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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 311

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Black Friday pretty bright locally

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Despite economic woes nationwide, Big Spring shoppers were out in force this morning, putting a definite smile on the faces of most local retailers participating in the annual Black Friday effort.

The local Wal-Mart SuperCenter was definitely the first stop on shoppers' lists, with approxi-

mately 200 deal-seekers waiting in line at 4 a.m., according to Store Manager Tim Walsh.

"I was really impressed with the way things went. Everything was very organized, and we didn't have any problems. That can be a real feat when you have people waiting in line for hours in hopes of getting a television they may or may not get," he said.

"The hot seller this year was definitely electronics. The televisions were gone in about 10 minutes, and there was a rush on things like the X-Box and Garmin GPS devices."

Tim Walsh, Wal-Mart manager



Walsh said the demand this year fell mainly on electronics. "Usually one of the first things

to go is the bicycles. However, this year we still had bikes left late in the morning. The hot

seller this year was definitely electronics," said Walsh. "The televisions were gone in about 10 minutes, and there was a rush on things like the X-Box and Garmin GPS devices."

Despite the feast-or-famine nature of the sale items that sold out in the first few minutes of the Black Friday sale, Walsh said

See **SALES**, Page 3A

QUIET SENDOFF



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring High School linebacker Josh Urias boards a school bus taking the Steers to Abilene, where they will face Everman in a Class 4A Division II regional semifinal playoff game at 2 p.m. today at Shotwell Stadium.

Ike, healthcare strain upcoming state budget

By **APRIL CASTRO**
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Last summer, visions of tax rebates danced in the heads of Republican leaders at the mere mention of an \$11 billion state budget surplus. Texas, they claimed, had dodged the national meltdown.

Six months later, the surplus appears to have shriveled as costs mount and worsening economic news starts to shrink once-

robust tax returns.

The state's budget is being hit with up to \$2 billion for its share of costs from Hurricane Ike, rapid growth in Medicaid costs and enrollment, lower oil prices that might mean less income in the state's Rainy Day Fund, slowed consumer spending and lower-than-projected revenues from the state's new business tax in the fund

See **BUDGET**, Page 3A

Lights for Gail set today

GAIL — Lights for Gail, the 15th annual lighting of the star on Gail Mountain, will be held at 7 p.m. today.

The Borden County Courthouse will be open at 5 p.m., serving refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at the courthouse at 5:30 p.m. by horse-drawn sleigh.

Santa's sleigh and buggy rides will be held throughout the evening. The museum will also open at 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Those who wish can bring items for "Christmas for the Kids" at Buckner's Children's Home.

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

Oil falls below \$54 ahead of OPEC meeting

By **PABLO GORONDI**
Associated Press Writer

Oil prices fell below \$54 a barrel Friday as a gloomy outlook for global crude demand overshadowed expectations that OPEC might announce a production cut this weekend.

By midday in Europe, light, sweet crude for January delivery was down 88 cents to \$53.56 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Trading was closed Thursday in the U.S. for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In London, January Brent crude fell 28 cents to \$52.85 on the ICE

Futures exchange.

Oil prices have fluctuated between \$50 and \$55 this week, pausing after a fall of over 60 percent since reaching a record \$147.27 in mid-July.

Grim economic data this week pointing to a severe recession in the U.S. in the fourth quarter and signs of growth slowing around the world have kept prices from rebounding further.

"The drop-off in demand is going to continue," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director at market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "There's no reason for the market to rally."

Oil will likely trade below \$50 a

barrel and could test the \$40 level by the end of the year, Kornafel said.

Investors will be watching whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries reduces output quotas at an informal meeting Saturday in Cairo. Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez on Wednesday called on OPEC to cut production by 1 million barrels a day.

OPEC Secretary-General Abdulah al-Badri on Thursday said the group should not panic in the face of falling oil prices. Russia also indicated this week it may join OPEC in lowering output.

"I don't expect a cut out of the

Cairo meeting, but I do expect a 1.5 million barrel cut at their December meeting," Kornafel said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see Russia get in with OPEC either."

Analyst Olivier Jakob of Petro-matrix in Switzerland said he was "neutral" about the possibility of a decision in Cairo to cut output.

"OPEC has this time around done an excellent job of not letting the market price a meeting before its start," Jakob said in a research note. "They have downplayed the outcome of the meeting and pushed the cut expectations to December but the size of the latest U.S. stockbuild now provides the potential for a surprise."

LOCAL NEWS

AND

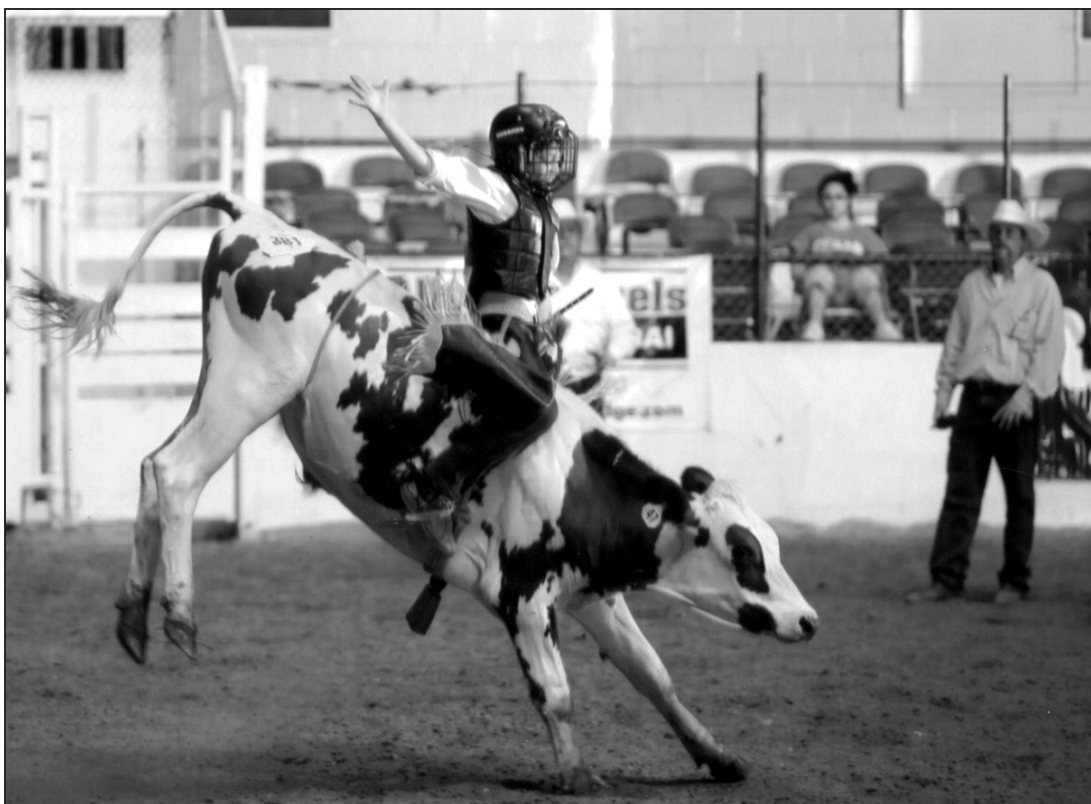
LOCAL VIEWS

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COMPLETE STORY



Courtesy photo

Nine-year-old Canyon Atkinson of Big Spring rides in the Youth Bull Riders World Finals in Fort Worth in August. Atkinson finished 14th in the event, but was crowned national champion calf rider at the National Junior Bull Riding Association's National Finals in Shawnee, Okla., Sunday.

National Champion Nine-year-old Canyon Atkinson wins national title in bull riding

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sport Editor

It's been quite a year for nine-year-old Canyon Atkinson.

In February, Atkinson began competing on a junior bull riding circuit and the success he achieved is nothing that should be taken lightly.

However, none of the belt buckles, jackets, trophies or saddles he's won in the past 10 months compares to the performance he put together this past weekend.

Atkinson wrapped up a championship showing Sunday and was crowned National Champion Calf Rider at the National Junior Bull Riders Association's National Finals in Shawnee, Okla.

Atkinson won the first round with a score of 75 and tied in the second round with the same score. He was bucked off his short-go calf, but was the only competitor to cover two calves, giving him the national title and earning a jacket acknowledging him as the National

Champion Calf Rider as well as a belt buckle.

The Bauer Elementary student has won two saddles, eight buckles, three trophies, two jackets and three gear bags since he started riding in February.

In the Texas Youth Bull Riding circuit, Atkinson was named West Region Calf Riding Champion, West Region Junior Steers Champion, West Region High Money Winner for Calf Riding, West Region

See **CANYON**, Page 2B

Texans want to limit Garrard's scrambling

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Texans found a way to keep Jacksonville's David Garrard from beating them with his arm in the first meeting between these teams earlier this year. Then he found a way to beat them with his feet.

Garrard ran for two key first downs, including one on fourth-and-8, in the fourth quarter to help Jacksonville to a 30-27 overtime win.

This time, the Texans are determined to keep the mobile quarterback contained.

"He does a good job of running and throwing the ball," said linebacker DeMeco Ryans. "But if we can just keep him in the pocket and keep him in passing situations, I think we have the advantage when he's back there having to sit in the pocket. But if we don't contain him and let him get out and start running on you, then we have a double-whammy on our hands."

Garrard has run for 221 yards this season and his only rushing touchdown came against the Texans. They held Jacksonville's duo of Maurice Jones-Drew and Fred Taylor to 57 yards rushing in that game, but were foiled by Garrard's 41 yards rushing.

"We did a good job of covering the guys, but he did a better job ... with his feet and making plays on crucial downs like third and fourth down," Ryans said. "Running the ball is something I guess we weren't really expecting or weren't ready for and they burned us on that."

Though Houston was able to slow Jones-Drew and Taylor last time, the Texans know it will be a big task to do it again this week. Jones-Drew has 503 yards and 11 touchdowns this season and Taylor has added 436 yards rushing.

"They have a great running game, two very capable running backs that can take it to the house at any time," Ryans said. "So it's definitely our challenge as a defense to bow our necks, step up and stop the run."

The return of Andre

Andre' Davis looked like he was back to his old self in his return last week after missing four games after finger surgery.

Davis returned a kick for a touchdown, but it was brought back because of a Houston penalty. The Texans are hoping that's an indication Davis can finish this season the way he did last year.

The seventh-year player had three kick returns for touchdowns in 2007, including two in Houston's season finale last year against Jacksonville.

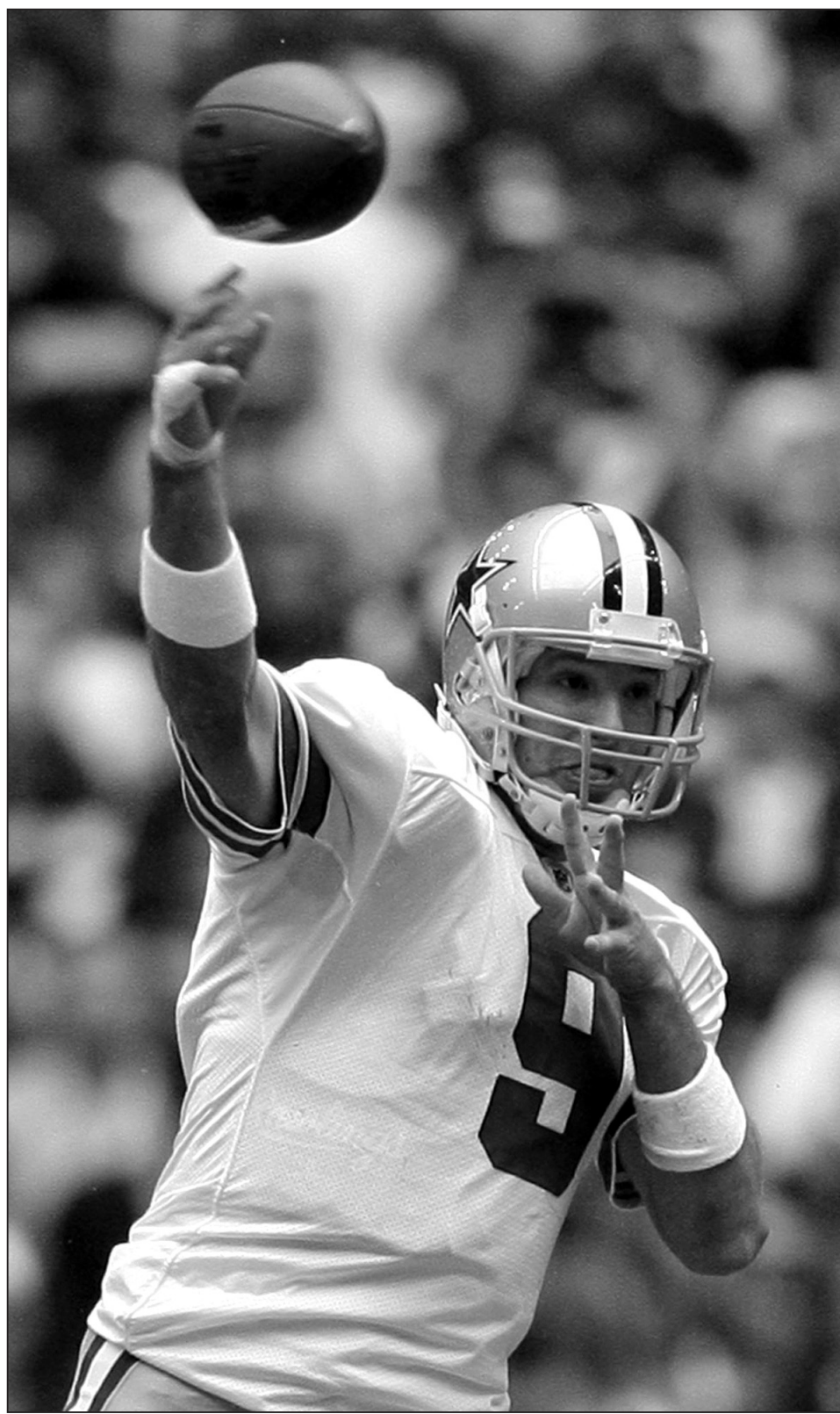
"He was the fastest player on the field (Sunday), there's no doubt about that," coach Gary Kubiak said. "So, we'll get him involved. He held up well with his hand. It's a shame the return got called back but this is where he kind of flourished last year, the last six or seven weeks of the season. So, hopefully we see the same."

Slaton's status

Rookie running back Steve Slaton, who has a severely bruised chest, was not limited in practice on Thursday.

That's a good sign for the Texans, who are short at the position after placing Ahman Green on the injured reserve with a knee

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B



AP photo/LM Otero

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo passes during an NFL game against the Seattle Seahawks Thursday in Irving. Dallas won 34-9.

What splint?

Bandaged Romo leads Dallas past Seahawks

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys are ready for December.

On the verge of collapse just a few weeks ago, Tony Romo, DeMarcus Ware and the Cowboys guaranteed they will be a team to watch in the final month by crushing the Seattle Seahawks 34-9 Thursday for their third straight victory.

Romo got it rolling with touchdowns on the first three drives and points on the first four, then the defense took care of the rest. They racked up seven sacks — three by Ware, giving him an NFL-best 15 — and each was punctuated by a gobbling turkey version of the Chicken Dance, the kind of giddiness expected from a team playing the way Dallas (8-4) has been lately.

The Cowboys have wiped away the bitterness of a 2-4 rut and surged near the top of the NFC wild-card race. The turnaround began with Romo returning from a broken pinkie finger, albeit with a splint on his passing hand, and now he's expected to be back to full strength for the next game. Dallas also will get cornerback-punt returner Adam "Pacman" Jones back from a suspension.

Yet the Cowboys aren't getting too carried away with their good fortune. They realize they've padded their confidence with consecutive blowouts over bad teams and now

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Longhorns crush A&M

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Colt McCoy finally got a win over Texas A&M, and No. 4 Texas put a historic whipping on a bitter rival.

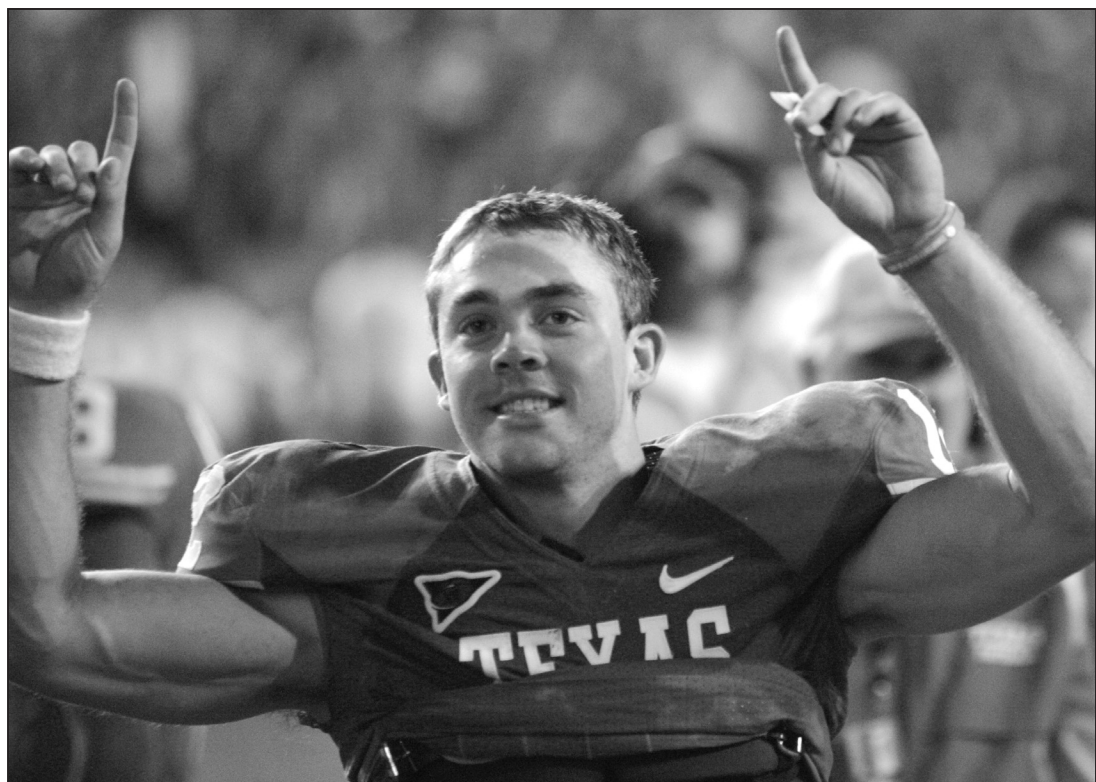
The question now is, was it enough?

Was a 49-9 victory impressive enough to give McCoy a fighting chance for the Heisman Trophy and keep his team in the hunt for the Bowl Championship Series championship game?

Longhorns coach Mack Brown thought so.

"I felt they made the statement they needed to make," Brown said. "Starting with Colt."

See **TEXAS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Harry Cabluck

Texas quarterback Colt McCoy celebrates after his team's 49-9 win over Texas A&M in an NCAA game Thursday in Austin. McCoy passed for 311 yards and rushed for 49.

Obituaries

Dorothy Wood



Dorothy Wood, 64, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dorothy was born Aug. 25, 1944, in Big Spring to Ruby and Arthur Smith. She married David Wood, April 8, 1959, in Big Spring. Dorothy was a lifetime resident of Big Spring, except for 15 years that she and David lived at Levelland.

She was a homemaker, but had also worked at TG&Y, White's Auto and Big Spring State Hospital. While living in Levelland, she worked at the Sonic Drive In and The Burger Kitchen. Dorothy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and aunt. She was a member of Midway Baptist Church.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, David Wood Sr. of Big Spring; one daughter, Patty Wheelhouse and her husband Robin of Midland; one son, David Wood Jr. and his wife Jennifer of Cleburne; four grandchildren, Heather Wheelhouse, Zachary Wheelhouse, Logan Wood and Rylee Wood; two brothers, Richard Shaw of California and Art Smith of Wylie; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by one brother, Bill Shaw; one sister, Peggy Mansfield; and one great-nephew, Michael Mansfield.

Pallbearers will be Benny Mansfield, Roy Mansfield, Joe Mansfield, Dan Meacham, Jeters Grant, Alan Grant, Orrin Mansfield, Jason Mims and Daniel Meacham. Honorary pallbearers will be Seth Mansfield, Rodney Grant, Russell Grant and Roy Mansfield Jr.

The family suggests memorials to Midway Baptist Church, 6200 S. Service Road, Big Spring 79720 or the American Diabetic Association, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 270-E, Midland 79705.

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

Paid obituary

Corey Don Sharp



Corey Don Sharp, 27, of Big Spring, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral Services were at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Dec. 30, 1980, in Pampa. He grew up in Pampa, lived in Midland for two years, and then in Big Spring for two years. He was a truck driver for Basic Energy Services. He was a veteran of the Navy and was a Baptist.

He is survived by his parents, Katie and Royce Sharp of Big Spring; one sister, Carla Wilson and her husband Andrew of Midland; one brother, Jeff Sharp and his wife Ann of Whitedeer; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Paid obituary

Lou Ellen Goll



Lou Ellen McAlister Goll returned to her savior Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008.

She was born Sept. 8, 1923, and enjoyed a long, beautiful life. She was preceded in death by her parents, five siblings, and first husband, Harold Douglas McAlister.

She resided in Big Spring from 1958 to 1975 with her husband Harold McAlister. They enjoyed playing dominoes, fishing, travel and gardening.

During that time she was an active member of First Baptist Church. In 1975 she and Harold moved to Marble Falls, where they retired together. She was married to James Goll in 1978. In 2007, she and James returned to Big Spring where they lived at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, and she was a member of Central Baptist Church.

She is survived by her second husband, James Goll; one brother, Clarence Dewain Green; her daughter Barbara Lou Ball and husband Ron Ball; grandsons Justin Ball and wife Louisa Lopez Ball and Jason Ball.

Service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel in Big Spring. The family will be receiving friends after the service at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church for their building fund. Please mail memorials to Central Baptist Church, 518 Nichols Road, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

Lucille Jones

Lucille Jones, 91, of Laurel, Miss., formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008, in Laurel, Miss. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

She was born Nov. 14, 1917, in Arkansas and married Milam Loyd Jones Nov. 9, 1931, in Lovington, N.M. He preceded her in death March 7, 1985.

She had lived in Laurel, Miss., for the past 10 years and was a homemaker.

Survivors include one son-in-law, Vernon J. Byrd of Laurel, Miss.; a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ, 29, of 1605 Harding, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- RUBEN DOMINGUEZ, 40, of 408 W. Eighth, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DIANA RODRIGUEZ, 35, of Abilene, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported in the 400 block of Third Street.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.
- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 400 block of Fifth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of Eighth Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 400 block of Fifth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

• Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Canterbury South. Please contact Jennifer Mendez at 263-1238 or leave a message.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809. After Dec. 1 the number to call for rides to treatment will be (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

• The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

Your Local Weather

Sat 11/29	Sun 11/30	Mon 12/1	Tue 12/2	Wed 12/3
58/35	66/37	68/43	74/48	72/36
Partly cloudy. High 58F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

Take Note

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

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

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

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-9-15-23-25.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 12-22-30-31. Bonus Ball: 31.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching four of four: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-7-8-5. Sum It Up: 25.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-1-1. Sum It Up: 4.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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REGIONAL SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I Region I Regional

Arlington (8-4) vs. Euless Trinity (12-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
Odessa Permian (12-0) vs. Allen (11-1), 4 p.m. Friday, Texas Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I Region I Regional

Abilene Cooper (8-4) vs. Denton Guyer (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aledo
Wolfforth Frenship (12-0) vs. Denton Ryan (9-3), 7 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field

DIVISION II Region I Regional

EP Parkland (9-3) vs. Stephenville (9-3), 1 p.m. Saturday, Odessa's Ratliff Stadium
Big Spring (8-4) vs. Everman (12-0), 1 p.m. Friday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I State quarterfinals

Abilene Wylie (10-2) vs. China Spring (12-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Aledo

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

problem earlier this week. Slaton leads the team with 774 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

He's been beat up in the last few weeks after participating in 69 plays earlier this month against the Vikings.

"(He) has been consistent and gotten better each week," Kubiak said. "It's a long haul for a rookie but he's bounced back and has played well the last few weeks and will have to play well for us the rest of the season."

The only other tailback on the active roster is Ryan Moats, who was signed from the practice squad last month.

Kubiak said the Texans are focused on improving their running game each week. They're 14th in the league with an average of 114.1 yards rushing a game.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

McCoy passed for two touchdowns and ran for two more as the Longhorns (11-1, 7-1 Big 12) posted the largest margin of victory in the rivalry since a 48-0 Texas victory way back in 1898.

McCoy finished with 311 yards on 23-of-28 passing and ran for 49 more to earn his first win over the Aggies in three tries. He also got career victory No. 31, passing Vince Young to set a Texas record for starting quarterbacks, and set a Longhorns season record with 3,594 yards passing.

Defensively, Texas held the Aggies (4-8, 2-6) to 245 total yards and minus-24 yards rushing. The Longhorns sacked quarterbacks Jerrod Johnson and Stephen McGee six times.

Texas, currently No. 2 in the BCS standings, now must wait until this weekend to see if its national title dreams are intact. The Longhorns are in prime position for at least a berth in a BCS bowl, but need some help if the team that spent a month at No. 1 will be able to play for the Big 12 title and BCS national championship.

A potential three-way tie for the Big 12 South division could swing to No. 3 Oklahoma if the Sooners beat No. 11 Oklahoma State on Saturday and leap Texas in the BCS rankings. Even if the Sooners lose, No. 7 Texas Tech still holds a head-to-head tiebreaker with the Longhorns going into the Red Raiders' game against Baylor.

That's why Texas needed

a big win over a big rival in front of a national television audience. Style matters at this point in the season and the question now is whether Texas' victory impressed BCS voters. The Associated Press rankings are not part of the BCS.

"The voters have a real tough decision," Brown said. "Oklahoma is a great team. Texas Tech is a great team. I do not want to sit here and take anything away from them. This league is better than it's ever been."

McCoy deflected questions about what should happen to his Longhorns at this point.

"We can't control all that. We wanted to leave it all out on the field and we did that," he said. "It's been a great season."

While the final score was lopsided, the Longhorns quickly found themselves in a physical battle.

The game got chippy even before the start. Shortly before kickoff, dozens of Longhorns and Aggies players were exchanging words in the end zone before coaches and game officials broke it up. After McCoy capped an 80-yard opening drive with a 14-yard TD run, he was sacked three times in the first half and knocked down on several other occasions.

The Texas defense, however, held the Aggies to minus-1 yard on their first three possessions.

Texas A&M tried to find a spark in the second quarter with McGee, who beat Texas the last two years but has been relegated to backup duty most of this season.

McCoy passed for 207 yards but could only lead

DIVISION II Region I Regional

Monahans (10-2) vs. Bridgeport (11-0), 6 p.m. Friday, Sweetwater
Sweetwater (10-2) vs. Liberty Hill (12-0), 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Brownwood

CLASS A DIVISION I State quarterfinals

Canadian (10-1) vs. Stanton (7-5), 2 p.m. Friday, Plainview
Seymour (8-3) vs. Quinlan Boles (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mineral Wells

SIX-MAN DIVISION I State quarterfinals

Meadow (10-2) vs. Follett (9-2), 5 p.m. Friday, Amarillo River Road
Garden City (11-1) vs. Fort Davis (12-0), 6 p.m. Friday, Wink

DIVISION II State quarterfinals

Lefors (9-2) vs. Silverton (8-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, site TBD
Sierra Blanca (7-2) vs. Borden County (11-0), time TBD Saturday, Pecos
Woodson (8-4) vs. Roscoe Highland (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Trent
Walnut Springs (8-3) vs. Star (10-0), TBD

"That's been a point of emphasis for us," Kubiak said. "We've run the ball well at times and we've struggled at times. So we got to do what we got to do to move the ball, but I think we're like anybody else, we'd love to be able to run the football."

Quotable

Kubiak on if he's worried about the durability of QB Matt Schaub, who is out with a knee injury and has missed nine games in the last two seasons.

"It's a concern. We've had him for two years and he's played some very good football for us but he's missed a lot of time and part of being a great quarterback in this league is finding a way to stay there for your team every week. It's been unfortunate but at the same time it's something we have to get figured out and find a way to keep him healthy and he has to find a way to stay healthy because that's the key to his career."

A&M to a first-half field goal. Johnson returned in the fourth.

"I just wanted to get out there and play, just get out there with the guys and play the game I love so much," McGee said. "I'm just thankful for one final opportunity to put on the maroon and white and suit up and go get in there and compete."

McCoy's TD passes of 20 yards to Brandon Collins and Quan Cosby made it 21-3 at halftime. The strike to Cosby came three plays after McCoy had been staggered with a hard hit to the chest. McCoy dodged a pass rusher, ran to his right and fired back across the field to Cosby in the end zone.

"Colt started making plays to turn that thing around," Brown said. "He made a huge statement tonight. I do think he's the best player, he's the most valuable player, on one of the best teams in the country."

In the third, Texas marched 80 yards on five plays and McCoy got his second rushing TD, this one covering 16 yards. McCoy split two defenders and got spun high in the air when he leaped between them at the goal line.

The Aggies have struggled mightily under first-year coach Mike Sherman in a season that began with a loss at home to Arkansas State and never got any better. The Aggies went winless in the Big 12 South for the first time.

"I think this program, this team, this family, this organization is headed in the right direction," Aggies defensive lineman Alton Dixon said. "It's basically coming down to just winning the game."

CANYON

Continued from Page 1B

High Money Winner for Junior Steers and reserve champion in the Calf Riding State Finals. He finished 12th in junior steers at the State Finals.

In August, he received a

wild card into the Youth Bull Riders World Finals in Fort Worth for his efforts.

He competed in the junior steers competition and placed 14th out of 43 participants from across the United States.

Atkinson has already qualified for next year's world finals, which will be

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

they're going to play three straight tough foes: Pittsburgh, the New York Giants and Baltimore. Another stumbling block is their woeful recent history in Decembers — no winning records in the month since 2001.

"We had a rough patch and we're still not out of it," Romo said. "We've still got to go forward and keep putting together wins to get in the playoffs. Our confidence level is that on any given Sunday we can compete with the best of anybody. It'll be interesting to see how we do going forward."

About the only tense moments Thursday came in the third quarter, and they had nothing to do with the score. It was Marion Barber going out with a dislocated right pinkie toe, then Ware limping off with an aching left knee. Ware felt good enough that no exams were immediately done, but will still have an X-ray and an MRI to make sure everything is OK.

"At this moment, I feel good about both of those players," team owner Jerry Jones said.

The Seahawks lost their fifth straight game and fell to 2-10. It matches the most losses outgoing coach Mike Holmgren has had in his 17 years in the NFL, and there are four games left.

Seattle was within a touchdown of winning its past three games, but this one was never close after former Dallas running back Julius Jones fumbled on the Seahawks' first possession. The Cowboys wound up driving for a touchdown that made it 14-0; it was 24-3 midway through the second quarter.

"Coach told us we had to be close to perfect to beat these guys," Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "We haven't played been close to playing like that all season. If they keep playing the way they are, they have a chance to win it all. There was a time when we were that talented bunch with no injuries. It hasn't been like that for us this season."

Hasselbeck was 22-of-38 for a season-high 287 yards. He threw one interception and endured the most sacks (seven) the Cowboys defense has collected since getting nine on Nov. 9, 1997.

Jones was held to 37 yards on 11 carries in his return to Texas Stadium. Dallas fans booed every time he got the ball.

"It's a term of endearment to me," Jones said. "It just means they respect you."

Romo started 12-of-14 for 198 yards and two touchdowns, with Barber scoring once in between. It was the first time all season the Cowboys scored touchdowns on three straight drives.

And it was the first time they'd started a game that way since Oct. 9, 1994, according to Stats Inc.

Another indication of how easy it was: Dallas gained first downs on 17 of their first 23 plays.

"T.O. will tell you I'm playing at a ridiculously high level," Romo said, smirking.

Romo finished 22-of-33 for 331 yards and three

touchdowns with an interception. Jason Witten was a big part of the offense for the first time since breaking a rib, catching nine passes for 115 yards (both season highs) and a touchdown.

Terrell Owens had five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown. He blew his chance for a second straight 100-yard game by dropping a wide-open slant in the fourth quarter.

"Obviously, this helps out a lot but I think somebody in the locker room said last week, if the season ended today, we're still left out (of the playoffs)," Witten said. "You've got to have that mentality and understand the challenges that are ahead. It's still going to be even tougher as December rolls around."

Notes: This was the Cowboys' last Thanksgiving at Texas Stadium. They went 22-14 playing under the hole in the roof. ... Romo is 3-0 on the holiday, with great numbers: 65-of-91 (71.4 percent) for 832 yards with 10 touchdowns and two interceptions. ... The Seahawks aren't big on Thanksgiving in Dallas. They're 0-2, losing by a cumulative score of 85-16. ... Dallas rookie TE Martellus Bennett caught a touchdown pass for the third straight game.

Eagles 48, Cardinals 20

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb got pulled for Kevin Kolb again. This time, he earned a seat on the bench with a superb performance instead of a stinker.

McNabb threw four touchdown passes, Brian Westbrook tied a team record with four scores and the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Arizona Cardinals 48-20 on Thursday night.

"Adversity always happens in our position," McNabb said. "It's how you pull yourself out of it. I knew coming into this game if I just continued to be myself and know what I'm seeing out there and react, good things will happen."

Just four days ago, McNabb was benched for the first time in his career at halftime of a 36-7 loss at Baltimore. The Eagles only trailed 10-7 when coach Andy Reid decided to put Kolb in after McNabb threw five interceptions and lost two fumbles in his previous seven quarters.

But Reid gave McNabb another chance and the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback responded with his best game since Week 1.

He completed 27 of 39 passes for 260 yards and a passer rating of 121.7. Kolb ran out the clock while McNabb celebrated the win on the sideline.

"He was very determined, he commanded the offense, he relaxed and played very well," Reid said. "He blocked everything out and went about his business. It's a credit to him and the kind of guy he is."

Westbrook, playing with a sore ankle and knee, had 110 yards rushing and 20 more receiving.

He had two TDs on the ground and two receiving. Wideout Irving Fryar was the last Eagles player to score four TDs in 1996.

"We need this game. It was a little vindication for

held in August 2009 in Fort Worth.

He would like to think all his sponsors who have supported him in achieving his goals.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

my offensive line. We did a great job," Westbrook said.

The Eagles (6-5-1) desperately needed to win to maintain their slim playoff hopes.

They'll have a few extra days to prepare for the New York Giants (10-1) on Dec. 7.

The Cardinals (7-5) will clinch their first division title in 33 years if San Francisco loses at Buffalo on Sunday.

Titans 47, Lions 10

DETROIT — The Tennessee Titans wanted to re-establish the run to get back on track after losing for the first time.

The Detroit Lions were very accommodating.

Chris Johnson ran for 125 yards and scored twice in the first quarter and LenDale White had two touchdowns in the second and finished with 106 yards rushing, setting up Tennessee for a 47-10 win over Detroit on Thursday.

"It's nice to be able to do what you set out to do," coach Jeff Fisher said. "Both backs got a lot of yards on their own, but they got a lot of help up front."

Johnson was untouched on a short run to the outside and a long gain up the middle.

The two plays were symbolic of the canyon-like gap between the once-beaten Titans and the winless Lions.

Tennessee (11-1) bounced back from its 21-point loss at home to the New York Jets quickly, surging to a 28-3 lead early in the second quarter.

"We hit the first punch and they fell," White said.

With a 34-point lead midway through the fourth, quarterback Vince Young played for the first time since spraining his left knee in the opener. He skipped a scheduled MRI exam a day later, then prompted a police search when he panicked someone by taking off hours later without his cell phone.

"I'm good," Young said as he walked away from reporters. "I'll talk about it Monday."

The Lions (0-12) moved a step closer to becoming the NFL's first 0-16 team, losing by a franchise-worst 37 points and giving up a franchise-record 47 points in their 69th game on Thanksgiving.

"We only confirmed what everybody was thinking about us as far as outside of Detroit and in Detroit," kicker Jason Hanson said. "I know everybody in here feels embarrassed that we did that on national TV."

Coach Rod Marinelli refused to acknowledge he was embarrassed, insisting the Lions were only beaten.

"We got handled in all areas — coaches, players, offense, defense, special teams," Marinelli said.

The Lions fell to 10-34 in nearly three seasons under Marinelli and lost for the 19th time in 20 games, leading to more questions about whether he deserves to keep his job.

Marinelli said he doesn't expect to be fired.

"The record doesn't show it, but I have great belief in myself," Marinelli insisted.

The Lions finish at Indianapolis, against New Orleans and at Green Bay.



Chance McMurray, 8, and Laurie McMurray, 14, show off their holiday spirit with a Santa Claus made from tumbleweeds at their home in Sand Springs. They are the children of Dale and Barbara McMurray.

Courtesy photo

National heritage day honors American Indians

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — For the first time, federal legislation has set aside the day after Thanksgiving — for this year only — to honor the contributions American Indians have made to the United States.

Frank Suniga, a descendant of Mescalero Apache Indians who lives in Oregon, said he and others began pushing in 2001 for a national day that recognizes tribal heritage.

Suniga, 79, proposed his idea to a cultural committee that is part of the Portland-based Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. The organization took on the cause of a commemorative day, as did the National Congress of American Indians and other groups.

Congress passed legislation this year designating the day as Native American Heritage Day, and President George W. Bush signed it last month.

The measure notes that more Americans Indians than any other group, per capita, serve in the U.S. military. It also cites tribes' artistic, musical and agricultural contributions.

"The Indians kept the Pilgrims alive with turkeys and wild game," Suniga said. "That's the reason it was attached to the Thanksgiving weekend."

After the Thanksgiving weekend, Suniga said, he and other advocates plan to lobby to place the Native American Heritage Day on the nation's calendar annually.

It isn't certain, however, that all tribes would agree that the fourth Friday in November is the best day to recognize their contributions and traditions.

"Thanksgiving is controversial to some people," said Joe Garcia, director of the National Congress of American Indians.

Inactivity puts coronary patients in jeopardy, study finds

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP) — More doctors should prescribe exercise therapy along with antidepressants for their heart disease patients coping with the blues, according to a study published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study broke new ground in identifying lack of physical activity as the main culprit behind depressed patients' increased risk of a heart attack, stroke or other cardiac problems, as op-

posed to possible biological side effects of depression.

For years, it's been known depressed patients have higher rates of recurring cardiac complications, but the reasons have been unclear.

But the findings also mean genuine healing for these patients can only come from a more challenging remedy — physical activity — as opposed to simply popping another pill.

"That's the good news and the bad news," said Dr. Mary Whool-

ey, lead author of the study and a researcher with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco. "It's something really cheap we can do. The bad news is it's hard to get people to change their behaviors."

The study of 1,017 Bay Area adults with coronary disease found those with depression had a 31 percent increased risk of a recurring heart attack, stroke or other cardiovascular event, and that antidepressants did little to lower that rate.

Regular physical activity, however, virtually wiped out the increased risk.

The study is another "call to action" to provide more physical rehabilitation services for patients with cardiovascular disease, said Marie Bass, executive director of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Chicago.

Currently, only about 30 percent of these patients are referred to such services, according to a

2007 report by three major cardiology groups, including Bass's organization and the American Heart Association, leaving the rest to devise their own physical therapy regimes.

"If you can't get these guys into formal rehabilitation, it's not going to happen," said Dr. Junaid Khan, president of the East Bay division of the American Heart Association and a cardiac surgeon with Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, with campuses in Berkeley and Oakland.

SALES

Continued from Page 1A

he was impressed with how the customers conducted themselves.

"I was very pleased with how it went. Everyone was very cool, even when they weren't able to get what they came for," he said.

Kim Buckner, manager

of the Bealls department store in the Big Spring Mall, reported similar reactions to the store's early-bird specials.

"It's been four or five years since we've had the early-bird sales on Black Friday, and the response today has been very good," said Buckner. "We opened at 7 a.m. this morning, and most of the focus from

the shoppers has been on family. We know this is tough economic times, but it seems like most of our shoppers have been saving up for this.

"You would expect to see more credit cards being used, but we're not, and I think that says a lot about how well prepared our local shoppers are. The only real difference we're see-

ing is shoppers aren't buying in bulk like they have in the past."

Buckner said denim apparel seems to be the hot item so far this shopping season.

And while many businesses hoped to cash in on the Black Friday ticket with early-morning sales, the management at the local Maurice's clothing

store say they are taking a slightly different approach.

"We opened our doors at 9 this morning," said Manager Jenny Meyer. "We're hoping for a good turnout and will be staying open until 9 this evening. We're just hoping everyone hasn't already gone to Midland by that time."

Meyer said denim and

sweaters are expected to be the hot items at Maurice's this holiday season.

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

intended to pay for public schools.

The fraction of the projected \$11 billion surplus that was left unencumbered will almost certainly be eaten up early in the upcoming legislative session by costs of Ike and Medicaid enrollment growth. Those items could cost together as much as \$3.2 billion in the 2008-2009 budget before they even get started on the 2010-2011 budget, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick said recently.

The costs of Ike, the Sept. 13 hurricane that socked the Gulf Coast, are estimated to top \$15 billion total, but the state expects the federal government to cover at least 75 percent of that.

Lawmakers are scheduled to convene in Austin Jan. 13 for the biennial 140-day legislative session. The state budget — \$167 billion for the current two-year period — is the only legislation they're legally required to pass.

The first noticeable chink in the state's economic armor came last month when Gov. Rick Perry urged state agencies to lower their budget requests and cut spending. Agencies responded by cutting travel expenses for training and seminars.

The estimated \$11 billion

surplus was made up of three parts:

— \$5.7 billion in taxes that companies pay when oil and gas is retrieved from Texas land. That estimated portion of the oil and gas tax money goes into the so-called Rainy Day Fund, a savings account that can only be tapped with the approval of a supermajority of the Legislature.

— \$3 billion set aside two years ago to give to schools to make up for property tax cuts.

— \$2 billion that would have been leftover for spending.

But even that leftover amount may not be available as consumer spending plummets and with it, sales tax revenue.

The official estimate — the number lawmakers use to write the budget — won't be known until Comptroller Susan Combs announces it Jan. 12. Depressed consumer spending could further deplete that total.

"We're talking about 'what if,'" Dewhurst cautioned. "We're still waiting to see what the revenue estimate is from the comptroller."

Further exacerbating budget uncertainties, health care costs are rapidly rising and enrollment in entitlement programs is expected to grow with the economic slowdown.

"I think the other problem we face out there is that our economy, as it gets softer, you have more people going in to these programs," Craddick said recently. "And that makes a big difference you can't estimate. You'll see that in (the Children's Health Insurance Program) and everything else."

Even with \$3 billion stashed away for schools, the property tax relief fund will fall at least \$5 billion short of the \$14 billion hole lawmakers created two years ago when they lowered school property tax rates by a third. That's mostly because revenues from the new business tax

— revamped to take the place of some school property taxes in education funding — aren't as much as expected.

This year, it appears that money will be available without having to cut from other state spending. But it will take a bite out of the state's economic growth that would have otherwise padded the surplus. And as the economy continues to slow, it becomes increasingly unlikely that enough money will be available to pay for the hole in tax revenues without creating a shortfall in the future.

At a recent meeting of the Legislative Budget Board, executive director John O'Brien urged leaders to be prudent this session.

"Education, health and human services, health care, employee benefits — they're going to be going against that available revenue and going to get us a little bit out of whack,"

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

New economic team poised to take the reins

Although it has been only three weeks since the election, this already feels like the longest transition in history.

Are we there yet? Nope, there are 56 days left before the inauguration. If that seems too long to wait, at least there's some reassurance in seeing President-elect Barack Obama move quickly to come to grips with the ever-widening economic crisis even before his swearing-in.

Obama's freedom of action is limited. As he has said, there's only one president at a time. He also realizes that there is not a minute to waste. Usually, we don't advise haste in naming a Cabinet that, ideally, should remain intact for an entire presidential term to help the chief executive govern.

These are most assuredly not ordinary times, however. Obama and his transition advisers deserve credit for assembling a full economic team in record time, for staffing it with new faces and old and for presenting the team to the public as soon as possible as a way to signal that change is coming.

Last Friday, a report that Timothy Geithner would become treasury secretary gave the stock market a boost, a rare event these days. As president of the New York Federal Reserve, Geithner is no rookie when it comes to financial issues and the labyrinth of Wall Street, but he is no Democratic retread, either.

Other appointments include known quantities such as Lawrence Summers to run the National Economic Council and Christina Romer, a relatively new figure, as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Obama is apparently aiming for an economic team that won't lose time learning the ropes, but whose members can bring new ideas, fresh energy and drive to Washington.

Certainly the country is ready for a new approach. President George W. Bush and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson are doing the best they can, but their credibility is close to zero and they seem to be all out of good ideas. It didn't help that Paulson abruptly pulled the plug on his original rescue plan a few days ago and that he and other members of the Bush team have been quarreling with Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., over reaching out to help Americans at risk of losing homes to foreclosure.

The most discouraging aspect of this crisis has been Washington's impotence in the face of impending disaster. That is why Obama has reportedly decided to increase the size of a stimulus package he will propose to Congress, expected to be far more expensive than the \$175-billion package he outlined some time back. Powerful medicine is needed for a powerful fever. Americans can't be blamed for counting the days until there's a new doctor in the house.

THE MIAMI HERALD

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

Let's talk classic Christianity

Revisiting a classic is always a little risky. I've lost count of the number of films that I was convinced would never date which seem kind of cheesy now. Not that the twist in the movie was cheesy, but the general coolness of the entire scenario. There are those that I enjoy just as much today as I did back then while hearing smaller minds scoff at them.

There are some classics that in the mist of tipping a few tacky meters, just have to be revisited and appreciated. How can you not love the jaw dropping wonder of a classic twist or ending? As a writer I do my best to avoid exclamation marks but there's no way to properly express the following spoilers without animated written expletive.

Charlton Heston finds the Statue of Liberty and realizes he's been on the earth the whole time. What? Soyent Green is made out of people? You gotta be kidding me!

Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's dad? How's that work? Bruce Willis has been dead through the whole film and he doesn't know it? Good-gooly-moogly!

The Return of the Classic

In 1985, Coke was starting to lose the cola war to Pepsi so they ditched the original for something a little more marketable. The outcry that followed was so incredible they halted production the same week they released it on the public.

Twenty-three years later we can see a revival of classic things from movie remakes to the return of the

American muscle car.

Most of us love classic things.

The Brewer subscribes to Classic Christianity.

You know the kind that says it's not about your history but all about your destiny. A return of Spirit-breathed living that is focused around a real life, resurrected, everything changer. The hope for Heaven yes but the pursuit of abundant life like only the guy who has slapped death in the face can offer.

I think the original Classic Christianity is totally fixated on the intimate personal on-going encounter with the King of the Universe and the result is a never ending transformation into better and better and better.

Oh how the Brewer loves to gulp on that! There's another one of those exclamation marks I am not supposed to be printing.

Anyway, Classic Christianity says I have a problem and Christ is the solution. Classic Christianity also says through Him, I cease to be the problem and play a vital role in carrying out the solution.

There are just so many things I love about this incredible journey of living life naturally supernatural.

Sadly, a lot of people think a return to classic Christianity would be a return to past methods and techniques. There are those among us that really believe living a Godly Christian life means to lock in on a lifestyle of a certain era of time. This kind of accepted wisdom spills over into the ideas of dress, language and the official size and conduct of a church service.

The Brewer humbly submits such thinking, while well intentioned towards an attempt at holiness, comes from a demonic spirit called stupid. Something we have always

struggled with.

It is the nature of an unredeemed mind to always be looking back. Jesus mentioned this when he spoke on 'Lot's wife' and even He didn't know her by name — that's probably not good.

I am not saying we should lock arms with the world, I am just saying that we should be free to go farther and dream a different dream than others before us.

Dave Crone from the Mission in Vacaville, Calif., says the Pharisees were the dream killers of Jesus' day and he's exactly right. If you see somebody today, thumping a Bible the same way we did a long time ago and doing everything within his power to put you in a religious box, know that he is the same kind of person who nailed Jesus to a board and hung him up naked. For your sake, run from him, for our sake run him over.

While I believe without apology that the church of Jesus Christ is the only boat afloat, I also believe a lot of us on board don't understand the heart of the Captain. The Kingdom is progressive. Who knew? His kingdom is without end. There are no limitations and there is no place in the fullness of the world that doesn't belong to him. Go figure. As long as people make methods and function the priority of Christianity instead of relationship to God first and to other people 2nd, the greatest threat to a new move of God will always be the last one.

God help us and save us from the futile attempt of doing Christianity. Propel us instead to live the adventure and responsibility of actually being Christians.

Contact the Rev. Troy Brewer @ www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com

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Bipartisanship: For the common good?

Many say that now that Barack Obama has been elected, we should all work together for the common good. That sounds wonderful until you realize that we don't all agree on what is the common good.

Notice I don't take the position that Republicans should refuse to cooperate with Mr. Obama because Democrats have been indescribably partisan, cruel and unfair to President Bush for the past eight years.

Those are certainly grounds to call them hypocrites, but we must always put the best interests of the nation above petty partisanship — obviously.

So we must ask: Would it be in the best interest of the nation for Republicans to work with Barack Obama?

The only sensible answer is: It depends on what policies Obama pursues.

As much as people want to believe that getting along is the highest good, there are many more important things.

If Democrats were being honest, they would agree with that statement. Otherwise, they owe us an explanation as to why they opposed President Bush at every turn. Could it be they think their ideas on Iraq, the war on terror, education, stem cell research, judges, the environment, immigration and the rest are more important to them than simply getting along? I thought so.

And while certain conservative "intellectuals" have anesthetized or deluded themselves with feel-good platitudes, I daresay that camaraderie in furtherance of policies that could permanently erode our liberties is hardly for the common good.

Yet with Obama's rash of Clinton-era appointments, these conservative elites are already feeling

vindicated in their stated hope that Obama is not a leftist who would govern in accordance with his decidedly liberal record.

But as I anticipate the Obama presidency, I'm — surprise, surprise — far less sanguine. To the extent that Obama charts a course toward preserving our liberties and prosperity, I'll be more than happy to support him. To the extent that he does not, I have a duty to oppose him, for which I do not apologize.

Based on his campaign and everything I've been able to glean from his available records, I believe Obama would:

— Shut down Guantanamo Bay and otherwise make life much easier for our terrorist enemies and others who want to destroy the United States and Israel.

— Fill any Supreme Court and lower court vacancies with liberal activist judges whose decisions would further imperil our constitutional integrity.

— Promote a culture that, notwithstanding the embarrassing denials of such previously stalwart life proponents as Doug Kmiec, would be hostile to the lives of the innocent unborn.

— Initiate a stimulus package that would equal or exceed the \$700 billion government "bailout" package, the sheer magnitude of which is still sending shock waves into America's free-market soul. This, despite the liberals' castigation of President Bush for eight years for fiscal irresponsibility.

— Further open the floodgates to illegal immigration, with the purpose of expanding another Democratic constituency and with utter disregard for the rule of law and whether immigrants assimilate into the unique American culture or learn the English language and American civics.

— Seek to implement endless Draconian measures to satisfy the global warming cult, whose blind faith to their secular religion blinds them — ironically — to real science

and whose ideology makes them indifferent, at best, to the disastrous economic and freedom-zapping consequences that would ensue.

— Pour even more federal money into and demand more federal control over education, consistent with the liberal policy goals of the National Education Association, which are demonstrably aimed at indoctrination, at the expense of academic excellence.

— Continue to oppose school vouchers, to the disproportionate detriment of inner-city minority children.

— Withdraw our troops from Iraq, even against the advice of generals on the ground, jeopardizing our almost consummated victory, the independence and freedom of the Iraqi people, and possibly rendering vain the noble deaths there of American and Iraqi soldiers.

— Impose some form of nationalized health care, which would inevitably destroy, despite its many problems, the best system of health care in the world.

— Implement a cookie-cutter Iraq-type surge in Afghanistan when — as former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's op-ed in The New York Times makes clear — such a course could embroil us in a devastating quagmire.

— Re-sign into law the Censorship Doctrine, otherwise mislabeled the "Fairness Doctrine," with the unhidden purpose of silencing conservative talk radio critics.

We live in very dangerous times. Many of these policies would be very difficult, if not impossible, to reverse and could forever change America.

I ask those of you who place such a high priority on bipartisanship and collegiality: If Obama pursues the course outlined here, should we help him to be "successful" in those pursuits?

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.



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Church News

Baptist Temple Church

This Sunday our morning sermon is titled "Noise." Christmas is a busy time of the year and many of us who are Christ-followers fail to drown out the noise of the holidays and really listen to God.

Sunday evening we will have a dialogue and discussion concerning our church's affiliation with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Our choir presents "Hope Has Hands" during the morning worship service Dec. 7. Our children present "Emmanuel: The Story of Christmas" during the morning worship service Dec. 14, followed by Christmas dinner in our fellowship hall.

All men are invited to our Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, in our church fellowship hall. There is no charge for the breakfast but donations are accepted.

We have Sunday School classes for all ages and they meet at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays.

We also have activities for all ages Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Mondays, we have Financial Peace University class that meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are almost through the course for this semester but will offer it again in the spring.

Our 12-Step group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall. This is open to anyone struggling with addictions of any kind. It is free but donations are accepted to cover the cost of the workbook.

For more information, call us at 267-82876 or check us out on the web at btcbig-spring.org

College Baptist Church

The CBC annual Thanksgiving Banquet was enjoyed by church members and guests Tuesday evening, Nov. 25. The Adult 2 Sunday school department will travel to the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post Saturday, Dec. 6.

With the approaching holiday season, CBC members are ordering poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary.

Many plans are under way for Christmas parties. The youth group have scheduled their gathering

for Friday, Dec. 5, in the church fellowship hall. Adult 3 and 4 are planning their Christmas party for Friday, Dec. 12, in the Howard College Cactus Room.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Morning Prayer will be observed at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school is canceled due to the holiday weekend.

An All Parish Pot-Luck Supper is Wednesday, Dec. 3, beginning at 6 p.m. Join us for a special time of fellowship and prayers.

St. Mary's Church is helping with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Drive. If you don't have time to shop for the children on the trees, you may come by St. Mary's church office and leave your donation with the church secretary.

The youth group will be shopping for gifts Dec. 7. Our church hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Your donations would be a great blessing to all the children we will be shopping for.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The usual Wednesday evening activities were canceled because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Harry Middleton, chair of the Resource Committee, presented the 2009 Church Budget during the worship hour Sunday and asked that members sign and turn in pledge cards at the close of the service. If you missed that opportunity, call the church office to get a copy of the budget and a commitment card.

The Fellowship Hamburger Lunch, hosted by the Worship Committee last Sunday, followed by a "Mini-Worship" in the Chapel, was a well-attended and pleasant way to lead to the Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary was decorated and readied for the Advent season in record time, with everyone joining in the fun.

Ellen Austin is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments this week, which will be in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School time. Come down for breakfast and join in the fun activities for every-

Folks, it's not about the turkey!

Thanksgiving is over. Chances are that most of us have already been asked

about our Turkey Day. Whether we had roasted turkey, baked turkey, smoked turkey or deep fried turkey really is of no significance. After all, Thanksgiving is not about the turkey.

For some, however, the real issue is the stuffing. The cornbread vs. white-bread dressing debate divides the North and South, redefines the Mason-



BONNIE WHEAT

Dixon Line, and has the potential to start another Civil War. I've always suspected that the real issue in the War Between the States was not slavery, but cornbread. All the great political and religious debates on record pale in comparison to the stuffing arguments that separate friends and divide families. Some even heckle each other over whether to call the gravy-soaked bread mixture stuffing or dressing.

Having lived at the top and the bottom of the U.S. Map, I've sampled several dressing recipes. My Yankee friends find the idea of making cornbread dressing as disgusting as eating black-eyed peas, and my Southern friends find bread dressing tasteless and boring. My

solution is just to crumble up the cornbread and the white bread together, sprinkle some sage on it, and bake it without a name.

In God's eyes, it doesn't matter. Thanksgiving isn't about the turkey, and Thanksgiving isn't about the stuffing.

Thanksgiving is about the condition of our hearts. The psalmist wrote: *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:4-5 NASB).*

It will be a whole year before we have another Turkey Day, but everyday should be Thanksgiving.

one.

During Advent, which begins this Sunday, the children, youth and adult video classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall. Activities will begin each week with breakfast served by Ellen Austin at 9:30 a.m. and singing at 9:45 a.m., when we will learn a new Advent song. The emphasis this year is on remembering our homebound members through a cookie project and a Christmas program at Park Place.

Sunday, we will decorate containers for cookies and make Christmas cards.

December 7 we will decorate cookies; then Dec. 14, after breakfast and singing, we will deliver the cookies to the homebound.

December 21 we will practice for our Christmas program, which we will perform twice: once for Park Place residents at 4 p.m. and again for our church at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and share the fun and joy of the Advent season.

Regular Sunday school classes will resume Dec. 28.

Beginning this Sunday, you may purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas. Each plant is \$15 and may be taken home with the buyer after the Christmas service.

Eighty plants have been ordered so you need to get your order in before they are all taken. You may designate a person to honor or

remember with your order. The proceeds from these sales will go to the Youth Mission Trip. Our Youth Group decided, rather than go on a ski trip during Christmas break, to use their funds to go on a mission trip to help those affected by recent storms on the Texas coast.

This Sunday we will collect our monthly Noisy Offering, which enables the service committee to act in feeding the hungry in our community and in other parts of the world.

The lectionary for the first Sunday in Advent is Isaiah 64:1-9, 20-24; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37. The choir ushers in Advent with the introit "Light One Candle" by Natalie Sleeth and the anthem "Come, Come Emmanuel" by Bailey/Mayo.

Rev. Bronaugh's sermon, based on Isaiah 64:9, poses the question, "Why Christmas?"

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Last Sunday's Coahoma Community Thanksgiving Service was well attended. Eddie Pitchford of the Coahoma Church of Christ presented the sermon, assisted by Wes Massey, First Baptist, Coahoma

and Tom Koger, First Presbyterian, Coahoma. 17-19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

The lectionary for the first Sunday in Advent is Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

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18843

sudoku

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	?	

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

- ♠AJ743 ♥8♦97♣KJ852
- ♠KQ875 ♥943♦AJ♣KQ6
- ♠AK962 ♥7♦Q84♣AJ65
- ♠KJ632 ♥10♦4♣Q98753

1. Pass. There is no good reason to bid again over three notrump, despite your 5-5-2-1 distribution. Granting that such hands generally play better in a suit, the fact remains that you've told partner about your preference for suit play and he has said he's not interested.

2. Six notrump. This is a matter of simple arithmetic. Partner's jump to two notrump announced 18 or 19 points, and you have 15. The combined total is 33 or 34 points, which means that bidding a slam is mandatory. Your three-club bid was designed to find out if partner had three-card support for spades, and now that he said he hasn't, you have no reason to doubt that notrump is the best denomination.

3. Four diamonds. A slam is

clearly imminent here also, but this time there is a good possibility that partner's diamonds will prove a superior medium for the slam.

It is certainly reasonable to assume that partner has precisely two spades because of his failure to bid three spades at his last turn. He is therefore highly likely to have five diamonds for his bidding to date. If that is the case, he may find it much easier to make six diamonds than six notrump.

Your four-diamond bid is, of course, forcing. If partner bids five diamonds over four, you plan to carry on to six.

4. Four clubs. This is a tough choice, but the odds favor suit play over notrump. There are two important differences between this hand and the first one.

Your distribution there was 5-5-2-1; here it is 6-5-1-1, which is decidedly less satisfactory for notrump purposes. Also, in the first hand you had nine high-card points, giving your side more than the 26 normally needed to make three notrump, while here you have only six points, leaving you a point or two short of 26. In terms of pure probability, game is more likely in one of your suits — where your distribution can play a role — than in notrump.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Howard County will receive sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on December 5, 2008 for the sale of used County vehicles.

Vehicles are available for inspection at the County Barn, 1011 N. San Antonio St., Big Spring, TX.

A list of available vehicles may be obtained by contacting Jackie Olson, County Auditor at (432)264-2210 or in room 203 of the County Courthouse.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on December 8, 2008 for their consideration.

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
#5984 November 20 & 28, 2008

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Mercury the messenger gets cozy with aggressive Mars. Strong feelings quickly turn into words and a r e exchanged with vigor and heat. The up side: those who want to influence someone will be able to give just the passionate delivery to stir spirits. Do beware that it's also easy to influence people unfavorably with words that are too harsh.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You receive profound spiritual guidance and inspiration in simple, small ways. So there's no need to go into a trance, have a wild dream or pray on your knees for hours at a time. All you have to do is pay attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting your work done might take priority over codling someone's sensitive emotions. That doesn't necessarily mean you're tough. You recognize that everyone will benefit from your efficiency.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't miss anything today and that's why you'll score a rare find or appreciate a beautiful detail. Your sharp eye and careful listening skills are an asset to those around you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be gathering with your friends and neighbors. Whether it's for fun or to accomplish something together, the important part to appreciate is the community spirit you are nurturing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're thinking about the future but are not ready to make your plans yet. Let loved ones weigh in with advice. The more information you get, the better. Knowing the range of options makes you feel more certain about your choice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Public service is a worthy endeavor. The world needs your talents and intelligence. There's something inside you that needs to give back and make things better. Volunteer your help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in a precarious position of power. Action would be effortless for you, but it would also have consequences. Should you push the button and hope for the best? Wait until you're sure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be invigorated by the new people you meet and maybe even inspired to open your social scene to people you don't normally mix with. There is strength in diversity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in the market and ready to buy.

Will this item still be relevant next year? Five years from now? Decide how much use you're likely to get from an item before you pull out your pocketbook.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others peg you for their leader. It's probably because your sense of justice is strong. You're also an advocate for free speech. You may not agree with what loved ones say, but you defend their right to an opinion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have every intention of following the agenda and then something unexpected will fascinate you and lead you away from the plan. You won't feel stressed about this though, and that's what makes you so fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The intensity of a crowd will energize you just as long as it's the right crowd. Go where the shiny, happy people are. The joy is buzzing all around and all you have to do is absorb it.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Your ideal mate supports you in your healthy choices. TAURUS: Avoid the trap of making assumptions about what your partner is thinking or doing. Ask questions. GEMINI: Get lost with someone you love. Finding your way back together is an adventure. CANCER: You gravitate to the people who will bring humor and fun to your life. LEO: You'd like to give a loved one some helpful criticism, but it won't go over well if you do. VIRGO: You are not too busy to devote three solid hours of attention to the one you love. LIBRA: You afford your sweetie the benefit of the doubt and it turns out well. SCORPIO: Listening is crucial. It's part of the way you show your love. SAGITTARIUS: Go over and ask someone to dance -- metaphorically or actually. CAPRICORN: If you agree on financial issues, you've got it made. AQUARIUS: Don't wait around for a huge romantic gesture. It's the small ones that matter. PISCES: In every conversation you are building a future together.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Virgo and Pisces are polar opposites on the zodiac wheel. They are both mutable signs, therefore adaptable to one another's differences. Virgo tends to analyze how the relationship is going day to day and Pisces prefers to feel a way through it. With a little patience they learn from each other's different styles and when they meet in the middle of an issue, each will feel gloriously improved.

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

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Romans 8:6 - The Message

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5 :PM			Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond	In Touch-Dr	BBC	Deadliest Catch	of the Third Kind, Teri Garr	CSI: Crime Scn	Ill, Tea Leoni	Madea's Family Reunion, Lynn Whitfield	Montana	College Foot- ball: Fresno State at Boise State.	Basketball: Old Spice Classic
6 :PM	News	Jeopardy!	Querida Enemiga	Two Men	News	12 Cora-zones	News	Friends	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch		CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Liv Ullmann	Cole	Montana	NBA	
7 :30	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye	Movie: The Polar Express, Nona Gaye	Cuidado-Angel	Two Men	Entertain	Ghost Whis-perer	Doña Bar-bara	Seinfeld	Hagee	Update	Wash Wk NOW	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Jer-emiah John-son, Stefan Gierasch	Movie: Star Wars IV: A New Hope, Carrie Fisher	BETJ Virtual Awards	Montana	NBA	
8 :30			Un Regalo Navideño	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Letra y Música	Office	Sex & Church	Church	Cortes	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: NY	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Brother	Montana	NBA	
9 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Sex & Church	Church	Cortes	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: NY	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Brother	Montana	NBA	
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Noticias	Sex & Church	Church	Cortes	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: NY	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Brother	Montana	NBA	
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Desmadru-gado	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Noticias	Sex & Church	Church	Cortes	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: NY	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Brother	Montana	NBA	
12 :AM	News	Extra	Madre	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
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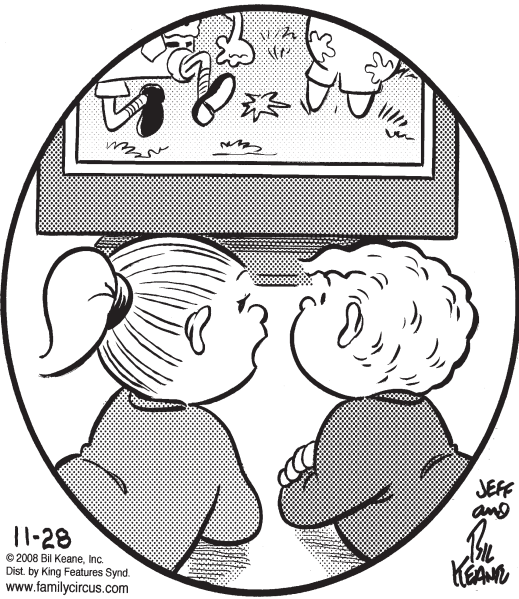
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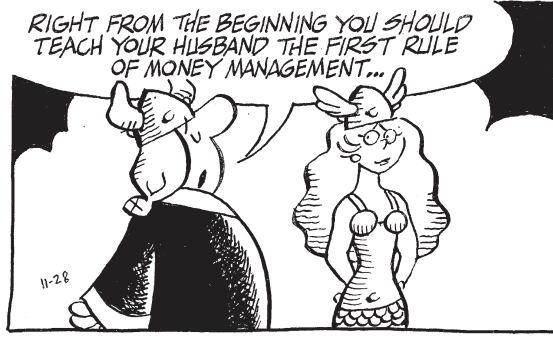
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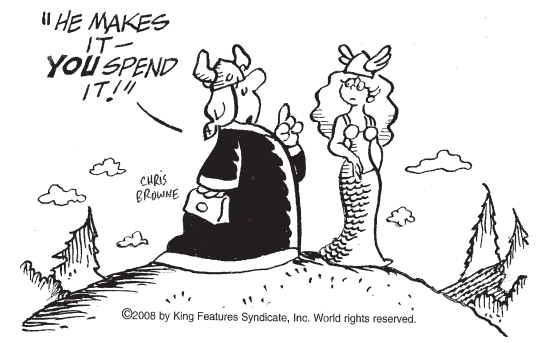
"REMEMBER? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID, 'EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE!'"



"Who do you think is a better actor — SpongeBob or Bart Simpson?"



RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING YOU SHOULD TEACH YOUR HUSBAND THE FIRST RULE OF MONEY MANAGEMENT...



"HE MAKES IT YOU SPEND IT!"

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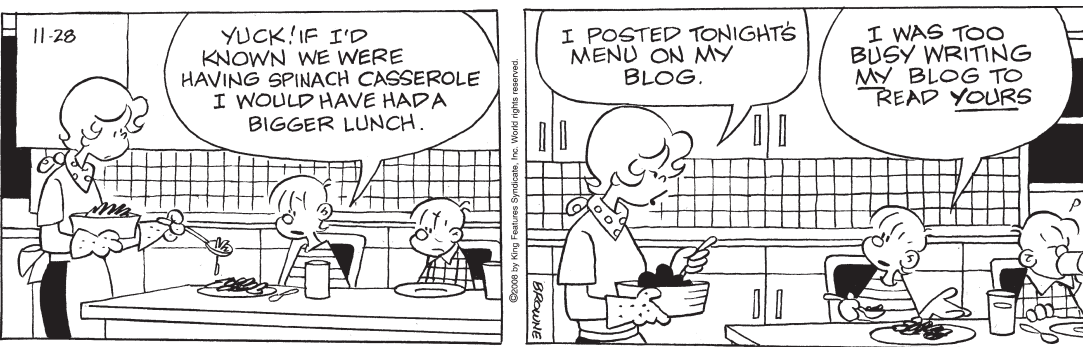
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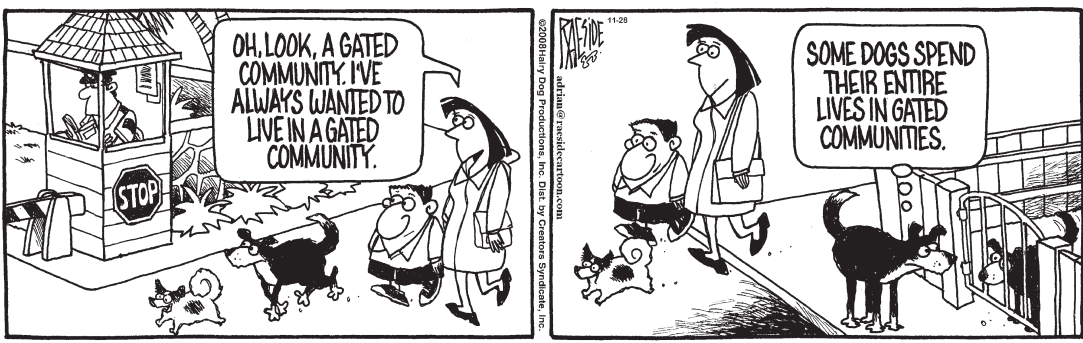
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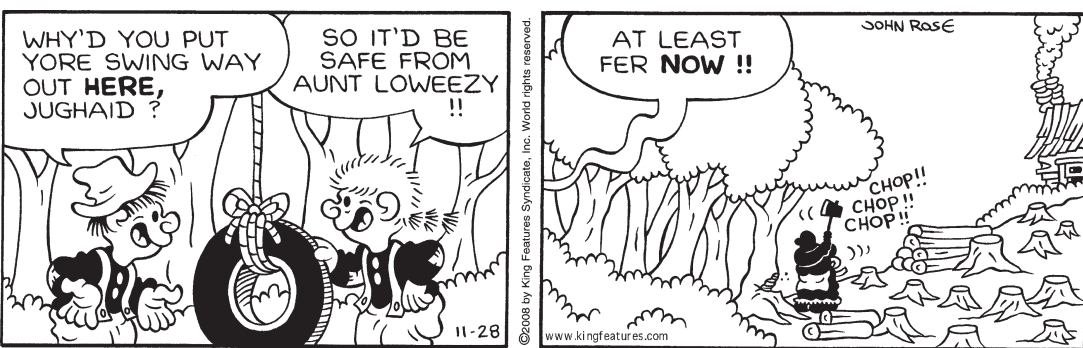
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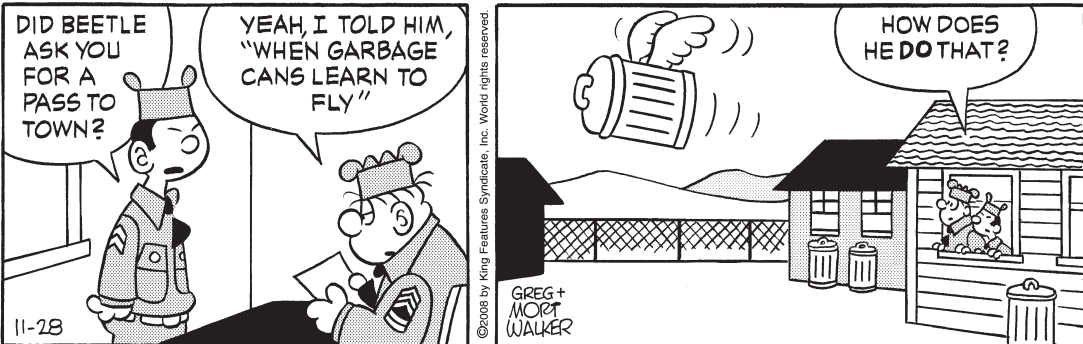
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Nov. 28, the 333rd day of 2008. There are 33 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 28, 1942, nearly 500 people died in a fire that destroyed the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston.

On this date: In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1907, future movie producer Louis B. Mayer opened his first movie theater, in Haverhill, Mass.

In 1919, American-born Lady Astor was elected the first female member of the British Parliament.

In 1943, President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II.

In 1958, Chad, Gabon and Middle Congo became autonomous republics within the French communi-ty.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course to Mars.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1987, a South African Airways Boeing 747 crashed into the Indian Ocean with the loss of all 159 people aboard.

In 1990, Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who conferred the premiership on John Major.

In 2001, Enron Corp. collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegy Inc. backed out of an \$8.4 billion deal to take it over.

One year ago: Republican presidential rivals Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney clashed over immigration in a provocative, no-holds-barred CNN/YouTube debate.

Today's Birthdays: Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 79. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 72. Singer-songwriter Bruce Channel is 68. Singer Randy Newman is 65. Movie director Joe Dante is 62. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 62. "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 59. Actor Ed Harris is 58. Actress S. Epatha Merkerson is 56. Homeland Security Secretary

Michael Chertoff is 55. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 52. Actor Judd Nelson is 49. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón is 47. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 46. Actress Jane Sibbett is 46. Comedian Jon Stewart is 46. Actress Garcelle Beauvais-Nilon is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 40. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 34. Actress Aimee Garcia is 30. Rapper Chamillionaire is 29. Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead is 24. Actress Scarlett Pomers ("Reba") is 20.

Thought for Today: "I am not sure that God always knows who are His great men; He is so very careless of what happens to them while they live." — Mary Hunter Austin, American novelist and playwright (1868-1934).

Answer to previous puzzle

STACK	LUKE	LADED
NYLON	PIP	ORATE
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EDAM	NON	
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ELL	GENE	SPITE
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ODD	EASE	
HOWSITGONNABE		
AGATE	BAR	IDLER
MOREL	TILE	PIANO
YODEL	SEE	EXITS

Newsday Crossword

JUST TEASING by Richard Silvestri Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Pleasure drive
- 5 Unworthy of
- 10 First of all
- 14 To boot
- 15 Opposite of 5 Across
- 16 Knucklehead
- 17 Gavel-wielder's word
- 18 Fit for a king
- 19 ___ history
- 20 Appealing folklore character?
- 22 Indian tune
- 23 Ran into
- 24 Yellowstone sentinel
- 26 Spring time
- 30 Pan handler
- 32 Rainy-plain place
- 33 Super cassette?
- 38 Gull relative
- 39 Three-tone chord
- 40 Atmosphere
- 41 Stage direction for Chaplin?
- 43 Formal observances
- 44 Primitively simple
- 45 Clunker
- 46 Diminutive
- 50 Keystone character
- 51 Straight beam
- 52 Goober work?
- 59 Piece of beef
- 60 '50s car
- 61 Make more effective
- 62 Whom Wednesday was named for
- 63 Championship
- 64 Biblical scribe
- 65 Dweeb
- 66 Sports almanac numbers
- 67 Mousy
- DOWN
- 1 Get fresh with
- 2 Furrow former
- 3 Key, e.g.
- 4 Central point
- 5 Some commerce
- 6 Chicago film critic
- 7 Identifier of a sort
- 8 Face shape
- 9 Erudite
- 10 Embellish
- 11 Hair kerchief
- 12 Words of wisdom
- 13 Grinder
- 21 Revenuers
- 25 Aircraft section
- 26 Mexico City-to-Yucatan *dirección*
- 27 Peak point
- 28 Asian wrap
- 29 Shading
- 30 Whodunit deed
- 31 Clunker
- 33 Valedictorian, for example
- 34 Dog
- 35 Part of NASCAR
- 36 Attend
- 37 Free from constraint
- 39 Elephant sounds
- 42 La-la lead-in
- 43 Transported
- 45 Work units
- 46 Plains roamers
- 47 Stay
- 48 How low you can go
- 49 The way things are going
- 50 Prepared to propose
- 53 Rewrite a bit
- 54 Hammett hound
- 55 Our adversaries
- 56 Soft mud
- 57 Court term
- 58 Security problem

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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65					66				67			

Club News

TOPS

TOPS club met Monday evening at 5:30 with eight members answering roll call.

Leader Laura Sickles conducted and called for the TOPS cheer. Pam Klaus then led the TOPS pledge and Laura Sickles led the KOPS pledge. The Welcome Song was then sung by all members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were ready by Laura Sickles and approved by all members.

The TOPS Club Christmas Party will be held Dec. 15 at Furr's Cafeteria.

Members will meet as usual for weigh-in and then adjourn to Furr's for the party where secret pals will be revealed.

A motion was made and passed, after discussion,

for treasurer Frank Sickles to purchase note cards to sent to absentee members to let them know they are missed.

Roll call showed that Frank Sickles was the weekly best loser with a loss of 3.5 pounds. He was awarded a certificate and \$1.

The contest report indicated Ethel's team leading with nine points and Laura's team close behind with six points.

This contest will end Jan. 15.

The team with the most points will be treated with a salad supper by the losing team.

A program was presented by Laura Sickles about "Holiday Eating." Members were encouraged to use smaller plates, take

smaller portions and say "No" to foods you know are not helpful to your weight loss goals.

Exercise is a great help in our weight loss program by stimulating endorphins in our brain cells and helps us have a higher metabolism to lose weight easier.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) welcomes all visitors and those wishing help and encouragement in a weight-loss regime. Meeting are Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with weigh-in beginning at 5 p.m. at First Christian Church fellowship Hall, 10th and Goliad.

For ore information, call Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at (432) 263-6819.



Courtesy photo

Robert Downing and Sue Ann Damrom stand by Mayor Russ McEwen, who holds the proclamation dedicating November 2008 as National American Indian Heritage Month. Downing, who is of Kiowa descent, is president of the Big Spring Pow wow. He is wearing his Southern Straight Dancing regalia. Damrom is chairman of the Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Indians Committee. The DAR supports Bacone Indian College, the oldest college of continuing education in the state of Oklahoma, and Oregon's Chemawa Indian School, where more than 400 high school students represent more than 70 different tribes. The Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter contributes toward scholarships for these schools at every meeting.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

First United Methodist Church

First Methodist enters the Advent season with a series of special services including portrayals of Biblical characters drawing a parallel between secular Christmas and spiritual preparation. This Sunday's title is "Watching & Waiting," featuring Pastor Sharon portraying Elizabeth after learning what happened to her husband in the temple. Services of worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

Monday, the church offices will re-open and free tickets to The Living Christmas Tree will be available. The tree choir will be practicing every night next week in preparation for the Saturday and Sunday night presentations.

Sunday School classes will provide refreshments each evening for the choir and those completing the tree and sanctuary decorations.

For the first time our church is taking part in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree which will provide Christmas gifts for 30 area children who have incarcerated parents. For more information and ways to help these at-risk youth contact associate pastor Agustin Ypina at the church office.

Come join us for all the special events spotlighting the reason for the season here at Fourth and Scurry. We're First Methodist, where families grow in Christ.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Our credo is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and

grace in our lives."

Our worship begins at 9 a.m. with Sunday school and adult Bible class, followed with coffee and goodies at 10:15 a.m.

Our scripture reader will be Richard Knocke and our acolyte will be Alyssa Byrd. Angela Newton is our organist.

Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 5:45 p.m. will be the confirmation class led by Bobby Roever and adult instruction class continues at 7 p.m. Sitters are provided. Classes were not held Nov. 26 due to Thanksgiving.

The church is waiting in anticipation for Jan. 11 when our charter will be signed by all of the members. On that day, the constitution will also be signed by all eligible voters.

Advent services will begin this Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for this special time. This Sunday also marks the beginning of our church year with Advent and the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Practices for the Christmas program to be held on the following Wednesdays: Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at 6:30 p.m. The program "Away in the Manger" will be held Christmas Eve, at 6:30 p.m. Costumes are available and all ages are invited to participate. A chime choir is also being planned. All neighborhood children are invited to come and be part of the program.

We are waiting patiently for our live Christmas tree. Individual Christmas ornaments will be placed on the tree located in the sanctuary and a smaller tree will be placed at another location.

Last Sunday, the youth met and helped assemble Thanksgiving baskets and then went bowling. Cupcakes and hot cocoa were provided.

God bless you during this time of holiness and

celebration.

Chapel of Faith

As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, the Chapel of Faith will be having an Advent ceremony of lighting of the candles beginning Sunday. Pastor Joel Miller will have a brief explanation of the meaning of each Advent candle. The message will be brought by associate pastor Scott Willis and is titled "Thankfulness for Friends." Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. with a time of fellowship and refreshments prior to the service.

The generous people of Big Spring have blessed us again. We have been given eight pews for the sanctuary. These came to us from the Central Baptist Church and have made the building seem truly a place to worship. God continues to send wonderful people our way and we are thankful. We especially send our gratitude to Central Baptist for this gift.

The congregation will gather at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 for a traditional holiday meal. We will have a brief Christmas program at that time. This will include special music and reading for the Christmas story.

Everyone is invited to Chapel of Faith for all our programs and services. Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. We hope to see you join us this week.

First Church of the Nazarene

First Church of the Nazarene welcomes everyone to our exciting and spirit-filled services.

Sunday mornings, we have a "meet and greet" time with coffee and donuts in the commons at 9:30 a.m. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. with a

Holiday season of hope

With Thanksgiving 2008 behind us and the celebration of our Savior's birth quickly approaching, we now look forward to the most celebrated holiday of the year, Christmas. But before we do, let us reflect upon the Thanksgiving holiday we recently celebrated with thankful hearts and grateful attitudes.

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday as much as my family and I enjoyed ours. What a blessed time we had with family, good friends, and a meal fit for a king. The turkey and dressing were perfection personified accompanied by steamed vegetables, homemade cranberry sauce, yams that melted in our mouths, and more salads than we could eat, not to forget the walnut cake and other desserts. It was a feast we will not soon forget.

Our daughters, Judy and June, giggled throughout the day just as they did when they were teenagers reminding us, their parents, how quickly time moves on. They whispered and laughed of things they did in high school, but still would not share with us their secrets. It was a blessed time to see them enjoying each other's company.

And yet, with all the good food and the

fun of fellowship with family, I had to remind them before the day was over of our most eternal hope that lies in Christ Jesus, and this hope we must all remember.

We can actually celebrate Thanksgiving every day by giving to others, living to be a blessing to those in need, and giving hope to the hopeless. I believe the Pilgrims experienced that hope when they gave thanks to God on the first Thanksgiving nearly 400 years ago. Those 53 surviving Pilgrims must have been filled with abounding hope as they asked God's blessing on the new colony at Plymouth. Throughout America's history, we have acknowledged God as the true source of our protection and provision.

During this season of hope, we should all give thanks to our sovereign Lord for His guiding hand and join together in prayers for our leaders and our servicemen and women, being mindful of God's redeeming promise for His people.

I hope that Christ will be born anew in your heart and fill you with joy and peace so that you may abound in hope. I trust your heart will be filled with generosity to the less fortunate, that your eyes become their eyes, and your feet their feet. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

God bless.



JERRIE STOCKS

mixture of contemporary and traditional music sure to uplift your soul. This is followed by a scripture-based message from our pastor.

Wednesday nights, all adults are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for your choice of one of three interactive Bible Studies in the Sanctuary Building. Kim Shafer is presenting "How to Know when You Are Heading in the Right Direction: Discovering God's Will," by Andy Stanley. Pastor Brown is presenting ministry through various DVD presentations beginning with John Bevere "Driven by Eternity," and Leonard

Hadley's class meets in the commons with various scripture studies.

The youth are invited to Youth Explosion! with pizza and fellowship, youth praise and worship, and Biblical messages addressing "hot topics" held in the "Salt Shaker."

Children meet Wednesday night for Caravan, our scouting ministry that teaches lessons that begin building towers of truth in our children's lives.

Our Prime Timers Group for those 55 and older is at 6 p.m. the first Sunday of each month.

A learning class for 2-3-year-olds will begin at

10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Parents are encouraged to attend a special meet and greet Dec. 7 following morning services.

First Church of the Nazarene's ministry to Hispanics is led by the Rev. Felix and Marta Torres and meets for worship and Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday in the fellowship hall. You are invited to this service that is in Spanish.

Dare to Care Ministry will be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

The annual Drive Through Nativity will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 12-14 in the church parking lot.

Religion briefs

World's largest cathedral plans rededication

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in Upper Manhattan, called the largest in the world, will be open from end to end for the first time since a devastating fire damaged ancient tapestries and a 8,500-pipe organ.

A celebratory rededication is planned Sunday at the Gothic Episcopal church after its restoration.

The entire length of the 601-foot-long (183-meter) building will be open. A temporary wall had halved the cathedral, concealing the scaffolding set up for the restoration work. The fire originated in the gift shop on Dec. 18, 2001.

At Sunday's celebration, the restored 98-year-old Skinner organ will be played for the first time since the fire. All of its pipes were removed, cleaned and reinstalled.

Every inch of limestone, marble and granite surface also has been cleaned.

The ceremony will begin with a procession of bishops and fire department members who helped battle the blaze.

The fire wrecked two rare 17th century Barberini tapestries — part of a set of 12 depicting the life of Christ. They were painstakingly restored in the cathedral's textile conservation laboratory, located on its campus.

"The New Jerusalem," a hymn written for the occasion, will be played on the organ by Bruce Neswick, director of cathedral music at Saint John the Divine. Neswick and associate organist and choirmaster Tim Brumfield also will perform a score by Ralph Vaughn Williams, an English composer who wrote the commemorative piece for the opening of the entire interior of the cathedral in 1941.

Malaysia government sued over seized CDs

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A Malaysian Christian is suing the government for allegedly violating her religious rights after airport officials seized Christian educational CDs that she brought from Indonesia, the woman's lawyer said.

Customs authorities in this Muslim-majority country

confiscated eight CDs from Jill Ireland when she flew back to Kuala Lumpur on May 11 after a trip to Jakarta, her lawyer, Annou Xavier, said late Thursday.

The Home Ministry informed her in a letter that the CDs were seized mainly because their cover titles contained the word "Allah," which is prohibited in non-Muslim religious material, Xavier said.

Ireland wants the Kuala Lumpur High Court to issue a declaration allowing her to transport any religious material for her own personal use, Xavier said.

The court on Thursday scheduled Jan. 30 for a preliminary hearing.

Malaysia's constitution guarantees freedom of worship for non-Muslims, who make up more than one-third of the country's 27 million people.

However, minority Buddhists, Christians and Hindus have increasingly voiced allegations of religious discrimination due to incidents in recent years such as the occasional demolition of Hindu temples by state authorities.

News in brief

Indian commandos free hostages

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Commandos ended a siege of the luxury Oberoi hotel on Friday while other forces rappelled from helicopters to storm a besieged Jewish center, two days after a chain of militant attacks across India's financial center left at least 143 people dead and the city in panic.

While explosions and gunfire continued intermittently at the elegant Taj Mahal hotel Friday afternoon, officials said commandos had killed two gunmen inside the nearby Oberoi hotel and ended the attack there.

"The hotel is under our

control," J.K. Dutt, director general of India's elite National Security Guard commando unit, told reporters, adding that 24 bodies had been found. Dozens of people — including a man clutching a baby — had been evacuated from Oberoi earlier Friday.

The airborne assault on the center run by the ultra-orthodox Jewish outreach group Chabad Lubavitch was punctuated by gunshots and explosions — and at one point an intense exchange of fire that lasted several minutes — as forces cleared it floor by floor, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene. By Friday afternoon, the

commandos had control of the top two floors.

Will the crowds come — and stay — during Black Friday sales?

CHICAGO (AP) — The nation's retailers are set to usher in the holiday shopping season Friday with pre-dawn openings, deep discounts and a downright dismal economic outlook that threatens to keep shoppers' credit cards securely in their wallets.

Stores are extending their hours — some opening at midnight — and preparing for a surge of shoppers searching for discounts that promise to be even deeper than a year ago. But the question remains whether anyone will be spending much money as a recession nears, credit markets remain frozen, layoffs loom and consumer spending shrinks.

"We think the numbers are going to be pretty bad across the board," Morningstar analyst Brady Lemos said.

That's not stopping sales associates at Target Corp. from handing out maps showing just where to find hot items, such as the 26-inch flat-screen HDTV by Westinghouse that's available for \$299.

Malls, hotels next victims in mortgage crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black Friday's retail shoppers hunting for holiday bargains won't be enough to stave off what's likely to become the next economic crisis. Malls from Michigan to Georgia are entering foreclosure, commercial victims of the same events poisoning the

housing market.

Hotels in Tucson, Ariz., and Hilton Head, S.C., also are about to default on their mortgages.

That pace is expected to quicken. The number of late payments and defaults will double, if not triple, by the end of next year, according to analysts from Fitch Ratings Ltd., which evaluates companies' credit.

"We're probably in the first inning of the commercial mortgage problem," said Scott Tross, a real estate lawyer with Herrick Feinstein in New Jersey.

That's bad news for more than just property owners. When businesses go dark, employees lose jobs. Towns lose tax revenue. School budgets and social services feel the pinch.

Thai government backs off threat to remove protesters at airport forcibly

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Women cooked food, gave free haircuts and distributed ice cream to protesters occupying Bangkok's international airport Friday as the Thai government backed off from its threat to forcibly evict them to end an economically damaging stand-off.

The virtual siege by anti-government protesters on the international Suvarnabhumi airport since Tuesday and the domestic Don Muang airport a day later has completely cut off the capital to air traffic, stranding thousands of travelers and tarnishing the country's image.

But the protesters, belonging to the People's Alliance for Democracy, say they won't give up until the government of Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat steps down.

"We are ready to defend ourselves against any government's operations to get us out of those places," said Parnthep Wongpuapan, an alliance spokesman.

An air of festivity enveloped the hundreds of pro-

testers camped out at the ultra modern Suvarnabhumi airport, many sprawled out on the road in front of the signs of different airlines where passengers are usually dropped off.

U.S. sends investigators to help probe terror attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is sending investigators to India to help unravel who was behind the terrorist attacks that targeted largely foreigners in the commercial and tourist center of Mumbai. Three Americans are confirmed among those injured.

The State Department urged Americans not to travel to the stricken city — at least through the weekend — as U.S. officials checked with Indian authorities and hospitals to learn more about the extent of casualties.

A U.S. investigative team headed to Mumbai on Friday, a State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the U.S. and Indian governments were working out final details of the cooperative effort. The official declined to identify which agency or agencies the team members came from.

Department spokesman Robert McInturff said he could not identify those injured, but The Associated Press learned the name of one victim: Andi Varagona of Nashville, Tenn. She called her mother from a hospital Thursday and said she had been shot in the arm and leg while eating dinner at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel.

British government will buy majority stake in bank

LONDON (AP) — The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC said Friday the British government will take majority control of the bank — buying close to a 60 percent stake — after its shareholders shunned a stock offering.

RBS, which has indicat-

ed it could post its first ever annual loss this year, said investors bought just 0.2 percent of shares offered to them in a 20 billion pound (\$31 billion) government plan to recapitalize the bank. The offer, issued last month, expired on Friday.

Under the terms of the plan, the government agreed to buy any shares not purchased by investors.

As a result, the government is expected to buy nearly all 20 billion pounds worth of shares, with 15 billion pounds going for ordinary shares and 5 billion pounds for preference shares.

This will leave the British Treasury owning 57.9 percent of the bank, and sitting on an immediate paper loss on its investment of around 5 billion pounds.

'Space family' savors in-orbit Thanksgiving

HOUSTON (AP) — Seven astronauts piled into space shuttle Endeavour for the return trip to Earth after eating Thanksgiving dinner, leaving their counterparts at the international space station like relatives parting ways from a holiday visit.

After Endeavour undocks early Friday, it was to circle the international space station so shuttle astronauts can photograph the outpost orbiting 220 miles above Earth. Endeavour then will fly 46 miles from the station for a final inspection to make sure the shuttle's heat shield is damage-free before re-entering Earth's atmosphere.

"I'm looking forward to the views," said pilot Eric Boe, who will be at the shuttle's controls.

The shuttle's crew was set to return to Florida on Sunday after completing a 16-day mission. It delivered a huge crate of cargo to the space station, which included a new bathroom, kitchenette, two bedrooms, exercise equipment, and a system that purifies urine, sweat and condensation into drinking water.

The Living Christmas Tree



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