

# Jail could reopen in May

## Smoke evacuation system is major stumbling block in facility's rehabilitation

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Howard County coffers will have to endure the strain of a closed jail until the first part of May, according to county commissioners, as the court continues the arduous process of bringing the facility up to state standards.

Commissioners said work on constructing a standpipe in the jail to deliver water to firefighters has been completed, leaving the facility's inoperable smoke evacuation system as the only stumbling block in the way of having the state reopen the jail. "It's moving along right on schedule now," said

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore. "They have 75 days to complete the project, and we're 100 percent sure it's going to work at this point. Just as soon as they have it completed we'll have the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in here and we'll run the tests; that way we can move toward having the jail

reopened. It's been a long process, but that's just what it's taken to get the job done."

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said the standpipe has already received approval from the Jail Commission.

"They've looked at it and given it their approval," said Condray. "All they have left to

do is adjust one of the valves and that project will be 100 percent completed."

The court recently contracted with Anthony Mechanical to repair the jail's smoke evacuation system for approximately \$223,000.

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# Holden aims ire at court

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

"This is a joke." Those were the parting words from Howard County Constable Bill Holden as he left commissioner's court Monday morning, following the court's decision not to reimburse him for expenses incurred since he took office. Commissioners agreed the county should budget funds for constables to acquire the continuing education credits demanded by the state every two years, estimated at approximately \$295 plus travel expenses. "That doesn't even cover what I've already paid out of my own pocket," said Holden as he stormed out of commissioner's court. "I can't see that. I just can't see that. This is a joke."

*"That doesn't even cover what I've already paid out of my own pocket. I can't see that. I just can't see that. This is a joke."*

—Constable Bill Holden



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County Constable Bill Holden expresses his dismay at county commissioners' initial decision to not reimburse him for office expenses during Monday's meeting of the court.

# Coahoma's Mayor Read draws a foe

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Coahoma Mayor Bill Read won't go to the polls in May unopposed after all, as a retired city of Coahoma employee filed to run for the office at the last minute Monday.

According to city officials, Billy Sullivan, who retired as supervisor of the city's water department, filed to run for the mayoral seat on the Coahoma City Council before the deadline Monday afternoon.

Sullivan is the second challenger to file for a Coahoma municipal elected office, as Coahoma Independent School District employee Odis Franklin filed his candidacy for one of a pair of at-large seats on the council last week.

All three incumbents have filed to run for reelection in Coahoma — council members David Elmore and Ricky Stone and Mayor Read.

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# Demos back off requiring Bush to gain congressional OK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic leaders are stripping from a military spending bill for the war in Iraq a requirement that President Bush gain approval from Congress before moving against Iran. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other leaders agreed to remove the

requirement concerning Iran after conservative Democrats as well as other lawmakers worried about its possible impact on Israel, officials said Monday.

The overall bill — which requires that the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq by Sept. 1, 2008, if not earlier — remained on

schedule for an initial test vote Thursday in the House Appropriations Committee.

The measure provides nearly \$100 billion to pay for two wars and includes more money than Bush had requested for operations in Afghanistan and what Democrats called training and equipment shortages.

Still, House Republicans said they wouldn't support it and the White House threatened a veto.

"Republicans will continue to stand united in this debate, and will oppose efforts by Democrats to undermine the ability of

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

**POWWOW SLATED HERE**



The third annual Big Spring Powwow is set this weekend at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Powwow will feature a number of vendors and exhibits, as well as dance competitions.

The event gets under way at 10 a.m. Saturday with gourd dancing, followed by the grand entry. Admission to the event is \$2 and children under 12 are free. Activities continue at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

For more information about the powwow, contact Lesser at 264-8203.

**COUNCIL MEETS TONIGHT**

The Big Spring City Council will meet this evening, with discussions surrounding the oversight of economic development firm Moore Development topping the agenda. The topic, which was approached by the council during its Feb. 27 meeting, stems from the corporation's involvement in the renovation of the historic Settles Hotel, according to city officials.

The renovations are expected to cost approximately \$12 million, with Moore Development currently offering to provide \$3 million.

The meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m.

**BUSH IN GOOD SPIRITS**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush was in good spirits as he gave a speech Monday night, a day after being overcome by the sweltering desert heat and staying overnight at a Southern California hospital.

Bush, 82, got dizzy and dehydrated during a Sunday afternoon golf game, according to Elizabeth Wholihan, a spokeswoman for Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

He stayed overnight at the desert hospital and was released early Monday.

Officials said he was doing well.

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Obituaries

Ruby McCluskey Wood

Ruby McCluskey Wood, 82, of Zephyr, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, March 12, 2007, in Comanche. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mrs. Wood was born Sept. 5, 1924, in Coahoma to Nadine and H. McCluskey. She lived most of her life in Big Spring. She married Curtis Wood on Jan. 4, 1961, in Lamesa. They farmed and ranched in the Lomax Community until 1974 when they moved to Zephyr in Brown County where they raised cattle. Mr. Wood preceded her in death Aug. 9, 2006. She had also worked at the school tax office in Big Spring until retiring. After moving to Zephyr she worked for the Brown County Appraisal District.

She is survived by one brother, Neal McCluskey of Zephyr; one sister, Blanche Becker of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Wanda Counce and Jessie Minter, and one brother, C. H. McCluskey.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

Larry Gene Hix

Larry Gene Hix, 59, died Monday, March 12, 2007, at his home in Wickett.

Services are scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at Harkey Family Funeral Services Chapel with the Rev. Gordon Cox officiating. Burial will follow at Monahans Memorial Cemetery.

He was born Aug. 30, 1947, in Littlefield. He was an oilfield driller.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Hix of Wickett; three sons, Jimmy Hector of Big Spring, Steve Hector of Big Spring and Gene Hector of Big Spring; his mother, Bobbie Hix of Monahans; three brothers, Mike Hix of Monahans, Billy Hix of Andrews and Shawn Hix of Monahans; four sisters, Virgie Worley of White Settlement, Diane Derrick of Monahans, Norma Hix of Monahans and Debbie Hix of Odessa; and eight grandchildren.

Services are under the direction of Harkey Family Funeral Services.

Arthur Brown

Arthur Brown, 81, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 13, 2007, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 4-15-21-25-35.  
Number matching five of five: none.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 2-16-17-24. Bonus Ball: 5.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.  
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$375,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-4-5

Take Note

• JIMMY FISHER AND CALCULUS have booked the Big Spring Memorial Auditorium for 8 p.m. Saturday, March 24. The band plays a variety of music, including rock and blues. Tickets will be \$20 each.

• IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH will have Stations of the Cross Friday at 6 p.m. A fish fry will follow in the church hall. Plates are \$5 per adults and \$2.50 per child.

• BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN at the first United Methodist Church upstairs choral rehearsal room. The rehearsals are for the April 21 concert and will feature spiritual music and Mozart.

• 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.

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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:

- MIGUEL E. JUAREZ, 18, of 306 Denton, was arrested Sunday on three local warrants.
- JODY KYLE ROGERS, 47, of 1207 Union, was arrested Sunday on a parole warrant.
- CHANDRA C. CARPENTER, 18, of 907 E. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Sunday on a local warrant.
- ISMAEL PAREDEZ, 58, of 105 E. 17th Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of hindering an officer's discharge of official duties.
- JOE LOUIS PAREDEZ, 37, of 1335 Walnut, was arrested Sunday on a charge of hindering an officer's discharge of official duties.
- CHRISTINA MARTINEZ, 24, of 628 Caylor, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- MELISSA VELASQUEZ, 42, of 3114 Parkway, was arrested Monday on five local warrants and two county warrants.
- THEFT was reported:  
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.  
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:  
- in the 1600 block of Fifth Street.  
- in the 400 block of State.  
- in the 1400 block of Tucson.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 4800 block of Highway 80.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 600 block of McEwen.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.
- STEVEN KEE WEIMER, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and Fayette County warrants for probation violation/non-support and failure to appear/non-support.
- JODY KYLE ROGERS, 47, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a parole warrant.
- JUDY ANN CASTILLO, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of disorderly conduct.
- CHRISTINA MARTINEZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- EPIFANIO JOSE "JOE" GUZMAN, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance, bondsman off bond for evading arrest with a vehicle and bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

- MONDAY  
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.
- 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.
- WEDNESDAY  
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

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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](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

TODAY  
• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

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

THURSDAY  
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.  
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.  
• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.  
• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.  
• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.  
• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY  
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.  
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.  
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY  
• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.  
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.  
• Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.  
Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.  
Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s. Light and variable winds.  
Thursday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. Light and variable winds becoming northwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.  
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows 42 to 47.  
Friday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the upper 60s.  
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.  
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.  
Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 50.  
Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.  
Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.  
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

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# Mother fights doctors' decision to end treatment of her baby boy

AUSTIN (AP) — The mother of a critically ill baby said she'll do everything possible to find treatment for her son after a hospital concluded that there's no hope of recovery for the boy.

The Children's Hospital of Austin said Monday that it will withdraw 16-month-old Emilio's respirator in 10 days unless another hospital can be found to take him.

Catarina Gonzales, 23, has battled with the hospital over continuing treatment for her son, who she said still responds to her.

Doctors say he is comatose and near death as a result of Leigh's disease, which causes the central nervous system and muscles to degenerate.

Texas law allows doctors to end life-sustaining treatment in cases where they deem the treatment futile or unethical. But the hospital must give a family 10 days to seek a transfer once the decision is made.

"The current aggressive treatment plan for Emilio amounts to a nearly constant assault on Emilio's fundamental human dignity, and with little, if any, corresponding benefit to Emilio," a hospital ethics committee wrote in its report about ending treatment.

Gonzales, of Lockhart, said she'll look across state lines if she must to find treatment.

"It's really hard because you see your son moving, and you see him opening

his eyes," Gonzales said. "He's fighting. ... If I have to take him out of state, I will."

Michael Regier, general counsel for the Seton Family of Hospitals, said an extensive search for another treatment provider has been unsuccessful.

Jerri Ward, Gonzales' lawyer, said it's unlikely a hospital in Texas would agree to take Emilio.

A hospital ethics committee reviewed Emilio's treatment in February and doctors agreed to continue treatment in case a transfer facility could be located or he got strong enough to go home, Regier said.

A second ethics panel took up the case as the boy's conditioned worsened.

## JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

The county jail was shut down by the Jail Commission in November, after the facility's smoke evacuation system failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests in 2006.

Since the jail's closure, Howard County's inmates have been housed in other counties, including Dickens, Glasscock and Lamb counties.

If Anthony Mechanical meets its 75-day deadline for the smoke evacuation system, Kilgore said the jail could be reopened as soon as early May.

"We're hoping to have the jail reopened just as soon as they are done (working on the smoke evacuation system)," said Kilgore. "The 75 days is calendar days from when the contract was signed (Thursday), so I expect it will be sometime in late April or the first of May."

The court also received encouraging news about efforts to design and construct a new jail facility within the county.

"We have begun collecting informa-

tion on 13 different sites for a new jail," said Commissioner Bill Crooker. "We will complete it and have it available to the commissioners by the end of the week, so they can review it and familiarize themselves with the different sites we're looking at."

Crooker said the sites have not yet been reviewed by the architect in charge of the project.

"The architect hasn't looked at any of these sites yet," said Crooker. "We want to refine the list. Based on certain information, we feel like we can eliminate a number of them and give him the final report. That way we can let him review the sites we've chosen."

Commissioners were forced to start site selection over last month after the building they were considering — the old Kmart building at Birdwell Lane and FM 700 — was optioned by Trinity Baptist Church. According to county officials, the price tag on the structure was approximately \$650,000 at that time.

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

## CONSTABLE

Continued from Page 1A

Dale Walker.

Commissioners also heard a request from fellow constable Mark Winn, who is asking the court to fund the completion of his peace officer certification.

"I still have three courses I need for my peace officer certification. Two of those I should be able to pass with a departmental exam since I taught them several years ago in Odessa," said Winn. "I'm still waiting to find out if the instructor for the third course will allow me to take a depart-

mental exam for the course. If he doesn't, then I'm still at least one semester away from completion of the course."

Winn told the court he expects the remainder of his courses to cost approximately \$600, but could not give the court a date he expected to have them completed.

"I can see where the county would be responsible for the continuing education classes the state requires. I can see that," said Commissioner Jerry Kilgore. "However, I can see where we might be making a bad precedent if we start paying for certifications. We don't pay for it with the deputies, and I don't

see where we should pay for it with the constables."

How long it will take Winn to get his certification as a Texas peace officer could spell trouble for the county, according to County Attorney Mike Thomas.

"Constables are required to have their peace officer certification completed within 270 days of being elected," Thomas told the court. "The letter we've received from TCLOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards) states Mr. Winn has not acquired his certification within that period."

According to commissioners, Winn has been in office for

more than four years without certification, a problem Winn said could be solved by the court quite easily.

"If the court were to remove me from office, then re-assign me, it would start the 270 days over again," Winn told commissioners. "I feel confident I could get my certification within that 270 day period if that's what the court does."

Thomas said the maneuver seems too "tricky" for his tastes.

"I'm not sure what the attorney general would say about it," said Thomas. "I'm just not comfortable with it."

While the court made no

motion to approve or deny the \$600 request from Winn, the local constable said lack of funding is the entire reason for his failure to meet the state's 270-day deadline.

"It all comes down to funding," said Winn firmly. "That's the reason I'm still not certified. I feel confident the commissioners are going to approve my request."

Commissioners are expected to revisit the subject during their March 26 meeting.

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

## RACE

Continued from Page 1A

Sullivan's last-minute declaration was the only one seen in the Crossroads area Monday. Both Big Spring and Stanton made it through

the deadline with no new filings.

The District 5 seat on the Big Spring City Council drew a third candidate last week when financial services professional Troy Tompkins filed to run in the May 12 contest.

Tompkins will face for-

mer Big Spring City Council member Woody Jumper, who previously served in District 2, and local resident David Scott, who is the manager of Smith's Transmissions in Big Spring.

District 5 incumbent Joann Knox is not seeking re-election.

The race for the mayoral seat in Big Spring stalled at three candidates last week.

Incumbent Russ McEwen filed for re-election, while challengers Shannon Thomason and James "Jim" Hicks will try to unseat the longtime mayor.

While officials in Coahoma and Big Spring prepare to hold municipal elections, it appears Stanton will make it through May without dusting off its ballot boxes.

Incumbent Stanton City Council members Steven Villa and Tommy Haislip

are the only two candidates to file in the Martin County seat, eliminating the need for an election, according to officials.

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

## DEMOS

Continued from Page 1A

General (David) Petraeus and our troops to achieve victory in the Global War on Terror," Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a statement.

Vice President Dick Cheney criticized supporters of the bill's withdrawal provisions, declaring in a speech Monday that they "are telling the enemy simply to watch the clock and wait us out."

Pelosi issued a written statement that said the vice president's remarks prove that "the administration's answer to continuing violence in Iraq is more troops and more treasure from the American people."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said in a statement that America was less safe today because of the war. The president "must change course, and it's time for the Senate to demand he do it," he added.

The Iran-related proposal stemmed from a desire to make sure Bush did not launch an attack without going to Congress for approval, but drew opposition from numerous members of the rank and file in a series of closed-door sessions last week.

Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., said in an interview that there is widespread fear in Israel about Iran, which is believed to be seeking nuclear weapons and has expressed unremitting hostility

about the Jewish state.

"It would take away perhaps the most important negotiating tool that the U.S. has when it comes to Iran," she said of the now-abandoned provision.

"I didn't think it was a very wise idea to take things off the table if you're trying to get people to modify their behavior and normalize it in a civilized way," said Rep. Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y.

Several officials said there was widespread opposition to the proposal at a closed-door meeting last week of conservative and moderate Democrats,

who said they feared tying the hands of the administration when dealing with an unpredictable and potentially hostile regime in Tehran.

Public opinion has swung the way of Democrats on the issue of the war. More than six in 10 Americans think the conflict was a mistake — the largest number yet found in AP-Ipsos polling.

But Democrats have struggled to find a compromise that can satisfy both liberals who oppose any funding for the military effort and conservatives who do not want to

unduly restrict the commander in chief.

"This supplemental should be about supporting the troops and providing what they need," Rep. Dan Boren, D-Okla., said Monday upon returning from Iraq. Boren said he plans to oppose any legislation setting a clear deadline for troops to leave.

In his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Cheney chided lawmakers who are pressing for tougher action on Iran to oppose the president on the Iraq war.

"It is simply not consistent for anyone to demand aggressive action against the menace posed by the Iranian regime while at the same time acquiescing in a retreat from Iraq that would leave our worst enemies dramati-

cally emboldened and Israel's best friend, the United States, dangerously weakened," Cheney said.



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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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## OUR VIEWS

# Powwow will be a 'unique' celebration

One doesn't have to "go tribal" to celebrate his or her Native American heritage — something a great many of us can boast. Instead, we can celebrate our ancestry by taking part in this weekend's third annual Big Spring Powwow at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The powwow will get under way at 10 a.m. Saturday with gourd dancing, followed by the grand entry when all of the event's dancers will enter the coliseum floor.

It's important to note that the weekend powwow is not a religious event. In fact, it's simply a celebration — a social event, if you will — conducted in the manner Native Americans have always used to celebrate.

"The powwow is a social event and there is no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies," explained Randy McKinney, who serves as treasurer of the powwow's organizing committee. "A powwow is a wonderful experience; the drum alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance."

"Dancing has always been a big part of the Native American culture, as it has in many cultures," McKinney added. "Most people think of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days."

But one doesn't have to be dancing to enjoy the powwow's activities. Those interested in attending merely as spectators will have an opportunity to experience unique sights and sounds that are only displayed once a year in Big Spring — colorful costumes, the drum beats and the various dances displayed by the performers.

In addition, numerous vendors will be on hand, offering many different wares.

A food drive will also be conducted during the event by powwow organizers. All donated canned goods will be given to local food banks.

And Sunday, the event will begin with a special Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the arena. Following that service, gourd dancing and the grand entry are scheduled.

Admission to the event is \$2 and children under 12 are free.

For more information about the powwow, contact Connie Lesser at 264-8203.

We encourage readers to make the Big Spring Powwow a part of their activities this weekend. It's clearly an affordable entertainment opportunity — one that is singularly unique in our community. And don't forget to bring a few non-perishable food items. You'll be glad you did.

## LETTER POLICIES

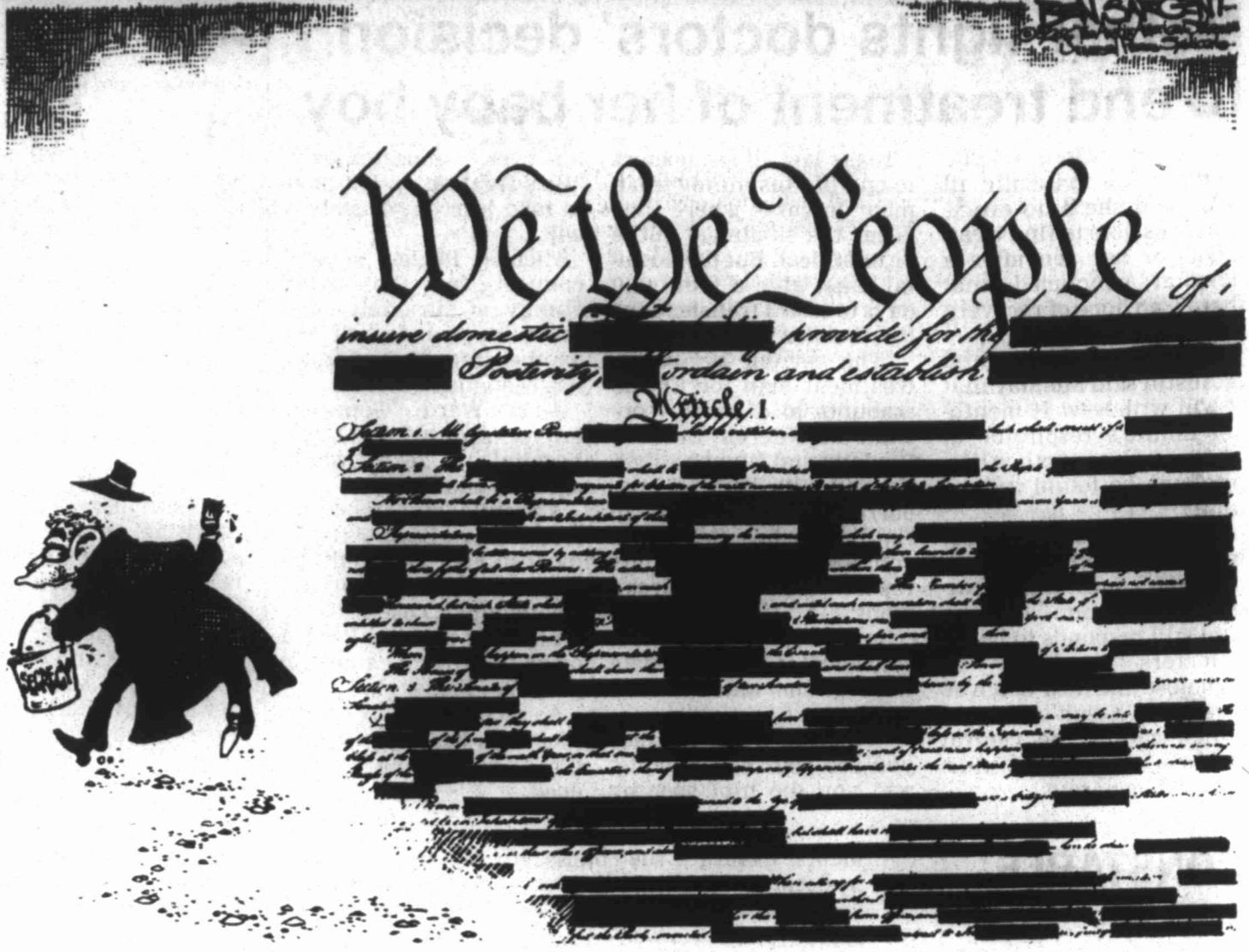
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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, generate excitement in our life.

Amen



# Complex battle over openness

These are strange times for people who advocate for open government. On one hand, technological changes appear to make information about government more easily available than ever before. We live in a radically changed media environment, in which news about government misconduct seems to reach our televisions instantaneously. And if we look around the world, we see an extraordinary spread of laws like the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Over 70 countries now have FOI laws, most adopted in the last decade.



ALASDAIR ROBERTS

And yet we seem to be more concerned with government secrecy than ever before. Indeed, some people claim that secrecy today is the worst in decades. How can both of these stories be true? It might help to recognize that we are in the middle of an intense, global battle over the principle of governmental openness. In the heat of battle, there's a temptation to employ overheated rhetoric. The truth is that the idea of transparency has gained a lot of ground over the last 20 years. This is evident in the spread of FOI laws, and the number of citizens who say that open government is an important value.

Nonetheless, there are serious challenges to openness. One is executive pushback — the determination of political leaders to reverse laws or policies that guarantee openness. As pressure for openness mounts, this countervailing pressure also intensifies. Of course, we've seen a classic case of pushback in United States, where the Bush administration waged a campaign against openness even before the 9/11 attacks. The administration tightened rules governing the Freedom of Information Act and policies on access to presidential records, among other measures.

However, pushback isn't unique to the United States. The British government led by Tony Blair was elected on a promise to introduce a Freedom of Information Act in 1997, but took eight years to put it into force. The new law was in operation for little more than a year when the Blair government announced substantial fee hikes that could gut the law.

The Indian government also adopted a Freedom of Information law in 2005, but within months senior officials were pushing for restrictions. A wave of protests — and hunger strikes — deterred Indian leaders from introducing new limits.

Such struggles will continue in the years ahead. Some advocates argue that FOI laws eventually introduce a "culture of openness" in government — but the evidence tends to support a more hardheaded view. As a Canadian politician once said, the struggle over access to information is ultimately a struggle for political power. A well-organized community of stakeholders, including journalists and public interest groups, is essential to make rules about openness stick in the long run.

Executive pushback isn't the only challenge. The very structure of government is also being transformed, often in ways that undermine openness. One obvious example is the growing role of contractors in performing government functions. A 2006 study estimated that almost 8 million people work for federal government contractors — four times the size of the regular government workforce. As we've seen in Iraq, contractors now perform defense and intelligence tasks that we once thought belonged to government alone.

The problem? Most often, contractors aren't affected by FOI laws, so that internal documents about the use of money or power can't be accessed. Indeed, it may be difficult to obtain even the contract itself, which explains what contractors have promised to do, and how much they will be paid. Around the world, battles for access to government contracts are commonplace.

The structure of government is also being changed in more subtle ways. Since 9/11, we've all been reminded of the need to make difficult tradeoffs between security

and openness. Less easily seen are the changes in the defense, intelligence, and policing sectors. Government agencies in different states (and different countries) are linking together more tightly, forming networks aimed at improving collective security. This is an admirable goal. But governments often agree to information-sharing agreements that allow inter-governmental confidentiality to trump FOI laws. OK as long as the network performs well — but bad news when the network fouls up, and journalists or citizens try to find out why.

Another subtle but important change: the growing role of international organizations. We live in a globalized economy, superintended by important institutions such as the World Trade Organization (which referees trade disputes), the International Monetary Fund (which monitors governments' economy policies), or the lesser-known ICANN (which rules the internet). Decisions made by organizations such as these affect the well-being of millions of citizens — but they are not required to comply with the transparency rules that we've imposed on national, state and local governments.

Are we making headway on governmental transparency? Frankly, it's too early to tell. The idea of transparency had gained ground. But it's not yet clear whether we will find ways of tailoring openness rules (like FOI laws) to fit new structures of governance. And we can expect political leaders to continue pushing back, especially as their capacity to control the outflow of government information is challenged more directly.

It's a long road ahead. But it's a road we must follow, if we want to protect the ideal of an open, vibrant democracy.

Alasdair Roberts is a professor of public administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. His 2006 book, "Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age," recently won awards from the National Academy of Public Administration and the American Society for Public Administration. His Web site is

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## Bird F Rel

D u n n p windmills, cial owl ne those heigl defend its A cold J and Febru made the I cantha and yaupon be essential f vival. Whe sional war occurred, robin-sized would freq the lawns shrubs of older hom the area. I its wings l the bird w den insect the grass : A year-r the slende Almost da came out flowers in planters. ( inside, the dle of fres birds ente would be As the b swelled ir emergenc increased songs. Be

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### Bird Poop

## Rehab works for mockingbird who flew into window

**D**uring the winter months, we had noticed a songbird perched atop the windmills, roofs, and an artificial owl near the library. From those heights, it could readily defend its territory.

A cold January and February had made the pyracantha and yaupon berries essential for survival. When occasional warm-ups occurred, the robin-sized bird would frequent the lawns and shrubs of the older homes in the area. Raising its wings high above its back, the bird would try to scare hidden insects into coming out of the grass and bushes.

A year-round attraction for the slender bird was water. Almost daily, the same person came out of the library to tend flowers in the concrete planters. Once she went back inside, there was always a puddle of fresh water. Any other birds entering its domain would be quickly chased away.

As the buds on the fruit trees swelled in announcing the emergence of spring, the bird increased his repertoire of songs. Besides the familiar

"krrDEE-krrDEE-krrDEE, jeurrdi jeurrdi jeurrdi," the vocalist would mimic many other birds. His unique "dance," or sidling, was sheer entertainment. The dense live oaks would be offering protection for his family-to-be.

Having attracted a female, the songbird became even more ardent in thwarting any competition. From the top of an elm tree across from the library, the bird recognized a threat. Immediately, he launched himself toward another male that was drinking from that morning's watering. Plummeting downward, he was about two feet from the intruder when someone opened the library door. Startled, both birds panicked. As the avian invader headed toward the parking lot, the songbird slammed into a window.

Inside, several readers heard the strike against the pane. Looking outside, they saw a gray bird lying on its side. There was no movement. Noticing the concern on the people's faces as they looked outside, an employee spotted the songbird.

Grabbing a box and some tissues for a make-shift nest, she hurried outside. As she placed the bird inside what she hoped would be a temporary home, she tried to control her emotions. A lover of birds, she recognized the familiar markings of a mockingbird. Its distinct white wing patches, and white outer tail feathers were beautiful in their simplicity.



**Defending its territory and helping to feed the young, the male mockingbird will dive at dogs, cats and people who come too near to his nest site. In addition to eating holly berries and the fruits of mulberry trees and prickly-pear cactus, the mockingbird tries to frighten insects with an upward display of its wings.**

"It's still breathing," was hopeful news when we received the call. Once at the

library, we told the employee that there was a chance for the bird to recover. Since it had not died from a broken neck on impact, we wanted to keep it for awhile. Often, birds strike windows, fly away, only to die an hour or two later

from internal injuries. Others recover fully. Later that day we would know the outcome. Rather than handling the bird or exposing it to the curious, the employee had done what is

See BIRD, Page 6A

## Parent's Corner: A convincing argument that old age is a gift

**W**hat do you think about being old? As a parent and a grandparent I have thought about growing older but I have also decided not to let it bother me.

I was reading an article a few days ago about an older person that was very convincing that old age is a gift. Let me share some of his comments.

He said, "I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I some-

time despair over wrinkles and baggy eyes. And often I am taken aback by the old person who lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long. I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray in my hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more understanding with myself and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

"I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too

soon; long before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging. Whose business is it if I choose to read until 4 a.m. and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will. I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set. They, too, will get old. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten and I eventually remember the important things.

"Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How

can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

"I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

"As one gets older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself any-

more. I've earned the right to be wrong.

"So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day, if I choose, even if it is sugar free Jell-O!

"I sometimes feel sorry for the young. They face a far different world than I knew growing up, where we feared the law, respected the old, the flag, and our country. I never felt the need to use filthy language in order to express myself.

See CORNER, Page 6A



## THE SONG OF THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

**T**his story is really two stories. It is about a lonely whip-poor-will and a clown. Do you know what a whip-poor-will might be? I am sure you have heard his song before. Did you say that a whip-poor-will is a bird? I thought you knew that. I



know that you know what a clown might be, too. Have you ever seen a clown in a circus? Where else have you seen a clown? This clown is named Klutzy Clown. He had wanted to be a clown all of his life. He wanted to make children smile, even laugh sometimes. When he was just a young

clown, he couldn't decide what he wanted his clown face to look like. Then one morning as he was out walking and thinking about his clown suit, he heard the song of the whip-poor-will. The whip-poor-will's song seemed to sad and lonely, but Klutzy loved listening to it. It was then that he decided that he would be a clown with a sad face, just the way he imagined the whip-poor-will's face might look like.

Soon Klutzy Clown had his face just the way he wanted it and it was a very sad face. The first thing he did was go to a birthday party for a little girl in his neighborhood.

The little girl would be five years old today.

How old are you? Klutzy Clown would make this the best birthday party this little girl would ever have.

Or, would he? Klutzy Clown had everything he thought he would need to make the little girl smile and be happy. He had balloons of all colors. He could twist and tie the balloons into every shape the little girl would want. He could even make the balloons like little animals. But, the little girl was not smiling. None of her friends were smiling either! "What is



wrong?" asked Klutzy. "Why won't you smile?" "Because you have such a sad face," she said. "You should have a happy face." This made Klutzy Clown really sad now, too. He had only wanted to make everyone happy with his sad clown face. But, it wasn't working. What would he do? He decided to go for a walk again and think about what he could do with his sad face that would make children happy. That's when he heard it again. The song of the whip-poor-will! It was a beautiful song, but it seemed so sad. He decided to find the whip-poor-will and ask him how he could

sound so sad but also be a happy bird at the same time.

The whip-poor-will was very happy to help Klutzy. He told Klutzy that even though the song he sang sounded so lonely and sad to people that it sounded very happy and cheerful to the other whip-poor-wills. It makes all the other birds happy, too! It was not a sad song at all! Then, he told Klutzy that he should always wear a happy face if he wanted to be a clown and make people smile.

Klutzy ran home just as fast as any clown can run. He quickly changed his sad face into a very happy face. He liked the happy face much better. So did all the little girls and boys in his neighborhood! He was invited to all the birthday parties

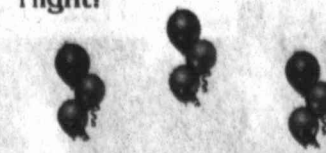
after he had changed his face. Everyone was smiling now. Some were even laughing. They all loved his balloons, too. They were all happy. So was Klutzy!

And remember, the next time you are out walking late in the evening or early in the morning, listen for the song of the whip-poor-will. It may sound so sad, but it is really a very happy song. It even sounds as if he is saying, "Whip-poor-will!"

In bird talk, that could mean, "Good Night!"

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2007



# Texas news in brief

## Texas House to debate bill barring HPV vaccine requirement

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers have complained for weeks that they didn't have an opportunity to weigh in on Gov. Rick Perry's anti-cancer vaccine mandate. All 150 state representatives will get their chance on Tuesday, when the Texas House debates a bill that would keep the human papillomavirus vaccine off the list of required shots for school attendance. Both Republicans and Democrats were outraged in early February when Perry issued an executive order directing the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to adopt a rule requiring the vaccine for girls entering the sixth grade as of September 2008. The vaccine protects girls against strains of HPV that cause most cases of cervical cancer.

## Judge to arraign accused kidnapper; infant's family seeks privacy

LUBBOCK (AP) — A suspected kidnapper was back in Texas to face federal charges that she snatched a newborn girl from her mother's hospital room. U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Koenig was scheduled to arraign Rayshaun Parson on Tuesday on a kidnapping charge. The 21-year-old was being held late Monday at the Lubbock County Jail for the U.S. Marshals Service.

As the criminal case moves forward, tiny Mychael Darthard-Dawodu was back in her mother's arms, two days after being found in New Mexico.

Federal authorities alleged that Parson returned to her Clovis, N.M., home Saturday "in possession of a baby," court records show. She had previously told people there she was pregnant, "but never really was," according to an FBI affidavit stating what a woman who tipped police told them.

## Authorities seize 150 birds in SE Texas cockfighting bust

SPLENDORA (AP) — Authorities seized more than 150 hens and roosters and arrested 25 people for immigration violations during a raid on a suspected cockfighting operation northeast of Houston.

A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper was tipped to the cockfight Sunday night when he pulled over a suspected drunken driver who said he had just been at the event.

Authorities responding to the 10-acre property in Montgomery County found more than 100 parked cars and a crowd of people watching cockfights, said Deputy Don Smith, a livestock officer with the Montgomery County Precinct 5 Constable's Office.

Spectators scattered into the surrounding woods or to their cars, but not all escaped.

## Texas House panel approves record voting

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans would be able to see how their lawmaker votes on state legislation under a proposal approved by a key House committee on Monday. The House rules already require final votes to be recorded, but the proposals by Republican Rep. Dan Branch, of Dallas, would cement the measure in state law.

"This makes it permanent," Branch said. "We can't pass legislation in this state without voters having a say in it."

The legislation still must be approved by the full House and the Senate before it can become law.

Rep. David Swinford, who heads the House State Affairs Committee, grudgingly voted in favor of the legislation, calling it "symbolism over substance."

## Gas line accident erupts in fire in rural Parker County

WEATHERFORD (AP) — A fiery gas line accident in rural Parker County caused flames to shoot several hundred feet into the air and burned several nearby vehicles. There were no injuries.

"When they tapped into this line, it began spewing and they began running," Bob Hopkins, a spokesman for the Weatherford Fire Department.

He said about 15 workers were in the area when a backhoe hit the gas line. Hopkins said that officials think just one line was hit, but will not know for sure until they get a closer look once the fire burns off.

A spokesman for ConocoPhillips said that at about 2 p.m. a third party contractor working in the area hit

their 8-inch line that carried propylene, a type of natural gas liquid used to produce plastics. He said that ConocoPhillips has cut off the supply to the line.

Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said the accident happened as some workers were laying a pipeline in the rural area near Lake Weatherford, about 30 miles west of Fort Worth.

Hopkins said the area where the fire is burning is in the middle of the Barnett Shale, a large natural gas field.

At least half-a dozen vehicles were burned and several pieces of heavy equipment were in flames or had been scorched. Some power lines were also destroyed in the fire, but electricity was later restored, Hopkins said.

## Escaped juvenile inmates captured in Eagle Pass

EAGLE PASS (AP) — Two inmates discovered missing from a West Texas youth prison overnight were captured Monday in Eagle Pass after a woman saw them in a convenience store and thought they looked suspicious, authorities said.

Coke County Sheriff Rick Styles said the woman thought the two were illegal immigrants and called the Maverick County Sheriff's Office, which arrested them.

Styles said he expected the two to be returned to Bronte in a few days. He said the two allegedly stole a pickup in Bronte and left it in Eagle Pass.

Two other inmates at the Texas Youth Commission's Coke County Juvenile Justice Center were found hiding in the attic after staff were told that a vent had fallen out of the ceiling, said TYC spokesman Jim Hurley. Another inmate said insulation had fallen on his face.

Investigators searched both inside and outside the facility. No breach had been found in the perimeter fence, he said.

The 17- and-18-year-old missing inmates, both Hispanic males, were not imprisoned for violent crimes, Hurley said.

The facility in Bronte drew attention last week after a convicted sex offender was fired from his post as a correctional officer.

## BIRD

Continued from Page 5A

always best. She had placed the mockingbird in a quiet, dark, warm environment.

Some three hours later, we heard activity from the box we had placed

inside a large cage. Rested from its encounter with the window, the bird discovered it could leave the box. Readily, it checked each roost and the food and water dishes. In trying to attack its adversary, the "mocker" had slowed its flight enough when it

tried to veer away from the opening door. It was obvious that this action had saved its life.

When the songbird was released in its feeding/breeding territory, it flew into familiar trees. Recognizing that it was home, the mockingbird sang its entire

ensemble as an announcement that it had returned. Once again, on some moonlight night, it would awaken the neighborhood with its early morning song.

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

## CORNER

Continued from Page 5A

And they, too, will grow old someday.

"For the first time in my life, I don't have to have a reason to do the things I want to do. If I want to play games on the computer all day, lie on the couch and watch old movies for hours or don't want to go to the beach or a movie, I have earned that right. I have put in my time doing everything for others, so now I can be a bit selfish without feeling guilty. I haven't failed.

"I now know a thousand things that won't work, so I am that much closer to finding what will. I am grateful to have been born when I

was, into a Kinder, gentler world. Yes, I like being old, but I am not sold on the aches, pains, and stiff joints! However the biggest disadvantage of old age is that you can't outgrow it."

Now I can't argue with that but I still believe that even though we may be getting older on the outside but we remain young on the inside! Our minds still want to run and play, our bodies just

don't want to get around to it! I know it has been said that we shouldn't resist growing old since so many are denied the privilege but it's also been said that to make a success of old age you must start young!

President James Garfield once said, "Wrinkles must be written upon our brows, however, let them not be written upon our hearts. The spirit should not

grow old." I've also discovered that life is like a roll of toilet paper; it goes faster toward the end.

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

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### IN BRIEF

#### J.T. Smith takes on new challenge

The Odessa Roughnecks attempt to have J.T. Smith return to Big Spring for his final professional football game has been nixed less than three weeks before the game.

Odessa will be playing at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on March 31, but Smith was hired this week by the Arena Football League to be the defensive coordinator for the Arkansas Twisters in the AF2.

"I was looking forward to playing and I want thank Odessa for the opportunity to play in front of my home town one last time," Smith said. "Coach Williams needs to know that I really appreciate him giving me the chance to play and to show my old moves on the field one last time. Odessa is a classy organization and I really appreciate everything they tried to do, but things happen for reason and I am pleased to have a coaching job in Arkansas."

#### Coaching peers honor Conrard

"As I told her, we all appreciate what she's done for this game. She's been a great friend of mine, a mentor, and we're going to miss her. But she's left her footprints all over the game and all over a lot of us coaches." — Tennessee coach Pat Summitt.

"I think they established something that every other coach in America wanted to build. I'm sure she'll be involved somehow in the basketball community. She's just too valuable a resource to just let her walk away." — Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma.

"She's an icon in women's basketball. Nine hundred wins is mind boggling. As great a coach as she is, she's an even better person. I've admired her and the job she's done. I'm happy for her she's retiring and moving on, but our game will miss her. I only have the ultimate respect and admiration for her. It has to be hard. She's from my era a little bit. You think of coaches around my age retiring — whoa." — Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer.

"Jody is a real giant of our profession, a lady with real class. She is one of the most meticulous, thorough-minded coaches I know, a brilliant hard worker. I am in awe of her and have tremendous respect for her. Basketball has truly lost a great lady. And a piece of my life — both personal and professional — is gone with Jody. I love and respect her." — Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer.

# Conrard resigns from Texas

By JIM VERTUNO  
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — After 38 seasons, 900 victories, a national championship and a pioneering role in shaping women's basketball, Texas coach Jody Conrard decided it was time to retire.

The 65-year-old Hall of Fame coach ended her career Monday night with her surprise announcement she is stepping down to let someone else lead the Longhorns program after missing the NCAA tournament for the second straight season.

"We were capable of beating anyone (and) there were times we were not so good," a tearful Conrard said at a news conference.

Her team went 18-14 this season with several quality wins, but finished well back in the Big 12 after a late swoon.

"This is a young team, one that will be back and one that will be very good in the future," she said. "It's not acceptable for me and it's not acceptable for the University of Texas not to be in the NCAA tournament two years in a row."

Conrard had barely announced her decision when her peers acknowledged her impact on the game. Conrard's teams were a fixture in the tournament for decades and once dominated the women's basketball landscape.

Tennessee's Pat Summitt, the only Division I coach with more victories, said Conrard called her Monday with the news. She called Conrard a mentor and noted she took her share of losses against Texas.

"She's been a great friend of mine, a mentor, and we're going



Texas head coach Jody Conrard is stone faced as her bench celebrates a three-point shot in the first half of their Women's Big 12 Championship semifinal game. Conrard announced her retirement on Monday after the Lady Longhorns failed to make the NCAA tournament for the second straight year.

to miss her. But she's left her footprints all over the game and all over a lot of us coaches," Summitt said.

When Conrard won her first game as a coach at Sam Houston State in 1969, women played six-on-six basketball and only two

players could go the length of the court. She was a physical education teacher who was not paid to coach.

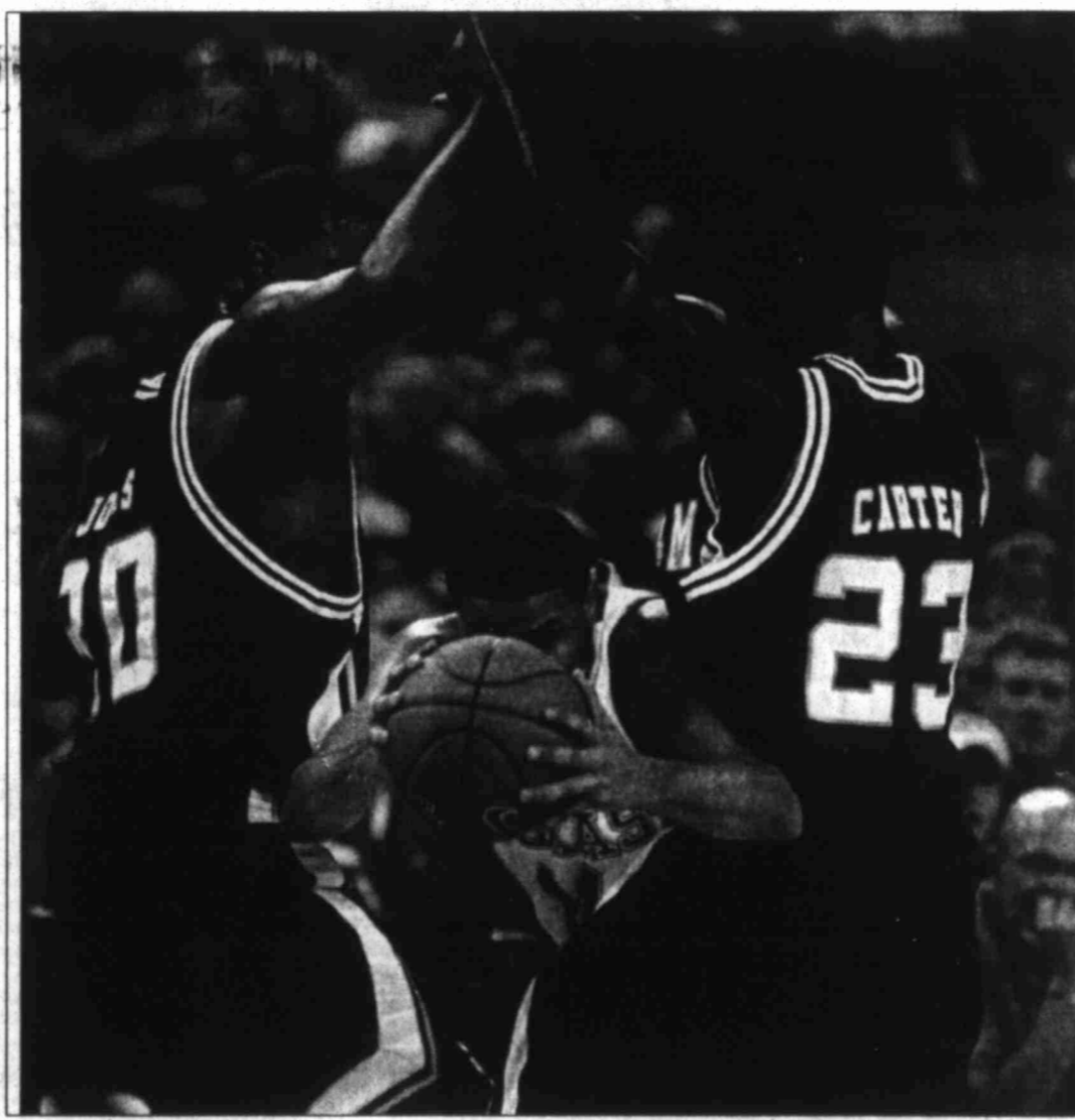
When she resigned, she had two years left on a contract that paid her \$540,500 a year.

Conrard spent 31 seasons in

Austin and won her only national championship in 1986. She won career victory No. 900 just last week.

Texas lost five in a row in February and went into the Big

See HORNS, Page 2B



Texas A&M players Joseph Jones (30) and Josh Carter (23) show they can play defense as well as anyone in the country. In the NCAA tournament their defensive pressure could allow them to make a deep run into the tournament.

## Aggies sweat out No. 3 seed

By CHRIS DUNCAN  
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — The Texas A&M Aggies had a long wait to find out where they would be seeded in the NCAA tournament that included an alarming double-take.

The Aggies (25-6) earned the last No. 3 seed in the tournament on Sunday and will play Ivy League champion Pennsylvania (20-8) in Lexington, Ky., on Thursday.

Like last season, when they earned their first NCAA berth since 1987, the Aggies gathered in a banquet room in Reed Arena with about 350 fans to watch the pairings on television.

This time, one of the first teams announced was Southland Conference champion Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which earned a No. 15 seed and will face No. 2 seed Wisconsin in Chicago on Friday.

When the sister school's name flashed on the screen, the Aggies and most of the people in the room had a moment of heart-stopping angst before realizing that wasn't them. After a tense few seconds, the room erupted in laughter.

"When I first saw that 'Texas A&M,' I thought it was us — until I saw that Corpus Christi on the side," said leading scorer Acie Law IV. "Then, I was like, 'OK, OK, OK.'"

Otherwise, the Aggies had a much more relaxed wait this year.

A No. 12 seed last year, A&M spent this entire season in the Top 25. Their 25 regular-season and 13 Big 12 victories were both the highest totals in school history.

"We played really good basketball for 31 games," said coach Billy Gillispie. "It was not always perfect and I don't think we

See A&M, Page 2B

## Warriors stop Mavericks

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Dallas Mavericks' 17-game winning streak ended with a thud.

Make that a series of thuds, from every one of their missed shots and turnovers.

Dirk Nowitzki even got embarrassed enough to draw a technical foul while sitting on the bench — yet when his head finally cooled, he realized the Mavs can draw motivation and maturity from this loss.

After all, it's only their third in three months. Mickael Pietrus scored 20 points as the

Warriors emphatically snapped the seventh-longest streak in NBA history, dominating the league leaders throughout a 117-100 victory Monday night.

For at least one night, the Warriors were far better than the NBA's best team. The blowout win was a stunner for both Golden State and the Mavericks (52-10), who hadn't lost since Jan. 25 at Chicago.

"They came out swinging, and we were never ready for the attack," said Nowitzki, who scored just 13 points on 3-of-11 shooting, made seven turnovers. "We

were backpedaling all game long. We were just never really ready to play. That's something we've got to learn from if we want to do anything this year in the postseason."

Dallas beat the Los Angeles Lakers by 36 points Sunday night to improve to 38-2 since Dec. 11, but that team never showed up in Oakland. The Mavs floundered offensively and played awful defense against the Warriors' up-tempo offense, falling behind by 17 in the first half

See MAVS, page 2B



Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki gives teammate, Josh Howard, a pat on the head during the first half of the Mavericks loss.

# Suns rip Rockets in the desert

By **BOB BAUM**  
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — The "Brazilian blur" keeps making his case for the NBA's sixth man of the year award. He'll get no argument from the Houston Rockets.

Leandro Barbosa matched his career best with his second 32-point performance in three games and the Phoenix Suns improved to 10-1 since the All-Star break with a 103-82 rout of Houston on Monday night.

"I've never seen anybody as fast as this kid," the Rockets' Tracy McGrady said. "He's unbelievable. He's really Speedy Gonzalez out there. He's playing out of his mind right now."

Shawn Marion had 14 points, 15 rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals for the Suns, who beat Houston for the sixth time in a row, third this season.

With Dallas losing at Golden State

on Monday, Phoenix is 3 1/2 games behind the Mavericks for best record in the NBA. The Suns, who completed a 5-0 homestand, play at Dallas on Wednesday night.

Phoenix had been winning ugly, but not in this one, taking control early, then turning the game into a blowout in the fourth quarter. Boris Diaw added 15 points for the Suns, who had six players in double figures.

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni wasn't around to see the end of his 200th NBA career victory. He drew two quick technicals from referee Ron Olesiak with 5:28 left in the third quarter for his first ejection in two seasons.

"We were friends at halftime," D'Antoni joked. "I don't know what happened. The relationship just went downhill in the second half. I just said a couple of things I shouldn't have said. He should have tossed me. It happens. We're all kids out there."

McGrady, defended by Marion most of the night, scored 19 on just 8-for-28 shooting.

"I was trying to be in his face as much as possible," Marion said, "contend every shot he got and try not to give him any easy baskets, and I did a good job of that."

Yao Ming, who scored 37 in a home victory over Orlando on Sunday, had his usual difficult night against the Suns' fast-paced style. The big center scored 10 points but made only 1-of-9 shots in 30 frustrating minutes.

In a 2-minute, 37-second stretch of the fourth quarter, Yao had consecutive shots blocked by Kurt Thomas, who was called for a three-second violation twice and was whistled for two offensive fouls. He dejectedly went to the bench for good with 7 minutes to play.

"They made it very hard on Yao," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said.

## HORNS

Continued from 1B

12 tournament having lost six of its last seven conference games. The Longhorns won their first tournament game in Oklahoma City, but then lost to No. 9 Oklahoma on Wednesday.

"It's a winning business. Losing is not acceptable," Conradt said when she addressed the media with her players immediately after the NCAA tournament selections were announced and her team was not included.

"The easiest thing to change is the leadership," she said.

Conradt fought back tears several times during the news conference. Her players stood off to the side, many of them sobbing and hugging.

"What she's done for the game is so important. She's a legend, a pioneer," senior Tiffany Jackson said. "I don't think anyone saw it coming."

Conradt most recently reached the Final Four in 2003 and with top recruits coming in, the Longhorns seemed ready to stay among the national elite for some time.

But the program went on a slow decline instead. Although Texas finished first and second in the Big 12 the next two seasons, the Longhorns were eliminated from the NCAA tournament in the round of 16 in 2004; the second round in 2005; and fell to 13-15 overall last season when injuries, immaturity and inexperience disrupted one of the top recruiting classes in the country.

## MAVS

Continued from 1B

and 29 in the third quarter.

Jason Terry scored 16 points, but the defending Western Conference champions never were competitive in their fourth straight loss to the Warriors. Nowitzki was furious when he left the game, but had a little perspective afterward.

The Mavericks are the first club in NBA history with three winning streaks of 12 games or longer in the same season, but they'll have to start another one Wednesday night in a showdown with Phoenix, which also won 17 straight earlier this year.

"We weren't here tonight," coach Avery Johnson said. "We just didn't have it. We got outplayed and worked and hustled, but our guys are professional. They don't have many nights like this, so we'll bounce back. ... This leaves a bad taste in our mouth. We don't like to play like this."

Don Nelson, the Mavericks' longtime coach in his first season back with Golden State, has won his first two matchups with Johnson, his former protege. Nelson cooked up an impressive game plan for Dallas, doubling Nowitzki to key the defense that forced Dallas' 23 turnovers and erratic shooting.

Eight players scored at least eight points for

Golden State, including 16 apiece from Stephen Jackson, Al Harrington, Andris Biedrins and Jason Richardson.

"It was a combination of everything," Nelson said. "It was just time. Seventeen is enough. We just happened to be the lucky guys."

The Warriors improbably have been the Mavericks' toughest regular-season opponent recently, and they played perhaps their best game of the season while winning for the fourth time in five games overall to stay in the playoff race despite their 30-36 record.

Baron Davis, who sat out the Warriors' lackluster loss at Portland on Sunday night to rest his surgically repaired left knee, had nine points and

seven assists as the Warriors improved to 4-0 with Davis, Richardson, Biedrins, Harrington and Jackson in the starting lineup.

"This is a huge win for us," Davis said. "They're coming in (with) a streak of 17 games in a row, and they were looking invincible. The fact that we came out and played at a high level really, really gave us a lot of confidence. ... We'll definitely be in the playoffs if we continue to play like this."

Golden State scored the game's first eight points, and it never got much better for the Mavs, who were dull and disorganized throughout the final three quarters. Nowitzki went scoreless in the second quarter, and Dallas

gave up runs of 11-0 and 10-4 while falling behind 62-45 late in the first half. Nowitzki became visibly frustrated in the third quarter, flattening Davis for an offensive foul before comically swatting a loose ball out of a cameraman's hands in his

fury. Johnson removed him from the game while Harrington hit a free throw to put Golden State ahead by 23.

Two possessions later, Nowitzki was whistled for a technical foul for chirping from his seat on the Mavs' bench.

## A&M

Continued from 1B

reached our peak yet."

The Aggies won 18 of their last 21 games before losing to Oklahoma State in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament on Friday. The loss might've cost A&M a No. 2 seed, but Gillispie didn't seem to care on Sunday.

"I didn't care what seed we were," Gillispie said. "We're happy with the seed we got. If you're in the tournament, you should be extremely happy."

The Aggies are 4-8 in the NCAA tournament. They made their deepest run in 1980, beating Bradley and North Carolina to reach the Sweet 16 before losing to eventual national champion Louisville.

If they beat Penn, the Aggies could face Louisville again, and the Cardinals would have a significant close-to-home advantage. Louisville is only an hour's drive from Lexington, where Cardinals' coach Rick Pitino used to coach Kentucky.

If the Aggies can get through the first two rounds, they would play close to home, aiming for their first Final Four at the South regional in San Antonio.

"That would be big," said Law. "I don't want to sit here and we're overlooking our first two opponents. But if we get the opportunity to play in San Antonio, that's going to be huge for us."

Last year, Gillispie nearly broke down in tears when the Aggies' pairing was announced. This year, he and the team took it in stride, hugging and clapping but hardly showing the emotion they did last season.

Gillispie, finishing his third season, said on Sunday the team was

more thrilled than it appeared. "You never take anything for granted," he said. "Our guys are total-

ly excited. They do have some experience in the tournament and that's going to bode well for us."

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The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years."

Published by Secretary of State Roger Williams

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By Steve Becker

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East-West vulnerable.  
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♠ Q 5  
♥ K J 9  
♦ A K Q 2  
♣ K Q 7 3

WEST  
♠ 10 7 6 5 2  
♥ J 8 6 3  
♦ J 10 9 5

EAST  
♠ A K 10 8  
♥ 8 3  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ A 8 4 2

SOUTH  
♠ J 9 7 6 4 3 2  
♥ A Q 4  
♦ 9 5  
♣ 6

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣  
Pass 3 NT Pass 4 ♣  
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

Many players seem to regard the trump coup as beyond their capabilities, but there is really no good reason for this. In most cases where the coup can be utilized, declarer learns fairly early in the play that the trumps are stacked against him, and all he has to do is to take a few basic steps to overcome the bad break.

Here is a typical case. West leads a club against four spades, and East takes dummy's queen with the ace

and returns a club. Declarer has no need for a discard and also wants to initiate the trumps by leading one from his hand, so he ruffs the club.

When he next plays a low spade to the queen and West shows out, South must find a way to limit East to two trump tricks. The only way this can be done is by means of a trump coup.

So when East takes the queen of spades with the king and returns a club, South ruffs. This is in accordance with the basic principle that to execute a trump coup, you must reduce your own trump length to that of your opponent.

Declarer then leads a low heart to the jack and returns a trump. Let's say East takes the ace — his play doesn't really matter — and returns still another club.

Again South ruffs. This reduces his trump holding to the J-9, which are comfortably ensconced over East's 10-8.

The coup is now ready to be executed. South overtakes the queen of hearts with dummy's king and cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding his ace of hearts. Dummy's last two cards are a heart and a diamond, and when declarer leads one of them, East's trumps are couped.

Tomorrow: The slam-doubling convention.  
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TUESDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLT (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (63) Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Dueto de Pasiones	King of the Hill	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lahr	How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	College	Bracket	Stargate SG-1
7 PM	Funnies Home Videos	Funnies Home Videos	La Foa Mas Bella	American Idol	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Datinel NBC (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Nova (CC)	Dirt Jobs	Movie: Glory	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Movie: Menace	Movie: Now You See It...	NIT First Round	Basketball: NCAA	Stargate SG-1
8 PM	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	The Unit	Zorro - La Espada y la Ley	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Light of the Southwest	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Nature (CC)	Dirt Jobs		UFC Unleashed	The Closer			NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	Tournament College	Stargate SG-1
9 PM	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Ver Para Creer	Becker (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Rosa	Decisions	Law & Order: SVU	Friends (CC)	Independent	How It's Made	Movie: Patton	Bulrun	The Closer	College Hill	Life Derek			ECW
10 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias 12	Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	Charlie Rose	Dirt Jobs		Bulrun	Cold Case	Jamie Foxx	NBA Live	NBA Live	SportsCenter	Battlestar Galactica
11 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Lettermen	Late Late	W/ Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	The Mothman	Sign Off	Dirt Jobs		CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	In Living Color	Phil of Future	NASCAR Now		The X-Files
12 AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid	Show The Insider	Pagado		Conan O'Brien	Prophecies		Dirt Jobs		Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order	Comicview	Proud Family	Series of Poles	Gamenight	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MY PARENTS ARE OUT FOR THE EVENING. WOULD YOU LIKE TO ANNOY MY BABYSITTER?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"By the time I got them dressed to go out, the snow had melted."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



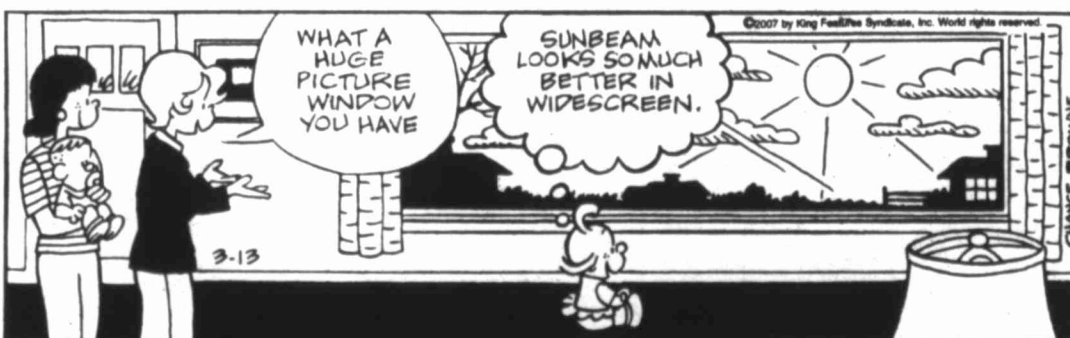
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2007. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 13, 1925, a law went into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution.

On this date: In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1884, Congress adopted Eastern Standard Time for the District of Columbia.

In 1933, banks began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Roosevelt.

In 1964, bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her New York City home; the case generated controversy over charges that Genovese's neighbors had failed to respond to her

cries for help.

In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar Module.

In 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down.

In 1980, a jury in Winamac, Ind., found Ford Motor Co. innocent of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women riding in a Ford Pinto.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire on a class of kindergartners, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

One year ago: Black Sabbath and Blondie entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 82. Country singer Jan Haynes is 77. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 74. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 68. Actor William H. Macy is 57. Actress Deborah Raffin is 54. Comedian Robin Duke is

53. Actress Glenna Headly is 52. Actress Dana Delany is 51. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 47. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 45. Actor Christopher Collet is 39. Actress Annabeth Gish is 36. Actress Tracy Wells is 36. Rapper Common is 35. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 35. Singer Glenn Lewis is 32. Actor Danny Masterson is 31. Actor Emile Hirsch is 22. Singers Natalie and Nicole Albino (Nina Sky) are 21.

Thought for Today: "The history of the world is the verdict of the world." - Friedrich von Schiller, German author (1759-1805).

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Answer to previous puzzle

ASPS	POMP	CHASE
SPOT	APER	HONED
SALE	RITE	ANTED
TROMBONES	MESSY	
ALE	ESPY	
ATTIRE	BATS	PEP
CREPE	JOSE	NAPA
TENORSAX	PHONES	
USED	OMEN	ANDES
PST	FOES	ATEASE
	PUTS	PIE
SHEEN	BASS	DRUMS
LADEN	ORAL	ATOP
ALIVE	NILE	GAVE
MOTEL	DAMS	SHED

Newsday Crossword

STUFFED by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- |                               |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | <b>DOWN</b>                     | <b>DOWN</b>               |
| 1 Hosiery shade               | 1 Carton sealer                 | 1 Tusked mammal           |
| 6 Shine softly                | 2 General region                | 9 Russian river           |
| 10 Molecule part              | 3 Baseball officials, for short | 39 Combustible heap       |
| 14 Knight suit                | 4 Beer opener                   | 41 Jules Verne captain    |
| 15 Exercise system from India | 5 Before, poetically            | 46 Remove wrinkles from   |
| 16 Sand hill                  | 6 Workout places                | 49 Bran-cereal fruit      |
| 17 Kitchen grinder            | 7 Pork cut                      | 51 Ringed planet          |
| 19 Verbal                     | 8 Makes eyes at                 | 52 Part of a rose         |
| 20 Sunrise direction          |                                 | 53 Get out of bed         |
| 21 Lou Grant actor            |                                 | 54 Mail unit              |
| 22 Hobby-shop purchase        |                                 | 58 Fraternal organization |
| 23 Cereal grain               |                                 | 59 Clutter                |
| 25 Evening meals              |                                 | 61 Babysitter's handful   |
| 28 Small bead of water        |                                 | 62 High point             |
| 32 Do in, as a dragon         |                                 | 63 Bring up, as children  |
| 33 Feel poorly                |                                 | 65 Lab animal             |
| 34 Fan-mail recipients        |                                 | 67 Poem of praise         |
| 37 Be bratty                  |                                 |                           |
| 40 Cupcake topping            |                                 |                           |
| 42 Martini ingredient         |                                 |                           |
| 43 Towel material             |                                 |                           |
| 44 Lucky number, to some      |                                 |                           |
| 45 Take in, as a child        |                                 |                           |
| 47 Rower's tool               |                                 |                           |
| 48 Part of EMT: Abbr.         |                                 |                           |
| 50 Emulate Hulk Hogan         |                                 |                           |
| 52 Chinese temples            |                                 |                           |
| 55 Historic time              |                                 |                           |
| 56 Get it wrong               |                                 |                           |
| 57 List entries               |                                 |                           |
| 64 Arena level                |                                 |                           |
| 66 Only supplier              |                                 |                           |

