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FRIDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2007



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 18

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BSISD to profit from wind

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

"Blow, wind, blow!"

With those words, Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes jokingly gave his blessing to a tax limitation agreement reached between the district and a wind energy company during Thursday school board meeting at the high school.



The agreement, between BSISD and Gunsight Mountain Wind Energy, will result in the construction of a 147-turbine wind energy farm north of Big Spring within the next 12 months.

Downes said the tax limitation agreement will end up helping both the energy company and the school district.

The company benefits from the deal because, for eight years, its tax levy will be reduced. But the school district also benefits because the company has agreed to pay the district a portion of its tax savings.

After two years of paying taxes on the property's full valuation, the company's tax liability will be capped at \$30 million for the following eight years.

During that eight-year time frame, the company will return the favor by paying the school district 40 cents out of every tax dollar it saves, an arrangement that will result in a payout of \$3.8 million during the life of the deal, Downes said.

That money will not be counted against the district when officials com-

See **BSISD**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Walter Ward applies some finishing touches to a greeter's booth at the Festival of Lights in Comanche Trail Park. Ward, a retired Army veteran, has been active in community projects since moving here from California in 2006.

Greeter's booth serves as protection from cold

Festival of Lights drawing steady traffic

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Every project needs a handyman. For the Festival of Lights, that role is filled by Walter Ward.

The retired U.S. Army veteran has helped the festival in a variety of ways since moving to Big Spring last year. His latest project is a booth that keeps festival greeters protected from the cold.

The heated, lighted booth is a welcome relief for Festival workers, officials said.

"We've wanted to do something like this for some time," said Pat Simmons,

"He's done a super job for us, and we're just so grateful to have him and his wife with us."



Simmons

president of the FoL committee. "I asked Walter if he could build a collapsible greeters' booth for us, and he said he could ... so now we have a nice little booth so our people can stay warm."

Ward said necessity, if not the mother of invention, was

a key reason behind him becoming a fix-it man.

"In the Army, you don't get paid a whole lot, so you learn to do what you can to save money," he said. "Plus, I've always liked woodworking."

Ward and his wife moved to Big Spring from California in 2006 because they liked the look of the area, he said. Since that time, both have been active in Keep Big Spring Beautiful, along with the festival.

"He's done a super job for us, and we're just so grateful to have him and his wife with us," Simmons said.

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3A

Suspended coaches back on job

Officials say charges of misconduct were false

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Two Big Spring Independent School District teacher-coaches suspended earlier this week were back on the job today.

The coaches, suspended amid unspecified charges of misconduct, were cleared following a district investigation.

"The allegations of misconduct were determined to be false," BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said. "Therefore, they will be on the job (today)."

BSISD officials, citing legal and confidentiality concerns, declined to either identify the instructors or state the reasons for their suspensions.

Carie Dunnam, BSISD assistant superintendent, said one of the suspended coaches was employed at the high school, while the other taught and coached at Big Spring Junior High School.

The suspensions occurred Tuesday and Wednesday, Dunnam said.

"They were suspended indefinitely ... with pay," said Dunnam.

Dunnam would not comment on whether the suspensions were the result of an incident involving a BSISD student or students, but said no other distinct personnel were involved.



Dunnam

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Michigan man discovers his birth mother is co-worker

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Steve Flaig's long search for his birth mother ended at an incredible place: the checkout line of the home-improvement store where he works.

Flaig had met Christine Tallady after she started working at Lowe's several months ago, but it was only recently that the 22-year-old delivery driver figured out she was the woman who had given him up for adoption. It took him a few weeks, and some help from the adoption agency, to give her the news.

"I would walk by her, look at her from a distance, not knowing how to

approach her," Flaig told *The Grand Rapids Press*. "You don't come stocked with information on how to deal with this."

With support from his adoptive parents, Flaig had asked the agency, DA Blodgett for Children, for information on his birth mother when he turned 18. Tallady, who was single and not ready to be a mother when she gave birth to Flaig in 1985, had left the adoption record open, figuring he would want to contact her one day.

Flaig received information, including Tallady's name, but Internet searches

turned up nothing. He didn't make the connection after meeting his birth mother because he didn't know her last name.

In October, Flaig looked at the paperwork again and realized he had been spelling Tallady's surname wrong. He soon came up with a home address around the corner from where he was raised, and less than a mile from the Lowe's in Plainfield Township, just outside Grand Rapids.

When he mentioned it to his boss, she

See **MOTHER**, Page 3A

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Sports

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**Page 1B
Friday, December 21, 2007**

IN BRIEF

Crossroads region varsity sports weekly calendar

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

TODAY

Forsan boys and girls basketball vs. Trent, 5 p.m.

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

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

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

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

2007-2008 NCAA Division I-A college bowl schedule

FRIDAY

New Orleans Bowl
Payout: \$325,000
Florida Atlantic (7-5) vs. Memphis (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

SATURDAY

Papajohns.com Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Payout: \$300,000
Cincinnati (9-3) vs. Southern Miss (7-5), Noon (ESPN2)

New Mexico Bowl

At Albuquerque
Payout: \$750,000
New Mexico (8-4) vs. Nevada (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Las Vegas Bowl

Payout: \$1 million
BYU (10-2) vs. UCLA (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

SUNDAY

Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$750,000
East Carolina (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

WEDNESDAY

Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
Payout: \$750,000
Central Michigan (8-5) vs. Purdue (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

DEC. 27

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$2.25 million
Arizona State (10-2) vs. Texas (9-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

DEC. 28

Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$2.125 million
Boston College (10-3) vs. Michigan State (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Emerald Bowl

At San Francisco
Payout: ACC: \$750,000; Pac-10: \$825,000
Maryland (6-6) vs. Oregon State (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Texas Bowl

At Houston
Payout: CUSA: \$500,000; MWC: \$750,000
Houston (8-4) vs. TCU (7-5), 7 p.m. (NFLN)

DEC. 29

Meineke Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: \$750,000
Connecticut (9-3) vs. Wake Forest (8-4), 12 p.m. (ESPN)

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.75 million
Mississippi State (7-5) vs. UCF (10-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)See **BRIEFS**, Page 3B

Steelers beat Rams without Parker

By **R.B. FALLSTROM**

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — The last time Najeh Davenport got this much work, he was also playing against the St. Louis Rams.

The career backup's second-career 100-yard rushing game eased the sting, at least for a day, from Willie Parker's season-ending injury in the Pittsburgh Steelers' 41-24 victory over the Rams on Thursday night. It was the first 100-yard game against the Rams all season.

"I think Najeh did a phenome-

nal job stepping up and doing all the things that Willie would have done if he had been in there," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "We have confidence he can do it."

Subbing for Ahman Green in 2004 for the Green Bay Packers, Davenport handled the Rams for 178 yards in a 45-17 Monday Night victory. After Parker limped off the field with a broken right leg following a 1-yard loss on his only carry of the game, Davenport rushed for 123 yards and one touchdown and caught two passes for 44 yards and a sec-

ond score.

"I took it upon myself to put the offense on my back and carry it," Davenport said.

Now the Steelers (10-5) need him to do it against somebody else if they want to make a play-off run. Pittsburgh overcame another spotty defensive effort with Ike Taylor's clinching 51-yard interception return in the fourth quarter, and got three touchdown passes without an interception from Ben Roethlisberger, but Davenport's effort was the big story.

"It's a good opportunity, but

when you lose a guy like Willie it's more about how deep you're going to go in the playoffs," Davenport said. "He's our guy, he's our breadwinner. Not having him, everyone has to pick it up a level."

The Steelers had lost three of five to fall into a tie with the Browns for the AFC North lead. They can clinch the division with a Cleveland loss at Cincinnati on Sunday, and can clinch a playoff berth if the Titans lose to the Jets.

See **NFL**, Page 3B

Romo, Cowboys look to get back on track

By **MIKE CRANSTON**

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — When Tony Romo last visited Carolina just over a year ago, he helped Dallas set a team record with 25 fourth-quarter points in a comeback win in his first NFL start.

Romo quickly went from an undrafted unknown to a star. The big contract soon followed, then the celebrity girlfriends.

But as Romo returns to face the Panthers on Saturday night, he'll bring with him a sore right thumb, controversy surrounding his latest big-name squeeze, and growing curiosity if he can bounce back from one of the worst games of his otherwise storied career.

The smooth ride for Dallas (12-2) ended after Romo's struggles, Pro Bowl center Andre Gurode's knee injury and the one-game suspension to safety Roy Williams.

Oh, and Terrell Owens had to apologize to Romo's girlfriend, Jessica Simpson, after hinting that maybe the Cowboys' soap opera setting had returned at an inopportune time.

"We don't feel like our backs are against the wall or we're in an adverse situation," defensive end Marcus Spears said. "We just have to play well and we've got to play our best. Usually that's good enough."

The Cowboys will face the latest undrafted quarterback to make a splash. Matt Moore, who spent training camp with the Cowboys before getting cut, is coming off a better game than Romo after leading Carolina to a surprising win over Seattle in his first start.

"Their team overall hasn't had a good year. But they beat a playoff team, division champ, playoff team last week at home," Dallas coach Wade Phillips said of the Panthers (6-8). "We're a division champ, playoff team and we're going in there."

The Cowboys didn't look like a team trying to lock down home-field advantage and avoid a possible trip to Green Bay (12-2) in January during their 10-6 loss to the Eagles on Sunday.

A week after slipping past Detroit in less-than-spectacular fashion, Romo bruised his thumb in the first half against Philadelphia. With Simpson sitting in a luxury box wearing a pink Romo jersey and cheering on her beau, Romo stayed in the game but was awful. He completed only 13 of 36 passes for 214 yards and three interceptions and the Cowboys were held without a touchdown for the first time in three years.

Could Romo have been distracted? On Wednesday, Owens said Simpson isn't very popular in the locker room these days. The ensuing firestorm led Owens to apologize, saying he was only joking.

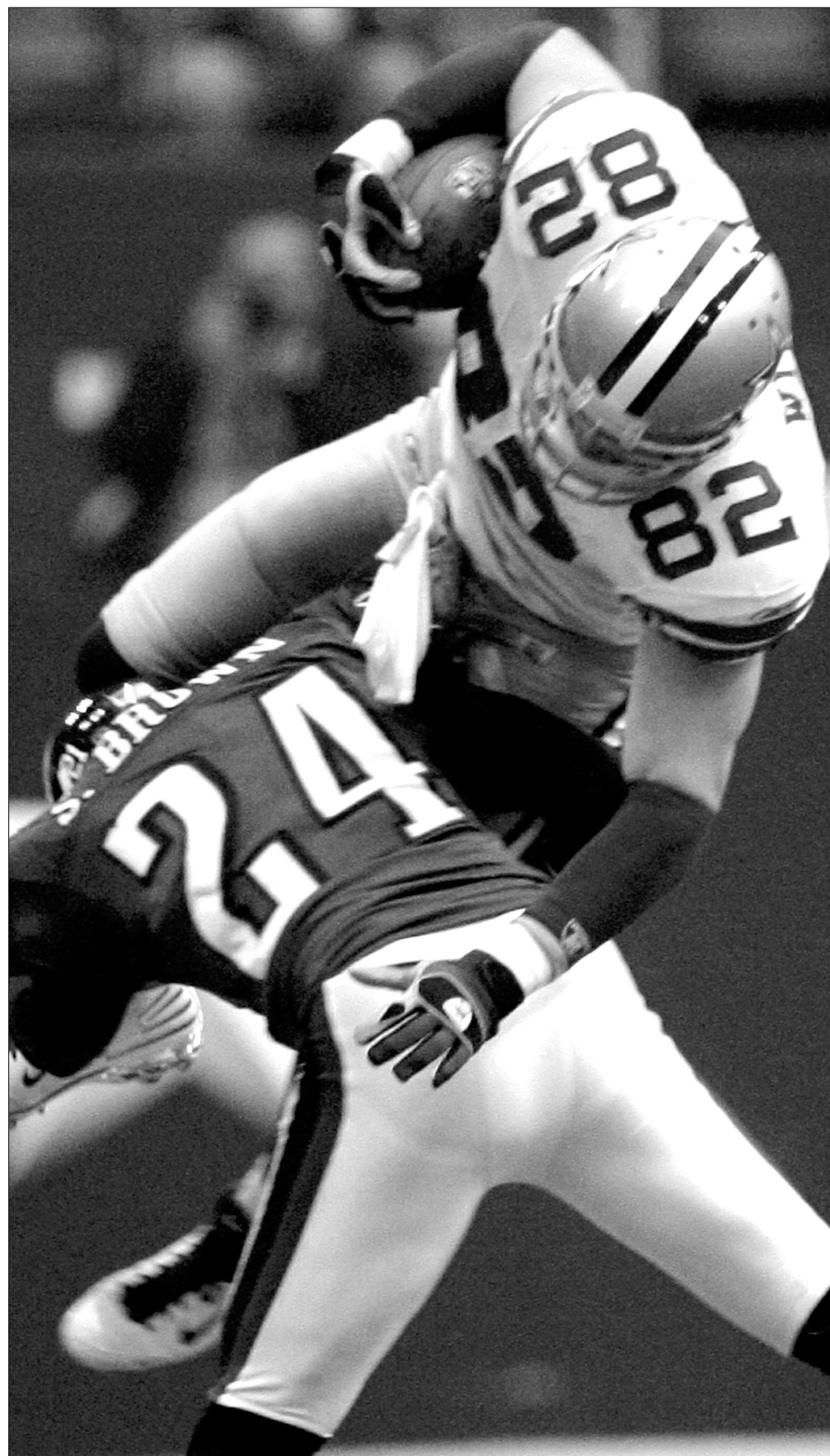
Romo, who dated Carrie Underwood last year, was limited in practice and ducked reporters this week. But Romo is expected to play Saturday, with Corey Proctor likely snapping to him in his first career start in place of Gurode (knee).

Minus Romo being one of an NFL-high 11 Cowboys to be named to the Pro Bowl, the week has been full of potholes.

Williams was suspended Monday for one game for another "horse collar" tackle on Donovan McNabb. His appeal was turned down Wednesday, and Keith Davis will likely replace Dallas' leader in solo tackles.

A week ago, the Cowboys' many problems wouldn't seem to matter against the Panthers, who had lost six of seven and were preparing to start their NFL-high fourth quarter against the NFC West champions.

Then Moore, who still occasionally exchanges text messages

See **COWBOYS**, Page 3B

AP photo/Matt Stocum

Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten (82) is upended by Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Sheldon Brown (24) in the third quarter of the Cowboys' 10-6 loss Sunday in Irving.

Carter hits buzzer beater to lift Denver over Rockets

The Associated Press

DENVER — Anthony Carter made all three of his baskets count. Especially that last one.

His floater in the lane with 0.8 seconds left in double overtime gave the Denver Nuggets a 112-111 win over the shorthanded Houston Rockets on Thursday.

Carmelo Anthony scored 37 points and had a career-high 16 rebounds, and Allen Iverson had 36 points and nine assists for Denver, which ended a two-game losing streak.

With the Rockets focusing on Anthony and Iverson on the last possession, Carter got the chance to be the hero. He got the ball at the top of the key, used a pump fake to get Bonzi Wells in the air and then stepped under him and hit the winner.

"Bonzi switched off and went to 'Melo and I was wide open," said Carter. "He went for the shot fake, I stepped under him

for a little runner. In that situation you don't have a chance to think about much."

The Rockets have lost three straight and five of their last six.

"You have to make people shoot over you," Houston head coach Rick Adelman said. "You can't go for a pump fake."

Yao Ming had 26 points and 19 rebounds and Luther Head scored a season-high 22 for the Houston, which played without leading scorer Tracy McGrady, who sat out with a sore left knee.

"We hung tough, dug deep inside and found some energy to find a double-overtime game," said Rafer Alston, who had 18 points. "This one was tough. We were right to end and they hit a big shot."

The Rockets nearly pulled out the win. Yao's two free throws with 4.5 seconds left gave the Rockets the lead, but

See **NBA**, Page 3B

AP photo/David Zalubowski

Houston Rockets center Yao Ming, front, works the ball inside for a shot against Denver Nuggets center Marcus Camby in the double-overtime period of the Nuggets' 112-111 victory in Denver, Thursday.

Police blotter

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

- **PEDRO GRANADO**, 20, of 1413 Tucson, was arrested Thursday on charges of disorderly conduct - language and resisting arrest.
- **JOSEPH TOUDOUZE**, 20, of 3405 E. Highway 350, was arrested Thursday on a local warrant.
- **MARK PERRY**, 31, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Thursday on 10 local warrants.
- **SHAWNA GRAYSON**, 36, of 303 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Friday on six local warrants and a charge of theft.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 100 block of 15th Street.
 - in the 2600 block of Wasson.
- **TERRORISTIC THREAT** was reported in the 1700 block of 15th Street.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad.
- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 3200 block of Auburn.
 - in the 1700 block of 15th Street.
 - in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Main Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Barnes.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 2500 block of Hunter.
 - in the 1100 block of Nolan.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of S. Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Vines. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Ninth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of W. 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of FM 2230. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

- 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.



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Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.
- **HENRY VERNON BACKES III**, 43, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
 - **ANGELA CARRSON**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of harboring a runaway child.
 - **ABEL L. TORRES**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor - enhanced.

Take Note

- A Christmas melodrama "Rollin' in Dough in Mistletoe or ... Don't Crack Jingle Bell Rock" will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria. The entire staff will participate in the production. Tickets will be sold at the door or by contacting the school office at 394-4323. The event is a fund-raiser for the PTA/Elementary School.
- 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.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the west 10 to 20 mph after midnight.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Much colder. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Colder. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30.

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

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

Christmas day...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers or snow showers. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 50.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 30.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs around 50.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-26-28-36-37
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 14-23-27-32. Bonus Ball: 19.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-2-6-2. Sum It Up: 14.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-2-6. Sum It Up: 9.



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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

Carter, who had six points in the game, came through with a 15-footer.

"It looked good all the way," Iverson said. "They played good defense on 'Melo and myself, and we had another teammate step up and make a play."

The game was back and forth in both overtimes. Houston led 106-103 before Chucky Atkins, who had 13 points, hit a 3-pointer with 1:32 left.

Marcus Camby scored his only two points of the game with 59.5 seconds left, but Shane Battier hit a 3-pointer with 35.3 seconds left to give the Rockets a 109-108 lead. Atkins, who missed the first 24 games of the season with a groin injury, hit an 18-foot jumper with 20.1 seconds left to give Denver a 110-109 lead.

"We did a lot of good things, we just didn't get a chance to finish it," Adelman said. "They made two big shots at the end."

The Nuggets led 100-97 in the first overtime but a free throw by Alston with less than a minute left in the period sent the game to a second overtime.

The Rockets trailed 94-87 with 1:40 left in regulation but scored the final seven points, the last on a 3-pointer by Head.

"It was a gutty win," Nuggets head coach George Karl said. "Both teams hit shots, made some free throws. It was unfortunate somebody had to lose."

Anthony, who had eight points on 2-for-17 shooting in the first half, found his stroke in the third quarter. He hit all eight of his shots in the period,

and after making a 21-foot jumper from the wing to give Denver a 69-63 lead, he pumped his fist. He scored 16 points in the period. He hit his first shot of the fourth quarter before a 19-footer rimmed out.

"I don't think I could have shot worse than I shot in the first half," Anthony said.

The Nuggets led 44-42 at half-time thanks to their advantage from the free-throw line. Denver outscored Houston 12-2 from the foul line in the first half, when the Rockets were whistled for 11 fouls to the Nuggets' five. Houston didn't attempt a foul shot until Yao went 1-for-2 from the line with 1:30 left in the second period.

Denver trailed 27-23 early in the second when Iverson, who had 18 of the Nuggets' first 26 points, scored on a three-point play and Atkins hit two 3-pointers to spark an 11-2 Denver run. The Rockets used the 3-point shot to take the lead after the first quarter. Head hit two of them and Alston another to help give Houston a 23-18 lead heading into the second period.

Notes: Nuggets F Kenyon Martin left the game in the second half with a leg injury and did not return. He is questionable for Friday's game in Portland. ... Head started in place of the injured McGrady, who was hurt in the first half of Houston's loss to Orlando on Wednesday. ... Rockets G Steve Francis was not with the team because of the flu.

Cavaliers 94, Lakers 90

CLEVELAND — No surprise, it came down to LeBron vs. Kobe, scorer vs. scorer, superstar vs. superstar.

Unexpectedly, it came down

to defense, too.

LeBron James scored 33 points and shut out Kobe Bryant during a man-to-man matchup of the NBA's top scorers in the final minutes and the Cleveland Cavaliers shook off perhaps their worst loss this season by beating the Los Angeles Lakers 94-90 victory Thursday night.

James, who came in leading the league with an average of 29.6 points to Bryant's 26.8, added 10 rebounds and five assists. But it was his pressure on the Lakers' guard in crunch time that helped the Cavs recover from a lousy defensive effort in a 108-90 loss at New York on Wednesday night.

During a late timeout, the Cavaliers huddled around coach Mike Brown for their defensive assignments.

James already knew his: Bryant.

"I didn't even ask," James said. "I just told Sasha (Pavlovic) to go somewhere else."

Bryant finished with 21 points, but he missed two shots with James chasing him over the final 2:23 and the Lakers collapsed in the final four minutes, going 0-for-8 from the floor and missing two free throws.

"We just didn't shoot the ball down the stretch," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "You can't win when you do that."

Daniel Gibson added 15 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas 12 and Anderson Varejao 11 with 15 rebounds for the Cavs, who held the Lakers to 12 points — on 5-for-22 shooting — in the fourth quarter and won for just the third time in 12 games.

Elsewhere on a light night of NBA action, New Jersey edged

Miami 107-103 in overtime, and Denver outlasted Houston 112-111 in double overtime.

Lamar Odom added 19 points, and Andrew Bynum had 17 points for the Lakers, but he missed two free throws with 11.9 seconds left that would have tied it at 92.

However, on the second misfire, Bryant got away from James and grabbed a rebound in traffic before calling time with 10.3 seconds left. Bryant winked into a TV camera nearby, knowing he had at least temporarily bailed out his team.

"I told LeBron I was going to get it," Bryant said, laughing.

But after taking the inbound pass, Bryant missed a long 3-pointer with 5 seconds left and Lakers guard Derek Fisher was called for a loose-ball foul despite grabbing a rebound over Gibson.

Bryant felt he had a good look at the missed 3.

"He (James) had his hands down on me. He knows better than that," Bryant said. "I was going to let it fly. It felt good. As soon as it left my hands, I thought it was going down. I was mad it didn't go in."

James was afraid Bryant had hit a game-winner.

"It looked good when I turned around," he said.

For three quarters, the message wasn't getting through to the Cavs.

But they finally began clamping down in the fourth and showed some of the defensive intensity that led them to their first Eastern Conference title last season.

Cleveland trailed 78-73 entering the fourth, but with James resting and Jackson sitting

Bryant and three other starters, the Cavs opened the final period with a 10-0 spurt and built an 86-82 lead with 7:34 remaining.

Lakers forward Luke Walton put in his own miss with 4 minutes left to put Los Angeles ahead 90-88, but James came back with a jumper to tie it.

And moments later, he switched on Bryant, his teammate on the U.S. national team. The two went at it in practice nearly every day during the summer, matchups Bryant said he wished the public could have seen.

The two bonded and James gained a greater respect for Bryant's game.

"Kobe Bryant is definitely the most explosive player we have in this league," James said. "There's no one like him."

Nets 107, Heat 103, OT

At Miami, Vince Carter scored 31 points, Richard Jefferson added 29 and New Jersey overcame a seven-point deficit late in regulation before winning in overtime.

Former Miami forward Malik Allen scored a season-high 18 points on 9-for-11 shooting, and Jason Kidd had 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Dwyane Wade had his second season-high scoring effort in two nights for Miami — and saw both wasted in overtime losses.

He scored 41 points on 15-for-23 shooting, a night after finishing with 37 points in Atlanta.

The Heat dropped to 3-9 at home and, at 7-19 overall, are 12 games under .500 for the first time since the end of the 2002-03 season.

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State briefs

Dallas suggests other sites for Neches River wildlife refuge

DALLAS (AP) — With competing plans for the same Neches River area, Dallas is suggesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could find a bigger and better site for a wildlife refuge.

Dallas and the Texas Water Development Board want to build the Fastrill Reservoir on the Neches in order to meet the Dallas area's water needs in coming decades.

But last summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a 25,000-acre national wildlife refuge along the upper reaches of the Neches in Anderson and Cherokee counties.

Dallas and the Water Development Board sued the federal government in January over the naming of the refuge. They alleged Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Department of the Interior established it without considering the environmental and economic impact on North Texas.

By naming alternative sites for the refuge, Dallas is trying to point out that

it's possible for both projects to happen, said S. Cass Weiland, a lawyer representing the city.

Toll road critics denied access to all requested documents

AUSTIN (AP) — Toll road critics were turned down in their request for wide-ranging transportation department documents, but a judge gave them more time to narrow their request as part of a lawsuit against the state.

Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom, led by San Antonio resident Terri Hall, sued the Texas Department of Transportation in September to fight the department's toll road efforts.

The group claims the "Keep Texas Moving" promotional campaign violates a ban on state officials using their authority for political purposes. It also wants to stop agency officials from lobbying Congress to allow more tolling.

On Thursday, State District Judge Orlanda Naranjo agreed with the state's assertion that the group's request for documents was overly vague and broad.

Over state objections, Naranjo gave the group time to refine its request.

The transportation agency has said its activities are legal and that Hall didn't have standing to bring the lawsuit.

Council delays considering further punishment for federal judge

HOUSTON (AP) — A judicial panel that issued a rare reprimand against a federal judge accused of sexually harassing a female employee decided Thursday to postpone acting on the woman's request for a harsher punishment.

The Judicial Council of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reprimanded U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent in September, suspending him for four months and transferring him from Galveston to Houston.

In its order, the council said holding hearings on the request for further discipline could prejudice or interfere with a criminal investigation.

Kent is barred from commenting on the investigation or the reprimand, but

his attorney, Dick DeGuerin, has said he did not break any laws.

3 children killed in Livingston mobile home fire

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Officials were investigating the cause of a fire that quickly burned a mobile home, killing three young children.

The fire broke out Wednesday afternoon in Livingston, about 75 miles north of Houston.

Firefighters found the bodies of Vanessa Soto, 2, Kyle Soto, 4, and Julian Jack Smith, 4, inside the burned home.

Lisa Marie Smith, 27, said she was asleep on the couch when the sound of the fire woke her up. She fled to escape the flames and then tried to re-enter to help the children.

Smith, the mother of Vanessa and Kyle and the aunt of Julian, was treated for smoke inhalation.

The Texas Fire Marshals Office and the Houston Fire Department were assisting Livingston authorities with the investigation.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

pute state aid. "Usually, when local revenue increases, state aid decreases," Downes said. "That won't be the case with this agreement.

These funds won't be subject to state recapture."

Downes said the agreement has benefits for the community, as well. The wind farm will result in a total investment of \$209 million by Gunsight Mountain and create eight jobs with salaries in

the \$50,000 range.

And the benefits will ripple out from there, Downes said.

"The greatest impact of the project will be its overall effect for the entire community," Downes said. "The creation of new jobs ... is

always good news."

In other business Thursday, school trustees held a 45-minute executive session to discuss personnel matter, but did not take any action.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331,

ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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Steve Evrard, 36, died Sunday, December 9, 2007. Memorial services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at First Baptist Church. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

With recent weather woes behind them, festival officials are noting an upturn in visitors to the park.

Simmons said attendance is slightly ahead of last year's pace. More than 1,100 people toured the festival Thursday, bringing total attendance to date to 7,588.

"That's a little ahead of

last year," she said. "If we can keep it up, we may get to 20,000 (visitors)."

Visitors from 20 states and two foreign countries — Canada and Germany — have visited the festival, Simmons added.

The Festival of Lights is open nightly from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Comanche Trail Park.

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

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MOTHER

Continued from Page 1A

said, "You mean Chris Tallady, who works here?"

"I was like, there's no possible way," Flaig said.

On Dec. 12, Flaig happened to be driving past DA Blodgett's offices, so he stopped in and told them of his find. An employee there volunteered to call Tallady for him.

Tallady, head cashier at the Lowe's, was astonished to learn that the son she had given up for adoption 22 years earlier was a co-worker.

"I started crying," the 45-year-old said. "I figured he would call me sometime, but not like this."

Flaig said he is eager to meet Tallady's other two

children, 12-year-old Alexandria and 10-year-old Brandon, his half siblings.

"I have a complete family now, all my kids," Tallady said. "It's a perfect time of year. It's the best Christmas present ever."

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Tuesday, December 25	No Publication
Wednesday, December 26 Dec. 21 - 11:59 AM	Friday, Dec. 21 12:00 PM
Thursday, December 27 Dec. 26 - 11:59 AM	Wednesday, Dec. 26 - 9:00 AM

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COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

with Romo, had a turnover-free performance and led three fourth-quarter scoring drives in Carolina's 13-10 win over the Seahawks.

Who knew Moore would be the hotter quarterback going into Saturday's

game? "I'm pleased with just how I managed the game," said Moore, who played at Oregon State. "I didn't make a huge mistake, that was big. Any little turnover or a third-down mishap or whatever, that could have changed the game."

The Panthers' defense has also improved. Behind safety Chris

Harris' NFL-high eight forced fumbles and energetic rookie linebacker Jon Beason, Carolina held Seattle to 44 yards rushing and quarterback Matt Hasselbeck without a touchdown pass until 1 second left.

"The secondary made plays. The D-line made plays," Beason said. "We know we can win that way."

Carolina is the only 6-8 team still mathematically alive in the playoff race, which is hard to believe considering Carolina's quarterbacks struggles.

And after upsetting Seattle, maybe the heavy underdogs will have a chance against Dallas, which looked beatable after Romo had snapped his team-record streak of 17 straight games with at

least one touchdown pass. Maybe Romo needs to think back to his starting debut nearly 14 months ago against Carolina, when he turned a 14-10 fourth-quarter deficit into a 35-14 win — before the A-list invites started rolling in.

"It seemed so special because it was such a back-and-forth game. Tony just kind of took

over there toward the end," recalled tight end Jason Witten, who came into the league the same year as Romo. "I remember that because it showed us what our future was going to hold for us with our quarterback and finally finding that guy."

"I just remember how well he really played."

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

Pittsburgh plays its regular-season finale at Baltimore next Sunday.

"It's just a situation where you have to come out and play hard no matter what," said wide receiver Nate Washington, who caught two touchdown passes. "We want to be in control of our own destiny."

Parker leads the NFL with 1,316 yards, including eight 100-yard games. Parker, Franco Harris

and Jerome Bettis are the only players in franchise history with three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, and he was selected to his second Pro Bowl earlier in the week. All of that went out the window after Parker broke a bone in his lower right leg when he was stopped by Rams linebacker Will Witherspoon.

He was injured so early in the game, the Steelers had plenty of time to adjust to the new reality.

"We'll adapt and improve and move forward," coach Mike Tomlin said.

"Nobody cares about our problems."

Isaac Bruce caught a 12-yard touchdown pass and moved ahead of James Lofton for third place on the career yards receiving list, a week after moving into fourth ahead of injured Marvin Harrison. Marc Bulger threw three touchdown passes, breaking a tie with Kurt Warner for fourth on the franchise touchdown pass list, and the Rams retired Marshall Faulk's No. 28 jersey during a halftime ceremony.

But the Rams (3-12) fin-

ished a dismal 1-7 home schedule that included three games blacked out on local television because they didn't sell out and virtually shared the home-field advantage for the second straight week after a Packers Cheesehead invasion last week.

The finale also had disension, with Pro Bowl wide receiver Torry Holt caught on television yelling at second-year coach Scott Linehan after Taylor's interception return on an overthrown ball on 4th-and-10.

"It's not a big deal, not to me," Linehan said. "It something said in the heat of the battle to his coach and it's over as far as I'm concerned."

Roethlisberger was 16-for-20 for 261 yards, his first 200-yard game in five weeks.

Davenport, who entered the game with 349 yards, a 4.9-yard average and three touchdowns, topped his previous best this season of 58 yards against the Seahawks.

Bulger was 18-for-35 for 208 yards and Steven Jackson had 85 yards on

12 carries for the Rams, who had 316 yards total offense.

Notes: Bulger has 105 touchdown passes. Hines Ward had six catches for 59 yards, passing John Stallworth for the Steelers' career lead in yards receiving. He has 8,741, 18 more than Stallworth. ... The Steelers are 15-2 against NFC opponents dating to 2003. This was their first game in St. Louis since 1979. ... The Rams have been outscored 130-40 in the fourth quarter.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$2.225 million
Penn State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

DEC. 30 Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: \$1.1 million
Colorado (6-6) vs. Alabama (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

DEC. 31 Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Payout: \$750,000
California (6-6) vs. Air Force (9-3), 11:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1.9 million
South Florida (9-3) vs. Oregon (8-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
Fresno State (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN2)

Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.6 million
Florida State (7-5) vs. Kentucky (7-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: \$1.25 million
Indiana (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6), 5 p.m. (NFLN)

Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta

Payout: \$2.9 million
Clemson (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

JAN. 1 Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$3.1 million
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. Tennessee (9-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: \$3 million
Missouri (11-2) vs. Arkansas (8-4), 10:30 a.m. (FOX)

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$4.25 million
Michigan (8-4) vs. Florida (9-3), Noon (ABC)

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$2.25 million

Virginia (9-3) vs. Texas Tech (8-4), Noon (CBS)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: \$17 million
Southern California (10-2) vs. Illinois (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: \$17 million
Hawaii (12-0) vs. Georgia (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

JAN. 2 Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: \$17 million
West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

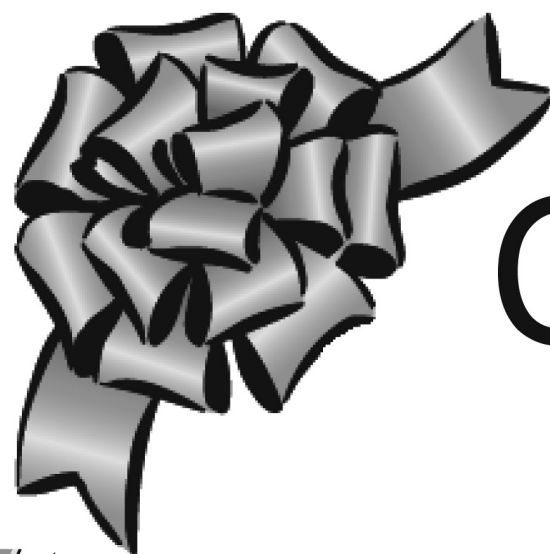
JAN. 3 Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$17 million

Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

JAN. 5 International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: \$750,000
Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

JAN. 6 GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: \$750,000
Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

JAN. 7 BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
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Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)



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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- St. Mary's Episcopal Church on its annual Advent Offerings Concert Series. Not only is this a wonderful noon event featuring the Lone Star Brass Quintet, funds benefited the Northside Community Center.

- Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Debbie Wegman and First Christian Church Minister Ken McIntosh, who are responsible (along with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) for the stocking of Comanche Trail Park Lake with winter trout. So grab your fishing gear and get out there this weekend!

- Winners of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce-sponsored holiday decorating contest. There are far too many to mention here, but those wishing to get this list — and see the lights — can pick up a copy at the chamber office at the corner of Gregg Street and Third Street, or look in this week's Thursday edition of the Herald.

- Winners of the Washington Elementary Science Fair, again too many to mention here. There were some wonderful projects developed by youngsters, none of whom likely relied one bit on Mom or Dad. Great job!

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You have plans for our lives, Lord, may we see the opportunities You have for us.

Amen

Christmas happiness from the dumps

About 10 years ago I made my first trip to the border and across into the trash dumps of Matamoros. It was a lot like going to the moon for me. Anytime you get out of your box you are likely to hear God speak to your heart in a profound way. It tends to be dangerous territory because when you really hook up with the heart of God, you tend to get changed. I have discovered Jesus never leaves me the same way He finds me.



TROY BREWER

I had seen things on TV. I had an idea of what to expect, but I was completely unprepared for the effect it would have on me personally. I went to Mexico and came back completely different. The impact of those beautiful people in that terrible place was so strong that in some ways it defines me today. A lot of the ways I think and deal with life's issues, the Lord taught me from a trash-dump pulpit. I still go back there four or five times a year. It's something like another semester in Brewer's theological seminary.

Planes and Trains

It's not the traveling part that changed me. Yes, I'm a gringo, but hardly a greenhorn. I've been to India twice, Uganda four times, all over Central America and even made an illegal missionary trip to Cuba. The trips we take tend to be rugged, raw and off the beaten path. Always on the bad part of town.

Still traveling has its perks. I've prayed at the wall in Jerusalem,

suffered for Jesus from hammocks on the Caribbean and had the high honor of addressing the king in his actual palace at Kampala. I have had just as great an honor in hugging leprosy victims at a colony in Asia. It's been awesome.

I've been so sick in Nicaragua that the locals put me in a 50-gallon oil drum full of water to cool my fever down. I've been so pampered I've eaten steak from first class on Singapore Airlines with a ticket I didn't even pay for.

I've seen little kids in East Africa playing with a deadly black mamba snake and two men fight to the death with machetes for money in Cuba. I have actually witnessed Muslim rebels coming into western Uganda from Congo and seen the village after they got through with it. I've also seen people have so much mercy and compassion it defies explanation.

My son and I were robbed in a taxi in Bombay. I have protested anti-American protesters in downtown London and dined a kilt in Scotland.

When my wife and I were offered marijuana in Jamaica, I said, "No thanks brother, we are Christians." The drug dealer smiled, gave me a big hug and said, "Yo mon, I am too!" He promised me the "weed of wisdom" would help me receive a higher revelation.

That's just scratching the surface, so when I say the Matamoros dump had a profound effect on me, it's not because I don't get out much. In fact, I have been back to the dumps nearly 60 times since then, taken hundreds of people with me and nearly half a million pounds of food. It affects me because I want it to. Matamoros

makes my priorities rightly align. It makes me realize how privileged I really am.

A Higher Education

Last week, we took 2,200 backpacks and tote bags stuffed full of toys to the kids in Brownsville, Matamoros and, yes, even to the city dump. The advantage of loving on kids and giving things away is one of the greatest gifts God has personally given me. My wife and I not only take a bunch of crazy people from the church down there but we always take our kids with us too. The impact it has made on them has been just as incredible.

This Christmas we will be in our little house on our little spot in Johnson County. We will have just come back from another experience in the trash dump of a major Mexican city. We will know we are blessed. We will know life is special and we will know that God's goodness is overwhelming.

We won't have an exorbitant amount of gifts to give each other because we spent it all on our trip. But what we will have is happiness and appreciation. Sometimes happiness is wanting what you already have. I learned that in the dump.

Merry Christmas friends and may you be blessed with a Christmas of wanting what you already have.

Psalms 63:5

You satisfy me more than the richest feast.

I will praise you with songs of joy

N.L.V.

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. E-mail him at www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com.

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Phone: 202-224-5922
- **JOHN CORNYN**
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Phone: 202-224-2934
- **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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Venezuela voting beats Florida

A couple of weeks ago, with less than 90 percent of the vote counted and the opposition leading by just 50.7 percent to 49.3 percent, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez congratulated his opponents on their victory. They had defeated his proposed constitutional reforms, including the abolition of term limits for the presidency.



MARK WEISBROT

No one should have been surprised by Chavez's immediate concession: Venezuela is a constitutional democracy, and its government has stuck to the democratic rules of the game since he was first elected in 1998. Despite the non-renewal of the broadcast license for a major TV station in May — one that wouldn't have gotten a license in any democratic country — Venezuela still has the most oppositional media in the hemisphere.

But the U.S. media has managed to convey the impression to most Americans that Venezuela is some sort of dictatorship or near-dictatorship.

Some of this disinformation takes place through mere repetition and association (e.g. "communist Cuba" appearing in thousands of news reports) — just as 70 percent of Americans were convinced, prior to the Iraq war, that Saddam Hussein was responsible for the massacres of September 11. In that case, the major media did-

n't even believe the message, but somehow it got across and provided justification for the war.

In the case of Venezuela, the media is more pro-active, with lots of grossly exaggerated editorials and op-eds, news articles that sometimes read like editorials, and a general lack of balance in sources and subject matter.

But Venezuela is not Pakistan. In fact, it's not Florida or Ohio either. One reason that Chavez could be confident of the vote count is that Venezuela has a very secure voting system. This is very different from the United States, where millions of citizens cast electronic votes with no paper record. Venezuelan voters mark their choice on a touch-screen machine, which then records the vote and prints out a paper receipt for the voter. The voter then deposits the vote in a ballot box. An extremely large random sample — about 54 percent — of the paper ballots are counted and compared with the electronic tally.

If the two counts match, then that is a pretty solid guarantee against electronic fraud. Any such fraud would have to rig the machines and stuff the ballot boxes to match them — a trick that strains the imagination.

In 2007, Venezuelans once again came in second for all of Latin America in the percentage of citizens who are satisfied or very satisfied with their democracy, according to the prestigious Chilean polling firm Latinobarometro — 59 percent, far above the Latin American average

of 37 percent.

It is not only the secure elections that are responsible for this result — it is also that the government has delivered on its promises to share the nation's oil wealth with the poor and the majority. For most people — unlike the pundits here — voting for something and actually getting what you voted for are also an important part of democracy.

The Bush administration has consistently sought regime change in Venezuela, even before Chavez began regularly denouncing "the Empire." According to the U.S. State Department, Washington-funded leaders and organizations were involved in the coup that briefly overthrew Chavez's democratically elected government in April 2002. The "Washington Post" reported this week that the Bush administration has been funding unnamed student groups, presumably opposition, up to and including this year.

Venezuela must be seen as undemocratic and Chavez as the aggressor against the United States, in order to justify the Bush administration's objective of regime change. As in the run-up to the Iraq war, most of the major media are advancing the administration's goals, regardless of the intentions of individual journalists.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, D.C.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Welcome to the sun king, who enters Capricorn, and a happy winter solstice to all! Here's the paradox of the season: Sunlight is increasing, but it's still a promise -- we can't yet see it. That's what the Capricorn



HOLIDAY MATHIS

sun asks us to do: Take it on faith, and power on. Somewhere in the cold ground, a bulb patiently

pushes against the hard earth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Bringing people together is your forte. Call, write and generally use your influence. Tonight, your mind must oversee your heart. A romantic impulse may be unwise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Loved ones share crazy sounding ideas with you. No need to be too skeptical. Find the part of the plan worth supporting. Love the ambition, even if you don't totally get it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In order to be well served, you first must serve others well. And to make it even more challenging, you probably won't be acknowledged for several weeks. The reward for getting the job done is that it's done.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your stars are right for effective networking. You can make connections easily without even trying. Don't over-sell yourself. People get a good feeling from your understated style.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Old rivalries pop up for another round. You'll find interesting ways to even the score. Talk nothing of your recent accomplishment, and let it speak for itself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you get may somehow fall short of your expectation. This is an opportunity for personal growth. See what happens when you play The Opposite Game and give love when you feel like giving criticism.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Let nothing infringe on your peace, including people who seem to take up all the air in the room with their constant yapping. Go where it's quiet so you can plan a beautiful weekend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not hard to figure out where you fit in, though you might not like the role you've been taking on. Just because you agreed to something in the beginning doesn't mean you have to keep agreeing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll roll easily through moods, from highly energetic and social to introspective. Tonight, notice who helps you grow and who enables you to stay where you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's not necessarily comforting to know that you are the center of someone's world. It's a lot of responsibility, too! Listen carefully to the signals you're getting, and respond quickly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Limbo-land opens her gates to you today. Waiting is the

worst -- get active, building an interesting life outside of the main event. Fresh air can do wonders, so go on out the door and enjoy it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Still waiting around for someone to deliver as promised? It's worth the wait since this person's organized and methodical way will make your journey easy.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You take a stand on family matters, and they do matter. But taking a thing on principle isolates your partner. **TAURUS:** Sometimes you have to look past an obvious criticism to hear the good intention behind it. Now is one of those times. **GEMINI:** You know it's the thought that counts, and they do, too. But you so appreciate gift-giving. **CANCER:** Your empathy keeps a tender discussion from becoming overtly prickly. **LEO:** Travel involves one crazy hoop after another, but when you finally get there, their expectant love makes it all worthwhile. **VIRGO:** Allow your good-humored playfulness to make an appearance at a social obligation, and others happily oblige the fun. **LIBRA:** A feeling of belonging is the better part of home. **SCORPIO:** The shortest distance between you and the ones you love is an open mind. **SAGITTARIUS:** Traditions take on new meaning when you start one of your own. **CAPRICORN:** A primary relationship needs your sensitivity and guidance, which you happen to have in spades. **AQUARIUS:** Before asking another to accept your wounds and weaknesses, you need to see his or hers, too. **PISCES:** Someone from the past pays you a visit, and you're so pleased they did.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Quick-thinking Gemini's feet barely touch the ground, while Capricorn remains firmly planted in terra firma. Capricorn models consistency of character to the restless twins. The twins teach the goat the value of laughter and change. In this student-teacher relationship, when one makes up for what the other lacks, they discover the best of both worlds in each other.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." To write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Legals

AMERICAN SELF STORAGE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, December 22, 2007, at American Self Storage. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of:
Tenant: Wade McGee
Consisting of: Antique's Misc Items
Tenant: Gilbert Naranjo
Consisting of: Bunk Bed's
Tenant: Debbie Gregory
Consisting of: Household Items #5641 December 21, 2007

Notice of Application for [Commercial] Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit
Kemper Operating Co., Inc., 2117 Highland, Abilene, TX 79605 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres, Glorietta, Clear Fork & Spraberry, Anderson, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 3 miles to the northeast of Big Spring, in the Deadwood 'Wolfcamp' Field, in Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,000' to 7,200' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #5643 December 21, 2007

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ANSWERS

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3	5	9	7	6	4	2	1	8
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Church News

Friends of Unity

The Center will be closed until Wednesday Jan. 2 after remodeling. Friends will continue to pray for peace on earth everyday and especially on Dec. 31 with millions of others at 6 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Advent, the Rev. Dr. Jim Smith, interim pastor, will speak on "Lesson From Mary," based on Luke 1:22-39.

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 p.m. Monday. Dr. Smith's sermon is titled "Lesson From the Infant Jesus" from Luke 2:1-7 & 21.

This candlelight communion service is very special and we cordially invite you to join us on this holy night for a true family tradition.

Brent Williams will be taking the youth of our church to Arlington for Six Flags Holiday at the Park Friday, Dec. 28.

Saturday and Sunday, they will team up with a Christian support group called Mission Arlington where they will assist and learn how to more successfully reach out to the needy in our own community.

There will be no noon Bible study and luncheon Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. There will be a New Year's Day brunch Jan. 1 sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry. The entire congregation is invited to this 9:30 a.m. event. RSVP to Nell in the church office.

The Living Christmas Tree is scheduled to come down Jan. 5. Mark your calendars; we can use your help.

First United Methodist Church buildings are located at Fourth and

Scurry in the heart of downtown Big Spring.

Our worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sundays and at noon Wednesdays. We wish for you a merry and blessed Christmas and ask that you remember the reason for the season.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Apologies are in order for neglecting to mention that Janet Payne and Myra Robinson lit the Advent candle Dec. 16, the third Sunday in Advent. This meaningful ritual helps us follow the events of the coming of the Christ child and remember the significance of this joyous season.

The Youth Group met Wednesday to collect and distribute Christmas food and gifts to the families in need of support. In addition to this service project, a check of \$300 is being sent to the Presbyterian Border Ministry to be used for "Meals for Migrants" in Nogales, Mexico. The children in the church have been selling packages of beans/peas with seasoning to make soup. The proceeds have brought in enough money to pay for three rabbits in Poland as part of the worldwide Heifer Project.

Sunday morning services will begin with breakfast at 9:30 a.m., followed by Sunday school. Worship, beginning at 11 a.m., will be led by Mike Robinson, elder from Big Spring. Sue Carter and Louise Hitch will light the Advent candle for the fourth Sunday in Advent. The choir will sing "The Snow Lay on the Ground," adapted from an English melody by C. Winfred Douglas and "See Amid the Winter's Snow" by John Goss. Lectionary

is Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

We will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering, a special offering that serves neglected former pastors and their families and Presbyterian-supported Racial Ethnic schools, including Pan American University in Kingsville.

Monday at 6 p.m., everyone is invited to attend the Christmas Eve Communion Service. The lectionary for the day is Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20. Tom Koger, commissioned lay pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma, will deliver the sermon, "Let's Keep Christmas" and lead Communion. The choir will present anthems "The Snow Lay on the Ground" from an English melody, "Sing, O Sing This Blessed Morn" by Eugene Butler, and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" from a Polish carol. The service will open and close with "Christmas Rhapsody" by Richard Purvis and "Variations on 'Adeste Fidelis'" by Marcel Dupre.

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the church office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday and Monday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Day.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We were pleased to welcome home from the U.S. Naval Academy our own Ryan Beall Sunday, Dec. 16. Ryan will be home with parents Charmian and Nolan Beall until Jan. 2.

We were delighted to hear that Pam Hicks, elder, pianist and bulletin maker for our congregation, is improving daily in the hospital in San Antonio. This week she

managed to stand up by herself. The prayer wreath, to which members have been tying ribbons signifying their prayers, will be delivered to her next week by Helen and Wendell Shive.

Rob Shive, who has been doing the bulletin in Pam's absence, is now in University Hospital in Lubbock with several medical problems. We have appreciated his work on the bulletin, which is then printed by Elmer Lindsey. The bulletin cover, with the photo of the church and a picture in memory of one of the former members, is also Elmer's work.

During the worship service, the candle for the third Sunday in Advent was lit by Shawn and Clint Currie and Nancy Koger, with Wendell Shive relighting the first candle and Elmer Lindsey lighting the second candle.

Linda Berry and Merlene Brown were elected as Elders for the Class of 2010 at the Congregational Meeting at the close of worship last Sunday.

The Presbyterian Women met Dec. 19 for their annual Christmas meeting. They enjoyed a light supper and treats brought by the members. Moderator Rae Nell Best presented a film on "Jonah," which complemented the current women's Bible study.

Sunday is the fourth Sunday in the Advent season. All four candles in the Advent wreath will be lit during the 11 a.m. worship service. The Responsive Reading is Psalm 80:1-7. The lectionary for the day is Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25.

Since Pastor Tom Koger is preaching at the Christmas Eve Communion and worship

service at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring, all our congregation is invited to join them. Paulette and Elmer Lindsey will assist the Big Spring elders in serving communion.

The church family of First Presbyterian Coahoma wishes the whole community a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Baptist Temple Church

Baptist Temple Church invites you to join us for a candlelight Lord's Supper service at 6 p.m., Sunday. We would be blessed to have you come and celebrate this wonderful Christmas season with us.

You are welcome to come every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. to join us for Bible

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7A

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McElreaths celebrate 50 years in ministry

Pastor Jesse McElreath and his wife Darlene Williams McElreath were recently honored at a luncheon at Lake Country Church in Fort Worth for their 50 years in the ministry.

Jesse has been on staff at Lake Country Church in Fort Worth for 32 years. His first position began as youth pastor, then he co-pastored for 17 years and assumed the role as pastor in 1995. He currently serves in the role as pastor of Pastoral Care. Psalm 37 has been a passage that has guided them throughout their ministry, he said. It reads, "The steps of a righteous man are ordered of God." Darlene shared with the congregation at the luncheon that her husband truly is "a righteous man" and that his steps have been ordered by God all these years.

In 1957, Jesse McElreath took a position at Westside Baptist Church in Big Spring as minister of youth and music. He spent two years at Howard College, then was offered a basketball scholarship at Texas Tech. However, after dating Darlene for three years, they were ready to be married, and Tech students could not be married and play sports on

scholarship. Darlene happily reported to those in attendance at the luncheon, "He chose me instead." They married in 1959.

They both attended Texas Tech, and after graduation in 1961 Jesse was offered a teaching fellowship to work on his master's degree. The next year, their daughter Dana was born.

After several positions with oil companies and other churches, he was offered a position in Nashville, Tenn., with the Baptist Sunday School Board. They stayed in Nashville 11 years, during which time Jesse led music in two churches and pastored a bus ministry with more than 500 children at the Park Avenue Baptist Church. In 1967 their son Marcus was born.

In 1970, Jesse became a little restless and went to the Cumberland Mountains for several days on a retreat with a friend. While he was there, he said God spoke to him and taught him about things he had never experienced before concerning the person of the Holy Spirit.

Later, Jesse was introduced to Jack Taylor and to the Spirit-filled, Christ-controlled life. Jack Taylor's book, "The Key



Pastor Jesse McElreath and his wife Darlene recently celebrated 50 years in the ministry.

to Triumphant Living," explained everything Jesse and Darlene were experiencing. Soon, Jesse, Jack and friend Ras Robinson felt God was calling them to minister together in churches around the country.

"It was an exciting, but

also sad time for us," Darlene said. "Jesse loved his job at the Baptist Sunday School Board, but we knew in our hearts God was in this move."

The McElreaths moved back to Texas in 1975, bought a house in Lake Country and have resided

here ever since. They started holding church in local homes, then decided to build Lake Country Church.

Together with Ras Robinson, Jesse began Discipleship Ministries and traveled to churches all over the United States teaching believers how to get alone with God and have a daily "quiet time." He developed the "Spiritual Daybook," which was a unique way to have a quiet time and journal one's experiences seeing the hand of God at work in their lives.

During this time, he also became youth pastor for Lake Country Church. In 1977, Jim Hylton was called to pastor the church, and asked Jesse to co-pastor with him. Hylton had an evangelistic ministry which meant he traveled often, so he needed someone to be pastoring the church while he was gone. This relationship lasted 17 years, until Hylton was called to a pastorate in Oklahoma. At that time, the elders asked Jesse to continue in the pastorate of Lake Country Church.

"We were a 'sending church,'" Pastor Jesse recalled. "Many seminary students came through, were disciplined here, and then went into different areas of ministry. God

was so good. We prayed for healing and it happened. Brain tumors healed, broken ankles healed, and many other miracles. We experienced deliverances, spiritual gifts released, marriages healed and broken hearts mended."

For several summers, the McElreaths traveled to Europe where Pastor Jesse taught "Stress and How to Handle it" at the European Baptist Convention in Interlaken, Switzerland. They took youth groups and ministered to the American military children stationed in Germany. During their years in ministry, they traveled to 17 foreign countries, and almost every state in the U.S.

In the 1980s, Lake Country Church began to grow rapidly, and the church leadership felt led to begin a church in the Mid-Cities area. They sent 300 members to begin the new work that is Restoration Church in Euless.

Jesse and Darlene would go on to experience the great revivals in Toronto, Canada and Pensacola, Fla., where they both had encounters with the Holy Spirit.

Jesse came home and See **MINISTRY**, Page 8A

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5 A

Study, and at 11 a.m. for worship.

Classes for all ages are available as well as a nursery for the little ones up to four years old.

Baptist Temple Church is located at 400 E. 11th Place at the corner of 11th and Goliad. Please call 267-8287 if you have questions or need additional information. There is a place just for you and you are always welcome at Baptist Temple.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will be decorating the church for Christmas during the Sunday School hour.

St. Mary's Christmas Eve Service will be Monday at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us for this very special time of celebrating our Savior's birth.

St. Mary's office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday for the holidays.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Website at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church

The Angel Food Ministry of Big Spring will be well into our second year and we thank all who participate in this non-qualifying food ministry.

Our thanks go out especially to all the volunteers who have been so faithful in their service. At this glorious time of the year we realize what a vital part volunteers are in proclaiming the love of God as they have their work with others.

Orders for the Jan. 26 delivery will be taken Dec. 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Orders will

also be taken on Jan. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Christmas Eve candle light and communion service will be held at 5 p.m. We invite everyone to participate in this special service.

Worship services are held each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and Sunday school immediately following worship. Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and United Methodist Women meet each second and fourth Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell and we welcome all person to come and share in fellowship and worship as we share our love for others.

Chapel of Faith

The Chapel of Faith has a new home! We will be having worship services at 14th and Goliad Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Chapel of Faith is an inter-denominational congregation and welcomes all to come and hear the Rev. Joel Miller as he presents a heart-felt message each Sunday.

An invitation to all is given as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior with a special Christmas Eve candlelight Communion service, Monday at 6 p.m. Please join us as we sing carols and worship in the true spirit of Christmas.

God is preparing the way for this new church endeavor. He has opened doors all along the way. It was with His guidance and the generosity of oth-

ers that we have this church building in which to meet. We are thankful to be so blessed.

Remember, all services for Chapel of Faith will now be at 14th and Goliad in the red brick church building. If you would like more information, call 267-4082.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Join us Sunday as we celebrate the birth of Christ through a very special Christmas service. There will not be Sunday school on this date and the Christmas worship service will begin at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday in song and scripture.

Wednesday, there will be no youth meeting due to the holiday break. Thursday, Dec. 27, the Ministry Team will not be meeting due to the holiday break.

The church is located at 401 N. Main in Coahoma and is led by the Rev. Donita Lea. For more information call, 394-4432

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship services are at 9 a.m., Sunday school and adult Bible classes at 10:15 a.m. and Christmas program practice is at 2 p.m.

The Christmas Children's/Choir service on Christmas Eve will be held at 6 p.m.

Christmas Day worship services are at 10 a.m.

The LWML bake sale netted \$825. The Sunday school added \$350 from their mission offerings. In all, \$1,175 was donated to

the High School Bible Classes. Way to go!

Used clothing for Mexico can be brought to the Education Annex. Place them in the first room on your left. Richard Sanders will be making another trip there soon.

The VA serving has been done by St. Paul congregation for more than 40 years. If you would like to donate for this worthy cause, mark your offering "VA" and place in the offering plate. Thank you. Operation Ongoing Support continues with December's suggested items being: Athlete's foot medicine (Lotrimin), instant cup of soup and red licorice. Don't forget donations to the AT&T phone card fund so the troops can call home.

Merry Christmas. Let us celebrate Christ's birth!

Living Hope Church

Everyone is welcomed at Living Hope Church, 1208 Frazier. Our pastor is Roy Roberson.

Sunday worship services are at 11 a.m. House of Faith is held at 5 p.m. Thursdays.

Rev. 1:17 "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; And all the people of the Earth will

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Sacred Heart - 9 am
St. Thomas - 10 am

Star study prompts theory

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — It's long been a puzzle for Christian astronomers, and now a professor from the University of Notre Dame thinks he has it figured out — almost, anyway.

His quest: discovering just what "the star in the East" was that led wise men to travel to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

As a theoretical astrophysicist, Grant Mathews had hoped the answer would be spectacular — something like a supernova. But two years of research have led him to a more ordinary conclusion. The heavenly sign around the time of the birth of Jesus Christ was likely an unusual alignment of planets, the sun and the moon.

The star, though, has

long been immortalized in Christmas songs, plays and movies. Astronomers, theologians and historians for hundreds of years have been trying to determine exactly which star might have inspired the biblical writing. German astronomer Johannes Kepler proposed in 1604 that the star was a conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.

The advantage Mathews has over Kepler and others who have pondered the question is that he had access to NASA's databases.

Mathews found several possibilities. He began by posing three questions he would ask when trying to find the answer to any astronomical event: When did it occur?

He said there are three likely times:

—Feb. 20, 6 B.C., when Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligned in the constellation Pisces.

—April 17, 6 B.C., when the sun, Jupiter, the moon and Saturn aligned in the constellation Aries while Venus and Mars were in neighboring constellations.

—June 17, 2 B.C., when Jupiter and Venus were closely aligned in Leo.

Mathews favors April 17, 6 B.C.

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MINISTRY

Continued from Page 7A

began preaching and inviting the Holy Spirit to do whatever He desired at Lake Country Church. He began a four-month revival in the church, with meetings almost every day and night.

For more than 20 years, Jesse has led a "Faithful Men's" group at 6 a.m. on Thursdays. He has also held "Golf Church" every Sunday morning at the Eagle Mountain Country Club for more than a decade.

In 2005, a team of ministers began the church's five-fold ministry, and Jesse became pastor of Pastoral Care.

"Everywhere God allowed Jesse to minister, lives were changed and eternally transformed,"

Darlene said. "God rewards the faithful. Jesse is a truly faithful man!"

The McElreaths celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in August.

"Someone asked me what the secret was to our happy marriage," Darlene said. "My response was that God had to be first and everything else took care of itself. We never leave each other or hang up the telephone without saying 'I love you.' No matter how busy Jesse is when the children or I call, he always takes our call. Never go to bed or leave each other angry. That's our formula."

Jesse and Darlene were both raised in Big Spring. They attended and graduated from Big Spring High School. They have two children and one grandchild.

BEST SALE OF THE SEASON

SHOP EARLY SHOP LATE

TWO DAYS ONLY

Friday, Dec. 21, & Saturday, Dec. 22
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Bear Claw Sharpening Service

Open 9:00 - to - 5:00 Monday—Friday
Extended Hours 8:00 am to 8:00 pm thru Sat. Dec. 22
KNIVES MAKE GREAT GIFTS!
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SPECIAL Microdermabrasion Chemical Peel
\$100.00 REG. \$250.00
(LIMITED TIME ONLY)

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Open Saturdays • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1700 FM 700 264-1900

FRIDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lehrer (CC)	Survivorman (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC)	Live (CC) Movie: Baby	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	Bowl Break- down Special	NBA Basketball:	Movie: Cabin Fever (CC)
7:PM :30	Duel (CC)	Duel (CC)	Amar sin Limites	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Home for the Holidays	Madre Luna	Singing Bee Singing Bee	Raymond Raymond	Update Review Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW (CC)	Killer Squid (CC)	Movie: Open Range (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC)	Movie: Jingle All the Way (CC)	Boy (CC)	Han, Montana Wizards-Place	College Football:	Chicago Bulls at Boston	
8:PM :30	Women's Murder Club	Women's Murder Club	Pasion	Next Band	Moonlight (CC)	Victoria	Dateline NBC (CC)	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Journal (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal (CC)	Man vs. Wild (CC)	UFC Unleashed	UFC: The Final Chapter (CC)	:45 Movie: Jingle All the Way (CC)	Winners & Losers (CC)	Drama Queen Zack & Cody	Bowl - Florida Atlantic vs.	Basketball: Clippers at NBA	Movie: Saw
9:PM :30	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Una Navidad P. Luche	TMZ (CC) Raymond	NUMB3RS (CC)	Pecados Ajenos		Woman (CC)		Walking the Bible	Man vs. Wild (CC)	UFC: The Final Chapter (CC)	Jingle All the Way (CC)	Hell Date Hell Date	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	Memphis Madden Nation	Basketball: Clippers at NBA	Movie: A	
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noiciero Univ.	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	J.R. Church Rico Cortes	Charlie Rose (CC)	Everest: Be- yond the Limit (CC)	Movie: Alien Resurrection (CC)	Christmas Carol (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	Madden Nation Madden Nation	SportsCenter (CC)	Mortuary (CC)	
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisions	Late Night- Show	In Good Company	Update Review CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Man vs. Wild (CC)	12:15 Movie: Puppet Master	Game Head Game Head	Movie: A	Emperor New American Drgn	NFL Live NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak	Stargate SG-1	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THEY DON'T HAVE CHRISTMAS FIREWORKS, 'CAUSE IT WOULD SCARE SANTA'S REINDEER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



12-21

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"It's my letter to Santa. Could you e-mail it to Grandma?"

HAGAR



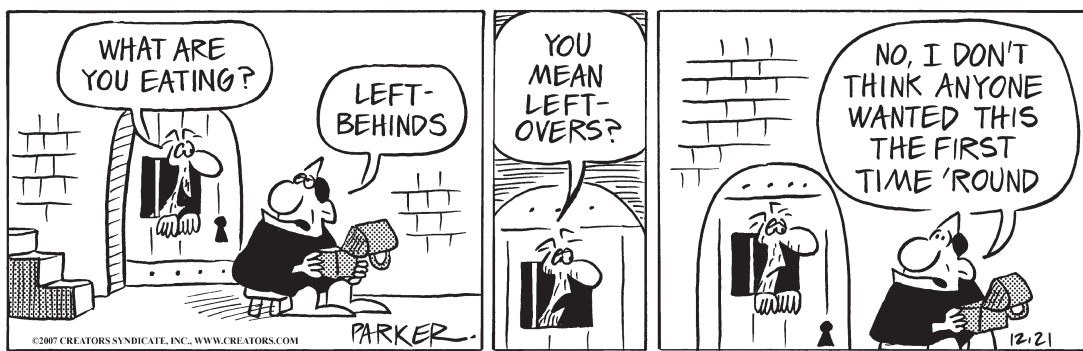
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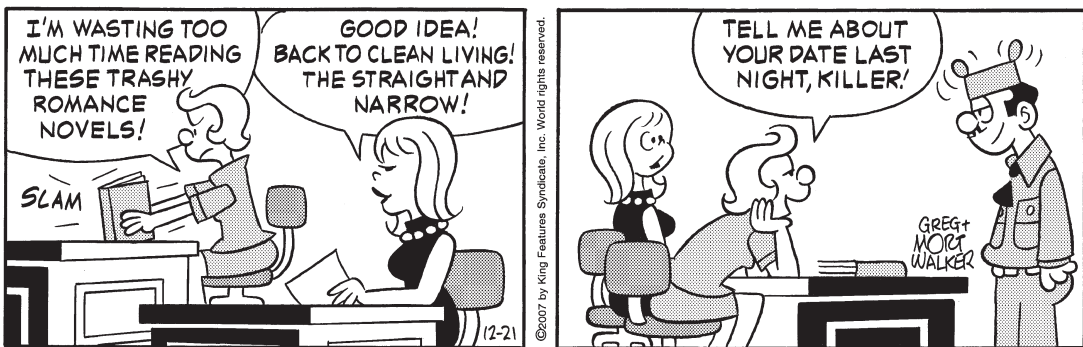
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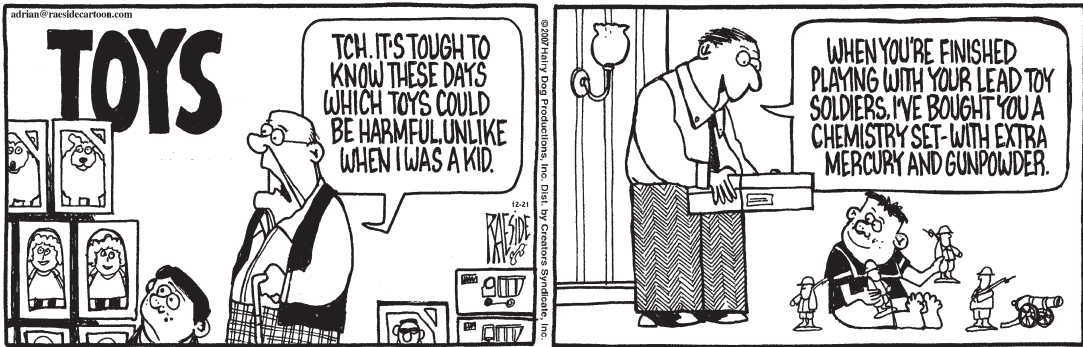
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HI AND LOIS



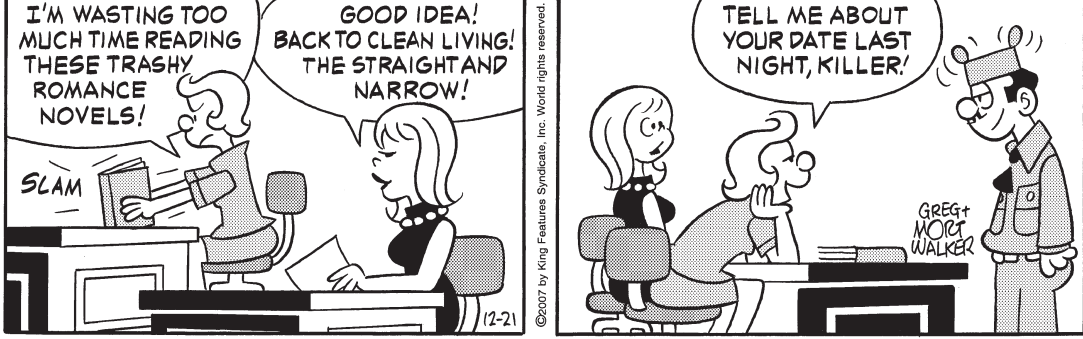
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date
In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2007. There are 10 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.
On this date:
In 1804, British statesman Benjamin Disraeli was born in London.
In 1937, the first feature-length animated cartoon in Technicolor, Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," had its world premiere in Los Angeles.
In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.
In 1948, the state of Eire, or Ireland (formerly the Irish Free State), passed an act declaring itself a republic.
In 1968, Apollo 8 was

launched on a mission to orbit the moon.
In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.
In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant broke apart near Nantucket Island almost a week after running aground, spilling 7 1/2 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.
In 1987, in New York, three white teenagers from the Howard Beach section of Queens were convicted of manslaughter in the death of a black man who was chased onto a highway, where he was struck by a car; a fourth defendant was acquitted.
In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.
Today's Birthdays:
Country singer Freddie Hart is 81. Actor Ed Nelson is 79. Talk show host Phil Donahue is 72. Movie director John Avildsen is 72. Actress Jane Fonda is 70. Actor Larry Bryggman is 69.

Singer Carla Thomas is 65. Musician Albert Lee is 64. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 63. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 59. Movie producer Jeffrey Katzenberg is 57. Singer Betty Wright is 54. Tennis star Chris Evert is 53. Actress Jane Kaczmarek is 52. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 51. Entertainer Jim Rose is 51. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 50. Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 45. Rock musician Murph (Dinosaur Jr.) is 43. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 42. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 42. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 41.

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Answer to previous puzzle

HAUL	ALSO	FACTS
EDNA	SEAR	ALOHA
LOWBRIDGE	RATES	
PRESENTS	WRITES	
SET	BIO	SEENO
NUN	ITLL	NBA
DEBATE	VILLAGES	
ERIN	AIR	WISH
MAGAZINE	PLENTY	
ISH	IDID	RID
EATEN	SOB	PIC
AGATHA	APPROACH	
HORSE	TROJAN	WAR
ENTER	ALOE	TERRI
MEISAS	DONT	ODES

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Have a bawl
 - 5 600 Home Run Club member
 - 9 Biblical prophet
 - 14 Mideast airline
 - 15 Butterfingers' comment
 - 16 Uncle Sam's land
 - 17 Rick's old flame
 - 18 Remark of disbelief
 - 19 Pub orders
 - 20 "Fajitas," literally
 - 23 Merrick character
 - 24 Seam material
 - 25 Check for food
 - 28 New York college
 - 31 Odysseus' home
 - 33 "The Man Who Owned Broadway"
 - 37 Times
 - 39 Cools down
 - 40 "Enchilada," literally
 - 43 Hit with hail
 - 44 Particular
 - 45 Tiny quantities
 - 46 Oscar winner as Disraeli
 - 48 Exam for some college srs.
 - 50 One opposed
 - 51 UN Day month
 - 53 Iliad advisor
 - 58 "Guacamole," literally
 - 61 Tehran tongue
 - 64 Kuwaiti ruler
 - 65 Canadian Indian
 - 66 Brady Bunch housekeeper
- DOWN**
- 1 "Mack the Knife" composer
 - 2 Dallas mama
 - 3 Bridge positions
 - 4 Bulworth star
 - 5 South African region
 - 6 Sounds impressed
 - 7 Tiff
 - 8 Jetsons' dog
 - 9 One of several Oz characters
 - 10 Egyptian goddess
 - 11 One opposed
 - 12 To the rear
 - 13 Keeps
 - 21 "High Noon" singer
 - 22 From Cork
 - 25 Unstated
 - 26 Amtrak high-speed train
 - 27 Justification
 - 29 Pond swimmer
 - 30 Shakespearean sprite
 - 32 Informal greeting
 - 33 TV debut of '79
 - 34 Mozart genre
 - 35 Rolling
 - 36 Show starter
 - 38 Card-activated devices
 - 41 '70s music
 - 42 Quotes
 - 47 Communist council
 - 49 Cold-weather wear
 - 52 Antigen attacker
 - 54 '20s anarchist
 - 55 Pleading Guilty author
 - 56 Large quantity
 - 57 Stagers
 - 58 The Nazarene novelist
 - 59 Cannes confidante
 - 60 FDR's place
 - 61 Swell
 - 62 "Rumble in the Jungle" winner
 - 63 Assemble, with "up"

MEXICAN MENU by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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