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Cowboys lament their 'wasted season'
Page 1B



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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY

JANUARY 15, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 39

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County gives up Senior Center

Decision not greeted well by all

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners voted 4-1 Monday morning to turn control of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center over to the city of Big Spring, despite outcries to the contrary from several local residents. The motion to transfer control of the facility came from Commissioner Bill Crooker and was seconded by County Judge Mark Barr, with the measure failing to draw a second from the remaining commissioners.

"We've heard so many rumors that we don't know what's going on. I guess we're not supposed to."

—C.V. Wash



Howard County Commissioners listen as Don Stephens, CPA, left, delivers the county's comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2007.

"I have a motion from Bill Crooker, who will second it?" Barr asked. "No one? Then who will make a motion the other way, for the county to maintain control of the Senior Center?"

Barr's request was met by silence. "If no one else will, I'll make the second we transfer the Senior Center over to the city,"

Barr told the court, moving the issue to a final vote that appeared to have Kilgore, Barr and Crooker voting for the measure, and commissioners Gary

Simer and Emma Brown abstaining. When asked for a clarification See **CENTER**, Page 3A

Fires likely arson

Fire marshal investigating two cases

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A pair of early morning structure fires may have been the work of arsonists, according to Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray. The first fire was reported at 2:17 a.m. Monday on Big Spring's west side, according to Condray. "Firefighters responded to a fire at a single-family residence in the 800 block



Condray

See **ARSON**, Page 3A

Howard, Martin stock shows set to begin

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Farm animals — and the children who raise them — will be the focal point of junior livestock shows in Howard and Martin counties this week. Hundreds of entries are expected at the two 4-H shows. The Howard County show kicks off Wednesday morning and

runs through Saturday afternoon, while the Martin County show will be held from Thursday to Saturday, officials said. The Howard County Junior Livestock Show is a great way for 4-H members to learn valuable life skills, County 4-H Extension Agent Amanda Toerck said. "This helps them get a sense of responsibility," Toerck said. "And it also

gives them a chance to work on their leadership skills ... They put in a lot of time and hard work before the shows." Wednesday will be lamb and goat day at the Howard livestock show, which will take place at the county fairbarns next to the rodeo bowl in west Big Spring. The lamb show will be held at 3 p.m., with the goat show following 30

minutes after its conclusion, Toerck said. Thursday's highlight will be the rabbit show at 6 p.m., although steers and barrows are expected to be in place and weighed that afternoon. Steers will be judged beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, with barrows taking center stage at 1 p.m. The show concludes with the annual buyers' barbecue at 11:30 a.m., fol-

lowed by the awards presentation and auction at 1 p.m., Toerck said. The Martin County Junior Livestock Show begins Thursday with weighing for all livestock between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the community center annex. Friday is show day for goats (9 a.m.), lambs (immediately following the goat show), pee wee goats and lamb divisions

following the lamb show and the steer show later that afternoon. The livestock show concludes Saturday with hogs and pee wee hog shows in the morning and the annual awards banquet at 6:30 p.m. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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FISD board presents a Super salary hike

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — School officials here gave formal appreciation to their trustees Monday night, then the board spread the appreciation to their superintendent. Emerging from executive session, trustees announced that Superintendent Randy Johnson had passed his annual evaluation with flying colors, then extended his



Johnson

contract and gave him a raise. January is annually the time for school districts to host board appreciation activities, as well as for the board to evaluate superintendents. "People accuse us of something underhanded by holding board appreciation on

the same night as evaluations," Johnson said jokingly. "But we do want everyone to know how much (trustees) do — and they do it all for free." Using a new evaluation process, the board rated Johnson as exceeding expectations at every level. "Things went very well," Johnson said. "They were very kind." Trustees then gave

Johnson a 5 percent raise in salary and extended his contract through June 2011. Johnson will now make \$90,000 in base annual salary. Johnson is in his sixth year at FISD and fourth as superintendent. Prior to assuming the top administrative spot at Forsan schools, See **FISD**, Page 3A

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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
Tuesday, January 15, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar TODAY

Big Spring girls basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls and boys basketball vs. Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan girls and boys basketball vs. Roscoe, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado, 6 p.m.

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

Coahoma boys and girls basketball at Stamford, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Rotan, 6:30 p.m.

Free junior tennis league starting Wednesday

A free junior tennis league will take place every Wednesday for several weeks from 4:45 to 5:45 beginning tomorrow.

Boys and girls of any skill level between ages 8-12 are welcome to attend. The league is being conducted by Big Spring tennis instructor Ted Oleson.

No sign up is required. Bring a racket or one will be provided while available.

For more information, call Oleson at (806)236-8901 or visit www.bigspringtennis.com.

Baseball Booster Club meeting Wednesday at ATC

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of high school baseball players are invited to attend and to meet new Head Coach Burt Otto.

For more information, contact Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

Chicano Golf Association meets 6 p.m. Wednesday

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding a meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Monte Longo's Paint and Body Shop located at 1307 E. 3rd St., Suite A.

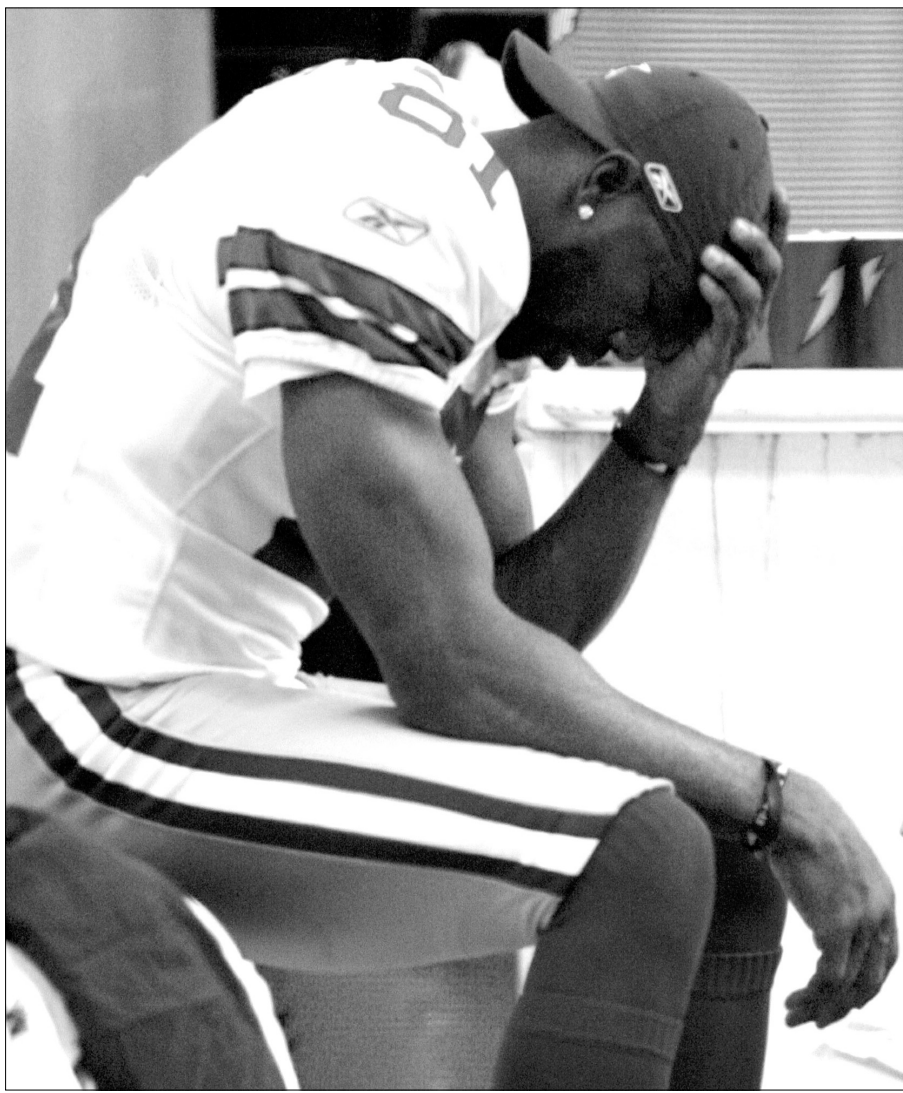
All members are encouraged to attend.

Howard College presenting the Harlem Starz

The Howard College athletic department will present the Harlem Starz at 7:00 p.m. Jan. 28th at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The game is a fundraiser which will benefit the Howard College athletic program.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B



AP photo/Matt Stocum
Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) sits on the bench during the fourth quarter against the New York Giants in an NFC divisional playoff game, Sunday in Irving. New York won 21-17.

Cowboys lament over wasted season

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — No NFC championship game at home, no shot at a record sixth Super Bowl.

That 13-3 regular season? The NFL-record 12 Pro Bowlers? All wasted.

The Dallas Cowboys woke up to those cold realities Monday, a day after being eliminated by the New York Giants, a team they'd already beaten twice.

"For it to fall apart like it did is mindboggling," tight end Jason Witten said. "You don't know what to do now."

Trying to figure out how it happened was the first step.

"I think we clinched so early we got a little complacent," said receiver Patrick Crayton, his point backed up by a 1-3 finish.

"We made too many mental errors," said special teams captain Keith Davis, pointing to 11 penalties against the Giants.

"We just didn't make enough big plays," veteran linebacker Greg Ellis said.

Then there was coach Wade Phillips' take: "After looking at

the tape, I feel like the best team lost the game."

Phillips offered all sorts of nuggets to try masking the pain of both the loss and the elimination, from stressing Dallas' statistical success against New York (only 57 yards allowed in the second half) to the Cowboys making the final eight for the first time since 1996.

OK, so it was a bye that got Dallas into the second weekend, not an actual postseason victory. But Phillips wasn't interested in those deflating facts, nor the tidbit that the Cowboys just tied the NFL playoff futility mark by dropping its sixth straight game.

"The arrow is pointing up on this team," he said.

Any explanation for Tony Romo and the offense nose-diving from 32.5 points while going 12-1 all the way down to 12.2 points the rest of the way?

"Maybe we raised the level so high we couldn't keep it up," Phillips said.

See COWBOYS, Page 2B

Kings outlast Mavs with last second shot

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — After missing nearly six weeks with a groin injury, Kevin Martin still thinks he needs more time to get back up to speed. It's hard to imagine him playing much better than he did in his second game back from the injury.

Martin scored 39 points in just under 28 minutes and John Salmons hit a game-winning drive with 2.4 seconds remaining to help the Sacramento Kings snap the Dallas Mavericks' seven-game winning streak with a 122-120 victory Monday night.

"For me it's just basketball," Martin said. "I always felt like I could come back and play. It was just a matter of where my wind was. I told coach, 'I can only give you 28 minutes a night right now.' He said, 'As long as they're good.'"

Those minutes were nearly perfect against the Mavericks, putting the Kings in position to win it at the end.

Salmons' length-of-the-court drive capped a wild fourth quarter and led to a boisterous celebration at midcourt for the Kings when Jason Terry missed a desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer. Kings owner Gavin Maloof even joined the party, running from his courtside seat to jump around with his players.

"He almost had to take a charge. He got out there and

almost got ran over," coach Reggie Theus said. "It's just great to see. Obviously the Maloofs are some of the best owners in all of sports. There's no doubt about that. Their passion for this team and the game itself is off the charts."

It was hard not to be passionate following this thrilling finish. Terry's three-point play had given Dallas a 118-117 lead with 22.2 seconds remaining, before Martin answered with a three-point play of his own with 11.6 to go. Terry tied it with 7 seconds left, setting up Salmons' game-winner that came when the Kings were out of timeouts.

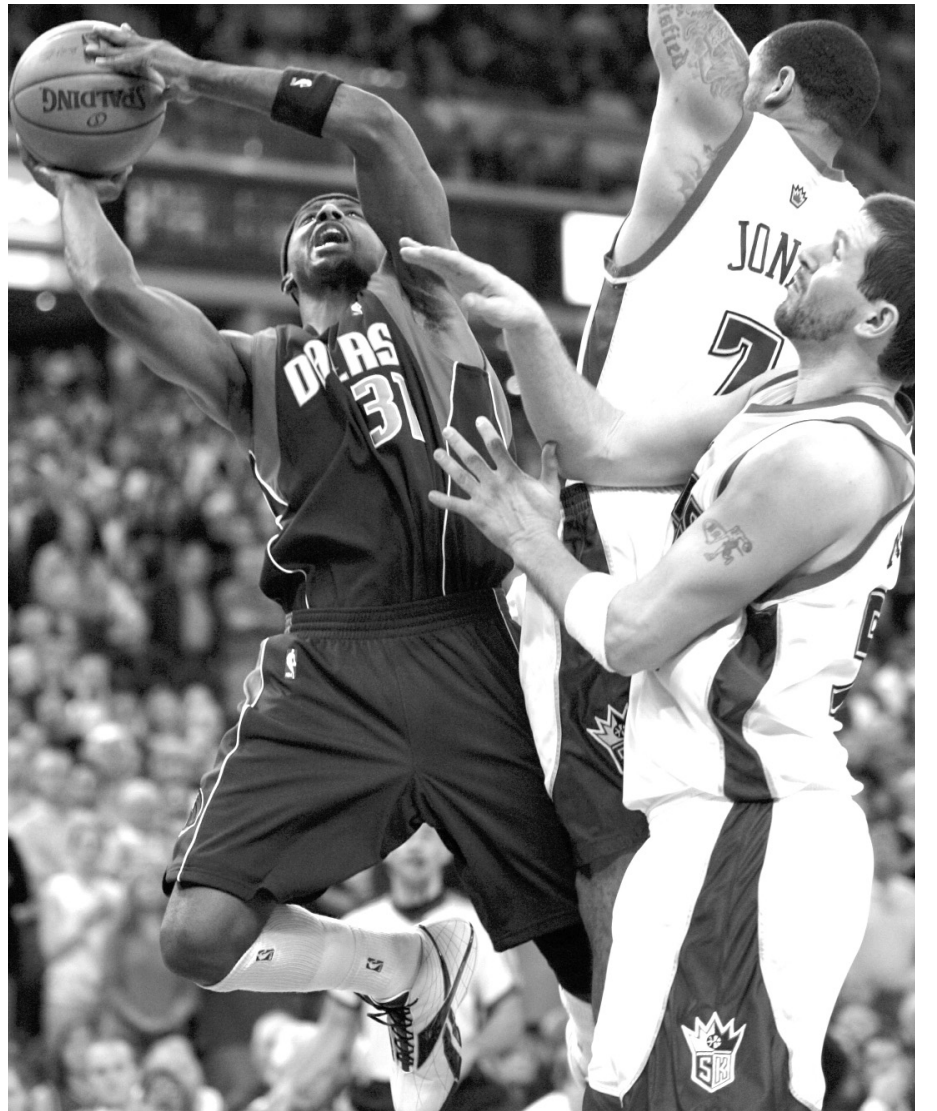
"At the end of the game he did what he does best, take it to the hole," Theus said. "No timeouts left, he got it on the move and made a great play."

Salmons finished with 22 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter. Francisco Garcia also had 22 for the Kings, who had lost six straight to Dallas.

Terry and Devin Harris scored 25 points apiece to lead Dallas. Dirk Nowitzki added 21 for the Mavs, who beat the Clippers 95-94 on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Jerry Stackhouse on Saturday.

"We were on the top of the stick in the last game," Harris said. "So now we got to take it on the chin this game. That's the way it goes."

See NBA, Page 2B



AP photo/Rich Pedroncelli
Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry, left, scores against Sacramento Kings' Dahntay Jones, center, and Brad Miller, right, to tie the game in the closing seconds in Sacramento, Calif., Monday. The Kings won 122-120 over the Mavericks.

New coach has A&M humming right along

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Losing its head coach and best player doesn't seem to be slowing down Texas A&M one bit.

If anything, says Texas Tech assistant coach Pat Knight, the Aggies are better than last year, when Billy Gillispie and Acie Law led them to a school-record 27 wins in one of their greatest seasons ever.

"I don't think there's been any letdown at all," said Knight, who will help his dad, Bob, coach Texas Tech against the Aggies on Wednesday night. "We've been talking about that."

After Gillispie departed for Kentucky, the Aggies lured Mark Turgeon out of Wichita, where the former Kansas guard had gone 128-90 and proven himself worthy of a career upgrade. They also had to figure out a way to get through life without Law, a

stellar point guard and last-shot specialist.

While Gillispie has struggled at Kentucky in the early going, Turgeon has the Aggies clicking along. They've won eight in a row while compiling a 15-1 record, including an 86-69 whipping of Colorado last week in their Big 12 opener. Ranked No. 11 going into the first full week of conference action, Texas A&M is fifth in the nation in field goal percentage (51.3), third in field goal percentage defense (35.3) and fifth in scoring margin (20.9).

So much for a period of painful readjustment.

"They're still a very good team," said Knight, who stepped in for his dad in Monday's Big 12 coaches call. "Coach Turgeon's did a good job. He took it where it was and kept going with it. I think even he got tired of people

See COACH, Page 2B



AP photo/Paul Zoeller
Texas A&M men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon watches as the Aggies play Colorado Saturday at Reed Arena in College Station. Turgeon took over the Aggies' program this season after A&M had a breakout year under Billy Gillispie last season. Gillispie left for the University of Kentucky, but Turgeon has picked up where the former coach left off.

Obituaries

David E. Elrod



David E. Elrod, second generation proprietor of Elrod's Furniture in Big Spring for many years, died Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at his home. He was 80. Mr. Elrod had been battling cancer for several years. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at the 14th and Main Street Church of Christ with Rick Cunningham, minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Mr. Elrod moved to Big Spring in 1946 with his new bride, Evelyn, to go into the furniture business with his brothers, John William Elrod Jr. and Joseph Elrod, after their father retired. John W. Elrod Sr. opened Elrod's Furniture in Big Spring in 1937. In 1952, David Elrod bought out his brothers and became the sole proprietor of Elrod's Furniture, a position he continued until his retirement in 1983 when his son, Dee Elrod and Dee's wife, Lynda, took over the business.

Born March 26, 1927, in Lubbock, Mr. Elrod was a lifetime athlete and musician. While a student at Sweetwater High School he actively participated in basketball, football and tennis and competed at the state tennis championships. He loved to swim and was a lifeguard and Eagle Scout. As a student at Abilene Christian University, Mr. Elrod was a singer and enjoyed playing softball. In his adult years he continued to play tennis, sing solos, was a member of ensembles with friends and enjoyed a good game of golf.

Mr. Elrod's greatest passion in life was his belief in the deity of Jesus Christ. He served his church as a Bible teacher, deacon and elder, and frequently led the congregational singing. He loved singing with his spiritual family and was often asked to lead singing at other events beyond the regular meeting of the church. Mr. Elrod was a member of the 14th and Main Street Church of Christ.

Mr. Elrod is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Evelyn Barfield; a daughter, Karen, of Rockwall, who is the director of choral music activities at Rockwall High School; a son, Dee, who is now the owner of Elrod's Furniture; and a son, Jon David, of Dallas, who is a flight attendant for American Airlines. Also surviving are Karen's husband, Gary Thomas and Dee's wife, Lynda Elrod; five grandchildren, Jennifer Pemberton, Benjamin Lee, John Lee, Laura Eckhardt and Leslie Elrod; Mr. Elrod's brother, Joseph Elrod of Abilene; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Frank and Joan Barfield of Sweetwater, and Ray and Gail Craig of Arlington; one great-granddaughter, Breanna Lee; and beloved nieces and nephews.

Mr. Elrod's wife, children and grandchildren credit their "Papa" as a great influence and special gift from God in their lives.

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

Petra Renteria Anderson

Petra Renteria Anderson, 76, died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at Deerings Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Odessa. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa with Pstor Schultz officiating.

Mrs. Anderson was born Jan. 31, 1931, in Big Spring. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Myrl Anderson of Odessa; her parents, Luis and Juana Renteria of Chihuahua, Mexico; three sons, Arthur Renteria Veliz of Stanton and Richard Renteria Veliz and Mike Renteria Anderson, both of Odessa; four daughters, Mary Sanchez of Houston, Rosie Guerrero of Giddings, Petra Alarcon of Mesa, Ariz., and Janie Castillo of Odessa; one brother, Luis Renteria of San Angelo; four sisters, Margarita Galan of Houston, Lupe Viciano of Big Spring, Deina Duenas of Abilene and Toribia Hughley of Fort Morgan, Colo.; 20 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the mid 40s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the lower 20s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs around 40. North winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 20.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s.

Saturday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Martin Luther King Jr. day...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

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Police blotter

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

- **JOE E. VALENCIA JR.**, 24, of 1905 Wasson Road Apt. 70, was arrested Monday on a Midland County warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2500 block of Ann Drive.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1400 block of Virginia.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.

- **JUSTIN CLAY COLE**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **JUAN CHAVERA**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **MARIO MORALES FLORES**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.
- **LATASHA JEANETT SMITH**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information, theft, a Midland County warrant for evading arrest with a vehicle - probation violation and a Midland County warrant for possession of a controlled substance.
- **LUIS FERNANDO UBEDA JR.**, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for evading arrest or detention.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Dixie. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 800 block of Creighton.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 700 block of Creighton.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 11-17-25-33-37.

Number matching five of five: 3.
Prize per winner: \$8,698.
Winning tickets sold in: Nash, Garland, Denison.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-19-23-33. Bonus Ball: 28.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-0-7-6. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-2-5. Sum It Up: 12

Support Groups

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.

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Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
 - Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
 - Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
 - Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

- 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.
 - Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
 - 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.
 - American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

Take Note

American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. U.S. Highway 80. Everyone is invited. Serving will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Plates are \$8 each.

Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.

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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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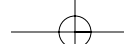
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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

Martin hasn't missed a beat since returning from a 17-game absence, making 14 of 16 shots.

Martin has 64 points in his two games back despite coming off the bench both games, giving a big boost to the injury-depleted Kings. Martin said he's in no rush to get back in the starting lineup.

"I don't think it's the right time yet," Martin said. "I feel like this is training camp day No. 3. I still need to get my timing down and get my wind back. I'm definitely not ready to play starter minutes right now and I don't need to."

After winning three of four on the homestand, the Kings will get even more help soon. Point guard Mike Bibby is expected to make his season debut Wednesday in Toronto after undergoing surgery on a torn ligament in his left thumb, and forward Ron Artest also could return after missing the previous nine games with an injured

right elbow.

The Kings (15-21) have tried to hold it together in the first half of the season despite missing Artest and Martin for 17 games apiece and Bibby for all 36.

Mikki Moore gave Sacramento its first lead since midway through the first quarter when he slammed in an alley-oop pass from backup point guard Beno Udrih that made it 63-61 about 3 minutes into the third quarter. With Martin and Garcia combining for 17 of the Kings' next 23 points, the lead expanded to 86-77 with less than 2 minutes remaining in the third. Sacramento led 86-80 entering the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks had trouble stopping the Kings from scoring almost all game. Dallas had held 10 straight opponents under 100 points, but Sacramento topped that on Martin's baseline jumper with 6:02 remaining that made it 101-94.

"We are not going to win many games giving up 122 points," Mavs Head Coach Avery Johnson said. "We just

got broken down all over the place. We didn't do a good job protecting the basket. Our support defense wasn't there."

Wizards 88, Celtics 83

The Boston Celtics found themselves in a position they hadn't been in all season, in the midst of a losing streak.

Small forward Caron Butler scored 21 points and Washington beat Boston 88-83 on Monday night for the Wizards' second victory over the Celtics in three days.

Butler scored nine points during a 25-6 run over the final 6:24 of the fourth quarter to give the Wizards their fifth win in the last six games overall and against Boston.

"We always seem to come back strong when our backs are against the wall. We did it Saturday night and we did it tonight in a tough road game," said Antawn Jamison, who added 20 points and 10 rebounds. "To beat these guys in back-to-back games considering how they've been playing is something special."

Lakers 123, Supersonics 121

While Boston dropped its second straight, the Los Angeles Lakers are on their longest winning streak since 2004. The Lakers surged to the top of the Pacific Division with a 123-121 overtime victory over the Seattle Supersonics.

Kobe Bryant scored 48 points and capped his season-best offensive outburst by swishing an 18-footer with 4.3 seconds left in overtime to help the Lakers win their seventh straight game.

The Lakers were playing their first contest without injured center Andrew Bynum, who will miss at least the next eight weeks after suffering a left knee injury in Sunday night's win over Memphis.

"This is a tough one," a tired looking Bryant said. "Tonight was one of those nights where I kind of had to read the mood of the team. Us kind of being a little deflated with (Bynum) going down, being a back-to-back, coming in on the road, it was one of those things where I just kind of wanted to be a lot more

assertive."

In other NBA games Monday night, it was: Sacramento 122, Dallas 120; Portland 99, New Jersey 73; San Antonio 89, Philadelphia 82; Utah 98, Milwaukee 87; and Charlotte 119, Denver 116.

Before the game, Seattle coach P.J. Carlesimo said he wouldn't mind if Bryant went off just as long as he was forced to take a lot of shots. Carlesimo just didn't count on Bryant making nearly half of his attempts, shooting 21-for-44 from the field.

And Bryant's efforts nearly went for naught, as Seattle took advantage of Bynum's absence inside and nearly kept the Lakers from moving into a tie with Phoenix atop the Pacific Division. Instead, it was Seattle's seventh straight loss and another snapshot that Bryant can add to his career highlights.

"That's why he's the best player in the world," Seattle rookie Kevin Durant said.

COACH

Continued from Page 1B

talking about what a good job Billy did. Now you've got to give him credit. It's his team. He deserves all the credit for keeping it going. He lost Acie Law, the MVP of this league, and they haven't missed a beat. It actually looks like they're playing better as a team than last year."

The Aggies shot 85.7 percent from the free-throw line against Colorado, the third time in their last five games they have been over 70 percent. Helping

ease the pain of losing Law has been senior guard Dominique Kirk, who has 24 assists and only five turnovers in his last five games.

Turgeon, who played for Larry Brown and worked under Roy Williams at Kansas, will be facing a Knight-coached team for the first time as the leader of a program. But it won't be the first time he has scrutinized the Hall of Fame coach. As a 23-year-old graduate assistant under Williams, Turgeon attended one of Knight's coaching clinics at Indiana and discovered things he still uses.

"I still do drills that I learned at that clinic," Turgeon said.

"I've followed him for a long time and studied him, even from afar, even when I wasn't in his league, watching his teams play, trying to get a feel for things they did offensively."

As impressive as Turgeon has been in keeping the Aggies rolling along, he might still get beaten out if coach-of-the-year balloting were conducted at midseason. Scott Drew, in his fifth year at Baylor, appears to have brought the Bears back from the brink. Finally free of the noxious residue of tragedy, scandal and severe NCAA sanctions, Baylor could be headed toward its first NCAA tournament in decades.

The Bears (13-2, 1-0), who have held every opponent under 50 percent shooting, play Oklahoma State on Tuesday. They will be looking for their first 2-0 start to the Big 12 season since 1997-98.

"I think we do have confidence and know if we play hard and to our full capability we can compete with anybody," said Drew. "We have experience now. We have the depth in the backcourt. Our front line is coming along. We definitely have more resources and optimism than we had in the past."

The Big 12's weekly player honors went to a couple of 6-foot-10 freshmen whose names

are rapidly becoming familiar not only around the league, but around the nation.

Kansas State's Michael Beasley was chosen player of the week after averaging almost 29 points and 11 rebounds in victories over Savannah State and Oklahoma. Beasley hit the game-winning shot against Oklahoma with 2.3 seconds remaining.

Oklahoma freshman Blake Griffin averaged 26.5 points and 10.5 rebounds in games against Mount St. Mary's and Kansas State. He shot 70.8 percent in the two games. Over his last three games, he has averaged 23.7 points and 10 rebounds.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

What about the complacency Crayton mentioned or the bye weekend vacations by Romo and others?

"I don't know," said Phillips, who is 0-4 as a head coach in the playoffs, with this heartbreaker following the "Music City Miracle" in his previous chance. "I still see improvement, but it's not a day to talk about how we're getting better, what we did better. We lost, that's what happened."

That's why players arrived at work Monday and saw blank spaces where there used to be a "Wall of Winning," posters crammed with pictures and newspaper clippings from each victory.

Equipment guys went around putting helmets on a portable rack, then rolled them away for months of safekeeping.

Some players stuffed the contents of their lockers into clear trash bags. One guy was in the corner of a darkened office watching the game film.

Terrell Owens strolled through the locker room on his way to the training room carrying an orange Gatorade cooler, then walked back through empty-handed, offering only, "I'm not saying anything today."

Those who did talk freely used the words disappointing and frustrating.

"Nobody could have told me that we would be doing this today," linebacker Bradie James said. "I believe we had a great regular season, we just didn't win in the playoffs. That's something that's going to be looming over our heads for a while."

While the Cowboys begin their offseason, the Giants are plotting to play the Green Bay Packers. Dallas went 3-0 against those teams during the regular season, which

might be part of the reason team owner Jerry Jones was so distraught Sunday night.

This was the Cowboys' big chance to restore the glory of "America's Team" and they blew it.

"That's the toughest part about all this," Witten said.

Once the pain eases, Jones will start gearing up for 2008.

His first priority might have to be the coaching staff, as offensive coordinator Jason Garrett and assistant head coach Tony Sparano are up for head coaching vacancies. Two high-ranking members of the scouting

department have left, too. Then there's the roster, which has 14 players headed to free agency.

Pro Bowl running back Marion Barber, who had 129 yards against the Giants in his first career start, is almost certain to return because he's a restricted free agent. Ditto for starting defensive end Chris Canty.

Two other Pro Bowlers are free agents-to-be: Left tackle Flozell Adams and Davis. Displaced starting running back Julius Jones and cornerbacks Jacques Reeves and Nate Jones also are hitting the open market.

The Cowboys have two

first-round picks and plenty of room under the salary cap. They'll likely be looking for another running back, secondary help and a young receiver to ease the load on 30-somethings Owens and Terry Glenn.

For the most part, Dallas' key players will be back, making the Cowboys a likely favorite in the NFC going into next season.

Phillips suggested this disappointment might

pay off in the long run, pointing out that Pittsburgh won the Super Bowl the year after going 15-1 and bowing out in the playoffs, Indianapolis won the year after going 14-2 and bowing out in the playoffs and San Diego was knocked off early after going 14-2 but is now in the AFC championship game.

"Sometimes," he said, "it gives you incentive to play the next year better."

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BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

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ANSWERS

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's first-quarter moon in Aries is an excellent strategist, busily calculating future plans with Capricorn sun. The ventures we give energy to right now will grow in time, but we do have to throw our chips in as a



HOLIDAY MATHIS

show of faith. It feels risky. And we never know what will happen next. Yet, we discover the chutzpah to jump right in and go for it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This is not the time to make a big effort. All you need to do is believe and receive. Gemini and Capricorn help you realize what's really important — it's not necessarily what you thought.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've had your doubts about your neighborhood lately, but when you go beyond the small stuff, there is a vibrant community out there, worthy of your active participation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). With only 10 percent more compassion for yourself, you will understand what motivates you. With 10 percent more compassion for others, you'll know their intention and accept their gifts as loving gestures.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Humans have a tendency to be self-involved, so it's

endearing how you want to know about things that have nothing to do with you. Approach new relationships with genuine curiosity and you can't go wrong.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A new level of self-acceptance makes abundance much easier for you to claim. Business continues booming as long as you don't let your successes go to your head.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Dare to charge a higher price for your work — you'll be even more energized and enthusiastic. Tonight, it's lucky to let your generous instincts take over; friends hold you in high esteem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's not only you — conflict is scary for everyone. OK, it's scarier for you. Though you're not out to hurt feelings, into every relationship a little confrontation must fall, otherwise someone is not being real.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Open the doors of conversation wide. A nice social flow sparks remarkable — almost unbelievable — opportunities. Tonight, your faith in a close friend will prove to have been justified.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe it seems like the money is flying out of your account, but you can't put a price tag on experience. For now, worry less about the cost while you concentrate more on your enjoyment of all that's going on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Since no one

knows your needs better than you, you can avoid mistakes by marching to your own drummer. Shop, reinvent yourself, look in the mirror, and tell your unique story with confidence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a certain project that won't be finished for months unless you buckle down and do it right now. If you need to team up, you are especially compatible with Libra or Leo.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The future you is communicating with the present you, letting you know the decisions that you can make today that will still be extremely enjoyable for years to come.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPICS: Moon Phases: The First-Quarter Moon.

Today's first-quarter moon is one of the more active, busy moon phases — I'm surprised you even have time to read this! Life can be so demanding around now, and your tasks and pursuits require your utmost attention and focus. You're busily engaging your curiosity and interests during the first quarter moon, and just when you get going, you encounter distractions. No, no one's trying to throw you off track. You're going to have to commit to a clear direction and strike: "Darn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" Think back to just seven days ago and you'll find it easy to summon up the strength and force of your new-moon impulse. Use this first-quarter moon to

make new strides. You can use that inspired energy to make a clear and definite step in the right direction. Others may question you. You may question you. Don't be pulled backward by the past or waver on the uncertain future. You've drafted the plan. You've called the architect. Now is the time to break real ground, to lay foundation for your goals with real-world steps. For manifesting real-world events, this is the most productive of all moon phases. Give your goals a home!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the most ambitious sign of all? LL Cool is a purposeful Capricorn who slickly finesses his public image and creativity. LL's stage name (ladies love cool James) was an ambitious start, but his Venus in Sagittarius isn't shy. To LL, tooting his own horn is nothing more than good, honest PR. This year, he pioneers something completely different than he's done before.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. 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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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: When I first met my wife, her sister, "Vicki," was married with three children. Vicki then cheated on her husband and they divorced. Reluctantly, we let her new beau into our lives. Now, two kids into this marriage, Vicki was again caught cheating with a married man and is moving in with him and his three kids.

In the past seven years, Vicki has had five children with three different fathers. She lies constantly and never seems to think anything is wrong with her behavior. I told my wife I want nothing to do with Vicki's newest boyfriend or his kids, and I don't want our children exposed to their aunt's behavior. My wife's family acts as if nothing has happened. My wife thinks I'm being closed-minded. What do you say? — Storm Brewing in D.C.

Dear Storm Brewing: We agree that Vicki is a mess and we can understand why you don't want to form a relationship with a married man who cheated on his wife. But your wife wishes to see her sister, and that apparently includes subscribing to Boyfriend of the Month. You can teach your children that such irresponsible behavior is wrong without cutting her off entirely. For major family gatherings, you should make an effort to be polite and serve as an example of stability to Vicki's children. Otherwise, tell your wife she can see Vicki on her own.

Dear Annie: My daughter, "Gaia," attends a small private school and is on one of the school sports teams where the parents are the coaches. Gaia became friends



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

with "Marisa," the daughter of the coach. When Gaia had a party three weeks ago, she invited her entire class, and even included Marisa's younger sister. During the party, we discovered Marisa is allergic to our cats, and although she had to take medicine, she was not otherwise affected.

Last week, Marisa had a party and everyone was invited except my daughter. To my knowledge, the girls haven't had a falling out. I understand she can invite whomever she chooses to a party. However, I don't understand how you can allow your child to exclude another, especially one who is a friend and teammate. Do you think it was about her allergy? How should I handle this? — Wondering

Dear Wondering: There is no excuse for parents to deliberately exclude one child out of an entire class. If it was the allergy, the parents should have explained that to you. It's also possible Gaia's invitation was lost in the mail, or if hand-delivered, Gaia may have misplaced it and felt too guilty to let on. The best thing you can do now is not make too much of this and show your daughter how to take the high road. Every unpleasantness is also a

learning experience. However, if such exclusion continues, you should discuss it with the school principal.

Dear Annie: You agreed that "Just Wondering" had reason to be suspicious because her husband doesn't allow her in his office and masks the personal phone numbers of female co-workers with initials.

Early in my marriage, I did not want my wife to suffer the indignities of my boorish co-workers. I wasn't contemplating infidelity. I simply did not want her around my workmates. And plenty of innocent people would use initials in order to avoid confrontation with a suspicious spouse.

When wives distrust perfectly normal behavior, it's no wonder their husbands become secretive. If "Just Wondering" feels the need to comb through his phone records for evidence of wrongdoing, either he has done something to create distrust or she has an unhealthy predisposition to suspicion. — Don't Want to Be a Spy

Dear Spy: Sorry, we're not buying it. The response to unwarranted suspicions should be complete disclosure. Overly insecure spouses need help, not more secrets. Annie's Snippet (credit Martin Luther King, Jr.): Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous positive action.

Dear Annie: My mother passed away a few months ago, so I began inviting my lonely stepfather for dinner and told him to drop by and visit any time. He often came over four times in a day. One day, he told me he's had feelings for me

for nearly 25 years. He wanted to know if there was any chance for us and proceeded to ask if he could see me naked. I was in shock! I wanted to cry. I've always thought of him as a father. He gave me away when I got married. He was the grandfather to my children. I told him these things, but I don't think he heard me.

Now I don't want to go to his house (I miss going because of the memories of my mother), and I don't want to see him. When he calls my house, I don't want to answer the phone. My husband and children are beginning to question why I no longer invite him for dinner. My children are grown and don't live with me, and my husband works all week, so I'm alone most of the time. I'm afraid to open my door. I haven't told anyone. What do I do? — Shocked and Reshocked

Dear Shocked: How old is your stepfather? Such inappropriate sexual behavior can be a sign of dementia and lowered inhibitions, and the stress of your mother's death could have tipped him over the edge. Discuss this rationally and calmly with your husband and see if you can arrange for your stepfather to get a complete checkup. In the meantime, it's OK to visit your stepfather or have him for dinner, as long as your husband or children are with you. If he should make another inappropriate pass, tell him firmly that you are not interested and he must stop asking. If necessary, your husband can tell him the same thing.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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Stephenville abuzz over reported UFO sightings

By ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press Writer

STEPHENVILLE — In this farming community where nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

“People wonder what in

the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it’s the end of times,” said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. “It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts.”

While federal officials insist there’s a logical explanation, locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said the object’s lights changed configura-

tion, unlike those of a plane. People in several towns who reported seeing it over several weeks have offered similar descriptions of the object.

Machinist Ricky Sorrells said friends made fun of him when he told them he saw a flat, metallic object hovering about 300 feet over a pasture behind his Dublin home. But he decided to come forward after reading similar accounts in the Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

“You hear about big bass or big buck in the

area, but this is a different deal,” Sorrells said. “It feels good to hear that other people saw something, because that means I’m not crazy.”

Sorrells said he’s seen the object several times. He said he watched it through his rifle’s telescopic lens and described it as very large and without seams, nuts or bolts.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were

in the area the night of Jan. 8, when many sightings were reported.

Lewis said the object may have been an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes. Lights from the aircraft would seem unusually bright and may appear orange due to the setting sun.

“I’m 90 percent sure this was an airliner,” Lewis said. “With the sun’s angle, it can play tricks on you.”

Officials at the region’s two Air Force bases — Dyess in Abilene and Sheppard in Wichita Falls

— also said none of their aircraft were in the area last week. The Air Force no longer investigates UFOs.

About 200 UFO sightings are reported each month, mostly in California, Colorado and Texas, according to the Mutual UFO Network, which plans to go to the 17,000-resident town of Stephenville to investigate.

Fourteen percent of Americans polled last year by The Associated Press and Ipsos say they have seen a UFO.

CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

of the vote, Barr polled the commissioners, with Brown, who remained silent during the original vote, supporting the transfer, and Simer — who had also remained silent — voting against it.

The court’s decision was anything but pleasing for the Senior Center patrons gathered in the courtroom.

“Leslie (Grantham, director of the center) has done a fantastic job. She hasn’t been there long, but she’s improved it and increased it, and she’s constantly had to hassle with the same people who are fixing to take it over,” said Tom Guess, one of many area seniors who participate in dancing at the center. “I don’t see how it can do anything but eventually collapse if you all walk off and leave

Leslie hanging in the noose. That’s what you all are doing. She’ll be gone within three months, and she’s done a fantastic job. You all are putting her out there, on a limb.

“I still feel like you’re leaving all of us in a lurch by turning this over to the city. Because the same people that have caused all the problems will have total control.”

Local resident Mary Gresset echoed Guess’ concerns, saying the county is putting the center into the hands of the very people who have sabotaged its operation.

“She’s (Grantham) had a lot of problems. She’s had a lot of people that have called every time she stubs her toe, and here we go again,” said Gresset. “It’s time we move forward. We’re in our golden years, supposedly. And these golden years are getting tough. I have faith in you all, that you can

run it. I know it’s a headache, but it wasn’t a headache before certain people got in there and started messing it up, and ever since then it’s gone down hill.”

C.V. Wash, another senior who uses the facility, said rumors have been flying since the transfer was announced, and expressed concern over possible plans to charge seniors for holding dances at the center.

“We’ve heard so many rumors that we don’t know what’s going on. I guess we’re not supposed to,” said Wash. “We heard that if Big Spring took it over, as far as our little bunch of dancers are concerned, they’re going to start charging us — because we’re organized or a club — \$100 a night. That’s the latest one I’ve heard. We can hardly pay the band now.”

Barr said the rumor has no basis, as far as his

talks with the city are concerned.

“I haven’t heard that,” said Barr firmly. “And it’s never been brought up by the mayor or any other representative from the city... I know this is a difficult situation for you all, and it has been for me and this commissioner’s court. I really think it’s best for the city to take it over because they have a better idea of how to run things like this. The county isn’t really set up for it, to really do you all a good job.

“If the city does take it over, you should take your grievances before them, and make them known. Let them know what your feelings are.”

According to Simer, he voted against the measure because he feels it deserves more research.

“I just felt like we should have given it a little bit longer,” said Simer. “Our revenue

doesn’t run out until the end of the year, and I think there are some more things we should have looked into before we just turn it over to them.”

Barr said he feels the court did the right thing.

“I wish it had been unanimous,” said Barr. “But that’s everyone prerogative. The thing about this that was most weighing on my mind was where this will leave our Senior Center director. You heard from the people what a great job she’s doing, and what the city will do there worries me. In preliminary talks with the city, I feel like it’s better in the long run for them to handle (the center) because they have more resources than the county.

“As far as contributing money, the county is fine. But as far as running it is concerned, I’m not sure we have the resources to really put it in there and do it like the city would. I’ve talked to officials with the city, and they believe they will expand the services out there, which would be great. I think, in the long run, the seniors will be pleased with this decision.”

Barr said the matter will now have to go to the Big Spring City Council before responsibility for the facility can be transferred.

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

ARSON

Continued from Page 1A

of Creighton,” said Condray. “It was a mobile home. Damage to the home was minimal because the firefighters were able to get it out very quickly. They really did a great job.

“The fire is being investigated as a suspicious fire. We believe it was purposefully set. There was no one in the home at the time of the fire, and no injuries were reported.”

A little more than an hour after the fire was reported, Condray said firefighters were called to a second home in the neighborhood.

“The second call came in at 3:33 a.m.,” said Condray. “This one was reported in the 700 block of Creighton and was also a single-family residence. However, this one was a house.”

Condray said the fire spread beyond the residence.

“The damage is estimated between \$6,000 and \$8,000,” said Condray. “The fire spread from the home to a carport, damaging a vehicle that was parked there. The damage to this home was much more extensive than the first fire. This one is also being investigated as a suspicious fire, and we believe it to be purposefully set.”

Condray said both fires are currently under

investigation.

While the pair of fires in Big Spring’s west side may register as suspicious with Condray, the fire marshal said a third structure fire — reported at at 9:15 p.m. at the Ponderosa Apartments in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street — was simply a case of mechanical failure.

“The fire was caused by a clothes dryer that had overheated. The guys had it out in a matter of minutes and damage was contained to the dryer unit and the clothes — which were just embers — inside.”

Condray said no injuries were reported.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

FISD

Continued from Page 1A

he was principal at Elbow Elementary for two years.

In other business, trustees:

- Retained the Stanton accounting firm of Stallings and Herm as the district’s auditor.
- Approved a textbook adoption committee to select an elementary math textbook for next school year.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

We all have a need to know stalking signs

As we reach the middle of January, we're in the midst of the observance of National Stalking Awareness Month and it's important to remember that stalking is a constant problem and it's important to let victims know help is always available.

Stalking is not a one-time occurrence. Its is a crime that leaves its victim fearful 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No place — not even home — is safe if a stalker knows where the victim lives. Victims spend their days and nights looking over their shoulder, often changing jobs, relocating their homes and even changing their appearance to escape the stalker.

And nobody deserves to have to live that way. Victim Services Executive Director Shann Smith says it is vitally important that everyone be aware of the "10 Things You Need to Know About Stalking." They are:

1. Stalking is a crime.
Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that places a reasonable person in fear for her or his safety. It is against the law in every state. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law.

2. Many people are stalked.
One in 12 women and one in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetimes. Some 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.

3. Stalking can be very dangerous.
About 76 percent of women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by these partners before they were killed. All stalkers should be considered unpredictable and very dangerous.

4. Stalking is harmful and intrusive.
Stalking victims often lose time from work or never return to work, and some even relocate to regain a sense of safety. Many suffer from anxiety, insomnia and severe depression as a result of being stalked.

5. Anyone can be stalked — not just celebrities.
The vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary people. Furthermore, most stalkers are not strangers, but are known by their victim.

6. Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship.

Stalking often begins during a relationship. Stalkers may keep the victim under surveillance or threaten her or him. Others begin stalking after the victim has ended the relationship, and the stalker feels desperate to maintain or regain control. Still others become fixated on a victim without ever having had any relationship with the person. All forms of stalking are unpredictable, and all should be considered dangerous.

7. Technology can be used to stalk.
Although newly-developed technology enhances our lives, it can also empower criminals. Cell phones, computers and surveillance equipment are just some of the technologies stalkers now use.

8. An effective response to stalking includes the entire community.
Police, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, neighbors ... everyone can and should play a part in stopping stalking. Working together, we can make victims safer.

9. You can make a difference.
Call Victim Services of Big Spring at 263-3312 to learn what you can do about stalking or visit the Nations Center for Victims of Crime's Website at www.ncvc.org to learn more about stalking and how to fight it.

10. Help is available.
If you or someone you know is being stalked, call Victim Services at 263-3312 for immediate local help. In addition, you can call 1-800-FYI-CALL for assistance.

Remember, Victim Services' staff and volunteers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. So, call them if you need help. Your life could depend on it.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take charge of what works in our life, Lord, for You.

Amen

Trade deals boost illegal immigration

In one of its last acts of 2007, Congress approved a Peru trade deal that would expand the failed NAFTA trade deregulation model further into Latin America.

Perhaps paying closer attention to NAFTA's track record would help Democrats and Republicans alike understand why we will never find viable solutions to the challenge of immigration reform without first addressing our bankrupt agriculture and trade policy.

In 1994, NAFTA advocates — including then President Bill Clinton — promised that its passage would reduce immigration by creating more good paying jobs in Mexico. In 1996, the Republican Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, the Freedom-to-Farm Bill, promising a new approach that would allow farmers to export their way to prosperity. While NAFTA deregulated the border with Mexico, the 1996 Farm Bill deregulated domestic agricultural markets. The combination was lethal.

Agricultural trade deregulation allowed the unfettered overproduction of essential crops like corn, which caused farm prices to plunge. Multinational agribusinesses then proceeded to dump these crops into Mexico at below the cost of production, displacing Mexican farmers from their own market. By 2006, Mexico had lost more than 2 million agricultural jobs, including as many as 1.7 million small farmers who were

forced from their land and into urban areas within Mexico or north to the U.S.

The U.S. response has been to further militarize the border, with an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 migrants having died trying to cross since 1995. As many predicted, this militarization failed. Mexican migration to the U.S. increased by 1.5 million from 2000-2005, peaking at an estimated 500,000 undocumented migrants entering the country annually by 2005 and 2006.

On the U.S. side of the border, the promise of expanded exports now rings hollow also as our country is poised to become a net importer of food for the first time in half a century. And the low commodity prices resulting from the 1996 Farm Bill have caused 200,000 U.S. farmers to join their Mexican counterparts in being forced off their farms.

Some say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Passing the Peru and other pending trade deregulation agreements fits that definition. Peru's agricultural provisions are virtually identical to NAFTA's. Like Mexico, a large segment of the Peruvian population lives in rural areas and is heavily dependent for survival on the production of key staple crops by small-scale farmers. Also, like Mexico, these farmers will be forced off their land, because the Peru trade deal requires the removal of the remaining tariffs that provide the only protection for these staple crops against predatory dumping by U.S. agribusinesses into Peru's local markets. And, like Mexico, these

small farmers will be forced to migrate to urban areas and to the north—including to the United States.

It is remarkable that both Democratic leaders and Republicans continue to ignore the consensus among voters that the NAFTA model has failed. A recent Wall Street Journal poll found that 60 percent of American voters nationwide believe that our current trade policy has hurt, not helped, the U.S. economy.

Instead of expanding this failed model, we should be having a real debate on what a viable alternative agricultural trade policy would look like. Surely it would support more diversified and sustainable farming that would keep family farmers — both at home and abroad — on their land and in their rural communities. In the U.S., we should start by ensuring that farmers receive a fair price from the marketplace by restoring a sane commodity policy and bolstering antitrust enforcement in the pending Farm Bill.

Internationally, we should make it a top priority to negotiate a ban on the predatory dumping of agricultural commodities at below the cost of production onto world markets, which devastates farmers everywhere.

And, we should reject unfair trade deals like the ill-advised Peru deal and upcoming Columbia, Panama and Korea agreements.

R. Dennis Olson is a senior policy analyst at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, headquartered in Minneapolis. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.



R. DENNIS OLSON

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Is the war a debatable point?

On "Meet the Press" Sunday, Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton repeated her bogus claim that she voted for the Iraq War resolution because she thought it was "a vote to put inspectors back in to determine what threat Saddam Hussein did, in fact, pose."

She's taking heat for her vote on the war.

What to do?
Deflect the heat from her record.

So she hit Barack Obama for not being sufficiently anti-war. It's not enough that, as an Illinois state senator in 2002, Obama delivered a speech against the war, Clinton charged Sunday, because he pulled a video of that speech from his Web site in 2003. He waited 18 months after he was elected to the U.S. Senate to deliver a speech against the war on the Senate floor.

In 2004, Obama told the New York Times he isn't sure how he would have voted on the war. (Forget that he said so the week of the Democratic National Convention as he was stumping for John Kerry, who had voted for the war.)

As a candidate in 2004, Obama had said he would vote against funding the war.

After he was elected, he voted to fund the war, he said, to protect U.S. troops.

Also, Obama flip-flopped on the timeline issue — he was against a withdrawal timeline before he was

for one. It is Obama's opposition to the war, Bill Clinton said, that amounts to "the biggest fairytale I've ever seen." The Clintons' call for greater scrutiny on Obama's Iraq record is handy, considering how poorly Hillary answers scrutiny of her own record.

Yes, the flip-flops on funding and timelines should prompt Democrats to ask themselves about how Obama would govern if sent to the White House. But why does Hillary Clinton think Obama's Iraq record is problematic? When Obama said in 2004 he wasn't sure how he would have voted, Clinton argued, "Well, the fact is, he's always saying that he doesn't take positions for political reasons. That is a political explanation."

When "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert asked Clinton if Obama showed "better judgment" on the war vote, Clinton's reaction was instructive: "You know, look, judgment is not a single snapshot.

Judgment is what you do across the course of your life and your career." Russert responded, "A vote for a war is very important vote."

To which Clinton said, "Well, you know, Tim, we can have this Jesuitical argument about what exactly was meant." Later, she chided Russert because the first part of "Meet the Press" was spent "talking about a speech [Obama's] and a vote [hers] from 2002."

Think about that. Clinton voted for a resolution that, according to its title, would "authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq." You had to be a 5-year-old — or a Democratic senator with presidential aspirations

— to believe that the measure was about putting U.N. inspectors in Iraq. And besides, as she voted for the resolution, Clinton said that a "pre-emptive war" would be "a mistake."

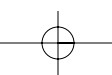
A mistake? Some 165,000 U.S. troops are serving in Iraq. As of Monday, there were 3,921 service members counted as dead. Yet Clinton dismissed her pro-war vote as one of many actions, a quick pic in a montage of moments. Hold it against Obama if his rhetoric flagged, she suggested, but don't hold it against her if she voted for a war resolution thinking it was something else.

I thought Clinton did the right thing voting for the war resolution, but then I was foolish enough to think that, having done so, she would do right by the troops who were tasked with carrying out the will of Washington.

Instead, she turned her back on the mission when the polls showed Americans had soured on the war. Cold to the plight of those who put their lives on the line, she proclaimed in February, "This is George W. Bush's war" — as if she could toss it like a hot potato. She opposed the surge, which reduced U.S. casualties. She was too busy trying to win the White House to work to win the war.

Hillary Clinton likes to say that she is "rooted in real people." But as her tack on Iraq has shown, to her, real people serving in Iraq are like angels on a pinhead — subject to Jesuitical argument.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@schronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



Bird Poop:
Youngster's 'fun' proves fatal for green-winged teal

Landing on the slow moving creek, the bird was carried by the current along the shoreline as it searched for food. The bottom-land's dense growth of salt-cedar offered wintering waterfowl protection from predators and a quiet restful place devoid of automobiles and hunters.



BEBE McCASLAND

As it bobbed forward, then under the shallow water, the small bird probed in the mud for aquatic insects, larvae and worms. Tender bites of water plants were also taken. In early fall, it

had availed itself of berries, wild grapes, nuts and acorns as its migration took it southward. Grain fields had offered residues of corn, wheat, barley and oats that it found to its liking.

Floating under the highway bridge, the bird and its companions were a striking sight as they readily fed their insatiable appetites. With bodies half submerged, feet kicking in the air, the birds seemed to appreciate what nature had given them. Just as they had eaten in one accord, they floated further on the creek until in unison, they lifted in a strong, swift flight to the southeast.

For weeks employees at the water treatment plant had heard random gun

See **TEAL**, Page 6A



Courtesy photo

From summers in Alaska to fall and winter on inland lakes, rivers and the Texas coast, the American green-winged teal is a little over a foot in length, with a wingspan of about two feet. An expert diver, the small bird can swim long distances underwater.

Parent's Corner:
It's important we remember our worth, no matter what

We have all had accidents at some time in our lives. We have spilled the milk or broken the cookie jar — completely by accident — but we have not known exactly what to do next.



DARRELL RYAN

Such is a story of a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target.

Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back, he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved.

In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day, Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen."

Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?"

So Johnny did the dishes. Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper."

Sally just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?"

So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He went to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck.

Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the

whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

I have discovered that when an accident occurs, the best policy is to openly admit the guilt, take the responsibility, ask for forgiveness, be honest and sincere and move on with life.

No matter how we plan or what precautions we make, there will come a time when an accident will occur. We must take Grandma's attitude, forgive and not allow "Sally" to dominate our lives and control us. Accidents are a part of life and will often bring pain but should be forgiven. We should also forgive ourselves and not hold on to guilty feelings which can be self destructive. We are worth forgiveness.

I heard of a well-known speaker who started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

See **RYAN**, Page 6A

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Laura on Life: Middle age can actually be a time of role reversal

Middle age can be defined as the spring cleaning of life. Out with the old, in with the new. It is a period of makeover for our minds and bodies.

Young people might say that it's out with the new and in with the old and decrepit. In fact, that's what I used to think. Now, however, I am middle-aged and those thoughts do not apply, of course.



Laura Snyder

That's actually part of the

transition: You need to convince yourself that you are at the peak of your life and not on the downhill slope. How long you stay on that precarious peak is entirely up to you. I've come to realize, though, that it is better to be on the downhill slope than the uphill slope. The uphill slope was way too much work.

Middle age is a time of discovery. You are just recognizing your full potential and you're beginning to reap the rewards of your hard work. You are discovering strengths you didn't know you had.

It's a time for trying new things to eat because the kids are no longer on a diet that is exclusively macaroni and

cheese or Chicken McNuggets. My husband made fried potatoes with eggs for breakfast one morning and decided to spice it up with something he'd found in our front lawn. He said they were wild onions, but as far as I'm concerned, anything from my lawn is called grass. I tried it anyway, though, because that's what we middle-agers do.

It is also the time when the boiling tempo of love has quieted to a slow simmer. It's definitely there, but making love has become dependent on whether we picked the winner on American Idol. I think we had more energy on the uphill slope. Sometimes it's hard to tell

whether you've reached middle age. If you knew ahead of time at what age you'd kick the bucket, you could divide that number in half and know. Thank goodness we are not privy to that information.

For my husband and me, it was easy to recognize, though. My husband has a one-cup coffee maker that uses those little, tiny, one-serving coffee products that look like a Dixie cup filled with coffee. That should have been our first clue.

I have a watch that my husband had given me for Christmas five years ago, whose battery had just given up the ghost. It was the first watch I'd ever owned without

numbers on it and I was starting to have trouble reading it. As a result, I don't know how long it had been dead before I realized it. That should have been our second clue.

But the thing that put us over the edge is that his coffee could only be bought in Bed, Bath and Beyond, and my watch battery could only be found in a Radio Shack. This is when my husband found himself with a deep and abiding urge to visit a linen store and I found myself desperate to find a store that sells primarily electronic parts.

We are indeed middle aged.

Laura Snyder can be e-mailed at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com.

TEAL

Continued from Page 5A

fire. Having alerted law enforcement, they hoped it would cease. Since some of their work entailed being outside, they were apprehensive of stray bullets.

Attempts to catch the part-time shooter had been unsuccessful. Daily, a game warden hid in the heavy growth that began at the fence line and continued on downstream. His only companion was silence except for the occasional country traffic.

Seeing the closely-bunched flock of ducks rise suddenly from the creek to the north, the officer appreciated the sight of waterfowl on an otherwise boring day. As the fliers twisted and turned as they approached the roadway, the startling sharp report of a gun came from just down the road.

"Could you come pick up an injured bird?" asked the game warden when he called. "I need a positive ID."

Saying we'd be right there, I grabbed a field guide on birds. Since a duck had been mentioned, we might need some pictures for reference. In all the years we'd been called out, I

had never heard the officer's voice sound so troubled.

The warden's pickup was parked behind an older model coupe. Pressed against the front of the faded vehicle, with his elbows on the hood, head in hands, appeared to be a teenage boy.

As we walked toward the warden, he motioned for us to stop so the young person could not hear our conversation. I commented that the teenager looked like he was going to throw up.

"He already has," replied the officer.

Approaching an area of the hood near the teen, the warden gently laid the struggling bird on some old rags atop the metal surface. Then he introduced us as the people who work with injured birds. "Tell him what will happen to the duck."

Extending the wings, we both identified it as a green-winged teal. The injured wing was damaged beyond repair. By federal law, we were obligated to have the bird euthanized.

Handing us the duck, the warden escorted the teen to his pickup. Then he returned. "I know his dad. I've known this kid since he was little. My disappointment in what he did is worse than the

finer he'll have to pay. On top of that is his dad."

Then he walked back to his truck. Driving off with the teenager, the warden left the coupe and us behind.

In its winter plumage, the small, brownish gray duck that I held in my

lap had a buff-colored breast spotted with black. Visible, even with its wings closed, were the patches of green, iridescent feathers that contrasted with the surrounding feathers of each wing.

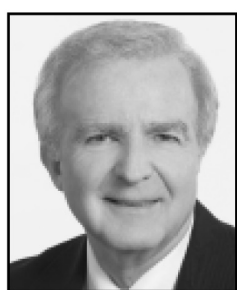
This little teal had been denied his colorful

plumage of the next breeding season. Never again would he sport the glossy green ear patches on each side of his brown head. Nor the white vertical stripes on each side of his wing feathers.

The breeding strut of the male, as it stood up

in the water with extended wings, no longer would be enjoyed by this bird on a northern lake. By a single shot, an ancient ritual had been silenced.

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

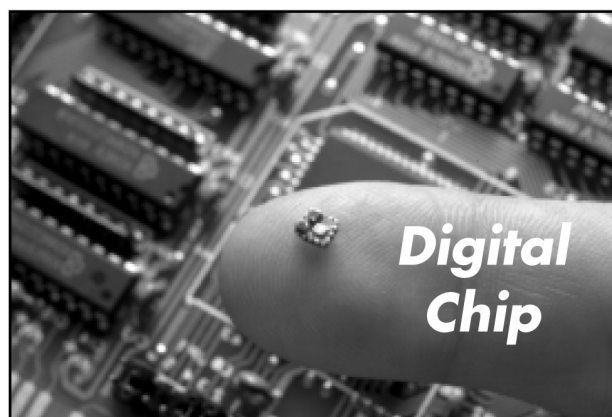


Bill Maddox

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RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this. He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "what if I do this?" Then he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty.

"Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.


"My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not

decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value."

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. What we do or who we know does not determine the worth of our lives, but by who we are.

Each of us is special for who we are and must never forget it.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Richard Davila

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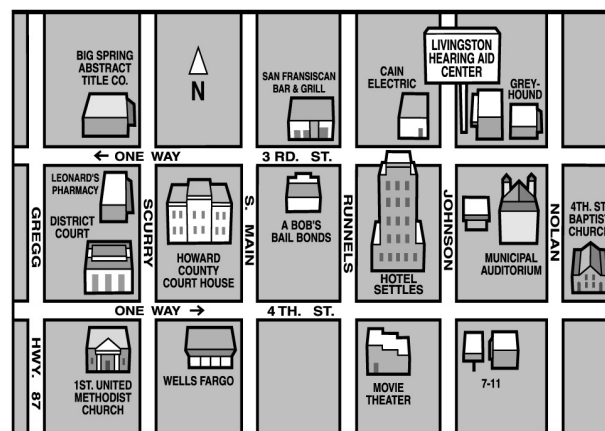
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TUESDAY

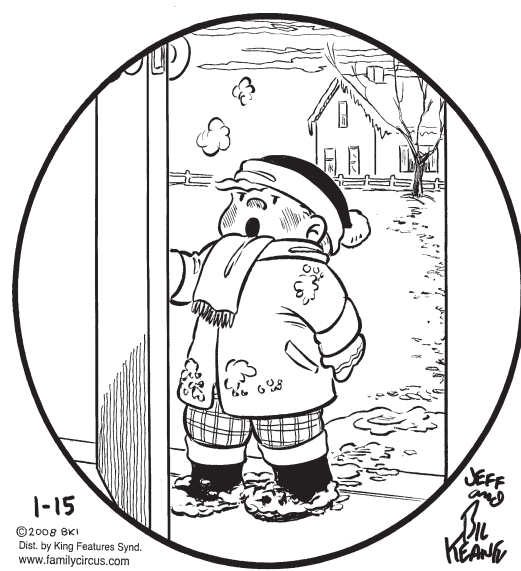
Table with 15 columns for local stations (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows for time slots (6:30 AM to 12:30 AM) listing programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



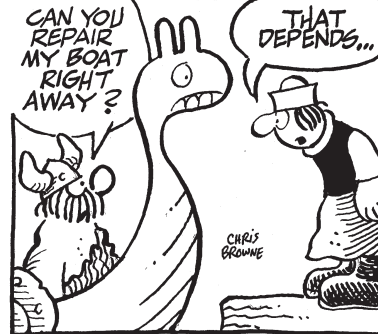
"I CARRIED THE EGG CARTON AND DIDN'T BREAK ONE!" "HERE'S THE ONE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

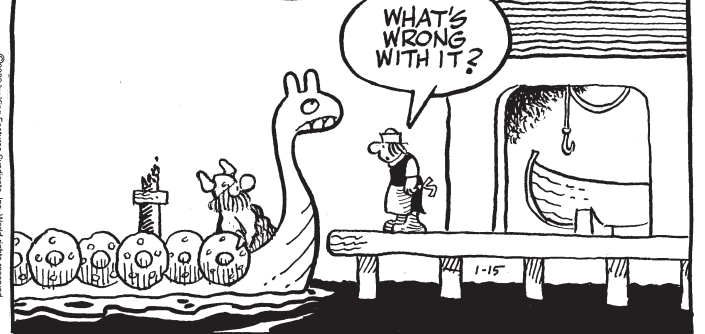


"Mommy, am I cold enough for hot chocolate yet?"

HAGAR

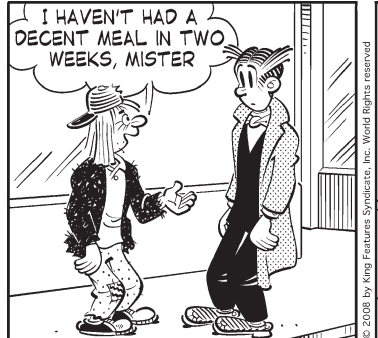


"CAN YOU REPAIR MY BOAT RIGHT AWAY?" "THAT DEPENDS..."

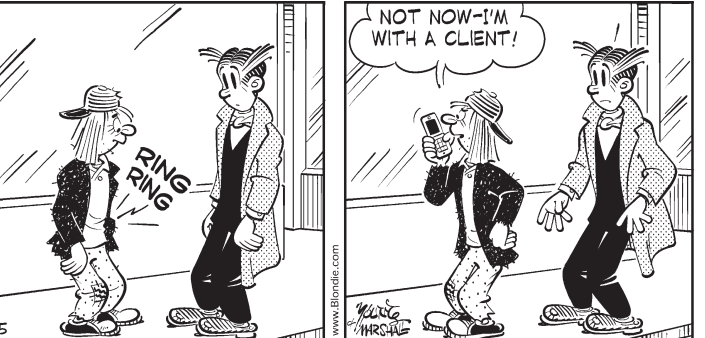


"WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?"

BLONDIE

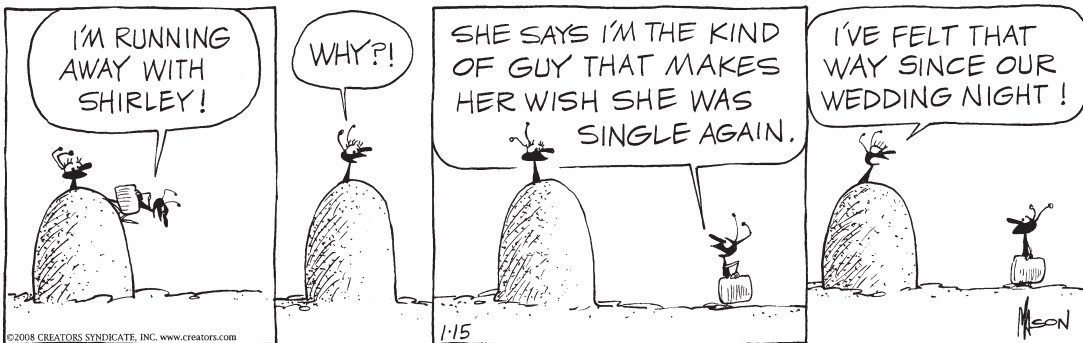


"I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL IN TWO WEEKS, MISTER" "RING RING"



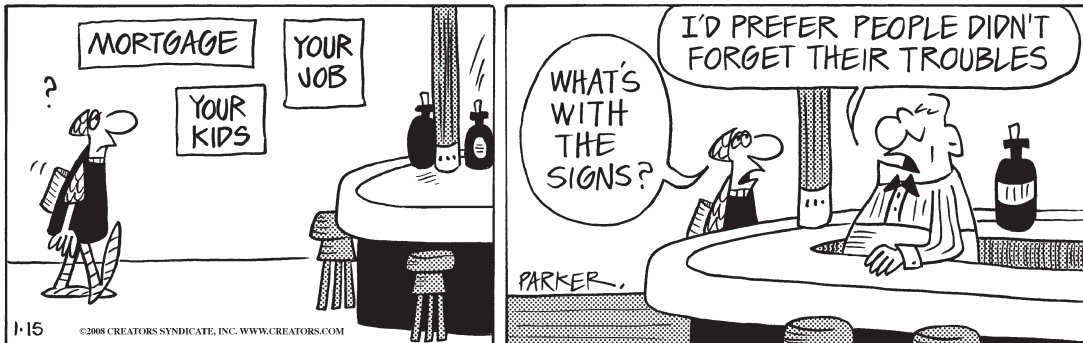
"NOT NOW-I'M WITH A CLIENT!"

BC



"I'M RUNNING AWAY WITH SHIRLEY!" "WHY?!" "SHE SAYS I'M THE KIND OF GUY THAT MAKES HER WISH SHE WAS SINGLE AGAIN." "I'VE FELT THAT WAY SINCE OUR WEDDING NIGHT!"

WIZARD OF ID



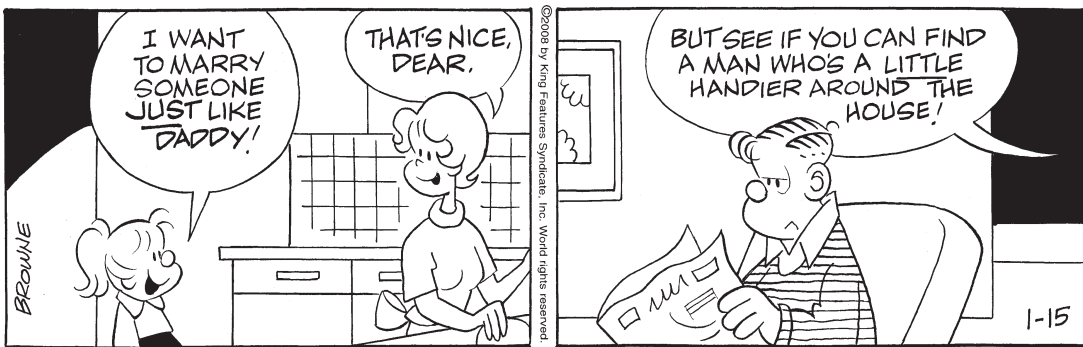
"MORTGAGE" "YOUR JOB" "YOUR KIDS" "WHAT'S WITH THE SIGNS?" "I'D PREFER PEOPLE DIDN'T FORGET THEIR TROUBLES" "PARKER..."

AGNES



"HOW'S THE NOVEL COMING ALONG?" "NOT GOOD... WAY TOO MANY WORDS IN A NOVEL." "PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO KNOW HOW TO SPELL 'EM AND KNOW WHAT THEY ALL MEAN AND STUFF!... LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR THAT KIND OF DRUDGEY!" "SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A NOVELIST?" "MAYBE I'LL BE A SENTENCIST... THAT WILL FREE UP SOME HOBBY TIME."

HI AND LOIS



"I WANT TO MARRY SOMEONE JUST LIKE DADDY!" "THAT'S NICE, DEAR." "BUT SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A MAN WHO'S A LITTLE HANDIER AROUND THE HOUSE!"

THE OTHER COAST



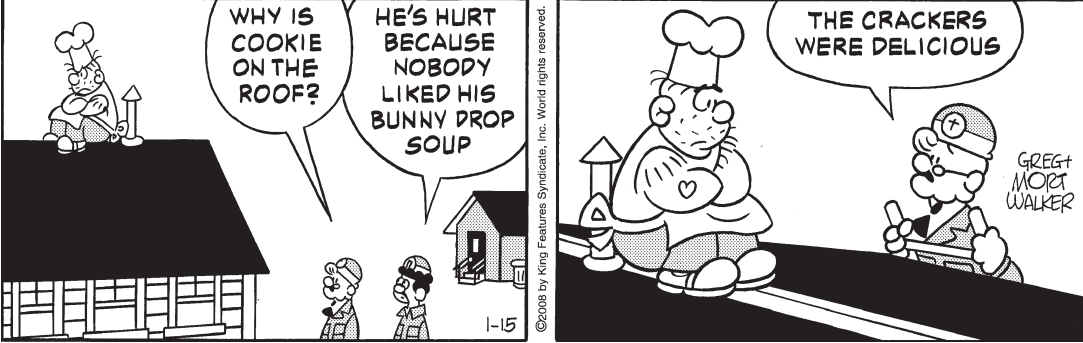
"PARANOID EDDY, HOW ARE YOU MAKING OUT IN THIS POWERFUL WINDSTORM?" "I'M FINE. TOULOUSE, RIGHT NOW I'M WATCHING MARY POPPINS." "YEAH? THAT'S A GREAT MOVIE." "NO, REALLY SHE BLEW INTO THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE THIS MORNING."

SNUFFY SMITH



"SNUFFY'S MAW COMES FER A VISIT..." "MORNIN', MOTHER SMIF, DIDJA SLEEP WELL?" "I NEVER SLEPT A WINK, I JEST TOSSED AN' TURNED ALL NIGHT!!" "IN THAT LUMPY OL' BED WIF THEM SCRATCHY OL' SHEETS AN' THAT TURBIBLE PILLOW!!" "BUT THANKS FER ASKIN', DARLIN'!!"

BEETLE BAILEY



"WHY IS COOKIE ON THE ROOF?" "HE'S HURT BECAUSE NOBODY LIKED HIS BUNNY PROP SOUP." "THE CRACKERS WERE DELICIOUS" "GREGG MOIST WALKER"

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2008. There are 351 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. On this date: In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey. In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The tiny republic later became the state of Vermont.) In 1844, the University of Notre Dame received its charter from the state of Indiana. In 1908, 100 years ago, nuclear physicist Edward Teller was born in Budapest, Austria-Hungary. In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru was named to succeed Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. In 1947, the mutilated remains of Elizabeth Short, the 22-year-old aspiring actress now known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot. In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I. In 1973, President Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations. In 1978, two students at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Lisa Levy and Margaret Bowman, were murdered in their sorority house. (Ted Bundy was later convicted of the crime, and executed.) Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 71. Singer Don Van Vliet (aka

"Captain Beefheart") is 67. Actress Andrea Martin is 61. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 51. Actor James Nesbitt is 43. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 41. Actor Chad Lowe is 40. Actress Regina King is 37. Actor Eddie Cahill is 30. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 27. Thought for Today: "The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men." - Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968). © 2008 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with letters filled in.

Newsday Crossword

QUADRUPLE U by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Poisonous snakes, 5 "All kidding . . .", 10 Leather-punching tools, 14 Mortgage, for example, 15 Work of fiction, 16 Farm yield, 17 Largest continent, 18 Messy types, 19 Bicycle part, 20 Fussbudget, 22 Did modeling work, 23 Skeptical, 24 Clothes-dryer buildup, 25 Take an oath, 27 Subscription extension, 30 Sorority members, 31 Ribeye or porterhouse, 33 "you kidding?", 34 Hill-building insect, 35 Catch some Z's, 36 Pekoe purchase, 37 Carpenter's tool, 38 Sword metal, 39 Hollywood award, 41 Built, 43 Butterfly relatives, 44 "Um, excuse me", 45 Fad, 47 Pub sign, 49 Cover up, as wrongdoing, 53 College cheers, 54 Monotonous song, 55 Jai ____, 56 Fencing weapon, 57 Self-confidence, 58 Initials on invitations, 59 Rowboat needs, 60 More unusual, 61 Performs, 9 Overhead trains, 10 Play opening, 11 Jewelry-store purchase, 12 Tales of old, 13 Moved very fast, 21 Affirmative votes, 22 Color of some champagnes, 24 Jump, 25 Submarine detector, 26 Rainy forecast, 27 Fishing-line holder, 28 Regions, 29 Shakespearean king, 30 Wholesale quantity, 31 Winter coaster, 32 Golf-range prop, 35 Flower part, 38 Dance move, 39 Leak slowly, 40 Wine server, 42 Pursues, 43 Make a difference, 45 Place to sit, 46 Remove the soapsuds from, 47 Creme-filled cookie, 48 California wine area, 49 "Hold your horses!", 50 In addition, 51 Put money in the bank, 52 What hula dancers swivel, 54 Lifesaving technique: Abbr.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for the clues.