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**Kansas upends Virginia Tech in Orange Bowl**  
Page 1B

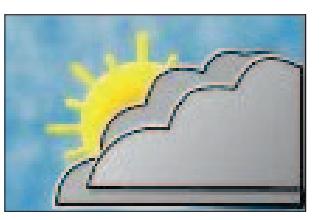


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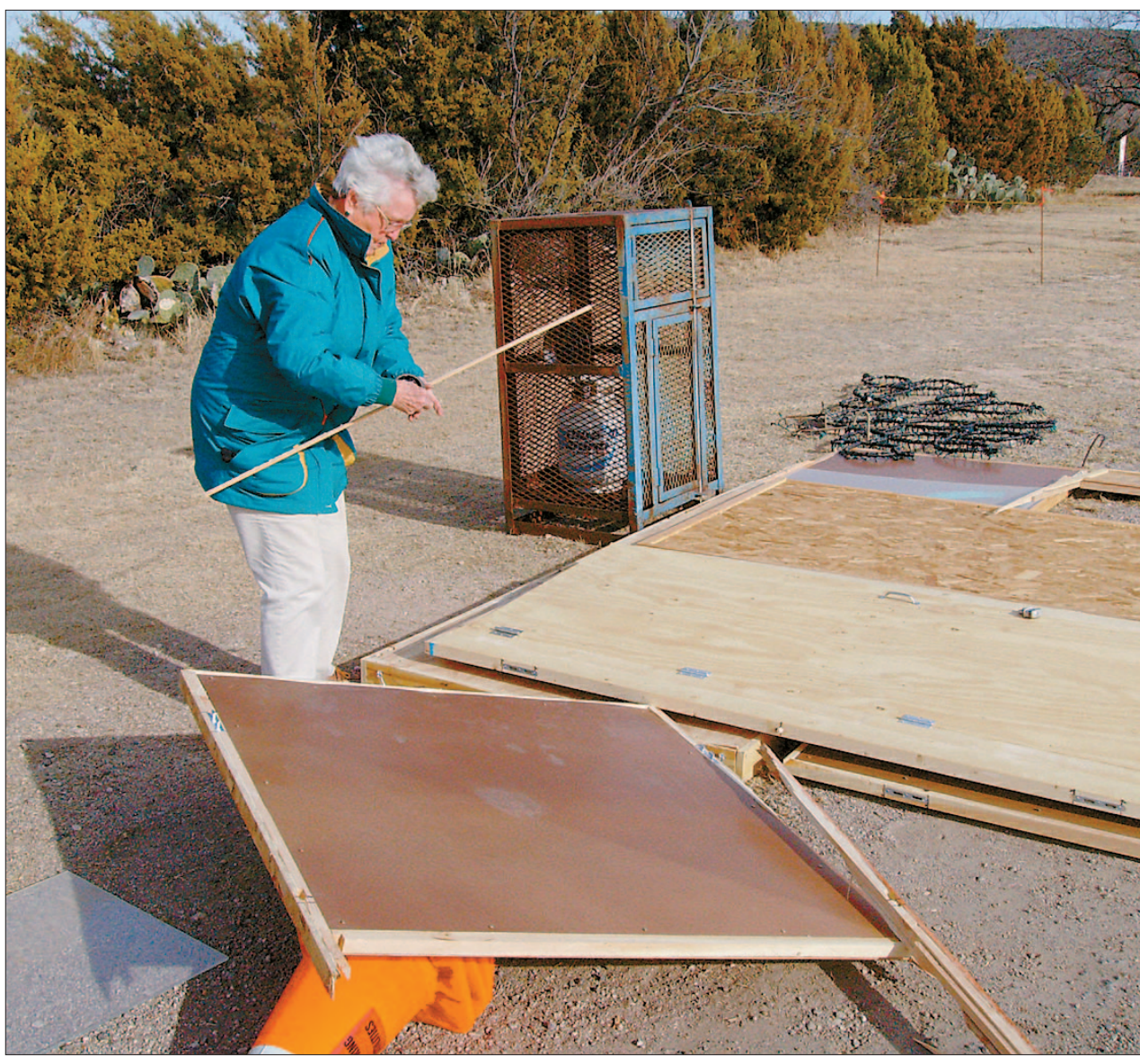
Vicki Slaton

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**FRIDAY**  
JANUARY 4, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 30 COPYRIGHT 2008 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

In the above photo, Pat Simmons, director of the Festival of Lights, inspects a greeter's booth that was flattened by vandals late Wednesday or early Thursday; in the photo below, the Downtown Revitalization Committee's adopt-a-spot at the festival also was hit by vandals.

**Vandals cast shadow over lights display**

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Not everybody attracted by the Festival of Lights was particularly welcome. Along with a near-record number of visitors, the annual Christmastime attraction also drew vandals, who caused more than \$1,000 damage to various exhibits.



Pat Simmons, director of the FoL committee, said vandals struck in two main areas of Comanche Trail Park. "We had installed a floodlight down by the observation deck of the Big

See LIGHTS, Page 3A



**Youth clubs to merge in new facility**

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The Boys Club of Big Spring is merging with the Boys and Girls Club of Big Spring, currently operated by the local Salvation Army, in a move the organization says will bring improved services to the area.

According to Tim Yeats, speaking on behalf of the board of directors for the Boys Club of Big Spring, the merger was made possible by a donation from Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company.

"Boys Club of Big Spring received a generous donation in the amount of \$100,000 from Ryan," said Yeats. "It's the tentative plan of the board to use to use this donation — along with the proceeds from the sale of the current Boys Club property in downtown Big Spring — to help construct a gymnasium at the Salvation Army, located at 811 W. Fifth Street.

"The construction of the gymnasium will allow the Boys Club of Big Spring to merge with the Boys and Girls Club of Big Spring, which is currently being operated at the Salvation Army location. The board believes this merger will provide new and improved recreational and educational opportunities to the boys and girls of Big Spring."

Yeats said Ryan's sizable donation was the key to making the merger possible.

"The anticipated construction of the gymnasium and the merger would not be possible but for the generosity and cooperation from Ryan and the Settles Hotel Development Company," said Yeats. "Pending the anticipated construction of the gym and the

See MERGE, Page 3A

**Acquisition of Boys Club completed**

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Officials with the Settles Hotel Development Company say the recent acquisition of the Boys Club of Big Spring property in downtown Big Spring will help move the renovation of the local landmark along.

Kristopher Ryan, SHDC general manager, said the property — located at 212 E. Third Street — will serve in a supportive role for the redevelopment of the hotel.



"Under the terms of a lease between SHDC and The Boys Club, the Boys Club may continue to operate from its current location for up to one year," said Ryan. "SHDC plans to adapt a portion of the facility for office space and warehouse space for storing construction materials and other items recovered from the Settles Hotel during the renovation project. The ultimate use of the buildings has not been determined."

Ryan said the acquisition of the property is a very important part of the overall success of the project.

"This property was acquired as part of the rehabilitation of the Settles Hotel and is strategically significant to the success of the Settles Hotel pro-

See PROPERTY, Page 3A

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**STOCK SHOW BEGINS**

GARDEN CITY — The 71st annual Glasscock County 4-H Junior Livestock show kicks into full gear today at the Garden City Community Center.

The show, one of the oldest 4-H livestock shows in West Texas, began Thursday with its rabbit show. Today, attention switches to the larger animals, when steers and swine entries are judged.

Saturday's events begin with sheep judging at 8 a.m., followed by goats at 10 a.m. The show's annual pig scramble is scheduled for 11 a.m., with the premium sale and awards convocation set for that afternoon.

**Obama and Huckabee winners in Iowa primary**

By JIM KUHNHENN  
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Iowa presidential caucus victories behind them, Republican Mike Huckabee and Democrat Barack Obama set off Friday on an abbreviated dash to the finish in New Hampshire's primary campaign, facing a different political alignment and, as Huckabee put it, "only a few

days to close the sale." Mitt Romney and Sen. John McCain, GOP poll leaders in New Hampshire, stood ready to try to douse Huckabee's "prairie fire" in a state that lacks the religious voting bloc of Iowa and has an ornery tradition of rejecting Iowa's Republican caucus winners. "It will be a different race here," Romney said

See PRIMARY, Page 3A

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## 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

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

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

**MONDAY**  
**BCS National Championship**  
At New Orleans  
Payout: \$17 million  
Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

**FRIDAY**  
Coahoma girls basketball vs. Haskell, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Haskell, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Midland Classical, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Midland Classical, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY**  
Big Spring boys basketball vs. Brownfield, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Midland Trinity, 6 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Midland Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Stanton, 8 p.m.

**JAN. 11**  
Big Spring girls basketball at Frenship, 6 p.m.

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

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Anson, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Anson, 8 p.m.

**JAN. 15**  
Big Spring girls basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Colorado City, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball vs. Roscoe, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball vs. Roscoe, 8 p.m.

# Clemens says injections weren't steroids

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Roger Clemens admits former trainer Brian McNamee injected him but says it was with the painkiller lidocaine and the vitamin B-12, not any performance-enhancing drugs.

In the first excerpts released from the pitcher's interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," which is to be broadcast Sunday night, Clemens maintained the denials he has issued since McNamee implicated him in the Mitchell

report on doping in baseball, which was released Dec. 13.

McNamee, a former strength coach for the Blue Jays and Yankees, told Mitchell he personally injected Clemens with steroids in 1998 while they were with Toronto, and with steroids and human growth hormone in 2000 and 2001 while with New York.

"Roger took bunches of his shots over his career, much the way racehorses do, unfortunately," Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said after the excerpts were released Thursday.

Clemens issued a video statement on Dec. 23 denying McNamee's accusations and plans to hold a news conference Monday. Clemens did not mention injections of painkillers or vitamins.

"That short statement didn't go into any details and simply told the public at large he did not take steroids or any other performance-enhancing drugs. That's never been a contention of his," Hardin said.

"The reason he hasn't stepped out personally before now was really our decision, not his, and

that was to more deliberately look into how in the world the Mitchell report could have reached what we believe was this totally wrong conclusion before we started talking out. Now we're more comfortable with all of that, and he's going to answer whatever questions they have."

During the CBS interview, recorded last Friday at Clemens' home in Katy, Texas, Clemens was asked whether McNamee had injected him with any drugs. "Lidocaine and B-12," Clemens

See **CLEMENS**, Page 2B

## Lady Steers open District 4-4A play tonight



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton  
**Big Spring Lady Steers guard Kallina Fletcher brings the ball into the half court in the Lady Steers opening game of the West Texas Invitational in Slaton against Dumas. Big Spring opens District 4-4A play tonight in Steer Gym at 7:30 p.m. The Lady Steers will be hosting the eighth-ranked Plainview Lady Bulldogs.**

## Nuggets edge Spurs, 80-77

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Practice? Allen Iverson didn't need any of it to score 29 points and lead the Denver Nuggets past the San Antonio Spurs 80-77 Thursday night.

Iverson revealed after the game that the reason he had missed all of the Nuggets' workouts this week was because his 4-year-old son, Isaiah, fell face-first from a stool early Monday morning and required plastic surgery.

While Iverson was doing the dirty work offensively, the Nuggets' big men — Kenyon Martin, Marcus Camby, Nene and Eduardo Najera — throttled Tim Duncan, who scored 20 points but missed 13 of 20 shots and turned the ball over four times.

Anthony Carter, whose 3-pointer pulled the Nuggets to 77-76, stripped Duncan, then fed Martin at the other end for the bucket that gave the Nuggets a 78-77 lead with 45 seconds left.

After he put the Nuggets ahead, Martin, who had missed four of five games since straining his right hamstring last month, rejected Tony Parker at the other end, and Iverson sank two free throws with 6.6 seconds left.

After a timeout, Martin had one more defensive gem in him, altering Michael Finley's desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have tied it.

Finley finished with 18 points. Duncan and Parker each had 20.

Duncan missed 14 of his first 18 shots but banked one in, sank a layup and made one underneath to give the Spurs a 75-73 lead with 2 minutes remaining. Still, he was kicking himself for two late turnovers.

The Nuggets' point total was a low for the season, as was their opponents'. But for once, it was the Nuggets who seized control down the stretch, improving to 3-8 in games they fail to score 100 points.

## Jayhawks prove they belong, win Orange Bowl, 24-21

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — The high-scoring Kansas Jayhawks brought their usual assortment of tricks to the Orange Bowl. They split their tackles wide alongside the receivers. They threw wrong-handed shovel passes. They pulled off a fake punt.

The biggest surprise: They won with defense.

While their offense was stymied most of the night, the Jayhawks came up with three interceptions and beat Virginia Tech 24-21 to cap one of the finest seasons in school history.

The takeaways led to 17 Kansas points, including Aqib Talib's 60-yard return for the game's first score. He was chosen the game's most valuable player.

"Everybody talks about Virginia Tech's defense," said safety Justin Thornton, who also had an interception. "We came out to show we can play defense at Kansas,

too."

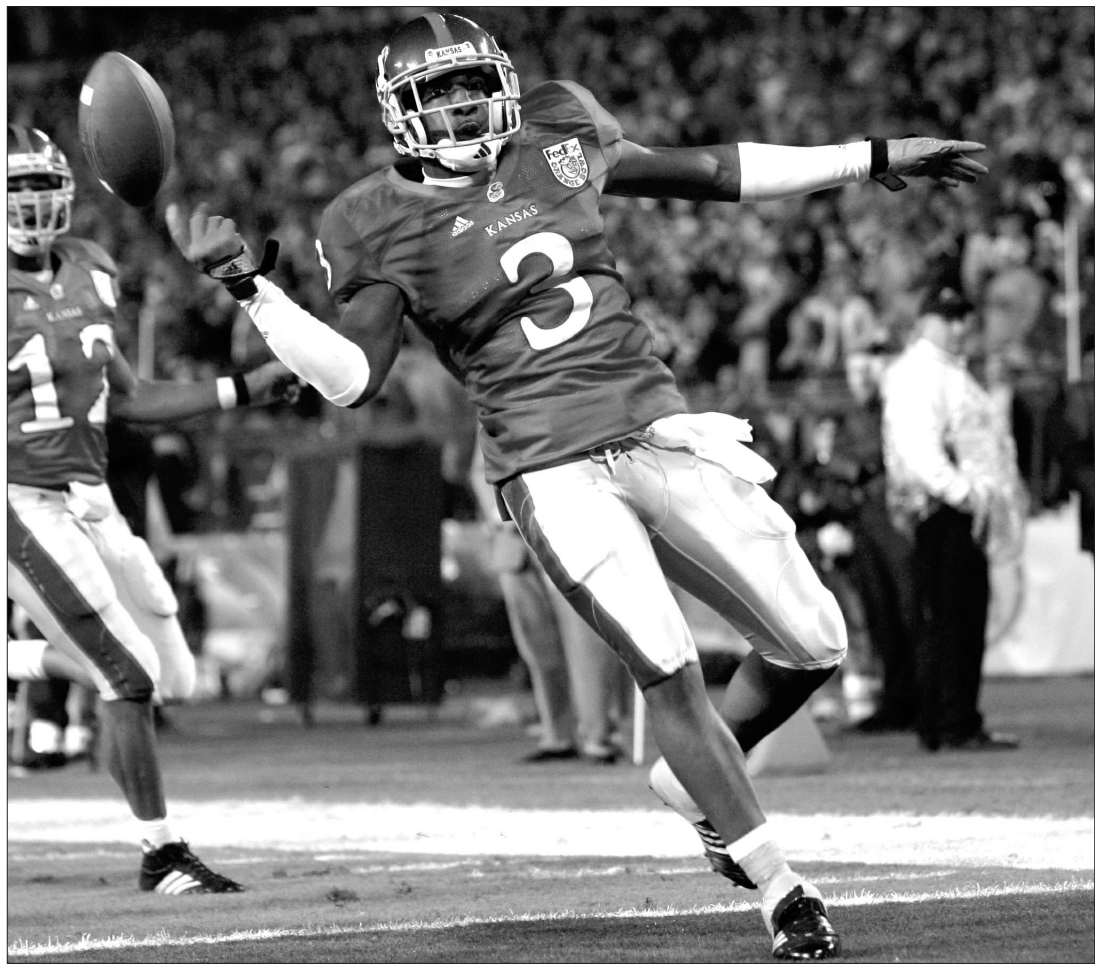
No. 8 Kansas (12-1), perhaps the biggest surprise in college football this season, won in its first Bowl Championship Series game to set a team record for victories. A year ago the Jayhawks went 6-6.

"People kept telling us we couldn't win against this team, that we couldn't win the big game, that we had no chance," quarterback Todd Reesing said. "We took that to heart. We like being underdogs."

The No. 5 Hokies (11-3) lost their fourth consecutive BCS game. It was a bittersweet finish for the Hokies, who revived campus spirits this season following the April 16 massacre that left 33 students and professors dead.

"I think we still accomplished something this season," tackle Duane Brown said. "We couldn't finish off on a high note."

The Jayhawks played in their first major bowl



AP photo/J. Pat Carter  
**Kansas' Aqib Talib (3) flips the ball after scoring a touchdown against Virginia Tech during the first quarter of the Orange Bowl at Dolphin Stadium in Miami, Thursday. Kansas upset Virginia Tech, 24-21.**

See **ORANGE**, Page 2B



ORANGE

Continued from Page 1B

since the 1969 Orange Bowl, and they made a big splash at the start, racing to a 17-0 lead after 23 minutes.

Virginia Tech closed the deficit to 17-14 before Sean Glennon was intercepted by Thornton, whose 30-yard return gave Kansas the ball at the 2 with 11 minutes left. Reesing scored on the next play.

Chris Harris also had an interception to set up a field goal, and the Jayhawks totaled five sacks while allowing only two scoring drives.

Virginia Tech drove 78 yards to score with 3 minutes left on Glennon's 20-

yard pass to Justin Harper. The Jayhawks' Raimond Pendleton fielded the ensuing onside kick, and they ran out the clock.

"It feels really great," Kansas tackle Anthony Collins said. "Now I feel like USC and Florida and them feel every day. They don't get any better than this. I know it ain't the national championship, but it doesn't get any better. We won the Orange Bowl."

Virginia Tech's biggest gain came on special teams. Harper scored on an 84-yard punt return after taking a lateral on a reverse from Eddie Royal, who fielded the kick.

Otherwise, Kansas' special teams played well. Joe Mortensen blocked a 25-yard field-goal attempt

to preserve a 17-14 Kansas lead. A fake punt kept one drive going, and Kyle Tucker's booming punts kept the Hokies pinned deep.

"We were supposed to be outclassed on special teams, and I think we held our own," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said.

The game was among the chilliest Orange Bowls ever, with a temperature of 57 degrees at kickoff and winds gusting at up to 25 mph.

The Jayhawks were the nation's highest-scoring offense this season at 44 points per game, and they took a wide-open approach beginning on the first series. Once they lined up with both tackles flanked wide alongside the receivers, and on

another play Reesing threw a left-handed shovel pass for a 9-yard gain.

Kansas split a tackle wide again when Reesing completed a pass to convert a fourth-and-1 situation, which led to a touchdown for a 17-0 lead. Reesing hit Marcus Henry with a 13-yard pass for the score, capping a 59-yard drive.

Reesing finished 20-for-37 for 227 yards.

"I'm ecstatic," Reesing said. "This is the best feeling I've ever had. We fought hard all year, and we fought hard today."

With only one scoring drive of more than 17 yards, the Jayhawks left most of the big plays to their defense.

The biggest was by Talib, who stepped in front of the intended

receiver to intercept freshman Tyrod Taylor and ran along the Virginia Tech sideline untouched for a touchdown.

"Coach had us in a call where I was able to jump any route," Talib said. "The quarterback was late with the throw, and he threw me the ball."

It was the first interception return for a touchdown in the Orange Bowl since 1968.

Virginia Tech came into the game with the more heralded defense, but the Jayhawks had four sacks in the first quarter. They threw Taylor for losses of 11 and 8 yards on his first two plays as part of the Hokies quarterback rotation.

On Virginia Tech's next possession, Josh Morgan

dropped a potential touchdown pass, and Jud Dunlevy missed a 47-yard field goal attempt.

Virginia Tech mounted a 68-yard drive late in the first half, and Branden Ore scored on a 1-yard run to cut the deficit to 17-7.

Ore was suspended for the first quarter for being late to a practice but still finished with 116 yards rushing.

Against the ball-hawking Jayhawks, that wasn't enough.

"Give Kansas credit," Hokies coach Frank Beamer said. "They made the plays, and we did not make enough. Usually when you turn the ball over three times against a good team, you are going to have a hard time winning."

CLEMENS

Continued from Page 1B

responded. "It's for my joints, and B-12 I still take today."

Lidocaine is a local anesthetic that can be used by dentists and in minor surgery. It also is available as part of ointments used to treat skin inflammation.

Clemens told CBS that McNamee's accusation was "ridiculous" and said he "never" used banned substances.

"Swear?" CBS's Mike Wallace asked Clemens.

"Swear," Clemens responded.

Baseball players and owners did not have an agreement to ban steroids until September 2002, and they didn't ban HGH until January 2005.

The Mitchell report states McNamee injected Clemens with substances provided by the pitcher or that McNamee obtained from former Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski. In his video statement, Clemens said: "I did not provide Brian McNamee with any drugs to inject into my body. Brian McNamee did not inject steroids or human growth hormones into my body."

McNamee's lawyer, Richard Emery, has threatened to sue the seven-time Cy Young Award winner for defamation.

"I think that this is a lawyers' game, which allows him to try and attempt to say that McNamee didn't know what he was injecting or that at least Clemens didn't know what he was injecting," Emery said.

"It really depends now on how

the whole interview goes, and whether he goes after Brian. Look, I don't care whether Clemens used Sodium Pentothal. I don't care if he used strontium 90. My only concern is for Brian's well-being and his future."

Emery said a decision whether to sue won't be made until after the "60 Minutes" interview is broadcast.

"It really depends on what a reasonable person would take away from the entire interview as to whether he's going to damage Brian. And we can't tell until what we see happens on Sunday," Emery said. "But it is fascinating. I think that Hardin and Clemens are responding to the fact that McNamee is going to defend himself aggressively by them trying to parse this closely and issue this statement through CBS. So it's fascinat-

ing, and I'm glad to see that they are responding to Brian's notice to them that he is not going to be trashed by them."

When Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro tested positive for steroids in 2005 and was suspended for 10 days, he said a tainted vial of B-12 given to him by a teammate — later identified as Miguel Tejada — might have caused the doping violation.

Emery wouldn't say whether McNamee did inject Clemens with lidocaine and B-12.

"That's much too specific. That evidence has yet to be developed," he said. "There is a ton of evidence that the Mitchell report failed to explore that will corroborate Brian, and so it would be foolhardy for Clemens or Hardin to allow Clemens to trash Brian."

Emery said it was unlikely

McNamee would sue CBS.

He also hasn't decided whether a suit would be filed in New York state court or federal court.

"Either court in New York would be perfectly acceptable," he said. "No New York jury is going to be hoodwinked by this claim if he ends up defaming Brian."

Mets first baseman Carlos Delgado, a teammate of Clemens on the 1998 Blue Jays, said the pitcher and strength coach didn't appear to be close at the time.

"It wasn't anything more than the usual pitcher and conditioning relationship," he said.

Delgado did find fault with Mitchell's report.

"There's a lot of accusations with not enough evidence," he said.

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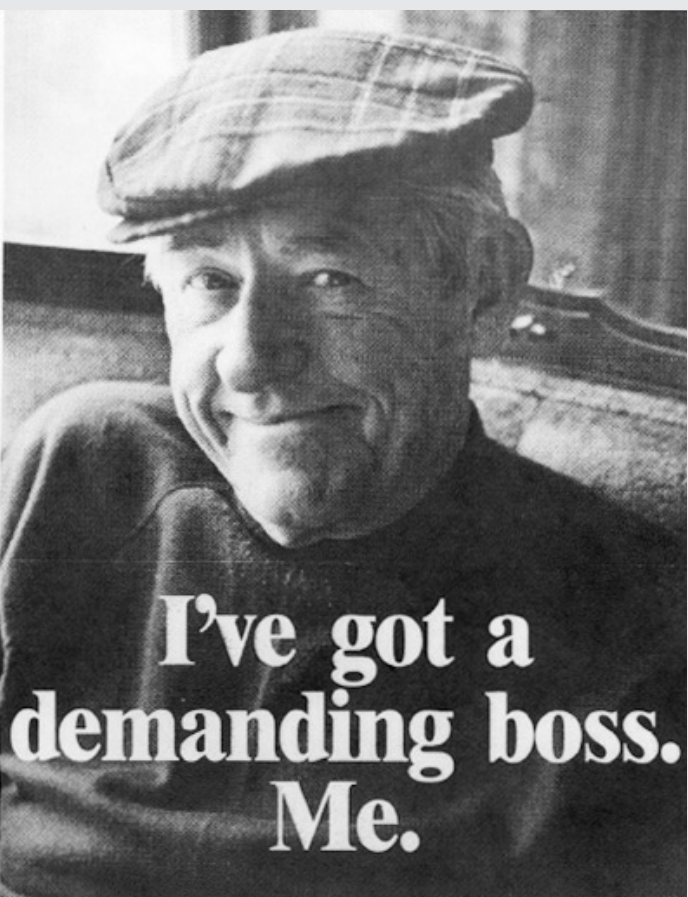
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LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

Spring, and somebody just took that and threw it into the spring. Plus, somebody tore down the greeter's booth there," Simmons said. "And

then, they tore up the (Downtown Revitalization Committee) adopt-a-spot."

Simmons estimated total damage at just more than \$1,000, a figure on par with vandalism losses at past events.

Destroyed items can be repaired or replaced, but Simmons admitted this annual

downside to the festival is extremely irritating.

"But what can I do? What can I do?" she asked. "All I can hope is that they get caught ... and hopefully get sentenced to do community service — with the Festival of Lights. I promise I wouldn't go easy on them." On the positive side,

Simmons said the festival attracted 19,354 visitors during its two-week run, a near-record total.

"I was surprised, because we really didn't add any new attractions this year ... but people were just saying the greatest things about the festival," she said. "It ended up nice, and

I appreciate everyone who came out and gave us the support they did."

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

PROPERTY

Continued from Page 1A

ject," said Ryan. "Among the early concepts being considered for the proper-

ty is a multi-functional convention center.

Redevelopment of the property will proceed in approximately one year, subject to acquisition of all appropriate surveys and permits."

Ryan said the Boys Club of Big Spring has served the community well over the last 30-plus years, and the recent announcement that the organization will merge with the Boys and Girls Club of Big Spring

should ensure a prosperous future.

"Mr. C. B. Andries, a local resident, established the non-profit organization — which is a separate entity from the Boy's Club of America — in the

late 1960s to serve the needs of the local youth," said Ryan. "According to Mr. Andries, 'The Boys' Club offers a variety of learning and recreational activities for local boys including woodworking,

educational development, and exercise programs."

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

MERGE

Continued from Page 1A

merger, the Boys Club of Big Spring will remain open and in

operation at its current location at 212 E. Third Street."

The announcement also brings to a close months of negotiations between SHDC and the Boys Club of Big Spring for sale of the organization's

downtown property, which is located on the same block as the historic Settles Hotel.

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million Settles Hotel renovation project in December 2006. According to SHDC offi-

cials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

Renovation of the downtown landmark is expected to begin

next month, according to SHDC officials.

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

PRIMARY

Continued from Page 1A

Friday. Obama, the Illinois senator who dashed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's front-runner status in his convincing Iowa win, was rallying in Portsmouth and Concord. Clinton was being joined in Nashua by her husband, hoping to become the family's newest "Comeback Kid" in a state that revived Bill Clinton's run for the Democratic nomination in 1992.

Huckabee, on the morning talk shows, pitched his tax plan to anti-tax New Hampshire Republicans, and asserted his campaign is about much more than the Christian conservatives who lifted him in Iowa. "What we're seeing is that this campaign is not just about people who have religious fervor," he said. "It's about people who love America but want it to be better and believe that change is necessary and it's not going to happen from within Washington."

New Hampshire's primary is Tuesday, only five days after Iowa, in an unprecedented compression of the campaign calendar. McCain and Huckabee anticipated more attack ads against them.

"We're going to be certainly always holding the option of defending my record when people are misleading and distorting it," Huckabee said, in a veiled reference to Romney. "I think staying positive in Iowa, not doing the political dumpster-diving that some of the other candidates did, I believe it paid off."

McCain called Romney's attacks in Iowa "a little bit desperate. It didn't work in Iowa, I don't think it will work in New Hampshire." The Arizona senator's resurgent campaign raised him to the top of the polls against Romney in New Hampshire, with Huckabee lagging, in pre-Iowa surveys.

"We only have a few days to close the sale, but I think the momentum coming out of Iowa is going to be good for us," Huckabee said. "Then we're on to South Carolina and Florida where we're running first in the polls. We're going to have a great month." The candidates appeared on the network and cable morning talk shows.

Obama was neck and neck in New Hampshire polls with Clinton, who finished third in Iowa but has the money and organization to confront him.

Iowa's results tightened the Democratic field — Sens. Joe Biden and

Christopher Dodd dropped out shortly after the outcome was clear Thursday night. John Edwards mounted an energetic, populist campaign only to see himself repeat his 2004 second place finish in Iowa. He vowed to continue, but he trails Obama and Clinton in polls and in money.

In Manchester, Edwards portrayed the Democratic race as one between him and Obama.

"I am the candidate who will fight with every fiber of my being, every single step of the way, for you, for your children and for your grandchildren," he said Friday to cheers from an audience that included more campaign workers than ordinary voters, and many non-New Hampshire residents.

On the Republican side, Huckabee enters New Hampshire with little money and little time to mount an adequate comeback-behind surge. And tradition pulls against him. George H. W. Bush in 1980, Bob Dole in 1988 and 1996 and George W. Bush in 2000 — all are Iowa caucus winners who lost their New Hampshire primaries.

His Iowa victory served to keep the GOP contest wide open. Huckabee beat Romney by nearly 9 percentage points, a setback for the former

Massachusetts governor who now faces a reinvigorated McCain. Fred Thompson was looking beyond New Hampshire to South Carolina. And Rudy Giuliani, fading in New Hampshire, was counting on Florida and big state contests on Feb. 5.

An unpredictable factor could be Republican Ron Paul, an anti-war congressman with libertarian views whose legions of volunteers have fanned out across New Hampshire waving placards and knocking on doors in support of their dark horse candidate. Paul has raised a surprising amount of money, further complicating the political calculations in the state.

In their victory speeches Thursday night, Obama and Huckabee struck similar cords and distinguished themselves from their respective fields — portraying themselves as unifiers and change agents who didn't view the world in simply

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
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:*

- Another fantastic Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park. The event draws thousands to our community each year and has become one of our best holiday traditions. Congratulations, everyone, on a job well done.

- Everyone who filed as a candidate for the March primaries. Good campaigning!

- The Boys Club of Big Spring and the Boys and Girls Club of Big Spring for agreeing to merge. Hats off, too, to G. Brint Ryan and the Settles Hotel Development Company for donating \$100,000 to help construct a new club facility on property owned by the Salvation Army.

- Garden City area youth and the Glasscock County Junior Livestock Association on their annual livestock show which began with weigh-ins Thursday and continues through the weekend. Good luck, and a reminder to all of us to support our local FFA and 4-H organizations.

- The new year. May this be a wonderful one for each of you.

*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

*The insights we get from You, Lord, are awesome.  
Amen*

# 2008: A year of new beginnings

**O**n the eighth day of the eighth month in year of '88, I was listening to the radio while on my way to work. The announcer reported the high temperature of New York City at an uncanny 88 degrees. I don't live in New York and the only reason it was reported in Texas was because of all the eights involved.



TROY BREWER

Now I've been a scriptural number thumper for some time and I knew that God likes to preach sermons on new beginnings through the number eight. I wondered what new beginning was about to take place in the Big Apple.

At that same time a young go-getter and the third ranked man on the Department of Justice by the name of Rudolph Giuliani was getting ready to run for Mayor. He would later change Times Square from a sewer of porn and crime back to a tourist attraction

Things were about to change and that's what new beginnings are all about.

### A New Sheriff in Town

When Jesus hit the scene 2000 years ago, He fulfilled and completed one covenant and opened a new one. To get an idea of how radical this new beginning is for us, you must first be able to wrap your head around the concept of how messed up we were under the

old covenant. There was nothing wrong with the covenant; but under it we were a major malfunction.

You put people into any picture and it gets messed up quick. The book of Genesis sinks like a lead balloon from the first four words of the book into the last four words of the book. We go from "In the Beginning God"....to..."a coffin in Egypt."

The book of Genesis takes a nose-dive from things "as good they can get" to things as bad as they can get. Now fill in the blank and guess who entered into that picture. You and I did! Mankind. Things were bad in Dodge City and we needed a new sheriff in town. Enter Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.

When Jesus appeared as promised, He didn't come with just with a new beginning but as the new beginning that all of us needed. With Jesus, everybody gets another chance.

### Pieces of Eight

Because the number eight represents new beginnings, the Holy Spirit has had the writers of the Bible pen down eight new things the Lord gives us through His new covenant.

A new song (Ps 96:1 Rev 5:5:9) A new name (Isaiah 65:2 Rev 2:17) A new Heart (Ezekiel 18:31) A new Spirit (Ezekiel 11:19) A new tongue (Mark 16:17 Acts 2:4) A new commandment (John 13:34) A new heaven and a new Earth (Rev 21:1 and Isaiah 66:22)

Since the number 8 is all about

new beginnings, it's no wonder that there were 8 people in the Ark when it rested on Ararat. King David was the 8th son of Jesse. Aaron and sons began their ministry on the 8th day. The word "born" appears 8 times in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Elijah performed 8 miracles. Elisha performed 16 miracles (2x8). Jesus rose up on the eighth day or the first day of the week.

I think it's also cool to note the title of Jesus as "Redeemer" shows up eight times in scripture.

There are 8 women prophets in the bible. (Miriam; Deborah; Huldah; Anna; and the 4 virgin daughters of Philip in Acts 21:8)

There are also 8 things worthy to think on in Philippians 4:8. If you want a new beginning in your mind, these are things you have to think on. (Things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report, virtue and praise.)

Even the word eight appears exactly 80 times in scripture.

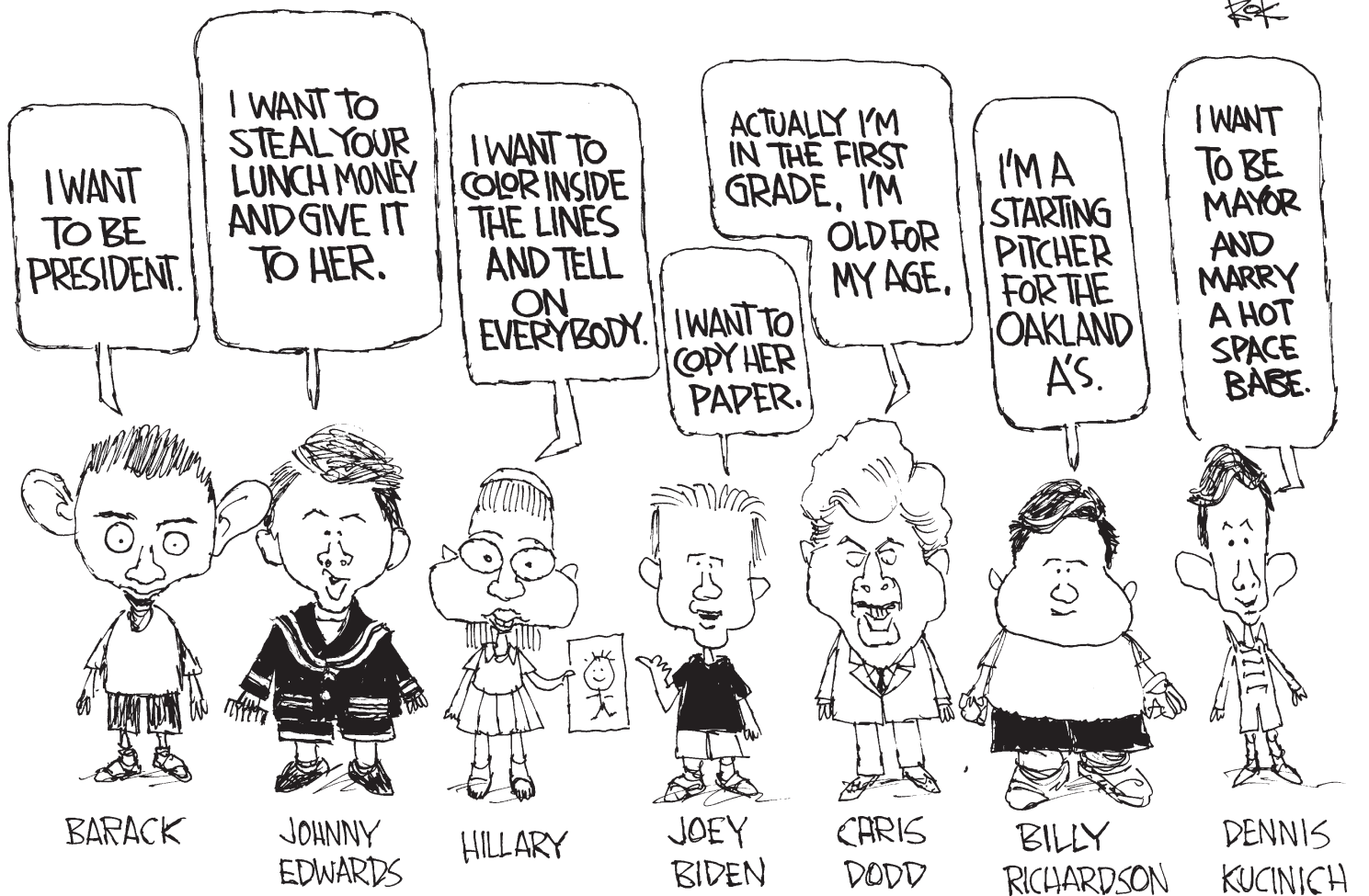
### Eight is Enough

So the Biblical point of the number eight is that in it, is the promise of brand new beginnings. A time when things that should of happened finally do happen. A fresh start and a second chance. A hopeful time of promise or "renaissance" if you will. That's what I believe 2008 to be for all of us. I double-dog-dare you to be hopeful with me.

*The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. E-mail him at troy@OpenDoorMinistries.org.*

## OBAMA'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

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JKK



# Jim Crow is still our national bird

**W**ell thank goodness Don Imus is back. Bigotry suffered a nasty blip while he was gone. But Big Radio, well aware that there is money in racism, hastened to reinstall him to spread ethnic animosity around the nation at the speed of sound. Senators and congressmen are also relieved to see him at his old stand. Their guest spots make plain that they can politic comfortably in the land of the mean. That's a big constituency.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

And now stirring further turmoil along the color line, Richard Nisbett, a Michigan professor, has gathered up all the old studies and concluded that the difference in IQ between blacks and whites is totally caused by environment. Heredity has nothing to do with it. What an annoying finding! It imposes some unpleasant moral pressure on society to equalize opportunity.

Now that's a tough assignment. It could mean integrating schools. But luckily the Supreme Court has just ruled that we don't have to do that. And the iron laws of economics similarly allow us to keep poor people segregated geographically forever. That limits their access to equal education and to that hallowed, if tainted, goal — middle

class values.

Criminal justice, too, is very useful in keeping minorities out of our hair. Selective enforcement serves to hold a huge portion of them in jail or other related subservience. It similarly limits the chances of their kids in achieving mainstream success, thus reducing competition with our own flesh and blood.

But in life nothing is simple. Even as we palefaces savor this pleasing system of keeping non-whites in their place, demographics intrude. Those perverse non-whites, especially the Latinos, keep having more babies than we do. The Census Bureau has just reported that in 2006, 10 percent of U.S. counties had acquired non-white majorities. Give me a break! They're taking over our country through the delivery room!

Well, yes. And in case it makes you feel any better, it's happening in Europe too. While our own white birth rate is just maintaining equilibrium, over there it's dropping.

Plus ethnic repression is common in Europe too, striving to restrain everyone to their own proper spot in the social order. Riots, especially in France, sometimes ensue. In the U.S. we've transcended riots for the moment, allowing the drug trade to serve as our safety valve for upwardly mobile energy.

Still, despite the care with which we have constructed our segregat-

ed society, there are always glitches. Education is a big one. Especially in cities with heavily mixed white and non-white systems. Plenty of tension over that. Especially for white parents who, "for the kids' sake" feel pressured to move to the suburbs or to spring for private school. You don't hear much about that stuff in the press, however. No one wants to rock the boat on such a toxic topic.

But what we do hear about the big cities with schools over 90 percent black and Latino. These cases foment integration lawsuits which the non-white plaintiffs often win, but for which there is no practical remedy.

So in the end, segregation is here to stay, both educational and residential.

Blacks will continue to be jailed eight times more often than whites, and Jim Crow incidents like Jena, LA will sprout periodically out of all this racist soup. So too will Don Imus and his peers continue to pollute life's melting pot, emitting foul smelling commentary. Unfortunately they won't be skimmed off until the human ingredients of that brew learn to form a more perfect union with one another.

*Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.*

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► **Religion in the news**

**'Sandwich Lady' dies at age 93**

ODESSA (AP) — Adela Uranga, who became known as Odessa's Sandwich Lady for her efforts to help feed the poor and the homeless, has died at the age of 93.

Uranga died Saturday, a relative said.

Odel Crawford, former head of the Texas Employment Commission office in Odessa, recalled how Uranga walked into the TEC office on a cold day in the early 1980s and said she had some food to give to the day laborers.

"I know she helped many people who didn't have anything," he said.

Crawford said that Uranga undertook the project on her own at first. But restaurants and other businesses got involved and helped donate food to defray the costs.

"She was just that feisty-type person who saw a need for something and did what she knew how to do," the Rev. Francis Frey of St. Mary's Catholic Church said.

Former President Bush honored her as one of his Points of Light in 1987. She received an humanitarian award from Hispanic Heritage of Odessa in 1997 and the Black Chamber of Commerce, headed by Crawford, gives the Adela Uranga Humanitarian Award annually.

**Malaysia backpedals on Allah ban for Christian paper, renews its permit**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A Roman Catholic newspaper said Monday the government has reversed its decision to ban the publication over its use of the word Allah, easing tensions that had strained racial harmony in the multiethnic country.

In a surprising turnabout, the government renewed *The Herald Weekly's* 2008 permit without any conditions, said its editor, the Rev. Lawrence Andrew. "There are no conditions, there was no mention of the Allah ban," he said.

Internal security officials declined to comment. All publications in Malaysia require a government permit, which is renewed annually.

The government had said that Allah, an Arabic word for God, can only be used by Muslims. Officials feared that using Allah in Christian literature would confuse the Malays and draw them to Christianity.

Malaysian Christians said that Allah that was used by Christians before Islam was established. Even in Malaysia, Malay-speaking Christians have used the word Allah for generations. Allah also means God in Bahasa Melayu, the language of Malays.

About 60 percent of Malaysia's 27 million citizens are Muslim, 19 percent are Buddhist, 9 percent are Christian and 6 percent are Hindu, with the remainder divided among traditional Chinese faiths and other religions.

**State officials cracking down on unlicensed 'Amish taxis'**

LUTHERSBURG, Pa. (AP) — The state Public Utility Commission is cracking down on operators of "Amish taxis" who regularly serve as drivers for members of the religious group but are not certified to carry passengers.

The PUC this fall began targeting the unlicensed "English" or non-Amish taxis serving more than 350 Amish families in Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties. Amish religious beliefs bar owning or operating motor vehicles, so they rely on outsiders to drive them long distances or along roads that are too dangerous for horse-drawn buggies.

The commission is responding to complaints, including some from drivers who paid to become state-certified to carry passengers, PUC spokeswoman Jennifer Kocher said.

"It's different than something occasional, like taking a neighbor to a grocery store," Kocher said. "We're targeting routine trips where people who are (certi-

fied) and are following the rules are saying, 'Wait a minute here.'"

Drivers must pay a one-time fee of \$350 to be state certified to carry passengers, and submit proof of insurance annually after that. Vehicles must also be certified, either as metered taxis or as paratransit vehicles. Commercial insurance fees vary for paratransit vehicles but can cost up to \$6,000 annually, Kocher said.

Six people have obtained the required certificates from the PUC's Altoona office, which covers Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties. Since the enforcement campaign, another 13 people have applied for certification, Kocher said.

The PUC has issued 95 warning letters and is considering fining scofflaws up to \$1,000. The agency may soon target Amish enclaves in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties, Kocher said.

**Kansas City Catholic priest dies after longest active tenure in a parish**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest died Christmas Day after leading his parish for 63 years, ending what is believed to be the longest active tenure at a U.S. Catholic church. He was 98.

Monsignor Heliodore Mejak became a priest in 1935. He said his first Mass at Holy Family Church on Aug. 1, 1944, and never left. The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas believes Mejak was the nation's oldest active priest.

He celebrated Mass until about a week before his death despite failing health and eyesight.

"He couldn't see," said Kevin Fogarty, a Wyandotte County firefighter who had attended the church for about 10 years. "He wore 'welding goggles' with huge magnifiers. When he said Mass, it was obvious he was reciting from memory. He couldn't read it at all."

Holy Family, a Slovenian parish, drew parishioners who shared Mejak's theological conservatism.

► **Church News**

**College Baptist Church**

The Three G's will meet for a Game Night Thursday, Jan. 13. An important business meeting is also scheduled for the evening.

Church members will participate in a workday in the preschool department beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday. Your help with necessary refurbishing and work on the playground will be appreciated.

Now is the time to register for the Women's Bible Study. The text is *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent* by Beth Moore.

Members of the College Class left for a trip to Timbeon, N.M., on Thursday.

**Birdwell Lane Baptist Church**

The membership of BLBC invites you to worship with them at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Nursery is provided. Children's Church is at 11 a.m. during Sunday morning worship for ages 4-9. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For a ride to church, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

Today at 4 p.m., we will be taking our van and going to the Southern Gospel Singing at the Abilene Civic Center.

During the Christmas season, we gave away a rifle to help Trent Newton, one of our youth, through the People To People program to be able to go to Europe this summer for three weeks. Our rifle winner was Henry Mitchell, who lives between here and Coahoma.

Congratulations, Henry! For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Worship services with Holy Communion are at 9 a.m. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m. Scripture reader is Pat Engele.

Don't forget to sign up for The Flower calendar and Eternal Light. Pick out your date for anniversaries, birthdays or memorials.

Don't forget to get your picture taken by Bruce Scholer as you come in through the parish hall.

He does great work.

You may still bring December On Support items until we get notice of new suggested items. They are Athlete's foot medicine (Lotrimin), instant cup of soup and red licorice. Remember, you can always donate to the AT&T phone card fund. Happy blessed New Year to you all!

**First United Methodist Church**

Dr. Jim Smith, Interim pastor, will deliver his message for the new year Sunday titled "Lessons From the Wise Men." Services of worship are at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages in between at 9:45 a.m.

Events and activities will be back on schedule this week at First Methodist, including noon Bible and lunch Wednesday, chancel choir practice, Kid's Club, Project Light and prayer times.

For a complete schedule, call our office at 267-6394 or go to <http://www.fumcbs.org>.

Dave Ransey's series on Financial Peace will begin in February. Join us for 13 lessons that will change the way you think about personal finances. Classes will meet Monday evenings beginning Feb. 4; deadline to register is Jan. 20.

Namiqa Shipman will present a special program, "Islam, Separating Fact from Fiction," Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. in Garrett Hall. This two-hour presentation draws on Namiqa's first-hand lifelong association with, and understanding of, the Islamic faith and culture. Being half Arab, the daughter of a former Sunni Muslim, Namiqa brings a unique perspective to the current national dialogue around the subject of Islam.

First United Methodist Church buildings are located at Fourth and Scurry streets in the heart of downtown Big Spring. We have Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Minds. Come see us.

**First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring**

Youth Group and choir practice did not meet this week, but the regular Bible study was at 5:17 p.m..

Sunday morning services will begin with Sunday school. The new class for adults and older youth will have its initial meeting in the Theater Room at 9:45 a.m. The first six-week session, which uses DVDs and study guides, is titled "If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get out of the Boat." Paschal and Lucy Odom, Rip and Claudie Patterson, Helen Glass, and Marj Carpenter will lead this study.

Sunday, the Epiphany of the Lord, worship, beginning at 11 a.m., will be led by Jim Longstreet, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Midland. The subject of his sermon is "Missionaries All." The lectionary from which he will preach is Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Acts 1:1-8; Matthew 28:16-20.

**Chapel of Faith**

A new year and a new beginning — that is the goal for the members of Chapel of Faith. The congregation meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for worship in their new location at 14th and Goliad. The first steps for incorporation and being an official church were taken as the church body established bylaws and will soon meet to appoint committees.

You are invited to get in on the ground floor of this church by attending worship services. This is an inter-denominational church and services are informal but always present a meaningful message taken from the Bible. You will be blessed as you share in God's love with people who truly love God and each other.

For more information, call Pastor Joel Miller at 267-4082. May God bless you during this new year.

**First Christian Church**

You are invited to begin the season of Epiphany this Sunday at First Christian Church. The light of Christ is shining and God is beckoning writers and finger-painters, string-strummers and horn-blowers, rope-jumpers and slow-walkers, high wire-walkers and laborers, money-changers and stay-at-home mommies and daddies, teachers and students, belly-laughers and soul-singers. Come and

worship with us, Sundays at 10:50 a.m.

First Christian is located at 911 Goliad.

**First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma**

Sunday is designated as "The Epiphany of our Lord." Regular worship services, including Communion, at 11 a.m. will be led by commissioned Lay Pastor Tom

Koger. Everyone is welcomed by this warm and caring congregation.

Following the worship service, the regular first Sunday potluck luncheon will be shared. Anyone who wishes to enjoy this meal is invited to bring a dish and a friend.

After the success of the previous "Family Frolics," the Session has voted to have a Frolic on

the third Saturday of every other month, beginning Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. These evenings of fellowship include food and fun. Anyone who wishes to contribute music, poetry, games or other family entertainment is invited to join in.

Scriptures for Sunday are Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 ;Ephesians 3:1-12; and Matthew 2:1-12.



**Trinity Baptist Church is proud to welcome one of America's most popular gospel trios - THE GREENES.**

**Everyone is cordially invited to attend.**

**Sunday (January 6th)**

**6:00 PM**

**Trinity Baptist Church  
810 Eleventh Place**

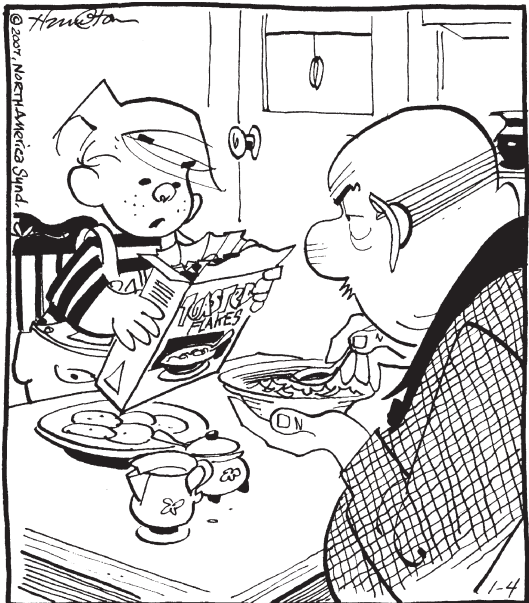
**(A nursery will be provided)**



FRIDAY

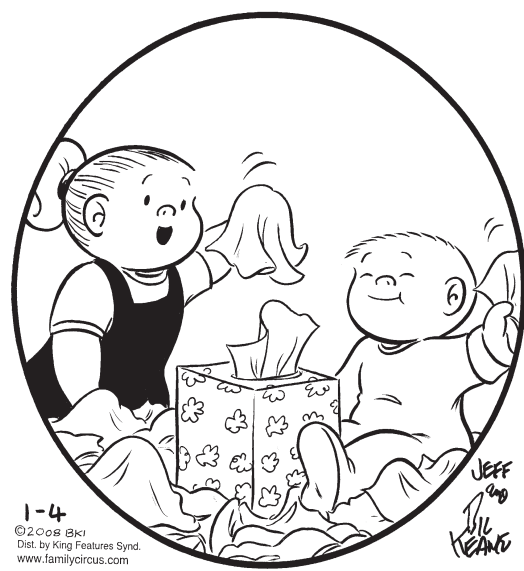
Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WHY DO YOU EAT THIS? IT TASTES TERRIBLE, AN' IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A PRIZE IN IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



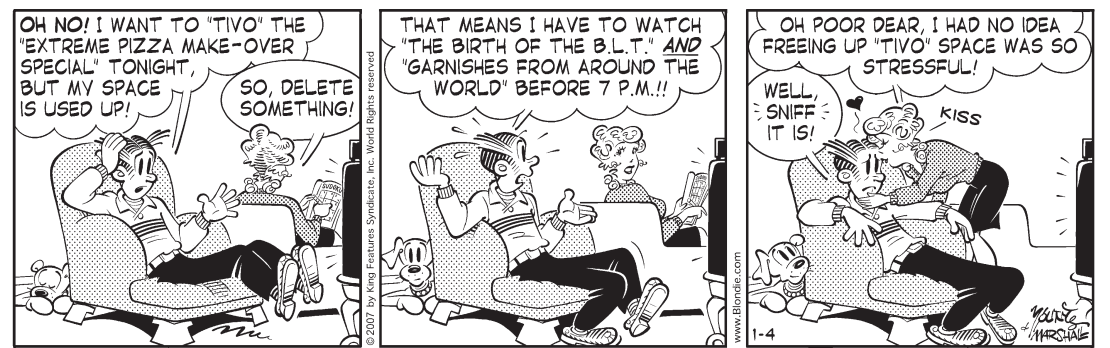
"Look, Mommy! It's something new I've taught PJ how to do!"

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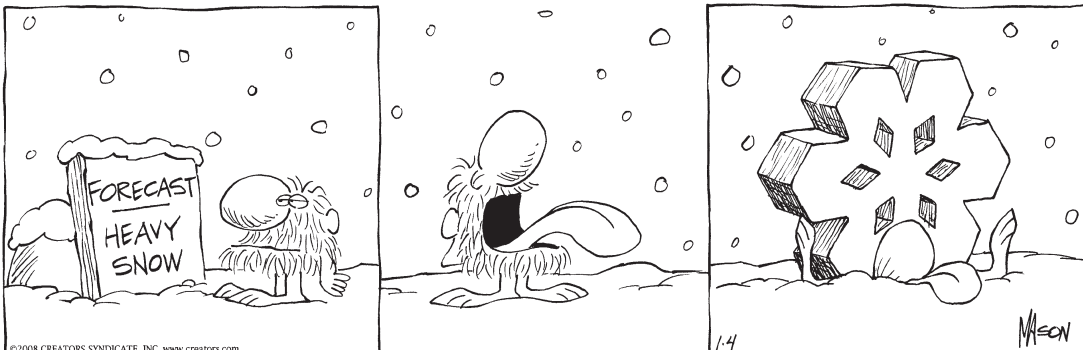


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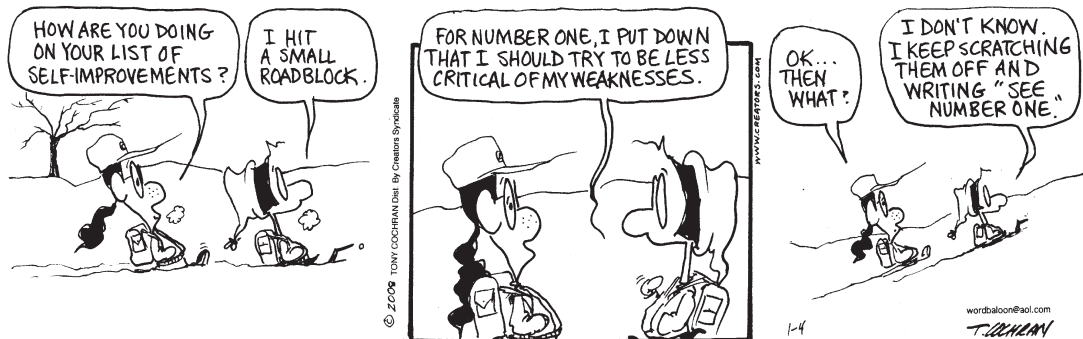
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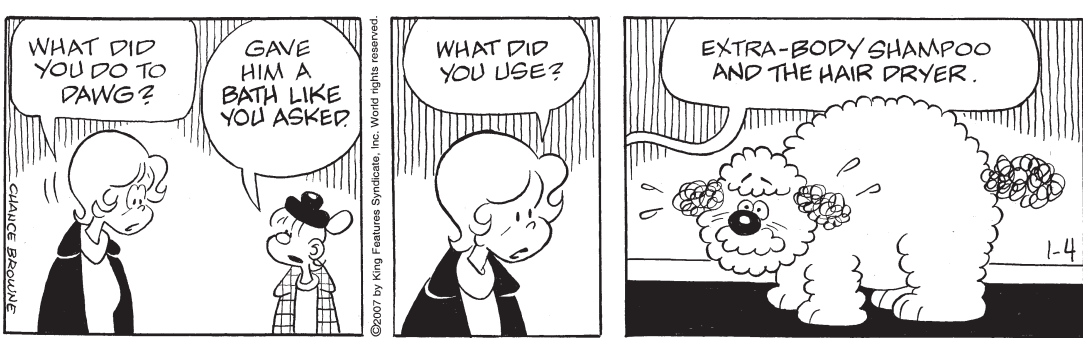
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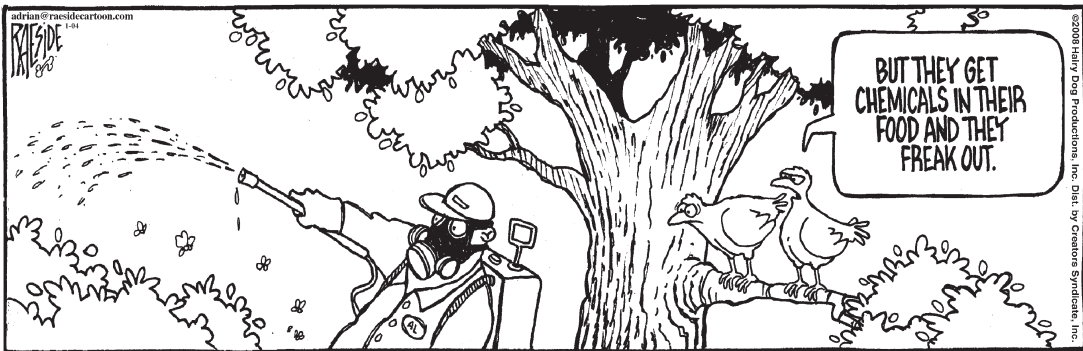
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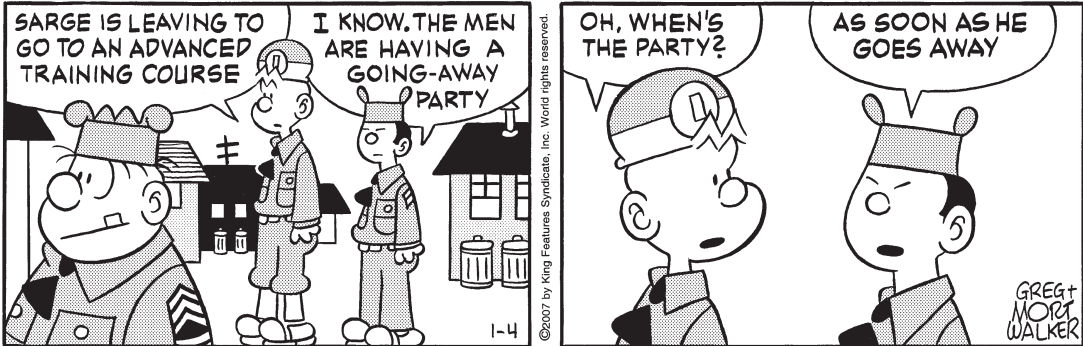
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2008. There are 362 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 4, 1965, President Johnson outlined the goals of his Great Society in his State of the Union Address. On this date: In 1821, the woman who would be named America's first native-born saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Md. In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state. In 1904, the Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. In 1948, Burma (now called Myanmar) became independent of British rule. In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces captured the city of Seoul. In 1960, French author Albert Camus died in an automobile accident at age 46. In 1965, poet T.S. Eliot died in London at age 76. In 1974, President Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Md. In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era. Ten years ago: Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy resigned, accusing the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of abandoning the peace process with the Arabs. Actress Mae Questel, who had supplied the voices of cartoon characters Betty Boop and Olive Oyl, died in New York at age 89.

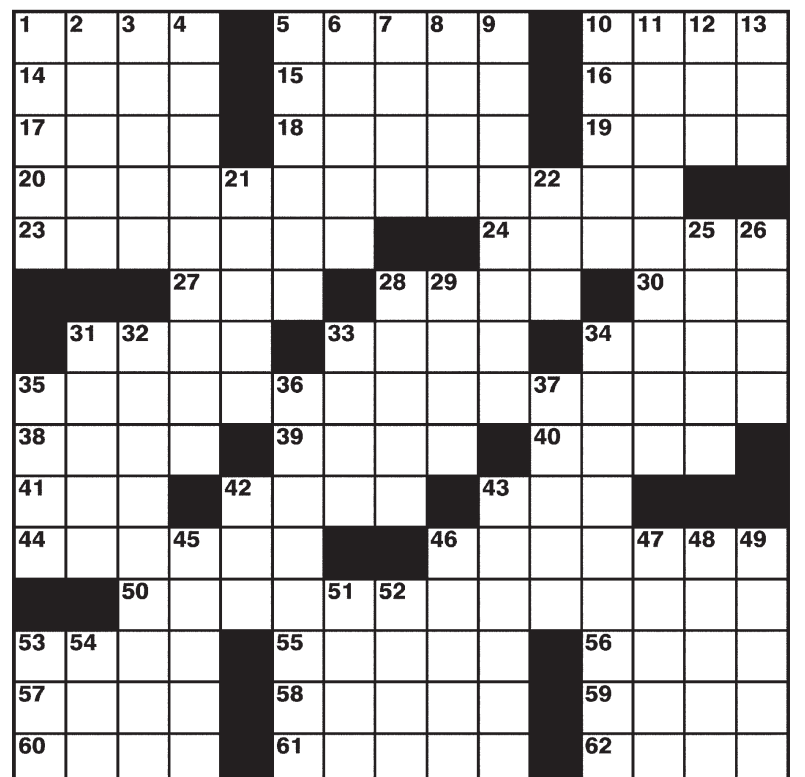
Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 81. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 78. Actress Dyan Cannon is 71. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 71. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 53. Actress Ann Magnuson is 52. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 52. Country singer Patty Loveless is 51. Rock singer Michael Stipe (R.E.M.) is 48. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 46. Actor Dave Foley is 45. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 43. Actress Julia Ormond is 43. Tennis player Guy Forget is 43. Country singer Deana Carter is 42.

Answer to previous puzzle: FAKIR FLAPS WET TBONE EILAT AWE SCISSOR KICK REV PENNE KINDLY SECANTS ARTICLE HELD TO HIATAL ARIES WARTS EST DIPS GAZES LACE YEP TONED NEVER ELOPED RAVENS SPRAWLS RETIRE NOSTRA DEBUT OOH OCCAMRAZOR URI PETRI ATARI TISP ESSEX LEGUP

Newsday Crossword

TAKE THE PLUNGE by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 "My Heart Will Go On" singer, 5 Squirrel away, 10 On a grand scale, 14 Ben's mom, 15 Apology prompter, 16 Places, 17 Squandered, 18 Collect, as cash, 19 Home-decor giant, 20 Start of a Shirley Chisholm quote, 23 Bank charges, 24 Informant, 27 Acapulco article, 28 Go past, 30 British "bub", 31 Very small computers, 33 Old character, 34 Comedian Kaplan, 35 Middle of quote, 38 NBA team locale, 39 Frowned-upon contraction, 40 Churchill successor, 41 Storage acronym, 42 No-nonsense judge, 43 Down, 44 Easily attachable, 46 Laugh riots, 50 End of quote, 53 Negligible amount, 55 Informal instrument, 56 Tar, 57 Anise-flavored drink, 58 Commuter's community, perhaps, 59 Island off Tuscany, 60 Do as told, 61 American Dance Theater founder, 62 Lunar regions, 5 Parade honorees, 6 Paperless tests, 7 Desiccated, 8 Santa \_\_, CA, 9 More formal, 10 Yale who endowed Yale, 11 World Series event, 12 Motel freebie, 13 Grp. with moles, 21 Savage sort, 22 Outdo, 25 Like Desi Arnaz, 26 All square, 28 Cheerful, 29 Nautical unit, 31 Climber's spike, 32 Adapt for the stage, 33 Incursion, 34 Venus et al., 35 Astor's line, 36 Home of the Keck Observatory, 37 All in, 42 Cup's contents, 43 With 53 Down, teen canine, 45 New Orleans sandwich, 46 Rumble in the night, 47 Dickens title starter, 48 Australian soprano, 49 Mex. misses, 51 Fleet member, 52 Blue, in Bogotá, 53 See 43 Down, 54 Buff



# News in brief

## Clinton says Iowa results point to Democratic president, brushing aside a third-place finish

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, claiming to be unbowed by a third-place finish in the Iowa Democratic caucuses, hailed a "great night for Democrats" and said the strong turnout pointed to the sure election of a Democratic president in November. She said she would "keep pushing as hard as we can."

But her poor showing here was a searing blow to the former first lady, dissolving her image as her party's inevitable nominee and setting up a critical five-day race to Tuesday's leadoff primary in New Hampshire.

Clinton told cheering supporters that she had congratulated caucus winner Sen. Barack Obama and the second-place finisher, former Sen. John Edwards. She promised to take "this enthusiasm and go tonight to New Hampshire."

"We're going to keep pushing as hard as we can," she said, with former President Bill Clinton and their daughter Chelsea at her side. "I am so ready for the rest of this campaign and I am so ready to lead."

Iowa Democrats delivered a cautionary tale to the New York senator, an established figure on the public stage who is running to be the first woman president.

## Police: Intoxicated Britney Spears hands over children after dispute at her home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police were called to Britney Spears' home Thursday night in a custodial dispute that lasted nearly three hours before an intoxicated Spears reportedly turned over her children to ex-husband Kevin Federline.

Officers were called to the home around 8 p.m., and the 26-year-old singer turned over the children around 10:50 p.m., Officer Jason Lee, a police spokesman, told City News Service.

Aerial footage from KTLA-TV showed Spears being lifted in a gurney into an ambulance. It was unclear where she was being taken.

Lee said Spears was under the influence of an unknown substance, and no injuries were reported.

The incident involved a family dispute that police worked to resolve "peacefully by court order," he said.

## Kenya opposition seeks new presidential vote after days of deadly election violence

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's opposition party called for a new presidential election Friday to settle a disputed vote that has sparked days of deadly riots, while protesters gathered on street corners in the capital's slums to prepare for a rally.

Anyang Nyong'o, Secretary General of the Orange Democratic Movement, said the country should start preparing "for a new election of the president."

"This is about a democracy and justice," Nyong'o said. "We shall continue to defend and promote the right of Kenyans so that the democratic process should be fulfilled."

Kenya's electoral commission said President Mwai Kibaki had won the Dec. 27 vote, but opposition leader Raila Odinga alleged the vote was rigged and international observations say it was flawed.

On Thursday, Attorney General Amos Wako called for an independent probe of the counting.

## British anti-terror team arrives in Pakistan to join probe into Bhutto's assassination

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — British anti-terror officers came to Pakistan Friday to join the investigation into Benazir Bhutto's assassination, a day after President Pervez Musharraf dismissed allegations his government may have had a hand in the slaying.

The Scotland Yard team will provide forensic and technical expertise but will not be allowed to go on a "wild goose chase and create a political disturbance," Musharraf told a news conference late Thursday.

Bhutto's killing on Dec. 27 plunged an already volatile Pakistan deeper into crisis as it battled a surge in violence by al-Qaida and Taliban extremists. It also forced a six-week delay in parliamentary elections, now set for Feb. 18, which were seen as crucial to restoring stability and democracy to this U.S. ally.

Musharraf, a former army chief who seized power in a 1999 coup, rejected accusations that a security lapse led to Bhutto's killing and suggested she was partly at fault because she poked her head out of her bombproof vehicle's sunroof after an election rally despite threats by Islamic extremists.

He acknowledged his decision to seek outside help to investigate the killing was partly to allay suspicions of government complicity. Bhutto had accused elements in the ruling party of plotting to kill her.

## Israel hits back for rocket fire, killing 11 in Gaza Strip during 24-hour period

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops on a night mission in the Gaza Strip killed two Hamas gunmen early Friday as Israel responded to Palestinian rocket fire with strikes against militants that left 11 dead in 24 hours.

The simmering conflict between Israel and Gaza's armed groups has escalated less than a week before President Bush's visit to the region, overshadowing peace efforts and increasing the chances of a full-scale armed conflict in Gaza.

On Thursday, Palestinian militants hit Israel with a Katyusha rocket, a weapon with a deadlier warhead and longer range than the smaller rockets militants regularly launch. It hit in the northern part of the



Barack Obama speaks to the crowd, thanking his supporters who helped him win a victory at the Iowa Democratic caucus Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa. AP Photo/Mandi Wright/Detroit Free Press

town of Ashkelon, the longest reach yet for a Palestinian rocket.

The Israelis hit back Thursday with airstrikes and ground operations that killed nine people, including three civilians. On Friday infantrymen inside Gaza, near the Israeli border, clashed with Hamas gunmen and killed two of them, according to Hamas and Palestinian medical officials.

Troops saw armed men approaching them and opened fire, the military said.

## Striking writers union says Leno violated guild rules with monologues; NBC disagrees

NEW YORK (AP) — Jay Leno kept the jokes coming his second night back on the air, even as the striking writers union and his network sparred over whether he was violating union rules by writing his monologues.

The Writers Guild of America had scolded the "Tonight Show" host earlier Thursday for penning and delivering punch lines in his first monologue in two months, aired on NBC the night before.

NBC quickly fired back, arguing Leno, a guild member, was right and the guild was wrong.

"The WGA agreement permits Jay Leno to write his own monologue for 'The Tonight Show,'" NBC said in a statement. "The WGA is not permitted to implement rules that conflict with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the studios and the WGA."

The agreement between the guild and producers expired Oct. 31, but its terms remain in effect, said Andrea Hartman, executive vice president and deputy general counsel for NBC Universal. She cited federal labor law.

According to the contract, "material written by the person who delivers it on the air" is exempted from the agreement. The exception applies to shows outside prime-time, which includes NBC's "Tonight Show."

Leno did not mention the dispute during his show Thursday.

For its part, the union argues that it's on firm ground in the context of either its "strike rules" or the expired contract.

## Oklahoma City mayor challenges residents to shed 1 million pounds as resolution

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — With a button-popping spread of cornbread, sausage and gravy, chicken fried steak and pecan pie designated as Oklahoma's official

state meal, it's no surprise that Oklahoma City's mayor wants to put the city on a diet.

Mick Cornett has challenged the city to shed 1 million pounds as its New Year's resolution.

Prompted in part by his own struggle to lose weight, Cornett wants to end Oklahoma City's dubious distinction as one of America's fattest cities.

"The message of this obesity initiative is that we've got to watch what we eat," Cornett said Thursday. "Exercise is part of it and the city is trying to change into a city that is less sprawling, has more density and is more pedestrian friendly, but you're not really going to take on obesity unless you acknowledge that we eat too much and don't eat the right foods."

As part of the initiative, residents can sign up and track their weight loss on a new Web site, [www.thiscityisgoingonadiet.com](http://www.thiscityisgoingonadiet.com). More than 2,600 people had registered by Thursday. They've lost more than 300 pounds.

## NYC librarian captures coveted couch potato title after 29 hours of watching sports on TV

NEW YORK (AP) — A Manhattan librarian emerged as a champion couch potato after three rivals gave in to sleep deprivation or nature's call.

Stan Friedman won the ESPN Zone Ultimate Couch Potato Competition, which began Tuesday morning at the ESPN Zone restaurant in Times Square. The event ended Wednesday afternoon after more than 29 grueling hours of continuous sports viewing — mainly college football bowl games and endless highlights loops.

The four participants, sitting in recliners in front of a dozen 42-inch high-definition plasma televisions and a couple of 14-foot HD projection TVs, could order unlimited food and drinks, but they weren't allowed to go to sleep or leave their recliners except for restroom breaks once every eight hours.

Friedman, a research librarian whose favorite sport is baseball, was declared the victor when runner-up Nate Lopez ran to the bathroom before the allotted break time.

He won a \$5,000 prize package including a huge TV, a cozy recliner and a trophy with a potato on it.

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

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

**Contract Bridge**  
By Steve Becker  
**Bidding Quiz**

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠AKJ82 ♥J4 ♦AQ96 ♣Q3
- ♠KQ953 ♥8 ♦AJ94 ♣K76
- ♠KQJ1074 ♥Q86 ♦AQ52 ♣—
- ♠AQ872 ♥Q4 ♦AQJ83 ♣10

1. **Three notrump.** This rebid indicates that you have more high-card points than would be shown by a two-notrump rebid, and usually a 5-4-2-2 distribution.

A two-spade bid at this point would imply a minimum number of points (13 to 15), and most likely a 6-4-2-1 distribution.

2. **Three clubs.** It is important to pinpoint your heart shortage, while at the same time indicating three-card support for partner's first-bid suit. The three-club bid also implies minimum values for your opening bid.

3. **Three spades.** Considering partner's two forcing bids, this is surely a game-going hand. Your spade suit is virtually self-sufficient, so it is time to let partner in on the nature of your hand.

A bid of two spades at this point would clearly misrepresent the game-going potential of your hand.

4. **Three diamonds.** This rebid conveys several messages at the same time. It indicates five diamonds since you are rebidding the suit, and simultaneously confirms that you have five or possibly six spades, since you would otherwise have opened with one diamond. All of this expresses lack of interest in notrump play, but if partner bids three notrump next, you will have no choice but to pass, as you have fully described your hand.

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