

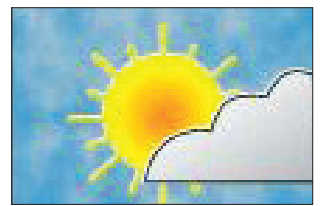
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 3

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Foster new director for United Way

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Nancy Foster has been named the new executive director of the United Way of Howard County and Big Spring.

Foster, the wife of Big Spring Refinery Manager Dave Foster, will assume full-time duties



Foster

with the United Way effective Jan. 1. She replaces Jan Hansen, who has served as interim executive director since September 2007.

The announcement ends a month-long

search process for a new executive director. Foster was selected from among four finalists for the position, according to Tim Yeats, campaign chairman of this year's UW drive.

"They were all excellent candidates," Yeats said. "We couldn't have been more pleased with the

finalists we had."

Foster said she was eager to begin her new job.

"I'm extremely excited and looking forward to the opportunity," she said this morning. "This town has done so much for us this past year, what with the refinery fire and all, that I feel

this is an opportunity to dig in and give something back to the community."

Foster said she will help out the current campaign on a part-time basis before taking over from Hansen.

See **FOSTER**, Page 3A

Tell Me the Story

Living Christmas Tree set for 30th presentation

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Three decades of presenting the Christmas story with beautiful music will be celebrated this weekend when First United Methodist Church presents The Living Christmas Tree.

The 30th annual event will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the church, located at Fourth and Scurry. It is free to the public, but tickets must be obtained in advance at the church office. A dress rehearsal at 2 p.m. Saturday also is open to the public.

The Living Christmas Tree, for the uninitiated, is exactly that — a three-meter tall, 2,000-pound Christmas tree populated by more than 70 singers dressed as ornaments.

"The first time people walk into the church as see the tree ... is rather awesome," said Jim Wright, FUMC music director. "You just look at it and your first reaction is, 'Wow!'"

The theme for this year's event is "Tell Me the Story

See **TREE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

The Living Christmas Tree, First United Methodist Church's annual Christmas production, will be staged at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free, but tickets must be procured at the church office, officials said.

Rabies caution urged

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Local animal control officials are urging county residents to be vigilant — especially outside the city limits — of wild animals that could carry the rabies virus, as a local girl was attacked Sunday by an infected fox.

According to Edward Roach, a resident of the Tubbs Addition south of Big Spring, his 10-year-old daughter Alexis was attacked by a wild fox Sunday.

The fox was subsequently killed and sent to the Department of State Health Services in Austin for testing, according to Lt. Robert Fitzgibbons, who oversees the Big Spring Police Department Animal Control services.

"The tests came back positive for rabies," said Fitzgibbons. "I believe this is the first case of rabies we've seen this year. We've had plenty of animal bites — dogs and cats are the most common — but this is the first to come back positive for the rabies virus."

According to Roach, a second fox, which was found dead, could have also been infected. However, the animal wasn't tested.

See **RABIES**, Page 3A

Local youth creates synchronized display

Chamber: Tell us where to view holiday lights

Herald Staff Report

Fourteen-year-old Cole Pittman has put together a music and light show that is drawing a lot of interest in Big Spring.

The young man has mounted about 15,000 lights to the family home at 2400 Edgemere Road which are all synchronized to music.

Motorists can turn their FM radio dial to 88.5 within viewing distance of the residence from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly to watch the

See **DISPLAY**, Page 3A

Sands ISD nominated for Blue Ribbon Schools honor

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

ACKERLY — Sands Consolidated School District was one of 26 Texas schools nominated for the 2009 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools recognition, state education officials announced Wednesday.

The award honors schools that help students excel academically and make significant progress in closing the

achievement gap.

The NCLB-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student

See **SANDS**, Page 3A

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

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

Dine Out Day Friday

Subway is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Subway will benefit United Way. You can also send a tax deductible donation to United Way of Big Spring, P.O. Box 24, Big Spring 79721, or call 267-5201 for more information.



Hangar 25 memberships

Hangar 25 Air Museum is offering 10 percent off during its annual membership drive. The special offer runs until Jan. 1. The museum highlights Big Spring's role in aviation, honors veterans and holds various activities — many of them youth-related.

One-year memberships, with the 10 percent discount, are student, \$13.50; individual, \$27; family, \$54; sponsor, \$90; supporting, \$225; patron, \$450; and founder, \$900. Checks or money orders may be made to Hangar 25 Air Museum, 1911 Apron Drive, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 264-1999.

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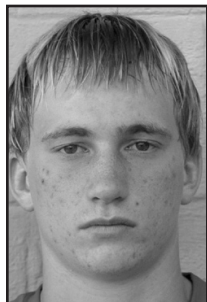


Noland, Johnson headline 7-A honors

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Several Buffaloes from Forsan and Stanton were honored Monday as District 7-A released its All-District football awards.

Headlining the list for Stanton was senior running back Robbie Noland as he was named Offensive Most Valuable Player. For Forsan, it was freshman running back Ty Johnson receiving the



Noland

most notable reward as he was selected Newcomer of the Year.

Noland led Stanton three rounds deep into the postseason when most preseason publications had the Buffs not even qualifying for the playoffs. The senior tailback posted 10 100-yard rushing games and topped 200 yards in two of them, including a 250-yard performance in Stanton's second playoff game vs. Morton.

Johnson didn't start



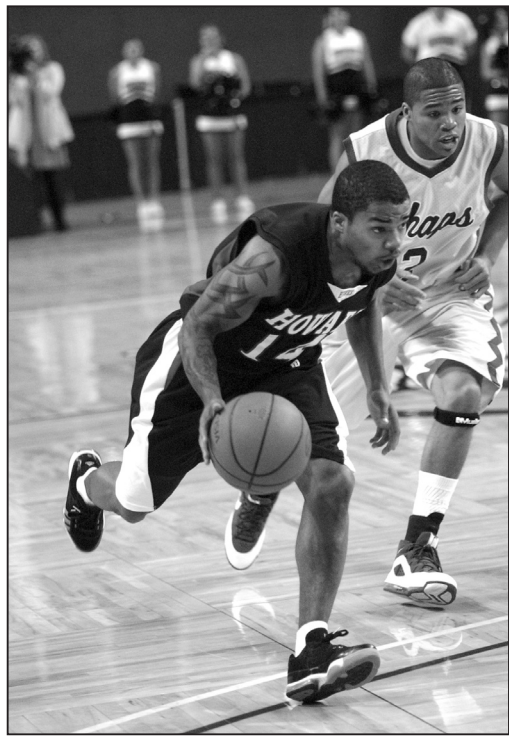
Johnson

the season on Forsan's varsity squad, but was moved up from the junior varsity before district play. His impact was immediate and he turned out to be one of Forsan's top playmakers throughout the season. He was a unanimous selection for the award.

Unfortunately, the Buffs finished 2-8 on the year, but did go out with a win over Tahoka.

Eight other Forsan athletes and 13 more Stanton players, including four of the Buffs' five starting offensive linemen, were named to the first or second all-district team.

See 7-A, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College point guard Denzel Barnes drives to the lane in the Hawks' 74-66 loss to Midland College at the Chap Center in Midland Wednesday.

Hawks fight, come up short vs. Chaparrals

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Howard College's men's basketball team proved to be fighters in Wednesday's Western Junior College Athletic Conference opener vs. Midland College's Chaparrals.

However, the Hawks' efforts weren't quite enough as the No. 8 Chaps used an early surge to put just enough distance between themselves and Howard for a 74-66 win.

Things were ugly early for Howard as the Chaps (11-1, 1-0) scored the first 10 points of the game. The Hawks first bucket didn't come until 16:00 mark in the first half.

Midland's lead ballooned to 28-9 midway through the opening stanza. Howard made a small surge before half-time, though, cutting the margin to 14 at the break, 39-25.

Midland started the second half much like the first.

The Chaps once again scored the first 10 points of the frame, jumping out to a 24-point lead, 49-25.

However, Howard continued to fight and chipped away at the lead, picking up big buckets from Denzel Barnes and Vladimir Gavranic.

The Hawks cut Midland's lead to 6 with just 34 seconds to play, but the Chaps proved clutch at the free throw line to ice the game.

Howard (8-3, 0-1) hosts Frank Phillips College (9-3, 0-0) at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

See HAWKS, Page 2B

Team	Conference	Overall
Odessa College	1-0	12-0
South Plains	1-0	10-0
Midland College	1-0	11-1
New Mexico JC	1-0	11-2
Howard College	0-1	8-3
Western Texas	0-1	8-3
Frank Phillips	0-0	9-3
Clarendon College	0-1	8-5
NMMI	0-1	4-8

Wednesday's results: Midland College 74, Howard College 66; South Plains 58, Western Texas 46; Odessa College 106, Clarendon College 83; New Mexico JC 94, New Mexico Military Institute 58.

Saturday's games: Frank Phillips at Howard College; Midland College at New Mexico JC; Odessa College at South Plains.

The one that slipped away

HC women lose thriller to MC, despite leading through most of game

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Only one thing was on the mind of Howard College women's basketball coach Earl Diddle after the Hawks lost to Midland College, 55-51, Wednesday night at the Chaparral Center in Midland — the Hawks should have won.

"Not many teams can come into this building and have a double-digit lead in the second half," said a visibly frustrated Diddle. "For us to lose this game the way we did is disappointing."

Howard has been haunted by rebounding all season and its inability to secure defensive boards consistently cost them a huge upset over the fourth-ranked team in the country Wednesday.

With less than two minutes to play, the Hawks held a 51-50 advantage after leading by as many as 12 points in the second half. Midland's Lyrell Barfield missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw attempt, but teammate Lauren Mansfield hustled for the offensive board. Mansfield dished back to Barfield, who drove the lane and banked in a floater, giving Midland a 1-point advantage with 1:41 left in the game.

See HC, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College guard Tamara Wallace (left) is fouled as she attempts a layup in the Hawks' 55-51 loss to Midland College at the Chap Center in Midland Wednesday. Howard falls to 12-2 with both losses occurring against Midland.



AP file photo/Charlie Riedel

Texas coach Mack Brown questions an official during the first quarter of an NCAA football game against Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., Nov. 15. The best chance Texas has to be crowned national champion this season likely lies with the members of the media who vote in The Associated Press college football poll.

Texas' title could come from AP

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — The best chance Texas has to be crowned national champion this season likely lies with the members of the media who vote in The Associated Press college football poll.

The Longhorns are the latest team to feel slighted by the Bowl Championship Series, though the twist this time was coach Mack Brown's team has the Big 12 to blame as much as the BCS standings.

Oklahoma, which lost 45-35 to Texas in October, slipped ahead of the Longhorns in the latest BCS standings and earned a spot in the Big 12 title game against Missouri Saturday.

The Big 12 had to go to its fifth tiebreaker, best BCS ranking, to break a three-way tie in its South Division between Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech.

The tiebreaker not only put the Sooners in position

to win the league championship, but a win against Missouri virtually guarantees Oklahoma a spot in the BCS national title game in Miami on Jan. 8 against the winner of the Southeastern Conference championship.

But Texas still has hope. If Missouri beats Oklahoma, Texas is the presumptive next-in-line to reach the BCS title game.

The Tigers (9-3) don't seem to be up to the task of stopping the Sooners, who have scored at least 60 points in their last four games.

Missouri is a 17-point underdog, and its only two losses last season were to Oklahoma.

Depending on the Tigers leaves the Longhorns a long shot to get to Miami.

Texas might be better off turning its attention to the AP poll.

If Alabama were to win the BCS title game, the

See TEXAS, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring schedules Fall Sports Banquet

Big Spring High School has scheduled its Fall Sports Banquet for 6 p.m. Monday at the high school's cafeteria.

All athletes who participated in football, volleyball and cross country will be recognized.

Tickets are \$12 and can be bought at the door. For more information, call Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

Amigo's Washer Club sets date for winter tourney

The Amigo's Washer Club is holding its Winter Washer

Tournament Saturday, Dec. 13, at the La Verda Club.

It's a two-man team competitions with the entry fee being \$20 per team. First, second and third place prizes will be given away.

All wanting to play must be registered by 12:30 p.m. the day of the tourney.

For more information, call 466-9969.

Obituaries

Charlotte H. Gilbert



Charlotte H. Gilbert, 85, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, and grandson, Kevin Gilbert, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Charlotte was born Nov. 11, 1923, in Big Spring. She married Garland Gilbert and he preceded her in death June 6, 1972.

Charlotte may have been set in her ways, but she dearly loved her grandchildren. She was a Blue Ribbon winner in quilting, needlepoint and embroidery, and loved making things for her large family, which she was so proud of. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include two sons, James F. Gilbert and Galin Gilbert, both of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Sonny Kinard of Big Spring; 19 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, Alvin Gilbert and Grady Gilbert; two daughters, Irene Sinsel and Clara Richey; two grandchildren, Shelia Gilbert and David Sinsel; her parents; five brothers and three sisters.

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

Paid obituary

Alvina C. Gutierrez



Alvina C. Gutierrez, 69, of Findlay, Ohio died Friday, Nov. 28, 2008, in the intensive care unit at Blanchard Valley Hospital. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Findlay. Rosary and visitation was held Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, at the Kirkpatrick-Behnke Funeral Home. Burial took place in the church cemetery.

She was born Nov. 29, 1938, in Robstown to the late Jose Jr. and Isabele (Almanza)

Cisneros. Alvina married Joe P. Gutierrez Jr. and they were divorced.

Surviving are seven children, Joe Gutierrez III of Dade City, Fla., Glenn E. Gutierrez of Findlay, Cherry A. and Tony Martinez of Fostoria, Ohio, Mark A. and Traci Gutierrez of Findlay, James A. and Andrea Gutierrez of Findlay, Mamie I. and Charles Yeagle of Findlay, Idel M. Gutierrez of Fostoria; 14 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; siblings, Gilbert and Regina Cisneros of Big Spring, Aurora Rogue of San Antonio, Rebecca and Henry Garcia of Big Spring, Louisa and Elineo Garza of Buda, and Elvira and Ricardo Flores of Abilene.

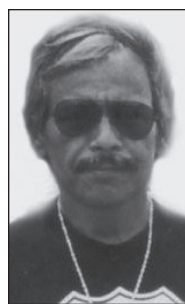
She was preceded in death by a brother, Vidal Cisneros, and a grandson.

Alvina was a member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. Memorials may be made to St. Michael Catholic Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Alvin 'Sonny' Shroyer

Alvin "Sonny" Shroyer, 77, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Vincente C. Carmona



Vincente C. Carmona, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, at Covenant Lakeside in Lubbock. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Teresa Rocha presiding.

He was born Oct. 2, 1950, in Big Spring to Isabel and D.M. Carmona. He lived most of his life in Big Spring, except for 14 years in Lubbock, returning to Big Spring in 2004.

He worked for L.G. Nix and Dale Kirkpatrick. He was a sandblaster and a self employed auto mechanic. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by one daughter, Alicia Carmona of Big Spring; one brother, Desiderio Carmona of Big Spring; one sister, Gloria Carmona Viau of Emporia, Kan.; three grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Ramona Valdez of Midland; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Gloria Jean Carmona; one grandson; one sister, Eva C. Valdez; and three brothers, Joe C. Valdez, J.C. Valdez and Guadalupe C. Valdez.

A memorial fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

Police blotter

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

- MICHAEL HORN, 20, of 100 Canyon, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- ANTONIO IBARRA, 20, of 806 Timothy Lane, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- TAMMIE HORN, 40, of 100 Canyon, was arrested Thursday on four local warrants.
- UNLAWFULLY CARRYING A WEAPON IN A PROHIBITED PLACE was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- THEFT was reported: in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 100 block of 16th Street.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 2900 block of Goliad.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of 18th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Madison.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this report.

- DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone, evading arrest or detention and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of Goliad. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. Third Street. Service refused.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of S. Gregg Street.

Take Note

• The Big Spring Salvation Army will be conducting free blood pressure and glucose screenings Dec. 10 and Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Army's Corps Building, located at 811 W. Fifth St. The screenings are being sponsored by In-Home Care. For more information, contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

• 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.

Your Local Weather

Fri 12/5	Sat 12/6	Sun 12/7	Mon 12/8	Tue 12/9
48/32	65/35	66/45	77/46	62/35
Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s 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 editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-47-6-30-43-25. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 11-32-30-31-19. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-3-0-1. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-1-4. Sum It Up: 14

CORRECTION NOTICE

Fuller Foods Inserts that were inserted in the Wednesday, Dec. 3rd Edition of the Big Spring Herald were incorrect.

The Correct Inserts Are In
TODAY'S EDITION

BIG SPRING HERALD

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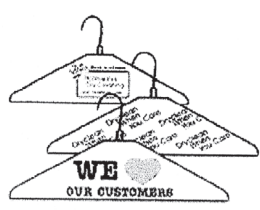
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PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

This week's
games



Jonathan Hull



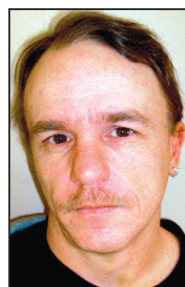
Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Art Barrera



Tim Knox

Silverton vs. Borden County
Denton Guyer vs. Frenship
Stephenville vs. Everman
Abilene Wylie vs. Prosper
Stratford vs. Iraan
Archer City vs. Albany
Oklahoma vs. Missouri
Ball State vs. Buffalo
East Carolina vs. Tulsa
Navy vs. Army
Boston College vs. Va Tech
Alabama vs. Florida
South Florida at West Virginia
Cowboys at Steelers
Texans at Packers
Falcons at Saints
Eagles at Giants
Dolphins at Bills
Redskins at Ravens
Buccaneers at Panthers

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Saints
Giants
Dolphins
Ravens
Panthers

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Albany
Oklahoma
Ball St.
ECU
Navy
BC
Florida
WVU
Cowboys
Texans
Falcons
Giants
Dolphins
Ravens
Bucs

Borden Co.
Frenship
Everman
Wylie
Iraan
Albany
Oklahoma
Ball St.
Tulsa
Navy
BC
Florida
WVU
Steelers
Packers
Saints
Giants
Dolphins
Ravens
Bucs

Borden Co.
Frenship
Everman
Prosper
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Albany
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Tulsa
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Alabama
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Cowboys
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Falcons
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Borden Co.
Guyer
Everman
Prosper
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Ball St.
ECU
Army
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Steelers
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Bills
Ravens
Bucs

Borden Co.
Frenship
Everman
Wylie
Stratford
Albany
Oklahoma
Ball St.
ECU
Army
BC
Florida
WVU
Cowboys
Packers
Saints
Giants
Dolphins
Ravens
Panthers

Last week	14-11 .560	19-6 .760	14-11 .560	18-7 .720	14-11 .560	13-12 .520	14-11 .560
To date	227-122 .650	253-96 .725	237-112 .679	236-113 .676	232-117 .665	224-125 .642	223-126 .639

WJCAC Women's Standings

Team	Conference	Overall
Midland College	1-0	15-0
South Plains	1-0	12-2
Odessa College	1-0	11-3
Howard College	0-1	12-2
Clarendon College	0-1	10-4
New Mexico JC	0-0	8-4
Frank Phillips	0-0	6-6
Western Texas	0-1	2-11

Wednesday's results: Midland College 55, Howard College 51; South Plains 80, Western Texas 51; Odessa College 85, Clarendon College 51.
Saturday's games: Frank Phillips at Howard College; Midland College at New Mexico JC; Odessa College at South Plains.

HC

Continued from Page 1B

It was Midland's first lead of the half and one it wouldn't relinquish as the Lady Chaps prevented the Hawks from scoring down the stretch.

"The whole game hinged on us rebounding the ball," said Diddle, "and we just let them kick us on the boards tonight. We gave our lead away because we couldn't rebound the ball. Turnovers? OK. Bad shots? OK. But not rebounding the ball? That's inexcusable.

"Midland's good, but we've got a good team, too," he continued. "I thought we had something to prove and we played hard. But when the game was on the line, I don't think we went out and attacked to win the game. You can't give

a good team all the second opportunities we gave them. There's a reason Midland is 15-0."

Howard's only two losses of the season have come at the hands of the Lady Chaps. Midland defeated the Hawks in the WJCAC Pre-Conference Tournament in November.

The Hawks (12-2, 0-1) host Frank Phillips College (6-6, 0-0) Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The game will serve as a homecoming for Frank Phillips coach Eric Rodewald, who was the Hawks' assistant coach under Diddle until this season.

Howard defeated Frank Phillips in the pre-conference tourney, 62-36.

Diddle said the Hawks have to have a focus on the boards if they want to bounce back from Wednesday's loss.

"We've got to make sure rebounding is not a factor on whether we win or lose,"

said Diddle. "It was tonight and it was the No. 1 thing we talked about all week. I did a bad job coaching. The team did a bad job executing. Now we go back to the drawing board and maybe we learned a lesson."

Midland College 55,

Howard College 51

Howard (51): Miesha Blackshear 5-6 0-0 10, Tamara Wallace 4-10 0-1 10, Dymond Morgan 0-4 0-2 0, Candice Dryver 3-15 0-0 6, Danielle Cota 2-4 0-0 4, Chassidy Cole 1-9 1-3 3, Clarissa Krum 3-7 0-0 8, DeAndrea Thomas 3-5 0-0 6. **Totals 22-59 3-5 51.**

Midland (55): Lauren Mansfield 0-4 0-0 0, Lyrell Barfield 4-10 0-1 10, Dymond Morgan 0-4 0-2 0, Candice Kohn 1-5 0-0 3, LeeShantea Johnson 1-5 0-0 2, Adrie Hiels 1-2 0-0 2, Shaquira Graham 2-8 4-6 8, Mele Leasau 4-6 0-0 8, Erika Warren 3-7 0-0 7, Heather Sheppard 0-2 1-2 1, Florencia Hernandez 5-13 4-7 14. **Totals 21-66 9-18 55.**

Halftime — HC 32, MC 28. 3-point goals — HC 4-15 (Wallace 2-3, Smith 2-3, Malouff 0-4, Dryver 0-1, Cole 0-4), MC 4-14 (Barfield 2-5, Kohn 1-4, Warren 1-3, Mansfield 0-1). Total fouls — HC 17, MC 10. Fouled out — Malouff. Rebounds — HC 36 (Blackshear 11), MC 54 (Fernandez 14). Assists — HC 16 (Blackshear 4), MC 17 (Mansfield 6). Turnovers — HC 16, MC 17. Steals — HC 8 (Blackshear 3), MC 7 (Barfield 2).

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

Midland College 74,

Howard College 66

Howard College (66): Julien Bottin 0-0 0-0 0, Devon Baker 2-7 2-2 8, Denzel Barnes 6-15 0-1 13, Dante Mente 3-10 0-0 7, Ricardo Zanini 2-11 4-4 10, Shaad O'Garro 1-2 2-2 4, Markeys Deans 3-10 4-8 10, Vladimir Gavranic 5-9 3-5 14, Nikola Mandic 0-4 0-0 0, Melanio Ebdenden 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 22-68 15-22 66**

Midland College (74): Garrett Lever 0-3 9-13 9, Brad

Kelleher 7-12 0-0 19, Charles Griffith 0-0 0-0 0, Marlon Loureiro 3-6 3-4 9, Adrian Van Buren 0-1 1-2 1, Kavon Lytch 3-4 2-2 8, Larry Wilkins 0-2 1-2 1, David Terrell 7-11 1-2 15, Isiah Bazile 1-4 1-2 3, Greg Hill 1-8 6-9 9, Bryant Evans 0-2 0-0 0, Juvon Demerson 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 22-53 24-36 74**

Halftime — MC 39, HC 25. 3-point goals — HC 7-28 (Baker 2-6, Zanini 2-4, Barnes 1-6, Menter 1-5, Gavranic 1-2, O'Garro 0-1, Deans 0-2, Mandic 0-2), MC 6-19 (Kelleher 5-10, Hill 1-4, Lever 0-2, Van Buren 0-1, Evans 0-2). Total fouls — HC 27, MC 24. Fouled out — Zanini, Lytch. Rebounds — HC 45 (Zanini 8), MC 41 (Van Buren 7). Assists — HC 8 (Barnes 5), MC 15 (Lever 5). Turnovers — HC 20, MC 20. Steals — HC 7 (Barnes 4), MC 11 (Terrell 3).

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

Tide would be undefeated and undisputed national champs. Florida goes into the SEC title game ranked second in the AP poll, so logic dictates the Gators would jump to No. 1 by beating the Tide and stay there if they win the BCS championship game.

Texas was No. 3 in the last AP Top 25, ahead of Oklahoma by eight points.

Unlike USA Today coaches' poll voters, who are required to put the BCS championship game winner No. 1 on their final ballots, the 65 AP voters don't have to put the winner of that game on top of their final ballots.

So if Oklahoma wins out, and Texas wins its bowl game, presumably the Fiesta Bowl against Ohio State or maybe Utah, do the 40 AP voters who had Texas ahead of Oklahoma last week keep the Longhorns ahead of the Sooners when the final poll comes out Jan. 9?

The answer, of course, is maybe.

7-A

Continued from Page 1B

Forsan

First team: Chance Pool, DE; Jeremy Robbins, WR; Jeremy Gomez, OL; Garrett Pool, special teams.

Second team: Jeffery Carey, DT; Jeremy Gomez, DE; Ryan Flores, LB; Jeremy Robbins, DB; Alex Huckabee, P; Jace Sandridge, RB.

Stanton

First team: Adam Montez, special teams; Michael Church, OL (unanimous); Grayson Gray, OL (unanimous); Nathan Nix, FB; Tyler Fulton, DB; Ramsey Fleckenstein, CB; Jacob Cazares, LB; Matthew Saenz, DE.

Second team: Victor Villa, DT; Grayson Gray, DE; Blaize Perkins, LB; Braden Anderson, TE; Miguel Juarez, OL; Cody Holt, OL.

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.

	4	7	3	9				
	5							
8	2		9				4	
			4	6	1			
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News at a glance

Dallas police investigation finds 17 officers violated chase policy

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas Police Department's internal affairs investigation shows 17 officers violated its high-speed chase policy during a September chase in which an officer was seriously injured, according to a newspaper report.

The Dallas Morning News obtained the report through an open-records request.

Police Chief David Kunkle said he had not yet been briefed on the results of the internal investigation and could not comment on it.

Senior Cpl. Glenn White, president of the Dallas Police Association, said he believed that much of the criticism aimed at officers has been unfair second-guessing.

"Officers are going out there trying to do the best they can. God forbid when something happens, because when it does, everybody's up for scrutiny and we're all criticized," Cpl. White said.

The 28-minute chase on Sept. 6 resulted from a 911 call in which a woman reported that her ex-boyfriend, Jason Sneed, 27, was threatening her. Officers chased Sneed

from the woman's apartment complex in Dallas to Mesquite and back to Dallas before he abandoned his vehicle and was arrested.

Hispanic Caucus wants Noriega, Ramirez in Obama Cabinet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Rep. Rick Noriega's name is on a list of candidates for President-elect Barack Obama's remaining Cabinet posts.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Wednesday on its Web site that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, in a bid to increase Latino representation in the new administration, presented a slate of candidates Wednesday.

Noriega is being touted for the secretary of Veterans Affairs post.

Noriega, a Democrat from Houston, last month lost his bid to unseat Republican Sen. John Cornyn, who won a second term.

Also on the list is former Laredo Mayor Saul Ramirez for secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

FOSTER

Continued from Page 1A

"Right now, I'm just learning the ropes and meeting the people I need to meet," she said. "Jan has just done a tremendous job the past few years. I've definitely got some big shoes to fill."

The new director was praised for being community minded and for having a strong background in charitable causes.

"Nancy and her husband, Dave, are active members of this community," the UW board of directors declared in a statement. "Nancy brings with her a wealth of experience in the private sector, as well as a commitment and passion for service to the community."

Yeats echoed those comments.

"She's just got a wealth of experience working in the private sector and is dedicated to volunteer work in particular," he said. "That's certainly a winning combination."

While welcoming a new executive director, the board also gave thanks to her predecessor.

"We are especially grateful to Jan Hansen for serving as interim executive director," the statement noted. "Jan stepped up to serve the United Way at a crucial time for the organization. She did not seek the position as permanent executive director, but will continue to help as needed to effect a smooth transition to new leadership."

Once she formally assumes her duties, Foster hopes to educate area residents on the role United Way agencies play in the community.

"I would really like

to get into the community and ... see just what the needs are," she said. "These are difficult times for us economically and those of us who are blessed will need to reach down and help those who are truly suffering."

Yeats said campaign officials hope to wrap up this year's drive within the next week or so.

"We're still waiting on the refinery's (contribution)," he said. "Obviously, with all the things going on there this year, they're a little late getting started ... but they are one of our biggest contributors."

As of mid-November, the campaign had collected just more than \$160,000 of its \$250,000 goal.

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

RABIES

Continued from Page 1A

"People who live out in the county need to be extremely cautious," said Fitzgibbons. "Especially if they have dogs. A lot of people out in the county let their dogs run free, which greatly increases their

chances of coming in contact with an infected animal, such as the fox that attacked the girl.

"The best way to protect yourself and your pet is to make sure they have their rabies vaccination. If you believe your dog or cat has been attacked by a wild animal, they need to be quarantined and receive booster shots."

Fitzgibbons said animals that are kept indoors aren't as likely to contract the virus.

Rabies, which is also known as hydrophobia, is a viral zoonotic neuro-invasive disease that causes acute encephalitis — inflammation of the brain — in mammals. It is most commonly caused by a bite from an infected ani-

mal, but occasionally by other forms of contact. If left untreated in humans it is almost always fatal.

There were 14 reports of rabies in Howard County during 2007, according to records kept by the Texas Department of State Health Services, with just one — a bat — confirmed to have the virus.

Rabies is a virus disease

of the central nervous system. It can be transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal, or through the saliva of a rabid animal being introduced into a fresh scratch or similar skin break, and rarely by other routes.

According to DSHS officials, saliva in contact with unbroken skin — or even on a scratch wound

over 24 hours old, one where a scab has formed — usually will not require anti-rabies treatment. You should definitely see a doctor if you think the animal could be rabid.

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

TREE

Continued from Page 1A

ry" and will feature a mixture of traditional and new Christmas songs, Wright said.

"We'll have 74 singers participating," Wright said. "They come from all across

the community, not just First Methodist."

While the event will be familiar to those who have attended before, Wright said the program is tweaked every year to provide something new. Aside from long-time classics, newer holiday standards such as "The Glory of Christmas" will be performed.

"The music is different every year," Wright said. "Those who have seen it before will know what to expect, but it will be different from the year before."

In addition to the adult singers and orchestra, a children's choir will perform and attendees will participate as well, joining the cast in a sing-along of traditional Christmas favorites.

Although the event is free to the public, tickets are required to attend the evening performances. "The fire marshal makes us do that to keep from overloading the place," Wright said.

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

DISPLAY

Continued from Page 1A

display. The show repeats three songs: "Deck the Halls" and "Wizards in Winter" by the Traqns-

Siberian Orchestra and "Techno Jingle Bells."

Pittman began his show Thanksgiving and plans to continue it until January.

Chamber request

Big Spring Area Cham-

ber of Commerce officials encourage residents who have decorated for the holidays to notify them and be placed on a "places to go and see" list.

"We will make this list available to KBST, KBYG,

the Herald, the Heritage Museum and Hangar 25 Air Museum so that everyone will know the best places to go," said Debbye ValVerde, Chamber executive director. "This would be a wonderful gift

to our community. We appreciate your contributions of beautifying our hometown.

"This will take the place of our traditional Christmas decorating contest and we want everyone to

get involved, so decorate, decorate, decorate and let us know where all the lights are," she added.

Those interested can go by the Chamber at 215 W. Third or call 263-7641.

SANDS

Continued from Page 1A

performance to high levels on state tests; as well as schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests.

Fifty percent of the schools selected are elementary schools; 24 percent are high school, 24 percent are middle schools and 2 percent are prekindergarten through grade 12. This mirrors the ratio of elementary, middle, high school and all grade level schools in the state. For the first time, the list of nominated schools also includes two charter

schools.

Sands was the only West Texas area school nominated for the award.

"There's not that many schools that were nominated, so we were very excited to hear about it," CISD

Superintendent Wayne Blount said. "They only nominated 26 schools, out of 1,000 in Texas ... so this is a very big deal."

The nominated schools will now complete a rigorous application process

that Blount said would take several months.

Announcements of the award winners will be made in September 2009. Schools that receive the award will be recognized at the NCLB-Blue Ribbon School conference in

Washington, D.C., the following month.

"Most of the credit for this should go to our principal, Zelda Bilbo, and our teachers," Blount said. "Our staff really does an outstanding job."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Vincente C. Carmona, 58, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Peace and joy are coming out of hibernation again. They find their way into our songs and greeting cards each December. They begin to influence our attitudes so we pack them away as soon as we make our New Year's resolutions.

I marvel that a baby born in a barn two thousand years ago can prompt people to cheer, affirm and love one another. I cry when people deny that Jesus is the reason for the season. I believe Jesus is the reason for every day and that peace and joy are always available.

A materialistic view of Christmas recently made the news when shoppers trampled a man to death. I wonder if any of the trampers were singing Christmas carols or praying about the recipients of the gifts they were rushing to buy. I do know the scene seems far removed from "A Silent Night" that brought "Joy To The World"

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ESTATE SALE, 3614 Hamilton St. Saturday, 8:00am to 1:00 pm. Furniture, household items, Mom's treasures and trinkets, size 16 clothes and lots of great bargains!

GARAGE Sale. Lots of Christmas Decorations & Tree's. Lots of knick-knacks, winter clothing, costume jewelry, blankets, VHS movies, toys & games, furniture, tanning bed & lots of misc. items. Baby Cockatiels ready for Christmas..... 211 S. Moss Lake Rd., Fri. 9-5, Sat. 7-5 & Sunday 9-2.

MOVING SALE: 2608 Ent. Drive, Saturday 10:00-3:00. Furniture, appliances, electronics, baby items, dishes, women's & men's plus size clothing, knick-knacks and lots more.

MOVING SALE: 717 Colgate. All day Friday and Saturday morning til 10. Miscellaneous household items, Xmas decor, bookcase, TV stand. Too much to move!

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Accounts Payable Clerk
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Please apply in person. Resume required. No phone calls, please. Fiberod, Inc. 3604 Bethel Dr. Big Spring, TX EOE

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346
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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Security deal presents common goal for lawmakers

Since the early days of the war in Iraq, the debate in Washington, D.C., over U.S. policy has called to mind the pushmi-pullyu, an imaginary beast that struggles to move forward because it has two heads that face in opposite directions. With one side in the debate seeking an unconditional U.S. pullout and the other insisting on staying the course, the war has dragged on past five years at a cost of more than 4,200 U.S. troops and about \$600 billion from taxpayers.

But in approving a new security agreement with the United States, Iraq's parliament has given the two sides in the debate the opportunity — no, the obligation — to work together on a common goal. The agreement set a 2011 deadline for all U.S. troops, combat or otherwise, to leave Iraq.

The Bush administration had long opposed timelines, but it went along with the one in the agreement at the demand of Iraq's increasingly assertive government. Assertiveness is not a bad thing from leaders who have been maddeningly slow to claim full responsibility for their country.

While Barack Obama campaigned on a vow to pull out combat troops in 16 months, he's not opposing a deal that commits both countries to a U.S. withdrawal. It won't stop him from meeting his more-ambitious schedule, though his promised pullout didn't apply to noncombat troops, such as those training Iraq's army.

The fact that both Bush and Obama and many of their supporters are welcoming the new deal is a hopeful harbinger that the U.S. political standoff over the war is coming to an end. Perhaps the most conspicuous sign of a convergence over Iraq policy came Monday when Obama formally announced that he intends to keep Bush's defense secretary, Robert Gates, on the job.

Gates oversaw the surge from the Pentagon, but he's known as a pragmatist. His willingness to serve Obama shows the two are not far apart in their aspirations for a responsible withdrawal from Iraq. Obama and Gates also share the objective of redeploying some of the troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, where the Taliban that U.S.-led forces ousted in 2001 has been making a comeback.

Obama will need to be flexible in withdrawing combat troops. A rushed or poorly executed pullout could allow a full-blown civil war to ignite. U.S. troops then could be forced to return in higher numbers, facing even greater dangers.

The agreement could be nullified next year in a national referendum, or Iraqi and U.S. leaders could negotiate a later agreement extending the deadline for troops to withdraw. But the Obama administration would be wise to assume the deal will survive, and plan accordingly.

Gates' experience will be valuable in planning and launching a withdrawal that won't leave chaos behind. So will the background of Obama's pick for national security adviser, retired Marine Gen. James Jones, a former supreme allied commander of NATO.

Leaders in Congress should take a cue from Obama and Gates, and start pulling in the same direction on Iraq.

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

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Obama a Centrist? Like I'm a Liberal

I am far less convinced than many that Barack Obama will be a centrist in office. Despite his announced future Cabinet appointees, I find it amazing that people are so willing to believe he'll change his stripes that fast.

Just what about Obama's very liberal voting record to date causes one to believe he'll be any different as president? I could see an aspiring presidential candidate establishing a centrist legislative record in the state and federal senates to make himself more electable as president, but not the other way around.

There's another red flag that should give pause to those hoping against hope — pun intended — that Obama will indeed govern as a centrist. The very liberal mainstream media are giving Obama nothing but plaudits for his presumed centrist appointments. If they truly believed he had changed his governing philosophy, they would be anything but sanguine.

Even the far-left blogosphere has not thrown in the towel yet. They're not ecstatic, but I think deep down, they know they have a fellow traveler about to take the oath of office. As one writer for the liberal Huffington Post put it, "He will be the president we want him to be."

Also, just because this or that appointee was in the Clinton administration does not mean Obama is a centrist.

The media have whitewashed any liberalism associated with the Clintons and portrayed them as committed moderates.

How easily we forget that Bill Clinton had to be dragged kicking and

screaming to sign welfare reform after rejecting it twice. How readily we ignore his liberal judicial appointments, not only the high-profile Supreme Court justices but also lower-level judges across the board who greatly impact American jurisprudence.

How quickly we give Clinton a pass for deliberately gutting the military he loathed while ignoring a terrorist threat he barely recognized — a weakened military President Bush had to rebuild while taking the heat for the necessary expenditures. How mindlessly we credit Clinton for balancing the budget, when if he'd had his way and had not been checked by the Gingrich Congress, he wouldn't have come close to achieving that to which he never even aspired.

How casually we overlook that Bill and Hillary tried to impose socialized medicine on this nation — an act of such procedural and substantive overreaching that it contributed to major congressional losses for Democrats. How foolishly we excuse Clinton for refining the art of class warfare in the modern era by falsely depicting President Reagan's across-the-board tax cuts as skewed to the wealthy and demonizing the greatest period of peacetime growth under Reagan as the "decade of greed."

But even if the Obama appointees seem more centrist than expected, we must recognize that Obama will be the boss, not the individuals in his Cabinet. People are raving about Obama choosing Robert Gates to continue as defense secretary, but they forget that when Bush chose him, many of us were surprised because Gates was in the "Iraq Surrender Group," which had sharply criticized Bush's policies in Iraq.

But Bush did not soften his poli-

cies just because Gates came on board. He followed his own counsel, just as we should expect will be the case with Obama.

You should note that President Bush received no accolades from the press for choosing centrists such as Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice. In Bush's case, it was just assumed they would do his bidding and not the other way around.

Even if I'm completely wrong about Obama's appointments, I believe it is exceedingly premature to conclude that Obama will govern as a centrist.

I just wonder what some of the people now rushing to applaud Obama as a centrist will say if and when he tries to: implement nationalized health care; drastically disarm our nuclear capacity — unilaterally; sign into law card-check legislation, which would permit unions to undo secret balloting; appoint very left-wing activist judges; close Gitmo and relax our tough interrogation techniques; further open our borders to illegals; inaugurate a gargantuan "new" New Deal upward of \$1 trillion in forced government spending, euphemized as a stimulus package; impose Draconian measures against our economy and liberties under the pretense of ameliorating man-made global warming; or radically alter the tax code to punish the "wealthy."

The liberals inside and outside the mainstream media will say he had to do it to get us out of the economic doldrums, which will be a lie. What will you conservatives say?

To find out more about David Limbaugh, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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The jobs that Americans didn't want

It was bigger than any border wall, more secure than any sophisticated ID card, and more effective than immigration raids and border vigilantes. It turned out to be the most effective weapon for deterring illegal immigration. Who would have thought of it? All we needed to do was thrash our economy!

Now that the so-called "jobs that Americans don't want" are becoming much more desirable for Americans, many of those immigrants who would have come illegally to fill those jobs have practically stopped coming. In fact, some who were here before the economic crisis are deporting themselves back to their homelands.

It proves what some of us have been saying all along: They came because we needed them. It's all about supply and demand. We had jobs for them, things we wanted them to do for us. And the economy was doing so well that most of our fellow Americans felt they had no need to pick crops, wash dishes and cars, mow lawns or work in sweatshops.

But now, as those less desirable jobs are filled by Americans (who may have lost better jobs), illegal immigrants are facing hard times — worse than ever, some say.

They may have been able to enter the country illegally, evade authorities, live in the shadows of society, and overcome prejudice, discrimination and harassment, but when there are no jobs, there's nada! The American dream becomes a nightmare. When illegal immigrants no longer can send remittances to their loved ones back home, what's the sense in staying here? That's just one of the questions many illegal immigrants are asking them-

selves nowadays.

Will more American citizens and legal U.S. residents compete for the jobs that traditionally were relegated to undocumented workers? Apparently, that is happening already. Across the country, we see news reports on illegal immigrants who say they no longer can compete with legal citizens and have chosen to give up their quests to realize the American dream. The number of those who are self-deporting is still minimal, but the number of those who have stopped coming illegally is significant.

According to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center, "The unauthorized immigrant population grew more slowly in the period from 2005 to 2008 than it did earlier in the decade," and it "appears to have declined since 2007."

The Pew report on "Trends in Unauthorized Immigration," released in October, noted that the illegal immigrant population has dropped below the 12 million mark — to 11.9 million. It also noted that since 2007, more immigrants have been coming legally than illegally.

"The Pew Hispanic Center also estimates that inflows of unauthorized immigrants averaged 800,000 a year from 2000 to 2004, but fell to 500,000 a year from 2005 to 2008 with a decreasing year-to-year trend," the report noted. "By contrast, the inflow of legal permanent residents has been relatively steady this decade."

While the study was not designed to explain why the illegal immigrant population has declined, another Pew study released on the same day noted, "The current economic slowdown has taken a far greater toll on households headed by non-citizens than it has on the U.S. population as a whole."

Read together, the two reports lead us to see that as jobs become scarcer and the household incomes of illegal immigrants drop, so does their

migration from Latin America.

No one knows for sure, but at this point, the flow of illegal immigrants already may be in reverse — out-bound!

What we know is that, according to the second Pew report, while the annual income of all U.S. households increased 1.3 percent from 2006 to 2007, it fell 7.3 percent among noncitizen immigrant households during the same period. Although that group includes many legal residents who are not yet citizens, the disparity illustrates "the vulnerability of this population to the latest economic slowdown."

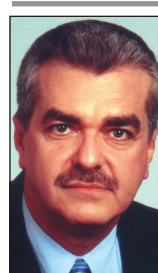
Back in June, yet another Pew report noted, "Due mainly to a slump in the construction industry, the unemployment rate for Hispanics in the U.S. rose to 6.5 percent in the first quarter of 2008, well above the 4.7 percent rate for all non-Hispanics." That study also found that "the spike in Hispanic unemployment has hit immigrants especially hard. Their unemployment rate was 7.5 percent in the first quarter of this year."

Tough economic times have turned out to be tougher than border walls and raids. But now that the influx of undocumented immigrants is much more controllable simply because fewer people are trying to live here illegally, will our new president and stronger Democratic majority in Congress seize this opportunity to control the borders and fix our broken immigration system? Will they establish an effective, legal immigration program? Or will they let the problem ride until the economy gets better, more jobs become available, and more illegal immigrants want to come?

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



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INSIDE THE BIG SPRING MALL

Lost and Found

FOUND BEAUTIFUL female short haired cat on Highland Drive area. Very friendly. Call Sherri 432-816-2576.

FOUND WEST Highland Terrier off McGregor Rd. Contact the Pet Patrol 432-267-7387.

Miscellaneous

1 LARGE wooden table- \$100., 3 space heaters- \$15. each, 4 recliners- \$75 each, Old stereo system- \$70. Excellent condition, also have 8 track tapes to go with it. Come by 607 Circle Drive.

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IF A LOVED ONE UNDERWENT HEMODIALYSIS and received Heparin between October 1, 2007 and August 1, 2008 and died after the use of Heparin, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727.

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Real Estate for Rent

108 EAST 24th 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, Ref. air & central heat, washer & dryer connection, stove & refrigerator furnished. This is a Completely Remodeled House and is Very Nice. References will be required. Serious inquires only. \$700.00 Month, \$500.00 deposit. Call 432-270-0703, 263-0703.

1309 STANFORD, Newly Remodeled 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fireplace, connections, floors, fenced backyard. \$625. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)517-0373.

Real Estate for Rent

2200 SQ. ft. building for lease in a high traffic area @ 1307 Gregg St. Front & rear parking available. Please contact Lucy @ 432-263-5000 for mor information.

3 BDRM, 2 bath Brick home for Lease in quiet neighborhood. 2 Living areas, fireplace, large sunroom and outdoor storage. References required. \$900 per month. Contact Lucy @ 432-263-5000 for more information.

3709 DIXON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, den. Stove & refrigerator furnished. CH/A. \$700. month, \$300 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

EXTRA NICE Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. Nice quiet area. No Pets. \$700. month, plus deposit. Call (432)263-4528 or (432)296-0277.

NEW LISTING 1104 East 11th Place, Upstairs- Near Duplex. 1 Bdrm, 1 bath, w/stove, refrigerator, bdrm furniture, \$350. month, \$300. deposit. Call Jose 469-878-4967.

NICE ONE Bedroom house. CH/A. \$500 Month, \$200 deposit. No Pets. Call 432-935-6209.

Quiet Neighborhood- 1 Bdrm, 1 bath. AC/Heating unit. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$425. Month, \$250. deposit. **No Pets.** References required. Call (432)816-3610 serious inquires only.

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2911 West Hwy 80
Big Spring
432-263-2292
1 Bdrm \$350 month
2 Bdrm \$395 month
!!!!!! Now Available !!!!!!

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

Real Estate for Sale

1 ACRE with water well and septic. \$8,750., 8/10th of acre for \$5,000..... Mobile home Space for rent. \$150.00 month & up. Call (254)643-1145.

FORECLOSURE! 3 bdrm. Only \$33,120! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

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Real Estate for Sale

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HIGHLAND SOUTH

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OWNER FINANCE, Low Down, Low Monthly, Easy Terms. 1505 Cherokee- 3/2, 808 Settles- 3/2. Call Trent 512-426-1850.

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Legals

The Coahoma Independent School District will hold a public hearing on the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The AEIS is an annual rating of school districts by the Texas Education Agency. The state agency looks at criteria such as attendance figures, dropout rates, and student achievement on TAKS exams. This report will be available over the Internet at: www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/2008/district.srch.html. The hearing will give the public a chance to discuss the report. Review copies of the report will be available as well at the administration office. #5995 December 4 & 11, 2008

NOTICE OF CAP ROCK ENERGY CORPORATION'S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF PURCHASED POWER CONTRACT (DOCKET NO. 36446)

On November 26, 2008, Cap Rock Energy Corporation (Cap Rock) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requesting approval of a new purchased power contract with Garland Power & Light (GP&L). The contract will provide the power and energy needs for Cap Rock's Hunt-Collin Division. This Application was submitted pursuant to Commission Substantive Rule 25.238(a)(3). If the Commission approves Cap Rock's application, Cap Rock may apply its Power Cost Recovery Factor (PCRF) to the purchased power contract with GP&L to recover from all of its Texas retail customers the costs incurred under the contract. Under the PCRF, Cap Rock's power costs are reconciled on a monthly basis. Cap Rock's application affects the recovery of Cap Rock charges for purchases power but does not affect its base rates.

Persons with questions or who want more information of Cap Rock's application may contact Ronald W. Lyon with Cap Rock Energy Corporation at 500 West Wall, Suite 280, Midland, Texas 79701, telephone toll free at (800)422-8688 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the filing is available for inspection at the address listed above. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this application should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512)936-7120, or toll free at (888)782-8477. A deadline for intervention of January 12, 2009 is proposed for this case, and you should contact the Commission prior to that deadline. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512)936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at (800)735-2989. #5996 December 4, 2008

Public Notice

The Glasscock County ISD will be holding a school auction on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 @ 8:00 a.m. School Bus Barn- West of Football Field Located at 308 W. Chambers, Garden City, Texas. Items: tires, desk, chairs, lighting fixtures, deep fryers, and many miscellaneous items. For more information contact: Tony Gomez @ 432-466-1837. #5998 December 3, 4 & 5, 2008

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury in Sagittarius creates tension with Uranus in Pisces. This brings about a few tantrums from young and old alike. Frustrations are likely develop if we can't express what we are feeling or explain what we want to do. It's so important to be heard that people are likely to use a loud voice even when that's unnecessary. Practice tolerance.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Instead of trying to figure out how you're going to manage everything you need to do, make it your priority to be centered. From a quiet and calm place you will perform amazing feats of balance with little effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Revel in primitive awe. You'll encounter the power in nature. Your feelings flood forward -- an uncontrolled human response that connects you to all humanity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you still find yourself acting out in spite of your attempts to control your own behavior, then at least you're being real with your emotions. There is a repressed reason for your little rebellion. Knowing what it is frees you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The game changes. Those you didn't think you would be impressed by could suddenly intimidate you with their presence. This is your cue to go off and get better prepared to make your move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your moneymaking style is quick and easy. If a project or person proves

to be resistant to your efforts, move on immediately. Go for greater numbers of contacts and activities rather than toiling away in efforts that aren't working.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You let yourself be influenced by positive action. What seems to be working for others will work for you, too. You're just the kind of thorough person to apply every step as directed until you achieve success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are feeling the pinch, as the amount of time you need to complete a task doesn't nearly match up to the amount of time you have to dedicate to it. Breathe your way through. A Pisces will be your touchstone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in an adventurous mood and not limited by the norms of food, entertainment and activity. You're inclined to try a little of this, a little of that and a lot of the other. Your life will be better for the variety.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will be in the public eye. Don't let anyone know that you are struggling to pull off the act. You are successful when you make it look easy. Keep your effort and your tricks to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't agonize. Make this your No. 1 rule. Anything you have to do, you can do in an instant if you don't let your mind get in the way with too many irrelevant questions. You already have the answers you need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Trying to do it all will not raise you in the esteem of others. Your power increases as you delegate. Let others labor for you, and you will appear in control and unstrained.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in a competitive game and many people want to get in on it. There is no reason to be overly protective, but at the same time it would be unfair to the other players to include those who aren't ready to play at the same level.

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY LIST: Don't forget about yourself this holiday season! Come up with a list and save yourself from having stuff that is (SET ITAL) so (END ITAL) not your thing become, in actuality, your thing. **SCORPIO:** Your fascination with the inner workings of things and people make a gift card to a bookstore a most welcome contribution. Also, because you're so sensitive, you could really use gifts that help you unwind, like a certificate for a massage, soothing music or special bath oils. **SAGITTARIUS:** You're in high demand lately and require plenty of energy to get through the season. That's why you'll appreciate good coffee, uplifting music and perhaps a snazzy iPod to listen to it with. **CAPRICORN:** You'll be entertaining at home in the new year so elegant serving platters and other kitchenware will be of use. You'll also enjoy computer software that helps you do your job more efficiently.

AQUARIUS: Upgrades to technology you use daily, such as your television or phone, will make you happy. Magazine subscriptions are also a hit, as is anything that keeps you up to date. **PISCES:** You'll be expanding your mind in the new year, so lessons, classes and club memberships will be fun. From dancing to cooking to scrapbooking, you'll enjoy being a part of a creative environment.

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I am a 40ish divorced woman. Several months ago I met "Daniel" and fell head over heels. One night, I caught him with someone else. I knew she was at his house, so I went over and introduced myself. I had slept with him for the first time she had the right to know about me. Needless to say, this woman was stunned. She left, and Daniel and I continued dating.

Now, six months later, he says he is breaking up with me because he made a horrible mistake. He's going back to that woman and begging her forgiveness. I found out they had been dating for nearly a year, and that I, in fact, was "the other woman." He met me while she was out of town.

You have no idea how foolish I feel. I shattered this woman's world without knowing the first thing about her. I felt so bad that I e-mailed her to apologize and say I would never intentionally hurt her. She responded by telling me that showing up at his house knowing he had a guest looked pretty intentional to her. She called me a stalker and said if I had any respect for other women, I should have insisted that Daniel come clean, but instead I was a desperate woman on a manhunt.

I can't help feeling the only reason Daniel stayed with me for six months was because she walked out on him that night. I would like to find peace between this woman and me. Should I try again to apologize or accept that she finds me totally offensive? -- Derailed

Dear Derailed: There was no reason for you to know that Daniel was two-timing his girlfriend,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

and you understandably misjudged the situation when you saw them together. The girlfriend is directing her anger at you when she ought to be upset with Daniel. You have apologized already. Don't beat a dead horse. Move on.

Dear Annie: I have taken care of everyone in my home for 37 years. My husband has diabetes and can no longer work. I also have a chronic health condition that makes me feel sick most of the time.

I promised my daughter I would watch my grandchildren for a year so she can go back to school and finish her degree. Now, my youngest son has informed us that he is quitting his third college to come back home.

I feel like I am being dragged into a pit of despair. We live on disability and I can't afford help. Also, if I'm around anyone with a bug, I'm apt to get sick. Being around children, that's likely.

I made this commitment to my daughter and will fulfill it. But how can I get others around me to share some of the load? -- Sick and Tired

Dear Sick: Tell your youngest son you expect

him to find a job and get his own place. At the very least, he must know you are not responsible for his laundry or housekeeping, and that he is required to pay rent to live with you. Your daughter also ought to pay something, however little, toward the care of her children. Anyone else living in your home should pitch in and keep their rooms clean, their clothes washed and not create additional problems for you. Approach this as a cooperative effort to prevent Mom from having a nervous breakdown.

Dear Annie: Some time ago you cautioned readers not to let children play with plastic bags because of the risk of suffocation. Tell them plastic bags are also dangerous for pets.

My son's dog found a potato chip bag and put his head in it, apparently to eat the crumbs, but was unable to get the bag off his head and suffocated. My daughter, a veterinarian, said that it is not that uncommon. Please pass this on. --Dog Lover in Florida

Dear Florida: By all means. Readers, please be sure not to leave plastic bags around the house for the sake of your children and your pets.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Nissan Frontier

Midsized pickup adds PRO-4X model, new features for '09

The Nissan Frontier is one spunky midsized pickup.

It's roomy, comfortable and absolutely loaded with power.

This week I had the chance to drive the new PRO-4X off-road model that's been added to the 2009 Frontier lineup.

Equipped and designed for off-road enthusiasts to use off road, I was expecting a less than smooth ride on the paved highway.

Boy, was I mistaken. What an exceptionally

smooth highway ride — and a quiet one at that.

My hat is off to the Nissan engineers that managed to achieve a feat that has very seldom been attained — balancing off-road capability with on-road comfort.

Usually, it's one or the other.

With the vast majority of all my driving duties occurring on paved surfaces, I have to say, I wouldn't mind owning this truck — not just the Nissan Frontier (which is also available in

XE, SE and LE trim lines), but also the off-road PRO-4X.



The 2009 Nissan Frontier midsized pickup.

It's fun (and comfortable) to ride on the road.

And yes, I did get to drive the Frontier PRO-4X off road during the Texas Auto Writers Association's Truck Rodeo in October — so I knew it was exceptionally suited for hitting the trails.

However, it wasn't until this week that I had the opportunity to spend time on the road in the PRO-4X.

As I mentioned earlier, this is a spunky midsized pickup powered by a 261 horsepower 4.0-liter V-6 engine.

While this review specifically focuses on the Frontier PRO-4X, I need to point out the Frontier is available in King Cab and Crew Cab body style, both available in rear- or four-wheel drive configurations and buyers also have the choice of two engines — the 4.0-liter V-6 being one of them.

For the '09 model year, Nissan is also offering a Crew Cab Long Bed model, which adds more than 13 inches to the standard bed length.

Assembled at Nissan's Smyrna, Tenn. manufacturing facility, the Frontier is also powered

by a 2.5-liter I-4 engine delivering 152 horsepower and 171 lbs.-ft. of torque. Both engines are rated as Low Emission Vehicles.

Buyers also have their choice of three available transmissions — a five-speed manual, five-speed automatic or a six-speed manual.

With the capacity to seat up to five passengers, standard safety equipment on the 2009 Frontier includes driver and front seat frontal airbags and anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution.

Side curtain airbags, vehicle dynamic control (for vehicles equipped with automatic transmission) and hill descent control remain optional.

Several "Truck Value Packages" are offered on the Frontier, which bundles a number of features and amenities into package.

A small sample of available packages includes:

The SE Value Package (\$1,380) adds power windows, power door locks, power outside mirrors, remote keyless entry, cruise control, bedliner, 16-inch alloy wheels, floor mats and microfilter.

The Technology

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2009 Nissan Frontier 4- or 5-seat midsized pickup
Rear-, four-wheel drive
Trim packages:
XE, SE, LE, PRO-4X
King Cab, Crew Cab and Crew Cab Long Bed (bodies)
PRICE RANGE:
\$23,000-\$32,000
ENGINE:
2.5-L I-4 (152 hp/171 torque)
4.0-L V-6 (261 hp/281 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
5-speed auto

6-speed manual
EPA: 19/14 mpg city, 23/19 mpg highway (2WD I-4 with manual transmission/4X4 V6 with automatic transmission)
FUEL: Regular unleaded
SUSPENSION: Independent front with stabilizer bar and overslung multi-leaf rear with Bilstein shocks.
BRAKES: ABS with electronic brake force distribution.
Dimensions for King Cab models only
LENGTH: 205.5 inches
WHEELBASE: 125.9 inches
WIDTH: 72.8 inches
HEIGHT: 69.7 inches
WEIGHT: 3,664-4,370 lbs.
TRACK: 61.8/61.8 (front/rear)
TIRES: 15-, 16- or 18-inch
TOW CAPACITY: Up to 6,500 pounds.

Package (\$1,250) adds premium audio system with steering wheel controls and XM Satellite Radio, Bluetooth hands-free phone system and vehicle security system.

In the midsized pickup segment, the 2009 Nissan Frontier is impressive and I highly recommend it for a test drive for those

in the market for a vehicle in this segment.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Battle for Survival

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 9 7
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 8 3
♣ K 8 3

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 4 3
♥ Q 6
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 7 6 5

EAST
♠ 10 5 2
♥ 10 8 7 2
♦ A K J 9 7
♣ J

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K J 3
♦ 5 4
♣ A Q 10 9 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
5 ♣

Opening lead — five of clubs.

It's a fact of life — for which most declarers are ever thankful — that the defense does not always find its most effective opening lead. Even so, declarer may still have to play his cards exceptionally well to take advantage of a favorable lead.

For example, take this deal from a match between Canada and Mexico some years ago. Had West hit on a diamond lead, the Mexican declarer, George Rosenkranz, almost surely would have gone down. But after the opening trump lead, he seized his

opportunity and found the winning — and best — route to 11 tricks.

He won East's jack of clubs with the queen, then cashed the ace of spades. Now came the key play — before entering dummy, Rosenkranz played the A-K of hearts.

Had the queen not appeared, he would next have crossed to the eight of clubs, discarded a diamond on the king of spades and then led a heart toward the J-3. In this way, he would avoid losing two heart tricks whenever the hearts were divided 3-3, whenever East held four hearts to the queen or whenever the queen of hearts fell singleton or doubleton.

But when West's queen fell on the second round, it was a simple matter to draw two more trumps ending in dummy, discard a diamond on the spade king and eventually concede a heart and a diamond to make five clubs.

Note that if Rosenkranz had relied strictly on a heart finesse, he would not have made the contract regardless of how he continued after the jack lost to West's queen. Instead, he chose the superior play of first cashing the A-K in order to guard against the actual distribution and at the same time take advantage of other likely distributions. It certainly paid off in the actual case, and left West gnashing his teeth over his failure to lead the unbid diamond suit.

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Sizing up the Detroit Three

Total vehicle sales for the world's top 10 automakers, and sales by major regions, in millions of units, 2007:

	The Americas	Europe	Asia, Oceania, Africa	Total
Toyota	3.0	1.1	3.7*	7.8
GM	5.1*	1.8	0.5	7.4
Ford	3.3	2.1	0.3	5.7
Volkswagen	1.2	3.4*	0.2	4.8
Honda	1.9	0.3	0.9	3.1
Hyundai	0.9	0.6	1.3	2.8
Nissan	1.4	0.4	1.0	2.8
Peugeot Citroen	0.2	2.5	0.01	2.7
Chrysler	2.4	0.2	0.1	2.7
Fiat	0.6	1.7	0.1	2.4

Source: Ward's Automotive Group
Graphic: Pat Carr

*Region leader

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Safest cars

Seventy-two cars, trucks and SUVs received top safety picks for 2009 models, more than double the 2008 model list.

Longer list

• Larger list due to increased use of anti-rollover technology and front, side and rear airbags

Leading companies

Ford Motor Co.*	16
Honda Motor Co.	13
Volkswagen AG	9
General Motors Co.	8
Toyota Motor Corp.	8

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Graphic: Melina Yingling

Carmakers

More than 2.3 million people in the EU-27 are employed directly in the manufacture of cars.

Direct automotive employment, major countries

Germany	843,898
France	290,000
U.K.	187,000
Italy	177,200
Spain	159,163
Poland	125,000
Czech Rep.	121,440
Romania	120,000
Slovakia	76,000
Sweden	73,154
Hungary	57,336
Belgium	46,161

• Automobile industry supports over 12 million European jobs

© 2008 MCT
Source: ACEA (2006 figures), Czech Automotive Industry
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Scott Bell

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- Understanding of printing process, photography, illustration and typography preferred.

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REASONING ABILITY

Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out detailed but uninvolved written or oral instructions. Ability to deal with problems involving a several concrete variables in standardized situations.

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MS Office, word processing, spreadsheets, Internet software, E-mail, Database software, Macintosh / Quark Express, PhotoShop, Illustrator, All Adobe Programs

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

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WORK ENVIRONMENT

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15028

	WFAA 2	KMID 3	UNI 4	KPEJ 5	KOSA 7	KTLE 8	KWES 9	WTBS 11	KMLM 12	KPBT 13	DISC 20	AMC 21	SPIKE 22	TNT 23	BET 26	DISN 27	ESPN2 28	ESPN 29
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Heartbreak Ridge Everett McGill	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men CBS	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sanchez News-Lehrer	Made Made	Made Made	CSI: NY	Law & Order		Suite Life Montana	College Basketball: USC at Oklahoma	College Football: Louisville at Rutgers	
7 :PM	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Kitchen Nightmares	Survivor: Gabon	Doña Barbara	Office Kath-Kim	Movie: The Santa Clause	Israel Sprna	Old House Hr.	HowStuff-Works	Movie: The Right Stuff, Ed Harris	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks.	Movie: Double Take	American Gangster	Wizards of Waverly Hills	
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	Kitchen Nightmares	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office 30 Rock	Movie: The Santa Clause	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Destroyed	TNA iMPACT!	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Nuggets	Movie: Double Take	Comic	Suite Life Montana	E:60	
9 :PM	Fascinating	Fascinating	Rosa	TMZ	(.01) Elev-enth Hour	Sin Senos	(.01) ER	Movie: The Santa Clause	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Destroyed	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Nuggets	Movie: Double Take	Comic	Suite Life Montana	E:60	
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Movie: The Santa Clause	Dr.	Smiley	Destroyed	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Nuggets	Movie: Double Take	Comic	Suite Life Montana	E:60	
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Movie: The Santa Clause	Sex & Sex	Swallow	HowStuff-Works	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Nuggets	Movie: Double Take	Comic	Suite Life Montana	E:60	
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Cl Order: Cl	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Movie: The Santa Clause	Israel LightWrd	(Off Air)	Destroyed	Married... Married...	Inside the NBA	Movie: Double Take	Comic	Suite Life Montana	E:60	
1 :AM	G. Keith	Weekend	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: Sleepless in Seattle, Bill Pullman	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Destroyed	MXC	Movie: Eight Legged Cat	Movie: Eight Legged Cat	The Wire	Emperor Dragon	Rodeo: 2008 PRCA National Finals -- First Round.	NFL Live Baseball SportsCenter SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE

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"Maybe you should take it to an Encyclopediatrician."

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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 2008. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Va., where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival. (Some suggest this was the true first Thanksgiving in America, ahead of the Pilgrims' arrival in Massachusetts.)

On this date:
In 1783, General George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.
In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.
In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.
In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.
In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.
In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.
In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.
In 1991, the original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.
In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., and began speeding toward Mars on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

One year ago: The intelligence report on Iran figured in a Democratic debate on National Public Radio as rivals assailed front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton for voting in favor of a Senate resolution designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 87. Game show host Wink Martindale is 74.

Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 71. Actress Gemma Jones is 66. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 66. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 64. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 61. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 60. Actor Jeff Bridges is 59. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 57. Actress Patricia Wettig is 57. Actor Tony Todd is 54. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 53. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 53. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 49. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 46. Actress Marisa Tomei is 44. Actress Chelsea Noble is 44. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 42. Rapper Jay-Z is 39. Actor Kevin Sussman is 38. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 35.

Answer to previous puzzle

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LION	FITTHEBILL	
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ISA	OREOS	STOP

Newsday Crossword

THINK TWICE by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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Shoppers have reasons to act like Grinches

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are ample reasons for America's shoppers to act like grinchies this holiday season, with lost jobs, wilting retirement accounts and shrinking home values topping the list.

And if anyone needed more evidence of consumers' weary state and the nation's deteriorating job market, they got it Thursday with the latest batch of bleak economic data.

The number of newly laid-off people signing up for unemployment benefits last week dropped by 21,000 to 509,000, the Labor Department reported. Even with the drop — which was better than the increase economists were forecasting — the level of jobless applications was still quite high and pointed to a deeply troubled employment climate.

The number of people continuing to draw unemployment benefits last week climbed to 4.09 million, a 26-year high.

AT&T, the Dallas-based telecommunications giant, announced it will slash 12,000 jobs — or about 4 percent of its work force — in response to all the economic troubles. Job reductions will take place this month and into next year.

A grim picture was forming as retailers reported their November sales Thursday.

Costco Wholesale Corp., usually a strong performer, reported a bigger-than-expected drop in same-store sales. Other retailers that saw declines in same-store sales are Bon-Ton Stores Inc., Limited Brands Inc. and Pacific Sunwear of California Inc. Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, are considered a key indicator of a retailer's health.

All told, the Goldman Sachs-International Council of Shopping Centers sales index of retailers is expected to show a 1 percent drop in November, slightly worse than the 0.9 percent decline in October. That would be the weakest November performance since at least 1969 when the index began.

"Basically shoppers and workers are being told there is no Santa Claus," said Richard Yamarone, an economist at Argus Research.

Central banks in Europe, in a series of separate moves, slashed their key interest rates Thursday to cushion fallout from the financial crisis, which is hobbling economies worldwide.

The European Central Bank dropped its rate to 2.5 percent, from 3.25 percent. The Bank of England lowered its rate to 2 percent, the lowest since 1951. The Swedish Riksbank cut its key rate, by a record 1.75 percentage points to 2 percent.

Another U.S. economic report Thursday is expected to show that orders placed with U.S. factories fell in October, reflecting pull backs from domestic buyers as well as shoppers

overseas, who are coping with their own economic troubles.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, meanwhile, will speak about the housing crisis, which has driven up foreclosures and forced financial companies to log massive losses on soured mortgage investments. The housing debacle touched off the worst financial crisis since the 1930s that Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson have been desperately trying to bring under control.

And the chiefs of Chrysler LLC, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. return to Capitol Hill Thursday and Friday to make a fresh plea for as much as \$34 billion in emergency aid. Trying to win over skeptical lawmakers, automakers and their union on Wednesday promised labor concession and restructuring.

Were one or more of Detroit's Big Three to fail, that would deepen the recession and cause more job losses, industry officials warned.

Heading into the holidays, the country's economic picture has darkened further, according to a Federal Reserve survey of business conditions around the country released on Wednesday. Americans hunkered down, forcing retailers to ring up fewer sales and factories to cut back on production.

The survey suggested the country was sinking deeper into recession.

"Economic activity weakened across all Federal Reserve districts," the report concluded.

The Fed didn't use the word "recession," but just two days earlier the National Bureau of Economic Research declared what many Americans already knew in their bones: that the country had been suffering through one since last December.

To cushion the fallout, Bernanke said Monday that the central bank is prepared to lower its key interest rate and to explore other ways to revive economic activity. Many economists predict the Fed will cut its rate — now near a historic low of 1 percent — at its last scheduled meeting this year on Dec. 16.

"We've seen things fall

off a cliff," said economist Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "Everybody — consumers and businesses — are just freezing."

"Retailers were preparing for a relatively slow holiday sales season," the Fed report said.

New York retailers said the holiday sales season is likely to feature more dis-

counted prices on merchandise than last year. Some retailers in the Fed regions of Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Dallas planned to cut capital spending projects for 2009.

Consumer spending — which includes retail sales — is a major shaper of national economic activity.

But job cuts, tanking investment portfolios and sinking home values have made American consumers wary of spending.

The economy jolted into reverse in the summer as consumers slashed their spending by the most in 28 years.

Many believe the economy will continue to shrink through the rest of this

year and into the first quarter of next year.

At 12 months and counting, the current recession is longer than the 10-month average length of recessions since World War II.

The record for the longest recession in the post-war period is 16 months, which was reached in the 1973-75 and 1981-82 downturns.



Don't Forget

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News in brief

Leaders of Pakistani militant group suspected in deadly Mumbai attacks, officials say

MUMBAI, India (AP) — India suspects two senior leaders of a banned Pakistani militant group orchestrated the deadly Mumbai attacks, officials said Thursday, as Pakistan's president vowed "strong action" against any elements in his country involved in the siege.

President Asif Ali Zardari's made the pledge during a meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Islamabad. Rice said she is satisfied with Pakistan's commitment to fight terrorism and its readiness to pursue any lead in the attacks that left 171 people dead in India's financial capital.

Evidence collected in probes so far has pointed to two members of outlawed Pakistani group Lashkar-e-Taiba as masterminds in the attacks, according to two government officials familiar with the matter.

The men, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Yusuf Muzammil, are believed to be in Pakistan, the officials said. Lakhvi was identified as the group's operations chief and Muzammil as its operations chief in Kashmir and other parts of India.

The lone surviving gunman in the assault told police Lakhvi recruited him for the operation, and the assailants called Muzammil on a satellite phone after hijacking an Indian vessel en route to Mumbai. During the attacks, the gun-

men used mobile phones taken from hotel guests to place calls to the Pakistani city of Lahore.

Automakers try to sell Congress on rescue that could reach \$34 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. automakers are returning to Congress for high-stakes hearings they hope will persuade skeptical lawmakers to save their troubled industry with \$34 billion in emergency aid, but a top Senate Democrat wants to hand their problem to the Federal Reserve.

Two weeks after a botched attempt on Capitol Hill, repentant leaders of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC were appealing to the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday with three separate survival plans that include massive restructuring, the ditching of corporate jets and vows by CEOs to work for \$1 a year.

But they could expect a chilly reception on Capitol Hill. Even a top Democrat in charge of evaluating their aid requests made it clear he was eager to avoid voting on a bailout. Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, wrote to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Wednesday asking the central bank chief whether there was anything stopping him from using his considerable lending authority to help the automakers.

And Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it was up to the Bush administration to unilaterally rescue the Big Three with loans drawn from the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund, since Congress was still unwilling to do so. "I just don't think we have the votes to do that now," he told The Associated Press.

Dodd's committee was hearing testimony on the companies' plans from GM CEO Rick Wagoner, Ford CEO Alan Mulally, Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli, UAW president Ron Gettelfinger and the head of the Government Accountability Office.

Thailand airport near normal operations amid hopes of royal guidance in political crisis

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's main airport prepared to restore full operations, checking security and computer systems after a weeklong closure, as millions of Thais awaited a speech Thursday by their beloved monarch for guidance on ending the country's political paralysis.

Suvarnabhumi airport, Thailand's main international gateway and a regional hub, will be "open for full services including check-in and immigration" at 11 a.m. Friday, airport chief Serirat Prasutanont said in a statement.

National airline Thai Airways has already restarted operations at the airport, which was shut down by anti-government protesters for one week. Singapore Airlines is to start Friday and many other airlines are expected to follow suit. The smaller domestic Don Muang airport was functioning normally with Thai Airways flying all of its scheduled flights within the country.

The sieges of the two airports by the People's Alliance for Democracy stranded more than 300,000 travelers in Thailand, while many others were unable to fly into the country during the peak tourist season.

Thai officials have been scrambling to get Suvarnabhumi fully functional in time for the birthday Friday of revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Asian markets mixed as investors await European rate decisions, U.S. jobs report

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Asian markets were mixed Thursday as investors waited for key interest rate decisions in Europe later in the day and braced for more bad news from Friday's U.S. jobs report. Oil prices fell to fresh three-year lows.

Japan's Nikkei 225 average fell 79.86 points, or 1 percent, to 7,924.24 as automakers continued to slide amid signs of slumping demand for new vehicles in the United States and Toyota said it was suspending production at three plants in Japan later this month.

Investors were also nervous about the

fate of the U.S. automakers trying to persuade skeptical lawmakers to save their troubled industry with \$34 billion in emergency aid.

"There are so many reasons to be worried," said Katsuhiko Kodama, senior strategist at Toyo Securities in Tokyo.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dipped 0.6 percent to 13,509 points, but mainland China's Shanghai Composite index rose 1.9 percent to 2001.5 on news that a government fund announced it had bought shares in a major bank.

Drugs, death and a bad market: Even the feds aren't immune to the woes of Detroit real estate

DETROIT (AP) — Federal prosecutors twice pursued a former autoworker suspected of running a multimillion-dollar drug operation.

The first attempt fizzled when Clarence Carson died shortly after an indictment. The second? Blame it on the collapse of Detroit's real-estate market.

The government recently abandoned a plan to sell nearly three dozen properties — land, houses and strip malls — believed to have been acquired by Carson through heroin, marijuana and cocaine sales.

"The market tanked," Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Ziedas said. "If we were able to effectively market these and come up with some kind of return, we would have done it."

Like any seller, the U.S. Marshals Service, which is in charge of getting rid of assets grabbed by the Justice Department, is finding that location is the key to real estate these days.

Kansas State University site chosen for new \$450 million biodefense lab

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas has won a three-year competition to land a new \$450 million federal laboratory to study livestock diseases and some of the world's most dangerous biological threats. But some states that lost out are crying foul.

The Homeland Security Department's choice of a lab site at Kansas State University in Manhattan beat out rival bids from Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas.

While the choice won't become final until after a monthlong review period, officials in Mississippi and Texas — seeking a major boost to local economies — already are pondering a challenge to the decision.

"Let me just simply say that we're looking at (a challenge) very seriously because we do think we have the best site and we'll proceed accordingly," Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said Wednesday.

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry's spokeswoman, Katherine Cesinger, said the state will "closely review the information and hard questions will be asked about the conclusions they've reached."

LETTERS TO SANTA

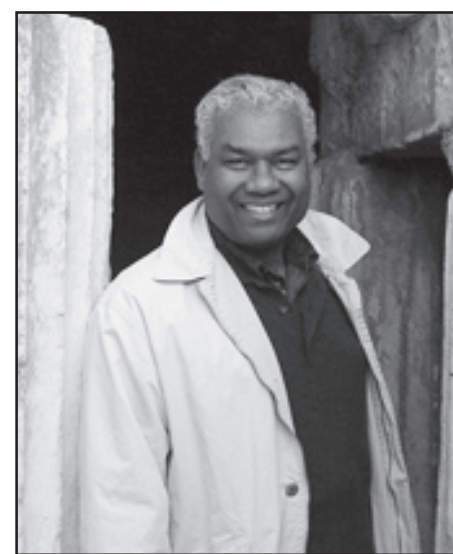
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SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7
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