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1/29/07

BIG SPRING

HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 55

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE
Singletary added to list of possible Dallas head coaches

Page 1B

Bealls store to expand in Big Spring Mall

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Bealls is getting too big for its surroundings.

Officials with the department retailer announced plans to expand its store located at Big Spring mall by approximately 8,000 feet.

Danielle Ramirez, property



Ramirez

manager for Big Spring Mall, said Bealls will expand into three lots directly across from the Hallmark store in the mall.

Renovation is expected to begin Feb. 14 and last approximately two months,

Ramirez said. With the expansion, Bealls will offer a larger shoe department and the addition of Estee Lauder and Clinique cosmetic lines. Existing store space will be redesigned as well, officials told Ramirez.

"They're expanding a little bit of everything," she said. "They're going to give a facelift

to Bealls ... they will redesign the entire store."

Ramirez said planning for the expansion began just before she assumed her post at the mall in October.

"This has been in the works for about six months," she noted. "Then, right around December, the engineers came in ... The project has now been

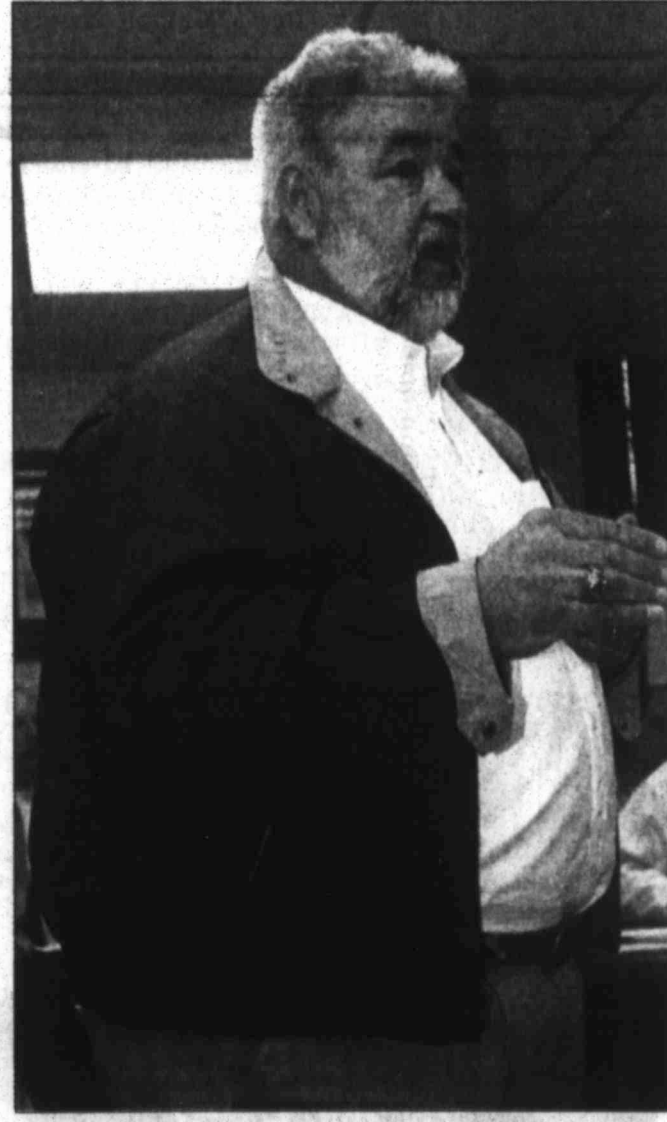
approved. "This is definitely a boost for both Big Spring Mall and the city of Big Spring," said Ramirez, who also said the expansion will result in more selection and shopping opportunities for mall visitors.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234.



HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins

Jeffrey Heffelfinger, lower left photo, an architect with Fort Worth-based Southwest Architects Inc., explains to Howard County commissioners how his firm will handle the design and construction of a new jail during Monday morning's meeting of the court.



County votes 3-2 to enter pact with Fort Worth firm

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Ten bucks. That's how much Jeffrey Heffelfinger, an architect with Fort Worth-based Southwest Architects Inc., requested Howard County commissioners pay his firm for consulting the court through the next jail-inspired bond election, which could come in less than two months.

Commissioners voted 3-2 in favor of negotiating a contract with Southwest Architects — County Judge Mark Barr and Commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown voting for the selection and commissioners Jerry Kilgore and Bill Crooker voting against it.

Crooker and Kilgore supported Burns and Gills Architects, also

"If, at the end of phase one the county doesn't feel comfortable with us, it will still only cost the county 10 bucks."

—Jeffrey Heffelfinger, architect with Southwest Architects Inc.

out of Fort Worth, during the meeting. Also being considered during the meeting was San Antonio-based BRG Architects.

With the vote behind the commissioner's court and negotiations between the county and Southwest Architects legally opened — commissioners could not approach the subject before-

See COUNTY, Page 3A

Jobless rate drops locally, TWC reports

Area continues to offer employment opportunities

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The unemployment rate in Howard County dropped by nearly a point in December, as growth in area oilfields and industry in the Permian Basin continues.

The unemployment rate in Howard County dropped from 5.2 percent reported in November to 4.3 percent in December, an improvement over the 5 percent posted in December 2005.

"We currently have 113 open jobs. All job seekers are encouraged to utilize the WorkinTexas.com system, whether they are currently employed or not."

—Mary Gregg, area manager

"The unemployment rate dropped slightly last month due to available jobs in the oilfields and a trend across Texas as employers continue adding jobs," said Mary Gregg, area manager of the Workforce Network of Big Spring. "Over the last 12 months, the Texas economy grew by 213,200 jobs, with an over-the-year rate of 2.2 percent. State employers have now added jobs for 27 consecutive months."

Gregg said there's no shortage of open jobs in the Howard County area, either.

"We currently have 113 open jobs," said Gregg. "All job seekers are encouraged to utilize the WorkinTexas.com system, whether they are currently employed or not. New job listings are received daily and opportunities arise for those that have been discouraged with the type of jobs available in the past, or for those exploring new career options."

Gregg said most counties in the

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www.bigspringherald.com

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

PROGRAM TO HONOR VETS

The VA Voluntary Service Committee has voted to sponsor a VA Memorial Flag Program to honor and recognize veterans each month by presenting the veteran or veteran's family with a U.S. flag that flew over the West Texas VA Health Care System the preceding month.

Today at 2 p.m., the first flag of 2007 will be presented to the Spc. Robert James "R.J." Volker family. Spc. Volker died Dec. 20, 2006, while serving his country in Iraq.

The active service organizations that support the VA Memorial Flag Program will be responsible for selecting the veterans to be recognized each month.

SR. VALENTINE BANQUET

The Annual Senior Adult Valentine Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Baptist Temple Church, 400 E. 11th Place. The event is sponsored by the Big Spring Baptist Association but is open to any senior adult (age 50 and older) who would like to attend.

There is no cost, but those attending are asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert dish. Meat and beverages will be provided. Entertainment will be provided by Ty Morris, minister of music at Crestview Baptist Church of Midland.

If you need transportation, call the Association office at 263-1673, no later than Thursday.

WELL-TRAVELED BULLET

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — A man accidentally discharged a pistol he was unfamiliar with, firing a bullet that nicked his arm and eventually struck a man using the bathroom in another building, police said.

However, since the bullet traveled through two walls, across a courtyard and ricocheted off a shower wall, it left only a small bruise on the chest of the man it hit, and he did not require treatment, police said.

"It's one of those freak happenings," police Sgt. Mark Trimble said Monday.

Trimble said Erick Hovermale of Casper was cited for misdemeanor discharging a firearm in city limits.

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Obituaries

Euletha Spears



Euletha Spears, 90, of Coahoma, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, at Hospice House in Odessa. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Monroe Teeters officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will be gathering at the home of Billy and Veta Spears in Coahoma.

Euletha was born Aug. 14, 1916, in Powderly and married J.D. Spears May 23, 1934, in Ranger. Mrs. Spears was a lifelong resident of Coahoma. She was born to Thomas and Mable Thompson and was raised and attended school in Coahoma. She operated The Hair Style Clinic on Gregg Street in Big Spring for over 15 years until her retirement. She loved to fish.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma.

Survivors include her husband, J.D. Spears of Coahoma; three sons and daughters-in-law, Jimmy and Sherry Spears of Cypress, Norman and LaNell Spears of Clyde and Billy and Veta Spears of Coahoma; a sister, Mae Johnson of Abilene; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the Home Hospice House, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

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

Paid obituary

Wynell Wilkerson



Wynell Wilkerson, 66, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Raford Dunagan officiating. Interment will follow at Colorado City Cemetery, Colorado City. The family will receive friends at the funeral home between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. Tuesday.

She was born Nov. 22, 1940, in Colorado City and married Ralph Wilkerson.

She was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. Wynell worked as a bank teller for State National Bank for more than 30 years. She enjoyed traveling, shopping and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Tracie Lindsey of Big Spring; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Wanda Fortenberry of San Angelo; five grandchildren, Brooke Lindsey of Big Spring, Chris Wilkerson and Corey Wilkerson, both of Carrizo Springs, Daniel Dickens and wife Whitney of Fort Drum, N.Y., and Alfred Dickens and wife Mia; two great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Joy Fortenberry of Big Spring; and one aunt, Mozelle Bono of Bonham.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Wilkerson; one son, Gary Wilkerson; one brother, Luke Fortenberry; and parents Jewel and Florence Fortenberry.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Allison Cancer Center, 301 North N, Midland 79701.

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

Paid obituary

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.

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.

Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at 263-0027, ext. 236 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- **RICHARD FLORES**, 53, of 1200 Wood, was arrested Monday on Taylor County warrants.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported:
 - in the 500 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 500 block of Westover Road.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1500 block of Third Street.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 32 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JUAN P. MATA**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of terroristic threat.
- **KENNETH WAYNE DAVIS**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **BRIAN D. JOLLEY**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2600 block of Ent. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported near the intersection of Highway 87 and Ranch Road 33. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Young. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1400 block of Lexington.

Weather

Tonight...Cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow after midnight. Lows in the lower 30s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow in the morning...Then a chance of showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...Then a chance of showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. East winds around 10 mph. Shifting to the northeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs in the upper 30s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s.

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

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-17-20-21

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-21-19-32. Bonus Ball: 28.

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

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$225,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night

by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-8-1

Bulletin Board

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

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

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 in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

THURSDAY

LULAC Chapter 4791 will meet at 5:15 p.m. For meeting location or more information, contact Jennifer Patton at (432) 213-6904 or lulac_jennifer@cox.net

FRIDAY

Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 2701 Rebecca. Bring a salad. 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 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

The Big Spring Evening Lions Club will hold an adult eyeglass clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St. This provides recycled eyeglasses for adults who cannot afford to pay for an eye examination or buy eyeglasses. For information, contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.

Take Note

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.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH? Amparo Snipes will be offering free lessons at Baptist Temple Church, 11th and Goliad. For more information, contact her at (432) 267-6885.

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.

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly

Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

Bubbles inside bubbles

Here is an unusual way to blow soap bubbles:

Try this!

You'll need

- Dishwashing detergent
- Small bowl
- Small juice or tomato paste can
- Wire coat hanger (not painted)
- Ball of clay the size of a lemon
- Plastic straw

- Mix 1 tablespoon detergent and 1/2 cup water in bowl
- Wrap wire around can and form loop like this; bend wire back and forth 4 in. (10 cm) from loop until it breaks
- Dip loop in liquid, wave in the air and catch a large bubble on the loop
- Dip end of straw in liquid, gently press through side of bubble, and blow a smaller bubble inside it

What happened?

Anything wet can penetrate the bubble without breaking it. That lets you blow the smaller inside bubble.

You can sometimes blow a third bubble inside the second one.

Source: Simple Science Experiments with Everyday Materials
Graphic: Helen Lee McCormick, Paul Trap

JOBS

Continued from Page 1A

Permian Basin Workforce Development Area saw a slight decrease in unemployment rates, with the district rate sitting at 3.3 percent and the state average at 4.1 percent.

"Within the Permian Basin Workforce Development Area, there are 187,462 employed individuals, compared to last year's figure of 181,834," said Gregg. "Statewide, trade, transportation and utilities contributed 6,700 jobs in December, the largest increase within a sector. Employment in construction rose by 2,800 jobs over the month, for a total of 44,000 jobs over the same period."

"Financial activities employment displayed a significant increase of 3,100 jobs in December. This was the largest December job gain recorded in the group in over a decade. Financial activities completed 2006 with a total of 19,300 jobs created for an annual growth rate of 3.1 percent."

The civilian labor force in Howard County dropped, going from 12,994 in November to 12,896 in December, a considerable drop from the labor force of 13,125 reported in December 2005.

The number of employed people in Howard County increased during the same period, going from 12,323 in November to 12,343 in December, down from

12,474 in December 2005.

While the number of employed residents in Howard County jumped in December, the number of unemployed residents fell, going from 671 in November to 553 in December, down considerably from the 651 reported in December 2005.

Similar trends have been seen in surrounding counties, with unemployment rates reported at 2.7 percent in Midland County; 3.2 percent in Ector County; 3.5 percent in Martin County; 5.5 percent in Dawson County; 3.3 percent in Borden County; 3.8 percent in Glasscock County; 3.2 percent in Andrews County; and 3 percent in Upton County.

"Job seekers interested in any job listings in WorkinTexas.com can contact Carla Gross or Marie Benavides for more information and referrals," said Gregg. "We continue to have a critical demand in our area for the following: pipefitter craftsman, RN, PRN, LVN, computer networking specialist, telecommunications installer, firefighter, concrete workers and laborers, psychologists, psychiatrists, truck drivers, welders, diesel mechanics and stonemill workers."

For more information, contact the Big Spring Workforce Network at 263-8373.

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

Oklahoma scores second Miss America in a row; Texan runner-up

By ALEX VEIGA

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Is there something in the water in Oklahoma that produces Miss Americas?

"I'm not sure," says newly crowned Miss America Lauren Nelson.

Instead, the aspiring Broadway star from Lawton credits her fans back home for making her the second contestant from the state in two years to win the crown.

"We had over 300 people come from Oklahoma to support me," Nelson, 20, said during her first news conference Monday as Miss America. "We have an amazing support group in Oklahoma."

The last time a state



Nelson

won back-to-back titles was in 1960, when Mississippi's Mary Ann Mobley crowned Lynda Mead as Miss America.

Nelson said she won't hesitate to ask for pointers from last year's winner, Jennifer Berry.

"Her phone number will be on speed dial," said Nelson, a friend of Berry, who was the first Miss America chosen after the pageant moved to Las Vegas from its longtime home in Atlantic City, N.J.

Nelson said her knees buckled when she realized she had won the

pageant.

"It's so surreal that I have the Miss America crown on my head."

But Nelson didn't doubt she could go all the way.

"You have to believe in yourself," she said.

Nelson's crowning makes her the sixth Miss America from Oklahoma. The state ties Ohio and California for the most pageant winners.

Shilah Phillips, the first black Miss Texas, was first runner-up, and Miss Georgia Amanda Kozak was second runner-up. Phillips, an aspiring recording artist, received a \$25,000 scholarship. Kozak, who wants to be an elementary school principal, received a \$15,000 award. Miss

Mississippi Taryn Foshee and Miss Alabama Melinda Toole rounded out the top five. Viewers named Toole Miss Congeniality.

Nelson is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma and wants to obtain a master's degree in musical theater. She sang "You'll Be In My Heart" in the talent competition. She plans to promote protecting children online during her year-long reign as Miss America.

The title earned her a \$50,000 scholarship, and she stands to make thousands more in appearance fees. She was scheduled to appear Wednesday on "Good Morning America" and "Regis & Kelly."

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

hand because of state law — Heffelfinger began explaining his firm's approach to the issue, should commissioners approve a contract between the two.

"Ten dollars has to change hands for it to be a legal contract," said Heffelfinger. "So what we're saying is we'll handle what we call phase one of the project — two dimensional design and support for a bond election — for \$10. If the bond election fails, all the county owes us is \$10."

"There are two things that are not covered as far as cost is concerned, and that's an artist's rendering of the facility to show citizens what it will look like and the cost to print any flyers or leaflets to help promote the bond election."

Heffelfinger said the contract may sound fiscally insane, but he believes it will work to the advantage of everyone involved.

"We want to gain your confidence," Heffelfinger told Kilgore and Crooker. "If, at the end of phase one the county doesn't feel comfortable with us (Southwest Architects), it will still only cost the county 10 bucks."

While phase one of the project may seem like a bargain, Heffelfinger said a standard architect fee of 7.25 percent of the overall project will take effect.

"Once the bond election has passed and the bonds have been sold, we'll move on to phase two," said Heffelfinger. "If we're going to get this done in time for the next possible bond election, we'll have approximately 45 days to gather all the necessary information. That's a pretty tight schedule, and it will require county officials to let us get into their space quite a bit, but I feel like it can be done."

Based on a \$10 million bond election, Southwest

Architects and Heffelfinger would stand to make approximately \$725,000 on the project, a prospect that made Crooker very unhappy.

"It's a standard architectural contract," said Crooker. "There is very little difference between the contract he's (Heffelfinger) talking about and what we had before. This just doesn't make sense."

While the prospect of paying only \$10 for a consultant on the project was certainly appealing, Heffelfinger said there are still some fees and charges that will belong to the county.

"Any kind of environmental survey or things of that nature will have to be paid for by the county," said Heffelfinger. "That way those things belong to you, no matter what happens. For instance, I've heard you (Barr) mention renovat-

ing an existing building. If that's the case, whether it's here at the courthouse or a different building, state law will require you to have an asbestos survey. The county would pay for that."

The court requested Heffelfinger and his firm submit a contract to be reviewed by County Attorney Mike Thomas.

Also during the meeting: — Commissioners gave the go-ahead to move County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom's office to the third floor in an effort to alleviate ongoing problems with office space.

— Approved the annual audit performed by CPA Don H. Stevens, who gave Howard County's books a clean bill of health for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2006.

— Agreed to join the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium at a annual

membership fee of \$250.

— Denied an offer to purchase tax trustee property made by Tammy Ledbetter because the offer made was less than the taxes owed on the property.

Commissioners agreed to meet once again Feb. 7 in a special meeting to discuss the pending contract with Southwest Architects, among other issues.

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

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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.

Ronnie Cupetid
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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Like it or not, border agents were wrong

The U.S. Border Patrol, on the front lines of America's immigration crisis, is understaffed and overwhelmed. The operation and its agents deserve every American's full support. But they don't deserve it unconditionally. No law enforcement officers do, because they are bound by the same laws that they enforce.

This is the difficult but necessary thing to remember amid the controversy over two ex-Border Patrol agents convicted of shooting an illegal immigrant whom they later discovered was a drug smuggler. A passionate grass-roots campaign urging a presidential pardon for Jose Compean and Ignacio Ramos has caught bipartisan traction in Congress, and President Bush is reportedly considering it.

Absent substantial new information coming to light, the president should not pardon these agents. It's heartbreaking to think that mandatory minimum sentencing laws require them to spend over a decade in jail for putting a bullet into the rear end of a no-account drug smuggler. But the rule of law must be upheld.

In February 2005, Mr. Compean and Mr. Ramos opened fire on a drug-trafficking Mexican national named Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila as he ran for the border near El Paso. He was not armed. Though the defense would later claim that the agents thought Mr. Aldrete-Davila had a gun, seven Border Patrol agents who responded to the scene testified that neither Mr. Ramos nor Mr. Compean mentioned that at the time. Furthermore, if the two believed the shooting was justified, why did they take measures to cover up their action?

U.S. officials would later grant Mr. Aldrete-Davila immunity from prosecution for his drug run in exchange for his testimony. This has caused understandable public outrage, but far worse for us all if cops got away with this shooting simply because the victim is a bad man. As U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton said, "In order to maintain the rule of law, federal prosecutors cannot look the other way when law enforcement officers shoot unarmed suspects who are running away, then lie about it to their supervisors and file official reports that are false."

Mr. Sutton may be unpopular, but he's right. You'd think that those conservatives so hot to turn these agents loose would be the last people who needed reminding about the importance of standing up for the rule of law on the border.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

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 share Your views, Lord, through Your word.
Amen

Immigration compromise, good luck

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush told America, "We need to resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country without animosity and without amnesty." I'm all for that, so here's my idea: Let those who choose to come to America illegally or overstay their visas remain illegal, but let their minor children, whether born in America or not, become citizens.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

No matter what Bush and Senate members wanted to call it, they were pushing for amnesty last year. And the biggest problem with amnesty is the magnet effect.

There are an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States today. A law that puts them on a path to citizenship would send a message to would-be immigrants across the globe that they can sneak into this country, break our laws and be rewarded.

Also, amnesty would have a multiplier effect. New legal residents can petition to allow a spouse or minor child into America. When they become citizens, they can bring in even more family members.

There is an ethical problem that comes in rewarding illegal behavior. First, people come or stay illegally in America. Next, they get fraudulent documents to work outside the law. You can't tell me that families can break those rules and still respect other federal and state laws.

Amnesty advocates argue that it is cruel to force families living in America to live outside the law. Is it? At some juncture in their lives, today's illegal immigrants decided that living and working illegally was acceptable.

They made their bed. Having said that, I am aware that I am on the losing side of history. The modern world has seen a global Diaspora, with poor around the world moving from south to north, east to west and west to

east. There is only so much governments can do to stop people hungry for opportunity and a safe and stable place to stake their futures — and it is that spirit that has made America great.

Both political parties are doing the math. They see millions of new voters — the children of immigrants and aliens who find paths to citizenship — and they do not want to alienate this very woable voting bloc.

Politicians also are listening to employers — men and women who write campaign checks and warn that they need immigrant labor to stay in business.

As far as many members of Congress are concerned, it is their job to pass guest-worker or visa programs to keep local businesses from closing up shop.

This much is clear: With a Democratic-led Congress and Bush in the White House, Washington will expand the number of legal immigrants in America.

Consider my proposal: Illegal immigrants remain, living in the shadows as they have chosen to do. If they don't break criminal laws, chances are they will stay here for as long as they are able or care to.

The federal government continues to crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. This should make it harder for undocumented workers to find jobs. The feds also step up the deportation of illegal aliens with criminal records.

Washington increases guest-worker programs and visas, but without laying a path to citizenship that undermines the credibility of immigration law.

But, because no 12-year-old decides to immigrate here illegally, Washington could pass a law to grant citizenship to the illegal minors when they reach age 18. (Children born in America to illegal immigrants already become citizens.)

I've opposed moves to allow illegal immigrant students to attend state colleges at the cheaper in-state tuition rate — because it rewards parents' illegal decisions — but in the post-2006 election environment, this is a fit area for

compromise.

Allow me to get personal for a minute. Last May, I received hundreds of e-mails from readers who were furious at the May 1 National Day Without Immigrants Great American Boycott demonstrations. I shared their anger that many thousands believed they had a right to break the law and still be rewarded with citizenship. As for the Mexican flags waved at similar demonstrations — let's just say there was no better way to turn off American voters.

When I speak to local groups, I frequently hear from people who are furious about the lack of enforcement of immigration law. Some know people who have been told that they have to learn Spanish to keep their jobs.

Others are angry when they've been forced to compete in the marketplace with businesses that hire illegal workers. Many resent having to pay higher taxes because their state and local governments end up footing the bill for health care and schooling for the children of illegal immigrants.

Most of the people I hear from are not racists. But there are always a few people who use a certain tone of voice as they carp about "the Mexicans." And they don't seem to notice the workers in white shirts and black pants clearing away their plates in the back of the room. I hate those moments.

Why? Because for all the ways that folks like me are right, there are also millions of good people who want little more than to work hard and raise a family. They should pay a price for deciding that abiding by American immigration laws was a luxury they could not afford.

But their children are Americans.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Ethanol economy would be disaster

Iowa produces more corn than any other state, and it will be the first beneficiary of the national craze to produce vast quantities of ethanol as a motor fuel. At present, the United States is producing 5 billion gallons of ethanol a year. It is a dandy octane booster and emissions curb; and President Bush is so taken with ethanol that he wants to expand production to 60 billion gallons a year by 2030.



LLEWELLYN KING

Whoa, Nellie! Ethanol is produced from vegetable matter high in sugar or starch, which is then fermented and distilled to produce fuel. Backers of ethanol see it as a perpetual motion discovery. We will grow the fuel we need.

Although ethanol was rejected as a serious contestant in the United States after the energy crisis of 1973-74, it is all the rage today, with powerful special interests promoting it at every turn.

Of all the nations that looked at ethanol in the 1970s, only Brazil went into it seriously. A surplus of sugarcane, an abundance of cheap labor, and limitless land drove the Brazilian effort. Yet Brazil has been cagey about the real benefits and the real economics of ethanol.

Many scientists doubt that large-scale production of ethanol, especially from corn, can produce more energy than growing, trans-

porting and processing the corn would consume. With present technology, only sugar- and starch-bearing crops — in short, food crops — can be converted into ethanol.

The next stage will involve using the whole plant, and converting the cellulose into starch. It also opens up the possibility of using switch grass and other non-food crops as feedstock. This technology has not yet been perfected.

With or without cellulosic ethanol, a mighty industry is growing up around corn. Its special interests include farmers, food-processing giants, agricultural equipment manufacturers and Wall Street. All the ingredients for an artificial boom are there.

Unfortunately for consumers, the ethanol euphoria is already affecting the price of corn, and driving up the price of meat. Last year, there was a shortage of grain for livestock, and beef prices rocketed. Other dislocations are likely when corn becomes the must-grow cash crop.

Ironically, Brazil has vast surpluses of ethanol at clearing prices half those of the U.S. product. But agricultural tariffs keep the Brazilian fuel out of the American market.

It is clear that if we do not pay for ethanol at the pump, we will pay for it at the supermarket. Farmers I have spoken to are enjoying the high prices but are worried about the long-term impact on agriculture. Particularly, farmers wonder what will happen if cellulose can be

converted into fuel. They fear soil depletion when they do not have corn stalks and other waste to plow back into the fields.

"Soil is a living thing," a farmer from South Dakota told me. He feared that unscrupulous farmers would rely on heavier use of fertilizer (made from natural gas) as the farms produce motor fuel.

The fact is that the United States, and the rest of the world, has to do something about the amount of oil consumed by private automobiles; and the best hope for a new direction lies with the hybrid, followed by the all-electric car.

Not only is there something repugnant about using food for gasoline, but in all probability, it will cause damage to the whole agricultural cycle and to the agricultural economy. This way lies madness.

And it is shameful that so many environmental organizations have embraced ethanol, which may save no energy whatsoever. In his State of the Union address, Bush called for something remarkably close to an ethanol economy. This will be the second huge catastrophe of his presidency.

Llewellyn King is the publisher of *White House Weekly* (www.king-publishing.com) and host of the weekly PBS television show "White House Chronicle." Readers may write to him at King Publishing, 807 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Texas briefs

Convict volunteering to die for killing wife, mother-in-law

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Convicted killer Christopher Swift was adamant about his punishment.

"He didn't want to spend the rest of his life in prison," said Jerry Cobb, one of his trial lawyers. "If convicted, he wanted the death penalty. He made that very clear to everybody."

This evening, Swift, 31, was set to die for the slayings of his wife and mother-in-law in suburban Dallas less than four years ago.

He ordered no appeals to be filed to stop the lethal injection, which would be the third this year in Texas.

Evidence showed Swift's 5-year-old son watched as the former laborer and parolee stabbed and strangled his 27-year-old wife Amy Sabeh-Swift, who was eight-months pregnant, in the family recreational vehicle in Irving. Then he took his son to a mobile home park in Lake Dallas and strangled his wife's mother, Sandra Stevens Sabeh, 61, at her home.

State leaders angry about new Sprint charge

AUSTIN (AP) — A new fee on Sprint cell phone bills is misleading, may be too costly and should stop immediately, Comptroller Susan Combs said Monday in a letter to the telecommunications giant.

Reston, Va.-based Sprint Nextel Corp. began charging the "Texas Margin Fee Reimbursement" on cell phone bills this month, but Combs' office said last week that attorneys were investigating the legality of the charge.

Company spokesman John Taylor said Sprint has no intention of ending the fee.

"Nothing in the law precludes us from making this rate change or disclosing this surcharge," Taylor said.

The company is charging cell phone customers 1 percent, but will owe a 0.7 percent tax on their gross receipts under the state's new business tax, often called the margins tax.

Suspect in trooper's death describes shooting, apologizes

COVINGTON, Tenn. (AP) — One of two teenagers charged with killing a state trooper testified through sobs Monday that he shot the officer during a traffic stop.

Authorities say the Texas teenagers were in Tennessee to sell marijuana.

"I'm sorry for the people I hurt," Alejandro Gouna, 17, said at a court hearing at which he was ordered held as an adult on first-degree murder charges.

Gouna and Orlando Garcia, 19, both from Austin, Texas, are charged with killing Highway Patrol Trooper Calvin Jenks, 24, during what was apparently a routine traffic stop in rural Tipton County north of Memphis on Jan. 6.

About three pounds of marijuana were found in a Nashville motel room where the two were arrested the day following the killing, prosecutor Mike Dunavant said after preliminary court hearings before Judge William Peeler.

Peeler ordered both teenagers held without bond pending a grand jury review in March. Gouna, who was being held as a juvenile, was ordered to face the murder charges as an adult.

Courtroom spectators, including rela-

tives and friends of the slain officer, burst into loud moans during Gouna's testimony, which he gave voluntarily.

Asked what the trooper was doing when he was shot in the head with a handgun, Gouna replied, "He was looking at me."

Jury convicts former student after less than 90 minutes

AUSTIN (AP) — A former University of Texas student was convicted Monday of murder for the fatal shooting of a 21-year-old woman whose body was found in a bathtub with her head and hands cut off.

Colton Pitonyak, 24, had no visible reaction when the guilty verdict was read following less than 90 minutes of jury deliberations. A jury later decided on a sentence of 55 years in prison.

He could have faced life in prison. A series of defense witnesses, including Pitonyak's parents, told jurors that before drugs and alcohol consumed his life, Pitonyak was a brilliant student with a bright future.

Pitonyak had testified he didn't remember killing Jennifer Cave, a legal secretary whom he described as a close friend, after they spent a night out on the town in August 2005. Pitonyak said he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol that night, but conceded that nobody else could have killed her.

Mexican Consulate says police profiled illegal immigrants

DALLAS (AP) — A spokesman for the Mexican Consulate of Dallas says police in North and East Texas profiled illegal immigrants and exceeded their authori-

ty in checking the immigrants' residency status.

Consulate officials blamed the increased scrutiny on "Operation Wrangler," a plan announced last week by Gov. Rick Perry to crack down on drug and human smuggling along the Mexican border with coordinated law enforcement throughout the state.

Eduardo Rea Falcon, a Consulate spokesman, said Mexican officials believe 33 of 47 men, women and children held over the weekend at a federal immigration center in Dallas were profiled by police.

Cookbook author and foodie favorite Sharon Herbst dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Cookbook author Sharon Tyler Herbst, whose seminal work "The Food Lover's Companion" is a must-read among celebrity chefs and food aficionados, has died.

Herbst, who would refuse to tell people her age, died in her Bodega Bay home Friday after a three-and-a-half-year battle with ovarian cancer, according to Ron Herbst, her husband of 38 years and co-author on several food and wine books.

"I'll miss everything about her, but she leaves a great legacy," said Ron Herbst, who hopes to dedicate the fourth edition of the Food Lover's reference guide to his late wife when the book debuts in the fall. The couple also co-wrote a book about fine cheeses that is due later this year.

Sharon Tyler Herbst was president and board member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. She wrote 16 books.

Army opens high-tech rehab center for amputees and burn victims

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — With its rock climbing wall, wave pool and virtual reality computer system, the Center for the Intrepid might be mistaken for an amusement center if not for its serious purpose: improving the rehabilitation of military amputees.

The new \$50 million facility at Fort Sam Houston opened Monday to provide a high-tech facility for the growing number of troops returning from war without limbs or with severe burns.

A dedication ceremony for the privately funded center was attended by 3,200 people including Gen. Peter Pace, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and 2008 presidential hopefuls, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain.

Of the roughly 20,000 soldiers injured since the start of the Iraq war, more than 500 have lost a limb, many in roadside bombings.

Staff Sgt. Jon Arnold-Garcia, who lost part of a leg in a grenade attack, will be getting treatment at the new center and said he was awestruck when he got his first look at it on Sunday.

"It doesn't look like a hospital," said the 28-year-old from Sacramento, Calif. "It's a place I can see myself getting up and being motivated instead of walking hospital hallways with doctors."

In previous wars, the military only provided acute care to amputees and other severely wounded soldiers before giving the Department of Veterans Affairs charge of rehabilitation.

Since 2003, the military has taken a more active role in amputee rehab with programs now operating at the Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston as well as at Walter Reed Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

The Center for the Intrepid, a 60,000-square-foot glass building, will move Brooke's amputee patients out the hospital and into a center dedicat-



Actress Michelle Pfeiffer sits with injured soldiers during the dedication ceremony for the Center for the Intrepid at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

ed to helping them recover as much mobility and function as possible.

Clinton said that despite the rancorous national debate over the war in Iraq, Americans are firmly behind the nation's veterans.

"There is common ground on higher ground, and on that higher ground, we stand to pay in full our debt" to those who were wounded in combat, said the New York Democrat.

McCain, a former Navy pilot who spent nearly six years as a POW during the Vietnam War, said those maimed in battle can't be compensated enough.

"We have incurred a debt to you," he said, standing before dozens of soldiers who entered the ceremony on crutches or in wheelchairs. "We can only offer you our humility. You are the best Americans."

Maj. Stewart Campbell,

the officer-in-charge of rehabilitation at Brooke, said the new Center for the Intrepid will allow Brooke to advance its work with amputees, using new technology and expressing a commitment to helping wounded soldiers recover.

The facility tells soldiers "we're going to take care of you for as long as you need us, to get you back to where you want to be," he said.

The center was funded by private donations to the Intrepid Foundation,

a charity that has built dozens of houses to shelter families of wounded soldiers while they undergo treatment.

As part of the construction at Fort Sam Houston, two new houses have been added to two already there so that additional

families can be housed near the center.



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World at a glance

Bomb strikes in Iraq kills at least 29 during Ashoura ceremonies

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — At least 13 people were killed Tuesday after a bomb left in a garbage can struck Shiites during ceremonies marking Ashoura in a town near the Iranian border, police said. At least 39 were wounded.

About an hour later, a suicide bomber blew himself up near the entrance of a Shiite mosque in Mandali, a predominantly Shiite city also near the Iranian border. At least 16 people were killed and about 60 wounded in that attack, police said.

The explosion that killed 13 hit as scores of Shiites were gathered in downtown Khanaqin performing rituals on the holiest day on the Shiite Islamic calendar, a commemoration of the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. The major religious festival culminates on Tuesday.

Police Maj. Idriss Mohammed said at least 13 people were killed and 39 were wounded, adding that most of the victims were Shiite Kurds. Most Kurds are Sunni but a minority are Shiite.

Palestinian cease-fire starts taking hold in the Gaza Strip; Israel bombs tunnels

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A tenuous cease-fire began to take hold in the Gaza Strip early Tuesday after five days of intense fighting between the rival Hamas and Fatah factions left 34 people dead.

The lull came just as Israel carried out its first response to a Palestinian suicide bombing, carrying out an airstrike early Tuesday on a tunnel dug by Palestinians near the Gaza-Israel border.

Previous truce deals between Hamas and Fatah struck in recent weeks of factional clashes have quickly collapsed, and it appeared unlikely the two sides

would comply with all the terms of the current agreement, such as handing over all those involved in killings and abductions.

In the past, Hamas and Fatah gunmen used such lull periods to prepare for the next round of fighting.

The shaky truce deal, struck by Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and a Rawhi Fattouh, an envoy of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, came as a two-month cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians was being jeopardized by a Palestinian suicide bombing, the first since April.

Former New York Times reporter Judith Miller to take stand today in leak trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Journalists will take center stage at the CIA leak trial as Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald begins calling reporters as witnesses.

Fitzgerald said Judith Miller was to take the stand today, the first time the former *New York Times* reporter has testified publicly against the man she went to jail to protect as a source.

I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the one-time chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, is accused of perjury and obstruction for lying about conversations he had with journalists about ousted CIA operative Valerie Plame.

Miller spent 85 days in jail for refusing to cooperate with Fitzgerald's investigating and reveal her conversations with Libby. She retired from the Times in November 2005, declaring that she had to leave because she had "become the news."

Prosecutors say Libby discussed Plame — the wife of prominent war critic Joseph Wilson — with Miller three times. Two of those conversations occurred before Libby says he first remembered learning Plame's identity from another reporter, NBC newsman

Tim Russert.

Proposed minimum wage increase divides business over tax breaks, executive pay

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate bill that could win final passage this week has divided the private sector, pitting small businesses and retailers that would benefit from tax breaks in the bill against the larger corporations and manufacturers that would have to pay for them.

At issue are tax breaks contained in the Senate bill as sweeteners to attract Republican votes for the minimum wage increase. The legislation would increase the federal minimum from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour in three steps over the next two years.

The bill also includes business tax credits, deductions and other tax advantages worth \$8.3 billion over 10 years that are designed to help small businesses overcome potentially higher labor costs.

To help pay for the cost of those tax breaks, corporations no longer would be able to deduct the cost of jury verdicts or settlements in liability suits against them and their executives' tax-deferred pay packages would be capped at \$1 million a year.

Microsoft launches long-delayed Vista system

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Retailers across the country stayed open through the wee hours of Tuesday morning to sell the long-awaited Windows Vista operating system, even though most new customers wouldn't be lining up out the door for the midnight launch of Microsoft Corp.'s latest product.

At a CompUSA store in Raleigh, only about a dozen people waited around to be among the first to get Vista. The store reopened at 10 p.m., offering customers coffee and discounts on other items including printers and recordable DVDs.

Democratic-run Congress to test bounds of its war powers

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush may be the decision maker, but the Democratic-controlled Congress holds the purse strings.

Whether to yank them shut when it comes to the conflict in Iraq, and under what conditions, is the question facing newly empowered majority Democrats.

No one challenges the notion that Congress can stop a war by canceling its funding. In fact, Vice President Dick Cheney challenged Congress to back up its objections to Bush's plan to put 21,500 more troops in Iraq by zeroing out the war budget.

Underlying Cheney's gambit is the consensus understanding that such a drastic move is doubtful because it would be fraught with political peril.

But there are other legislative options to force the war's end, say majority Democrats and some of Bush's traditional Republican allies.

The alternatives range from capping the number of troops permitted in Iraq to cutting off funding for troop deployments beyond a certain date or setting an end date for the war.

"The Constitution makes Congress a coequal branch of government. It's time we start acting like it," said Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., who is chairing a hearing Tuesday on Congress' war powers and forwarding legislation to eventually prohibit funding for the deployment of troops to Iraq.

His proposal, like many others designed to force an end to U.S. involvement in the bloody conflict, is far from having enough support even to come up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Closer to that threshold is a nonbinding resolution declaring that Bush's proposal to send 21,500 more troops to Baghdad and Anbar province is "not in the national interest."

The Senate could take up that measure early next month.

But some senators, complaining that the resolution is symbolic, are forwarding tougher bills.

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of

California, for example, is a sponsor of a bill that would call for troops to come home in 180 days and allow for a minimum number of forces to be left behind to hunt down terrorists and train Iraqi security forces.

"Read the Constitution," Boxer told her colleagues last week.

"The Congress has the power to declare war. And on multiple occasions, we used our power to end conflicts."

Congress used its war powers to cut off or put conditions on funding for the Vietnam war and conflicts in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia.

Under the Constitution, lawmakers have the ability to declare war and fund military operations, while the president has control of military forces.

But presidents also can veto legislation and Bush likely has enough support in Congress on Iraq to withstand any veto override attempts.

Managing a war — in effect what Boxer and Feingold are proposing — is the president's job, some lawmakers and scholars say.

"In an ongoing operation, you've got to defer to the commander in chief," said Sen. John Warner, R-Va., ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

But the veteran senator

and former Navy secretary said he understands the debate over Congress' ability to check the executive branch.

"Once Congress raises an army, it's his to command," said Robert Turner, a law professor at the University of Virginia who was to testify Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In recent decades, presidents have routinely bypassed Congress when deploying troops to fight. Not since World War II, has Congress issued an official declaration of war, despite lengthy wars

fought in Vietnam and Korea.

Congress does not have to approve military maneuvers.

John Yoo, who as a Justice Department lawyer helped write the 2002 resolution authorizing the Iraq invasion, called that document a political one designed only to bring Democrats on board and spread accountability for the conflict.

The resolution passed by a 296-133 vote in the then-GOP-run House and 77-23 in the Democratic-led Senate, but it was not

considered a declaration of war.

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A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers
Newswire: People are selling their old scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high, it makes sense to recycle unwanted items for cash.
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Bird Poop: A ring-necked, head-scalped pheasant

The first sunshine in more than a week brought a bright, morning light into our home. Accustomed to early rising, I welcomed the glare on the bedroom windows. The severity of the winter storm that barged into town on Christmas Eve and continued for days, had left a glistening but dangerous landscape. The overture of sleet had warned us of what was to come. Followed by six to eight inches of snow, the weather had spanned the holidays and welcomed the new year.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

During the afternoon, our enjoyment of the fireplace was interrupted by the telephone. "On the north side of the building, there's a large bird huddled in the snow. We can't tell what it is. It's just a big bundle of feathers." Since it was unlikely that any bird would be in that location, Art and I donned boots, coveralls, down coats, hats and gloves. If the bird couldn't fly and decided to lead us on a chase across the retirement center's vast lawn, we might be outside for awhile. A net on a long pole, and a 30-foot roll of netting, might equalize the bird's attempt at an escape. Not even knowing if the "bundle" were injured, could fly or run, we drove and slid the

four blocks to reach our destination. Fortunately, we lived on the same street, so our arrival was fairly quick.

From the street, we could see the brownish lump against the side of the building. To reach it would require a walk across part of the lawn. The crunching of ice and snow might waken and alarm the bird.

Street noise, for once, was welcome. As people decided to chance a drive during this break in the weather, it would hopefully mask our approach.

Only a few steps away from the bird, we silently motioned to each other that this was the moment to use the pole net. Art signaled his usual "use it quickly" advice. With perhaps only one chance for success, I placed the net over the bronze and brown-red feathers flecked with black, brown, and white.

Not only did the bird awake, it exploded upward. Holding the net against the snowy ground, I realized we had just captured a male, ring-necked pheasant.

A bird of the Great Plains and northern Texas Panhandle, the pheasant might have been one of many previously introduced in Howard County. The effort to establish the birds for hunting had failed due to lack of food and cover. Of more concern, however, was the condition of the pheasant. It had been scalped.

As it struggled against the netting, Art carefully removed the large bird and placed it in a carrier.



The male ring-necked pheasant.

Having fallen to my knees as the net slipped over the pheasant, I was grateful to him for helping me up and brushing snow from my lower legs.

Once home, we were still astonished at the bird's condition. All flesh and feathers from the top of the head were gone. The exposed skull was dry and surrounded by skin that tightly adhered to the head. Fortunately, the pheasant's circulatory system in that area had suffered spasms that closed the flow of blood

in the vessels. It kept the bird from dying.

The "bundle" everyone had seen was the bird taking one of its wings to cover its head as it slept. The ring-neck had been successful in keeping the top of its head warm during the severe cold.

When the caller had described the bird as large, she was correct. Almost three feet long, the pheasant's wingspan was nearly 32 inches. At over two and a half pounds, it let you know its presence, especially

with its clawed feet that are used to scratch the ground for food. Typical coloration for a male were its white collar, iridescent green-blue to purple head and neck, and the noticeable patch of red skin on the cheeks.

The long, pointed tail feathers, stout bill, and long legs lent to his regal appearance.

Introduced into the United States in the mid to late 1800's, the ring-necked pheasant thrives on open farm lands that offer corn, wheat, oats, barley, and hay. Tall grasses and weeds provide extra food and convenient hiding places. From the strength of this bird, we could imagine how quickly it would flush and leave hunters dismayed.

No other injuries were evident. One guess was that a winter hawk had attacked the bird. Its head would be one of the first targets to peck once it was under control. With its strength the pheasant might have wiggled free of the predator and flown for its life.

Taking the ring-neck to a wildlife center, we couldn't help but laugh when a volunteer suggested making a toupee for the hatless bird. If the proper adhesive were available, and a veterinarian approved, a "patch" would be added to the bird's coloration and it could sport a year-round addition to its wardrobe.

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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

Slow and Steady Wins the Race

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q J
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ K 9 6 5 4
♣ 5

WEST
♠ K 10 8 6 2
♥ 7 6
♦ 8
♣ J 9 7 4 2

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

SOUTH
♠ A 3
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ Q J 10
♣ A 10 8 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass
1♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — eight of diamonds.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. The final contract at both tables was four hearts, and both Wests led the singleton eight of diamonds.

At the first table, East won with the ace, South falsecarding with the jack. Despite the falsecard, East correctly interpreted the lead as a singleton and returned a diamond, ruffed by West. West then shifted to a club, after which declarer had no trouble making the contract, eventually dis-

carding his spade loser on one of dummy's diamonds.

At the second table, East took the ace of diamonds but decided to defend differently. He realized that if declarer had both missing aces as well as the king of hearts — the cards South was likely to have for his opening bid — the contract could not be defeated by returning a diamond, since this would lead to only three tricks for the defense.

East knew that South had only four trumps — he had bid the suit secondarily — so that West had to have two hearts. Consequently, there was no urgency to return a diamond for West to ruff; this could be accomplished just as well later on.

So East returned a spade at trick two, hoping West had either the king or ace. South had no real choice but to finesse, and when he did, West took the king and returned a spade.

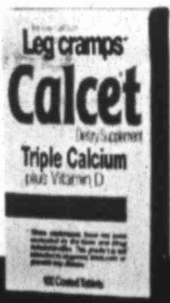
Declarer won with the ace and played a trump, taken by East's ace. The long-delayed diamond return now put the contract down one.

The hand demonstrates that it is not enough for a defender to analyze his partner's lead as a singleton and automatically return the suit. It is necessary to first size up the situation as a whole before following the impulse to give partner a ruff. A defender cannot afford to play now and think later.

Tomorrow: There's a very good reason.
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Bedtime Stories

A BLUEJAY, A WOODPECKER, A SPARROW, AND ME

Do you like to watch birds? Can you name more birds than I just did? Tell me what birds live in your neighborhood. Do you have owls and hawks? Are you lucky enough to have eagles in your area? Do you wish you could fly like they do? Do you wish you could fly to the highest treetop and perch? From there, you could see all of the other birds and animals and humans, too. You could watch as they go about their everyday chores. Would you like to have the freedom they have? So would I!

This story is about a blue-jay that was very selfish. Do you know what selfish means? I hope you are not selfish. I heard that you were not!

Good for you! Do you share everything with your brother or sister, or a friend? Do they share everything with you? If you do, then neither one of you could be called selfish. You are a nice person, just as I thought. What would you name this

bluejay? He must have a name for this story. I will call him Barney. Barney Bluejay!

I love birds and I love to watch them playing. I love to watch them building nests for their babies. Baby birds are cute, aren't they? Some of the birds love to build their nests high up in the trees. Some like to build their nests close to the ground. Some like to build their nests somewhere in between the treetops and the ground. All of them are very good at building nests, aren't they? Have you ever seen a little sparrow's nest? Have you ever seen a great big eagles nest?

I made some bird feeders for my back yard a few years ago. As I watched the little birds coming to eat the delicious meal I was giving them, I saw something that made me unhappy. Barney Bluejay soon took over all of the feeders. He was not happy with just one feeder, he wanted all of them. He was being very selfish. He would eat from his feeder and if any other little bird came to eat at one of the other feeders, he would

chase them off. That was very mean of him. I asked him not to do that, but he didn't understand human talk. He kept right on eating all of the bird feed I was putting into the feeders. He did this for a long time until one day all of this changed. He learned how not to be selfish.

It was a day when Barney woke up at his usual time, and got ready to go to the feeders to eat his, and everyone else's food. He went to his own feeder first to see what kind of food I had placed in his dish that day. I had put some nice fruits, berries, and grain in his feeder. He seemed to love the grain best of all.

He didn't see the hawk coming. Some hawks just love to have bluejays for breakfast, or lunch, or dinner. The hawk was named Bill. Bill Hawk was not a mean hawk. He was just looking for breakfast. And a big fat bluejay sounded pretty good to him. Sandra Sparrow saw

Bill coming all along. She saw him circling above, way up in the sky, and she knew that he was looking at Barney, and he had a hungry look in his eyes! She tried to scream to Barney and warn him. But she was too weak from not having enough food. She didn't have enough energy to scream. She chirped as loudly as she could.

Barney did not hear the soft chirp. But Gladstone Woodpecker did! He was close by, hoping that Barney would leave something in the feeders for him and all of the other birds to eat.

Gladstone Woodpecker saw why Sandra Sparrow was trying to warn Barney Bluejay. He just happened to be sitting on one of the highest branches of the hardest trees in my yard. With his being so high up in that tree and with this being the hardest tree in my yard, Gladstone knew exactly what to do. He knew that the sound of his pecking on this tree would wake up the

whole neighborhood because the sound would be so loud. He started pecking just as hard and as fast as he could. The sound made Barney mad when he first heard it. How was he to enjoy his breakfast with all that racket going on? He looked up from the feeder to say something to Gladstone about all this noise. That's when he saw Bill Hawk, coming straight toward him, with his mouth already open, expecting a delicious meal of fresh bluejay. It was not to be that day. The warning that Sandra Sparrow and Gladstone Woodpecker gave to him that day was just enough for Barney to escape from Bill. Bill was disappointed, and decided to go fishing instead. After all

of this, a nice fish would taste better, anyway. He caught two fish and was very happy.

Barney was so happy that he had escaped from the claws of the hawk. He also knew how he had



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escaped! It was because of the other birds. They were not selfish, as he had been for so long. "How could I have been so selfish to them?" he thought to himself. "They saved my life, even after I had not been nice to them. How can I ever make it up to them? They have taught me how not to be selfish. I want to share all of the bird feeders with them, even my own feeder."

I love watching the birds even more now that they all get along. I really love watching Barney Bluejay picking out all the biggest and best seeds, fruits, and berries, and taking them over to put into Sandra Sparrow and Gladstone Woodpecker's own bird feeders. They are all done eating for the day and are in their nests, sleeping soundly. They did ask me in their bird talk if I would tell you, "Good Night."

Wacky Facts

More than 25 years ago, Robert L. Johnson founded BET (Black Entertainment Television), a black-owned media company. In 2002, he became the first black owner of a major professional sports franchise — The Charlotte Bobcats.
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"All the courage and competitiveness of Jackie Robinson (below) affects me to this day. If I patterned my life after anyone, it was him, not because he was the first black baseball player in the majors but because he was a hero."
— Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, above, bellaonline.com

In The News

Three questions for Freddie Highmore

In his new movie, Freddie Highmore, 14, lives in two worlds: one live-action, one animated. The actor, who last appeared in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Finding Neverland," both with Johnny Depp, is surrounded by an all-star cast again in his latest movie "Arthur and the Invisibles." Voices include Madonna, Snoop Dogg, Jimmy Fallon and Robert De Niro.

Freddie plays Arthur, whose grandmother is about to lose her home. Trying to help, Arthur goes on a mission to find the Minimoy, or invisibles, an African tribe of mini people who live in Arthur's backyard. The legend says that the Minimoy hold a great treasure. Arthur hopes that this treasure will help his grandmother keep her house. So, he uses clues left by his grandfather that help him shrink down to the size of the Minimoy. Soon, Arthur is transformed into an animated character and goes on a wild adventure.

Highmore tells Time For Kids all about making "Arthur and the Invisibles."



Freddie Highmore, 14, stars in "Arthur and the Invisibles," a movie that combines live-action and animation. The actor is surrounded by an all-star cast including, below from left, Betameche (Jimmy Fallon), Arthur (Highmore) and Princess Selenia (Madonna).



TFK: What did you think when you saw your animated character?

HIGHMORE: Do I look like that? Actually the animation was created before I joined the film so I was probably supposed to kinda resemble what the stylized animated Arthur might look like in the real world — however I don't think you can actually buy hair products to hold your hair like that all day!

TFK: Which did you like better? Live-action movies or animation?

HIGHMORE: Voicing an animation you're shut away on your own in a little dark room. You can play people and creatures that wouldn't be possible in a live-action movie without years strapped down in a makeup chair. In a live-action film you get to play the whole character and talk with some amazingly talented actors face-to-face. You feel it is more your creation. The great thing for me is that I've gotten to do both.

TFK: How was working on this movie different from working on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" or "Finding Neverland"?

HIGHMORE: While I could stay in England for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Finding Neverland," I had to travel for "Arthur and the Invisibles" because it was made in France. I miss my family and friends when I'm away but I do get to travel to some amazing places.
— Claudia Attico

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fascinated with the famous

Celebrity crushes are a preteen rite of passage

By EMILIE LE BEAU
Chicago Tribune

You had a crush on a classmate from school. A big-time infatuation. Then your gym class ran the mile after lunch and your crush hurled on your sneakers. Suddenly, as quick as you can say crashed crush, you're thinking that you can't believe you used to like that person.

Meanwhile, celebrities never seem to get stuck running the mile in a polyester gym uniform until they yak on the blacktop. They seemingly live in a perfect world where their clothes and hair are always just right.

That sense of perfection is part of the reason kids admire celebrities. Developing a crush on a celebrity is "all a part of growing up," says Michael Athans, a child psychologist at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill.

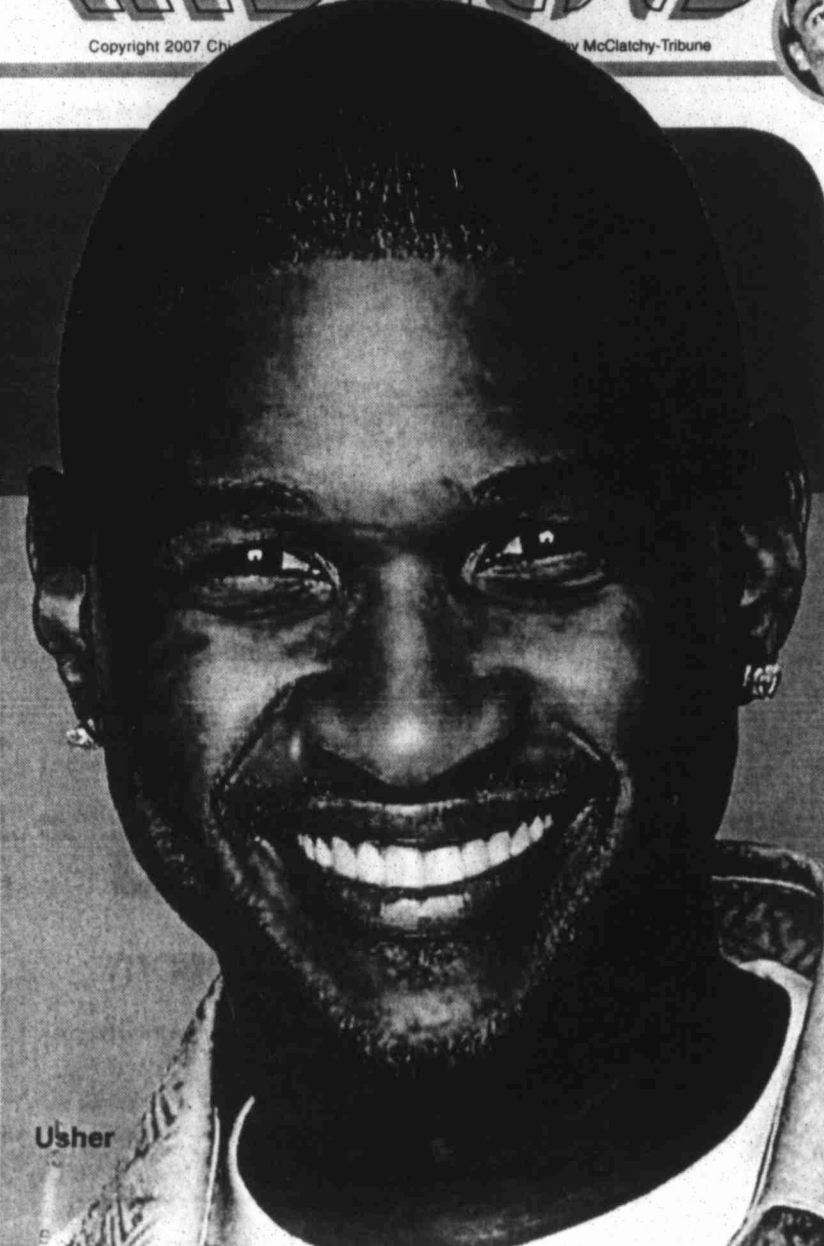
Kids usually develop celebrity crushes when they are around 11 or 12 years old. Crushes often fade after about four years, when a kid finally is old enough to date. "By the middle of high school, (kids) start to switch to more realistic relationships," Athans says.

But that switch can come sooner for some kids. Michelle L., 13, says she is already over the celeb-admiring scene. "They aren't that cute, and I know I don't have a chance," she says.

Seeing or hearing a lot about a celebrity is a key ingredient in a crush. Jasmine A.-F., 12, used to have crushes on actors Orlando Bloom and Josh Hartnett. "I don't really hear a lot of stories about them anymore," she says, and the crushes wore off.

Orlando and Josh have been replaced by R&B singer Usher. On her bedroom walls, Jasmine has pictures of him that she cut out of magazines. Jasmine says she likes Usher because "he sings really good" and "he's really cute."

Lots of kids have crushes on the same popular stars. Nick B., 16, says he sees Beyonce and Jennifer Lopez pictures posted in many lockers. A few



Usher

years back, he says, it was common for the girls to "have crushes on (stars) with names like Josh."

One of the reasons so many kids crush on celebrities is the safety factor. "Since you don't know the celebrity, it's not going to go anywhere bad. It's just a nice little crush you have," Nick says.

Celebrity crushes can be problematic. Some kids don't know "when to turn it off" and might become obsessed with a star, Athans says.

The difference between a harmless crush and a serious obsession is how it affects a kid's life. Being obsessed means spending too much time thinking about a celeb, making plans to meet him or her or withdrawing from real people. Another sign of obsession is wanting to talk only about the celebrity and nothing else, Athans says.

Eventually, the fantasy factor just doesn't cut it. Nick says the kids at his school would rather hang out with each other than dream of stars. "I think most kids my age aren't really into that sort of thing anymore. We look for something more realistic," he says.

Big names, big infatuations

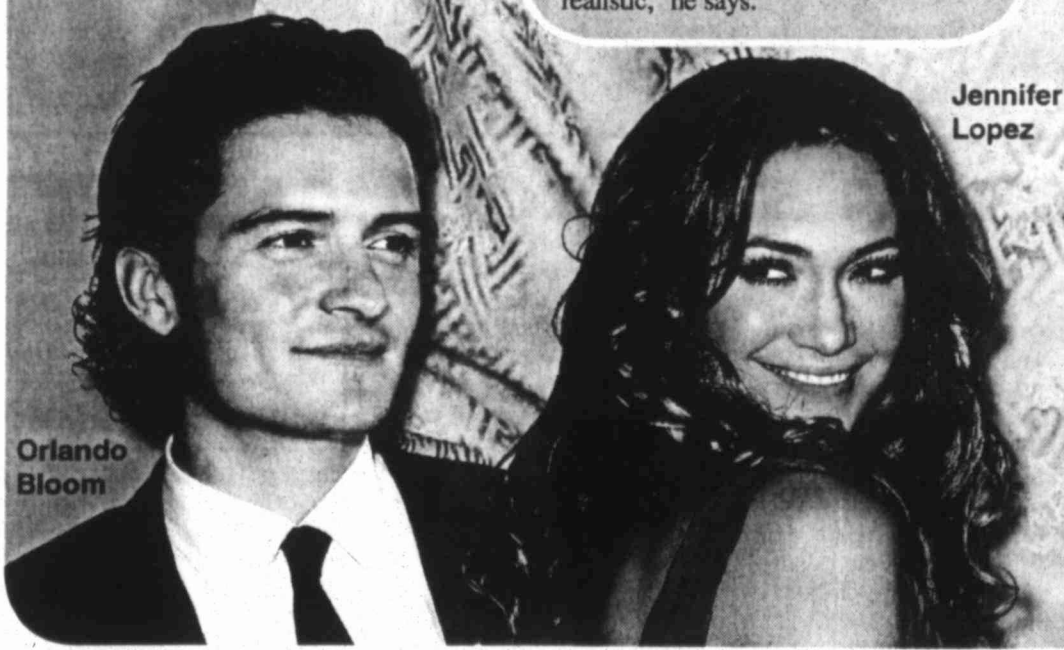
Even stars develop crushes — here are some celeb confessions.

R&B singer Usher lists actress Gabrielle Union as one of his crushes.

Ashton Kutcher says he has crushed on actress Jennifer Aniston for "probably (his) full life."

Actress Lindsay Lohan admits to crushes on Brad Pitt, Justin Timberlake, Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.

Actress Mandy Moore double crushes on actors Josh Hartnett and Tobey Maguire.



Orlando Bloom

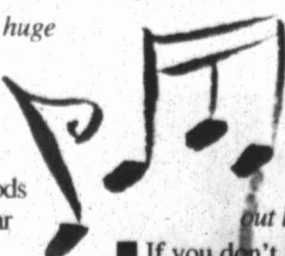
Jennifer Lopez

Help!

Plan a party everyone will love

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I'm having a huge party and boys are invited. I don't really know what they like or what they eat. What should I do?
— Boy, Oh, Boy!

Boys eat what girls eat. Pizza, popcorn, nachos, trail mix, chips and other finger foods are good bets. A make-your-own-sundae bar will be a hit with everyone, too. Plan some active games or sports for your party, which should help the boys — and girls! — have fun. Everybody likes music, so have your guests take turns being deejay, or just ask them to bring their favorite CD to the party. To take a break, pop in a movie that will appeal to everyone. Comedies and movies with great special effects are crowd pleasers. Have fun!



DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: What do you do if a boy you don't like at all asks you to dance at the school dance?

How do you say no without being rude?
— Polite Dancer

If you don't want to dance with a boy, it isn't rude to say no. You can simply give a small smile and say, "No, thank you." Chances are, he'll leave it at that. But when he walks away, you should resist the temptation to giggle about him with your friends.

Visit americangirl.com to get or give advice.

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Try This

Cart home your cards

Once all the notes have been signed, sealed and delivered, you can use this paper satchel to tote home all the messages you've received.

To make one, first ask an adult for help with this craft.

MATERIALS

- 2 sheets of 8½-by-11-inch decorative scrapbook paper
 - Glue
 - Craft knife
 - Craft foam or construction paper
- Start with two sheets of decorative 8½-by-11-inch scrapbook paper. Cut a 1-inch-wide

strip from a short end of one of the sheets and set it aside. Then tape or glue together the two sheets at their short ends, overlapping the papers by about ½ inch. Once the glue has dried, fold the papers as shown, creating an 8-inch flap and a 4-inch flap. Then trim the smaller flap to a point.

To make a closure, unfold the envelope and use a craft knife to cut two horizontal 1¼-inch slits in the front panel, then refold the envelope and glue a



small craft foam or construction paper heart between the slits. Cut the 1-inch-wide strip in two, then glue one half to the underside of the top flap and trim it to a point.

Finally, seal the sides of the larger flap with glue to create a pouch and let the glue dry completely.
— FamilyFun magazine

Sports

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SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

IN BRIEF

It's final, Rangers sign Sammy Sosa



Sosa's contract will have a base salary of about \$500,000 if he is placed on the Rangers' 40-man roster. He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

Coach Washington said Sosa would be primarily a designated hitter if he makes the team, but would still play a few games in the outfield.

See Page 2B

Colt's Tony Dungy, Super Bowl update



Dungy's teams have made the playoffs for eight straight seasons and in nine of the 11 years he's coached. The eight straight appearances ties for second in that category with his mentor, Chuck Noll, and puts him behind Tom Landry, the only coach to do it nine consecutive times. His winning percentage of .635, including playoffs, is the highest among active coaches, a fraction of a percentage point higher than the mark for Joe Gibbs.

See Page 2B

Little League needs board members

Coahoma Boy's Little League Baseball is in need of 2007 Board Members.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tish Hill at 213-3189 or by e-mail at coahomapss@yahoo.com

Singletary to interview with Cowboys

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer IRVING — Add Mike Singletary to the list of candidates to become coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

The Hall of Fame linebacker will interview Tuesday with team owner Jerry Jones. He'll become the eighth candidate considered to replace Bill Parcells.

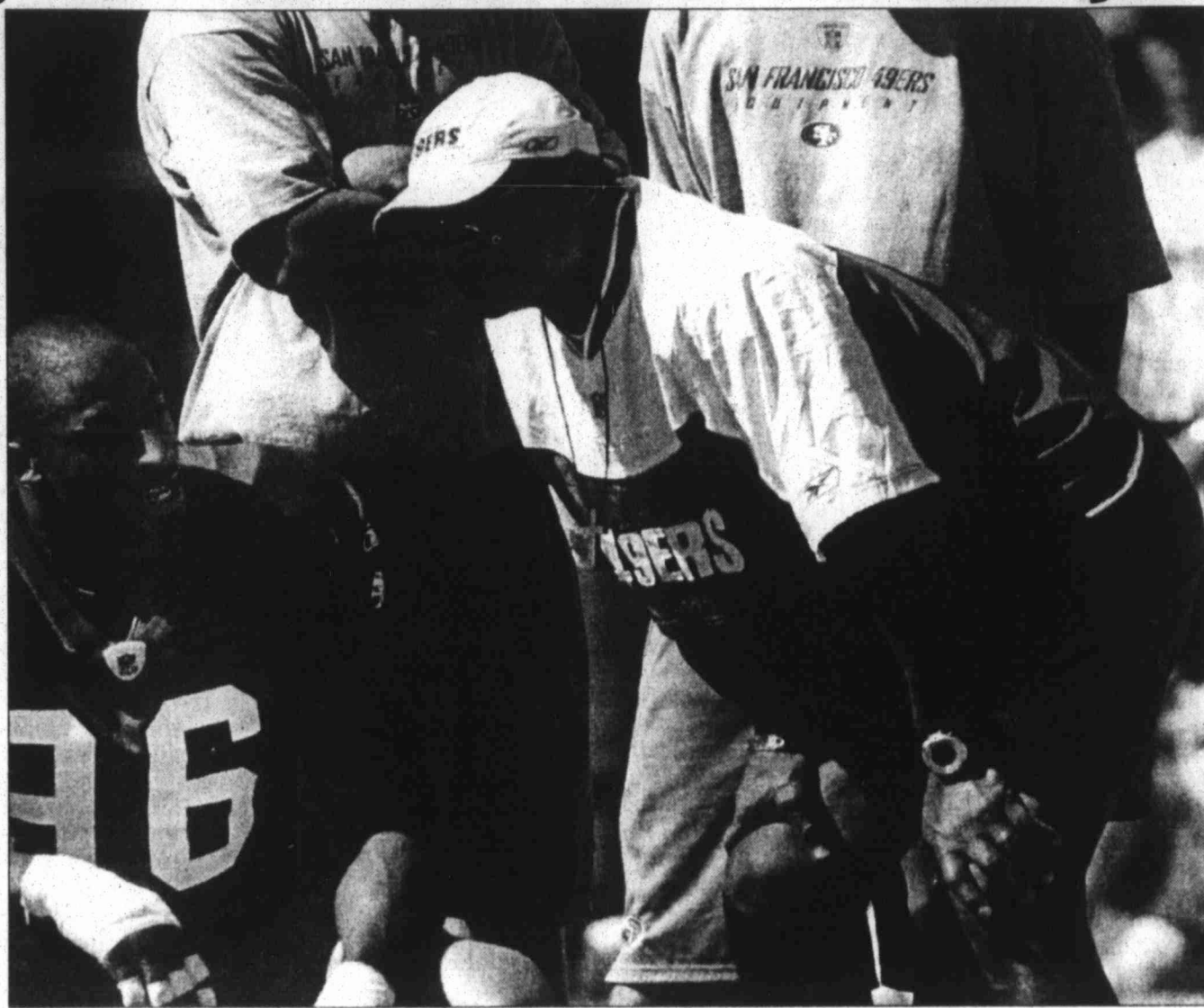
Best known for his ferocious play with the Chicago Bears, Singletary is a Houston native who played college football at Baylor. He's been coaching in the NFL since 2003, spending two years with Baltimore and the last two with the San Francisco 49ers.

Another 49ers assistant, offensive coordinator Norv Turner, has been viewed as the front-runner in Dallas, but he returned to the Bay Area following his interview Sunday.

The Cowboys already have hired Jason Garrett and are considering him for the head coaching job or likely will make him offensive coordinator. Defensive coordinators Wade Phillips of San Diego and Gary Gibbs of New Orleans also are being considered.

Jones also has talked to three members of Parcells' staff, including Todd Bowles, who is black, thus fulfilling the league requirement for a minority candidate.

Singletary, 48, retired after the 1992 season and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998. He spent his post-playing days doing motivational speaking, writing books and co-founding a company that provides leadership



San Francisco 49ers linebacker coach Mike Singletary (right) talks with Andre Carter (96) during the opening day of training camp for the 49ers in Santa Clara, Ca., July 30, 2005. Jerry Jones is considering making Singletary the Cowboys next head coach.

training, then got into coaching in 2003.

After failing to land the head coaching job at Baylor, Singletary was hired by Baltimore and spent two seasons

guiding the inside linebackers. Mike Nolan was the team's defensive coordinator and when he became the head coach in San Francisco, Singletary followed. He was assistant head coach for

linebackers, then named assistant head coach for defense last season.

Parcells resigned last Monday.

See DALLAS, Page 2B

Barbaro euthanized 8 months after Preakness breakdown

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Sports Writer

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — Barbaro's eyes were so bright for so long, his appetite so voracious, even the surgeon who lovingly cared for the Kentucky Derby winner believed the colt would overcome his broken bones and ailing feet.

"I thought many times that he was going to make it, absolutely," Dr. Dean Richardson said Monday after Barbaro was euthanized because of complications from his breakdown at last year's Preakness. "But at the same time, I was smart enough to know all these challenges were there throughout."

A series of ailments — including laminitis in the left rear hoof, an abscess in the right rear hoof, as well as new laminitis in both front feet — proved too much for the gallant colt.

When Richardson checked Barbaro on Monday morning, the eyes that had been so full of life were darker, a sure sign of distress. And after consultation with owners Gretchen and Roy Jackson, the colt was given a heavy dose of a tranquilizer and an overdose of an anesthetic and put down at 10:30 a.m.

"You could see he was upset," said Richardson, chief of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. "That was the difference. It was more than we wanted to put him through."

Barbaro's eight-month ordeal, which made him even more of a hero than he

was as a champion on the track, was over.

"I really didn't think it was appropriate to continue treatment because the probability of getting better was so poor," Richardson said.

Fighting back tears, he added: "Barbaro had many, many good days."

"Certainly," Gretchen Jackson said, "grief is the price we all pay for love."

The bay colt underwent nearly two dozen surgeries and other procedures, including cast changes under anesthesia. He spent time in a sling to ease pressure on his legs, had pins inserted and was fitted at the end with an external brace — extraordinary measures for injuries that most horses never survive.

Weeks of positive reports turned into months. Barbaro was eyeing the mares, nickering, gobbling up his feed and trying to walk out of his stall. But Richardson warned there still could be trouble, and by mid-July, his greatest fear became reality — laminitis struck Barbaro's left hind leg.

On Sunday, a day after Barbaro's fight for survival had reached a critical point, Richardson compared the various injuries to a "house of cards." One part falls, and the rest start to crumble.

In this case, it was the laminitis that attacked both front feet that left him vulnerable.

"That left him with not a good leg to stand on," Richardson said.

Roy Jackson added: "We just reached

See BARBARO, Page 2B



Cathy Sanders of Landenberg, Pa., can't hold back the tears after hanging a sign she had made and posted at the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square where racehorse Barbaro was put down today after complications from his breakdown at last year's Preakness in Baltimore.

Minnesota eclipses Suns

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The hard-driving Phoenix Suns finally hit a road block in Kevin Garnett.

Garnett almost single-handedly snapped the Suns' 17-game winning streak, scoring 44 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in Minnesota's 121-112 victory on Monday night.

The All-Star forward was everywhere in the final period against the Suns, dropping turnaround jumper after turnaround jumper to give Phoenix its first loss of 2007.

He scored 15 points in the fourth, including a looping fallaway from the baseline that gave Minnesota a 118-109 lead with 1:55 to play, and put new coach Randy Wittman on the way to a win in his home debut.

Raja Bell scored 26 points and Steve Nash had 20 points and 18 assists for the Suns, who were looking to tie for the fourth-longest winning streak in NBA history.

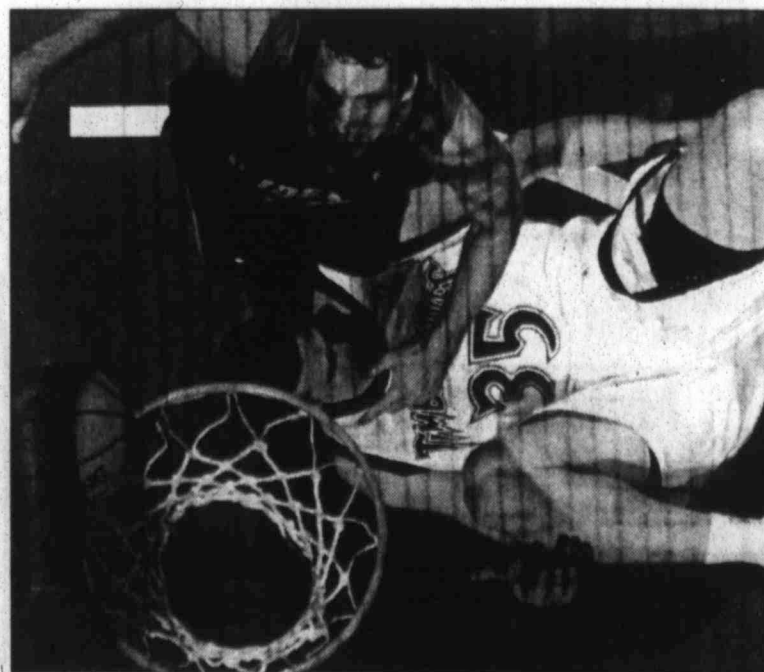
But one night after downing LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers for No. 17 in a row, the Suns couldn't find an answer for

Garnett and uncharacteristically lost their offensive mojo in the fourth quarter.

After scoring 95 points in the first three quarters, Phoenix could managed just 19 in the fourth and looked a little stagnant.

Ricky Davis had 17 points for the Timberwolves, who shot 59 percent and simply wore the Suns down in the final minutes.

Shawn Marion had 24 points and Leandro Barbosa added 17 more for the losing Suns, which entered the night a perfect 15-0 in January.



Timberwolves' Mark Madsen (35) takes a charge by Phoenix Sun's Amare Stoudemire (not pictured) while Steve Nash (13) looks for the rebound in the second quarter the T'Wolves 121-112 win Monday night.

Sosa has new contract, now he has to make team

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH — Sammy Sosa has a contract with the Texas Rangers and a chance to get back to the major leagues. Now the former slugger has to go to spring training and earn a spot on the roster.

Sosa and the Rangers were set to announce their minor league deal Tuesday, two weeks after his second workout for the team with which he began his career.

The 38-year-old Sosa hasn't played in the major leagues since 2005 with the Baltimore Orioles. He is fifth on the career list with 588 home runs.

"If we give him an opportunity to come into camp and he performs like a winner, I don't think (anybody) can complain about that, and I'm certainly not," Rangers rookie manager Ron Washington said after watching Sosa's workout in Texas. "If it works, we look good, and I'm willing to take the chance on that it will work."

After his second workout for the Rangers on Jan. 15, Sosa returned home to the Dominican Republic, where he had worked out earlier for Texas scouts. He wasn't scheduled to attend the news conference Tuesday in Arlington, but was expected to address the media by telephone.

Sosa's contract will have a base salary of about \$500,000 if he is placed on the Rangers' 40-man roster. He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

Washington said Sosa would be primarily a des-

ignated hitter if he makes the team, but would still play a few games in the outfield. He could bat fifth in the Rangers' lineup behind switch-hitting slugger Mark Teixeira and All-Star shortstop Michael Young.

When Sosa last played in 2005, the seven-time All-Star hit .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs in 102 games for Baltimore. During spring training that year, Sosa was one of several players who testified before a congressional committee looking into steroid use in professional baseball.

In his career with the Rangers (1989), Chicago White Sox (1989-91), Chicago Cubs (1992-2004) and Orioles, Sosa has batted .274 with 1,575 RBIs and has hit 60 home runs or more in a year three times.

Sosa was the NL MVP in 1998, when he batted .308 with a career-high 66 homers and 158 RBIs for the Cubs. That was the season he was in the home run chase with Mark McGwire, who became the first major leaguer to hit 70 homers.

Sosa's first homer came with Texas in 1989, the only one he hit in 25 games before being traded to the White Sox. The Rangers signed Sosa at age 16 in July 1985, and his first minor league manager was Rudy Jaramillo, now the team's hitting coach.

"He's going to have to prove himself day in and day out. He's going to have to win his teammates' respect," Jaramillo said. "His talent, his ability has to be there. It's there. It's now him going and proving it in spring training."

Dungy overcomes tragedy to seek this ring

By **DAVE GOLDBERG**
AP Football Writer

MIAMI — After his brother died in an auto accident last September, Reggie Wayne returned to the Indianapolis Colts to find Tony Dungy waiting to console him — as only a man who has been through his own personal tragedies can do.

"I was at the lowest point," Wayne recalled last week. "Just to hear it from someone who has been through it helps you a lot. Coach Dungy is a strong man — a strong soul. It was huge for me."

Dungy's tragedy came 13 months ago — the suicide of his 18-year-old son James.

A season later, he's coaching in the Super Bowl, using the strength that sustained him through his terrible loss to try to get the Colts their first NFL title in 36 years. A victory on Sunday at Dolphin Stadium would validate his career and his quarterback's.

Peyton Manning, two men who have been tagged with the line "can't win the big one."

In both cases, the label is unfair, as most labels can be.

Dungy's teams have made the playoffs for eight straight seasons and in nine of the 11 years he's coached. The eight straight appearances ties for second in that category with his mentor, Chuck Noll, and puts him behind Tom Landry, the only coach to do it nine consecutive times.

His winning percentage of .635, including playoffs, is the highest among active coaches, a fraction of a percentage point higher than the mark for Joe Gibbs. But Gibbs has won three Super Bowls. Dungy is celebrated in his first as much for the color of his skin as his abilities — he and Chicago coach Lovie Smith, a protege and good friend, are the first black head coaches to make it there.

The knock has usually been that Dungy lacks what a championship coach needs: the killer

instinct to push everything else aside.

The television cameras never catch him shouting at an official or cursing under his breath. His priorities are his family and his faith. He's also worked hard to advance minority hiring in the NFL, a cause that is clearly in the spotlight this week and was last week, too.

"What happened in New York on Monday, what happened in Indianapolis and Chicago on Sunday and what happened in Pittsburgh the next Monday may make it the most significant week ever for African-Americans in football," said Doug Williams, who 19 years ago became the first black quarterback in a Super Bowl.

He was referring to Jerry Reese's appointment as general manager of the New York Giants, the conference championship wins, and Mike Tomlin's hiring as coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Dungy is hardly the prototypical coach — he's usually stoic on the sideline, as he had been in dealing with his son's death. After the Colts beat New England to win the AFC championship, he pointedly noted that coaches don't have to encourage profanity and trash-talking to succeed.

His boss agrees. "There are disciplinarians without being disciplinarians," says Bill Polian, the Colts' general manager. "If they bench you, or punish you in some other way, they let you know that it can be rectified, that if what you did wrong is corrected, there are rewards down the line."

Manning describes his coach in a similar vein.

"He doesn't yell. Or at least he doesn't yell very often," he said. "But I've seen him get angry. And like anyone who is so even-tempered, it really has an effect. When he's angry, you know there's a reason. And we listen."

Dungy earned a Super Bowl ring as a player with the 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers, where he was a spare defensive back and

was fired.

He went to the Indianapolis Colts, but the postseason results were the same; the Colts were blown out 41-0 by the Jets in their first post-season game.

Where his predecessor, Jim Mora, might have blown-up after a horrible game like that one, Dungy put it aside. Shortly after his postgame news conference, he was talking about minority hiring, suggesting that Marvin Lewis should take the coaching opening in Cincinnati.

"I am certainly aware that there is life outside of football." That was made abundantly clear on Dec. 22, 2005, when James Dungy was found dead in his Tampa apartment.

Two weeks later, Dungy was back coaching, graciously thanking the millions of well-wishers, getting himself involved in an effort to prevent teenage suicide and suggesting that it was harder on his wife, Lauren, because he had football as an outlet.

"Tony is a saint," said Jason Woody, executive director of the institute. "I don't know anyone in the public eye who is so caring and so giving."

Dungy doesn't talk about how tragedy has changed him. Or at least not often.

"I think God gives you tests to see if you're going to stay true to what you believe and stay faithful," he said last week. "For me, that's what it was, having to continue to believe. Sometimes when you have disappointments it makes that final destination that much sweeter."

In 2000 and 2001, the Bucs lost their opening playoff games in Philadelphia, and Dungy

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

ending a four-year run in which he went a stagnant 34-32 and failed to win a single playoff game over four seasons.

The Cowboys lost four of their last five games this past season, with defense being the weak

link.

Jones may not hold a lack of NFL head coaching experience against Singletary; Parcels was the first coach in club history with that on his resume. All five head coaches NFL teams have hired this offseason are first-timers.

BARBARO

Continued from 1B

a point where it was going to be difficult for him to go on without pain. It was the right decision, it was the right thing to do. We said all along if there was a situation where it would become more difficult for him, then it would be time."

With dark red roses on the table at an afternoon press conference, Richardson and the Jacksons were emotional talking about the colt. Many staffers welled up, and by early evening the lobby was overflowing with roses and other assorted flowers sent by grieving fans.

The scene seemed to mimic months earlier when Barbaro became America's No. 1 patient after he first suffered his catastrophic injuries.

On May 20, Barbaro was rushed to the New Bolton Center, about 30 miles from Philadelphia, hours after shattering his right hind leg just a few strides into the Preakness Stakes. He underwent a five-hour operation that fused two joints, and Richardson called the colt's chances a "coin toss."

The recovery, though, seemed to go well. The bones that had shattered in the Preakness were healed and the only major concern was in Barbaro's left rear leg, where 80 percent of the hoof had been removed in July when he developed laminitis.

Then a deep abscess in the right hind hoof began causing discomfort last week, and surgery was required to insert two steel pins in a bone to eliminate all weight bearing on the ailing right rear foot. With two ailing hind legs, Barbaro's front legs had to handle even

more weight and that's when laminitis struck again.

In his dirt debut, Barbaro won the Holy Bull Stakes over a sloppy track at Gulfstream Park on Feb. 4. After an unusually long eight-week break, he won the Florida Derby by a half-length over Sharp Humor and it was on to Churchill Downs, though not without criticism that Barbaro couldn't win the Kentucky Derby after a five-week layoff.

Not only did Barbaro win the Derby, he demolished what was supposed to be one of the toughest fields in years.

Barbaro would never get his chance at a Triple Crown. His career, which earned \$2,302,200, would end in the Preakness, where that horrible misstep would lead to his only-loss in seven starts.

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3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX! Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50, increasing to \$14.25 upon successful completion of 6 months probation. Outstanding benefits include paid Health, Dental & Vision insurance premiums and unlimited advancement. Must be 18yrs old, pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.

Opportunity is a call away! Call Don Hood @ 432-263-2366 EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

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.

TRUCK DRIVER Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

PORTER HENDERSON IMPLEMENT Opening for Full-time Positions: Parts Sales, Technician, Service Clerk and Salesperson. Looking for hard working, positive individuals with ability to learn! Knowledge of farm equipment a plus. Submit resume or application to: 3011 N. Hwy. 87.

Help Wanted

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC.; Project Head Start has the following position available: **Teacher Aide:** Must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be able to attend training and participate in child development classes and occasionally attend out-of-town training.

Bus Driver: Must be 21 years or older, have a CDL and a good driving record and a High School Diploma or GED. This position is 6 hrs per day M-F and includes a full benefit package. All applicants must; Be 18 or older. Pass a pre-employment drug screen. Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency. Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Will begin taking applications January 30, 2007. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line www.gopb.org. All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

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.

JOB FAIR! T.R.S.I. now hiring 18-25 sharp people! Looking for a fun job? Want to travel? Tired of dead-end jobs? T.R.S.I. wants you to come and grow with us in an exciting new career opportunity that is fun and will teach you a new trade. First 100 calls accepted. Serious inquires only!! Extensive travel required! Call Jacquelyn at 866-391-0375.

LOOKING FOR dependable people to work in a local cotton delinting plant. Starting wage \$8.50, unless more qualified. Apply in person at Stoneville, 4701 N. Highway 87. Call 432-263-8338.

NEED BACKHOE operator w/CDL. Good driving record. Need one year experience. Must pass drug test. Call (432)394-4161.

PICK UP application at Holiday Inn Express for housekeepers 9:00am-3:00pm.

NEED PART time salvage driver. Apply at The Salvation Army 811 West 5th.

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

NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

OTR TRUCK DRIVERS needed. Must have a CDL Class A with 12 months experience. Company offers excellent pay and benefits. Guaranteed weekly minimum. For more information call 1-800-624-5919 ext. www.taylorexpressinc.com

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

Help Wanted

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.

TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING Now At Howard College Big Springs, TX Classes Beginning February 5, 2007 Call Today For information 1-800-725-6465

Pollard Chevrolet is seeking an **ACCOUNTING CLERK.** Accounting experience required. Pay based on experience and ability. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

POLLARD CHEVROLET is seeking a Finance & Insurance Sales person. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PF/FT. 1-800-584-1775 Ext. 6901 USWA.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

TAKING APPLICATIONS for Bartender. Must be 21 yrs. old. Apply at Paul's Place, 1800 N. Birdwell Lane after 6:00 p.m. or call (432)263-6292.

THE MARTIN County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

VACUUM TRUCK driver needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL & tanker endorsement. Please call JD's Services (325)575-0851.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WHITTEN INN at 700 West 1-20. Needs Laundry Aid & housekeepers. Please apply in person between 10:00am-3:00pm.

WIS INTERNATIONAL is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager. All who are interested please call Natasha, (806)543-1778 or Rick at (432)213-4769. Also apply at the Workforce Network of Big Spring.

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord & \$175.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

Lost and Found

FOUND HUNTING Dog running loose on Buena Vista. Call 432-466-0485 to claim.

Miscellaneous

BEAUTIFUL CHERRY solid wood sleigh bed with mattresses. Brand new from factory. \$379. 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW double/full size mattress set. \$119. TWIN mattress set. \$99. Both new with warranty. 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$175.00. 432-349-4043.

BROWN COUCH for sale. Good Shape. \$50.00. Call (432)264-7988.

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

FIVE PIECE King size Cherry French Country bedroom suite \$900.00. Pearl Full set of drums \$500.00. Call (432)267-2941.

FRESH CROP of pecans. \$2.00 a lb., Shelled \$5.00 a lb. Call (432)263-8785.

INCOME TAX Refund Buys MORE Furniture & Mattresses Here. 806-549-3110.

KING PILLOWTOP Mattress Set. Brand New still in Plastic. Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

LEATHER SOFA, loveseat, 3 pc Table set. New with lifetime Warranty. \$799. 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS CLOSEOUT Brand New Still in Plastic Twin Set \$99.00 Full Set \$119.00 Queen Set \$139.00 King Set \$239.00 432-416-0261

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.

SACRIFICE COMPLETE all wood Bedroom set. Beautiful \$699. Still boxed. 806-549-3110.

SELLING QUEEN pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, warranty. \$125. 806-549-3110.

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

ADORABLE AND Tiny Cassie is a little doll with her gorgeous babydoll face Yorkie! She is an excellent display of her breed!! She had a great little personality and will mature to around 4 to 4.5#s! Current on all vaccines and dewormings and fully guaranteed. walter_walker101@yahoo.com

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.

I CURRENTLY have Two Beautiful AKA Male and Female English Bulldog puppies available for adoption, Champion bloodlines and come with health certificate, wormed, updated shots, small baggie of puppies food and full AKC Registration and 1 year health guarantee. The puppies available now is for \$550 only. Viewable pictures available. Puppy available now for more information please contact Anita Smith Email: anitabulldogfarm@yahoo.com

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

Real Estate for Rent

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

Real Estate for Rent

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New Laundry & Vending
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3304 W. Hwy. 80
(432) 714-4840

1706 JOHNSON. One bedroom, one bath. \$225. month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

2 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 bath, unfurnished, large living room. \$325 a month plus utilities, \$200 security. 906 W. 4th St. Call (432)263-3820.

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.

446 ARMBRONG 4 bedroom, CH/A, water paid. \$410 month, \$200 deposit. **1613 JENNINGS.** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$375 month, \$150 deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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

NICE, REMODELED three bedroom, two bath, CH/A home. 1 acre, water well, den with fireplace. Sand Springs. Rent or Sale. Erlene Baker, (325)625-2876 or 214-0195.

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN One bedroom + upstairs studio. Near Church/ Grocery. Central air, refrigerator/ stove. Smoking/ pets prohibited \$285.. Credit/ background check required. McDonald (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

WANTED: ELDERLY man seeks studio, small trailer, etc. Call (214)234-5666.

Real Estate for Sale

1500 MAIN, 3 bedroom 2 bath, CH/A, apartment under carport. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

2 COMMERCIAL Property at 1701 & 1703 Gregg Street. Great location on a busy street. 3 Offices, 4 storage rooms. Both Building \$140,000.00. Call Becky Gonzales Agent for RE/MAX Realtor Services 432-557-6278.

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

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.

COAHOMA ISD, Brick 2 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath. CH/A, den, dining room, carport, fenced yard, 2 storage buildings on 1/2 acre. \$48,000.00. Call (432)393-5966.

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

LAND for Sale- 32.41 Beautiful acres near Country Club. Good water well. \$95,000.00 Call (432)816-3927.

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

OWNER FINANCE. 2412 Runnels. 3 BR/1 1/2 bath. Low down and low monthly. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

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UM Data Entry: High School Diploma or GED required plus two-year experience in clerical or secretarial. Data entry and maintenance of data base. Communication and organization skills required. Computer test in Word and Excel required. Salary \$8.20 hr.
Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling Jobline at 1-800-687-2769 or www.wtcmhmr.org. EOE. 26376

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Real Estate for Sale

SMALL PARTIAL land for sale. 5 miles south of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance or Texas Veterans. (432)263-8785.

Vehicles

1984 CADILLAC Fleetwood Brougham, 34090 actual miles. Color Wonderland Haze, brown leather interior, one owner, runs good, excellent condition. Call 432-393-5866 after 7:00pm, make offer.

2000 SR5 Toyota 4 Runner SUV. \$10K. Black with gray leather. One Owner, 67,000 miles. Very Nice Condition. Call (432)213-1642.

97 PONTIAC Sunfire. 4 door, teal color, 67,000 mi. Real clean, runs good, garage kept. Call (432)263-8016.

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ANSWERS

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

Legals

EXHIBIT A
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, to issue one or more series of the interest bearing certificates of obligation of the City for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City's contractual obligations to be incurred in connection with: (i) acquiring, constructing, installing and equipping additions, extensions and improvements to the City's waterworks and wastewater system, including reconstruction and renovation of an elevated storage tank; (ii) constructing and equipping an addition to the City's animal shelter; and (iii) paying fees for legal, fiscal, engineering, architectural and other professional services in connection with these projects. The City Council tentatively proposes to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of said certificates of obligation at a meeting to commence at 5:30 p.m., on February 13, 2007, at the Council Chambers, 307 East

4th Street, Big Spring, Texas. The maximum amount of certificates of obligation indebtedness that may be authorized to be sold on said date for such purposes described above is \$1,100,000. The City proposes to provide for the payment of such certificates of obligation from the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the City as provided by law, and from a pledge of limited surplus revenues of the City's waterworks and wastewater system, remaining after payment of all operation and maintenance expenses thereof, and all debt service, reserve, and other requirements in connection with all of the City's revenue bonds or other obligations (now or hereafter outstanding), which are payable from all or any part of the net revenues of the City's waterworks and wastewater system. The certificates of obligation are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.
CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS
#5219 January 23 & 30, 2007

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The opposition of Mercury and Saturn, which manifests at times in the irritating manner of someone talking too loudly on a cell phone in a restaurant, is losing its impetus to stir up trouble. Perhaps all that's been said is enough. Put tired topics to rest. And if you simply can't let it go, Thursday's full moon brings Round 2.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your reputation precedes you. When others have something wonderful to say about you, your stock continues to rise. Plant more seeds for future connections.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It sometimes takes you a while to make up your mind. But when you do, one powerful and conscious action outweighs what you could do in hundreds of hours of tinkering around on autopilot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're through complaining. You're ready to use your agile mind to out-fox your problem. After all, obstacles don't fall down for you simply because you're whacking your head against them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Each task you perform, regardless of how

small it may seem, is a step toward or away from your purpose. Seize the chance to build a better working relationship with someone you see daily.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're excitedly anticipating the wrap-up of a project, but don't expect this ending to change too much about your life. The end of one chapter brings the beginning of another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The midnight hour last night brought you dreamy illusions of your role in someone's life. But is this really the way it is? You'll find out in the blazing clarity of noon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're usually not a "my way or the highway" type of leader. However, today you are. You're only help-

ing others save money and time. Hopefully they get it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This is the point in your story where you ask yourself whether what you want is appropriate — not only for you, but for the others who'll be affected. Who else will be affected? Why, the whole world, of course!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're watching and noticing. You see subconscious urges or needs in other people's body language — urges that they themselves aren't aware they're having.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone is listening to your every word. But it's up to you to decide whether this is a good thing or a problem.

A witness is in a precarious position — one that you'll honor

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Looks and charm alone aren't enough to sustain you in your current stretch of career success. When you meet with success, remind yourself that it came from your own hard work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your tenacity has played a significant role. If you never stumble, chances are you're not stretching yourself to the limit of your abilities. The best way to improve your performance is to attempt the impossible.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Though many, myself included, never realized that "sexy" had gone away, Justin Timberlake

has spent a large part of 2006 bringing "sexy back." Timberlake is an Aquarius, the sign of the future, who is always developing his art in fresh directions. With upcoming film roles in "Alpha Dog" and "Southland Tales," Timberlake will further prove he is a creative force extraordinaire.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I'm having an internal battle over loyalties. I'm a recently divorced man. My friend, "Jim," also is divorced. A few days ago, I ran into Jim's ex-wife, "Tammy," at the store. We talked for a minute and exchanged numbers. Tammy called me the next day. We hit it off extremely well.

I have always thought Tammy was a fun person to be around. We've talked several times, and I'm pretty sure she is interested in striking up a friendlier relationship. I'd really like to date Tammy, but am not sure what to do. I don't want to alienate Jim or our other mutual friends. I need your advice. What should I do? — Torn Apart in Kentucky

Dear Torn Apart: This is a very tricky situation and not likely to make your life easier. Dating a good friend's ex is a recipe for hurt feelings and awkward social situations. Of course, a lot depends on whether or not the current relationship between Jim and Tammy is amicable. Talk to Jim. Tell him you are interested in dating Tammy, but you don't want to damage the friendship. If he doesn't mind, go ahead, but if he objects in any way, understand that dating her will undoubtedly cost you the friendship, and mutual friends may feel obligated to take sides when it comes to issuing invitations. Only you can decide if she's worth it.

Dear Annie: Over the last several years, I have had some small skin cancers. I have seen three or four dermatologists, but have never gone back to the same one twice. None offered a full body check, and the one time I asked, the doctor barely looked at me. He never checked under my breasts, inside my thighs or on the scalp.

I realize some of this is my fault for not speaking up more forcefully, but could you print the basics of what one should expect? — Comment, Please

Dear Comment: We contacted Dr. Sara Ward, dermatologist at Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group. She said you are correct that regular screening skin



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

examinations by a dermatologist are the best way to detect and treat skin cancer early. The bad news is the incidence of skin cancers is increasing at an alarming rate. The good news is that nearly all skin cancers are curable if they are caught early.

During a screening, you should expect your dermatologist to examine your entire skin surface, so you will be asked to remove your clothing and put on a gown. Because skin cancer can arise anywhere on the skin surface, even in places that have never been exposed to the sun, your dermatologist will generally look everywhere. During the exam your dermatologist may ask if you have noted any hidden or changing lesions. Even if your doctor does not ask, it is critical for you to speak up. For consistency, once you find a dermatologist you are comfortable with, it is best to see the same person each visit so he or she can monitor for subtle changes.

You should be performing self skin examinations monthly in between visits to your dermatologist. This means looking over your entire body, using a mirror for hard-to-spot areas. If you see a new mole, any changes in the size, color, shape or texture of an existing mole, or any unusual changes in your skin, you should bring this to the attention of your dermatologist.

Dear Annie: I have another idea for "Please Don't Ruin My Vacation Again," who catches colds on airplanes. Once I am seated on the plane, I put on a surgical mask. I don't care if I look funny or not, I'm never going to

see these people again. And if someone asks, I tell them I have a cold and don't want to make anyone on the plane sick. It's a small white lie, but people seem to appreciate the courtesy. — Emily

Dear Emily: Most people are reluctant to look like a surgeon in public, but we say, whatever works.

Dear Annie: My nephew and his wife are friends with a couple my husband and I do not care to be around. This couple used to be friends with us, too, until we had a falling out. I don't feel comfortable in their presence, and my nephew promised he would never put us in that situation.

My nephew and his wife have always been very close to us. However, now that they are friends with our ex-friends, we don't seem to be important anymore. My nephew had a birthday party for one of his children, and his wife called us at 4:30 to invite us for cake and ice cream at 6. Even though it was a late invite, I was actually thinking of going until I found out the other couple would be there.

We have always spent every holiday, birthday and special occasion together, and I can't believe my nephew and his wife would actually put these people before me. This is causing a lot of strain. Any suggestions? Please do not ask me to become friends with those people again, because that truly is not an option. — Unknown

Dear Unknown: Here's the rule: You do not get to decide who other people can be friends with. Your nephew and his wife like this couple, and they will continue to invite them for birthdays and other occasions. If you want to remain close to your nephew, don't force him to choose. You should make every effort to attend his family events and simply ignore the ex-friends. If you cannot bring yourself to do that, it becomes YOUR choice to stay away, not his.

Dear Annie: A friend of mine, age 40, has experienced a horrible double tragedy. Her boyfriend, age 45, with whom she lived for almost five years, was killed by a

drunk driver in a head-on accident.

Since they were not married, the oceanfront home they shared in California, which was in his name only, will be inherited by his mother and brothers. My friend will receive nothing. She not only lost her love, but will soon lose her beautiful home. They never planned for such a terrible situation.

Please alert your readers that if they are living with their significant other and choose not to marry, they need to make plans in case of an unforeseen death. This situation has devastated my friend. — Be Prepared for the Unexpected

Dear Be Prepared: The legal institution of marriage, like it or not, can protect partners from just such financial tragedies. This is one of the reasons why gay couples lobby so hard for civil unions. In some states, couples living together for a specified number of years are recognized as common-law partners and given legal protections (and responsibilities). At the very least, property should be put in both names so that the surviving partner inherits. Thank you for taking the time to remind our readers that life does not come with guarantees.

Dear Annie: I really appreciated your response to the mother whose daughter came back from college and said she was a lesbian. The fact that you listed PFLAG as a support contact and information place was a great step toward helping parents with their unanswered questions.

For parents who are in a religious dilemma about homosexuality, they may want to contact the University Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (mccchurch.org) at P.O. Box 1374, Abilene, Texas 79604, to receive information on homosexuality and the Bible. — Madison, Wis.

Dear Madison: Thank you for the useful resource. We also recommend Dignity (dignityusa.org), 1-800-877-8797, an organization for Catholics with questions about homosexuality.

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SALE PRICE \$17,500

2006 Buick Lucerne CX - 4
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\$19,995

2001 GMC Sonoma X-Cab - V6,
Auto, Power Windows & Locks, Air, 72K.
\$9,995

PONTIAC GMC
424 E. 3RD • BIG SPRING, TEXAS
263-7625 888-263-0017
"HOME OF THE NICEST USED CARS IN HOWARD CO."
• See Our Ad In The Area Wide Phone Book •

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THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

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DON'T PAY
to find work before you get the job. For free information about avoiding employment service scams, write the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 800-876-7060.

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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.

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. © 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (29)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Duelo de Pasiones	King of the Hill	News Entertainment	Vluda de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lehr	How It's Made	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	College Basketball	College Basketball	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	La Fsa Mas Bella	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Dateline NBC (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel Booker	Nova (CC)	Really Big Things	Movie: Happy Gilmore	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Without a Trace (CC)	Celebration of Gospel '07	Wichita St. at N. Iowa	College Basketball	College Basketball	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8	Big Day	Big Day	Mundo de Fieras	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Amor Mio	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline/World	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Happy Gilmore	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Without a Trace (CC)	Comicview	Life Derek Phil of Future	NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	College Basketball	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Ver Para Creer	Becker (CC)	48 Hours	Decisions	Law & Order: SVU	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Independent Lens	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Happy Gilmore	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	The Closer (CC)	Comicview	Life Derek Phil of Future	NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	College Basketball	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
10	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	UFC 67	Countdown (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	Jamie Foxx	Super Bowl Super Bowl	Super Bowl Super Bowl	The Dresden Files (CC)	
11	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night	10 Movie: Clueless	Sign Off	Really Big Things	Movie: Company Man	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NYPD Blue	In Living Color	Phil of Future	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	The X-Files (CC)
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien	Conan O'Brien	Update/Israel	Star Trek: Voyager	Dirty Jobs (CC)	45 Movie:	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NYPD Blue	Comicview	Proud Family	NFL's Greatest	SportsCenter	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



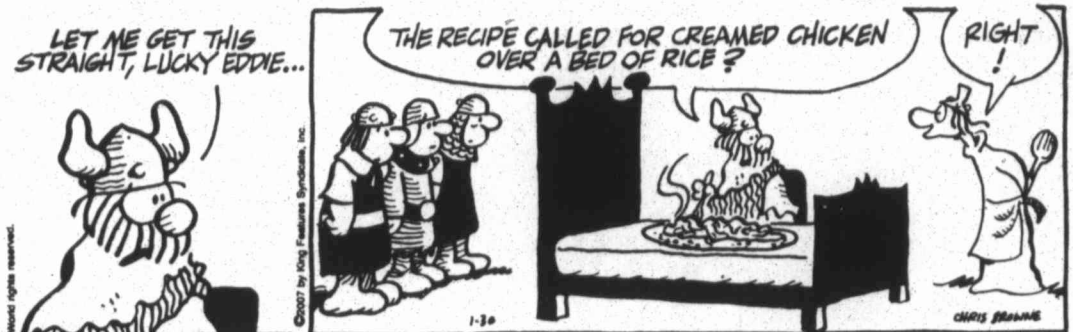
"Mrs. Wilson helps us meet our daily requirement of cookies and milk!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why did you say the milk went bad, Mommy? I didn't see it do anything."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2007. There are 335 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 30, 1968, during the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive began as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals. On this date: In 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded. In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y. In 1883, James Ritty and John Birch received a U.S. patent for the first cash register. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. In 1933, the first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio

program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit. In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi was murdered by a Hindu extremist. In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance in Detroit. In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the freed American hostages from Iran. In 2005, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Robert McCartney, 33, was killed after intervening in a pub fight between Irish Republican Army members and a friend of his. Ten years ago: The Marine Corps opened an investigation of two videotaped hazing incidents in 1991 and 1993 known as "blood pinnings" in which elite paratroopers had golden jump pins beaten into their chests. (The 1993 incident led to a recommended discharge for a sergeant.) Today's Birthdays: Comedian Dick Martin is 85. Actress Dorothy Malone is 82. Producer-director Harold Prince is 79. Actor Gene Hackman is 77. Actress Tammy Grimes is 73. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 70. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 70. Country singer Norma Jean is 69. Vice President Dick Cheney is 66. Rock singer Marty Balin is 65. Singer Phil Collins is 56.

Answer to previous puzzle

DARES	SEAT	HAIR
ALIVE	EDDY	ALOE
LOWRANGER	RATE	
ESSMETTIE	AERIAL	
SITERNO	DANDY	
HEMS	STAPLE	
ACRE	SOOT	MOATS
ROOTS	ONE	STINT
CLOTH	TORN	TRAY
AMBUSH	SITE	
USHER	FIRMER	
ARETHA	ATTN	OLE
SELL	PERRY	MASON
PALE	ELEE	ADEPT
SPAR	SIRE	NOSES

Newsday Crossword THAT SINKING FEELING by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Read electronically
5 Two-purpose
9 Cash-paying devices: Abbr.
13 Roger who portrayed James Bond
14 Suffix for leather
15 "Yikes!"
16 Fully awake
17 Cape Canaveral org.
18 Very hard to find
19 Be wasted
22 Misfortune
23 Happy ___ lark
24 Maritime "Help!"
27 College military org.
30 Brunch dish
35 B's piano alias
37 Jazz phrase
39 Letterman, to friends
40 Person in unfamiliar surroundings
43 Verse writer
44 Sharp, as an appetite
45 Signs of the future
46 Sign up
48 Swizzle
50 Highway: Abbr.
51 Cereal grain
53 Pacino et al.
55 Be inconsistent
63 University official
64 Mexican figurine mineral
- DOWN**
1 New pilot's big moment
2 Like many dorms
3 Robin Hood weapon
4 Assets minus liabilities
5 Soup-can flaw
6 Nevada neighbor
7 Not yet in port
8 Goes first
9 Mystique
10 From Bangkok
11 Sunup, to a 43 Across
12 That lady
13 GQ or O
20 Prefix meaning "recent"
21 Lamb's dad
24 "Scenic" ending for city or sea
25 Go ___ a tangent
26 More foxy
28 Faithful
29 Gives as an example
31 Gouda alternative
32 Not right now
33 Big happening
34 Of few words
36 In the matter of
38 Typeface
41 Tulsa's locale
42 International soccer trophy
47 Almost empty
49 Author Fleming
52 Melodic
54 Biscuit with tea
55 Boyfriend
56 Touch down
57 Small bills
58 Little kid
59 Chops down
60 Leave out
61 "Why don't we?"
62 AMA members
63 FM station employees

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