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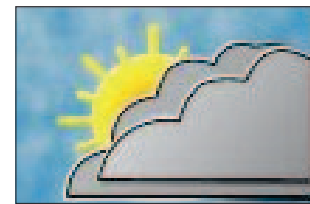
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HERALD

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 28, 2007



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 23

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Jail construction: Time is money

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

When it comes to construction of a new county jail, time is money, officials said. A month before construction bonds are even sold, Howard County officials are doing just about everything they can to smooth and speed up the process — all in the hope

of saving time and money. County commissioners took further steps to prepare for construction of the new jail when they held a special meeting in the county courthouse Thursday afternoon. Officials have set a target of mid-March to begin actual construction on the jail, but county and city crews have already been

on the W. Highway 80 site doing preparatory work. The biggest financial matter covered during Thursday's meeting was the final approval of the purchase of four lots of land at the location for a total of \$90,000. Commissioners had originally planned to purchase two lots on the site for a total of \$45,000, but decided on the additional

expenses to eliminate the possibility of outside encroachment on the site, County Judge Mark Barr said. Those costs will be covered when construction bonds are issued in mid-January, County Auditor Jackie Olson said. Other preliminary issues were addressed, including the hiring of two Midland firms to per-

"When we start makes a ton of difference. Our charge is to get personnel into the facility as soon as possible."

—Jeff Heffelfinger, architectural consultant



form soil engineering and asbestos survey tasks. Commissioners voted to enter into negotiation with Hamilton Engineering of Midland. See **JAIL**, Page 3A

Senior Center board dissolved

County to begin talks with city over center's take-over

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners have decided to cut out the middle man in their dealing with the Spring City Senior Citizens Center. Commissioners voted to disband the center's board of directors during a special meeting Thursday, an action taken in anticipation of transferring responsibility for the facility to the city of Big Spring in the next few months. The county, which has provided the lion's share of financial backing to

the center, is about to begin formal negotiations with city officials in hopes of effecting a transfer by April or May. County Judge Mark Barr said disbanding the board will allow the city — if and when it takes charge at the center — to proceed as it sees fit. "If the city takes over the center and wants to name new directors, it

See **SENIOR**, Page 3A



From left, Howard County commissioners Emma Brown and Jerry Kilgore, along with County Judge Mark Barr, give final approval to the purchase of four lots of land in west Big Spring during their special meeting Thursday afternoon. The land will serve as the site for a new county jail.

U.S. cities offer cash and perks to encourage residents to 'go green'

By **BRIAN SKOLOFF**
Associated Press Writer

PARKLAND, Fla. — Free hybrid-car parking. Cash rebates for installing solar panels. Low-interest loans for energy-saving home renovations. Money to tear up desert lawns and replace them with drought-resistant landscaping. Frustrated by what they see

as insufficient action by state and federal government, municipalities around the country are offering financial incentives to get people to go green. "A lot of localities recognize they're going to get a lot more done using carrots and incentives rather than regulatory means," said Jason Hartke, director of advocacy for the

U.S. Green Building Council. In Parkland, where the motto is "Environmentally Proud," the city plans next year to begin dispensing cash rebates to its 25,000 residents for being more environmentally friendly. "We will literally issue them a check," said Vice Mayor Jared Moskowitz. "We're sick of waiting for the federal gov-

ernment to do something, so we've got to do what we can." Residents who install low-flow toilets or shower heads will get \$150. Replacing an old air conditioner with a more energy-efficient one brings \$100. Buying a hybrid car? An additional \$200 cash back. And the list goes on. Based on an estimate of 1,000

residents participating in the rebate program during the first year, the city predicts it will cost up to \$100,000. "Could this bankrupt the city if the program grows by leaps and bounds?" Moskowitz asked. "I can only wish that so many residents want to go green that

See **GREEN**, Page 3A

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

NEW MEANING FOR 'BEER RUN'

ALBANY, Ga. (AP) — Sounds like some south Georgia crooks have been stocking up for a big holiday bash. Thieves took tractor-trailers loaded with beer and swiped the suds twice within the past week, authorities said. Dougherty County authorities are investigating a report of a missing 53-foot-long trailer that was loaded with more than 2,300 cases of beer. Police said the beer disappeared sometime between Dec. 21 and Thursday. Also on Dec. 21, more than 300 cases of beer were stolen from another tractor-trailer, which had a tracking device. The trailer as driven about three miles before it was emptied.

HE WAS JUST TRYING THEM ON

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — Police arrested a neighbor after a woman reported some of her undergarments had been stolen from her house. Charles Michael Clark, 30, has been charged with burglary. The woman had been out of town when she returned home and found a barefoot man in the living room. The man fled. Clark was arrested Sunday outside his home, a couple of blocks away, police said. The woman reported a bra and some panties were missing. Clark said he was "stoned and stupid," but added, "I took her bra, but I didn't know nothing about her panties."

HOLIDAY TOURNEY ROUNDUP

See Page 1B

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 Page 1B
Friday, December 28, 2007

IN BRIEF

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

TODAY

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)

SATURDAY

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)

Alamo Bowl

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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)

 See **BRIEFS**, Page 3B

Steers in semifinals in holiday tourney

Herald Staff Report

FREDERICKSBURG — High School basketball tournaments during the holidays are traditional throughout the country. Almost every high school basketball team in the state tries to participate in one of numerous tournaments taking place through the weekend.

For Big Spring's Steers, it's the Fredericksburg Tournament that has drawn their attention. The Steers have opened tournament play impressively as well, defeating Lidle and Copperas Cove Thursday to advance to the semifinals.

The Lady Steers didn't fair so well in the Great West Texas Invitational in Slaton. They fell to Dumas, 52-15, in the first round, remaining winless for the season.

Coahoma's Bulldogs jumped out to a strong start in the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic in Big Lake, defeating Garden City's Bearkats 59-43 in first-round action.

Coahoma's girls were also taking part in the Great West Texas Invitational in Slaton and

both Forsan's boys and girls teams received invites to the Sterling City Tournament. The *Herald* will provide results for those games as they are received.

Holiday Tournament Roundup

Steers 80, Lidle 75

One of the bigger traps for basketball teams in playing games this time of year is that players are often in a holiday lull. There's no school and most squads haven't even been on the court to practice in at least a week.

It had been 10 days since the Steers had seen the hardwood and it showed, according to Big Spring Head Coach Marcus Morris.

"We had command of this game early, but we just kind of coasted to the win," Morris said. "We

 See **ROUNDUP**, Page 3B


HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Jordan Chesworth (30) dribbles the ball past a Dumas defender in the Lady Steers' 52-15 loss in the first round of the Great West Texas Invitational in Slaton Thursday.

Texas beats ASU in wacky Holiday Bowl

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — The Holiday Bowl has long been known for wacky plays and wild finishes.

Well, add another one. And this time, the central character wasn't a player.

Texas fans will remember Colt McCoy leading the No. 17 Longhorns to a 52-34 win Thursday night over the No. 12 Arizona State Sun Devils in the first meeting between the schools and their successful coaches.

No one will forget Chris Jessie, the stepson of Texas coach Mack Brown, inadvertently becoming part of the game.

With the Longhorns leading 21-0 and the Sun Devils driving early in the second quarter, ASU's Rudy Carpenter dropped back to pass and was hit by linebacker Roddrick Muckelroy. The ball squirted backward, toward the Longhorns' sideline.

Jessie, a member of his stepfather's football operations staff, stepped about a yard onto the field and was motioning toward a player when he reached down and appeared to touch the ball with his

left thumb. Texas defensive tackle Roy Miller slapped the ball away from the sideline and defensive end Aaron Lewis recovered and returned it to about the ASU 44.

After a 12-minute review, officials reversed the play. They ruled that Jessie touched the ball, which is illegal interference, an unsportsmanlike foul. The ball reverted to the Sun Devils and Texas was penalized half the distance to the goal, giving ASU fourth-and-3 at the 7. Carpenter threw a touchdown pass to Chris McGaha.

"It was just natural instinct," Jessie said. "I thought it was a forward pass. I was looking at the ball being thrown and I was waiting for a grounding penalty. When I realized the ball was in play, I jumped back."

The gaffe didn't end up costing the Longhorns (10-3), other than some embarrassment.

"I didn't touch it, I didn't touch it," Jessie said. "The focus shouldn't be on me. That was a great game."

 See **HOLIDAY**, Page 3B


AP photo/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/Will Lester
Chris Jesse (far right), the stepson of Texas head coach Mack Brown, appears to step onto the field and touch a live football following a backwards pass by Arizona State Thursday during the Holiday Bowl in San Diego. Texas was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct for the play, but still won 52-34.

Lebron leads Cavs past Mavericks, 88-81

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — LeBron James' night started with a face-full of a defender's hand and got worse with a slip in an empty backcourt. Then came two painful drives, the first leaving him with an aching wrist, the other forcing him to blink away stars from another pop in the face.

There was nothing easy or smooth about this game.

Despite the bruises, foul trouble and errant shooting, James managed 24 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, helping the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Dallas Mavericks 88-81 on Thursday night in a game almost as difficult to watch as it was to play.

"I took some blows tonight," James said. "I don't come out of

the game. I'm fine. I shake it off and go to the next play. That didn't stop me once I got hit the first time from going back into the interior. It isn't going to stop me."

Cleveland won consecutive games for the first time in a month, yet there won't be many clips from this game on the year-end highlight film. The Cavaliers shot 36.4 percent, misfired on 14 of 16 3-point attempts and missed 10 free throws.

Still, they won in Dallas, something they hadn't done since March 23, 2000, when James was a high school freshman. The Cavs also avenged an 18-point loss to the Mavs in the season opener.

 See **NBA**, Page 2B


AP photo/Tony Gutierrez
Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) attempts to get around the defense of Cleveland Cavaliers forward Ira Newble in the first half of the Mavs' 88-81 loss in Dallas, Thursday.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **PHILLIP G. MARTINEZ**, 19, 1605 Donley, was arrested on a capias warrant, and on charges of minor in consumption and possession of marijuana.
- **RUSSELL JACK ILLE**, 46, 509 N.W. 11th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **GERALD RAY KING**, 28, 1604 E. 16th, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (Note: officials reported 52 prisoners in the county jail):

- **JOSHUA LELAND JONES**, 19, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest with a vehicle.
- **FILMORE W. JOHNSON JR.**, 62, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of W. 18th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. Two persons were transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 200 block of Circle. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Obituaries

Francine Campbell

Francine Campbell, 92, of Hobbs passed away Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, at Griffin Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be at 3 p.m. CST Friday, Dec. 28 in Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery in Big Spring.

Campbell was born March 26, 1915 in Lindale to Roy and Lollie Bookout Cook. She married Howard Campbell in Carlsbad, N.M., and they celebrated 44 loving years of marriage until his death in 1996.

Mrs. Campbell enjoyed sewing and quilting and loved to travel. She was a member of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church. Her parents, her husband, a sister and two brothers preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughters, Arlene Bunch and her husband Darrel of Carrollton and Lunell Barrington of Mesquite; her sisters, Myrtle Winkler and Beatrice Crum; her brother, Col. Jetty R. Cook and his wife Wanda; four granddaughters; and seven great-grandchildren.

Louise McElreath

Louise McElreath, 67, of Allen, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, at Baylor Medical Center of Plano. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Craig Felty officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday following the service.

She was born Nov. 4, 1940, at Shamrock to Pauline and Louis Waits. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring until moving to Allen in 2005. She worked with her husband in the oil industry and with her brother in the car business.

She is survived by her son, Gary Hopper and his wife Debra of Allen; three granddaughters; her mother, Pauline Waits of Lubbock; two sisters: Cheryl Piper of Dallas and Teresa Self and her husband Frank of Lubbock; and four nieces.

In addition to her husband Clem, she was preceded in death by her father, Louie Waits; one brother, Jimmy Waits; and one baby daughter, Karla Jo Hopper.

The family suggests memorials to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, DC 20077-7491.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Mary Ann Hall



Mary Ann Hall, 69, of Big Spring, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church and the Rev. James Mitchell, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of San Angelo, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Friday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mary Ann Hall was born July 26, 1938, in Stanton to L.E. (Red) and Laura Elizabeth Beene. She married Perry M. Hall on Dec. 26, 1956, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Dec. 22, 1995. Mary Ann Hall resided most of her life in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1957. She was employed for numerous years at Vaughn's Bakery and 20 years at 7-Eleven, retiring in 2005. Mary Ann and her family owned Hall's Bicycle Shop. She was a Christian and a member of the Baptist church.

Survivors include two sons, Perry Dean Hall of Big Spring and Tony G. Hall and wife Ginny of Richardson; one grandson, Hunter Hall of Richardson; one brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Martha Beene of Big Spring; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Janette Florence of Big Spring, R.B. and Helen Hall of Austin, Letress and Mike Tavaglione of Fort Worth, Phillis and James Mitchell of San Angelo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund., P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring 79721.

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

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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

"You can't overrate this win," said center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who had 18 points and 11 rebounds. "It's a good win, but we've got a long way to go."

Dallas lost its second straight after winning five in a row. The Mavs fell to 6-6 against the Eastern Conference and have lost 11 games overall, after dropping only 15 last season.

The problems this time were much the same as the previous night in Utah. One of the biggies was that Dallas got too comfortable behind the 3-point line even though the shots weren't falling; the Mavericks were 4-of-20.

Jason Terry was 1-of-6 on 3s and 3-of-12 overall. It was an improvement from an 0-for-10 against the Jazz, but not enough to spark a team in definite need of one. Whether it was because of the back-to-back games or just one of those nights, Dallas just didn't have it. Once Cleveland erased an early 16-9 deficit, the Mavericks led again.

"There were stretches when we didn't have the energy we needed, but for the most part we fought hard, we just didn't make shots," Terry said. "They made plays down the stretch and we missed

some wide open 3s that usually go down for us."

Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points and 20 rebounds, his most in a regular-season game since April 2003. He played the whole game with tape around his shooting wrist and thumb, which helped explain his 1-for-8 first half.

Then he finished the third quarter complaining of a groin problem.

Josh Howard had 19 points, too, while Jerry Stackhouse and Terry both scored 11.

The game's weird tone was set early, with Mavs coach Avery Johnson getting a technical foul 22 seconds into the game. All he did was wave his hand in disgust and turn away after asking why Dallas was whistled for fouling James when James wasn't called for a foul on a similar play on the other end of the court. The call was so strange that Mavs owner Mark Cuban thought he might have been to blame, saying, "You're going to call a tech on me?"

Then James missed two of the three foul shots.

Through three quarters, the Cavs were 0-for-10 on 3-pointers and had missed 10 free throws yet led by six points. The Mavericks got within one point early in the fourth quarter and made it 81-79 with 4:43 left and James already with five fouls. Instead of making a move, they missed a

bunch of 3s. Then James pretty much ended it with a thunderous dunk in the lane with 1:10 to go.

"I wanted to finish out the game," said James, who scored only 10 points last time against Dallas. "We were missing a lot of easy shots and we wanted to be aggressive."

Larry Hughes had 17 points and nine rebounds. Drew Gooden had seven points, nine rebounds and lots of kudos for keeping Nowitzki from taking over.

"You've got to make him work for his shots and he did that," coach Mike Brown said.

Celtics 104, Supersonics 96
SEATTLE — Paul Pierce scored 26 of his season-high 37 points in the second half, and Boston held off Seattle 104-96 on Thursday night.

Pierce hit 11 of 27 shots and 10 of 11 free throws. He was dominant in the closing minutes of the third quarter and into the fourth, scoring 14 points in a little more than 7 minutes to help the Celtics win their fourth straight and improve to 24-3.

Kevin Garnett scored 14 of his 23 points in the first half, and Ray Allen added a mostly quiet 10, playing his first game in Seattle since a draft night trade that sent the seven-time All-Star to the Celtics.

Rookie Kevin Durant led Seattle with 25 points and Delonte West, part of

the trade that brought Allen to Boston, added 19. Pierce's previous high this season was 32 against Milwaukee on Dec. 14.

Suns 108, Clippers 88
LOS ANGELES — Amare Stoudemire had 30 points and 15 rebounds and played stifling defense against Chris Kaman to lead Phoenix.

Stoudemire scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds in the first half as Phoenix opened a 59-40 lead. The Suns built the lead to as many as 36 points, the last time at 79-43 midway through the third quarter as they handed the outmanned Clippers their fifth consecutive loss and 14th in 17 games.

Stoudemire, who left the game with 3:25 to go in the third quarter and didn't return, finished 11-of-14 from the field and 8-of-10 from the free throw line.

Grant Hill and Leandro Barbosa both added 16 points for Phoenix, while Steve Nash had nine points and 12 assists.

Kaman, held to two points on 1-of-11 shooting in the first half, scored seven in the second half and finished with nine rebounds to end his streak of 12 consecutive double-doubles. He went 4-of-17 from the field.

Corey Maggette, back in the lineup after missing a game with a sore right knee, led Los Angeles with 21 points.



AP photo/Mark J. Terrill
Los Angeles Clippers guard Dan Dickau (10) goes up for a shot as Phoenix Suns forward Sean Marks guards during the second half of the Suns' 108-88 win Thursday in Los Angeles.

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Florida pastor plays the clown to teach about Christ

By MATT SEDENSKY

Associated Press Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — The clown walked into church like he owned the place.

KoKoMo stood proudly in the sanctuary of Carrollwood Baptist, his huge white shoes planted firmly, his head-to-toe sequins glimmering, his nose and wig as red as a Christmas bow.

It was no joke. KoKoMo was decked out for God.

The Rev. Tom Rives adopted his alter ego about 35 years ago and has used it ever since. The message delivered in his high-pitched voice is weighty for a clown: It is of love and salvation.

Rives believes clowning is a means to teach about Christ. "People who wouldn't talk to a preacher will talk to a clown," he says.

KoKoMo and a troupe of clown friends have also shown up at prisons, hospitals, fairs and shopping malls here. The King's Clowns, as they call themselves, aim to proselytize while entertaining, disarming their audiences with their silly characters.

Carrollwood's sanctuary is dotted this night with red and white poinsettias and rows of chairs filled with people. Out of sight, Rives and 10 other clowns gather in a circle while the pastor prays.

"Father, may the message get across," he says in a deep voice



Pastor Tom Rives, costumed as KoKoMo the clown, left, and Kim Fufts, as Paisley, perform a skit during a Christmas show at the Carrollwood Baptist Church about the real meaning of Christmas in Tampa, Fla. Rives has performed as KoKoMo for some 35 years to spread the Gospel.

AP Photo/Steve Nesius

with a slight Southern drawl. his face caked in white, a tiny Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey clowns. He never expected to pair his

"Hi!" he squeals. "I'm KoKoMo the Clown!"

What follows is an hour-long series of skits performed by the clowns, each with a Christmas theme and a Christian message: Be thankful. Honor Christ daily. Remember it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In between acts, KoKoMo enlists the help of children to pull off magic tricks. He transforms a giant playing card into one displaying an image of Christ. A stuffed dove is brought to life. A little girl's jaw drops when KoKoMo turns numerous colored scarves into one multi-colored piece of fabric.

Vicki Musser, 50, who came to watch the clowns' show, said children and adults alike can take away something positive.

"It's not so formal in this kind of service. You can relax a little more," she said. "And I think they can understand a little better."

The act was born in Tennessee around 1970, when Rives was new to ministry and attended a workshop sponsored by

work with his love of the circus, but before long, it just made sense.

Rives sometimes incorporates clown skits in his regular services. A couple of times a year, there's a full clown service, and the troupe regularly visits other places.

Clowning, the 61-year-old pastor says, has allowed him to reach people who otherwise would not be reached. Some have accepted Christ. Others leave with questions about their faith. And many simply experience an innocent joyfulness the clowns see as an expression of Christ's love.

"You can be at a red light dressed as a clown and the people next to you will just be smiling and waving," said Robin Singleton, 45, who has been performing as Skittles for two years while wearing a rainbow-colored jumpsuit and wig.

Rick Racki, aka Riff-Raff, the troupe's only hobo clown, said the outfits make people more receptive to a spiritual message.

"There's something inside them that just opens up," the 43-year-old said. "They're more open. They're less afraid."

When the skits have ended, the clowns have stopped making balloon animals and no one else asks to compare the size of their shoes, Rives walks silently to his office and drapes his costume over a mannequin. The show is over, but his work is never done.

Church News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship service is at 9 a.m.; Sunday school and adult Bible classes begin at 10:15 a.m.

The congregational picture board is being updated. Watch for Bruce Schooler as he begins to take pictures; He'll appreciate your cooperation. This is a great opportunity for all of us to have pictures taken of our family. You can even buy some if you want. We did!

December On Going Support items are Athlete's foot medicine (Lotrimin), instant cup of soup and red licorice. Don't forget the AT&T phone card fund.

Happy New Year to everyone. Go with God!

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

At their annual Christmas Party, the Presbyterian Women of Coahoma were surprised by a phone call from Pam Hicks from the hospital in San Antonio. Pam is recovering from a serious ATV accident and will be in rehabilitation for some time. The group gave thanks that she is making progress and is able to communicate.

The Session will meet at 5:57 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, at the home of Rae Nell Best.

The Scriptures for the first Sunday after Christmas are Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; and Matthew 2:13-23.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

At the 11 a.m. worship service Dec. 23, Susan Dawes sang the recitative "Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive" from "The Messiah" by G. F. Handel as the introtit. Elder Mike Robinson preached on "Telling Unlikely Things."

At the Christmas Eve Communion Service Monday, Ethel and Allan Guthrie lit the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. Janie Conley and Karen Schaedel, from Big Spring First Presbyterian, and Paulette and Elmer Lindsey, from Coahoma

First Presbyterian, assisted in serving communion. Tom Koger, CLP at Coahoma, presented "Let's Keep Christmas" by the late Peter Marshall as the sermon.

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 6, an additional Sunday school class will be offered for adults, including the older youth. The first six-week session, which uses DVDs and study guides, is titled: "If you want to walk on water, you have to step out of the boat." This is an exciting study about learning to trust God. Leaders for the class will be Paschal and Lucy Odom, Rip and Claudie Patterson, Helen Glass, and Marj Carpenter. The class will meet in the theater room at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.

Preaching Sunday will be former pastor Flynn V. Long Jr. The lectionary for the day is Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23. The church office will be closed Dec. 31.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

If you are looking for a church home consider us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek service is at 7

p.m. Wednesday. Children's church is 11 a.m. Sunday for ages 4 to 9. Nursery is provided. For a ride to church, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

Due to Monday new year services, there will be no Sunday or Wednesday night services next week.

The Monday evening night watch will be from 8 p.m. to midnight with a Black-eyed Pea fellowship, fun, games and praying in the new year. For information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church issues a special invitation to services of worship Sunday, your last opportunity in 2007. Dr. Jim Smith will deliver the message at both 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

And no sooner than we say good-bye to 2007 we welcome the new year with a New Year's Day Brunch sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry (SAM).

It will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Garrett Hall and be a full breakfast including the traditional black-eyed peas.

There will be no noon Bible study and lunch Jan. 2; regular schedule

will resume Wednesday, Jan. 9.

The Living Christmas Tree take down is scheduled for Jan. 5. Check with the office regarding times and phases.

We ask for prayers as our Mission Team prepares for the trip to Nicaragua.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 20. Our District

Superintendent, Namiqa Shipman, will present "Islam, Separating Fact from Fiction," based on her first-hand, life-long association with the Islamic faith.

This presentation is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. that Sunday.

February 4, our church will be sponsoring Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace

University. This is a 13-week series, most valuable in these times. o to daveramsey.com-Watch class to see the preview video.

First United Methodist Church is looking forward to welcoming you in the new year. You'll find us at Fourth and Scurry in the heart of downtown Big Spring..

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In Observance of
 New Year's Day Holiday
 The *Big Spring Herald* will observe the following deadline schedule

Deadline For Tuesday, Jan. 1st Edition

Retail: Ad copy due 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27
 Classifieds: 11:59 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27

Deadline For Wednesday, Jan. 2nd Edition

Retail: Ad copy due 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28
 Classifieds: 11:59 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28

Spanky's

Would Like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year

Let us jump start your New Year with a great cup of coffee.

We will be open Tuesday
 January 1st
 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

1903 Gregg St.
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News in brief

Hundreds of thousands throng Bhutto's burial, unrest in Pakistan turns violent

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH, Pakistan (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of mourners paid last respects to Benazir Bhutto as the opposition leader was buried Friday beside her father at the mausoleum of Pakistan's most famous political dynasty. Furious supporters rampaged through several cities to protest her assassination less than two weeks before a crucial election.

Some wept, others chanted "Benazir is alive," as the plain wood coffin went into the ground inside the cavernous hall of the vast, white marble mausoleum.

Thursday's killing of the former prime minister — President Pervez Musharraf's most powerful political opponent — plunged Pakistan into turmoil and badly damaged plans to restore democracy in this nuclear-armed U.S. ally.

Angry Bhutto supporters torched cars, trains and stores in violence that killed at least 10 people. The attack on Bhutto also killed 20 others.

Bhutto was targeted by virtually all militant groups in Pakistan, including al-Qaida

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Benazir Bhutto was the target of threats from virtually all of the militant groups who make Pakistan their home — from al-Qaida to homegrown terrorists to tribal insurgents on the Afghan border.

Her assassination after a rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi — where the country's military and intelligence services are based — also focused anger and suspicion on the government of President Pervez Musharraf.

The former prime minister blamed al-Qaida, the Taliban and homegrown militants for an Oct. 18 suicide bombing that tore through a procession welcoming her back from exile to lead her opposition party in parliamentary elections. But she accused militant "sympathizers" in Musharraf's administration of backing the attempt on her life. Bhutto's supporters chanted "Killer, Killer, Musharraf!" outside the hospital where she was pronounced dead Thursday.

Musharraf blamed Islamic terrorists, pledging that "we will not rest until we eliminate these terrorists and root them out."

Al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri decried Bhutto's return in a video message this month and called for attacks on all the candidates in the Jan. 8 elections. And according to Bhutto, several Pakistanis arrested in an assassination attempt during her second term in the mid-1990s said they were following Osama bin Laden's orders.

Documents: Washington woman, boyfriend admit killing family on Christmas Eve

SEATTLE (AP) — Court documents detail six methodical killings that began on Christmas Eve when a woman and her boyfriend shot her parents at their rural home, dragged their bodies to a shed, then gunned down the woman's brother, his wife and their two young children.

What the documents don't say is why.

Michele K. Anderson and Joseph Thomas McEnroe, both 29, were ordered held without bail after a court hearing Thursday. Formal charges had not yet been filed, but prosecutors scheduled a news conference for Friday morning to discuss the case.

In police affidavits filed in court Thursday, sheriff's Detective John Pavlovich described the horrific killings he said McEnroe outlined to authorities, but the detective made no mention of motive.

First, Pavlovich wrote, McEnroe and Anderson shot her parents, Wayne Anderson, 60, and Judy Anderson, 61, using large-caliber pistols and dragged the bodies to a shed. A short time later, the Andersons' son, Scott, his wife, Erica — both 32 — and their children, Olivia, 6, and Nathan, 3, arrived for a Christmas Eve visit.

Group: Osama Bin Laden to release Internet message on Iraq, al-Qaida linked insurgent group

NEW YORK (AP) — Terror leader Osama bin Laden will release a new Internet message that focuses on Iraq and an al-Qaida linked insurgent group, a terrorism monitoring group said Thursday.

The SITE intelligence group said the al-Qaida leader will discuss Iraq and the group the Islamic State of



AP photo/Shakil Adil
Supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto mourn their leader's death during Bhutto's burial at her family's mausoleum, in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, near Larkana, Pakistan on Friday.

Iraq, a longtime foe of the Iraqi government and U.S. forces.

SITE, which provides counter-terrorism information to government and private groups, said the announcement of the impending message was posted to Islamic militant Web sites earlier in the day.

The posting said the message — titled "The way to contain conspiracies" — would last 56 minutes. It did not say when it would be released, but such ads usually precede the actual message by one to three days.

The authenticity of the posting couldn't immediately be determined. But SITE said it was signed by As-Sahab, the production branch that releases al-Qaida messages. The Internet message didn't say if bin Laden's statement would be in a video or just audio form.

San Francisco Zoo director says wall around tiger pen was lower than recommended height

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The last minutes of a 17-year-old boy's life were spent trying to save his friend from a brutal tiger mauling at the San Francisco Zoo, only to have the animal turn on him, police and family members said.

Carlos Sousa Jr. and his friend's brother desperately tried to distract the 350-pound Siberian tiger, but the big cat instead came after Sousa.

"He didn't run. He tried to help his friend, and it was him who ended up getting it the worst," the teen's father, Carlos Sousa Sr., said Thursday after meeting with police.

The heroic portrait of Sousa and a timeline of the dramatic Christmas Day attack emerged as officials revealed that the tiger's escape from its enclosure may have been aided by walls that were well below the height recommended by the accrediting agency for the nation's zoos.

San Francisco Zoo Director Manuel A. Mollinedo acknowledged that the wall around the animal's pen was just 121/2 feet high, after previously saying it was 18 feet. According to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the walls around a tiger exhibit should be at least 16.4 feet high.

Mollinedo said it was becoming increasingly clear the tiger leaped or climbed out, perhaps by grabbing onto a ledge. Investigators have ruled out the theory the tiger escaped through a door behind the exhibit.

Millions of votes being counted in Kenya's tight presidential race

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenyan election officials counted ballots Friday in the country's closest-ever

presidential race after an election praised as orderly and peaceful despite sporadic violence.

Thursday's contest pitted President Mwai Kibaki against his former ally, opposition candidate Raila Odinga. Lines at polling stations stretched for miles in some areas, a sign Kenyans are increasingly confident their votes count.

Results were coming in from around the country and counting could stretch into Saturday in a vote deemed too close to call, the electoral commission said.

Kibaki urged Kenyans on Friday to wait for the official results.

"We wish to remind all Kenyans that the responsibility for counting the votes and for announcing the election results rests solely with ECK (Electoral Commission of Kenya)," he said in a statement.

Clinton's campaign resembles family business as she seeks to close the sale in Iowa

LAWTON, Iowa (AP) — Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign took on the appearance of a family business as she headed into the final week of the race for Iowa's leadoff precinct caucuses, driving home to activists the stakes in those caucuses and her view that she's ready for the job.

"Next week the eyes of the country and the world will be on Iowa, the world will be holding its breath," said Clinton. "We know that this decision you face is so important, you are picking a president and there isn't any more significant decision for you to make as a citizen."

Clinton opened her campaign day Thursday with a rally before about 300 people jammed into a high school in western Iowa.

She joked about a landing at a foggy airport that delayed her arrival by half an hour.

"We weren't sure we were going to be able to land," said Clinton. "Right after we landed they closed the airport again. I think that's a good omen."

Forget Florida and Arizona: More baby boomers are heading to the Rocky Mountain West

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — John Kerr wasn't dreaming of palm trees and balmy winters when he retired from WGBH, the Boston public TV station known for producing such hits as "Antiques Roadshow." His thoughts had gone West.

The 69-year-old put on a green uniform and Smokey Bear hat and became a seasonal ranger in Yellowstone National Park, where snow can fall every month of the year, including July.

"That's why they have wood stoves and furnaces," Kerr said. "Warm weather isn't the issue for me. It's keeping vital and interested and involved."

Demographers say thousands of people like Kerr are heading to the Rocky Mountain West in their later years. Forget the warmth of Florida and Arizona. Baby boomers, in particular, are gravitating toward the peaks and sagebrush basins of Wyoming and Montana, promising to turn these states from relatively young into two of the nation's oldest.

They're drawn by low crime, fresh air, little traffic and abundant outdoor activities, said Larry Swanson, an economist and director of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West in Missoula, Mont.

Jessica Alba: First expecting, now engaged to baby's father, producer Cash Warren

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pregnancy has been an engaging experience for Jessica Alba.

The 26-year-old actress, who announced earlier this month that she's expecting, is now engaged to her boyfriend and the baby's father, producer Cash Warren.

"I can confirm that they are engaged," Alba's publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Thursday.

The couple is expecting their first child in late spring or early summer, Cafarelli said.

Alba stars in the thriller "Awake," and recently appeared in "Good Luck Chuck" and "The Ten." The sex symbol first gained fame as an action star on TV's "Dark Angel," then in films including "Fantastic Four" and "Sin City."

Chihuahua chases suspect after stolen van crashes in California town

AUBURN, Calif. (AP) — A three-pound Chihuahua mix named Tink helped police put a fugitive in the clink.

The dog's Christmas Day adventure began when four suspects who were fleeing police crashed a stolen minivan into a hillside in this Sierra foothill town east of Sacramento, and one of them fled.

Tink, a Pomeranian and Chihuahua mix, found him hiding under a neighbor's motor home and chased him into the woods, said Wendy Anderson. The dog belongs to her son.

Her son and husband directed a law enforcement helicopter to where the 20-year-old man was hiding.

"The Chihuahua gave him up," California Highway Patrol officer Jeff Herbert said.

The three other suspects, including the driver, were juveniles from the San Francisco Bay area, Herbert said. The suspect who fled was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication and

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resisting arrest.

The driver was arrested on suspicion of vehicle theft, felony evading, driving without a license and resisting arrest, Herbert said.

The other two suspects

were released to their parents.

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- '04 NISSAN TITAN KING CAB SE
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- '05 NISSAN ALTIMA S 2.5L
- '05 FORD EXPLORER
- '04 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR
- '06 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB
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- '02 FORD EXPLORER
- '03 CHEVY AVALANCHE LS 4X4
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- '06 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR
- '06 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR
- '05 CHEVY CLASSIC 4DR
- '06 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR
- '05 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR
- '05 NISSAN QUEST 2DR
- '05 FORD EXPLORER
- '04 HYUNDAI ACCENT 4DR
- '04 FORD EXPEDITION
- '02 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
- '05 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR
- '05 NISSAN 350Z
- '02 DODGE INTREPID
- '04 NISSAN MAXIMA 4DR
- '05 NISSAN SENTRA 4DR
- '05 FORD EXPLORER
- '05 NISSAN XTERRA 4X2
- '06 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB
- '06 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB
- '03 NISSAN FRONTIER 4DR
- '07 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB
- '06 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB
- '07 HONDA ACCORD 4DR
- '04 FORD EXPEDITION
- '05 NISSAN XTERRA
- '05 NISSAN XTERRA
- '05 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
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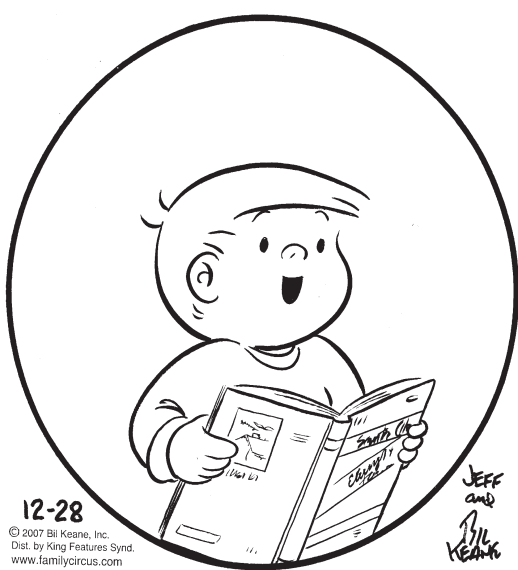
Table with 15 columns for TV channels (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows for time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 AM) listing various programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



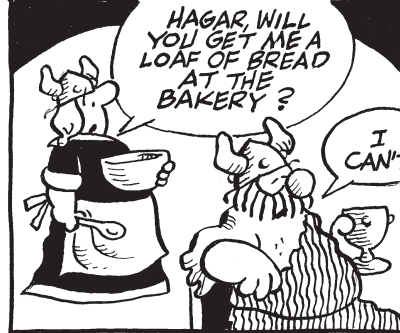
"THEY SHOULDN'T PUT DOTS ON A TIE IF THEY DON'T WANT 'EM CONNECTED."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

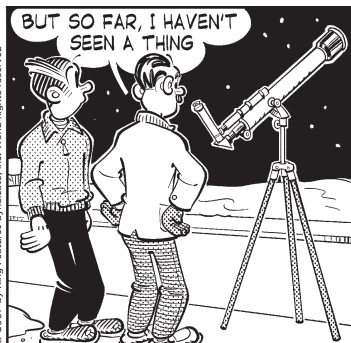


"Did Santa have lots of fender benders on foggy nights before he got Rudolph?"

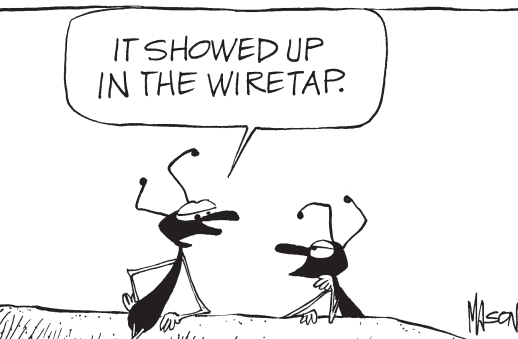
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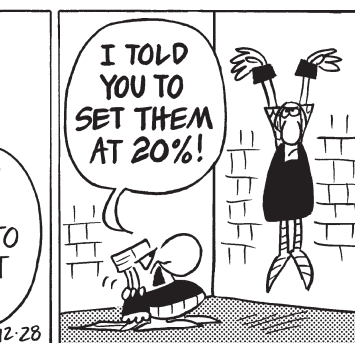
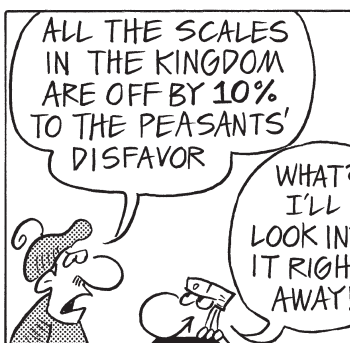
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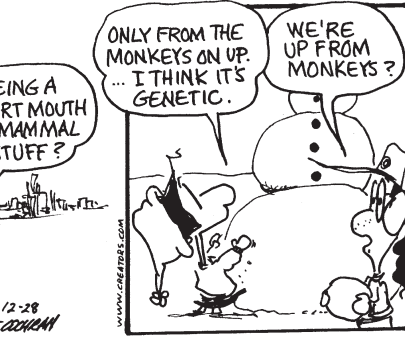
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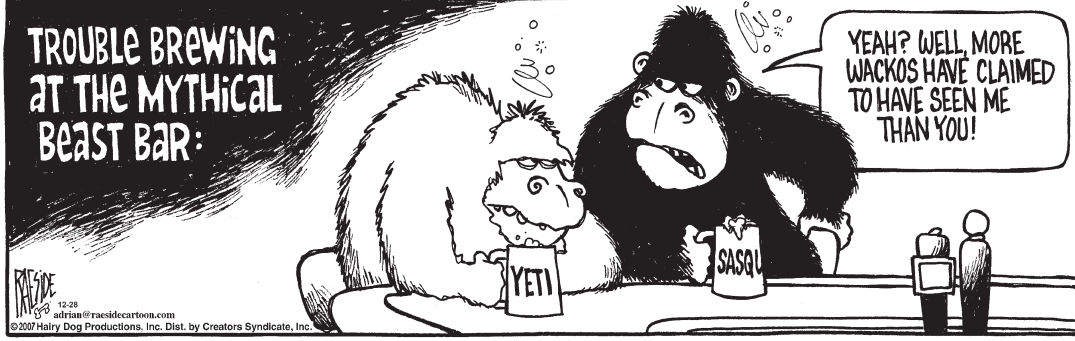
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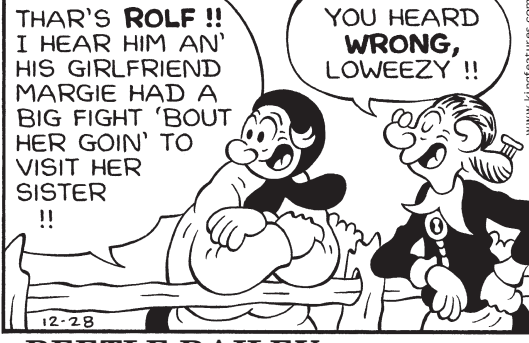
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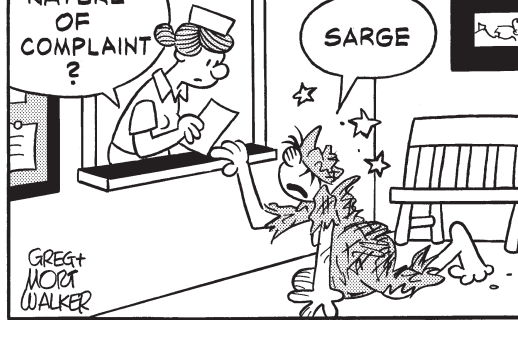
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2007. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious essay by H.L. Mencken supposedly recounting the history of bathtubs in America.

On this date: In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice presi-

dent of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

In 1982, Nevell Johnson Jr., a black man, was mortally wounded by a police officer in a Miami video arcade, setting off three days of race-related disturbances that left another man dead.

In 1987, the bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons were found at his home near Dover, Ark., following a shooting rampage by Simmons in Russellville that claimed two other lives.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lou Jacobi is 94. Bandleader Johnny Otis is 86. Comic book creator Stan Lee is 85. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 78. Actor Martin Milner is 76. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 73.

Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 69. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 61. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 57. Actor Denzel Washington is 53. Country singer Joe Diffie is 49. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 49. Actor Chad McQueen is 47. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 47. Actor Malcolm Gets is 43. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 38. Comedian Seth Meyers is 34.

Thought for Today: "When you are right, no one remembers; when you are wrong, no one forgets." -A Irish proverb.

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Absorbed, 5 Lost it, 11 Part of RSA, 14 Diva's notes, 15 Pond denizen, 16 Away, 17 Sask. neighbor, 18 Swayze film of '93, 20 Wrapped up, 21 Guitar feature, 22 Steak selection, 23 Reagan film of '38, 26 Comics bulldog, 27 Second word of A Tale of Two Cities, 28 Theory, 30 Rare gas, 33 Culkin film of '89, 39 Harvard deg., 40 Go astray, 42 Curly companion, 43 Maggie Smith film of '92, 45 Stowe character, 47 Shade source, 48 Some AL batters, 49 '40s White House resident, 52 Russell film of '58, 59 Certain naval officers, 61 Roulette bet, 62 Kimono sashes, 63 Heston film of '82, 65 Agrees, in a way, 66 Argentine article, 67 Assumed appearances, 68 ranch, 69 Alphabet string, 70 Bear witness, 71 Underworld river, DOWN: 1 Music genre, 2 Fire, 3 André Watts' instrument, 4 Second shot, 5 Social errors, 6 Horoscope columnist, 7 Carrier, 8 Bombay-born conductor, 9 Simpsons grandpa, 10 Sudden movement, 11 In progress, 12 Where armies meet, 13 Calgary Stampede is one, 19 Cold War concern, 24 Water Music composer, 25 Joust, 29 Do a slow burn, 30 Some times, 31 World Series stat, 32 Empty talk, 33 Katie Couric alma mater, 34 Cage, familiarly, 35 Medical acronym, 36 Tennis judge, 37 Trig. function, 38 Pivotal, 41 Cope Book aunt, 44 Train, 46 Utah group, 48 Most dreadful, 49 Longest bone in the body, 50 Neural transmitters, 51 "___, c'est moi", 53 Still to be burned, 54 Lariat loop, 55 Meteorology concerns, 56 In the vicinity, 57 Annapolis student, 58 County in England, 60 Nintendo competitor, 64 Furrow

FAMILY FILMS by Merle Baker Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for words.