



Criminal acts down for 2005-2006, BSISD officials report

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Maybe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Big Spring Independent School District officials are crediting a proactive regimen for a decrease in the number of criminal and violent acts on school campuses during the

2005-2006 school year.

This marks the second year in a row BSISD officials were able to report a decrease in those numbers, which covers offenses such as assault, controlled substance and firearm violations, terroristic threats, criminal mischief and felonies.

Controlled substance incidents in particular plunged for

the second year in a row. Officials reported 14 such offenses in 2005-2006, down from 30 the previous year and 53 in 2003-2004.

BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes credited two recent programs with the plunge in drug statistics.

"It's a continuation of an effort that began two years ago

with the implementation of student drug testing and the increase of drug dog patrols at our campuses," Downes said. "Both of those measures were used to prevent drug use and the results speak for themselves."

Other criminal instances dropped during the last school year, statistics show.

Offenses involving felonies, terroristic threats and criminal mischief went from rare in 2004-2005 to non-existent the following year.

There were no reported instances in those categories last school year, compared to a total of seven in 2004-2005.

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Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., left, and Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, walk into the Cannon House Office Building with a copy of the fiscal 2008 federal budget, Monday.

Administration begins selling budget plan before Congress

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush was hoping to win praise for sending Congress a more transparent budget that spells out in greater detail the costs of the Iraq war. But so far his \$2.9 trillion spending plan is earning more brickbats than kudos, with critics charging that it is based on unrealistic assumptions and faulty priorities.

Democrats, who now control the levers of power in both the House and Senate for the first time in the Bush presidency, let it be known that they would give the president's team a hearing but planned to craft

a spending plan closer to their liking.

The administration was to begin the sales job on its proposal Tuesday, with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and White House Budget Director Rob Portman appearing before House and Senate committees.

The \$2.9 trillion Bush budget for the budget year that begins next Oct. 1 would provide a massive boost for the Defense Department, seek an additional \$245 billion in spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for this year and 2008 and restrain spending across a wide swath of the rest of government.

The spending restraints allowed Bush to project gradually declining deficits, with the budget going into surplus in 2012, three years after he has left office. His spending plan would make his first-term tax cuts permanent, at a cost over the next decade that the administration estimates at \$1.6 trillion.

"Congress needs to listen to a budget which says no tax increase and a budget, because of fiscal discipline, that can be balanced in five years," Bush said Monday in releasing his budget.

Democrats, however, charged that the president is able to pro-

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Knife-wielding woman robs local Dollar Store

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials are investigating an aggravated robbery that took place Monday afternoon in the College Park Shopping Center.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, Big Spring Police Department public information officer, a woman entered the Dollar General store at 501 Birdwell Lane shortly after 1 p.m. Monday, demanding money.

"According to witnesses, the woman went up to the cashier with a knife and told her she had a gun in her pocket, demanding money," said Everett. "The clerk feared for her life and gave the suspect the money, after which she fled on foot."

Everett said the suspect is described as a Caucasian female, approximately 5 feet, 2 inches tall in her late 20s to early 30s, with auburn hair. Witnesses said she

was wearing a camouflage cap, maroon and green shirt and blue jeans.

"She made away with an undisclosed amount of cash," said Everett. "No injuries were reported as a result of the robbery."

Whether or not the woman had a gun in her pocket at the time of the robbery is of little consequence because the charges are the same for both, according to Everett.

Everett said no arrests have been made at this time.

"We believe the woman was acting alone," said Everett.

Anyone with information regarding the crime is urged to contact the police department at 264-2550.

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

NASA astronaut charged with trying to kidnap romantic rival

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Last summer, astronaut Lisa Nowak was soaring 220 miles above Earth, floating in the rarefied air of the international space station.

The 43-year-old robotics specialist was in quite a different place Monday night: A dingy jail among suspected drug dealers and prostitutes.

Nowak, a married mother of three who police believe was in a love triangle with a fellow astronaut, was charged with trying to abduct a woman she saw as her romantic rival, authorities said.

Nowak faces charges including attempted kidnapping, attempted vehicle burglary with battery, destruction of evidence and battery. She was scheduled to make a court appearance Tuesday.

Police said she drove 900 miles, donned a dis-



Orlando Sentinel/KRT photo/Red Huber

Lisa Nowak has been charged with attempted kidnapping.

guise and was armed with a BB gun and pepper spray when she confronted a woman she believed was a competitor for the affections of Navy Cmdr. William Oefelein.

Nowak and Oefelein, 41,

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Commissioners meet today

Herald Staff Report

Howard County commissioners were expected to take a look at the county's financial situation this morning, as the court held a special meeting to go over fiscal statements and budget issues for 2007.

Among the items on the meeting agenda were:

- A public hearing concerning county road maps.
- Discussion of the county budget and financial statements.
- Discussion of expenses for a

county trapper.

- Discussion of future and present county jail.

County Judge Mark Barr said the meeting — which began at 9 a.m. — was expected to focus on the county's financial situation, with talk of the existing or proposed jail expected to take a back seat.

"I had the jail put on the agenda in case we want to go over it, but the main reason for this special meeting is financial," said

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Take Note

HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE WILL MEET at 7 p.m. today at the Posse Clubhouse, 7 miles west on the Andrews Highway (Hwy. 176). Everyone is invited. The group participates in the Pony Express, has a search and rescue team and takes part in other activities throughout the year. For more information, contact Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or 932-0016 or Jay freeze at 267-7077 or 517-0177.

IMMACULATE HEART AND SACRED HEART YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS are hosting a Valentine's Dance on Saturday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall, 1009 Hearn. Cost is \$5 per person, adults only; no one under 18 will be allowed in. Joel Perez will be the DJ. Door prizes, donated by local businesses, will be given away. Funds raised will go to help the church's youth groups. For more information, contact Merlinda Moron at 816-1231 or Bonnie Loya at 213-1356.

THE 5TH ANNUAL RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 24, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at KBST and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Entry deadline is Feb. 20.

SAY IT WITH CAKE FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT RELAY FOR LIFE orders are being taken until Feb. 9. Personalized heart-shaped cakes in either 8-inch size for \$5 or 5-inch size for \$3.50. Your choice of chocolate or vanilla. Delivery is available. Contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOCIATION meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the TravelCenters of American truck stop.

THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

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).

HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

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.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

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

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



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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:

- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 300 block of Fourth Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 400 block of Lancaster.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1100 block of Johnson.
- **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 41 inmates at the time of this report.
- **KEVIN PATRICK THOMAS**, 18, was arrested Monday on charges of displaying an expired registration and allowing a child between 4 and 14 years to ride without a safety belt.
- **ROBERT DIAZ JR.**, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for burglary of a building and felony failure to appear.
- **LANCE WAYNE BIDDLE LAND**, 17, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of evading arrest or detention, minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **AIMEE WILEY**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **ELISA SANCHEZ ORTIZ**, 23, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- **LUIS ADOLFO PENA**, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **WALLACE TERRY VIASANA**, 52, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of alcoholic beverage possession in a motor vehicle and violation of a promise to appear.
- **FRANK LEE JACKSON**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **JEREMY JOHN MILLER**, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **AUDREY ANN AGUERO**, 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft.
- **GLORIA GARZA**, 49, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of parent contributing to the non-attendance of a child, possession of a dangerous drug and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Craigmont. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of Scott. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2400 block of W. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 7900 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-12-27-37.
Number matching five of five: none.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 13-17-29-31. Bonus Ball: 9.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-1-2

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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**
- League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
 - Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
 - VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
 - Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
 - Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
 - Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the Posse Clubhouse, 7 miles west on the Andrews Highway (Hwy. 176).
 - Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
 - 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.
 - 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 at 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
 - American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
 - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-8340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
 - Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
 - Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds around 10 mph.
Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday night...Increasing clouds. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. East winds around 10 mph.
Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 60.
Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.
Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows around 40.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

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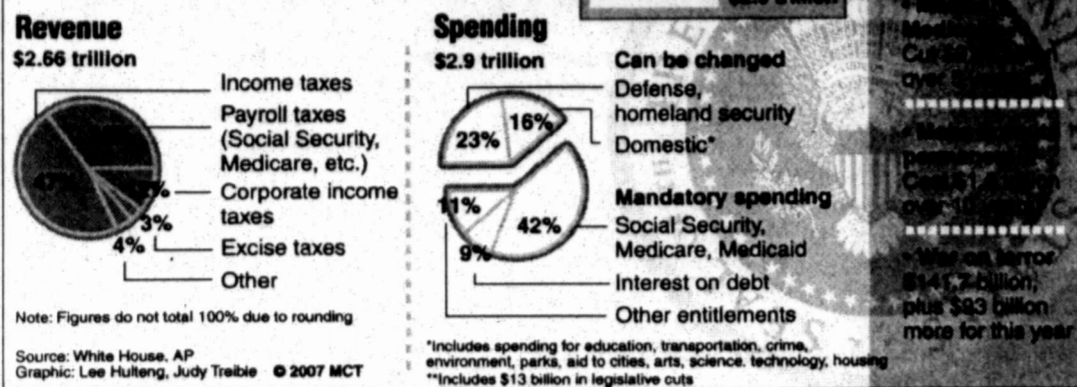
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Bush's 2008 budget proposal

It has a \$2.9 trillion price tag and a \$239 billion deficit.



BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

duce a surplus only on paper by using overly optimistic assumptions about how much revenue the economy will generate over the next five years and by leaving out expensive items such as further war costs after 2009 or providing money beyond this year to fix the alternative minimum tax so that it doesn't hit millions of middle-income taxpayers.

"This budget is just disconnected from reality," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., said he doubted Bush's plan would garner much support from Democrats or Republicans, calling the surplus projection "a very improbable assumption to say the least."

The task facing the Democrats is no less daunting. When Republicans were in control last year, they failed to pass the appropriations bills needed to operate most government agen-

cies, falling back on a stopgap spending measure that Congress is still grappling with four months into the current budget year.

Democrats are pledging to do better. Conrad said the Democratic alternative to the Bush budget would adopt a more fiscally responsible pay-as-you-go approach that will require any new tax cuts or spending increases in government benefit programs to be paid for.

Democrats pledged to restore Bush's cuts in such programs as low-income heating subsidies, Head Start for preschool children and rural health care programs.

Bush also proposed eliminating or sharply reducing 141 federal programs at a savings of \$12 billion. Congress has ignored many of the same recommendations in previous Bush budgets.

Bush proposed a few high-profile spending boosts, such as an increase in the maximum Pell grant for low-income students, from the current \$4,050 to \$4,600. The \$15 billion cost over five years would largely be borne by cutting subsidies to lenders issuing

student loans.

The president's budget also included the initiative he featured in his State of the Union address to expand health care coverage for the uninsured through a complex approach that would make employee-provided health insurance taxable but give every family a \$15,000 tax deduction in an effort to encourage those who don't get health insurance through their employees to purchase policies.

Democrats strongly oppose the idea, saying it would encourage businesses to drop their coverage.

The Bush proposal also contains \$78 billion in cuts over five years in the government's big health care programs, Medicare for the elderly and disabled and Medicaid for the poor.

The administration would impose about \$10 billion over five years in higher premiums on wealthier Medicare recipients and trim payments to hospitals and other health care providers. Congress rejected a less ambitious package of spending reductions last year.

Democrats say floor debate on Iraq inevitable

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lengthy Senate floor debate on the Iraq war is inevitable, despite a Republican effort to block it, Democrats say.

Following a procedural vote Monday that sidetracked a resolution on the war, Democrats said they would eventually find a way to put each senator on record.

On the table is a non-binding resolution backed by several Republicans and most Democrats that would state Senate opposition to President Bush's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

"The president must hear from Congress, so he knows he stands in the wrong place — alone," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The measure, if passed, would be a stinging critique of Bush's decision to deepen the U.S. military commitment in Iraq. Bush has said the extra troops are needed to calm sectarian violence in Baghdad and the western Anbar province.

Republicans denied assertions that they were trying to block a vote on the measure, saying that they were seeking fair

rules and consideration of a GOP alternative measure.

"As far as stalling, we've got a week here where we can have a full debate. But we insist on it being a full debate and a fair one," said Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Negotiations on how to move forward on the debate were expected to continue today, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates headed to Capitol Hill to testify on Bush's \$624.6 billion request in defense spending.

The spending request marks the first time Bush has offered an estimate of how much the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will cost a year in advance.

Gates planned to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee alongside Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Tina Jonas, the Pentagon comptroller.

While the hefty budget will be a primary focus, panel members were expected to use the venue to air their grievances on Iraq.

The two political parties were at odds Monday after Democrats refused

to give equal consideration during the debate to a Republican proposal by Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., which would protect funding for troops in combat.

While Democrats are largely supportive of the Gregg measure, they want to limit debate to only two proposals: one by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., that states opposition to the troop buildup, and another by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would support the president's position.

Several leading Democrats have endorsed Warner's measure, including Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, but many Republicans were reluctant to say how they would vote.

Sens. John Sununu of New Hampshire, George Voinovich of Ohio, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania were each considered GOP wild cards in the vote.

Specter said he wanted to hear out other members before deciding what to do.

"It's a big issue," Specter said. "We need to debate it."

KIDNAP

Continued from Page 1A

were both first-time fliers during separate shuttle missions last year. They trained together but never flew together.

Nowak told police that her relationship with Oefelein, who is unmarried, was "more than a working relationship but less than a romantic relationship," according to an arrest affidavit. Police officers recovered a love letter to Oefelein in her car.

Nowak believed a woman, Colleen Shipman, was romantically involved with Oefelein, authorities said. When Nowak found out that Shipman was flying to Orlando from Houston, Nowak decided to confront her early Monday, according to the arrest affidavit.

Nowak raced from Houston to Orlando wearing diapers in the car so she wouldn't have to stop to go to the bathroom, authorities said. Astronauts wear diapers during launch and re-entry.

Dressed in a wig and a trench coat, Nowak waited for Shipman's plane to land and then boarded the same airport shuttle bus Shipman took to get to her car, police said. Shipman told police she noticed someone following her, hurried inside the car and locked the doors, according to the arrest affidavit.

Nowak rapped on the window, tried to open the car door and asked for a ride. Shipman refused but rolled down the car window a few inches when Nowak started crying. Nowak then sprayed a chemical into Shipman's car, the affidavit said. Shipman drove to the parking lot booth, and the police were called.

An officer reported following Nowak and watching her throw away a bag containing the wig and BB gun. Police also found a steel mallet, a 4-inch folding knife, rubber tubing, \$600 and garbage bags inside a bag Nowak was carrying when she was arrested, authorities said.

It was not immediately known whether Nowak had an attorney. Oefelein and Shipman, who the Houston Chronicle said worked at Patrick Air Force Base near the Kennedy Space Center,

did not return phone messages Monday night.

Inside Nowak's vehicle, which was parked at a nearby motel, authorities uncovered a pepper spray package, an unused BB-gun cartridge, latex gloves and e-mails between Shipman and Oefelein.

They also found a letter "that indicated how much Mrs. Nowak loved Mr. Oefelein," an opened package for a buck knife, Shipman's home address and hand written directions to the address, the arrest affidavit said.

Police said Nowak told them that she only wanted to scare Shipman into talking to her about her relationship with Oefelein and didn't want to harm her physically.

"If you were just going to talk to someone, I don't know that you would need a wig, a trench coat, an air cartridge BB gun and pepper spray," said

CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

For the second year in a row, there were no offenses involving firearms at

Sgt. Barbara Jones, a spokeswoman for the Orlando Police Department. "It's just really a very sad case."

NASA spokesman James Hartsfield in Houston said that, as of Monday, Nowak's status with the astronaut corps remained unchanged. "What will happen beyond that, I will not speculate," he said.

Hartsfield said he couldn't recall the last time an astronaut was arrested and said there were no rules against fraternizing among astronauts.

According to NASA's official biography, Nowak is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who has a master's degree in aeronautical engineering. She has a teenage son and younger twin girls. She rode aboard Discovery in July.

Oefelein piloted the space shuttle Discovery in December. He has two children.

BSISD campuses.

Two categories reported increases. There were five reports of assault on BSISD campuses in 2005-2006, compared to two the previous year, while incidents involving alcohol jumped from one to three, statistics show.

Again, Downes pointed to preventive measures for the overall drop in reported offenses.

"We credit this to character education programs

at each campus," he said. "Both programs have proved to be effective and the students are responding... We're teaching kids to be good kids — that's one of our district goals."

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

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Barr. "The county's financial statements expected to be the focus, and we may go into the budget a little, but I don't expect anything in-depth."

The results of the meeting were not available at press time.

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

Heflin on track with his call to reinstate CHIP

After having praised State Sen. Kel Seliger for filing a bill to end TAKS testing at the high school level, it's time to also give State Rep. Joe Heflin his due for filing a bill to restore health coverage to hundreds of thousands of Texas children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

In 2003, the Texas Legislature reduced state funding for CHIP and made enrollment in the program more difficult — in effect balancing the state budget in part on the back of children from low-income families.

Since those policies were enacted four years ago, Heflin noted, almost 200,000 children across the state have lost their health coverage.

Joining dozens of other House members to advocate and raise awareness for the repeal of the restrictive CHIP policies, the Crosbyton Democrat noted that in the District 85 alone, CHIP enrollment numbers have dropped by more than half.

"Children should be a number one priority, and that is why we need to refund CHIP, so children can have the access they need to health insurance," Heflin said.

We couldn't agree more.

Restoring the CHIP program to pre-2003 enrollment levels should not cost the state additional money. According to Texas Health and Human Services Commission statistics, the state left \$400 million in state funds dedicated for CHIP and Children's Medicaid unspent during the 2006 budget year.

As Heflin noted, those dollars could easily cover every child that has lost CHIP coverage since 2003.

"The money is there to do the right thing and to help working families who cannot afford private health insurance, Heflin said. "CHIP gives the children of those hard working families health insurance, so they can grow up happy and healthy."

To our way of looking at things, that's an observation that nobody could or should argue with.

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:

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we let You, Lord, run the show.

Amen

Don't underestimate antiwar forces

With the growing influence of the antiwar left in this country, particularly emboldened by the November congressional elections, I fear for our nation as I consider the strong possibility it could elect a liberal, antiwar commander in chief during wartime.

"Chill out," you say. "These people have been protesting for years. They're just fringe extremists and no one listens to them."

Really? It would be nice if they could be so easily dismissed. But these so-called extremists — many of them Sixties radicals — just happen to dominate our universities, and their sympathizers "own" the mainstream media. There are far more of them in government and politics than you think, and their impact is significant.

One of them would be commander in chief today but for some 120,000 votes in Ohio, or the noble efforts of certain Swift Boat patriots to highlight the other side of his military record.

People are way too casual about all of this. Surely someone as distinguished and powerful as John Kerry couldn't conceivably be contemptuous of this country. Indeed, every time Kerry uttered an America-bashing remark or expressed his willingness to compromise American sovereignty during the 2004 campaign, his weary defenders adamantly denied his words should be understood by their plain meaning.

But no matter what new excuses they'd come up with, they couldn't alter the fact that Kerry's expressions had been consistent since he came home from the Vietnam War and falsely accused his fellow sol-

diers — en masse — of unspeakable war atrocities. And though he indignantly denied the unmistakable intent of his words derogating today's soldiers and tried to pass them off as a bad joke, most people knew better.

Any remaining doubt as to his jaundiced predisposition against many things great and good in this country should be removed by his most recent performance at a world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

As all but those locked in closets know, Kerry said Bush administration foreign policy had caused the United States to become "a sort of international pariah for a number of reasons." And, no, Kerry wasn't just talking about what foreigners think of us. He was telling us what *he* thinks.

The almost 44th president of the United States amplified on the point. "When we walk away from global warming, Kyoto, when we are irresponsibly slow in moving toward AIDS in Africa, when we didn't advance and live up to our own rhetoric and standards, we [send] a terrible message of duplicity and hypocrisy."

But wait, there's more. And even considering the liberal bias of the media, it's amazing these additional statements didn't get more press than they did. Kerry announced his support for Iran's right to use civilian nuclear technology and said the West should withdraw its prerequisites for the resumption of nuclear talks with Iran.

He then said that Americans have an "unfortunate habit" of seeing the world "exclusively through an American lens." They only find out how different (read: more reasonable) the world is when they travel outside the United States.

As if all this weren't enough, Kerry voiced his agreement with Iran's former president Seyed Mohammad Khatami that violence

in the Middle East "increased after the occupation of Afghanistan, Iraq and Bin Ladenism."

"Fine," you say, "but so what? Kerry's irrelevant now, so you should focus your energies elsewhere."

Don't fool yourself. Kerry is still a U.S. senator. His party chose him to be its standard bearer in 2004. Four years earlier it chose the increasingly hysterical Al Gore. Now it appears ready to nominate Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, both of whom are decidedly liberal, and both of whom are just as decidedly deceptive about it.

Though the adoring media feign obliviousness, Hillary is busy tying herself in knots avoiding, explaining and denying her previous statements and actions in support of the war in Iraq and Obama is proposing unspeakably reckless legislation to withdraw our troops on a not-too-distant date certain.

In the meantime, while Hillary and Obama are pandering to their base, and Kerry is slobbering all over foreign tyrants and excoriating his own country, Congress, including many Republicans, is threatening to oppose President Bush's troop surge in Iraq.

With one party having its head firmly planted in the sand concerning the war on terror and the other having far too many imitators who seem hell-bent on proving the United States doesn't have the stomach for this war, we can only hope those with a more sober and realistic perspective will persevere in their support for American policy and American troops.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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No let up in fighting over schools

Education,
Shows our worst;
Need my kids,
To come in first.

So now it seems the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE) has concluded that public schools, overall, perform just about as well as private schools, overall. That's no skin off the president's nose. His push for the privates in No Child Left Behind was simply to placate the Christian Right, not promote better education. It's the true believers' problem, not his.

But does that DOE study really tell us anything useful? Probably not. Schools in impoverished districts are still lousy, while those in rich towns are still fine. High school sophomores in ghettos still score impossibly low, while those in Ritzville are astronomical.

Unfortunately averaging those wildly disparate results tells us less than we knew before. Unless of course you're a teachers' union. Then even the meaningless average provides apparent vindication for public education.

And private schools can indeed be nearly as diverse (bad) as the publics. Some parochials in Northern ghettos do poorly too, as do Southern "academies," aimed chiefly at getting white kids out of black schools.

At the other end of the scale are the rich privates. We attended a party at one the other night. The parents were from nearby splendid suburbs with spectacular public schools. So why do they spend that extra money to go private? To make sure their kid gets that little extra edge in today's wealthy society, that's why.

But putting the president's misguided education policies aside, the gut issue over schools today, as usual, remains money. In every state save Hawaii, rich, poor, and average towns alike feel that the other guy is getting a better shake from the state's distribution formula. It isn't school quality that's at stake here, it's taxes. First things first, after all. In the recent election around here, lawmakers from every town ran campaigns based on changing the state formula, with those from poor places and the prosperous places equally sure that they were getting gypped.

Now you might expect that with all the hype during this Black History season, integration would be a big issue too. After all, Martin Luther King preached that he wanted his kids sitting next to white kids in class. Otherwise they would get shortchanged by the government. Of course he was right, but he's dead, and his successors, however dedicated, have not been able to keep up the same intensity of that crusade. Consequently America is as segregated today as in King's day, and poor Seattle is being sued for sim-

ply maintaining that level of integration which it already has.

But if stagnant test scores and mired integration make you sad, the problems of equalizing education overall should spur you to total despair. For example this column used to pontificate about steering resources into Head Start, pre-school, 0-3 education, and prenatal care. Very insightful, right? Well, now a study has come out saying that pre-natal care is too late! OK coach, now what?

The scary part of that revelation is that we can no longer get by with the simple notion that just providing special care to poor kids will cure society. It won't. We have to deal with their parents too. It turns out that for all kids to do well, everyone needs to have enough food, a place to live, health care, a job, and exemption from being sent to languish in jail on puny charges. Otherwise our progress on schools will remain glacial.

Well, if it takes all that to upgrade education, maybe it's just not worth it. We're surviving OK now, and new immigrant kids seem eventually able to penetrate the system. Our society may simply not be able to afford equality. To achieve it some of us might actually have to sacrifice.

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

Distributed by MinutemanMedia.org.



BILL COLLINS

Bird Poop:

Rescuer's concern for owl outweighed his own pain

Before dawn, the wind against the windows confirmed the weather forecast. Promised in the early morning hours, the southwesterly gusts encouraged the weather stripping to sing. Since it was impossible to sleep with the incessant howling, the man decided to get an early start on the long day.



BEBE MCCASLAND

As the pickup headed into the wind, he checked the ranch's fence line for any breaks. Almost to the gate after some 15 miles, the man noticed in the distance something caught and flapping on the top strand of barbed wire. "Another plastic bag," he thought. Although employed to accomplish many of the jobs required by a working ranch, the man took a personal pride in the land that had sustained him and his wife for years. Daily he saw the effects of paper, plastics and cans carelessly dis-

carded along the roadway. Approaching the fluttering object, he realized that what was caught on the wire was the wing of a barn owl. Fortunately, the raptor's feet were supported by another strand of wire and coyote fencing. Otherwise, it would have had all of its weight on the captured wing.

In a hurry to free the owl from the wire, he never even thought of the leather gloves on the seat beside him. Quietly closing the truck's door, he walked toward the struggling and frightened bird. Without another thought, he grabbed the predator bare-handed. As he pressed the owl against his chest, he freed the bird from the barbs and carefully folded the injured wing toward the body. At that moment, having wiggled enough to free a leg, the bird sank four talons into the man's hand.

"What did you do then?" I asked, as the owl's rescuer described his latest bird adventure. Having already brought us a golden eagle, he was capable of many challenges. He continued by saying that choices had to be made. If he let go of

the bird, he might not be able to catch it again. Since he knew it was injured, he felt he must hold on to the owl and somehow free his hand from the painful grip.

Sitting down, he held the owl in his lap. Three of the talons were in the palm of his hand. Slowly he pried each sharp hooked claw out of his flesh. While keeping the bird from using those talons, he pulled the last long, sharp nail from the back of his hand.

With the barn owl's legs under control, the man extended the injured wing for a closer look. Upon delivering the bird to us, he commented that he thought no bones were broken.

Later that day, I called him to confirm that miraculously no bones were affected. While one barb had cut a thin line in the skin on the underside of the wing, the other barbs had only inflicted small punctures. Because the owl had been found early during such an ordeal, we felt it had been spared damage that would warrant amputation or euthanasia.

During our conversation, I told the man that when releasing barn owls, their silent flight

over open country was our reward. A gift of nature had equipped them with soft edged feathers that reduced any sound emitted by the flow of air over their wings. Through the years we have come to appreciate not only their eyesight, but their ability to locate their prey by hearing. When their eyes might be deceived by the darkest of nights, the owls could still detect the slightest movement of their next meal.

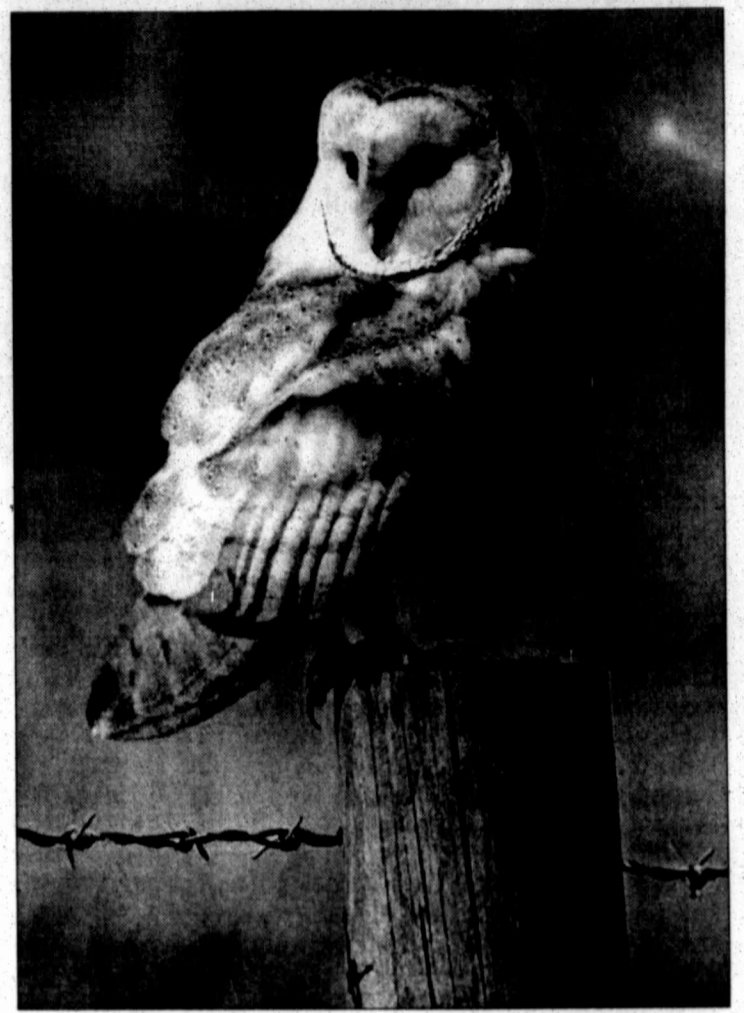
As we closed our chat, I asked the man about his hand. "It'll be fine in a few days," was his answer.

Having had the same experience, I knew that the harder you try to remove a raptor's talons, the tighter it will grip. In spite of the excruciating pain, the man had put the owl's survival as his first priority.

The next day we delivered the barn owl to the wildlife center in Lubbock.

Administering antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications, Gail Barnes confirmed that the bird had no broken bones and would probably be releasable.

Twenty-two days later, we shared the good news



Courtesy photo
Known by its heart shaped face and small dark eyes, the barn owl is a nocturnal predator. Although its upper feathers are a golden brown, the male bird is often called a "white owl" because its under feathers are white to creamy on chest and wings.

of the owl's release with the man who had found it hanging on a fence "in the middle of nowhere."

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

Is the FBI's Internet surveillance legal? Good question

Be careful. The federal government is listening... and recording.

Paranoia? Maybe not, as the FBI appears to have adopted an invasive Internet surveillance technique that collects far more data on innocent Americans than previously disclosed.

Instead of recording only what a particular suspect is doing, agents conducting investigations appear to be assembling the activities of thousands of Internet users at a time into massive databases, according to current and former officials. That database can subsequently be queried for names, e-mail addresses or keywords.

The FBI's use of Internet wiretapping appears to involve collecting data on thousands of innocent users, with that information being loaded into a searchable database.

Such a technique is broader and potentially more intrusive than the FBI's Carnivore surveillance system, later renamed DCS1000. It raises concerns similar to those stirred by widespread Internet monitoring that the National Security Agency is said to have done, according to documents that have surfaced in one federal lawsuit, and may stretch the bounds of what's legally permissible.

Call it the vacuum-cleaner approach.

It's employed when police have obtained a court order and an Internet service provider can't "isolate the particular person or IP address" because of technical constraints, says Paul Ohm, a former trial attorney at the Justice Department's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section.

That kind of full-pipe surveillance can record

all Internet traffic, including Web browsing — or, optionally, only certain subsets such as all e-mail messages flowing through the network. Interception typically takes place inside an Internet provider's network at the junction point of a router or network switch.

Makes you think about the last ditzzy thing you searched for on the Internet, thinking no one was looking, doesn't it?

The technique recently came to light at the Search & Seizure in the Digital Age symposium held at Stanford University's law school. Ohm, who is now a law professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Richard Downing, a CCIPS assistant deputy chief, discussed it during the symposium.

Ohm said that full-pipe recording has become federal agents' default method for Internet surveillance. "You collect wherever you can on the

(network) segment," he said. "If it happens to be the segment that has a lot of IP addresses, you don't throw away the other IP addresses. You do that after the fact. You intercept first and you use whatever filtering, data mining to get at the information about the person you're trying to monitor."

Justice Department representatives would not immediately answer questions about the surveillance technique. Surprised, right?

"What they're doing is even worse than Carnivore," said Kevin Bankston, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation who attended the Stanford event. "What they're doing is intercepting everyone and then choosing their targets."

When the FBI announced two years ago it had abandoned Carnivore, news reports said that the bureau would increasingly rely on Internet providers to

conduct the surveillance and reimburse them for costs. While Carnivore was the subject of congressional scrutiny and outside audits, the FBI's current Internet eavesdropping techniques have received little attention.

Carnivore apparently did not perform full-pipe recording. A technical report from December 2000 prepared for the Justice Department said that Carnivore "accumulates no data other than that which passes its filters" and that it saves packets "for later analysis only after they are positively linked by the filter settings to a target."

One reason why the full-pipe technique raises novel legal questions is that under federal law, the FBI must perform what's called "minimization."

Federal law says that agents must "minimize the interception of communications not otherwise subject to interception" and keep the supervising judge informed of what's happening. Minimization is designed to provide at least a modicum of privacy by limiting police eavesdropping on innocuous conversations.

Prosecutors routinely hold pre-surveillance "minimization meetings" with investigators to dis-

cuss ground rules. Common investigatory rules permit agents to listen in on a phone call for two minutes at a time, with at least one minute elapsing between the spot-monitoring sessions. That section of federal

See JENKINS, Page 6A



THOMAS JENKINS

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State briefs

Man seeks state compensation after being freed from jail

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who spent almost eight years in prison before a court overturned his aggravated assault conviction plans to seek \$200,000 in state compensation for his time behind bars.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office said Monday that it will not retry Gilbert Amezcuita, 29, for the 1988 brutal beating of a Houston woman who was left in a coma for 10 days.

Amezcuita was released from custody in December after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ordered that he be set free or given a new trial. The court cited ineffective assistance of counsel and pointed to evidence that Amezcuita's defense attorney never presented in the trial.

"My staff looked at that (Amezcuita) case very hard and all the evidence pointed to someone else," District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said of the decision not to retry the case.

Amezcuita's appellate attorney, Roland Moore, said the exoneration entitles his client to restitution. People wrongfully convicted can receive \$25,000 for each year in prison, with a cap of \$500,000.

Rosenthal said that he would be willing to write a letter expressing "actual innocence," which would be required for Amezcuita to make a claim.

"I'm glad it's finally over," Amezcuita said. "I'm just so glad to be free."

Kathy Bingham, the woman Amezcuita was convicted of attacking,

told police that it was "Gilbert" who had assaulted her at her father's plumbing company in February 1998.

Amezcuita was convicted primarily on her eyewitness testimony and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Amezcuita was an Army reservist with no prior criminal record.

Moore argued prosecutors had failed to consider another person at the company with a similar name, Alonzo Gilbert Guerrero, as a suspect.

Bingham said she still thinks Amezcuita is guilty.

"I thank God he stayed in prison for as long as he did," she said.

13-year-old accused of fatally stabbing 4-year-old sister

ABILENE (AP) — A 13-year-old boy is accused of stabbing his 4-year-old half-sister to death, police said.

The boy faces capital murder charges and is being held at the Abilene-Taylor County Juvenile Detention Center, said Sgt. Tony Lasseter with the Abilene Police Department's youth division. A detention hearing is set for Tuesday.

He said the boy called 911 at about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, indicating someone was injured at the home. When police arrived, they found Ella Bennett dead in a bedroom with multiple stab wounds.

The children's mother was at work at the time, and a baby sitter watching the children earlier that evening had left, the Abilene Reporter-News reported in its online edition Monday.

Lasseter said police do not know the

motive for the murder but have questioned the teen.

The children's school is offering counseling to students. Lasseter said the family had moved from Abilene and recently returned.

"Ella was a giggly little 4-year-old — the sweetest, cackling little laugh you'd ever heard," Lynette Walters, a former neighbor of the family, told the newspaper.

Walters and her husband, Butch, said the teenager was quiet and seemed like a courteous, thoughtful older brother.

The family had moved into their new home about a week ago.

Bobcat released after wandering into South Texas gift shop

EDINBURG (AP) — A bobcat has been released after it wandered into the Museum of South Texas History's gift shop, where customers briefly mistook it for an exhibit before animal control officers were called.

The animal apparently entered the museum through the front door on Saturday and went straight for the gift shop, said Sandra Luna, the museum's manager. The bobcat, about the size of a Labrador, jumped on top of a bookcase before sitting next to a basket, she said.

"Everyone was out and we dimmed the lights and he just sat there like he owned the place," she said in a story for Tuesday's editions of The (McAllen) Monitor. "And for a while there, he did."

Patrons and workers evacuated an office behind the shop while Edinburg

animal control was called. The animal was captured without incident and later released at a ranch.

The animal was believed to have been a pet, which is legal in Texas, because a wild bobcat would have been much more aggressive, said John Young of the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife in Austin.

Technicians for Conjunto Primavera injured in wreck

IRAAN (AP) — Two technicians for the Grammy-nominated band Conjunto Primavera were seriously injured Monday when the driver of a tour bus carrying the group's road crew to Odessa lost control and flipped the vehicle on its side, authorities said.

Jose Guadalupe Samaniego and J.J. Oliver were flown by helicopter to Medical Center Hospital in Odessa for treatment, Texas Department of Public Safety Lt. Larry Saenz said.

Fatima Mendez, a receptionist for Fonovisa Records, said the injured were technicians for the band.

Driver Rigoberto Morales, 58, and his son, Rigoberto Morales Jr., were taken to a hospital in Iraan with injuries that did not appear to be life-threatening, Saenz said.

The accident happened about 12:15 p.m. along westbound Interstate 10 in Pecos County. Iraan is about 70 miles southeast of Odessa.

Authorities believe the driver was having trouble with the vehicle's right front tire and lost control.

JENKINS

Continued from Page 5A

law mentions only real-time interception — and does not explicitly authorize the creation of a database with information on thousands of innocent targets.

But a nearby sentence adds: "In the event the intercepted communication is in a code or foreign language, and an expert in that foreign language or code is not reasonably available during the interception period, minimization may be accomplished as soon as practicable after such interception."

Downing, the assistant deputy chief at the Justice Department's computer crime section, pointed to that language

last week. Because digital communications amount to a foreign language or code, he said, federal agents are legally permitted to record everything and sort through it later.

Downing stressed that he was not speaking on behalf of the Justice Department. Yeah, right.

"Take a look at the legislative history from the mid '90s," Downing said. "It's pretty clear from that that Congress very much intended it to apply to electronic types of wiretapping."

EFF's Bankston disagrees. He said that the FBI is "collecting and apparently storing indefinitely the communications of thousands — if not hundreds of thousands — of innocent Americans in violation of the Wiretap Act and the 4th Amendment to the

Constitution."

Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, D.C., said a reasonable approach would be to require that federal agents only receive information that's explicitly permitted by the court order. "The obligation should be on both the (Internet provider) and the government to make sure that only the information responsive to the warrant is disclosed to the government," he said.

Courts have been wrestling with minimization requirements for over a generation. In a 1978 Supreme Court decision, *Scott v. United States*, the justices upheld police wiretaps of people suspected of selling illegal drugs.

But in his majority

opinion, Justice William Rehnquist said that broad monitoring to nab one suspect might go too far.

"If the agents are permitted to tap a public telephone because one individual is thought to be placing bets over the phone, substantial doubts as to minimization may arise if the agents listen to every call which goes out over that phone regardless of who places the call," wrote Rehnquist.

Another unanswered question is whether a database of recorded Internet communications can legally be mined for information about unrelated criminal offenses such as drug use, copyright infringement or tax crimes.

One 1978 case, *U.S. v. Pine*, said that investiga-

tors could continue to listen in on a telephone line when other illegal activities — not specified in the original wiretap order — were being discussed.

Those discussions could then be used against a defendant in a criminal prosecution.

Ohm, the former Justice Department attorney who presented a paper on the Fourth Amendment, said he has doubts about the consti-

tutionality of full-pipe recording.

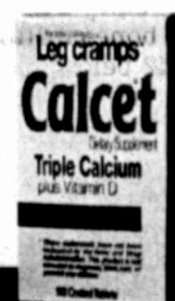
"The question that's interesting, although I don't know whether it's so clear, is whether this is illegal, whether it's constitutional," he said. "Is Congress even aware they're doing this? I don't know the answers."

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

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Dear Jon Deer

Jon Deer lived in the woods most of his life. He was a very nice deer. He was also a very handsome deer, with antlers that were big and beautiful.

Winter was just about over now and Jon had been worried that they would not have enough food to last through the long, cold season. They could always find something to eat, but it was not always something they liked.

Jon and his family loved corn. Do you like corn too? Jon Deer and all of his family loved corn on the cob most of all. But corn does not grow in the wintertime. Jon decided that he would never let his family run out of corn again when winter came.

Jon wanted to plant corn in a field that was nearby. He had a big problem. He didn't have a farm tractor to plow the fields. He certainly wasn't strong enough to pull one of those heavy plows. His friends would have helped, if they could. They all loved Jon and his family because they

were so nice and polite. Do you know what polite means? I'll bet you are nice and polite too, aren't you?

Jon tried to plow the field with his big antlers, turning the soil over — and over, making it very loose so the corn seeds

could grow when he planted them. He worked all day. By night time he was tired, very tired! When he looked back to see all that he had done that day, he was very disappointed.

He had not gone very far at all. He would never get the field ready to plant in time. He had to get his corn planted and very soon.

Then he remembered a friend of his who just might be able to help. Pig Paul! He remembered that Pig Paul could dig up lots of ground in one single day. Off he went to Pig Paul's pigpen. Pig Paul was home that day. Jon Deer did not visit his friend Pig Paul too much because good old Pig Paul was — well — he was a pig. Sometimes a pig's pigpen doesn't smell too nice.

It smells very nice to other pigs, but it doesn't smell very nice to Jon. Pig Paul knew this. As soon as he saw Jon Deer coming through the open pasture, he went to meet him. This would keep Jon from getting too close to the pigpen. Jon had to hold his nose anyway because old Pig Paul's pigpen really smelled bad. They both laughed about this. They were very good friends. They both walked a little farther away from the pigpen. Jon let go of his nose and

breathed in some fresh air. Pig Paul thought the smell of fresh air was so boring. He loved his pigpen.

"Pig Paul," Jon said, "I need some help. Will you help me?" Pig Paul said, "Of course I will help you, Jon. You are the best, nicest friend I will

ever have. How can I help you?" Jon told Pig Paul about the field that he wanted to plow so he could plant his corn. "I can plow that field for you in one day," Pig Paul told Jon. "But how will you plant the seed? I can plow the field, but I can't plant the seed for you. I would if I could, but I am too big of a pig to plant the seed."

Jon thought for a moment. He remembered another

friend that might be able to help him plant his corn seed. Lefty Bluebird! He ran over to Lefty's birdhouse as fast as he could go and deer can run very fast, can't they?

Lefty saw him coming and flew down from his birdhouse to greet Jon. He knew that Jon could not climb up into the trees to visit his home so he would make it very easy for his best friend.

"Lefty," Jon said, "I need help. Will you help me?" His answer was, "Yes! You are the very best friend that I will ever have and I will be happy to help you. What can I do to help?" Jon told Lefty about his cornfield and how he would need help planting the corn seed. "I can help you very easily," Lefty said to Jon. "Go back home and I will be there just as soon as Pig Paul finishes plowing the field."

Jon went home that day, feeling very glad that his friends were so willing to help him. Early the next morning, Jon was awakened by loud, ear piercing noises. He looked out his window. He was happy at what he saw. Pig Paul had finished plowing the field and had it

looking so nice. Lefty had come to plant the seeds. Lefty didn't come by himself. He brought all of the bluebirds that lived nearby with him. All of them wanted to help Jon. They

all loved him. Lefty grabbed a corn seed in his beak, then poked a little hole in the ground to drop the seed into. He used his claws to scratch the dirt just a little bit and the seed was covered and ready to grow. All of the other bluebirds did the same. They had the whole field planted before noon that day.

"Now, if Mr. Rain will only come to help," said Jon. Mr. Rain loved Jon, too. Then the rain came. The little seeds were soon sprouting up all over Jon's beautiful field. The corn would be ready to eat really soon but it was a very long time before winter would come. That would be okay because Jon had a pantry where he could store his pretty corn. His family would never run out of corn again during those long, cold winter months. They would have their favorite food right there with them. No one would have to go out into the cold, looking for food, ever again!

The pretty corn field had enough corn to feed Jon and his family, and his friends.



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Jon took bag after bag of corn over towards Pig Paul's pigpen. He left the corn in the pasture just far enough away from the smell. Pig Paul and Jon both laughed again about that. "What a good friend Jon is," he thought. "I will never forget the day he saved my life by helping me out of that trap the hunters had set!"

Jon took bag after bag of corn to the Lefty Bluebird's birdhouse. He would put the corn down beside the big tree that Lefty's house was built on. "What a good friend," Lefty thought. "He saved my life when he warned me of the fox that was looking for a bluebird meal that day long ago."

Jon had helped almost everyone in the forest at one time or another. That is why they call him Dear Jon Deer. Jon has his belly full of corn right now and has fallen asleep. Pig Paul told me to tell you, "Good Night."

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News in brief

Fresh floods bring more misery to Indonesian capital; 36 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Overnight downpours sent storm waters coursing back into some low-lying areas Tuesday, as authorities warned of the threat of diseases and anger mounted at the government's response to the disaster that has killed at least 36 people in the capital.

Authorities said flooding had receded in some areas, allowing more than 115,000 people to return home. However, about 220,000 people remained in temporary shelters, and electricity and water supplies have been cut to much of the city of 12 million people and its surrounding towns.

Meanwhile, rains triggered a landslide in a village some 100 miles west of the capital that killed six people, including a young boy, said Banten Police Chief Brig. Gen. Timur Pradopo.

In the capital, medical officials said there were shortages of baby food, clean water and medicine with reports of widespread skin disease and other problems caused by poor hygiene.

"We ran out of medicine yesterday," said Nuraini, a military doctor overseeing local relief efforts in the Central Jakarta district. "Most people have diarrhea and are sick after being in the water for too long."

Officials: Iranian diplomat seized by gunmen wearing army uniforms in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Gunmen wearing Iraqi army uniforms seized an Iranian diplomat as he drove through central Baghdad, officials said Tuesday. Tehran condemned the abduction and blamed U.S. forces in Iraq.

One Iraqi government official also said the diplomat was detained Sunday by a special Iraqi army unit that reports directly to the U.S. military. But a military spokesman denied any U.S. troops or Iraqis that report to them were involved.

"We've checked with our units and it was not an MNF-I (Multi-National Forces — Iraq) unit that participated in that event," military spokesman Lt. Col. Christopher Garver said, adding he could not confirm the diplomat was seized.

Jalal Sharafi, the second secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad was seized Sunday by gunmen who "operate under the supervision of the American forces in Iraq," the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns this aggressive act which is in violation of international law," IRNA quoted Hosseini as saying. "Iran holds American forces in Iraq responsible for the safety and life of the Iranian diplomat."

Arctic blast closes schools, contributes to heavy snowfall in Northeast

A bone-chilling cold wave with temperatures as low as 42 below zero shut down schools for thousands of youngsters Monday, sent homeless people into shelters and put car batteries on the disabled list from the

northern Plains across the Great Lakes. At least six deaths were linked to the cold weather.

The cold was accompanied by snow that was measured in feet in parts of upstate New York.

"Anybody in their right mind wouldn't want to be out in weather like this," Lawrence Wiley, 57, said at Cincinnati's crowded Drop Inn Center homeless shelter, where he has been living. Monday lows were in the single digits.

With temperatures near zero and a wind chill of 25 below, school districts across Ohio canceled classes. "We have a lot of kids that walk to school. We didn't think it was worth the risk," said Sandusky City Schools Superintendent Bill Pahl.

It was so cold that Toledo, Ohio — 5 above zero at noon, up from 4 below — even closed its outdoor ice rink.

FEMA wants more than \$300 million in hurricane aid returned

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — In the neighborhood President Bush visited right after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. government gave \$84.5 million to more than 10,000 households. But Census figures show fewer than 8,000 homes existed there at the time.

Now the government wants back a lot of the money it disbursed across the region.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration has determined nearly 70,000 Louisiana households improperly received \$309.1 million in grants, and officials acknowledge those numbers are likely to grow.

In the chaotic period after two deadly hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, slammed the Gulf Coast in 2005 — Katrina making landfall in late August, followed by Rita in late September — federal officials scrambled to provide help in hard-hit areas such as submerged neighborhoods near the French Quarter.

But an Associated Press analysis of government data obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act suggests the government might not have been careful enough with its checkbook as it gave out nearly \$5.3 billion in aid to storm victims.

The analysis found the government regularly gave money to more homes in some neighborhoods than the number of homes that actually existed, released records show.

Frantic pregnant woman called 911 shortly before actor Ryan O'Neal was arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A frantic pregnant woman told a 911 operator she had been hit and was in pain shortly before actor Ryan O'Neal was arrested for alleged assault and firing a weapon in an altercation with his son.

In recordings released Monday by the Sheriff's Department, JoAnne Berry, who authorities described as a friend of O'Neal's son, Griffin O'Neal, pleaded for an ambulance.

"I got hit by something. I can't see. Help me! Help me!" Berry said, as an unidentified man in the background asked her where her keys and bag were.

Wal-Mart to launch long-awaited digital movie download store

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is launching its long-awaited online movie download store, entering a market that has yet to catch on with consumers but is expected to grow rapidly.

A "beta" version of the online video store, set to debut Tuesday, will sell digital versions of about 3,000 films and television episodes from all the major studios and some TV networks, including Fox Broadcasting. Wal-Mart will not initially offer content from ABC, CBS or NBC, although the company said it hopes to add shows from those networks.

The nation's largest retailer is using its buying power to beat the prices charged by other download services in many cases, offering films from \$12.88 to \$19.88 and individual TV episodes for \$1.96 — 4 cents less than Apple Inc.'s iTunes store.

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NORTH
♦ K J 8 4
♥ 7 3
♦ K 6
♣ Q J 9 2

WEST
♦ 10 6 3
♥ K 10 9 5 4
♦ Q 10 8
♣ A 7

EAST
♦ 9 7 2
♥ A J
♦ 9 7 4 2
♣ 8 5 4 3

SOUTH
♦ A Q 5
♥ Q 8 6 2
♦ A J 5 3
♣ 10 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Assume you're West and lead a heart against three notrump. East plays the ace and returns the jack, which wins, and then shifts to a diamond. You cover South's jack with the queen, taken by dummy's king, and declarer then forces out your ace of clubs. If you now cash the king of hearts, South makes three notrump; if you don't, he makes four notrump. Too late you realize that if you had overtaken partner's jack of hearts with the king and returned the ten, South would have gone down

one. The question that arises, therefore, is whether you should have made that play, aware that in the process you would establish declarer's queen as a trick that he could not otherwise get.

The answer is yes. For his two-notrump bid, South is virtually certain to have the A-Q of spades and ace of diamonds, as well as the queen of hearts he is already known to hold by virtue of East's jack return.

However, this translates into only six tricks for declarer. Even if you give him a free heart trick by overtaking East's jack, he won't have enough tricks to make three notrump without establishing dummy's clubs. By overtaking the heart jack at trick two, you can thus ensure getting four heart tricks and a club before South can score nine tricks — and who could ask for anything more?

It is true that if East started with the A-J-x of hearts, overtaking the jack would cost you a trick and maybe make you feel a bit foolish. But your primary duty as a defender is to beat the contract, and that consideration always supersedes the question of whether declarer goes down one or two.

Since one way you're certain to defeat the contract, while the other way you might or might not defeat it, overtaking the jack of hearts with the king at trick two is clearly the correct play.

Tomorrow: The Bath Coup.
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Drilling firms agree to hefty fines

By LARA JAKES JORDAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Three oil drilling companies accused of bribing Nigerian officials for fast customs clearance will pay the U.S. government \$26 million in the largest criminal settlement of foreign corruption charges, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

The companies are subsidiaries of British-based Vetco International Limited, and at least one of them settled similar bribery charges in 2004.

A Justice Department official said the companies — Vetco Gray UK Limited, Vetco Gray Controls Inc., and Vetco Gray Controls Limited — paid Nigerian customs officers \$2.1 million to speed equipment and employees into the country.

The payments, 378 in all, were largely processed through Vetco Gray Controls, Inc., which is based in Houston.

The three companies are expected to sign off on the settlement in U.S. District Court in Houston later Tuesday, said the Justice official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the hearing had not yet occurred.

In July 2004, Vetco Gray UK Limited agreed to pay a \$5.25 million fine for bribing Nigerian government officials more than \$1 million for insider bid information on oil and gas construction contracts worth \$12 million.

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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Wacky Facts

- In 1983, astronaut Guion S. Bluford became the first African-American to make a flight in space.
 - In 1968, Arthur Ashe won the U.S. Open in tennis and became the first black member of the U.S. Davis Cup team.
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KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life."
— Jackie Robinson, on brainyquote.com.

In The News

Test your knowledge of Jackie Robinson?

How much do you know about pioneering baseball player Jackie Robinson? Find out by taking our quiz.

1. Where did Jackie Robinson grow up?

- A. Cairo, Ga.
- B. Brooklyn, N.Y.
- C. Pasadena, Calif.

2. What was the first professional baseball team that Robinson played for?

- A. Honolulu Bears
- B. Brooklyn Dodgers
- C. Kansas City Monarchs

3. What happened to Robinson during World War II?

- A. He worked as a sports director at a youth camp.
- B. He became an officer in the army.
- C. He played baseball in the Negro National League.

4. What was the name of the man who owned the Brooklyn Dodgers, who spotted Robinson's talent and signed him up to start playing for the Montreal Royals?

- A. Branch Rickey
- B. Leroy "Satchel" Paige
- C. Mack Robinson

5. Why was it so extraordinary that Robinson should be signed by the major leagues?

- A. He wasn't considered talented enough.
- B. Black baseball players were expected to play in a separate league from white players.
- C. He wanted to play football, not baseball.

6. When did Robinson walk out onto Ebbets Field to play his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers?

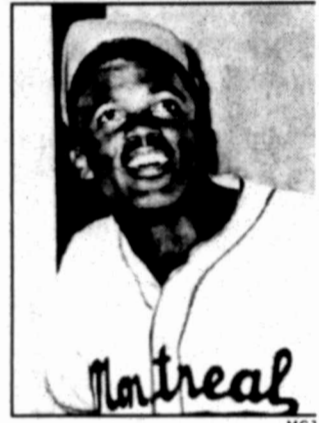
- A. Jan. 31, 1919
- B. April 15, 1947
- C. Oct. 31, 1950

7. Robinson wrote a book about his life called ...

- A. "The Jackie Robinson Story."
- B. "Ten Years with the Dodgers."
- C. "Being Jackie Robinson."

8. Robinson's uniform number was retired forever in 1997, 50 years after he first walked out onto Ebbets Field. What number was it?

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 42



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WE ♥ VALENTINES

Here are a few fun ways to celebrate the heartfelt holiday, from FamilyFun magazine

LOVIN' FROM THE OVEN

The Kurmins, of Marshfield, Mass., celebrate Valentine's Day with these eye-catching candy-center cookies. And what does this family drink with their tasty treats? Why, pink milk, of course!

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Cover a sturdy baking sheet with aluminum foil and lightly coat the foil with cooking spray. Between two sheets of waxed paper lightly dusted with flour, roll the Sugar Cookie Dough (see recipe below) to a 1/4-inch thickness. Remove the top sheet.
2. Cut out the cookies with a large cookie cutter. Use a spatula to transfer the shapes to the baking sheet, leaving about an inch between cookies. Remove the centers of the cookies with a smaller cookie cutter. (Save the centers to bake later.)
3. Place a hard candy (we used Jolly Ranchers) in the center of each heart and bake until the cookies start to brown lightly around the edges and the candy is melted, about 8 to 10 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer them to wire racks to cool completely. To prevent sticking, line your serving plate or tin with waxed paper and place additional waxed paper between layers. *Makes 30.*

SUGAR COOKIE DOUGH

We've tried a lot of sugar cookie recipes over the years and found this one to be the best. It works especially well for candy-filled cookies since, unlike store-bought dough, it holds its shape when baked.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups flour

1. Using an electric mixer at medium-high speed, cream the butter, gradually adding the sugar. Beat in the egg until evenly mixed, then blend in the vanilla extract and salt.
2. With a wooden spoon, stir the flour into the creamed ingredients, about one third at a time, until evenly blended. The dough may seem soft, but it will firm up when refrigerated.
3. Divide the dough in half. Flatten each portion into a disk and seal in plastic wrap. Refrigerate overnight. *Recipe by Ken Haedrich*

FAMILY FAN MAIL

Here's a good kind of romantic hang-up: A few days before Feb. 14, hang heart-shaped paper containers from each family member's bedroom doorknob. Every day, Cupid (that's you) leaves little surprises inside, such as a sweet poem, clues to a hidden treat or an invitation to a breakfast of heart-shaped pancakes.

This is what the Tushaus family of Brookfield, Wis., does to celebrate Valentine's Day.

SWEET HEARTS

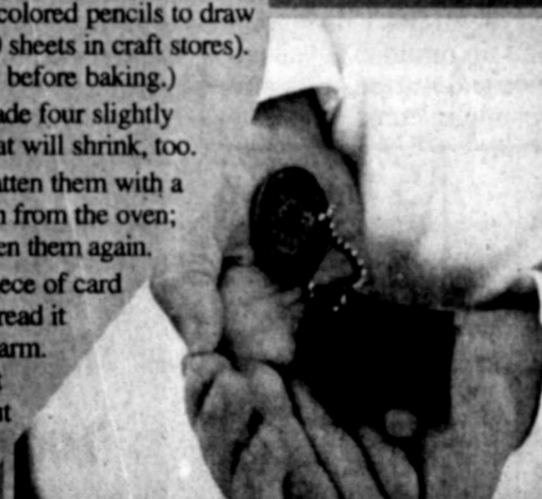
We're fond of these valentines for the same reasons the Thomasons of Granbury, Texas, are: "They're simple, fun and inexpensive — and the kids love them!"

1. Cut a heart from card stock (ours are 3 1/2 inches wide and 3 1/2 inches tall). Punch two holes in the heart, one toward the upper right and one toward the lower left. Use markers to add a message.
2. Insert a Pixy Stix through one of the holes. Gently bend the card and slide the candy stick out through the other hole.
3. To make the arrow, sandwich two heart-shaped stickers over each end of the Pixy Stix.

A REAL CHARMER

This key-chain valentine, sent to us by the Blum-Carr family of Hadley, Mass., seems to defy the laws of physics: as it shrinks, the love just seems to grow.

1. Following the directions on the package, use colored pencils to draw a design on a Shrinkable Plastic sheet (\$5 for 10 sheets in craft stores). Cut it out. (Ours was about 3 inches wide before baking.)
2. Punch a 1/2-inch hole at the top (we made four slightly overlapping holes with a hole punch), as that will shrink, too.
3. Bake as directed. If the charms curl, flatten them with a metal spatula as soon as you remove them from the oven; if necessary, reheat them briefly and flatten them again.
4. Write your message on a small piece of card stock, punch a hole in it, and thread it onto a key chain with your charm. (You can buy ball chain at hardware stores. Simply cut it into 4-inch lengths with old scissors and add connectors.)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

FUN PUNS

Start your family's day off on a sweet note the morning of Feb. 14 with a collection of clever heart-shaped messages found in unexpected places. The night before, choose your hiding spots and think of a sentiment that plays off each location. For example, "You are my sunshine" might be written on a heart that will go near a window, "I'm sweet on you" might go on one that hidden in the sugar bowl, or a heart destined for a spot beside the fish tank might read "You're waves of fun." Write your messages on hearts cut from colorful construction paper or card stock and set them in their hiding spots to be discovered by your parents or siblings the next morning.

— FamilyFun magazine

Try This



Create a festive ribbon dragon

Celebrate Chinese New Year (it begins on Feb. 18 this year) by crafting this mini version of the monster-size dragon used during holiday parades and festivities.

First, cut out the body shapes shown in the diagram from different colors of craft foam. (You can find the templates at www.familyfun.com/magazine.)

Decorate the shapes with colored glitter glue and let them dry. Next, cut a length of wired ribbon (ours is about 3 1/2 feet long by 2 1/2 inches wide). Lay it flat and use tacky glue to attach the body shapes. Be sure the glue is dry before curling the ribbon.

— FamilyFun magazine

Reading Rack

Make a 'Wish'

To celebrate Chinese New Year, head to the library or bookstore and find Shirin Yim Bridges' "Ruby's Wish" (Chronicle Books, \$16). The book tells the poignant story of a young girl's wistful longings to further her education in turn-of-the-20th-century China. Soft-hued watercolor paintings by Sophie Blackall illuminate numerous details — moon gates, lotus blossoms, koi ponds — and gracefully render Ruby's life inside her grandfather's house, where she lives with more than 100 cousins. When Ruby celebrates what she thinks will be her last Chinese New Year at home, she receives a traditional red packet with a surprise — for both her and for you!

— FamilyFun magazine



IN BRIEF

Howard Hawks athletics updated

The Howard Hawks womens softball team will play a double header against Ranger College at 1 and 3 p.m. today at Foundation Field.

On Thursday the Hawks basketball teams will be playing against conference rival Midland College. The womens game is scheduled to tip-off at 6 p.m. and the mens game at 8 p.m. Both games are in Midland.

Howard Hawks fund raiser for rodeo set

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Howard College Rodeo will be hosting a fund raiser in the form of Cow Pattie Bingo.

The event will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the east grounds of the Student Union Building and all squares are \$10. Tickets are available for purchase at this time. For more informaton contact Coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Super Bowl game has large audience

Peyton Manning had a lot of witnesses to his soggy super win, with the estimated 93.2 million viewers representing the second most-watched Super Bowl broadcast ever.

Only the 1996 Super Bowl between Dallas and Pittsburgh, which had 94.1 million viewers, had a bigger audience, according to Nielsen Media Research. Behind that 1996 game and the M-A-S-H series finale, Sunday's game was the third most-watched program in television history.

It was the highest-rated Super Bowl game since St. Louis-Tennessee in 2000. The ratings were lower this year than in 2000. Last year the game between Pittsburgh and Seattle drew 90.7 million viewers.

Colts return home to 40,000 fans

The Indianapolis Colts shared triumphant shouts and high-fives with fans who braved the 8-degree chill to flock to their floats as the Super Bowl champions paraded through downtown.

An estimated 40,000 fans packed the RCA Dome to welcome the team home at a post-parade rally. Some had been there for hours.



Nascar, See Page 2B

J.T. Smith returns for Big Spring fans

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

Howard County will have one of its favorite sons playing in the IFL pre-season "Brawl in Big Spring."

Starting his competitive football career as a Steer at Big Spring High School, wide receiver J.T. Smith will end it as a Big Spring Roughneck.

"J.T. called and was very excited about the IFL bringing the first-ever professional football game to his hometown of Big Spring," Roughnecks President Tommy Benizio said. "He offered to help in anyway that he could, but he probably never dreamed that the Roughnecks would ask him to suit up and play in the game."

"He thought that I was kidding at first but after a little joking — convincing and begging — and then getting his wife's permission, he agreed. This saved me from having to call and beg



J.T. Smith shown running downfield for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Bubba Franks to come play," added Benizio. Smith's participation will set a record was previously owned by 46-year-old Atlanta Falcons place kicker — Morten Andersen — making him the oldest person ever to play

professional football.

"I'm glad that I have remained healthy and I am going to start getting in shape right away," Smith said. "I'm excited to come out of my long-time retirement and put on a professional football uniform once again — this time to represent the people and city of Big Spring, Texas."

Smith was born in 1955 and graduated from Big Spring High in 1973. While here, he was named all-district, All Plains, and as an honorable mention All American. As a wide receiver, he amassed more than 1,000 yards receiving and he holds the school record for the longest interception returned for a touchdown in Big Spring history — 100 yards for a touchdown.

He was inducted into the Big Spring Hall of Fame in 2002 and he is also a member of the Fannin County Hall of Fame.

He attended North Texas State University (University of North Texas) and starred from 1974-1977

for the "Mean Green" Eagles. He was inducted into the university's Hall of Fame in 1991. Smith was also honored when he was named a North Texas Football Athletic Barrier Breaker in 2003.

After scholastic football, Smith enjoyed 13 years as a professional player in the National Football League. He played for three teams: the Kansas City Chiefs, Washington Redskins and the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals from 1978-1990.

Smith was named to the AFC Pro Bowl team in 1980 and the NFC Pro Bowl team in 1988. He also led the NFL in total punt returns in 1979 and 1980. His stats include 544 receptions for 6,974 yards and 35 touchdowns.

Smith averaged 12.8 yards per catch in his illustrious career and he averaged 10.9 yards per carry.

Now he is looking to return to the "Smith of old" on March 31 at

See J.T., Page 2B

Hall of Fame QBs speak up

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman hope the Dallas Cowboys find the coach that can take the team where the Hall of Fame quarterbacks often did: deep into the postseason.

"There's enough talent now to have a good ending to this decade," Staubach said Monday. "This will be the first decade we haven't (won) in the playoffs if we don't do something ... there is talent on this team."

Staubach and Aikman are the quarterbacks who led the Cowboys to their five Super Bowl titles. But the last was 11 years ago when they won their third in four seasons with Aikman, Emmitt Smith and receiver Michael Irvin, who was just elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Dallas has now lost five straight playoff games since an NFC wild-card victory in December 1996, and the search for retired coach Bill Parcells' replacement is into its third week.

"As a former player, I'd like to see the Cowboys have success," Aikman

said. "For all of us that were part of helping build something here in the Dallas, we'd like to see that continue."

Parcells' final game was a wild-card loss at Seattle last month, his second playoff loss in his four seasons.

Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones has formally interviewed eight candidates since Parcells retired Jan. 22. He could add to that list before naming the team's seventh coach — the sixth since he bought the team in 1989.

By waiting until after Super Bowl, Jones could interview Chicago Bears defensive coordinator Ron Rivera and Jim Caldwell, the assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach for the Indianapolis Colts. But it wasn't clear Monday when or if that would happen.

The last two candidates Jones interviewed were both San Francisco assistants: two-time head coach and former Cowboys offensive coordinator Norv Turner and Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary.

After those interviews,

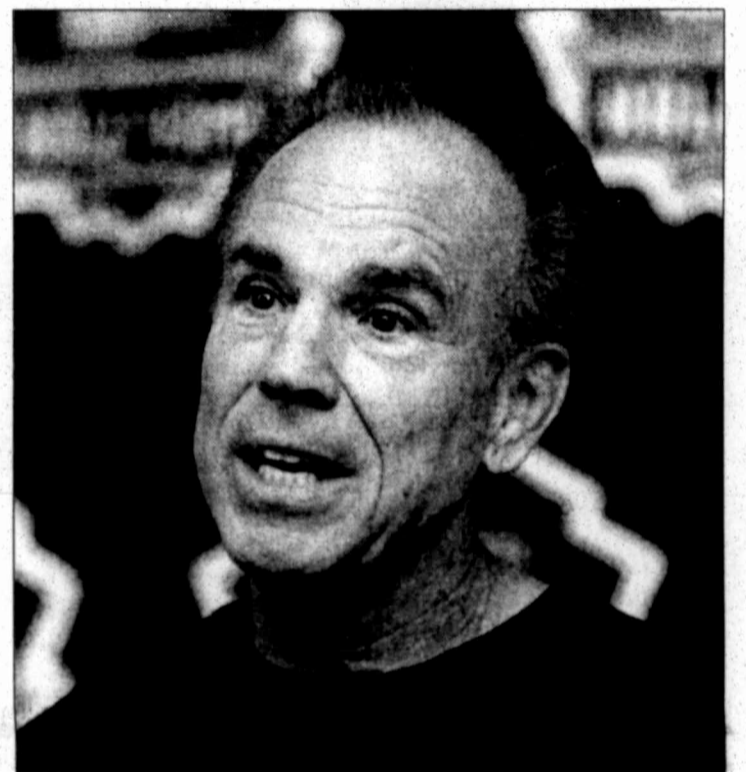
Jones said that he would wait to name a new coach and has "got to get this right." He didn't say how long after the Super Bowl that would be.

"I don't think he got the last one wrong. I feel that Bill Parcells did a great job," Aikman said. "I know where this organization was when he took over. And it was in total disarray. ... (Now) whoever steps into this job is taking over a playoff team that if they don't win in the playoffs, it's going to be viewed as a failure."

Staubach and Aikman met with Dallas-area media Monday — also Staubach's 65th birthday — to talk about their Hall of Fame Racing team, which is preparing for its second NASCAR season. But, questions about the Cowboys couldn't be avoided.

Turner was the offensive coordinator for the Cowboys for two straight Super Bowl titles with Aikman and is considered by many as the front-runner for the job. Aikman supports his former coach, but has tried to be careful about endorsing a candidate.

"I think it would be



Hall of Famer Roger Staubach has been in contact with Jerry Jones to discuss the hiring of the next Dallas Cowboys head coach. Staubach played for one NFL coach in his career, Tom Landry.

great for the organization, I think it would be great for Norv," Aikman said. "But I also think that whoever gets the job is going to be someone who was well thought out. I think they will be a good hire."

Staubach sat at lunch with Jones on Saturday in Miami, where both were for the Super Bowl and to talk to NFL officials about

the Cowboys' bid to host the 2011 Super Bowl in their new stadium scheduled to open in two years.

"He wasn't really picking my mind. He was just talking about, thinking about the strengths of head coaches besides their ability to bring the right people around them," Staubach said.

See QBs, Page 2B

No. 6 ranked Texas A&M downs Horns

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M coach Billy Gillispie loves the maturity his team showed in beating both Kansas and Texas in less than 48 hours.

And he believes the quick turnaround will be a good tuneup for the rigors of the NCAA tournament.

Josh Carter scored 24 points, Acie Law had 21 points and 15 assists, and No. 6 Texas A&M beat Texas 100-82 in the only game involving a Top 25 team on Monday night.

The Aggies, coming off a big win at then-No. 6 Kansas on Saturday, won their 21st straight home game and maintained sole possession of first place in the Big 12.

"I don't know if it gets any tougher than that," Gillispie said. "But we did talk about if we're lucky enough to get into the tournament, that's the way it's going to be. I think those guys take things like that as challenges and they came through with flying colors tonight."

They had little time to prepare for the Longhorns after arriving home from Kansas early Sunday morning.

"I've never been a part of a deal other than the NCAA tournament where you had to expend so much energy physically and emotionally," Gillispie said. "We try to teach our guys to play to exhaustion and I think that's a real quality that hardly no one can do."

Kevin Durant had 28 points and 15 rebounds for the Longhorns (16-7, 6-3), but the Aggies finally found some scoring



Dallas Mavericks' Devean George (rear) had a tough time slowing down Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady in the first half at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007.

McGrady ignites Houston Rockets

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Tracy McGrady does not dunk as much as he once did. He picked the perfect time to try one on Monday night, sparking the Houston Rockets to a 105-77 rout of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

McGrady scored 16 of his 32 points in the third quarter, but his slam off a rebound late in the first period was the shot that had even Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy applauding.

"I don't dunk that much. My body can't take it like that anymore," McGrady said. "It was just one of those inspiring plays, man. Plays like that, you lead your team, you inspire your team."

McGrady missed seven of his first nine shots, then swooped in after Chuck Hayes botched a layup in the final minute of the opening quarter. McGrady grabbed the ball and threw it down in one motion over Mark Blount, putting the

Rockets up 21-15. "The tip dunk he had was, to me, just so inspirational," Van Gundy said. "His play and when he leads like that, with that fire, good things happen."

The basket was part of a 20-6 Rockets run and Houston stayed in control the rest of the way, putting together one of its best performances of the season, just two days after a lifeless 87-74 loss to New Orleans.

Van Gundy canceled a scheduled practice on Sunday and was more animated than usual on the sideline Monday night, repeatedly clapping and complimenting players as they came off the floor.

"I loved the way we played, the energy level we had," he said.

Luther Head went 5-for-7 from 3-point range and scored 20 points, and Juwan Howard had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who've won nine of 13 games since

See ROCKETS, Page 2B

Johnson seeks rare repeat

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jimmie Johnson was the clear favorite to win last season's Nextel Cup championship, an easy pick after coming so very close so many times before.

This year's pick isn't nearly as obvious, with 50 drivers revving their motors in pursuit of dethroning NASCAR's newest champion. Jeff Gordon wants a fifth Nextel Cup title. Tony Stewart is fired up after missing last year's Chase, and Matt Kenseth's goal is to win a second title, this time under a new points system.

But no matter how you break it down, the championship is Johnson's to lose.

"It's hard to win one, much less back to back, and to do anything twice in a row is tough," said Stewart, who won titles in 2002 and 2005. "I can go to Vegas and put a whole bunch of money on a number, and to have it hit once is something, but to come back again and have it hit again."

Only seven drivers have won consecutive Cup titles — none since Gordon in 1997 and 1998.

Even though the odds are clearly against him, Johnson plans to make a full-speed run at title No. 2.

"I am a race car driver, and I want to win championships," he said. "I always wanted to win one, and now I've got it. That whole experience makes you hungry and want to come back and do it again."

"I feel with the team and everything that we have (at Hendrick Motorsports), we could be a contender for a few more of these."

Johnson has every reason to believe he can do it again, because his 2006 title was no fluke. Since entering the Nextel Cup Series five years ago, Johnson consistently has been among NASCAR's top drivers.

The No. 48 team never has been lower

than fifth in the standings and was twice runner-up in the championship. That earned Johnson the dubious distinction of being the Peyton Manning of NASCAR — the guy who dominated the regular season, only to come up short when everything was on the line.

When Johnson and crew chief Chad Knaus finally cleared that final hurdle last November, overcoming a disastrous start to the Chase, Johnson was freed of that label.

"A lot was said that they might not be able to win it, and Jimmie couldn't get it if he didn't get it last year," car owner Rick Hendrick said. "Well, he did. I think a lot of the pressure is off. The pressure now is not to prove he can be a champion. The pressure is on himself to come back and be in the hunt again."

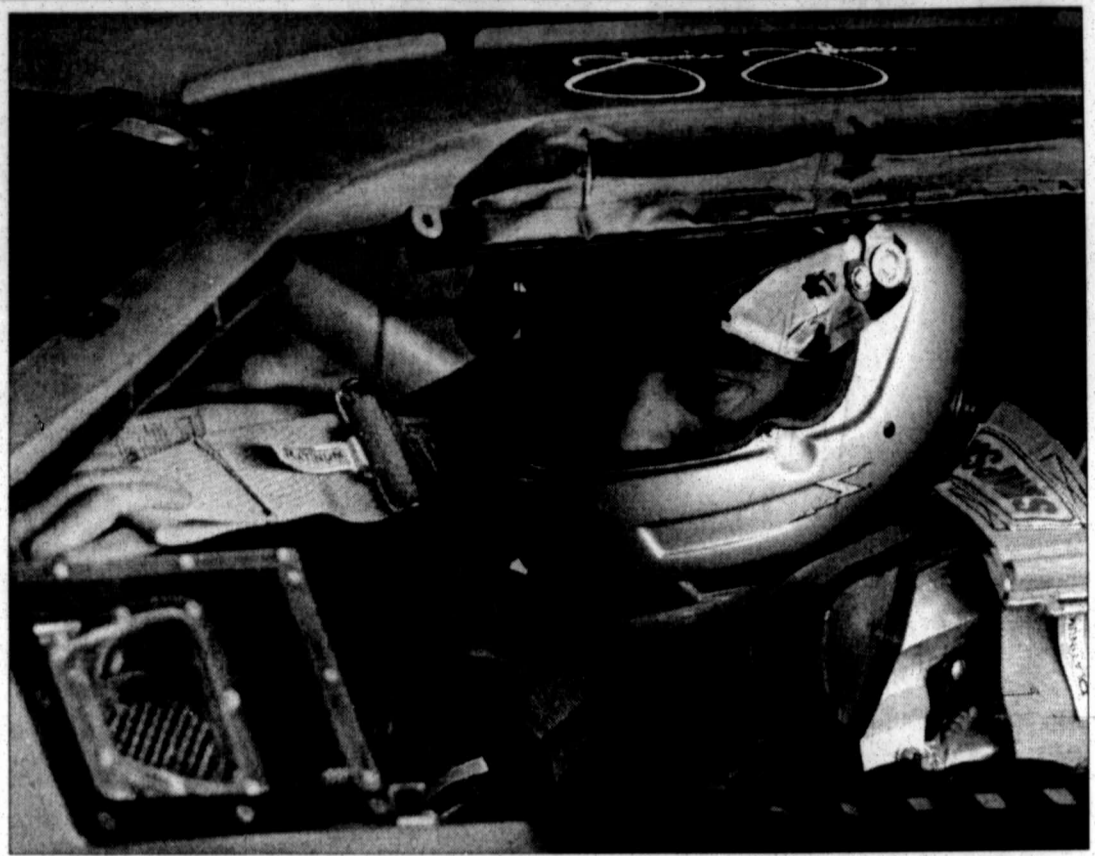
It again starts with Knaus, who learned valuable lessons last season. First, he realized he had to back off just a bit to sustain the energy and drive Johnson needed over the long 36-race season.

Knaus also learned to delegate but had trouble easing up initially. When he was caught cheating during Daytona 500 preparations, a four-week suspension forced Knaus to slow down. With the crew chief watching from home, Johnson rallied to win at Daytona and again in Las Vegas two weeks later.

When Knaus returned to the track, he was able to maintain an even pace the rest of the year.

Now, his challenge will be allowing his guys to celebrate last season's success without losing the intensity that made them champions.

"You have to give the guys an opportunity to go out there and soak it in and feel a sense of accomplishment," Knaus said. "Because if they are working continuously and they don't get any type of reward for what they have done, they are going to feel like 'Why am I applying myself and working myself to death for



MCT photo/John Raoux/Orlando Sentinel
Jimmy Johnson adjusts his safety harness before going out on the track for NASCAR pre-season testing for the Nextel Cup Series at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach.

nothing?"

"The drivers take off and go to France and Italy (during the offseason), but the guys are in here working like crazy. It's a balance that you've got to find, and I think we did a good job. We just have to wait and see."

The mind-set of Knaus and his crew will be just one part of Johnson's success, which also will depend on how he handles his new role as ambassador to the sport.

The demands on Johnson's time have increased, and the spotlight magnifies everything. He learned that the hard way last December when he fell off a golf cart and broke his wrist while goofing around. Reluctant to reveal exactly how he was injured, Johnson had to

backtrack when the truth came out.

"It can get overwhelming with the expectations," said Gordon. "Every show, every print and TV, every media, every fan wants more of you. That's a good thing, but at the same time, it can be hard to manage."

The only certainty is Johnson plans to give his pursuit of a repeat title his full attention. Anything else and Knaus knows they'll come up short.

"I think we have to go out there and prove ourselves every week," Knaus said. "Anytime somebody rolls into a season or an event thinking that they are the favorite, you are going to get your butt handed to you. So we won't take the mentality that we are the favorites."

AGGIES

Continued from 1B

punch to go with one of the nation's stingiest defenses — and that was too much for Texas and its super freshman.

Durant set a Longhorns freshman record with his 14th double-double. The previous mark was held by Ron Baxter, who had 13 in 1976-77.

Law's 15 assists tied a school record. Texas A&M (20-3, 8-1) led 69-63 when he hit the court hard and had to be helped to the locker room, biting his jersey in pain because of an ailing leg. The record crowd of 13,196 that included Texas Gov. Rick Perry chanted "A-cie! A-cie!" as he left the court.

With Joseph Jones already on the bench with four fouls, the Aggies were left to depend on Donald Sloan (11 points) and Bryan Davis (eight points).

But the pair came through. Sloan kept Durant in check and Davis added four points until Law returned about 3 minutes later.

"Sloan and Davis received a lot of attention before they got here and they showed you why tonight,"

Gillispie said. "They've got great freshman over there, but I believe we've got a few guys ourselves. I'm really proud of those guys stepping up in such a big game."

Even Law, A&M's senior point guard, was impressed by the pair.

"They're just maturing right before our eyes," Law said. "These past few games they've been playing extremely well and tonight on the biggest stage, in one of the biggest games for Texas A&M they played their best."

A 3-pointer by A.J. Abrams and two free throws by D.J. Augustin cut A&M's lead to 76-73, but the Longhorns got no closer. Augustin had 23 points and nine assists.

"We couldn't guard them," Gillispie said. "Augustin is great. They're all good and they're fast and just hard to deal with. We just couldn't keep them out of the paint."

Sloan continued to impress even after Law returned, converting a layup to make it 83-76. Carter added four straight points as A&M built a 12-point lead.

"We didn't guard anybody in the last 4 minutes," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We were terrible. That's what I told our team. I'm dis-

appointed."

Durant's 28 points were the most an opponent has scored against the Aggies this season. It was the first time Texas A&M allowed more than 70 points.

The Aggies were still able to hold Texas to less than 50 percent shooting.

Durant scored 12 points in the first 6 minutes of the second half, including seven straight that gave the Longhorns a 58-57 lead, their first of the game.

A&M quickly got back on top on Carter's 3-pointer on the next possession, only to fall back into a tie when Augustin hit a pair of free throws.

Sloan made a quick 3 and Antanas Kavaliauskas sandwiched two baskets around a free throw by Durant to push Texas A&M's lead to 67-61 with 11:24 remaining. Kavaliauskas had 18 points.

"I'm just disappointed in our last two games when it's got down to where we need some stops and we don't do it," Barnes said.

Both teams shot 37 free throws, with the Longhorns making 27 and the Aggies 23. Jones and Dominique Kirk fouled out for A&M.

QBs

Continued from 1B

"Having a head coach that is in charge that's got everybody behind him is really important for the team."

"I'm not saying who that should be, but we just kind of talked philosophically, not about specific players," he said.

Jason Garrett was hired nearly two weeks ago for an unspecified role with the Cowboys organiza-

tion, likely as offensive coordinator, but he is still being considered as a candidate for the top job. Defensive coordinators Wade Phillips of the San Diego Chargers and Gary Gibbs of the New Orleans Saints have also interviewed for the position, as did three of Parcells' former assistants.

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ROCKETS

Continued from 1B

an overtime loss to the Timberwolves in Minnesota on Jan. 7.

Kevin Garnett had 18 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Minnesota, which has lost 10 of its last 12 games and four in a row. The Wolves are 2-6 since Randy Wittman replaced fired coach Dwane Casey on Jan. 23.

Wittman ripped his team after Monday's loss, especially his guards, who combined to commit 12 turnovers.

"Our guard play was

atrocious," Wittman said. "There was no direction at all. I didn't recognize what we were doing offensively."

McGrady, meanwhile, topped 30 points for the 13th time this season and the 11th since Dec. 23, when Yao Ming broke a bone in his right leg. Yao is likely out until March, but due mostly to McGrady, Houston is 14-6 since that injury.

The Rockets had lost

four of their last five home games against the Timberwolves. McGrady made sure that didn't happen again.

"It was one of those games where your best player had to step up," McGrady said. "They had to see how badly I wanted this one."

Garnett did not score in the first quarter, missing three shots. The Timberwolves started 6-for-20.

Howard hit seven of his first eight shots, including his first three of the second quarter. Rafer Alston, ejected from the Rockets' loss to New Orleans on Saturday, converted a steal into a three-point play during the 20-6 spurt, which ended with Houston up 34-19.

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J.T.

Continued from 1B

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"We are excited to have him in front of the home crowd ... for his debut return to professional football, but make no mistake about it — we're going to play wit win for Big Spring," stated an excited Chris Williams, the Roughnecks' head coach.

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YOUR AD PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD	LAWN SERVICE MOWING, ALLEYS TILLING, TREE TRIMMING LIGHT HAULING CALL 267-5460 CELL 816-6150 Scoggin Lawn Service	NAIL SALON Pro Spa Nail Salon Pedicure: \$21.99 Manicure: \$11.99 Full Set: \$20.00 & up Refill: \$13.99 & up SPECIAL Solar Nails: \$29.00 111 E. Marcy Dr. Ste 110 (432) 263-6745	PEST CONTROL SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com	PLUMBING ADVANCE PLUMBING Drain Cleaning Gas Line Water Leaks Fixtures • Licensed • Bonded • Insured M-37359 263-4873 or 517-8751	RENTALS VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings For rent/sale 610 E. 12th 1003, 1011 E. 11th
REPAIRS Sewing Machine Guy Steve REPAIR AND SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS (432) 935-6380 All Work Guaranteed	ROOFING JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110	STORAGE AAA Mini-Storage 1/2 Off First Month No Deposit Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732	TAX SERVICES FAST CASH On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels (Across From Suplee Store) CALL (432) 264-8134 "So Hable Espanol" *With RAL Approval	TREE TRIMMING LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406	YOUR AD PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD

Help Wanted
BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:
* Crew Technician
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.
CLERICAL POSITION. 12 noon-6:00 pm. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

Help Wanted
COOK: Must be able to prepare meals for specials diets, be reliable & dependable, EOE. For information, call Janie Cardoza at (806)872-2141, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St, Lamesa, TX.
DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

Help Wanted
ENTRY LEVEL COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OFFICER (CSO), minimum requirements as stated in Texas Government Code 76.005.
(1) Must have a bachelor's degree; and
(2) Unless the degree is in criminal justice, criminology, corrections, counseling, human services, law, law enforcement, police science, pre-law, public administration, rehabilitative studies, social work, psychology, sociology, the person must have:
(a) one year of graduate study in one of those fields; or
(b) one year experience in full-time casework, counseling, or community group work.
(3) Cannot be employed as a peace officer or work as a reserve or volunteer peace officer; and
(4) Cannot be currently on community supervision or parole or serving a sentence for a criminal offense.
Must reside in Howard, Martin, or Glasscock County or be willing to relocate. Resumes due Monday, February 12, 2007 at 118th District CSCD, 315 Main, Suite B, P.O. Box 1951, Big Spring, TX 79721-1951. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Help Wanted
FULL TIME LVN needed for Martin County Home Health. With benefits, medical, dental and vision. PRN/CNA needed in Midland-Odessa area. Please call Allison Williams, DON at (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.
HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operators needed. Overnight travel required. Competitive pay. Call (432)213-6802 or 264-1959.
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for Roustabout Helpers, Pushers & Filled Drivers with CDL License. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of 1-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

Help Wanted
NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.
PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.
PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation now hiring for C.N.A. positions. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

Help Wanted
WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank is now hiring for branch manger, retail banker/teller positions at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com. EOE m/f/v/d

RN
with homehealth experience helpful but not needed to join our dynamic team of health-care professionals. We are a locally owned company who cares about our clients and our employees!
* Full Time
* Great Pay
* Vacation & Sick Time
* PAID Health Insurance
* 401K
* Great Work Environment
* Paid Mileage
Please mail resume or fax to: 432-570-1303
InHome Care, Inc.
808 W. Indiana
Midland, TX 79701
Attn: Richard Water

DRIVERS: CDL-A. Wallet Need Support? Call C&W Transport! New Pay Scale! Home Daily! Hot Oil/Vacuum Operators. 432-570-1911.
LVNS: \$1000 sign-on bonus
FULL TIME on 10PM TO 6AM SHIFT, requires TEXAS state license. EOE. For information, call Kirby James at (806)872-2141, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St, Lamesa, TX.
MOUNTAIN VIEW Lodge is seeking professional and dependable employees for the following positions: House-keeping, 8:00-4:00 shift, P.R.N. L.V.N.'s, 2:00-10:00, Charge Nurse and a D.O.N. If interested in any of the positions please contact Joy at (432)263-1271.

NEED BACKHOE operator w/CDL. Good driving record. Need one year experience. Must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.
NEED EXTRA money? Work 6:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. at Jack Jill Child Care. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.
NEED PHARMACY TECH 30 Hours per week. Certified & Experienced. Call 1-800-469-4467.
NEED TWO Breakfast Host Mon-Fri and Weekends Only. Must be Friendly, have a good nature or out-going. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylford
NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.
NEW CHRISTIAN FM radio station needs full time community representative. Starts immediately. E-mail resume to tdwork@gmail.com. For interview the week of January 29th, please call Mike (260)463-5655
PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work. Call (432)267-6027 M-F.

NEED BACKHOE operator w/CDL. Good driving record. Need one year experience. Must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.
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PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work. Call (432)267-6027 M-F.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.
POLLARD CHEVROLET is seeking a Finance & Insurance Sales person. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins.. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.
PORTER HENDERSON IMPLEMENT
Opening for Full-time Positions: Parts Sales, Salesperson, Secretary and Receptionist. Looking for hard working, positive individuals with ability to learn! Submit resume or application to: 3011 N. Hwy. 87.
S&S WELL Service is looking for experienced floor hands. Apply at 309 Main St., Sparenburg Bldg.

Items for Sale
12X24 GARAGE/STORAGE - Must Sell This Week! Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.
DEMO/ DISPLAY Hot Tub - 5 to 6 person. \$84.00 a month with approved credit- Delivery Available. 432-563-3108.
DISH SATELLITE Equipment - HD DVR 921, new or re-conditioned. MUCH CHEAPER THAN DISH PRICE OR LEASE. Call (432)267-8514.

Lost and Found
LOST JACK Russell Terrier (Brown & White), has collar with tags. Last seen Saturday 2/3/07 at 6th and Mulberry. Please call 432-517-0869.
SMALL FEMALE Boston Terrier found in Kentwood area. Call (432) 267-8769.

Miscellaneous
BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$175.00. 432-349-4043.
CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceaneros. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.
COOKWARE- NEW Year's Clearance! We stopped doing dinner parties! Have some beautiful 17-piece sets left! Heavy, 7-ply surgical stainless steel! Waterless and Greaseless! Brand new! Were \$2000, first 7 callers buy for \$299! vaposeal.com 1-800-343-4628.

KING PILLOWTOP Mattress Set. Brand New still in Plastic. Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.
NASA MEMORY FOAM Mattress Set. Conforms to body. New in plastic. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$399.00. 432-349-4043.
NEW CHERRY Sleigh bed \$259.00. Midland. Call 432-349-4043.
SLIGHTLY DAMAGED 8x12 Storage- 40 Year Warranty. Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.
WHY PAY Rent? 10X12 Storage Building from \$51.00 a month. Delivery/Financing Available. 432-563-3108.

Pets
THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the Classified ads. Before investing money in a pet ad with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

BASIC energy services
NOW HIRING
Due to our growth, we have a continuing need in our Big Spring field office for:
Rig Hands, Derrick Hands, Floor Hands & Operators
We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service, and paid holidays.
To learn more about specific opportunities, visit our Big Spring location at: **Basic Energy Services** 2206 North Highway 87 Big Spring, Texas 79721
EOE-M/F/D/V Drug Free Environment

YOUR ROAD TO A NEW CAREER!
• Paid CDL Training!
• No Experience Needed!
• Earn \$40 - \$75K Yearly!
Stevens Transport offers the best comprehensive training program for new drivers! Get your career rolling and enjoy exceptional earnings and great benefits from the #1 premier transportation carrier!
For more information, call **800-333-8595**
www.stevens-transport.com

BIG SPRING HERALD
710 Scurry • PO Box 1431 • Big Spring, TX 79721 • (432) 263-7331 • Fax 432-264-7205
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date: _____
CLASSIFIED AD
Write one word on each line:

Up to 25 words: __ Sunday Only \$19.50 __ One weekday only \$12.25 __ Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 __ Three Consecutive days \$20.25 __ Four Consecutive Days \$23.50
__ Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 __ Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 __ Two weeks \$51.00
__ Three Weeks \$64.50 __ Four weeks \$75.00 __ Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75
Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.
Enhancements Price per word for entire run: __ Bolding \$1.00 __ Centering \$1.00 __ Italics \$1.00
Price for entire run: __ Blind Box \$10 __ Photo \$4.00 __ Graphics \$1.00 __ Logos \$1.00
Prices include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com
Start Date _____ Classification: _____
DEADLINES:
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.
CLASSIFICATIONS:
Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals
Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____
Credit Card# _____
Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____
Are you a subscriber: __ Yes __ No
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Shroyer Motor Co.
Best Deals In Town!

2003 GMC Yukon XL
Black w/Gray Leather, Heated Seats, Center Captains, DVD, 54K, One Owner.
\$17,995

2005 Pontiac Bonneville SLE - Leather, All Power, 11K Miles, One Owner.
\$18,995

2006 PONTIAC Vibe - White w/Charcoal Interior, Loaded.
MSRP \$20,070
SALE PRICE \$17,500

2006 Buick Lucerne CX - 4 Door, Sedan, White w/grey Cloth Interior, All Power, 17K.
\$19,995

2001 GMC Sonoma X-Cab - V6, Auto, Power Windows & Locks, Air, 72K.
\$9,995
PONTIAC GMC
324 E. 3RD • BIG SPRING, TEXAS
263 7625 BBB 263 0017
HOME OF THE BEST USED CARS IN HOWARD CO.
• See Our Ad In The Area Wide Phone Book •

BIG Tue
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YORK guaran able, inform petsbr
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Pets

AN ADORABLE female bulldog for sale. She is AKC Registered and has all shots up-to-date. She is in good health condition, vet check and ready for her new family home. Email me at mercy_jenson@yahoo.com for more info.

YORKIE FOR Sale: Health guaranteed, shipping is available, delivery. Contact for more information: petsbreed01@yahoo.com

Real Estate for Rent

South Plains Apts
Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms

New Appliances & Fixtures
Dish Network w/ 300+ Channels incl 34 Latino
Hi-Speed Wireless Internet
Picnic/BBQ Area
New Laundry & Vending

Ask about our New-In Special

3304 W Hwy. 80
(432) 714-4840

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

407 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

712 GOLIAD. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$550. month, +deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A. 3704 Calvin. \$550. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

YESTERDAYS ELEGANCE, today's modern. 1 bedroom plus upstairs studio. Near post office. \$285. Nonsmoking, no pets. Credit qualification. McDonald (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

Real Estate for Sale

1319 MULBERRY 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

HOUSE TO be moved. 3 bedroom 1 bath, brick. Call (432) 393-5517.

Real Estate for Sale

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

2007 SPECIAL 3 bedroom, 2 bath, family room with a fireplace, and a work shop, stone front yard, 2 covered car ports in the back. Must sell for Health Reasons. Special Price \$15000.00 CASH. No Owner Financing. Call (432)940-2519, or 213-2688 for more info.

2600 CARLETON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Central H/A, clean, new fence, & covered carport. Corner lot, quiet neighborhood, a must see. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688 for more info.

FORECLOSURE! 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, only \$41,200! Spacious Must See! For listing Call 800-544-6258 ext F906.

HOUSE for RENT/SALE- 1501 Hilltop. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$600 month plus deposit. Water included. Call (432)264-3976.

MOBILE HOME, 2 year old doublewide, great area, carport, storage buildings, hot-tub. Excellent condition! Owner transferring, priced for quick sale! Serious inquires only! (432)213-3235, (432)213-0917.

OWNER FINANCE, \$4000 down. Four to choose from. Call (432) 264-9907.

OWNER FINANCING- Homes from \$49,900. Down payments of only 5%.

Open for Inspection- Every Sunday in February, 12 P.M.-5 P.M. tough credit OK. We know bad things can happen to good people. Get your credit back on track. Stop renting and enjoy full home ownership.

For a listing of homes available. Call 432-687-2696, ext. 4 or pick up a list at 1611 W. Texas Ave., Midland.

OWNER FINANCE. Newly remodeled two bedroom, one bath, corner lot. 1400 Mesa, Big Spring. Low down, low monthly. (432)556-7829. Se Habla Espanol.

Services Offered

HOW WOULD you like to decorate our home with high quality accessories for FREE?! Call today and book your Home & Garden Party and I'll show you how! Host a party before 16th February and receive ANY item in the catalogue for only \$19.50! This is an opportunity you don't want to miss. Call Victoria at 432-264-6588 for more information.

Services Offered

RON'S HANDYMAN Roof Repair, don't replace it, fix it. 17 years exp. Please leave message if no answer (432)935-6274 or email: edwaw8@aol.com

Vehicles

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From
Huge Discounts!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 11th 267-7121

2002 FORD Crew Cab. Power stroke, automatic. One Owner. 300,000 Miles, headache & grill guard, power seats and windows. Excellent condition. \$11,500.00. Call (432)213-0739.

2002 MERCURY Villager Estate mini van. All power, one owner, garaged, leather, six disc CD, rear entertainment system. 49,000 miles. \$11,900. Call (432)270-2463 or 267-2463.

2003 MERCURY Grand Marquis LS. Fully loader. Like New. 46k miles, \$15,795.00. Also have 2002 Dodge 2500 with Tommy lift, \$18,595.00. Both Garaged Kept. (432)267-1556

97 MERCURY Mountaineer V8. AWD, 4DR SUV, A/C. Tow package, all options. 115,500 miles. Nearly new tires. \$5,295.00. Call Ray at (432)264-0603.

WANTED USED Gooseneck trailer. 20,000 GVW. Call Gary 209-606-3094.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

ANSWERS

9	3	6	7	4	2	5	1	8
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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Big Spring Independent School District has contracted with Spring City Auction to sell the district's surplus property. The district's surplus property is sold at the following location throughout the year: Spring City Auction 501 Birdwell Lane, Unit #1 Big Spring, TX 79720 You may check with Spring City Auction for the designed auction dates and times. #5222 February 6, May 8, August 7 and November 6, 2007

BUY-SELL-TRADE

In the Big Spring Herald Classifieds 263-7331

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

Are you ready for radical romance? Outrageous expressions of emotion? Love planet Venus and the planet of surprises, Uranus, are conjunct in spiritual Pisces. It's a time to communicate your heart with great imagination. Emotional explosions happen, too. By being gloriously unrealistic, we create a new reality.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Forgiveness is more than an act of grace. It's an element of change. Without it, you can't move forward. It may look like you're in a new place, but it plays out the same as before.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're handling some testy personalities—difficult people, the types who make you feel like pretending you're someone else. Keep smiling, even when you're out of ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Youth is sweet. You're hanging around in that sweetness, regardless of your age, because your curious attitude keeps you fresh. Tonight is interesting because of the questions you ask.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The morning is sluggish, even with coffee. Perhaps you're nervous about an upcoming presentation, or about meeting a deadline. Work, and

your inspiration will kick in this afternoon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Faith comes to different people in different ways. Your tolerance of this process in its many forms allows you to be accepting instead of judgmental, especially in regards to yourself.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The best way to show your might is by remaining flexible. A willingness to cooperate and reach a workable compromise serves you well. Gentle persistence wins the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because the numbers add up doesn't mean the figures are right. It's not often that your intuition leads you astray. Believe what your higher sense is telling you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a fine line between doing well unto others and stretching yourself too thin. Beware of taking on too many responsibilities. Saying no is sometimes the most loving thing you can do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When the going gets rough and people start to butt heads, remember that the only power any of us really has is the power to relinquish control. You can walk away at any time. This gives you tremendous leverage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Romance can spring up in the most unusual places—at the laundromat, or the DMV. Maybe even right under your nose, if you'd only open your eyes and see

without prejudice. Let go of preconceived notions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll receive an enthusiastic response to the project you've been working on. Don't let that stop you from doing what you need to do to improve your work. A Virgo perfectionist can help you!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your main opponent is boredom. Though work may be tedious, finding ways to amuse yourself shouldn't be too difficult. Just don't let the boss catch you surfing the Internet or text messaging your friends on company time.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Working at the age of 10, redheaded actor Seth Green recognized his life path early, and it took him from Woody Allen's "Radio Days" to television's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" to the box office bonanza "Austin Powers." His role in the cartoon phenomenon "Family Guy" cements a presence as the comedian of his generation. What more could you expect from Aquarius, the sign of the future?

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

Dear Annie: A year ago, I moved with my wife and four small children to a community of some 700 residents. Recently, I learned that a local boy has a shoe fetish. He stole a girl's shoes from her house and was caught gratifying himself over them. I feel sorry for the boy. No one chooses to be that sort of person. I also feel sorry for his parents. It must be extremely discouraging to have a son with such an affliction. But the boy is a hefty, strong 18-year-old, and my two girls are 10 and 11.

I spoke to my girls to warn them not to stay too close to that boy, especially in lonely places and after dark. It turns out the girls in the neighborhood know all about this fellow. My daughters and their girlfriends won't let that young man look at their shoes, and they throw stones at him if he comes too close.

What upsets me is that it's impossible to obtain specific information on how many of these fetishists are likely to attack someone eventually. I want a better understanding of the magnitude of the problem. Can you help? — In Spite of Compassion in Canada

Dear In Spite Of: Most shoe fetishists obsess only over shoes and related items, and will not harm anyone. However, if the boy is stealing, it doesn't



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

respond soon. I am developing bags under my eyes from lack of shut-eye. — Sleepless Sleepless: We think Bill has at least one woman on the side, and we don't mean platonic, and he may even have a wife. How desperate are you for male companionship? We don't think Bill is worth constant heartache and sleep deprivation. Either be content as a "mistress" or set your sights elsewhere, because this relationship is going nowhere.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Please Don't Ruin My Vacation Again," who always gets sick on airplanes. Since I started doing two things, I have avoided colds and other bugs on flights. Here are my suggestions:

1. Bring a bottle of saline solution and spray your nasal passages several times during the flight.
2. Use a battery-operated personal air purifier that hangs around your neck. I found mine through a travel catalogue, but I've seen them online. They are fairly expensive (over \$100), but I think well worth it.

Hope this helps. — Traveling Healthy: Several readers recommended surgical masks, which are much cheaper, but for those who think the air purifier is worth it, thanks for the information.

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.

Then what is my concern? I have yet to meet Bill's friends, and they gather on a regular basis. I have yet to meet his son. And he tells me he has a female friend, purely platonic, of course, that he escorts to church functions and senior meetings, but I don't believe she is even aware I exist. When I address these issues, he has a variety of excuses as to why I haven't met any of them.

Right now, I feel like a mistress, kept undercover. This arrangement is causing me a good deal of hurt and many sleepless nights. Should I just be satisfied with the happy years I had with my departed husband, or, since men my age are so scarce, should I hang in there for the companionship he offers? Please

respond soon. I am developing bags under my eyes from lack of shut-eye. — Sleepless Sleepless: We think Bill has at least one woman on the side, and we don't mean platonic, and he may even have a wife. How desperate are you for male companionship? We don't think Bill is worth constant heartache and sleep deprivation. Either be content as a "mistress" or set your sights elsewhere, because this relationship is going nowhere.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Please Don't Ruin My Vacation Again," who always gets sick on airplanes. Since I started doing two things, I have avoided colds and other bugs on flights. Here are my suggestions:

1. Bring a bottle of saline solution and spray your nasal passages several times during the flight.
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

TUESDAY

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and rows for time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM, listing various programs and their categories.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MAYBE IF YOU PLAY WITH JUST ONE HAND, IT WOULD ONLY SOUND HALF AS BAD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No, you may not keep a snowball in your room."

HAGAR



YOU WORK HARD ALL YOUR LIFE... AND WHAT DO YOU GET FOR IT?



HOPEFULLY SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS?

BLONDIE



DITHERS & CO. HAS LED CURRENT TRENDS BY REPLACING SNACK MACHINES WITH 100% HEALTHY FOOD!



SOME ARE TAKING IT HARDER THAN OTHERS!

BC



NEVER TRUST AN ACUPUNCTURIST WHOSE DEGREE IS DONE IN NEEDLEPOINT.

WIZARD OF ID



WHAT'S THE CHARGE? BRIBERY OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL. DID THE OFFICIAL TAKE THE BRIBE? THIS IS THE OFFICIAL.

AGNES



I HEARD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO START STUDYING AND STUFF. YES... I'M GOING TO THINK AND PONDER AND PUSH MY BRAIN TO ITS ABSOLUTE OUTER LIMIT. I'M GOING TO UNTANGLE THE CONVOLUTED GUNMIRE THAT'S CONGEOLED IN MY CRANIUM AND FORM A PRECISE, FACTSPINNING CEREBRUM OF HIGH CELEBRATION!

HI AND LOIS



WANG LIQIN WON HIS MATCH! WHO'S HE? A PLAYER ON MY FANTASY PING-PONG TEAM. OH, YOU'VE GOT WAY TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS.

THE OTHER COAST



VICKY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOUR WEDDING! SO YOU AND TOULSE HAVE A HOUSEFUL OF CHILDREN? NO, ONLY TWO DOGS, THEY'RE LIKE OUR KIDS, EXCEPT WE DON'T HAVE TO PUT MONEY INTO A COLLEGE FUND. COLLEGE FUND? YOUR FATHER AND I FELT A 60-INCH PLASMA SCREEN TV WOULD HAVE MORE EDUCATIONAL VALUE.

SNUFFY SMITH



HOW HAVE SALES OF MY COOKIES BEEN DOIN', SILAS? BODACIOUS!! 'SPECIALLY ON MY TAB!!

BEEBLE BAILEY



I CAN'T DECIDE IF WE SHOULD GO TO THE RAP SHOW OR THE SYMPHONY. REALLY? I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN.

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2007. There are 328 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Ill. On this date: In 1756, America's third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J. In 1778, the U.S. won official recognition from France with the signing of treaties in Paris. In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate. In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson. In 1952, Britain's King George VI died; he was succeeded as reigning monarch by his daughter, Elizabeth II. In 1959, the United States successfully test-fired for the first time a Titan intercontinental ballistic missile from Cape Canaveral. In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings. In 1992, 16 people were killed when a C-130 military transport plane crashed in Evansville, Ind. In 1996, a Turkish-owned Boeing 757 jetliner crashed into the Atlantic Ocean shortly after takeoff from the Dominican Republic, killing 189 people, mostly German tourists. Today's Birthdays: Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is 90. Actor Patrick Macnee is 85. Actor Rip Torn is 76. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 76. Actor Mike Farrell is 68.

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Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 67. Singer Fabian is 64. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 64. Actor Michael Tucker is 63. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 58. Singer Natalie Cole is 57. Actor Jon Walmsley is 51. Actress Kathy Najimy is 50. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 50. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 50. Actor Barry Miller is 49. Actress Megan Gallagher is 47. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 45. Country singer Richie McDonald (Lonestar) is 45. Singer Rick Astley is 41. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 38.

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

Newsday Crossword

EVERYTHING'S OK by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Not fooled by, 5 Humiliate, 10 Miles away, 14 Criminal, to a cop, 15 Escorted, as to another room, 16 Cairo's river, 17 A Great Lake, 18 Trojan War story, 19 Ginger cookie, 20 "Okay!", 22 Country singer Buck, 23 Elite guest roster, 24 Gnaw, 25 Ziti and spaghetti, 28 Milk companies, 31 Standoffish, 32 Harpsichord kin, 34 Explosive initials, 35 Serve coffee, 36 Western writer Bret, 37 Mets' ballpark, 38 Raggedy doll, 39 Tex-Mex dip, 40 King Tut, for one, 41 Accounting books, 43 Sweethearts, 44 Shoe bottom, 45 Banana coverings, 47 Love Story author Erich, 49 "Okay!", 53 Story line, 54 Part of a rose.
- DOWN: 1 Store sign, 2 Infamous Roman emperor, 3 Lose one's footing, 4 Switchboard worker, 5 Excuses from suspects, 6 Church-tower features, 7 Go on (try to lose weight), 8 The King and I setting, 9 Football lineman, 10 Reply, 11 "Okay!", 12 Astronaut Shepard, 13 Salespeople, for short, 21 Patron saint of Norway, 22 Singer Fitzgerald, 24 Walking stick, 25 Vatican-related, 26 By oneself, 27 "Okay!", 28 Computer input, 29 Foe, 30 Hangs around, 32 Chums, 33 April 15 org., 36 Rabbit relative, 37 Clear-skies forecast, 39 Offer at retail, 40 Shed feathers, 42 Small beard, 43 Well- (affluent), 45 Erect, as a building, 46 Wipe the chalk from, 47 Computer junk mail, 48 Singer Fitzgerald, 49 Trucker's rig, 50 Mid-March day, 51 Half-moon tide, 52 Actor Cooper, 54 Feline foot.

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