

# Sports

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

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Tuesday, December 11, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### Big Spring High School schedules fall sports banquet

The Big Spring High School booster clubs have scheduled a fall sports banquet for Saturday at 6 p.m. in the high school's cafeteria.

Male and female athletes that participated in football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading will be recognized.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center.

Call Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

### Lady Steers softball holding fund raiser at Pizza Inn Dec. 20

The Big Spring Lady Steers Lady Steers Booster Club will be holding a fundraiser for the softball team Dec. 20 at the Pizza Inn.

The Pizza Inn Dough-nation Drive begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Pizza Inn will donate 10 percent of the night's profit to the softball team.

### Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area sub-varsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

### Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

Here's a look at the upcoming Crossroads varsity sports schedule:

#### TODAY

Big Spring boys basketball at Midland Lee, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring girls basketball at Pecos, 6:30 p.m.

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

Coahoma girls basketball at Colorado City, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Reagan County, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Clyde, 7:30 p.m.

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

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Pecos, 7:30 p.m.

#### DEC. 17

Big Spring boys and girls basketball vs. Snyder, 6 p.m.

#### DEC. 18

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

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

## Forsan teams contend in tourney finals

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Buffaloes varsity boys basketball team participated in the Borden County Tournament this past weekend narrowly missing their second straight tourney championship.

The Buffs struggled through a tight first half, eventually falling short in a comeback bid to Lubbock Christian, 47-45, in the championship round.

Adam Bailey led the Buffs, averaging 23 points per game, as they extended their overall season record to 7-1. Jeremy Robbins averaged 10 points per

game over the 3-game span.

Earlier on Thursday, the boys defeated Meadow, 61-45, and had an easy time with the Seminole JV squad, taking a 73-56 win on Saturday in the second round of play.

"It was a good tournament for us," said Buffs' Head Coach Terry McDonald. "We just couldn't get anything going in the first half against Lubbock Christian. We shot only 32 percent from the field and 46 percent at the line."

The Buffs will next play at home against Grady on Tuesday night.

The Forsan Lady Buffs also

made it to the final round of play in the tournament where they took on O'Donnell. However, they were unable to bring their record to .500, losing 50-26.

The ladies did improve their record to 4-6 on the year as they beat Meadow and host Borden County in the first two rounds of play.

"We are really playing well as a team and are beginning to trust each other," said Lady Buffs Head Coach Robert Hillger. "We have been developing an attitude of putting our teammates ahead of ourselves and doing things for the betterment of the team as a

whole. It is really beginning to show in how they are playing."

Leading the Lady Buffs was Amanda Longorio, who came away averaging nearly 13 points and 11 rebounds per game. Tori Gauer also stepped up her game, averaging 11.3 points while pulling down 14 total boards and collecting eight steals.

Sandi Golleher chipped in 23 points and 18 rebounds total for the tournament.

The ladies will also play at home Tuesday night against Grady.

Junior varsity action will begin at 4 pm at Buffalo Gym.

## Vick sentenced to 23 months

By HANK KURZ Jr.

AP Sports Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Vick's outlook changed as the dogfighting case against him grew, going from disbelief that he could be hurt to depression at what he'd lost.

Vick broke down when an FBI agent suggested he was lying on a polygraph test about his role in the killing of dogs, ultimately admitting to full involvement in the hope of showing he had accepted responsibility for his actions, lawyer Billy Martin said in court. He sought the numbing comfort of marijuana to cope with his depression.

As Vick awaited his federal sentencing, already having relinquished his lucrative standing as one of the NFL's most popular stars, he shared another emotion: relief.

"He understood that some of the things he was doing in life and off the field were dangerous," longtime family attorney Lawrence Woodward said outside the courthouse where Vick was sentenced Monday to 23 months in prison, "and he told me he feels lucky that he's alive and not hurt and now it's all about the future."

At least until the summer of 2009, that future will be in a federal prison, most likely a camp-style facility with dormitories and jobs instead of barbed-wire fences and cells.

"He doesn't want anyone to feel sorry for him," Woodward said, sharing a message at Vick's request. "He just wants a chance to prove himself when all this is over."

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback, who turned himself in Nov. 19 to begin serving his sentence, wore a black-and-white

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AP photo  
Michael Vick (left) enters federal court with his lawyer Billy Martin in Richmond, Va. Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison Monday Dec. 10, 2007 for his role in a dogfighting conspiracy that involved gambling and killing pit bulls.

## Nowitzki gets on track, leads Mavericks past Knicks, 99-89

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Isiah Thomas began and ended his night the same way: defending his conduct.

If only his New York Knicks did a little more defending against Dirk Nowitzki.

Nowitzki scored a season-high 36 points, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 99-89 victory over New York on Monday night.

But as usual with the Knicks, basketball was only part of the story.

Thomas opened his pregame news conference by reaffirming his innocence in a sexual harassment trial he and Madison Square Garden already lost, and after the game he danced around questions about whether he scolded fans near his bench for not being supportive.

Thomas wouldn't directly answer if he had interacted with any fans.

"I was just trying to make sure that we kept the team together and we stayed focused on what we were doing and trying to win a basketball game," he said. "Our fans are great, they support us

and they show up and we're glad they're here."

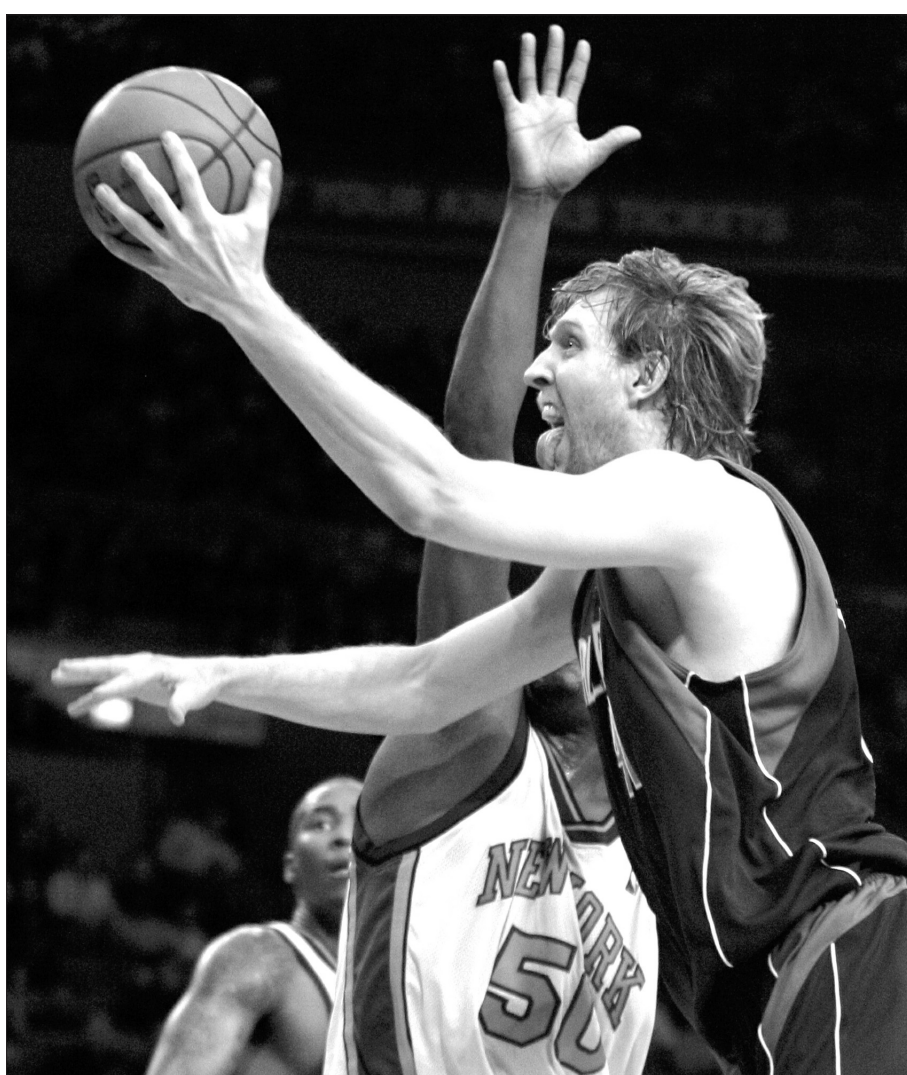
Asked a second time, he responded: "Again, I just want to make sure that our team stays focused. The fans are great, we love them and we're glad they're here and they give us a lot of support."

In other NBA games on Monday, it was: Atlanta 98, Orlando 87; Philadelphia 100, Houston 88; Miami 117, Phoenix 113; and Sacramento 96, Milwaukee 93.

The Mavericks let a 23-point lead slip to seven, and coach Avery Johnson was clearly angry during his profane postgame remarks.

"We had a big enough lead and we should have kept it," Johnson said. "The last 2 minutes or 3 minutes of the third quarter was absolutely pathetic. The guys who were in there let the whole team down. We can't afford the team to do that."

Though the fans cheered the Knicks during the comeback, Thomas and center Eddy Curry were the targets of boos most of



AP photo/Ed Betz  
The Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki shoots past the New York Knicks' Zach Randolph (50) during the fourth quarter of the Mavs' 99-89 win Monday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

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## Take Note

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

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

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

## Support Groups

**TUESDAY**  
• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings have been canceled. They will no longer take place at the Howard County Library. If you have questions, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

**WEDNESDAY**  
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

**THURSDAY**  
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

## Police blotter

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

- **NICOLAS MILLS**, 27, of 1514 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on charges of driving while license invalid - enhanced and possession of a controlled substance.
- **PRISCILLA CARRILLO**, 35, of 1407 Park, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of Lancaster.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
  - in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
  - in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
  - in the 600 block of Bucknell.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JESUS ENRIQUE GARCIA**, 34, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
  - **JAMES RUSSELL HALL**, 57, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
  - **BOBBY D. FOSTER JR.**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.
  - **JUAN LUIS CISNEROS**, 37, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of failure to control speed and public intoxication.
  - **JUAN ARTURO VIRRUETA**, 26, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

- NOTE — The following report includes several reports of structure fires from the weekend.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 200 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **MEDICAL** was reported in the area of ValVerde Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Lamar Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 21st Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Abrams. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Todd Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
  - **RUBBISH FIRE** was reported in the 2300 block of Mishler.
  - **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 400 block of W. Sixth Street.
  - **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1200 block of Lamar.
  - **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 2600 block of Ent.
  - **COOKING FIRE** was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.
  - **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 600 block of W. Sixth Street.
  - **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute.

**FRIDAY**  
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

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

**MONDAY**  
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX, 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call Alex at 264-6921 or 1-800 392-8677.

## Bulletin Board

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

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

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

**THURSDAY**  
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.  
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.  
• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.  
• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.  
• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.  
• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.  
• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain or snow or light sleet after midnight. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.  
Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow or light sleet in the morning...Then a chance of rain in the afternoon. Colder. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.  
Wednesday night...Decreasing clouds. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds around 10 mph.  
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the lower 50s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the south in the afternoon.  
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.  
Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 40s.  
Friday night...Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows around 30.  
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.  
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 30.  
Sunday...Sunny. Not as cool. Highs around 60.  
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.  
Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

## Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 23-26-29-31. Bonus Ball: 14.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 10-13-20-23-32.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-6-3-1. Sum It Up: 15.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-2-5. Sum It Up: 9.

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### Help Wanted

**DAY'S INN** needs House-keeping. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

**COMFORT INN** needs house-keeping. Apply at Front Desk @ 2990 East I-20.

**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.  
**Teacher:** Must have a degree AA or BA in Early Childhood Education, Child Development or related field or a CDA Credential.  
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. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line [www.gopb.org](http://www.gopb.org). All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx..

### Help Wanted

**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/ Assistant** needed. Experience preferred. Drop off resume at 1708 E. FM 700.

**DUNCAN DISPOSAL** - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office at 8220 West Hwy 80, Midland, TX- just east of the airport to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon- Fri., with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**FURNITURE MOVERS** and Forman with DL needed. Part-time to Full-time. Call for interview 432-263-2225 or 263-3123.

**Gill's Fried Chicken** looking for Management positions and Cooks. Experience a plus. Competitive wages. Benefits package includes health, vision & dental. Apply in person, 2100 S. Gregg. No phone calls.

### Ameri-Tech Building Systems

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Seeking a mature, responsible individual! Candidate must be highly motivated to work at fast paced growing manufacturing business.

Must have ability to communicate well with others and excellent phone skills, well organized with the ability of working independently.

If you're willing to learn, we are willing to train you.

Excellent pay with commission and a full range of benefits.  
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Jamie White  
936-598-6359

### Help Wanted

**HOUSEKEEPING NEEDED.** Competitive pay and paid holidays & vacation. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street.

**JANITORIAL/ GROUNDS** help needed. Howard/ Mitchell Rest Areas. Multiple shifts available. Call (903)757-7244 between 9-4, Monday-Friday to arrange an interview.

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We recognize that our employees are our greatest asset, providing flexible schedules and one of the most attractive benefits packet:  
**Currently hiring the following positions:**  
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Full time, openings on the 2-10 and 10-6 shifts. Experience preferred. Must have TEXAS state license or Certification. EOE. Call Kirby James at (806)872-2141, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St., Lamesa, TX.

### Help Wanted

**Maintenance/ Electronics/ Electrician Positions**  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers in Big Spring. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. CRMWD has an opening for an Electronics Technician and also an Electrician. Electronic and/or Electrical experience required.  
District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE  
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

**MIDWEST FINANCE CORP** now hiring assistant manager/collector. Benefit package. Pay DOE. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

**NEED A** job today? Come be a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. We pay competitive hourly wages & put cash in your pocket daily! Working for the other guys? Bring your experience over to Domino's Pizza and get paid top dollar. Part time and full time positions available. Need day hours? Need night hours? We have all shifts available. We work with ALL types of schedules. **Apply now and get hired on the spot (some restrictions apply).**  
**2111 Greg Street**  
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Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

### Help Wanted

**NEEDED LVN** or RN 8-5 M-F Chg./tx Nurse \$18.50 + DOE/ \$25.00 DOE. 10-6 Chg. Nurse- M-F starts @ \$20.00 + DOE. Could be more. Call Tammy at Mountain View Lodge 432-263-1271.

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERY**  
Big Spring Area Routes  
Midland Reporter-Telegram  
The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. Earn \$1000 per month. Good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am.  
If interested please call Mark Groves 432-687-9002

**NOW HIRING** for entry level maintenance and field positions at natural gas processing plant NW of Big Spring, TX. Send resume to 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 or email [mwcol@crcom.net](mailto:mwcol@crcom.net) or fax to 432-399-4290.

**NOW SEEKING** Part time LVN position for Martin County Home Health. If interested please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

**PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation**  
Now Hiring for Certified Nurse Aides.  
We have the following shifts open:  
\* 6am-2pm shift  
\* 10pm-6am shift  
Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

### Help Wanted

**PIZZA INN**  
NOW HIRING COOKS AND DRIVERS FOR EVENING SHIFTS. ALSO ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY LEVEL MANAGEMENT POSITION. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

**POST OFFICE NOW HIRING** Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PT/FT. 1-866-795-4058 USWA.

**PROMINENT LODGE N.** of Sterling City looking for hard-working, energetic, pleasant, individual to host, cook, clean for guest. **GOOD PAY** and TIPS. Will Train. Jan.-Feb. Call Monica 325-280-3675.

**THE CITY** of Big Spring is hiring for the following positions....

- Police Officers Cert. & Non Communications Officer**
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- Utility Service Worker**
- Heavy Equipment Operator - Landfill**
- Heavy Equipment Operator - Sanitation**
- Human Resource Technician**
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EXCELLENT BENEFITS including 100% paid Employee Health Ins. FULL Retirement after only 20 years of service!

Call (432)264-2346 or go to [www.ci.big-spring.tx.us](http://www.ci.big-spring.tx.us)  
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**Bird Poop:**

# Common loon rescued from parking lot landing

Through the entrance, past the circular desk staffed by city employees constantly answering the phone, we followed the officer through the first of many steel doors. The hallways were becoming familiar. Straight ahead, a turn to the left, then right pass the tubs, we walked through yet another door and into the holding area. While reaching this part of the animal control facility, we appreciated the absence of odors. A daily effort was evident in the cleanliness of the place. A monotony of tile walls, concrete floors and holding cages gave the reality of their work a stark and unforgettable presence.



**BEBE McCASLAND**

The quiet, isolated area where birds were kept was appreciated. Through the barred door of the steel container, we could easily see the large water bird resting on its belly with legs and feet splayed. Several weeks before we had answered a request to pick up a hawk and a falcon. Instead, we had discovered an osprey and a poorwill. Incorrect identification of birds was common among not only animal control officers, but the public as well. Of greater importance was our response in retrieving whatever they had rescued. Briefly explaining the diet and behavior of a bird would lend to

more knowledge in the future. We were grateful to be able to identify and obtain the necessary veterinary and rehabilitative care for any migratory birds they had.

Uneasily turning its head to glance backward through the bars, the common loon could not readily turn its heavy body to confront us. Since the bird had been placed head-first inside the structure, its removal was easier than if we had to confront the jabs from its long, sharp gray bill.

With my hands firmly pressing its wings against its body, I lifted the eight- to nine-pound loon out of its temporary prison. Immediately, its legs that are located at the back of its body began to pedal madly as if on an imaginary bicycle. Round and round its big feet churned the air. "We won't need the bathtub for this one," Art sighed with relief. The loon had proven its ability to ply the waters of any inland lake or deep reservoir.

Suddenly, from the inner depths of the loon's body came a cry of absolute wildness. Guttural, melodic, that moment of the bird's mournful sound caused shivers in both of us as we realized we had heard the voice of a bird that loves the solitude of northern lakes. The room, with its harsh floor and walls, had amplified our experience.

"Where did you find it?" was my question after carefully inserting the bird inside and on to thick bedding in our carrier. The answer was not surprising. "The parking lot of a Baptist church."



Courtesy photo

**Rising out of the water, the common loon will stand almost erect on the water. With its great wings flapping and running as fast as it can, the bird will become airborne as it continues its journey to the south.**

Explaining that during migration loons often mistake the late afternoon sheen of asphalt for what they think is the surface of a body of water, we added that without the adequate length of a lake or pond, the birds could never become airborne again. Only through running on top of the water could it obtain the forward momentum and air speed for flight.

As the three of us looked at the loon, I

noted the bird's non-breeding winter plumage. For its protection, nature has given it a dull appearance of gray to gray-brown above, while its underparts were white. After thanking the officer for calling us, we headed home and to Comanche Lake. We couldn't help but be excited at another launch.

Approaching the water from the south side, we

See **LOON**, Page 6A

**Laura on Life:**

# We are ill-equipped and floundering

Raising children is hard. It always has been. There is no instruction manual. As a result, I don't know what I'm doing any more than my mother did. Although I can take some of my cues from her, my experience raising kids is so different from my mother's.



**LAURA SNYDER**

Because my mother taught me, I know that the standard

answer for why a child should not watch two dogs doing the nasty on your front lawn is: "Because I said so!" Tell me you haven't caught yourself saying that once or twice; even when you swore you never would.

However, other than the occasional "Don't make me come back there!" raising children now is different. Disagreements between teens and their parents used to be about wearing makeup, cutting their hair and when to get their ears pierced. Now, it's about cell phone minutes, tattoos, and whether to get their — (insert random body part) — pierced.

It's no longer viable to send a kid to their room as punishment, because they want to be there. That's where they do all their socializing on My Space. If they are banned from the computer, you'd never know if they were

receiving one of hundreds of text messages a day on their cell phone.

Teens are masters of the "the code" for text messages. Once while sitting next to my 16-year old nephew, who was texting at the time, I read something that looked like: "Bananas, no, chickens, save me!" What exactly does that mean in their language? I'm not sure if the kid was describing an unappetizing lunch buffet and hoping my nephew would not delete it or if it was an SOS call from some-

one caught in the produce section of a poultry farm.

Whatever it was, it was definitely not something my mother ever had to deal with.

My mom says I have it easy because she never had disposable diapers. That may be true, but no tree-hugging ex-flower-child ever made her feel guilty about soaking cloth diapers in her toilet. Disposables come with the requisite guilt trip for filling up landfills, and using trees to cover our babies behinds.

Being a mom who was once in the excrement-filled trenches with five children, I can't imagine a better use for a tree. Ask me again in twenty years when the memory of those trenches fades.

Some things my mother never said while I was growing up:

"Put your Game Boy down and load the dishwasher!"

"Did you remember to put that 2-liter bottle in the recycle bin?"

"Put your seat belt on!"

See **LAURA**, Page 6A

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Bad News, Good News

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ J 6 4 2  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ 10 7 6 3  
♣ K Q

**WEST**  
♠ 9  
♥ 10 6 4 3  
♦ Q J 9 5  
♣ 9 6 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 8  
♥ 9 8 7 2  
♦ A  
♣ A 10 8 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 7 5 3  
♥ A J  
♦ K 8 4 2  
♣ J 3

The bidding:  
**North** Pass  
**East** Pass  
**South** 1♠  
**West** Pass

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Many contracts hinge on whether declarer can avoid losing a trump trick when he is missing the Q-x-x of the suit. The normal play in such a situation is to cash the A-K and hope the queen falls, rather than take a finesse if one is available.

Today's deal is unusual in that even if it turns out that declarer must lose a trump trick to the queen, he is virtually certain to regain the trick elsewhere — regardless of which defender actually has the queen!

After West's lead of the diamond queen, it would appear that declarer, with normal play, must lose two diamond tricks (to the ace and jack), the ace of clubs and a trump trick. But as all experienced players know,

appearances can be deceiving. East won the first diamond with the ace and played the ace and another club. From East's failure to return a diamond at trick two, which would seem logical, declarer inferred that East had started with the singleton ace of diamonds.

It seemed that the outcome now depended strictly on what happened in the trump suit. But declarer already saw that even if one opponent held three trumps to the queen, the contract was still almost certain to come home.

South started by cashing the A-K of spades, learning that East had a trump trick coming. Declarer then put his backup plan into motion by cashing the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding a diamond. He then played the king of diamonds, and whether East ruffed or not, the battle was over.

In practice, East refused to ruff, so declarer conceded a trump to East's queen. Since East had no diamond to return, he was forced to lead a club or a heart, allowing South to discard his remaining diamond while ruffing in dummy. Declarer thus lost only a diamond, a club and a spade to finish with 10 tricks.

And what if West had turned up with the Q-x-x of trumps? In that case, he would likewise have been employed after declarer cashed the top hearts and exited with a spade. West would then be forced to lead a diamond from the jack, permitting dummy's ten to score a trick, or yield a fatal ruff-and-discard.

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## 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](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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# Dairy business booming across Texas Panhandle

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

BROWNFIELD — Mike Schouten has watched the dairy industry grow in the Panhandle — and helped it along.

Schouten moved his dairy operation to the region five years ago from near Stephenville in central Texas, one of dozens who have done so since 2001.

The region is attracting dairies from within and outside Texas. Land in the wide-open Panhandle is cheaper and the climate is ideal — low humidity and less rainfall — which aids swift evaporation and limits runoff into the few streams running through the region.

There's also a reliable water source, the Ogallala Aquifer, which lies deep underground. And feed for the cows can be grown on the dairies or by nearby farmers.

"You don't have the heat stress in the summertime and the wintertimes are similar to central Texas with the exception of more wind," said Schouten, who has a herd of nearly 4,000 cows. And there is "the ability to grow my business in an area that understands agriculture."

The cow population in the Panhandle has ballooned in the past six years from about 20,000 to 140,000, and the number of dairies has more than tripled to about 70. And more cows are on the way: Officials predict the region's dairy herd will increase by 20,000 annually for the next five years.

The dairies have created jobs — one new job is added for every 100 cows — and improved the economies in numerous small towns, some of which courted the industry aggressively to help sustain their viability.

Panhandle dairies now produce more than 40 percent of Texas' milk, up from about 10 percent in 2000, said Ellen Jordan, a dairy specialist with the Texas Cooperative Extension. Of the state's top five milk producing counties, three — Parmer, Deaf Smith and Castro — are in the Panhandle.

"The cows don't have to expend any energy to just stay cool or warm," Jordan said. "Consequently, they can be more efficient. That has piqued the interest of a lot of people."

Texas' dairy industry historically operated mostly in verdant eastern Texas and in Erath and Bosque counties west of Waco. Wet conditions and higher normal rainfall created an environmental impact from manure and runoff into nearby rivers, which created problems for dairy farmers there.

Environmentalists are not enamored with dairies and they remain wary of the operations moving to the Panhandle, even if they do seem to pose a lesser pollution threat. Despite the drier climate, they point out there's still plenty of wind.

"Now, not only are you going to breath sand, you're going to be breathing dried cow dung," said Jerome Collins, a



AP photo/Betsy Blaney

Ivan Mendoza helps prepare cows for milking machines at Cal-Star Dairy in Brownfield. There are regularly about 2,100 animals at the dairy. West Texas, and the Panhandle in particular, has seen the number of dairies grow in the past six years. The industry has brought jobs to small towns and helped diversify and grow their economies.

spokesman for the Lone Star chapter of the Sierra Club.

With about 660 dairies, Texas is the nation's eighth-leading milk production state and is expected to surpass neighboring New Mexico this year. California remains the top U.S. milk producer.

"They are coming from a wide area of the country and find the people in the Panhandle ag friendly," Jordan said of dairies relocating to the region from New Mexico, Arizona, California and New York.

"We've grown dairies by leaps and bounds the past few years, and I would

expect that to continue for the next few years," said Jeff Ammons, a Texas Farm Bureau field representative for 12 counties in the western Panhandle.

Lower transportation costs are another reason for the growth. Milk producers in the region have four plants in western

Texas and eastern New Mexico to choose from, including the Hilmar Cheese Co. factory in Dalhart, which opened in October.

Cheese plants took notice as more dairies started springing up in the Panhandle. Since

See **FARMS**, Page 8A

## LOON

Continued from Page 5A

were eager to watch our charge return to a proper environment. Awkward and stumbling when on land to nest, the loon would become grace personified when reintroduced to its watery world.

Placing it on the surface of the lake, we were mesmerized by its immediate dive beneath the surface.

Some 40 feet away, it surfaced, shook droplets from its feathers and scanned the shorelines. Diving and resurfacing again and again, it was finding the contents of the lake to its liking.

Finally satisfying itself with enough fish, it chose to stay atop and slowly investigate its new habitat.

What had been heavy in my hands was a buoyant, streamlined swimming wonder.

For a bird that needs as much space to land as to take off, the loon now had its place. Its strength

and speed on and in the water would easily be matched in the coming days by its strong, rapid sustained flight during the rest of its migration.

As we walked back to

the vehicle, we knew our experience with another common loon had been heightened by the loveliness of the sounds the bird had shared in protest of our handling

it.

That cry was unforgettable.

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

## LAURA

Continued from page 5A

Some things I've never said to my children: "Got a headache? Crush an aspirin in a teaspoon of water."

"You just wait till your father gets home!"

"Well, if you don't like I Love Lucy, try the other two channels."

My point is that things have changed and we can no longer raise our children the same way our parents did. It's not surprising that so many parents wonder about their own competency. Our points of reference have gone the way of the typewriter and eight-track tape player.

We're floundering in a 21st century sea hoping for a 20th century life

preserver. My dad used to say that the only way to teach a kid to swim is to throw them in the deep end. If we did that now, we'd be imprisoned for child abuse. Our parents believed that if you spared the rod, you would spoil the child. My generation said "Rods are not necessary for discipline." Today's young parents say, "What's wrong with spoiling them?"

Without that 20th century life preserver, we seem to take any floating flotsam to come our way.

*Laura Snyder can be e-mailed at [lsnyder@lauraonlife.com](mailto:lsnyder@lauraonlife.com) Or visit her*

website [www.lauraonlife.com](http://www.lauraonlife.com) for information about her new book.

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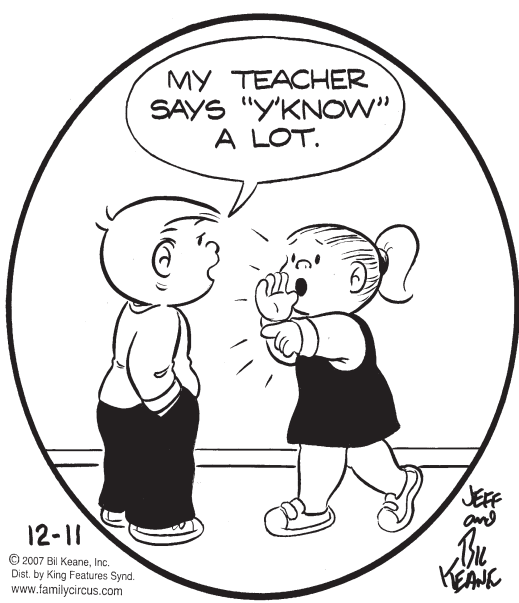
Table with 15 columns (WFAA, KMLD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6:PM, 7:PM, 8:PM, 9:PM, 10:PM, 11:PM, 12:AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MR. WILSON SAYS IF SCHOOL IS CLOSED, SO IS HIS HOUSE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

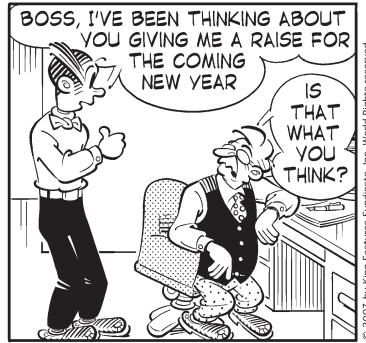


"My teacher says 'QUIET' a lot."

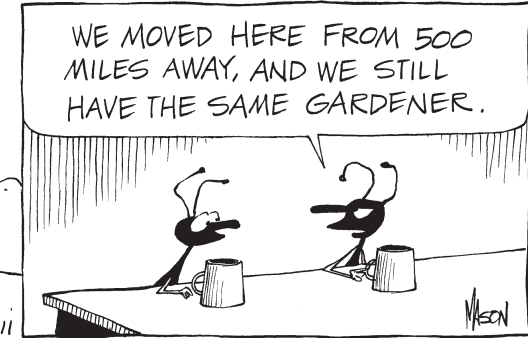
HAGAR



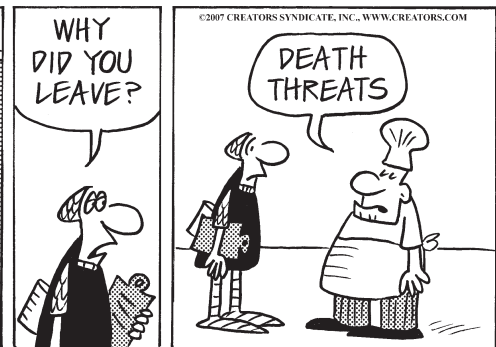
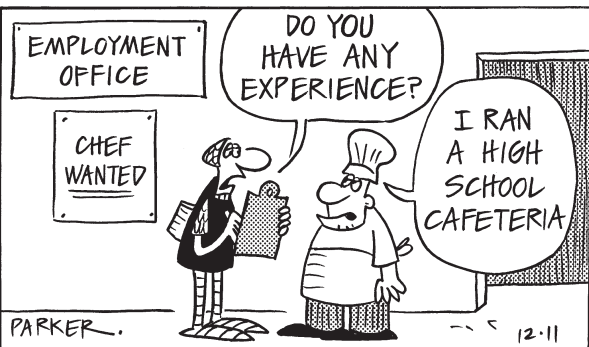
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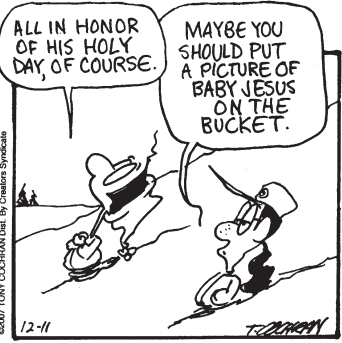
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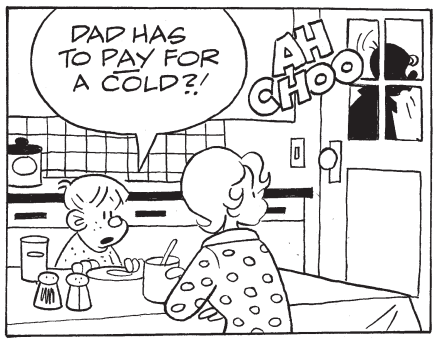
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



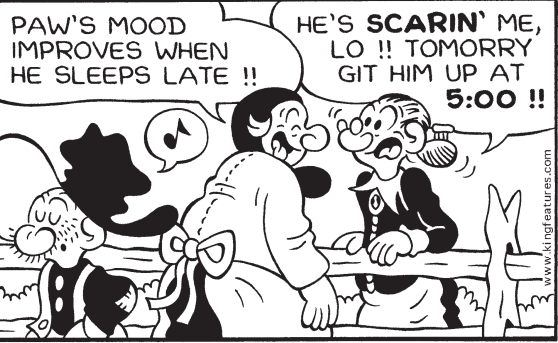
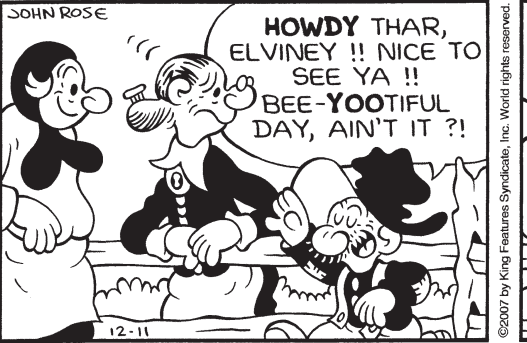
HI AND LOIS



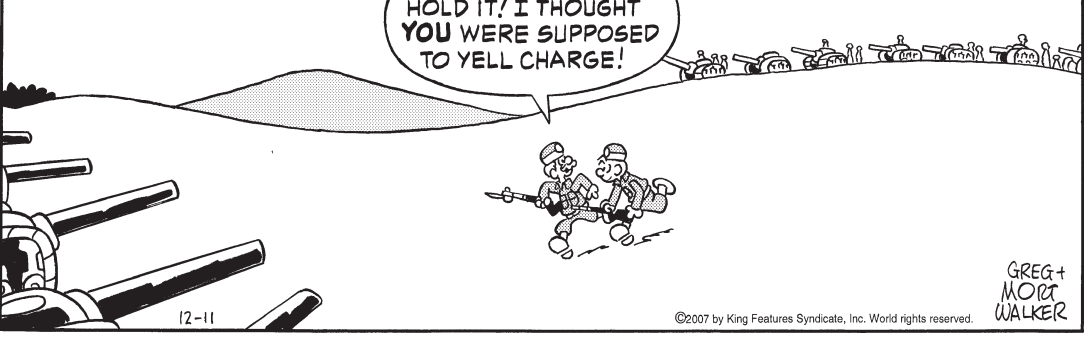
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2007. There are 20 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson. On this date: In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.) In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state. In 1882, Boston's Bijou Theatre, the first American playhouse to be lighted exclusively by electricity, gave its first performance (Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe"). In 1928, police in Buenos Aires announced they had thwarted an attempt on the life of President-elect

Herbert Hoover.

In 1937, Italy withdrew from the League of Nations. In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind. In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established. In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the world body. In 1991, a jury in West Palm Beach, Fla., acquitted William Kennedy Smith of sexual battery, rejecting the allegations of Patricia Bowman. Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn is 89. Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 77. Actress Rita Moreno is 76. Former California state lawmaker Tom Hayden is 68. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 67. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 66. Actress Donna Mills is 65. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., is 64. Singer Brenda Lee is 63. Actress Lynda Day George is 63.

Music producer Tony Brown is 61. Actress Teri Garr is 59. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 55. Actress Bess Armstrong is 54. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 53. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 50. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Motley Crue) is 49. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 46. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 43. Rock musician David Schools (Gov't Mule, Widespread Panic) is 43. Actor Gary Dourdan is 41. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique ("The Parkers") is 39. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 34. Actor Rider Strong is 28.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like HOG, CHAP, LLAMA, ABRA, RULE, OATER, ROAM, ASIA, SWAMI, DEPTH, CHARGE, NOD, SHOOK, SLUSHY, OLES, NIECES, DDT, DRAFT, TROLL, OAHU, FAR, OSLO, CRISP, ENACT, TSP, STREAM, POET, DRYERS, FRIED, OUR, STICK, FIGURE, WHARF, TONE, ERAS, LOTTO, ERIE, ROMP, SHEER, SETS, SAY.

Newsday Crossword

DOWN THE TUBES by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Swampy areas, 5 Removes, as one's hat, 10 Polite term of address, 14 Tulsa's loc., 15 Actress Roberts, 16 Female voice range, 17 Fearsome dinosaur, for short, 18 Attacked by a bee, 19 Horse-hoof sound, 20 Vietnamese capital, 22 Fawns' mothers, 23 Donut feature, 24 At an earlier time, 26 Menial, 27 Redeem one's chips, 30 Table border, 33 Confront boldly, 34 Nosy ones, 39 Comedian Laurel, 40 News summary, 42 Days before holidays, 43 Not at all interesting, 45 Run in, 47 Special-interest grp., 48 Tours of duty, 49 Gallon fraction, 53 Carryall bags, 55 Counteract, 56 Circle of light, 58 "Get out!", 62 On the summit of, 63 Surprise greatly, 65 Honolulu's island, 66 On \_\_\_ (burning), 67 Green citrus fruits, 68 Pizza orders, 69 Service charges, 70 Run out, as a subscription, 71 Shade trees, 7 Tubular light source, 8 Monetary penalty, 9 Droops, 10 Like he-men, 11 Give the OK for spot, 13 Feeling blue, 21 Part of the eye, 25 Opening remarks, 26 Zodiac lion, 27 Performing group, 28 Overture follower, 29 Leave a mark on, 31 High-tech "fingerprint", 32 Overshoot, 35 Tubular submarine device, 36 Tied in score, 37 Take a breather, 38 Retired jets: Abbr., 41 Letter pair in "pommel", 44 Took a breather, 46 Numbered rds., 49 Hearty drink, 50 Open, as shoelaces, 51 Really like, 52 Lassos, 54 Flows slowly, 56 Foyer, 57 "What \_\_\_ mind reader?", 59 Train line, 60 "Excuse me!", 61 Touse, as hair, 64 Language suffix

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

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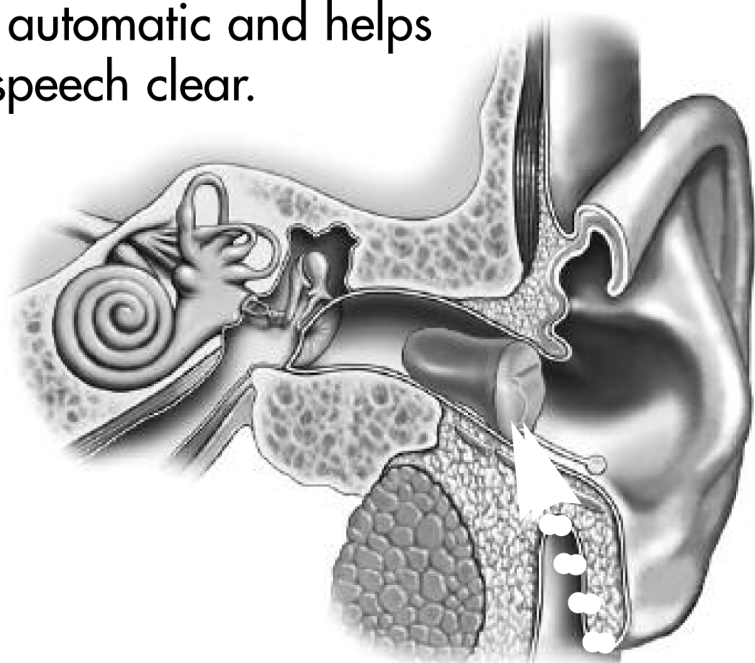
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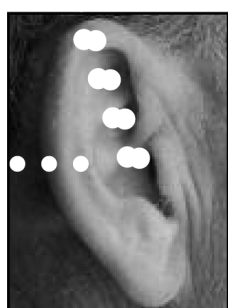
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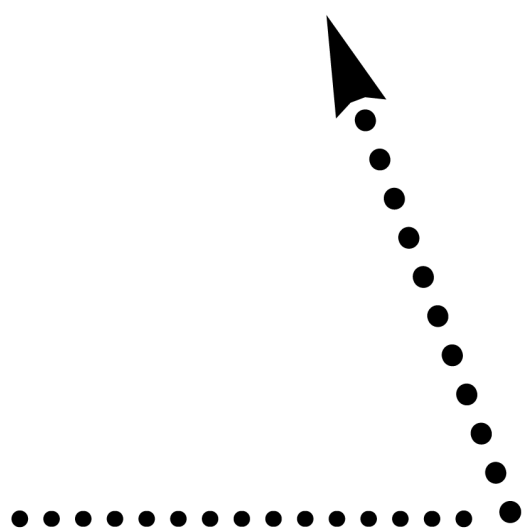
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# Accepting prize, Gore urges stop to war on environment

By DOUG MELLGREN

Associated Press Writer

OSLO, Norway — Saying it's "time to make peace with the planet," Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday with a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and stop waging war on the environment.

The United States and China — the world's leading emitters of greenhouse gases — will stand accountable before history if they don't take the lead in that global challenge, the former vice president said.

"Without realizing it, we have begun to wage war on the Earth itself," Gore said in his acceptance speech. "Now, we and the Earth's climate are locked in a relationship familiar to war planners: 'Mutually assured destruction.' It is time to make peace with the planet."

Gore was awarded the prize for sounding the alarm over global warming and spreading awareness on how to counteract it. His co-winner, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was represented by the panel's leader, Rajendra Pachauri.

They received their Nobel gold medals and diplomas at a gala cere-

mony at Oslo's city hall, while the Nobel prizes for medicine, chemistry, physics, literature and economics were presented in a separate ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

Gore urged government officials at a U.N. climate conference in Bali, Indonesia, to prepare the ground for quick negotiations on an emissions-limitation treaty to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

Gore and Pachauri will leave for the U.N. meeting Wednesday. "I will urge the delegates in Bali to adopt a bold mandate for a treaty," Gore said.

In a speech that quoted Churchill, Gandhi and the Bible, Gore said the world's biggest producers of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases — the United States and China — must stop blaming each other for the stalemate over warming.

Instead, they should take the lead in solving a problem for which they bear a large responsibility, he said, or be "accountable before history for their failure to act."

He drew a parallel between leaders who ignore the climate crisis and those who didn't act as Nazi Germany rearmed before World War II.

"Too many of the world's leaders are still best described in the

words Winston Churchill applied to those who ignored Adolf Hitler's threat: "They go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent," Gore said.

He likened the current "planetary emergency" to wartime. "We must quickly mobilize our civilization with the urgency and resolve that has previously been seen only when nations mobilized for war," he said.

Although Pachauri described the threat largely in measured, scientific terms, he warned of a grim fate if greenhouse gases emissions are not limited.

"Neglect in protecting our heritage of natural resources could prove extremely harmful for the human race and for all species that share common space on Planet Earth," Pachauri said. "It is within the reach of human society to meet these threats."

Before presenting the award to Gore and Pachauri, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel awards committee, Ole Danbolt Mjoes, praised them for moving climate to the top of the agenda.

"We thank you for what you have done for Mother



AP photo/John McConico

Nobel Peace Prize laureates Al Gore, left, and Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, chairman of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, greet members of the public from the balcony of the Grand Hotel in Oslo Monday. Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday and called on humanity to mobilize at once against the dangers of a changing climate.

Earth," Mjoes said.

Gore's wife, Tipper, in the audience with their four children, smiled broadly when he accepted the award, which includes a \$1.6 million stipend to be shared equally between the two winners. The audience, including Norway's King

Harald V and Queen Sonja, rose for sustained applause.

Gore urged world leaders to put a new climate treaty in place by 2010 — two years earlier than planned.

"The future is knocking at our door right now. Make no mistake, the

next generation will ask us one of two questions," said Gore. "Either they will ask: 'What were you thinking; why didn't you act? Or they will ask instead: 'How did you find the moral courage to rise and successfully resolve a crisis that so many said was impossible to solve?'"

## FARMS


Continued from Page 6A

2000, many municipalities and counties in the Panhandle and southern Plains aggressively recruited dairy operators and related industries.

Many offered incentives, which have paid off. "You see the changes in

the towns," said Jordan, who pointed to new stores, restaurants and

hotels in Hereford, with about 14,500 people, as an example.



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Dear Santa,  
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With Love,  
Sam