet paper rolls lobbed at them along the route by spectators.

An ancient John Deere tractor with toilet paper draped on it dragged a case of beer along the route. And several Green Bay Packers fans painted their shaven heads to look like the team's helmets.

"We come early to get front-row seats," said Patty Herbst of Germantown, who took her two young grandchildren to watch the parade.

The crowd eventually made its way to Fireman's Park, where two teams played football on a snow-covered field without benefit of helmets or pads.

ARSON

Continued from Page 1A

While no injuries were reported as a result of the multiple fires, Hall said a storage building was destroyed as a result of one of the blazes.

Sullivan said firefighters being charged with arson is nothing new, but hopes the incident doesn't diminish the public's view of him and his department.

"It's called Hero Syndrome, and it's something you constantly have

to be on the lookout for in this line of work," said Sullivan, referring to firefighters who set fires so they can boost their ego by extinguishing them. "We had a well-documented case of that 25 years ago. In this case, however, it's not Hero

Syndrome. It's just kids doing it for the thrill.

"I just want to let the citizens know one bad apple — or in this case, several bad apples — don't make for a bad organization. We're cleaning house, and we want them to know that when they

call us, we're going devote everything we have to that call. Don't let the actions of a few skew your faith in the volunteer fire department."

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

WALKER

Continued from Page 1A

put him in a contest with two other Republican candidates vying for the party's nomination, as Charles Morgan and Stan Parker will attempt to upset the incumbent in March.

And while Walker's move will certainly crowd the Republican search for a nomination, Pat Carter — currently the lone Democratic candidate — will see smooth sailing until November, when he is expected to face the GOP candidate.

Walker said he feels confident going into the March primaries and plans to make his performance over the past two terms his campaign platform.

"I feel confident. I feel like people are going to see I've been doing the job of sheriff all along," said Walker. "I'll stand on that."

The race for sheriff isn't

the only contested one in Howard County, however, as 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 Dem and incumbent Emma Brown in the primaries.

Brown defeated Mendoza in her last bid for re-election approximately four years ago.

While the Precinct 1 seat on the commissioner's court has only drawn a pair of candidates, the race for Precinct 3 has drawn nearly a half-dozen political hopefuls.

Steve Gray, Winston Paschal Odom, Jimmie Wayne Long and Fred Green have all filed to run on the Republican ticket. Dick Dubose is the only Democratic candidate who has filed for the post, bypassing the March primaries and giving him the opportunity concentrate solely on the November election.

Incumbent William Crooker announced in late 2007 he would not seek re-election.

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

Howard County Constable Bill Holden, who is running on the Democratic ticket, failed to draw an opponent for March, but will face former Department of Public Safety trooper Kneel Stallings — the lone candidate with the Republican party — in the November election.

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 garnered an opponent.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson filed to run for re-election with the state's Republican office,

and will run unopposed.

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

COMPLAINT

Continued from Page 1A

dence in a run, she said. Clemons' son suffered a cut and bruised lower lip and lost one tooth while two others became loosened, she said.

She said she didn't report the incident sooner because her son claimed that a television had fallen on him, causing the injuries. Ms. Clemons said her son changed his story in December, which prompted her to file the criminal complaint.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for BSPD, confirmed that the complaint was recently filed with the department, but declined to provide details.

"Charges have been filed by the complainant, but that's all we're going to say at this time," Everett said. "We are in the process of investigat-

ing the case." BSPD Detective Jim Rider has been assigned the case, Everett said.

BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes confirmed Dec. 20 that two coaches had been suspended with pay. However, both were reinstated after a school district investigation determined that allegations of misconduct were false, according to Downes.

BSISD officials, citing legal and confidentiality concerns, declined to either identify the instructors or state the

reasons for their suspensions.

The Big Spring Herald subsequently filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act, asking the school district to release both the coaches' names and reasons for their suspension.

Downes said today that district officials had no additional information to release at this time.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Gifts were given and received this past week. Many will be exchanged; others will be set aside or discarded. Frustration over wrong sizes and styles; disappointment with items that do not live up to their advertising.

To be sure, there will be much excitement as new clothes and toys are shown off at school and work. Holiday activities will give way to normal routines and schedules. Resolutions for the new year will be shared.

The attention to Jesus given over the past few weeks? I pray it will not be packed with the ornaments and decorations. I prayer it will not be discarded until Easter. I prayer Jesus is more than a marketing ploy for holiday celebrations. Peace, good will and the love of God need to be received and shared every day of the Year!

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Foot-dragging continues on climate change

The Bush administration finally took a positive step on global warming by agreeing to work toward a new international climate treaty. Yet there are disturbing signs that the administration will continue to frustrate progress on the home front toward that goal.

The frustrations also come at the state level of government.

After embarrassing scoldings by other countries at the Bali conference on climate change, the United States eventually joined the international agreement. American negotiators committed to nothing more than to talk with other countries. But their decision sets the stage for U.S. involvement in constructive steps to reduce fossil-fuel emissions at the next international gathering in Copenhagen in 2009.

At that point, the United States will have a different president. That gives Americans concerned about global warming — with problems such as flooding, famine and species losses — some hope that this country will join others in adopting solutions.

The Copenhagen treaty will replace the Kyoto Protocol, which the United States did not join. Kyoto, aimed at reducing greenhouse gases, expires in 2012.

The Bush administration continues its foot-dragging at home: The Environmental Protection Agency recently denied 17 states, including California, the right to set stricter regulations on automobile pollution.

In Missouri, Gov. Matt Blunt has disappointed on the issue. He recently refused to sign significant parts of the Midwestern Governors Association's energy pact to improve production of electricity from renewable sources and set stricter requirements on coal-fired power plants.

States must be involved in curbing carbon dioxide emissions and thus the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Cities, too, have a role. More than 20 area mayors have signed an agreement to encourage action by local governments. Among the ideas: more public transportation, bicycle trails and energy efficiency in buildings.

These cities set an example that the states — and the federal government — should follow.

Kansas City Star

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we praise You, Lord, because everyday is a gift from You.

Amen

Smoking — the course continues

Lord knows, smoking is on the defensive. Public places almost universally ban it, along with a big majority of private homes. Male deaths from its poisons have already peaked and women should soon follow. But when a single cause still brings on 440,000 deaths a year, you might expect government to pay a little greater heed.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

Had Katrina produced numbers like that you would have seen dramatic relief. Or in Iraq, peace would have broken out. Or with handguns, tight controls would have been slapped on. In fact that annual number of deaths even now approximates all the troops we lost in World War II.

So how could our glorious victory in the tobacco war still be so costly and yet remain so generally ignored.

Well, tobacco kills slowly of course, so there's a long lag time. And each death is humanely private. But ominously, 4,000 new kids start smoking every day. Even if most eventually conclude that the inconvenience of slipping off to the garage, hallway, fire escape, car, or great outdoors is no longer worth it, armies of others will remain hooked. That's bad for society because demise by lung cancer or emphysema is terribly expensive. Much more so than

heart attacks or car crashes. This drives up health premiums for the whole nation. Cold, but real.

Luckily there are alternatives. One such would place tobacco under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration. The Supreme Court once struck down that idea, and so far Congress has not yet been able to reclaim it with legislation. But with the 2008 election being viewed by progressive groups as something akin to the Second Coming, smoking critics too are lining up their ducks. Plainly 2009 portends to be a busy year for us all.

But even today the 50 states, if they choose, are not powerless. They're still rolling in dough from the famous Tobacco Settlement. Successful persuasive media ads, chemical cessation aids, and skilled counselors have all grown out of that giant windfall. They've helped millions finally scramble over the hump and quit the habit.

Lawmakers, however, have other priorities. Mostly holding down taxes. Take Connecticut. We receive about \$100 million each year in that blood money from the tobacco companies, paying retribution for their age-old sins. The Centers for Disease Control project that a state our size needs to spend about \$21 million of that award to fund necessary services to help addicts quit. Unfortunately we actually only spend about \$3 million. The rest goes into the general fund, as does \$270 million from the cigarette tax. And since

we didn't spend anything at all this year, Connecticut now ranks as the least responsible state of all! Nice going, guys.

Nor are the companies taking their big customer loss lying down. They do what all corporations do when caught being naughty. They advertise! They're up to about \$13 billion a year now in ads and promotion. And you'll never guess who are their main targets. Well yes, you probably would guess. Kids! Gotta get 'em young. Sin in haste; repent at leisure.

But for most of us average self-righteous non-smokers, there is no longer a visible problem. We've driven the smoking subculture underground. We don't see them. And besides, don't they deserve their fate? Well, yes, but selfishly, their illness costs us all dearly too. Sometimes it does pay to be our brother's keeper.

And then there's Asia. No cessation programs there. Just advertising. Of course American tobacco companies are in the lead, urging Asians to enjoy flavor, good feeling, sophistication and being all that they can be. The profits are so great that we might want to add their stocks to our personal portfolio.

After all, they're no worse than arms makers.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.



Star Wars: Still no good reason

The United States is hustling to get missile defense out in the field as quickly as possible, citing the immediate threat of missiles from two countries in particular: North Korea and Iran. Recent events have overtaken this push for action and have shown that there are more feasible alternatives available.



VICTORIA SAMSON

While its infrastructure is incomplete and its test record uncertain (a 50 percent success rate), the missile defense system designed to defend the United States against an extremely limited long-range ballistic missile attack is still being rapidly fielded. The two deployment sites for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) interceptors are in Ft. Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The primary justification for the GMD program has been the specter of a North Korean missile that could reach the United States with a nuclear warhead. No such missile exists, nor is expected for some time to come, if ever. North Korea does have a military nuclear program, as demonstrated by its October 2006 test of a nuclear weapon, and as a result has maintained its spot on President George W. Bush's axis of evil.

But the Six-Party Talks being held on this issue are finally starting to pan out. North Korea has signed an agreement committing it to abandon its nuclear weapons

program, and this past fall, has started work on dismantling its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon. This does not mean that North Korea has become a fully responsible member of the international community, but it does indicate that the so-called "rogue state" can respond to international diplomatic measures, something that missile defense supporters thought couldn't happen.

The other threat often cited to validate the need for the GMD system is merely theoretical: an Iranian long-range missile that could reach the United States or its European allies with a nuclear warhead. In fact, the United States feels so strongly about this that it is putting a lot of its diplomatic weight behind getting Poland and the Czech Republic to respectively agree to host 10 interceptors and a radar that could defend against Iranian missiles. This past fall, the rhetoric about the Iranian threat was extremely heated, to the point where Mr. Bush hyperbolically warned of "World War III" if Iran were permitted to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Iran definitely has questionable intentions regarding its civilian nuclear reactors which must be clarified. However, the pressing need to immediately get some sort of missile defense in the ground in Europe seems to be more political in nature than anything else. The latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iran, which represents the work of the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, stated that it believed Iran had stopped work on its nuclear weapons program back in 2003. It is still enriching nuclear material, and it is possible

that it deliberately stopped research on nuclear weapons until it had sufficient fissile materials. Yet the NIE points out that while they "judge with moderate confidence" that the earliest Iran could theoretically get sufficient material would be late 2009, most believe "with moderate confidence" that it will be "sometime during the 2010-2015 time frame," if not later.

Perhaps most telling is the NIE's finding that Iran's decision to stop work on its nuclear weapons program was "primarily in response to international pressure." This does not give Iran the all-clear signal, but it indicates that diplomatic and political efforts can work.

The most important thing to take away from these two examples is that there is no one single action that can ensure the United States' national security.

We can see, however, that missile defense in neither case has provoked the hoped-for response. Often, it is portrayed in a binary way: either you have missile defense and (theoretically) are defended, or you have nothing and are left vulnerable. This is not the case.

There are many different options to explore when developing U.S. national security, and we would be foolish to put all of our hopes in one that has done nothing for us.

Victoria Samson is a research analyst for the Center for Defense Information, a non-partisan think tank in Washington, D.C., that focuses on military and security issues.

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News in brief

'Cold and close': Iowans put their stamp on an improbably wide-open presidential race

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Presidential hopefuls urged their partisans to brave the cold and rally fellow Iowans to the caucuses Thursday, a massive test of organization that held the key to victory in the first contests of the 2008 election season. Capturing the urgency — and biting chill — in the air, Barack Obama implored his people, "Walk quick, talk fast."

Iowans, courted for months by candidates barnstorming their towns, swamping their airwaves and, in the later rounds, bickering with each other, finally give shape to the presidential race in a caucus ritual rooted in a centuries-old tradition of political activism.

Whether they would bring clarity to the national contest as it pivots to New Hampshire only five days later and then on to remaining states was just one more unknown in a campaign unpredictable at every turn.

"The two things that are clear to everyone here is that it's cold and it's close," said former Missouri Sen. Jim Talent, an adviser to Mitt Romney. Romney vastly outspent his GOP rivals, only to see his longtime lead in Iowa polls slip away.

Veteran prosecutor tapped by Justice Department to oversee CIA tapes investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the high-profile, politically charged investigation into the destruction of CIA interrogation videos, the Justice Department is turning to a low-profile, politically independent prosecutor.

Attorney General Michael Mukasey appointed John Durham, a veteran federal prosecutor in Connecticut, to oversee a full criminal investigation that could further challenge the Bush administration's handling of terrorism suspects.

The CIA acknowledged last month that in 2005 it destroyed videos of officers using tough interrogation methods on two al-Qaida suspects. The revelation touched off a congressional inquiry and a preliminary investigation by the Justice Department into whether the CIA violated any laws or obstructed congressional inquiries such as the one led by the Sept. 11 Commission.

Durham, who has served with the Justice Department for 25 years, has a reputation as one of the nation's most relentless prosecutors. He was appointed to investigate the FBI's use of mob informants in Boston, a probe that sent former FBI agent John Connolly to prison.

Riot police fire tear gas, water cannons to beat back surging crowds of Kenyan protesters

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons Thursday to beat back crowds of rock-throwing opposition protesters who took to the streets for a rally many feared would deepen the crisis wracking what had been one of Africa's most stable countries.

Amid the mayhem, a top official with Raila Odinga's

main opposition party said the rally to protest Kenya's disputed presidential election had been canceled and he called on supporters to go home.

"We are a peaceful people who do not want violence," William Ruto, a top party official told hundreds of supporters through a megaphone on a Nairobi street. "That is why we are peacefully dispersing now."

It was unclear whether the call was widely heard, however, and Ruto said another rally was planned Tuesday.

Odinga had called the march to protest President Mwai Kibaki's re-election in the Dec. 27 vote, insisting the poll was a sham. The political dispute has degenerated into ethnic violence nationwide pitting Kibaki's influential Kikuyus against Odinga's Luos and other tribes. About 300 people have been killed and 100,000 more displaced.

Police fired tear gas and water cannons Thursday to push back a crowd of several hundred people from the Kibera slum holding branches and white flags symbolizing peace. Some burned an effigy of Kibaki and waved placards denouncing him as the devil.

Calls for President Pervez Musharraf to step down intensify after Pakistan election delay

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's U.S.-allied president must resign before next month's elections or the country could risk slipping into civil war, opposition leaders and a leading independent research institute said Thursday.

The calls came after the government pushed back polls to Feb. 18 from the planned Jan. 8 date due to unrest following the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto's death in a suicide bomb and gun attack plunged already volatile Pakistan deeper into crisis and stoked fears of political meltdown as the nation struggled to contain an explosion of Islamic militant violence.

The government — which had initially ruled out the need for foreign involvement in the assassination probe — has been criticized over its security arrangements for Bhutto, who had claimed elements in the ruling party were trying to kill her. The party vehemently denies such a plot.

Southern farmers scramble to protect crops from freeze; snowfall continues in North

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A wintry system that added inches to record snow accumulations in some Northern states sent temperatures plummeting Wednesday in the South, where farmers scrambled to protect their crops.

Temperatures were expected to drop into the 20s and teens in parts of Florida by Thursday morning, following the 30-degree temperatures some northern parts of the state saw Wednesday.

The cold spell could prove devastating to the state's citrus industry, which is the nation's largest and already has suffered from years of disease and hurricanes.

"We will have a lot of growers across the state pulling all-nighters and keeping a close watch on their groves and the temperature," said Andrew Meadows, a spokesman for the grower advocacy group Florida Citrus Mutual. "We are cautiously optimistic the industry can weather this cold snap without significant damage."

Second escape by an inmate from Maryland hospital prompts security questions

LAUREL, Md. (AP) — A brazen escape by a prisoner being treated at a hospital — the second such escape in as many months — has prompted an investigation about how inmates are handled outside prison walls.

Kelvin Poke, 45, overpowered five guards at Laurel Regional Hospital and fired several shots Wednesday before stealing two getaway cars. He was cornered hours later in a cemetery by police and killed in a shootout, authorities said.

Mark Vernarelli, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, said the agency's internal investigative unit would review whether guards followed proper procedures.

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Lawyers: Man accused of sex crime cleared by DNA after 26 years in prison

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer
DALLAS — Charles Chatman said throughout his 26 years in prison that he never raped the woman who lived five houses down from him.

Now 47, Chatman is expected to win his freedom Thursday on the basis of new DNA testing that lawyers say proves his innocence and adds to Dallas County's nationally unmatched number of wrongfully convicted inmates.

"I'm bitter. I'm angry," Chatman told *The Associated Press* during what was expected to be his last night in jail Wednesday. "But I'm not angry or bitter to the point where I want to hurt anyone or get revenge."

If released on bond at a Thursday court hearing as expected, Chatman will become the 15th inmate from Dallas County since 2001 to be freed by DNA testing. That is more than any other county nationwide, said Natalie Roetzel of the Innocence Project of Texas, an organization of volunteers who investigate claims of wrongful conviction.

Texas leads the country in prisoners freed by DNA testing. Including Chatman, the state will have released at least 30 wrongfully convicted inmates since 2001, according to the Innocence Project.

Mike Ware, who heads the Conviction Integrity Unit in the Dallas County District Attorney's office, said he expects that number to increase.

One of the biggest rea-

sons for the large number of exonerations in Texas is the crime lab used by Dallas County, which accounts for about half the state's DNA cases. Unlike many jurisdictions, the lab used by police and prosecutors retains biological evidence, meaning DNA testing is a viable option for decades-old crimes.

District Attorney Craig Watkins also attributes the exonerations to a past culture of overly aggressive prosecutors.

Chatman's nearly 27 years in prison for aggravated sexual assault make him the longest-serving inmate in Texas to be freed by DNA evidence, Innocence Project lawyers said.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

How to Bait the Hook

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	10 6 5 2		
♥	A 9 4		
♦	K 3		
♣	A K 5 3		
WEST			
♠	Q 9 4	♠	J
♥	Q 8 3	♥	J 10 6 5
♦	J 10 8	♦	9 7 6 5 4 2
♣	J 9 6 2	♣	8 4
SOUTH			
♠	A K 8 7 3		
♥	K 7 2		
♦	A Q		
♣	Q 10 7		

The bidding:
North 1♠ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
2♥ Pass 4NT Pass
5♣ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.
Assume you're declarer at six spades. You win the opening diamond lead with the ace and cash the A-K of spades, learning that you have to lose a trump trick. How would you continue?

One possibility is to cash the top clubs, hoping the jack will appear somewhere along the line. If it does, your heart loser can be parked on dummy's fourth club. In the actual case, however, this approach fails.

Another possibility is to give West his trump trick at this point, in which case he will simply return a diamond, putting you right back

where you started.

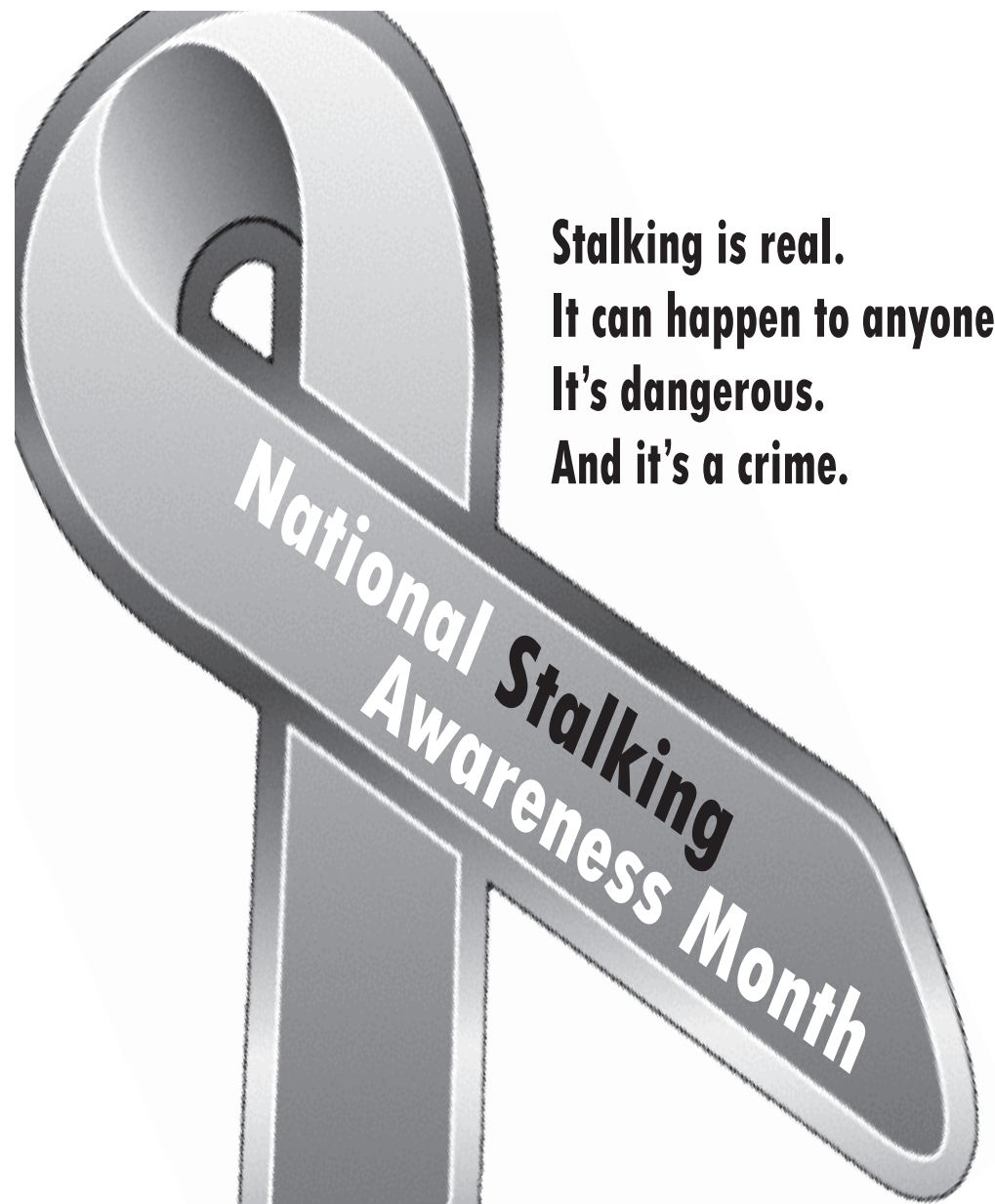
The best plan by far, however, is to first cash the king of diamonds before giving West his spade trick. This represents only a slight deviation from the previous line, but it has a significant impact on West since he can no longer exit safely with a diamond. That would allow you to trump in one hand while discarding a heart from the other.

With the diamond return no longer an option, West has to decide whether to shift to a heart or a club. In the actual deal, the heart certainly looks more dangerous to him because, if you have the K-J-x or K-10-x, a heart return gives you an extra trick in the suit.

For this reason, West is more likely to return a club on the basis that if his partner has either the queen or ten of clubs, nothing will be lost, while a heart return requires East to have both the jack and ten (South almost surely has the king for his bidding). A club return, of course, hands you the slam on a silver platter, and even if West guesses to shift to a heart instead, you're no worse off than you were before.

The advantage of cashing the diamond king before giving West his spade trick is that you present him with an opportunity to go wrong and thus improve your chances. The beauty of this method of play is that it costs you absolutely nothing to test West's mettle.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN28, 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



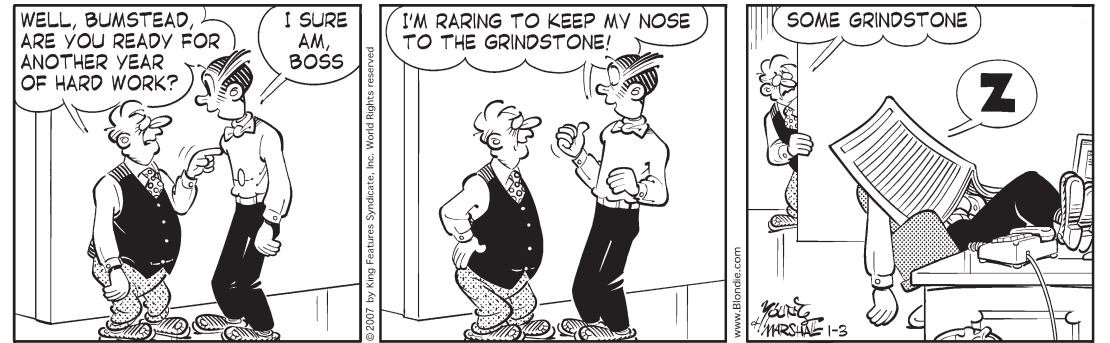
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



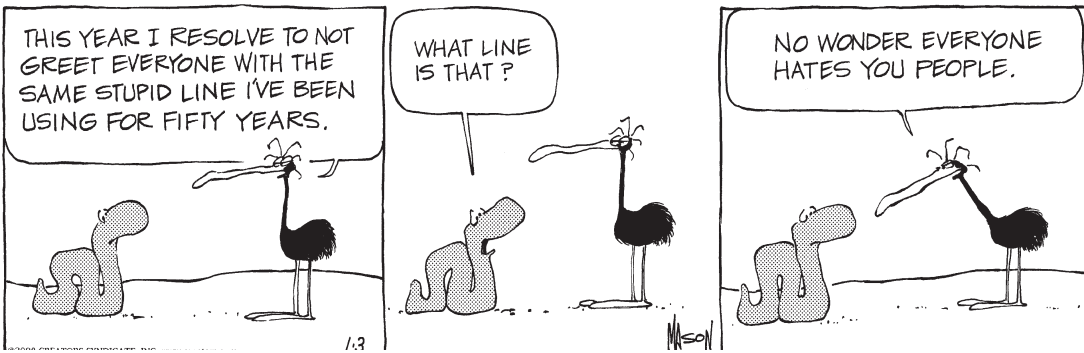
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



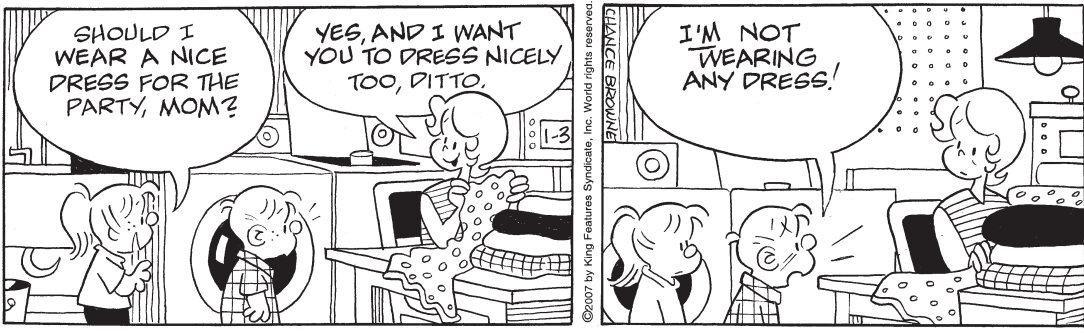
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



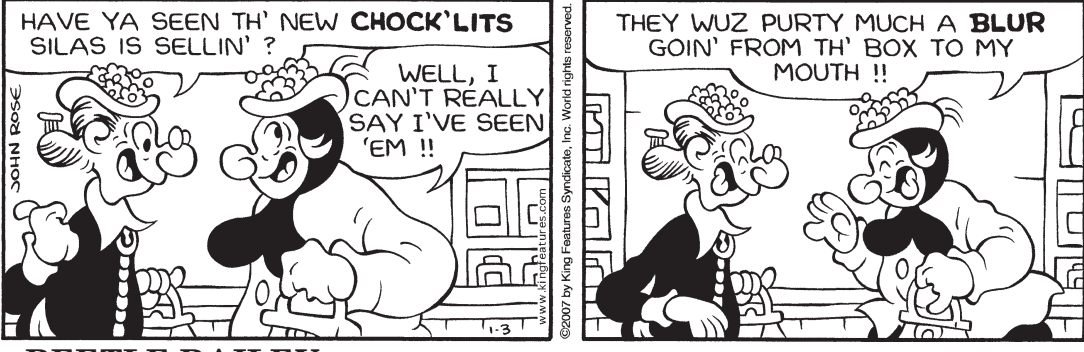
HI AND LOIS



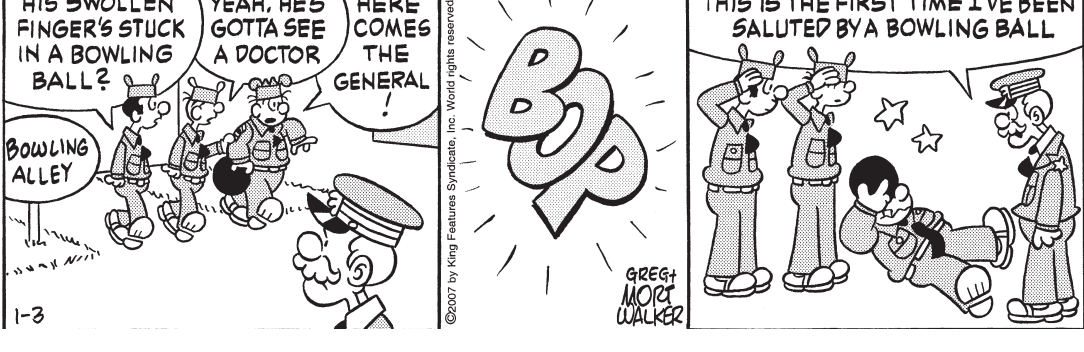
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2008. There are 363 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
Fifty years ago, on Jan. 3, 1958, the first six members of the newly formed U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held their first meeting at the White House after they were sworn in by President Eisenhower.
On this date:
In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.
In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.
In 1833, Britain seized control of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic. (Almost 150 years later, Argentina seized the islands from the British, but Britain took them back after a 74-

day war.)
In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns.
In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was organized.
In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.
In 1959, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state.
In 1961, the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.
In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.
In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.
Ten years ago: Funeral

services were held in Centerville, Mass., for Michael Kennedy, the son of Robert and Ethel Kennedy who was killed New Year's Eve in a skiing accident in Aspen, Colo.
Today's Birthdays: Record producer Sir George Martin is 82. Actor Robert Loggia is 78. Actor Dabney Coleman is 76. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 72. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Hull is 69. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 65. Musician Stephen Stills is 63. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 62. Actress Victoria Principal is 58. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 52. Actress Shannon Sturges is 40.

Answer to previous puzzle
POSH SHOD SPARS
ALTA MADE CORAL
IGOR IDOL ALIVE
RAW MATERIAL SEE
LES REPENT
TOTALS ARESO
AKITA ANON OSHA
GREENEGGSANDHAM
SARA RILE OLIVE
SCONE APEMEN
SPREAD TBA
HUE NEWYEARSEVE
ATBAT RANT ARID
ROUTE ELSE NICE
ENTER NEED KEEN

Newsday Crossword

CUTTING CLASS by Donna Levin
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Hindu ascetic
6 Tent openings
11 Moistened
14 Steakhouse
15 Israeli resort
16 Blow away
17 Karate move
19 Gun
20 "A la vodka" pasta
21 If you please
23 Cosine reciprocals
26 A, for one
27 Made accountable for
28 Of an interruption
29 Astrological beast
30 Toad features
31 W.Va. clock setting
34 Guacamole and hummus
35 Intent looks
36 Intertwine
37 "Uh-huh!"
38 In good shape
39 "Don't hold your breath!"
40 Got together on the sly
42 Baltimore footballers
43 Stretches out
45 Many a Floridian
46 Our, to Umberto
47 Swan song's opposite
48 Fireworks watcher's exclamation
49 Succinctness principle
54 Site of the Tell legend
55 Lab-dish name
56 Pong creator
57 Recipe abbreviation
58 Favored earl of Elizabeth I
59 Advantage
DOWN
1 Mil. posts
2 Dancing With the Stars network
3 Fish in a Japanese garden
4 To the nth degree
5 Takes umbrage at
6 Plants with fronds
7 Be fond of
8 Larter of Heroes
9 Obsessive collectors
10 Caribbean island
11 Wally and Beaver's dad
12 The Seven Year Itch actor
13 "If I Were a Rich Man" singer
18 Cognizant of
22 Actress Vardalos
23 Disreputable
24 Kind of creepy
25 Gold Rush-era vessel
26 Made public
28 Made misty
30 Ebbs
32 Noisy spectacle
33 Not windy
35 Succeed
36 Perform a magic trick
38 Water-skier need
39 Unaffected
41 Long's counterpart
42 Yanks' opponents
43 Porky's nose
44 Standard partner
45 New version of an old song
47 Have the nerve
50 Small change: Abbr.
51 Move erratically
52 Tulsa sch.
53 Criticize

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-59 indicating starting positions for the clues.