



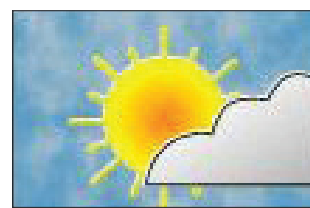
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BIG SPRING
HERALD

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 9, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 7

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Two hurt in wreck

Man in serious condition following three-vehicle accident on Highway 87

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

An unidentified man suffered serious injuries Monday afternoon in a traffic accident near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and Garden City Highway.

According to witnesses at the scene, the three vehicle accident began when the driver of a white Chevrolet pickup attempted to make a right turn onto U.S. Highway 87 from the Garden City Highway, located several miles south of Big Spring.

The driver of the south-bound 18-wheel tractor trailer told officials with the Department of Public Safety the pickup pulled out in front of him, causing him to swerve to miss the vehicle, which ultimately caused the pickup to slide under the larger truck's trailer.

A third vehicle — a silver sedan — was also involved in the accident, with the driver suffering

only minor injuries. She was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

The driver of the pickup remained trapped in the vehicle for several minutes following the accident, as fire fighters and emergency medical personnel were forced to use the Jaws of Life to extricate him from the wreckage, which was jammed beneath the 18-wheeler's trailer on the east side of the highway.

After being removed from the truck, the man was airlifted to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. While his condition is unknown, emergency personnel on the scene said he was in serious but stable condition, and was conscious and speaking prior to be life-flighted.

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



In the top photo, emergency responders with the Big Spring Fire Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office work to extricate a man from his pickup truck Monday afternoon following a traffic accident south of Big Spring on U.S. Highway 87. At left, Air Evac Lifeteam personnel stabilize the victim prior to transport to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

HERALD Photos/Thomas Jenkins

22nd annual Drive-Through Nativity set to begin Friday

What: First Church of the Nazarene's Drive-Through Nativity.
Where: 1400 Lancaster (approach from the north).
When: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday through Sunday

STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
Texas' largest live drive-through nativity takes a bow for the 22nd year starting Friday.
The First Church of the Nazarene's annual Christmas Drive-Through Nativity, a holiday season staple of the Big Spring area since 1987, will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday at the church, located at 1400 Lancaster.

The event began with only seven scenes, but has grown through the years to include 13 scenes, live animals and a cast of more than 100 people, church officials said.
The scenes depict many Biblical events pertaining to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ, said C.J. Ward, executive secretary of the church.
"It depicts the story of Christ and what Christ means for

Christmas and his effect on the world," Ward said. "For a lot of people, our drive-through nativity has become part of Christmas tradition; it's something they always look forward to during the holiday season."
Admission is free to the nativity, but donations are accepted. Ward said any money collected will go toward financing next year's event.
Brown said the entrance to the

nativity is best approached from the west on Martin Luther King Boulevard, then south on Lancaster to the church.
A CD and printed program will be provided to visitors and will include narration to the event, Ward said. The program is about 10 minutes long, although visitors may have to wait in line for some time.
See **NATIVITY**, page 3A

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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.

County OKs investment policy

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer
Howard County commissioners approved the investment policy for the coming year with no changes, but according to County Judge Mark Barr, the investment pools being used deserve more attention.
Commissioners approved the investment policy — which outlines

how county funds can be invested, but not which investment pools can be used — by a unanimous vote Monday morning, but Barr said the court will have to be vigilant in the coming year thanks to the economic climate.



Barr

"We're going to have to look for the safest way to invest the county's money," said Barr. "These are tough economic times, and we really need to choose the safest means of investing we can."
The investment policy — which has to be approved annually — won't limit the court as far as which pools it can participate

See **COUNTY**, page 3A

16 Shopping Days Til Christmas



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Big Spring's Fryar sixth at NFR

Herald Staff Report

LAS VEGAS — Halfway through the 50th Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Big Spring native Stephanie Fryar sits in good standing in the barrel racing event.

Fryar was considered one of the nation's 15 best riders this year and garnered an

invitation to the NFR. Through five rides, Fryar is currently sixth with a total time of 75.6.

The NFR consists of 10 rides with the competitor posting the lowest combined time being crowned champion. Fryar is currently less than six seconds off the 69.94 pace being set by Cassie Moseley.

Prize-money is awarded to the riders with the top six times in each round. Fryar finished third in the second round, earning her \$10,006.01. That was after finishing fourth in the opening frame, netting her \$7,031.25.

The NFR began Thursday and will conclude Sunday.

11 Steers named to 4-4A squad

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

With Frenship's elimination from the Class 4A football playoffs Saturday, courtesy of a last-second field goal in a 37-35 loss to Denton Guyer, District 4-4A has released its awards and 11 Big Spring Steers find their name on the All-District list at least once.

"We knew it was going to be tough to get guys on this list with (Abilene) Cooper coming into the district and they really dominated the defensive team. It turned out to be even tougher than I thought," said Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey. "It's an honor for these guys, especially the ones who made first team. I'm very proud of the ones who made it, but also disappointed we didn't have more on this list."

Of the 11 honored, two were unanimous selections with senior Jimmy Watson sweeping the vote as a guard and Matt Ritchey doing the same at punter.

Watson hasn't been short of living above expectations all year as he's terribly undersized for the position, standing at 5-10 and weighing a mere 185 pounds.

Still, Coach Ritchey says the district's coaches couldn't deny his success.

"It's the way Jimmy played the game that made him a unanimous selection," said Ritchey. "He played at a size disadvantage every week and was able to outwill the guy he was blocking. I think he was able to block guys the other coaches thought he couldn't. He plays the game hard and with a lot of heart."

Matt Ritchey's unanimous selection as a punter was warranted, but Coach Ritchey felt his nephew deserved more consideration at quarterback.

"With the numbers Matt posted, it's a shame he didn't make either team as a quarterback," said Ritchey. "I don't know how he didn't make it. There

See STEERS, Page 2B

Loss hurts Cowboys in many ways

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — With a late lead in Pittsburgh, the Dallas Cowboys had everything they wanted right in front of them:

A shove in the right direction to start a tough final month. A boost in the wild-card race. A chance to douse all the talk about their tendency to fall apart after Thanksgiving.

Then they blew it. A 13-6 advantage after 57 minutes became a 20-13 loss to the Steelers that was still tough to swallow Monday.

"The way that game ended, it's almost like a blur," defensive end Marcus Spears said. "What happened?"

The specifics include the defense giving up their first touchdown of the game, then Tony Romo throwing an interception that was returned for another touchdown only 24 seconds later. Dallas got the ball back, but Romo couldn't do anything, throwing an incompletion on fourth down.

Every loss has a play here or there that could've produced a different result. The bigger lament for the Cowboys coming out of this game is all the other ramifications.

• Instead of being 9-4 and atop the NFC wild-card chase, Dallas is 8-5 and much more vulnerable to miss the playoffs.

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



AP photo/Keith Srakocic

Dallas Cowboys running back Tashard Choice, top, is tackled by Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu (43) in the first half of an NFL game in Pittsburgh, Sunday. Pittsburgh won 20-13, hurting Dallas' playoff chances. Choice filled in for the injured Marion Barber, who had his toughness questioned by owner Jerry Jones.

Goodell wants NFL players to avoid unsafe situations

By JENNA FRYER

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has a simple mantra when it comes to players feeling the need to carry a gun: Avoid those situations.

"The real issue to me, is when the players feel they're unsafe, they shouldn't be there," Goodell said. "So get out, don't be there. If you feel the need to have a firearm to be someplace, you're in the wrong place."

Speaking before Monday night's game between the Carolina Panthers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Goodell said the NFL has a strict gun policy but also must manage it against the constitutional right to bear arms. The questions arose in the aftermath of New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress' accidental shooting in a New York City nightclub.

Burress was injured in the early morning hours of Nov. 29 when a .40-caliber Glock he was carrying in his waistband slipped down his leg, and as he grabbed at it, he accidentally pulled the trigger and shot himself in the thigh.

Giants teammate Antonio Pierce drove Burress to the hospital and spoke with police last Friday about the incident.

The Giants suspended Burress for the final four games of the regular season and placed him on the non-football injury list; Pierce remains active.

Goodell said the NFL is allowing the Manhattan district attorney's office to finish its investigation.

"It's a police matter, so we're supportive of the police, and we'll do whatever they need to cooperate,"

See NFL, Page 2B

Panthers run over Bucs, 38-23

By MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — By running over, around and through one of the league's top defenses, the Carolina Panthers staked their claim as one of the NFL's top teams.

DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart proved a dominating tandem, and the Panthers seized control of the competitive NFC South with a 38-23 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.

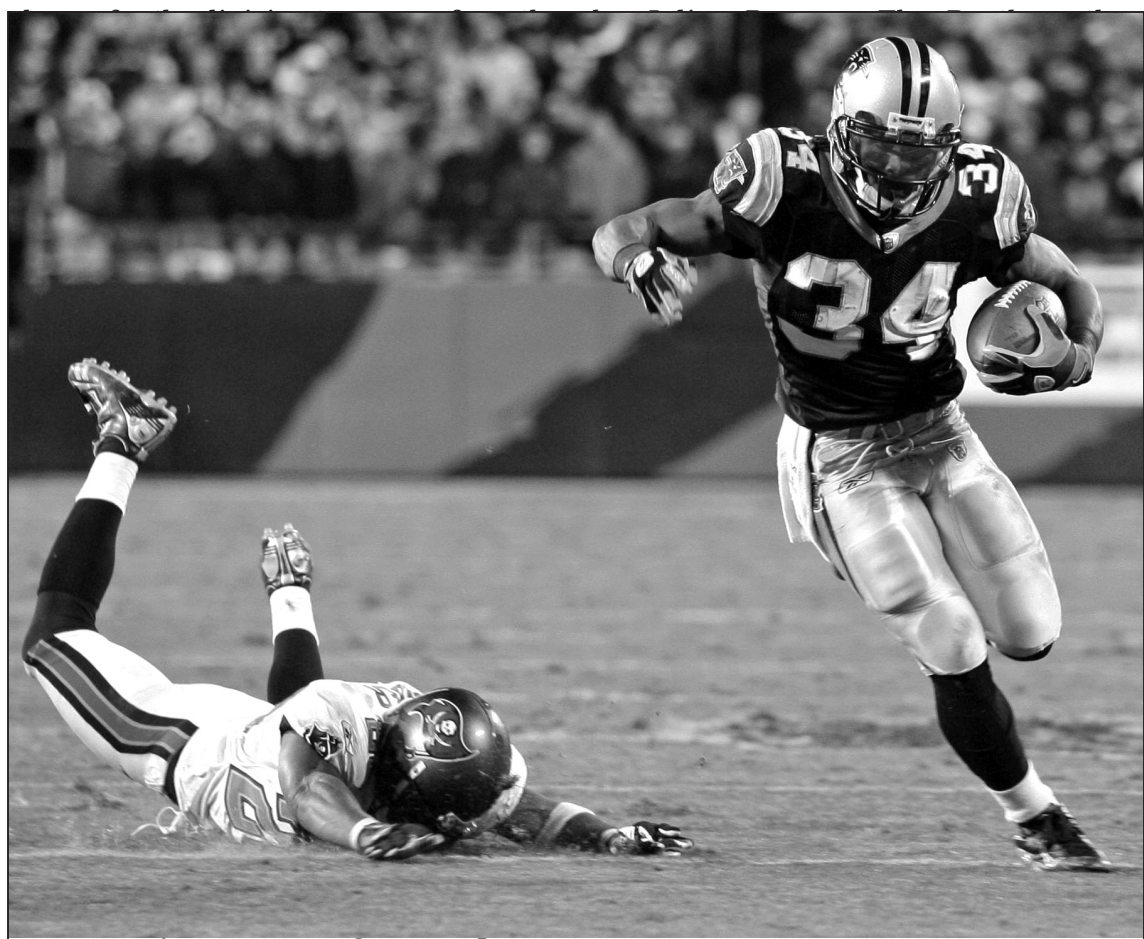
Williams rushed for a career-high 186 yards and two touchdowns, Stewart added 115 yards and two more scores and the Panthers set a team record for yards rushing for the second time in a month.

And this time it was against the NFL's fourth-rated defense that came in having allowed only one rushing TD all season.

The Panthers (10-3) avenged their worst loss of the season and grabbed the top spot in the division, moving one game ahead of the Buccaneers (9-4).

"People remember what you do in December," Panthers coach John Fox said. "This was a big stage and I like the way our guys met that challenge."

The Monday nighter featuring the top teams in the NFC South was billed as a



AP photo/Chuck Burton

Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams (34) breaks the tackle of Tampa Bay Buccaneers corner Ronde Barber (20) as he runs for a touchdown in the fourth quarter of an NFL game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday. The Panthers won 38-23 taking command of the NFC South division.

for 200 yards and two touchdowns, including an outstanding one-handed TD grab with 2:29 left.

Matt Bryant's extra-point attempt after Antonio Bryant's final score was blocked

18-yard gain before his 4-yard TD run with 13:21 left put the Panthers ahead to stay.

See PANTHERS, Page 2B

McCoy confirms he'll return to Texas for senior year

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas quarterback Colt McCoy confirmed that he'll return to the Longhorns for his senior season in 2009.

McCoy has led No. 3 Texas (11-1) to a Fiesta Bowl matchup against Ohio State with 3,445 yards passing and 32 touchdowns, both team records. He's also the

team's leading rusher with 576 yards and is expected to a finalist for the Heisman Trophy this week.

"I'm not going anywhere," McCoy said in an interview Monday with the Austin American-Statesman.

McCoy said he wants to try to win a national championship next season after

falling one spot short of the Bowl Championship Series title game this season.

McCoy has said all season he plans to be back next year, but created some speculation about his future recently when he said he would at least inquire about his potential draft status.

Obituaries

Ruby Honea



Ruby Honea, 73, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, at the University Medical Center in Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, at Trinity Memorial Park. She was born Nov. 24, 1935, in Mitchell County to Vera and Delbert Matlock. She married Jimmy Honea Sept. 13, 1963, in Colorado City.

She spent most of her life in Big Spring, Colorado City, and Abilene and was a member of the 14th and Main Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband: Jimmy Honea of Big Spring; one daughter: Gail Rincones and her husband Joe of Lubbock; four sons: Jimmy W. Honea and his wife Kay of Big Spring, Bennie W. Horsley and his wife Lisa of Fort Worth, Jimmy D. Horsley of Trent and Michael L. Horsley of Tuscon, Ariz.; three brothers: Bennie Matlock of Albuquerque, Matt Matlock of Colorado City, and Emmitt Matlock of Brownwood; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister: Vernie Fox; and three brothers: Jim Matlock, Lee Matlock, and John Matlock. Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Faye Harry

Faye Harry, 94, of North Richland Hills, formerly of Ackerly died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at Keller Oaks Nursing Home in North Richland Hills. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church in Ackerly, with burial at Ackerly Cemetery. The family will receive friends from noon until 1:45 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Ackerly.

She was born March 8, 1914, in Eastland County to Rosa Lee and Henry W. Woods. She married Samuel "Jake" Harry, January 27, 1934, in Lamesa. He preceded her in death on August 14, 1979.

She was a homemaker and worked for D. W. Newcomer Butane. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Ackerly for more than 40 years and was currently a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church in North Richland Hills.

She is survived by her son: Alvis Harry and his wife Reba of North Richland Hills; daughter-in-law: Dorothy Harry of Lubbock; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband; one son: Ancel Harry on May 15, 2005; one great-grandson: Indiana Harry on Dec. 2, 2003; one brother: Oral Woods; and one sister: Leona Wood. Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Donnavan Silvas

Donnavan J. Silvas, 14 months old, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring. Donnavan was born Oct. 4, 2007, in Big Spring.

Survivors include his mother, Cynthia Silvas; maternal grandfather, Ricky Silvas and fiancée Margie Gonzalez; maternal grandmother, Amanda Silvas of Littlefield; three aunts; and an uncle.

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

Lavarice Webb

Lavarice "Pat" Webb, 82, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 in a San Angelo hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring.

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.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is 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.



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Police blotter

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

- ROBERT SANCHEZ, 44, of Colorado City, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMEY JOHNSON, 45, of 2621 Chanute, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- LANCE LAND, 19, of 908 W. Fourth Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported in the 300 block of Sixth Street.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION - ASSAULT was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.
- RENE RODRIGUEZ, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
 - JOSE ALFREDO MELENDEZ, 25, was transferred to county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended - enhanced.
 - JONNY TREVINO JR., 18, was transferred to county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
 - ERICA MORENO OCHOA, 29, was transferred to county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole.
 - BRANDY MICHELLE LOPEZ, 30, was transferred to county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Highway 87 and Highway 33. 1 person was life flighted from the scene.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. Eighth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. Highway 350. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported approximately six miles west on Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2300 block of Mishler. Fire was out upon arrival.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.






THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Your Local Weather

Wed 12/10	Thu 12/11	Fri 12/12	Sat 12/13	Sun 12/14
 53/29	 63/35	 63/40	 72/44	 74/43
A mainly sunny sky. High 53F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Windy with times of sun and clouds.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.

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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

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- 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.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- 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.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-32-34-35
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-21-27-35. Bonus Ball: 10.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching four of four: 7. Prize: \$1,520.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-5-2-0. Sum It Up: 10.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-4. Sum It Up: 11.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

were other guys I felt like deserved being on the team, too. Cade (Hollandsworth) was injured for the first couple of games of district, but he played great at defensive end when he came back. Tyrone Clemons had a good year for us and I thought Kaegan Hunt was deserving, too. Those are just a few of the ones I'd like to see added from our team."

Other first-team honorees included senior Sydney Parker as a receiver. Parker led the Steers in most receiving statistical categories for a second consecutive year.

Defensively, the Steers had three players make the first team. Matt Ritchey was selected as a linebacker. Senior Zamir Linton made the list as a cornerback, while senior Tyler Chesworth was added as a tackle.

On the second-team offense was senior center Zack Saldivar, junior receiver Thaddeus Straughter, junior running

back Monte Anderson and junior tight end Pavel Plakhotny.

Plakhotny was also selected as an outside linebacker on the second-team defense.

Joining him on that list were seniors LaRay Woodard as a safety and Antwone White as a defensive tackle.

Offensive MVP – A'mon Pimpton, Cooper.

Offensive Newcomer – Kendrick Powdrill, Cooper.

First-team offense

Center – Mason Walters, Frenship. Guards – Lee Conoly, Frenship; **Jimmy Watson, Big Spring**. Tackles – Seth Kiker, Frenship; Blake Spears, Cooper. Tight end – Reese Williams, Cooper. Receivers – Tommy Bowman, Cooper; Jonathan Davis, Hereford; Paul Mesta, Lake View; **Sydney Parker, Big Spring**; Lance Ratliff, Frenship. Running backs – A'mon Pimpton, Cooper; Chris Blair, Lake View. Fullback – Landon Lamb, Frenship. Quarterback – John David Baker, Lake View. **Punter** – **Matt Ritchey, Big Spring**.

Second-team offense

Center – Orian Garcia, Hereford; **Zack Saldivar, Big Spring**. Guards – Jacob Frasier, Lake View; Andy Salas, Cooper. Tackles – Jordan Nichols, Frenship; Karlos Salinas, Lake View. Tight end – **Pavel Plakhotny, Big Spring**. Receivers – Khole Jackson, Cooper; Dominic Manuel, Lake View; Thaddeus Straughter, Big Spring; Chase Yosten, Hereford. Running backs – **Monte Anderson, Big Spring**; Bryan Seicks, Frenship. Fullback – Clayton Carrell, Cooper. Quarterback – Tyler Lloyd, Frenship. Punter – Parker Bridwell, Hereford.

Defensive MVP – Will Ford, Cooper.

Defensive Newcomer – T.J. Campbell, Lake View.

Utility Player – Rodney Ackers, Lake View.

First-team defense

Cornerbacks – **Zamir Linton, Big Spring**; T.C. Robinson, Cooper. Safeties – Will Ford, Cooper; Demetric Lee, Cooper. Inside linebackers – Brandon Henderson, Cooper; Brandon Jones, Frenship; **Matt Ritchey, Big Spring**.

Outside linebackers – Alec Birchfield, Frenship; Kyle Lassetter, Cooper. Ends – Bo Cates, Frenship; Quincy Moore, Cooper. Tackles – **Tyler Chesworth, Big Spring**; Buddy Mull, Frenship. Kicker – Lance Ratliff, Frenship.

Second-team defense

Cornerbacks – Ricko Garcia, Frenship; Justin Villarreal, Hereford. Safeties – Jedidiah Mannon, Frenship; **LaRay Woodard, Big Spring**. Inside linebackers – Nicholas Britton, Frenship; Joshua' Robinson, Cooper. Outside linebackers – Chris Bengel, Hereford; **Pavel Plakhotny, Big Spring**. Ends – Marshall Elliott, Frenship; Jacob Hinojos, Plainview. Tackles – Tyler Watson, Cooper; **Antwone White, Big Spring**. Kicker – Stephen Greene, Cooper.

Big Spring honorable mention – Kyler McGee, guard; Matt Ritchey, quarterback; LaRay Woodard, running back; Kaegan Hunt, cornerback; Tyrone Clemons, safety; Cade Hollandsworth, defensive end; Chris Brooks, linebacker.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

• That playoff outlook is further dimmed by a closing stretch against competition that keeps improving: the Giants, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Put another way, that's a team trying to wrap up the No. 1 seed in the NFC; a team on a 7-1 roll; and a team that's revived its playoff hopes with solid wins the last two weeks after seemingly being out of it.

• By starting December with a loss, the Cowboys are forced to keep facing their ugly history of wearing out at season's end. Their record is now 18-32 in regular-season games played in December or January since their last playoff victory back in 1996. Coach Wade Phillips downplays that as "a baseball stat," arguing

that circumstances are different every season. But to players it's akin to the burden carried by the Chicago Cubs.

"Nobody wants to hear about the terrible Decembers we keep having, year in and year out," cornerback Terence Newman said. "So we definitely have something to prove."

The good news for the Cowboys is that the playoff picture actually cleared up a bit Sunday thanks to losses by Washington and Atlanta.

Dallas now holds the No. 2 wild-card spot because of a tiebreaker over the Falcons, so if the Cowboys can win out, it is theirs to keep.

Thus, all they have to do is finish strong — a theme the team has rallied around since training camp.

"You say that's what you want to do, you preach that's what you're going to try to get done,

well, here's the opportunity," Phillips said. "At least we have that opportunity."

Phillips spent the early minutes of his Monday news conference denying that the team ever questioned the toughness of running back Marion Barber, which became an issue only because owner Jerry Jones brought it up after the game Sunday.

Asked about the fact Barber didn't make the trip to Pittsburgh because of a dislocated pinkie toe on his right foot, Jones said "he surprised me that he's not here playing."

"He can play with that injured toe," Jones said. "He can play with the soreness, combination of those things. I see nothing that would have led us to believe that he couldn't."

Said Phillips on Monday: "I don't want to speak for Jerry, but I don't think you question his toughness. He's one of the

toughest guys we have."

Phillips said Barber was slowed more by a calf injury caused by Barber running differently to compensate for the toe problem. Jones, however, had told reporters the calf was not an issue.

Phillips also said the team determined Barber couldn't play, as opposed to Barber saying he couldn't.

"Our trainers said he wasn't going to be able to play. They said it would be better for him to stay here and get treatment than fly there and move around, so that's why we kept him here," Phillips said.

Rookie Tashard Choice filled in for Barber and ran for 88 yards, the most against Pittsburgh all season. He had another 78 yards receiving; all told, he accounted for 166 of Dallas' 289 yards. Phillips said Choice has earned more playing

time once Barber returns, although Barber could be back Sunday night against the Giants.

"He's going to try and practice this week," Phillips said. "I know he's feeling better. I think he will be out there or try to be out there certainly. ... He can play without practicing, and he may have to do that this week."

Receiver Roy Williams, linebacker Bradie James, safety Keith Davis, cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones and offensive lineman Montrae Holland were among those hobbling. Linebacker DeMarcus Ware played with a brace on his knee because of an injury the previous week. Phillips said Holland's sprained ankle was the biggest concern.

"I think we've got enough guys healthy that we can make our run here," Phillips said.

PANTHERS

Continued from Page 1B

After Peppers sacked Garcia to end the Buccaneers' next drive, Williams and Stewart dazzled.

Williams gained 41 yards, Stewart picked up 3 and 30, and

then Williams raced 16 yards for the decisive four-play TD drive.

"Some of the plays were plays we'd seen before," Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks said. "They did a good job of blocking us this time. I've got to give them credit for breaking tackles and making us miss."

Williams became only the

third player in Carolina's 14-year history to surpass 1,000 yards rushing in a season when he rumbled 40 yards up the middle. That set up Stewart's 2-yard TD run with 1:56 left before halftime that gave Carolina a 10-3 lead.

Carolina finished with 299 yards rushing, surpassing the team-record 264 it had last month

against Detroit.

The total was only 7 yards shy of the most allowed by Tampa Bay.

"It is embarrassing, definitely," linebacker Barrett Ruud said. "Especially since you don't get many opportunities to have that national audience and this was by far our worst game."

Notes: Tampa Bay extended its streak of not scoring a first-quarter TD to six games. ... Stewart's two TDs gave him eight, breaking the Panthers' single-season record for rookies held by the late Fred Lane. ... Bucs DT Jovan Haye (knee) did not play, replaced by Ryan Sims in the starting lineup.

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

he said. "I expressed that to the mayor and to the chief of police. We're held accountable to the laws of the land, and so are our players."

Although the police said last week that the informa-

tion they were provided came from media reports, not the NFL, police commissioner Raymond Kelly has said the league has since been more forthcoming. And Goodell bristled at the idea the NFL ever slowed or stalled the investigation.

"I don't agree with that. We have security directors who are former law enforcement people, or worked with law enforcement, and were fully cooperative," Goodell said. "I spoke to chief of police myself and he said we've been perfectly cooperative and we appreciate that."

"We're not going to hide anything from anybody. We're very direct about it."

In other topics:

• Goodell, who has made it his mission to rid the league of player misconduct, said his tough policies are clear to players. "I think they understand they have a certain code of conduct for players, coaches, commissioner, everyone involved with the game. I do think it's

getting through, but you always are going to have people who make mistakes."

• He said the league would keep an eye on the developing situation with Panthers reserve offensive lineman Jeremy Bridges, who was arrested late Sunday night and charged with two misdemeanor counts of simple assault and battery and one count of communicating threats.

He was released on bond, but inactive for Monday night's game. It was Bridges' second arrest in 16 months.

• Goodell spent about an hour Monday visiting Carolina owner Jerry Richardson in the hospital, where he was readmitted for tests relating to a pacemaker he recently had installed.

He said he expected Richardson to remain active in negotiations with new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

• He is confident the suspensions of five players for violating the league's anti-doping policy would be upheld.

The five were suspended for using a banned diuretic, but a federal judge on Friday blocked the action until he has more time to consider the case. "The players understand that you are held responsible for anything that's in your body," Goodell said. "We have been very clear that if you take something, which is unregulated, there's a danger."

• He's not ready to comment on Michael Vick's potential future in the league until after the former quarterback has concluded the legal process pertaining to his conviction for running a dog fighting ring.

• Tampa Bay is on track to successfully host February's Super Bowl, and Goodell isn't concerned the economic crisis will spoil the event. "We're pouring the normal amount of resources into the event," he said. "I think we changed one event Saturday night because we thought it would be more effective to put our focus somewhere else. But for the most part, we're going 100 miles per hour on that, and we think it will be a great event."

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News in brief

Severe thunderstorms cause injuries, destroy 2 houses in Grayson County

DENISON (AP) — Severe thunderstorms in Grayson County left an unknown number of people injured while totally destroying at least two houses and disrupting electricity for some residents, authorities said.

“We’re going from house to house” to check on people, said Lt. David Hawley with the Grayson County Sheriff’s Office.

He did not know the extent of the injuries. A dispatcher in the Sheriff’s Office said a house in Denison and one in Collinsville, located in southwestern Grayson County, were destroyed. She said at least one person was transported to a hospital but did not think the injuries were life-threatening.

Hawley said the thunderstorms hit between 10-10:30 p.m. Monday. He said the Denison Police Department had asked for assistance in coping with the thunderstorms.

“One deputy did see the funnel cloud coming down. It could have been a tornado,” Hawley said.

Meteorologist Eric Martello with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth said officials will go out Tuesday morning and investigate the damage and make a determination on whether it was a tornado.

There were also reports of downed power lines and extensive roof damage in the county. The thunderstorms moved in a northeasterly direction into Collinsville, Southmayd, northern Sherman and Denison, according to Chief Jeff Jones with the Sherman Fire Department. At least 2,000 people in Sherman and northern Grayson County were without electricity, he said. Utility crews were working to restore the electricity. He said at least 20 homes sustained damage.

Family says Blackwater defendant wanted to become police officer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donald Ball, a 26-year-old decorated former Marine, was the only Blackwater

Worldwide defendant allowed to keep a gun after his arrest on Monday. Ball packs a .40-caliber Glock as a justice-court bailiff.

“I’m not interested in unduly burdening Mr. Ball,” said federal Magistrate Paul Warner.

Warner said he was making an exception for Ball, one of five men charged with manslaughter in the 2007 shooting on a busy Baghdad street that left 17 Iraqis dead. Assistant Attorney General Patrick Rowan said evidence in the case, however, could only prove the guards fatally shot 14, although he left open the possibility of future charges.

The five defendants were released without bond, and were set to plead not guilty Jan. 6 in Washington.

Ball, of West Valley City, Utah, declined comment on the advice of his lawyers, but his family members had plenty to say.

“Those things they’re saying about manslaughter should not be used in the same sentence as Don. It just shouldn’t. It’s wrong,” said his mother, Karen Ball, of West Jordan, Utah.

“It hurts these boys to think that the government has turned on them,” she told reporters.

Donald Ball was a veteran of three Iraq tours before he joined Blackwater.

Ball’s mother said her son was “the guy protecting us” and a man who wouldn’t want to hurt anyone.

NY police intensify search for would-be dancer from Texas who met sex offender in club

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — State police searched woods, trash bins and a septic system Monday near the home of a convicted sex offender who left a nightclub last week with a woman who hasn’t been seen since.

State police Capt. Wayne Olson said several women have come forward with information about the man, 23-year-old Michael Mele, who has a record of sex crimes committed in the northern suburbs of New York City. Olson declined to elaborate on what the women told

investigators.

Police had publicly requested that women who knew Mele come forward, given his history of sex offenses.

The missing woman, 25-year-old Laura Garza, was a newly transplanted New Yorker who had left a Texas border town with dreams of becoming a dancer.

She met Mele last week at the Marquee nightclub in Manhattan. They left together early Wednesday and were last seen a couple of hours later in his Infiniti sport utility vehicle, 70 miles north of Manhattan and not far from his Wallkill apartment.

On Monday, state police were still searching Mele’s SUV, his apartment and the surrounding area, but there was no sign of Garza, Olson said.

Mele, who owns a local Quiznos franchise, has not been charged in connection with Garza’s disappearance. His lawyer, Craig Brown, declined to comment Monday about the investigation into her whereabouts.

Travis County authorities looking for suspect in slaying of 30-year-old restaurant employee

AUSTIN (AP) — Authorities searched Monday night for the person who opened fire at a new restaurant in Travis County, killing an employee and then fled in a car.

The Steiner Ranch Steakhouse was closed at the time of the Monday afternoon shooting in the Steiner Ranch subdivision.

Officials said the car seen leaving the restaurant was later found and a witness told authorities he saw a man go into a nearby wooded area, the Austin American-Statesman reported in its online edition.

Authorities have not released the identify of the victim, a 30-year-old man.

“We are shocked and saddened by the tragic events that occurred today. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim, his family, and all of our employees,” Cosmo Palmieri, restaurant co-owner, said in an e-mail statement to The Associated Press.

Holiday cheer means work for Waco’s homeless

By REGINA DENNIS
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — If the cold winds whipping through Waco bothered Lucious Josey, it didn’t show through his cheery demeanor.

The 60-year-old was posted in front of the Bellmead Sam’s Club, ringing a golden bell and warmly greeting shoppers as they passed through the store’s doors. He occasionally shuffled from side to side, shifting weight from his left knee, injured in a grenade explosion when he served in the Army in Vietnam. He temporarily relinquished his bell to a small child, who perked at the sound of the clanging brass.

“Hello there. You ready to help me out?” he said to the boy, smiling and

laughing. “Well, come on and ring my bell! I need some help today!”

Josey, a self-proclaimed “natural charmer,” is assisting with the Salvation Army’s holiday red-kettle campaign, an annual collection drive to benefit needy families, veterans and senior adults over the holiday season and into next year.

“All angels are not in heaven,” Josey said, smiling and thanking one shopper who dropped change in the kettle. “There’s still angels here on Earth, ‘cause I see it every day, in acts of kindness and godliness and goodness.”

But beneath the friendly demeanor lies a man who has endured his fair share of trouble. The San Felipe native has battled

homelessness for much of the past year, spending nights at the Salvation Army, Brother’s Keeper men’s homeless shelter or temporarily crashing at a friend’s home. Josey traveled from Houston, where he has some family, to Temple, then Waco, seeking medical treatment for his knee from the Veteran Affairs hospital system.

He dons clothing from the Salvation Army — a short green winter jacket, blue sweatshirt and plush black gloves — to protect him from the wintry chill.

Josey lives on a fixed income of disability payments, which he said does not afford him a “safe and healthy environment to live in.” He has no family in the area to turn to for support.

“It’s a sad time for me,” Josey said, the cheer in his eyes fading slightly. “I miss the closeness of a family, the bonding of a family, the rejoicing . . . the memories of certain things. I remember my mother’s duck dressing, certain smells. It’s a time of sadness and loneliness.”

While the Salvation Army relies on the volunteer efforts of 117 area community-service organizations for the kettle campaign, the nonprofit group also hires more than 20 temporary workers for the drive.

The paid workers often are homeless or economically disadvantaged people who have received assistance from the Salvation Army and other social programs in the city.

“It’s a good opportunity

for them to create some type of work history and also to generate income to pay for housing or other living expenses,” said Russell Czajkowski, captain and church minister for the Waco Salvation Army. “This way, we’re not just paying their rent or mortgage or electric bill, but they’re actually able to work for it.”

Calvin Alexander, 33, began working for the kettle campaign after a stint doing part-time work at Baylor University. Alexander was released from prison six months ago after serving eight years for violating parole on a previous robbery conviction.

He plans to turn his life around after what he calls mistakes in his youth.

“That was a big lesson

for me, and when I got out I wanted to do something positive with my life,” Alexander said.

“That was just wasted years to me.”

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Gene Robertson, 72, died Saturday. Funeral Services were at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will be at the Coahoma Cemetery.

Ruby Honea, 73, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Faye Harry, 94, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church in Ackerly with burial at the Ackerly Cemetery. The family will receive friends from noon until 1:45 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Ackerly.

NATIVITY

Continued from page 1A

“A lot of people stop off at (a restaurant) first and

pick up something,” she said. “That way, they can have a snack while they wait.”

The event, which draws visitors from across West

Texas, has become a holiday mainstay, Ward said.

“We’ll probably have between 1,500 and 2,000 people show up,” she said.

“Not only is it meaningful

to the people who drive through, it has meant a lot to me to be a part of it — the life of Christ — in a small way.”

For more information,

contact the church at 267-7015.

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

COUNTY

Continued from page 1A

in, according to County Treasurer Teresa Thomas.

“This won’t have any effect on the pools. It’s something we have to approve each year, and this policy is identical to the police we used last year,” said Thomas.

Barr asked that discussions regarding the addition of new investment pools be tabled until the commissioners had time to research the matter.

The court met briefly

with Howard County 911 Director and Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan during the meeting, approving purchase requests for repairs to a VFD fire truck and annual membership dues for the department.

Sullivan told commissioners unless some rather drastic changes occur in the weather between now and the new year, he plans to request a burn ban from the court in mid-January.

“I plan to come to the court Jan. 12 and request a burn ban be put into effect,” Sullivan told the

court. “That’s unless we see a pretty significant change in the weather between now and then.”

Despite the dangerous conditions already plaguing the Crossroads area, Sullivan said the number of wildfires is down compared to last year.

“Even with the winds, things aren’t nearly as bad as they were two years ago. I attribute that to people being more diligent,” said Sullivan. “Those that are burning are doing so with more care, and a lot of them are simply paying the \$5 to take their trash to the

landfill. A \$5 fee is pretty fair when you compare it to a \$1,000 fine.”

Sullivan said he and his firefighters are currently on All-Call, where all available personnel respond to every reported fire, and while he hopes to hold off on a county-wide burn ban until after the holiday season, it will depend on area residents.

“We’re trying to hold off until after Christmas to put a burn ban in place,” said Sullivan. “However, if we see too many human-caused fires between now and then, we’ll obviously have to act sooner. In the

end, it’s really up to the folks the ban will effect the most.”

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

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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

Difficult decisions still ahead

While violence in Iraq has diminished to levels comparable to early 2004, violence in Afghanistan has intensified.

Given the considerable challenges involved, the Pentagon is right to plan on beefing up U.S. forces in Afghanistan in response to a request from the top ground commander, Gen. David McKiernan.

But it's far too early to attempt talks with the Taliban, as some have suggested.

Under the Pentagon plan, more than 20,000 troops will be deployed to Afghanistan over the next year to 18 months.

The additional forces will include four combat brigades and attack helicopter units, along with support and reconnaissance troops. More trainers will be deployed to help strengthen Afghan forces.

Currently, there are about 34,000 U.S. troops and 30,000 other foreign troops in Afghanistan.

This may be a less controversial war than the conflict in Iraq.

But while the counterinsurgency goal is the same — protect the population — the job in Afghanistan is in many ways even more imposing.

Afghanistan is larger than Iraq. The population is more numerous, but more widely dispersed. Many Afghans live in villages of only a few hundred people. The road network and basic infrastructure are more primitive than in Iraq. The mountainous terrain in Afghanistan is more formidable.

Taliban units can be re-supplied from safe havens in Pakistan. And Afghan forces - army and police - number only 150,000 while the comparable number in Iraq is 500,000.

Appropriately, U.S. troops are being told to prepare for a long fight in Afghanistan and not to expect victory in a single tour of duty.

In recent weeks, some policymakers have argued that talking to the Taliban might be worthwhile. Some insurgents, in this view, might be convinced to cease fighting.

However, it would be best to put off any such effort until the position of the U.S.-led coalition is significantly stronger.

Currently, many Taliban see themselves on the winning side. They aren't likely to change until the coalition clearly gains the upper hand.

The Kansas City Star

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Where is John Edwards?

Debris Kearns Goodwin could not have asked for more.

The author of "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," published in 2006, is making headlines once again for her foresight, as well as her knowledge of history, in light of President-elect Barack Obama's decision to surround himself with his former rivals, including Vice President-elect Joe Biden, Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton, and now Secretary of Commerce-designate Bill Richardson.

The missing man in all of this is, of course, John Edwards, who was far more formidable a candidate than either Biden or Richardson, and whose endorsement of Obama last May was at least as significant for the president-elect as Richardson's.

Edwards had long been mentioned as a logical choice for attorney general, a spot that has already been filled. His commitment to deal with poverty would make him a logical choice for Health and Human Services. But his problem isn't competence or experience. Should Edwards' personal stupidity

— his involvement with a wacky videographer, who may (if you believe the tabloids) or may not (according to her, and him, but what do you think they'd say) be the mother of his illegitimate child — cost him a seat at the table?

If he has something to add — and I think he does — should he be disqualified from doing so because he is a lying lout?

Washington is full of lying louts. Many of them are called "distinguished gentlemen." Now that Congress has more women, my guess is there are more female versions of the lying lout. Although, I am sexist, or realistic, enough to believe that there are real gender differences in this regard.

If all the lying louts were disqualified from holding high elective or appointive office, the Capitol would shut down.

Edwards' case is arguably different on two accounts: 1) because the affair may have produced a child that we know about — as opposed to all the affairs that produce children we don't know about, and 2) because his wife is and was, at least when he went to visit the videographer in Beverly Hills last summer, suffering from incurable breast cancer.

She also happens to be one great dame, who campaigned for her husband tirelessly even after her cancer recurred, and who had to bury

her teenage son — every parent's worst nightmare — thus making her an all-around lousy person to be a lout to, as her husband surely was.

But isn't that between the two of them? Isn't all of it fundamentally none of our business?

Ask around at any newsroom or Senate office, and I will tell you what the answer will be: There should be a line between public and private. Private affairs, even or especially that kind of affair, should be private.

Certainly this is the rule that the media apply to themselves, as do the distinguished gentlemen and ladies on Capitol Hill — until and unless they are caught in bathrooms or chat rooms.

Poll the public, and we all claim to agree.

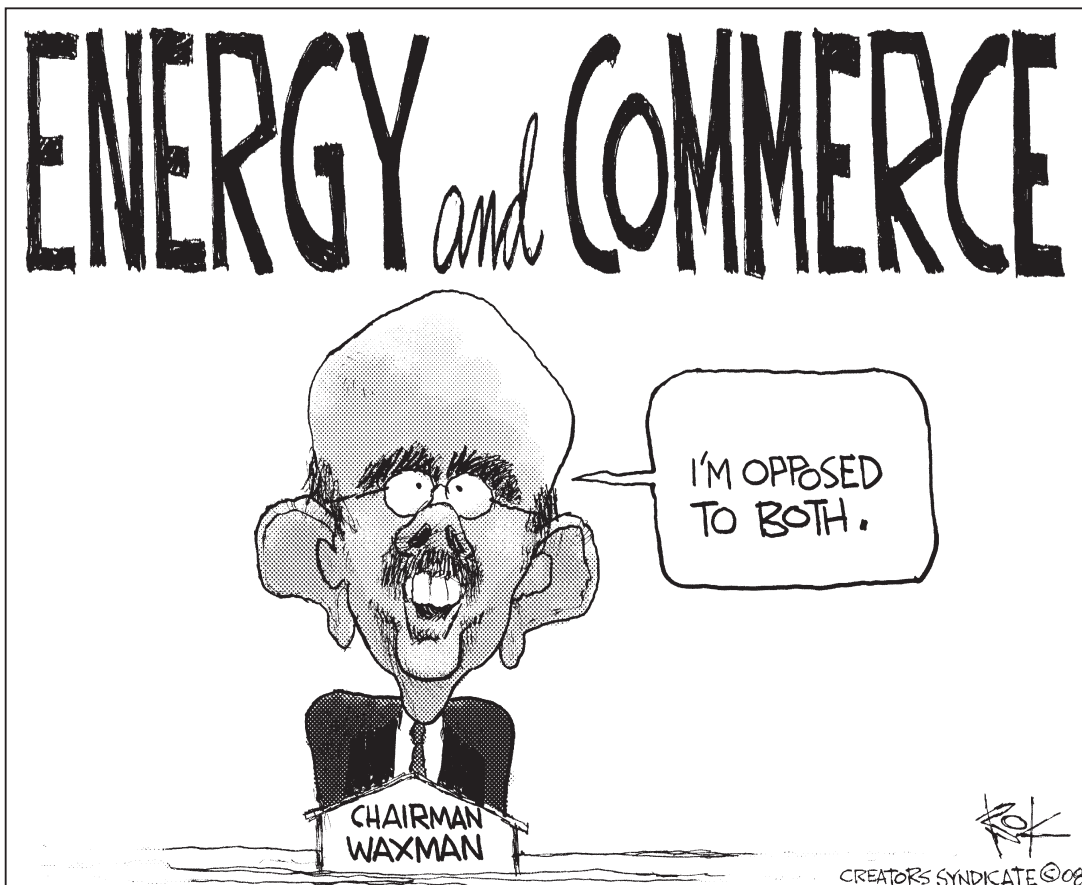
So where is John Edwards? Why no place for one of the most talented of Obama's rivals on the team of rivals? Is the answer that Edwards was a lout, or that the rest of us are hypocrites? I tend to think it may be the latter.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Anylyzing Obama's new crew

If you're not a "Star Trek" fan, you might not get this, but as I've watched

President-elect Barack Obama these past few weeks, I feel as if the country is passing the torch from the brush, rule-breaking Capt. James T. Kirk, whose Starship Enterprise boldly went where no man had gone before in the original sci-fi series, to the more cerebral governance of Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, who ran the Enterprise not so much as his merry ship but as a cutting-edge corporate venture, which culled databases and held meetings to brainstorm possible responses to new challenges. (Note: when "Star Trek: The Next Generation" first aired in 1987, viewers didn't look at corporate execs as greed-filled panic-fueled incompetents.)

Obama made some savvy additions to his new crew.

Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state? A smart political move. For Obama's foreign policy to succeed abroad, he needs support at home. Clinton in the Senate would have a stake in Obama failure, but Clinton at the helm of the State Department will have a stake in Obama's success, and no incentive to undermine it.

Poor Joe Biden. With Hillary Clinton in charge, it looks as if he will be attending funerals — not, as he may have imagined, pontificating and passing on to a less-seasoned president-in-training his sage advice on foreign policy, such as his plan to partition Iraq in

three.

Obama's decision to keep on Defense Secretary Robert Gates has angered the anti-war left, as it signals that Obama is prepared to drop his pledge to withdraw U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months ñ two brigades per month — of taking office. I'm thrilled. Gates would not agree to stay if he expected a precipitous troop withdrawal.

Thus, the big question about Obama has been answered: While Democrats — even Clinton and Biden, who both voted to authorize the war — may play the blame game with Bush about Iraq, Obama understands that if Iraq collapses after U.S. troops are withdrawn, then it won't matter who started the war. America loses, and he loses.

Now the question is: When did Obama know he would not honor his hard timeline pledge — during the primary, as I suspect, or over time, as the Bush-Gates troop surge brought about increased security in Iraq? Either way, Obama is where he should be on the issue.

As for Obama's national security adviser nominee, James L. Jones Jr.: It turns out that, to the horror of some enviroes, Jones is involved with Chevron and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on the global warming issue. It's like Christmas for global-warming skeptics.

On foreign policy, the left will have to content itself with Obama talking with Iran — the left loves talks — and honoring his pledge to close Guantanamo Bay. Meanwhile, the rest of us will have to cross our fingers and hope the number of released Gitmo inmates who have been killed or captured fighting

with terrorists abroad does not climb above the June count of 13. Beware: A Pentagon fact sheet estimated that 7 percent of released Gitmo detainees returned to terrorist activities.

Obama's pick for attorney general — Eric Holder, formerly of the Clinton Justice Department — promises to disappoint some on the left and on the right. Holder's role in the 2001 Clinton pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich showed a smarmy side of Obama's would-be top lawman. Yes, recent presidents — both Bushes, Bill Clinton, Gerald Ford — have pardoned political allies who broke the law. While it is not pretty, the practice has precedent, and does temper efforts to criminalize politics.

The Rich pardon broke the mold. When Holder issued a "neutral, leaning toward" favorable appraisal of Rich's pardon request, he did so without a full briefing from federal prosecutors, in complete disregard of Rich's fugitive status and despite intelligence reports that Rich had done business with rogue states Iraq and Iran.

As Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, told the New York Times, "If a Republican official had engaged in this kind of activity, he would never receive Senate confirmation."

I believe Smith is right.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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News in brief

Congress, White House nearing deal on \$15 billion bailout for Big Three automakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal “car czar” would oversee a government-run restructuring of U.S. auto companies in return for a \$15 billion bailout of the beleaguered industry under an emerging deal between the White House and Congress.

Negotiators worked through the night Monday narrowing differences on a bill to rush short-term loans to the struggling carmakers through a plan that requires that the industry reinvent itself to survive — and pay back the government if it doesn't. The package could come to a vote as early as Wednesday.

The measure would put a government overseer named by President George W. Bush in charge of setting guidelines for an industrywide overhaul, with the power to revoke the loans if the automakers fail to do what's necessary to become viable. The White House was seeking tougher consequences, including allowing the overseer — being called a car czar — to force the companies into bankruptcy if they weren't doing enough to cut labor costs, restructure their debt and downsize to stay afloat.

Despite optimism on both sides that Congress and the White House could reach a swift agreement on the measure, it was still a tough sell on Capitol Hill. With lawmakers in both parties still bitter over the Bush administration's use of the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout, many of them were preparing to hold their noses and vote for yet another federal rescue to avert deeper economic disaster.

“While we take no satisfaction in loaning taxpayer money to these companies, we know it must be done,” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said. “This is no blank check or blind hope.”

Funeral to be held for teen killed in police shooting that set off massive riots in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Authorities across Greece braced for further violence Tuesday, as the funeral takes place of a 15-year-old boy whose shooting by police sparked the country's worst riots in decades.

Three successive nights of widespread burning and looting have left stores and buildings gutted across Athens, and serious damage in Greece's other main cities.

The widely televised scenes of destruction are likely to further undermine a conservative government already rocked by financial scandals and clinging to a razor-

thin majority of just one seat in the 300-member Parliament.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said there would be no leniency for the rioters.

“No one has the right to use this tragic incident as an alibi for actions of raw violence, for actions against innocent people, their property and society as a whole, and against democracy,” he said after an emergency meeting with the country's president, Karolos Papoulias.

“I assured the president that no leniency will be tolerated in holding people accountable.”

Blackwater guards face Washington trial for unprovoked, fatal attacks of Iraqis in 2007

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five Blackwater Worldwide guards charged with the unprovoked shooting that killed 14 innocent Iraqis and wounded dozens of others in 2007 will get their day in a Washington court after unsuccessfully trying to move the trial to Utah.

A federal judge on Monday ordered the guards to report Jan. 6 to a District of Columbia courthouse, where they are expected to plead not guilty.

The decision came hours after prosecutors announced charges against the guards that carry mandatory 30-year prison terms for the wild gunfire and grenade attacks on a Baghdad street.

The guards “must be held accountable for their actions, not just for the integrity of the American people, but for the Iraqi men, women and children whose lives have been destroyed,” FBI Assistant Director Joseph Persichini said at a Justice Department news conference in Washington.

The five Blackwater guards — all decorated military veterans — declined comment as they surrendered in federal court in Utah.

They maintain they were protecting themselves from what they believed was an imminent car bomb attack.

Accused 9/11 plotters want to confess, throwing Guantanamo Bay trial into confusion

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — Khalid Sheikh Mohammed said Monday he will confess to masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks, throwing his death-penalty trial into disarray and shocking victims' relatives who watched from behind a glass partition.

Four other men also abandoned their defenses, in effect daring the Pentagon to grant their wish for martyrdom. The judge ordered lawyers to advise him by

Jan. 4 whether the Pentagon can apply the death penalty — which military prosecutors are seeking — without a jury trial.

“When they admitted their guilt, my reaction was, ‘Yes!’ My inclination was to jump up and say ‘Yay!’ But I managed to maintain my decorum,” said Maureen Santora, of Long Island City, New York, whose firefighter son Christopher died responding to the World Trade Center attacks.

Santora was one of nine victims' relatives watching the proceedings, the first time relatives of the 2,975 people killed in the attacks have been allowed to observe the war-crimes trials.

She watched from the back of the courtroom, wearing black and clutching a photo of her son in uniform.

Alice Hoagland of Redwood Estates, California, whose son Mark Bingham was on United Flight 93 whose passengers fought hijackers before it crashed in rural Pennsylvania, said the defendants should not be executed and become martyrs.

Military jet crashes in San Diego, killing 3, leaving 1 missing and 2 homes destroyed

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Residents near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar are accustomed to loud, low-flying military jets, but they immediately knew something was wrong when they heard the skies thunder. The explosions came moments later.

After the pilot safely ejected, an F/A-18D Hornet fighter jet crashed in the street of a quiet neighborhood Monday and tore into a home with four people inside, authorities said. Three people — a mother, one of her children and a grandmother — were killed, Fire Department spokesman Maurice Luque said. Another child was missing, and rescue crews planned to resume searching Tuesday morning.

Two homes were destroyed and three damaged in the neighborhood of half-million dollar houses.

“It happened in a split second — boom, boom, boom,” said Alain Blanc, 64, a retired photographer who lives next to the destroyed homes and was working on his computer. “The whole house started shaking and rocking.”

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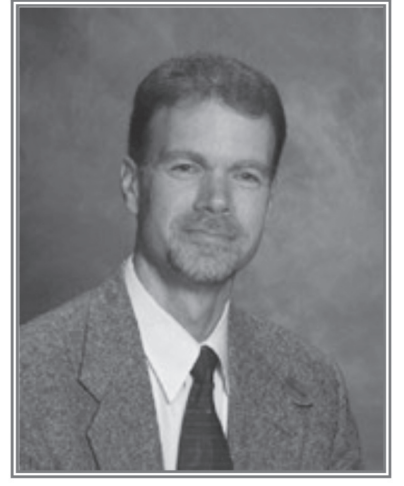
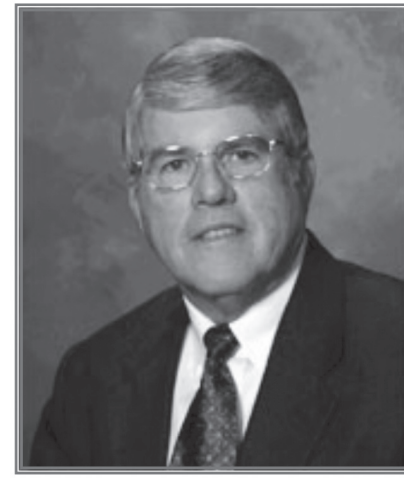
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Goldline Research has posted in December *Texas Monthly* magazine for 2008 The Most Dependable Accounting Professionals of Texas. Boothe Vassar and Company has been selected as one. The list is on page 201 of the December issue of *Texas Monthly*.

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AP Photo/Stace Maude

Lucy the cat hides out in a paper bag in West Milford, N.J. Bring things home in paper bags which are great for hiding in and make that irresistible crinkly noise.

Recession-proof cat toys

By LINDA LOMBARDI
The Associated Press

Brother, can you spare a twisty-tie?

Hard economic times can mean fewer holiday gifts — for your pets, too. Fortunately, cats were into recycling and repurposing long before “green” became the latest buzzword.

If you’ve ever seen your cat walk past a nice stuffed mouse to bat around one of those wire twisty-ties that close a loaf of bread, why not take the hint? Here’s what your feline family really wants you to do for the holidays:

Get milk! Or juice, as long as it’s in a plastic jug. Those little caps make great toys, especially the kind with the tear-off plastic strip.

Drink wine to relax. If watching your portfolio crash means you’re going through more wine these days, you’ve also got more corks for your cat to bat around.

Wear your wristwatch, even if you can’t afford new batteries. On a sunny day, you can get the sun to reflect off it and make a spot of light that your cat will chase

around the floor and walls — just like a laser pointer, but totally free.

Let your hair grow long. You’ll save money on haircuts, and once it’s long enough for a ponytail, you can share your hair ribbons. Cassandra Zaruba of Westminster, Md., has a cat that loves a particular kind of hair ribbon.

“I keep them in a Rubbermaid box, and a sure way to lure her out of any hiding place is to pop the lid of that box,” she says.

(Don’t do this with rubber bands, which some cats might be tempted to eat.)

Buy presents for other people. Not because your cat is so generous, but because your cat will enjoy trying to help wrap presents. Tear off a piece of the wrapping paper and crunch it up on ball for her to chase around. When you run out, try aluminum foil or candy wrappers.

Shop by mail. Online or catalog, it doesn’t matter what you buy as long as it’s delivered in a box. Leave the empty shipping carton on the floor or a table, and cats

are sucked in as if by a magical force.

But shop local, too. Your cat doesn’t give a fig about keeping independent neighborhood shops in business, but you’ll bring things home in paper bags that are great for hiding in and make that irresistible crinkly noise.

It’s OK if you have to cut back on the shopping, because you only need a few of those boxes and bags. “What I’ve discovered is that if you move them to a different location, the cats think they’re brand new and will start playing with them again,” says Karen Duvall of Bend, OR.

Don’t forget that many activities that you think are chores are really cat games: You want to tie your shoes; your cat will want to bat the shoelaces. You want to change the sheets on your bed; your cat will want to play hide and seek.

Speaking of beds, there is also no need to buy a special kitty bed.

Cats love to lie on things on top of other things, no matter their texture or height: lying on a shirt that’s on the

bed is better than lying on any other spot on the bed, even if they’re made of nearly identical fabric. A magazine on a table, even a piece of paper on the floor — if it’s flat enough to lie on and it’s on top of something else, it’s a free cat bed.

Kyle McCowin of Arlington, Va., has noticed this phenomenon, and wondered, is there such a thing as too much “on-topness”?

“Like is a magazine on a newspaper on a shirt on the bed better than just a shirt on the bed, or is that too many layers?” says McCowin. “These are the questions that keep me up at night.”

And if other worries are keeping you up at night, you can both make use of another arrangement that pleases cats: read. Your cat loves to get in the way of a good read.

When your cat sits on the newspaper, don’t push him away. He’ll be happy at no cost — and maybe skipping that bad economic news will be good for your mood too.

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Little Pitchers Have Big Ears

Dear Margo: I am 50 and recently married for the first time. My husband is 66. I find when we are alone — say, in a hotel room or vacationing — the sex is great. When we are at home (the one he shared with his first wife and still shares with his 26-year-old daughter), nothing happens. We are trying to sell the house, but the daughter will not leave. She doesn’t have a job, never did have a job, and her dad supports her like a teenager — I mean cell phone, Internet, the



MARGO HOWARD

works. Her mother has remarried, and of course the new husband doesn’t want the daughter around. I want to have a sexual relationship with my husband before it’s too late. — Angela

Dear Ange: You’ve gotta unload the house and the daughter. Either that or be on vacation most of the year. It seems quite obvious that the kid in the house is inhibiting your husband.

When you do sell the house, I suggest an apartment just big enough for the two of you. If he is inclined to support her in her own place, that’s up to him. What your spouse needs to understand (and perhaps a neutral third-party professional could help) is that your marriage may not make it if this 20-something infantilized, indulged teenager continues to rule the roost.

The real questions for your husband are these: Does he enjoy having sex, and does he wish to have a successful marriage? He has to face the situation head-on. Good luck. — Margo, resolutely

Aged Parents and Mistaken Memories

Dear Margo: I’m 60, with parents in their 90s. They treated me terribly when I was a teenager, so I left as soon as I was able. When I was in my 20s, my only other sibling, a brother, was killed in a car accident.

He was the favored child, and my parents were devastated. After that I felt sympathetic toward them for the loss of their son, and also for the fact that they had lost many family members in the Holocaust, including my mother’s parents. When I was in my 30s, I became a single mother, and my parents, who had moved to Germany, visited every couple of years.

I always suffered severe anxiety during their stays, but they were loving toward their grandson so I put up with it. Now they live in an assisted living community in Germany and are well taken care of. I went to visit them there a few years ago, and they paraded me around to everyone and acted like we were very close — even making up past incidents that would be typical of a loving family.

Ever since then they have come to believe this fiction, claiming they had always treated me in the most loving way. When I mentioned incidents that disproved this, they denied they ever happened. I stopped challenging the lies because it was useless and just upset them.

However, I’m most uncomfortable with this pretend familial love. I can manage their weekly phone calls, but I really don’t want to visit them again. I just retired and

am looking forward to doing things I enjoy, but they are pressuring me to come see them now that I have more time. What do you think I should I do? — Can’t Pretend Anymore

Dear Can’t: With parents in their 90s, it is a safe bet that their make-believe memories are a combination of regret, putting on a good face for their associates and senility.

Given your feelings and the fact that you live in different countries, I would stick with the phone calls and resist more visits. There is a chance, if they are in fact suffering from dementia, that your actual visit would not be all that meaningful ... or even remembered. — Margo, realistically ***

Doctor? Mother? A Personal Choice

Dear Margo: I have a 26-year-old sister who was halfway through medical school before she decided to drop out and have two children. Initially, my family was shocked and angry, as she did not reveal her pregnancy until her first baby was born — but like most families, we’ve come to respect and support her decision.

I, however, am still puzzled over why she did such an unimaginable thing. My sister graduated at the top of her class from a top-tier college and aspired to be a neurosurgeon.

We occasionally talk about her decision to drop out, and my sister’s response is always, “I’m happier being a mom. I did what made me happy.” She says she feels more successful being a stay-at-home mom and raising two kids, but I think a successful person is someone who’s able to balance their professional career and personal life. Am I right? — String Theorist

Dear String: It is interesting that what is “unimaginable” to you was a no-brainer for your sister.

I know people who have graduated from med school and then gone on to be authors, screenwriters or lawyers. My own daughter chose to forgo children and opted to become an M.D. I am for people doing what gives them the most pleasure. In your sister’s case, she opted for children, and from what you say, she sounds quite content with her decision. I’m not sure why you and your parents are so het-up about this.

The fact that no one knew about the pregnancy until there was a baby suggests to me that your sister was well aware of everyone’s feelings about her career. And life is long, my friend. Her children will not be young forever, and then, who knows? She may take her interrupted science/medical education in another direction.

I do think that being a dedicated mother is every bit as valuable as being a physician. As for your question about what constitutes a successful life, your definition of balancing professional and personal is strictly your own; there are no “rules” for this. — Margo, inclusively

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers’ daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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Annie’s Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Albert Schweitzer once said, “Sometimes our light goes out, but it is blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being.” The darkness that sets in when a child has died is all too well-known by members of The Compassionate Friends, the world’s largest self-help bereavement organization for families that have had a child die.

We also know that the holidays can be especially difficult for the bereaved. At this traditional family time of the year, we offer the opportunity for grieving families to come together on one day to celebrate the life, love and light of those children gone much too soon — to have that light blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being.

The 12th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14. This candle lighting, believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world, will be held for one hour at 7 p.m. local time around the world, creating a virtual wave of light.

It symbolizes that the light of these precious children will forever be held within the hearts of many. To post a memorial service event or to find an event locally, your readers may visit our website at

www.compassiontefriend.org.

Last year, The Compassionate Friends was made aware of, and listed on its website, nearly 500 formal services from around the world that took place throughout the day. Tens of thousands of candles were also lit in memory of children around the globe in small gatherings and in the privacy of homes.

Available also on Dec. 14 from our website will be a Remembrance Book for family members to share their feelings and post a memorial message during that 24-hour period.

We appreciate your making readers aware of this meaningful day of remembrance that is held Ó so that their light may always shine. — Patricia Loder, executive director, The Compassionate Friends/USA

Dear Patricia Loder: The death of one’s child — at any age — is devastating. The Worldwide Candle Lighting is a magnificent opportunity for the bereaved and their friends and family members to honor and be

part of a community of others who are paying tribute to loved ones. We hope our readers will look at your website and participate in this event, whether as part of a group or in the privacy of their own homes, and remember all the children who have died.

Dear Annie: I left my husband a month ago and

have done my best to make it clear that I no longer want a life with him. He did not cheat or abuse me, but our lifestyles are incompatible. I do not foresee reconciliation. Still, my ex continues to call and tell me how his day went and what’s going on at his job.

How can I make the separation any clearer without being overly harsh? We have two young children, and I would like our relationship to be civil but distant. —Trying To Cut the Cord

Dear Trying: It is in your children’s best interest for you to maintain a reasonably friendly relationship with their father, who



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

obviously needs more time to adjust to the separation. A month isn’t that long.

He misses you, but will eventually call less frequently as he moves on with his life. Meanwhile, we hope you can be patient and allow him to continue calling to briefly discuss his day.

After you’ve let him talk for a few minutes, put the children on the phone so they can speak to Daddy. When they are finished, tell him, “I’m really busy now. I’ll talk to you another time.”

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.

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Dogs have sense of fair play, too, it seems

By **RANDOLPH E. SCHMID**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — No fair! What parent hasn't heard that from a child who thinks another youngster got more of something. Well, it turns out dogs can react the same way.

Ask them to do a trick and they'll give it a try. For a reward, sausage say, they'll happily keep at it.

But if one dog gets no reward, and then sees another get sausage for doing the same trick, just try to get the first one to do it again.

Indeed, he may even turn away and refuse to look at you.

Dogs, like people and monkeys, seem to have a sense of fairness.

"Animals react to inequity," said Friederike Range of the University of Vienna, Austria,

who lead a team of researchers testing animals at the school's Clever Dog Lab. "To avoid stress, we should try to avoid treating them differently."

Similar responses have been seen in monkeys.

Range said she wasn't surprised at the dogs' reaction, since wolves are known to cooperate with one another and appear to be sensitive to each other. Modern dogs are descended from wolves.

Next, she said, will be experiments to test how dogs and wolves work together. "Among other questions, we will investigate how differences in emotions influence cooperative abilities," she said via e-mail.

In the reward experiments reported in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Range and colleagues experimented with

dogs that understood the command "paw," to place their paw in the hand of a researcher. It's the same game as teaching a dog to "shake hands."

Those that refused at the start — and one border collie that insisted on trying to herd other dogs — were removed. That left 29 dogs to be tested in varying pairs.

The dogs sat side-by-side with an experimenter in front of them. In front of the experimenter was a divided food bowl with pieces of sausage on one side and brown bread on the other.

The dogs were asked to shake hands and each could see what reward the other received.

When one dog got a reward and the other didn't, the unrewarded animal stopped playing.

When both got a reward all was well.

One thing that did surprise the

researchers was that — unlike primates — the dogs didn't seem to care whether the reward was sausage or bread.

Possibly, they suggested, the presence of a reward was so important it obscured any preference.

Other possibilities, they said, are that daily training with their owners overrides a preference, or that the social condition of working next to a partner increased their motivation regardless of which reward they got.

And the dogs never rejected the food, something that primates had done when they thought the reward was unfair.

The dogs, the researchers said, "were not willing to pay a cost by rejecting unfair offers."

Clive Wynne, an associate professor in the psychology department of the University of Florida,

isn't so sure the experiment measures the animals' reaction to fairness.

"What it means is individuals are responding negatively to being treated less well," he said in a telephone interview.

But the researchers didn't do a control test that had been done in monkey studies, Wynne said, in which a preferred reward was visible but not given to anyone.

In that case the monkeys went on strike because they could see the better reward but got something lesser.

In dogs, he noted, the quality of reward didn't seem to matter, so the test only worked when they got no reward at all, he said.

However, Wynne added, there is "no doubt in my mind that dogs are very, very sensitive to what people are doing and are very smart."

A job with a view

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Russell Tucker paints the flag pole next to the 118th District Court Monday afternoon. Tucker said he plans to paint several flag poles for various city and county agencies during the next several days.



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Sunday, December 21, 2008

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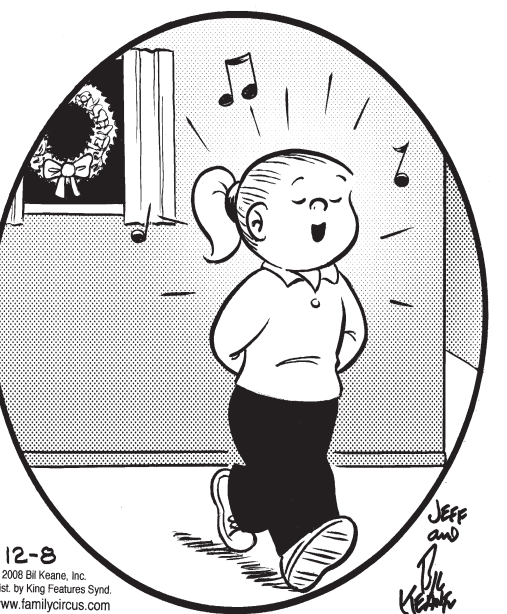
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6 :PM	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	12 Cora-zones	News	Friends	Granger	Business	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Hair Show, Gina Torres	Suite Life	Women's College Basketball	Monday Night Count-down	
7 :PM	Charlie Brown	Fortune	Cuidado-Ángel	Sarah Connor	Big Bang How I Met	Doña Barbara	Chuck	Fam. Guy	Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed	Movie: Two Weeks Notice, Alicia Witt	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: The Santa Clause 2	Suite Life	Billiards: Trick	NFL Football: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Carolina Panthers.
8 :PM	Boston Legal	Boston Legal	Fuego en la Sangre	Prison Break	Two Men Worst	El Rostro de Analia	Heroes	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Hot Planet	(15) Movie: Mystic River, Kevin Bacon	Law & Order	Law & Order	Cole	Wizards of Life De	Billiards: Trick	
9 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	The Ultimate Fighter	The Closer	Hatchett	Suite Life	Billiards: Trick		
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Sex & Sex	Sala	Made	Made	CSI: NY	Without a Trace	Movie: Hair Show, Gina Torres	So Raven	Rodeo: 2008 PRCA National Finals - Fifth Round.	NFL Prime-time	
11 :PM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Movie: Spanglish, Paz Vega	Prophecy	Israel	Cortes	(12:15) Movie: Baby Boom, Sam Shepard	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Emperor Dragon	NFL Films		
12 :AM	News	Paid	Basco	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest										
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Humor	TMZ														

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Some people call 'em reindeer, but I call 'em Santalope."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Deck the halls with balls of folly ..."

HAGAR

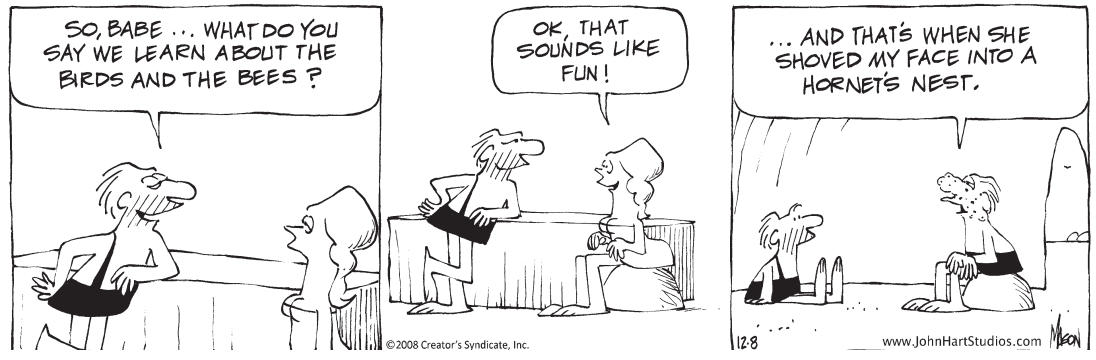


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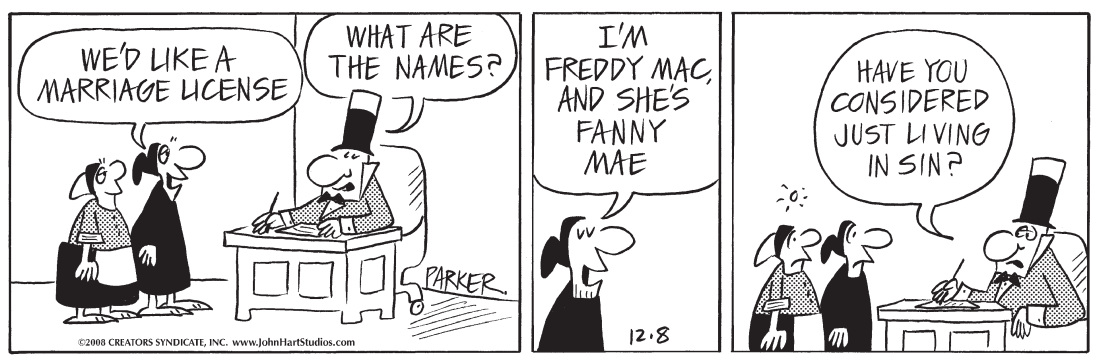
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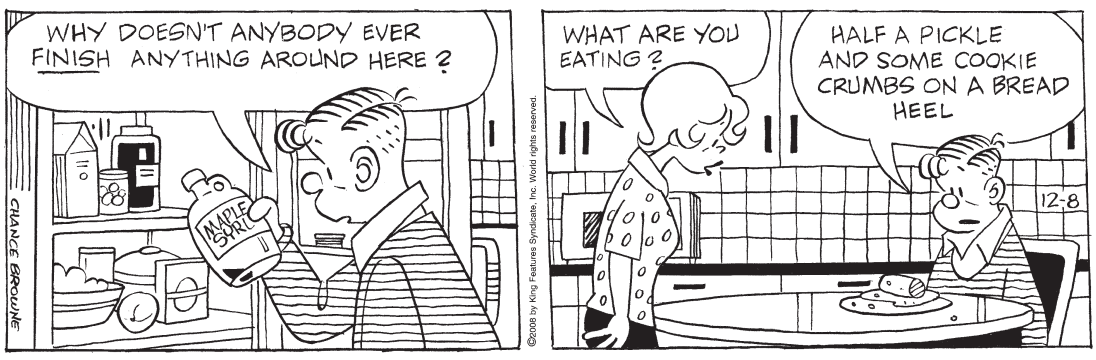
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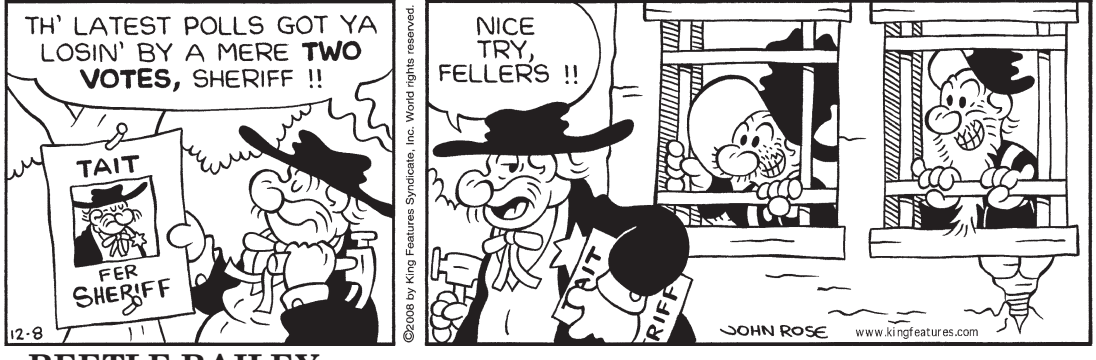
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BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 8, the 343rd day of 2008. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date: In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, George Washington's retreating army crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the Reconstruction of the South.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1978, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir died in Jerusalem at age 80.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed into U.S. law the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect at the start of 1994.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Maximilian Schell is 78. Actor David Carradine is 72. Actor James MacArthur is 71. Flutist James Galway is 69. Singer Jerry Butler is 69. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 67. Actor John Rubinstein is 62. Rock singer-

er-musician Gregg Allman is 61. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 60. Actress Kim Basinger is 55. R&B musician Phil Colten (Def Leppard) is 51. Country singer Marty Raybon is 49. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 46. Actor Wendell Pierce is 45. Actress Teri Hatcher is 44. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 42. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 36. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 32. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 30. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 29. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegelé is 22. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 15.

Thought for Today: "So long as governments set the example of killing their enemies, private individuals will occasionally kill theirs." — Elbert Hubbard, American author (1856-1915).

Answer to previous puzzle

J	S	B	A	C	H	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	
A	I	E	L	L	O	E	M	P	A	N	A	D	
I	N	A	P	E	T	A	C	E	T	A	T	E	
L	E	T	O	F	F	T	E	N	S	T	O	N	
T	O	G	A	E	D								
E	S	P	N	O	W	N	S	K	A	S	E	M	
R	E	R	O	U	T	E	D	R	E	C	U	S	
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C	E	A	S	E	S								
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C	R	U	S	A	D	E	S	G	S	U	I	T	

Newsday Crossword

...EASY GO by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Call a halt to
5 Short-term worker, for short
9 Update, as an atlas
14 Solitary
15 A Great Lake
16 Banish
17 Stare at
18 Horse's hair
19 Mexican snacks
20 Support insincerely
23 Female deer
24 Mural or sculpture
25 Spills the beans
28 Acting job
30 ___ la la
33 Spine-tingling
34 Sector
35 Search for bargains
36 Visit for a while
39 Quick kiss
40 Chops (off)
41 Standards
42 After-tax amount
43 Do OK in a class
44 Rims
45 Frying utensil
46 ___ Lanka
47 Plan carefully
56 Accumulate
57 Infamous Roman emperor
58 Very uncommon
59 Using few words
60 Rip

DOWN

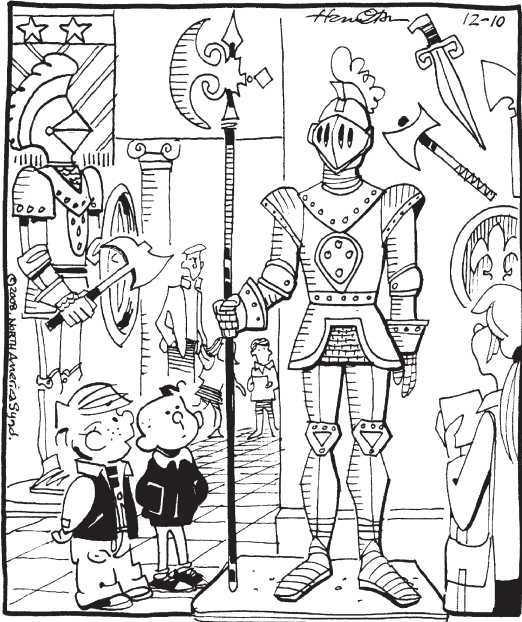
1 Unappetizing food
2 Old Roman robe
3 Merely
4 Banana covering
5 Musical paces
6 Wipe clean
7 Where coal is found
8 Jury member
9 Conclude a career
10 Precise
11 Rats' relatives
12 Frequently
13 Mexican money
21 Just sat around
22 Parking attendant
25 Conical tent
26 Build, as a building
27 Make a connection
28 Frolics
29 Change for a \$5 bill
30 Over yonder
31 Wanders
32 Rental dwellings: Abbr.
33 Sports cable channel
34 Menageries
35 Air pollution
37 Be at an angle
38 Where New Delhi is
43 Took a break
44 Mistakes
45 Pursuit group in westerns
46 Handbag holder
47 Past the deadline
48 Prayer ender
49 Barbecue locale
50 Prefix for freeze
51 Appear to be
52 Threesome
53 British noble
54 Person with a diploma
55 Cravings

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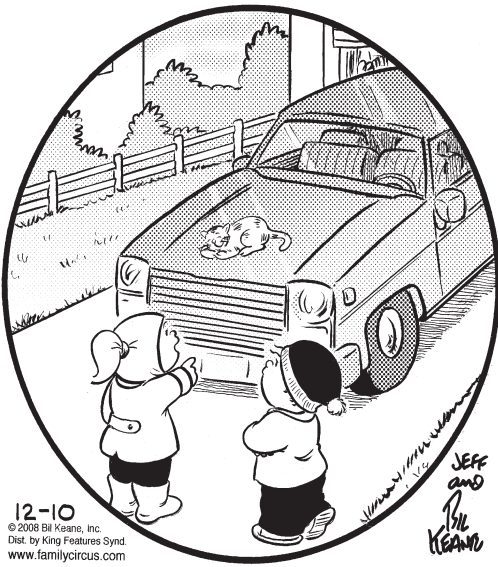
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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero NBC	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Israel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Key Down Under, Alan Rickman	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazonas	News NBC	Seinfeld	Prophecy	News-Lehrer	Made	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Montana	Suite Life	Football	NBA	
7:30	Entertain	Fortune	Cuidado-Angel	Secret Millionaire	Entertain	Christine	Doña Barbara	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Made	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Movie: The Cheetah Girls 2	College Basketball: TCU at Indiana	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at 76ers	
8:30	Private Practice	Private Practice	Fuego en la Sangre	Bones	Criminal Minds	El Rostro de Analia	Life	Payne	Scott	Light of the Southwest	UFC Fight for the Troops	UFC Fight for the Troops	The Librarian: Curse of the Judas Chalice	Brother	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Boxing	NBA Basketball: Suns at Lakers	
9:30	Dirty Sexy Money	Dirty Sexy Money	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	Law & Order	Payne	Payne	Charlie Rose	Prototype This!	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	UFC Fight for the Troops	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Rodeo: 2008 PRCNA National Finals -- Seventh Round.	SportsCenter	
10:30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News CBS	Noticiero NBC	News NBC	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Prototype This!	UFC Fight for the Troops	UFC Fight for the Troops	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Rodeo: 2008 PRCNA National Finals -- Seventh Round.	SportsCenter	
11:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Sex & Dr. Young	CCM	Smiley	Time Wrp	UFC Fight for the Troops	UFC Fight for the Troops	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Rodeo: 2008 PRCNA National Finals -- Seventh Round.	SportsCenter	
12:30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Movie: King's Ransom, Kellita Smith	Israel	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	UFC Fight for the Troops	UFC Fight for the Troops	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Rodeo: 2008 PRCNA National Finals -- Seventh Round.	SportsCenter	
1:30	News ABC	News ABC	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest	Prototype This!	Movie: Blown Away, Lloyd Bridges	UFC Fight for the Troops	UFC Fight for the Troops	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Rodeo: 2008 PRCNA National Finals -- Seventh Round.	SportsCenter	
1:30	Paid	Light	Humor	Humor	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If these guys got dirty, they could just walk through a carwash."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Kittycat likes to play hood ornament on our car ... till Daddy gets in to drive."

HAGAR



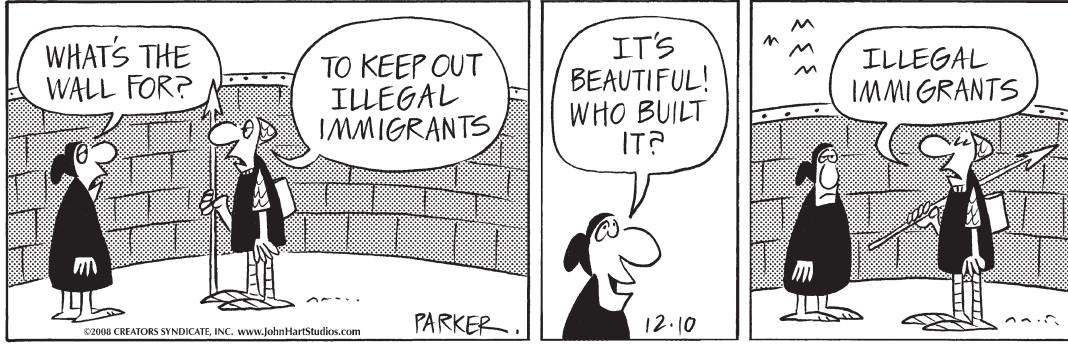
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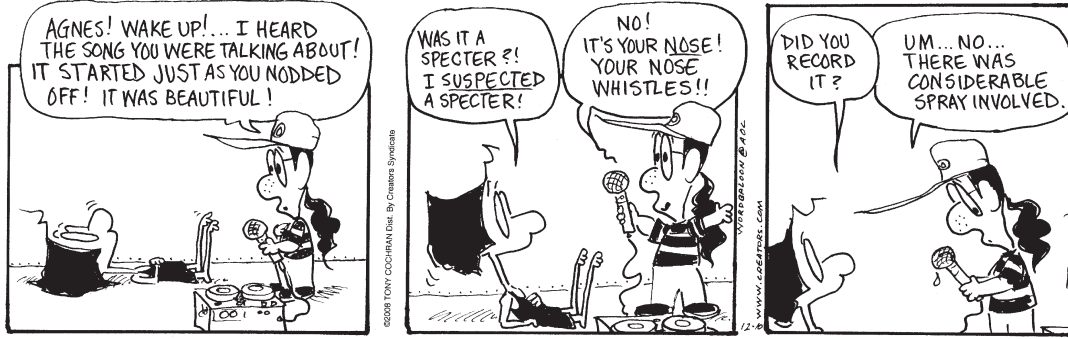
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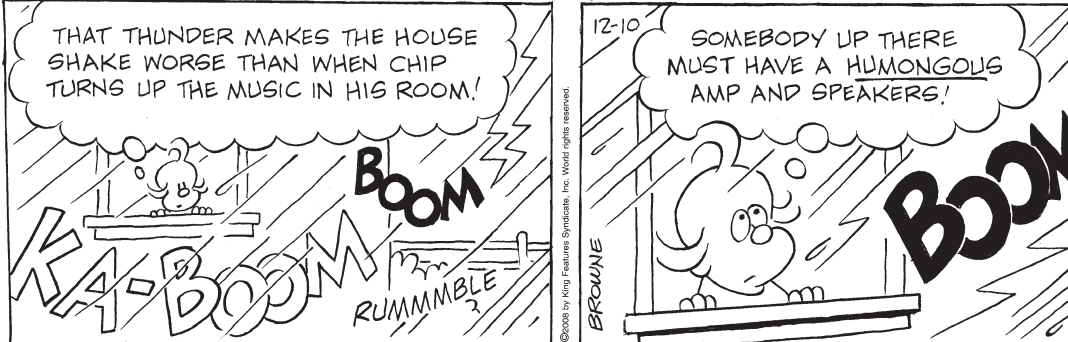
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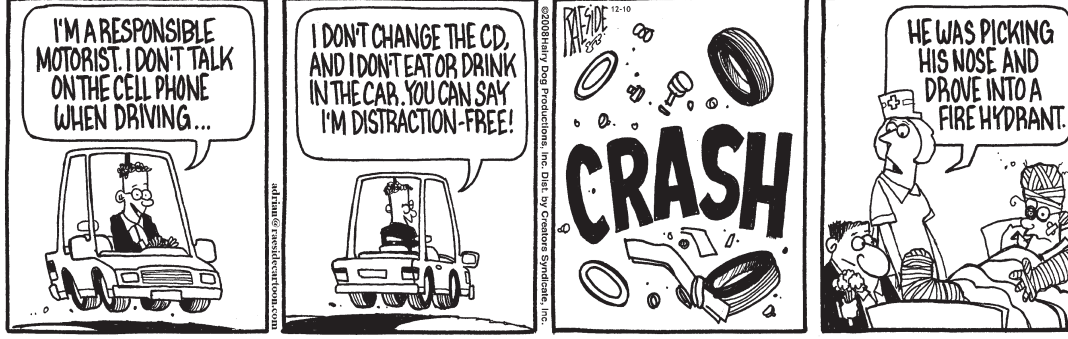
AGNES



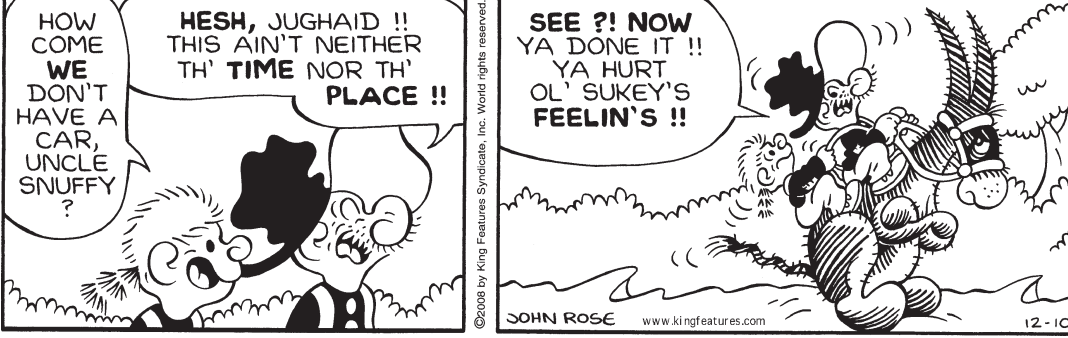
HI AND LOIS



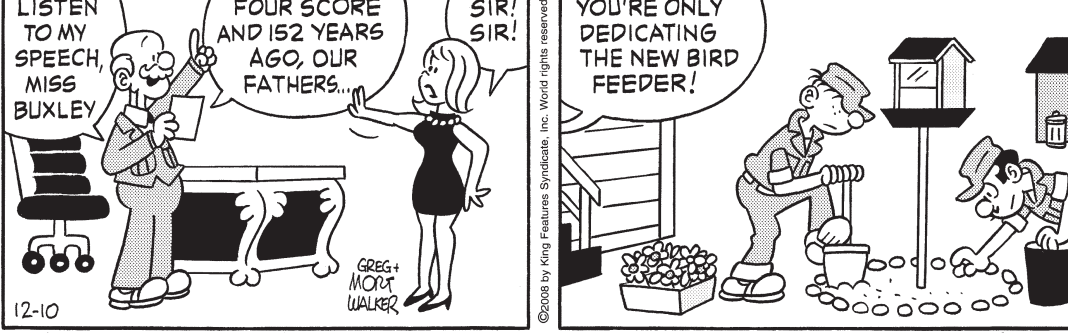
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 2008. There are 21 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 Fifty years ago, on Dec. 10, 1958, National Airlines opened the era of U.S. domestic jet passenger service as it began flights between New York and Miami using Boeing 707s leased from Pan Am.
 On this date:
 In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication.
 In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state.
 In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.
 In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.
 In 1931, Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (the co-recipient was Nicholas Murray Butler).

In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
 In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.
 In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize.
 In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed in the crash of their plane in Lake Monona, Wis.
 One year ago: Suspended NFL star Michael Vick was sentenced by a federal judge in Richmond, Va., to 23 months in prison for bankrolling a dogfighting operation and killing dogs that underperformed. Madison Square Garden and New York Knicks coach Isiah Thomas reached an \$11.5 million settlement of a sexual harassment case brought by former team executive Anucha Browne Sanders.
 Today's Birthdays: Actor Harold Gould is 85. Former Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yutierrez is 78. Actor Tommy Kirk is 67. Actress Fionnula Flanagan is 67. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 67. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 62. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tavares is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Cleaves

(Friends of Distinction) is 60. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 57. Actress Susan Dey is 56. Actor Michael Clarke Duncan is 51. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 51. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh is 48. Actress Nia Peeples is 47. TV chef Bobby Flay is 44. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 43. Country singer Kevin Sharp is 38. Rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla) is 37. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 34. Violinist Sarah Chang is 28. Actress Raven-Symone is 23.
 Thought for Today: "It is only in romances that people undergo a sudden metamorphosis. In real life, even after the most terrible experiences, the main character remains exactly the same." — Isadora Duncan, American modern dance pioneer (1878-1927).
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Answer to previous puzzle

A	T	S	E	A	S	T	E	W	P	L	O	T
B	A	L	L	S	L	O	V	E	L	I	V	E
B	R	U	S	H	F	I	R	E	S	O	M	E
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S	P	A	W	N	S	M	A	R	S	H	E	S
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P	E	E	P	C	U	E	S	C	U	T	I	N
R	E	S	P	O	N	D						
T	A	U	T	D	A	S	H					
O	H	D	A	R	N	H	I	N	T	A	R	K
P	A	R	K	S	H	O	V	E	L	I	T	I
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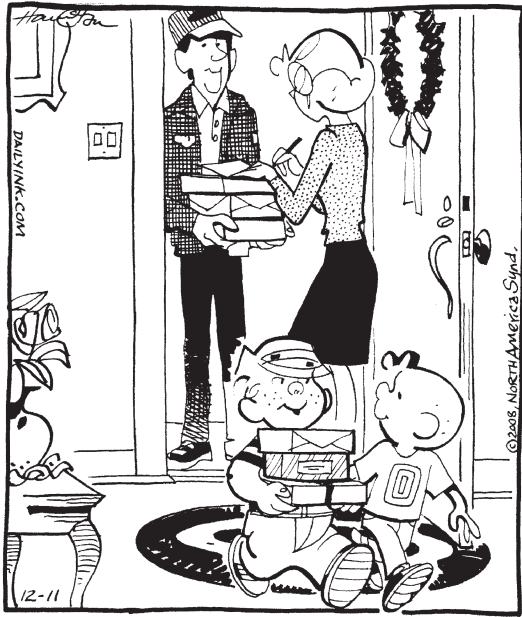
Newsday Crossword ANGER MANAGEMENT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
 1 Some tax advisers, for short
 5 Tenth out of ten
 9 Bulletin-board stickers
 14 ___ Hashanah
 15 Choir voice
 16 "Snowy" wader
 17 "Would ___ to you?"
 18 Séance sound
 19 Nary a soul
 20 Paul Reiser sitcom
 23 Boar's mate
 24 Fake it
 25 *Mila 18* author
 27 Milliner's product
 28 Couldn't stand
 32 Surprise win
 35 Gad about
 36 Sainly circle
 37 Stockyard call
 38 Base stealers, often
 41 Baton Rouge sch.
 42 Smart-alecky
 44 Soufflé needs
 45 See 66 Across
 47 Cheap way to travel
 49 Sniffer sample
 50 Typical MTV viewer
 51 Blended-family member
 55 Volcanic spew
 57 Asian cuisine staple
 60 Effect's partner
 62 Astronaut Shepard
 63 Suffix with luncheon
- DOWN**
 1 Pinch, as a piecrust
 2 Like extreme opposites
 3 Out of the way
 4 Stow, as a sword
 5 *The Shadow* character
 6 In a normal voice
 7 Pronto, in the OR
 8 Chic
 9 Professor's security
 10 In the past
 11 Incidental chatter
 12 Bingo kin
 13 One-dish meal
 21 Heart throbs
 22 ___ Mongolia
 26 "Sort of" suffix
 28 Jump out of the way of
 29 Times to party
 30 Last word in a threat
 31 Ill-humored
 32 Tennis arbiters
 33 Coffeehouse entertainer
 34 Easily noticed digit?
- 35** Diana of *The Avengers*
39 Was biased
40 Acted as a mole
43 Comfy shirt
46 Put under the yoke
48 E-mail again
49 Dictation takers
51 Pint-size
52 "Same here!"
53 Be naughty
54 Monopoly stack
55 Spread unit
56 Volvo rival
58 Relaxation
59 Natural soother
61 Cross-reference word

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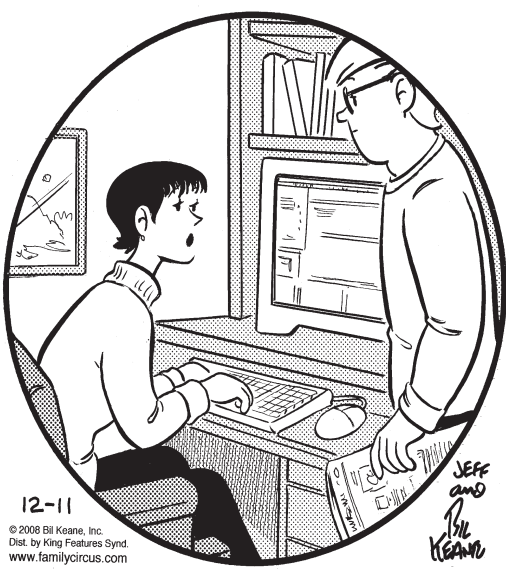
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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	
5:PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	Posse, Charles Lane	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Horn	SportsCenter	
6:PM	ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	Noticiero	NBC	Friends	Brad	Business	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Wizards	Interrupt		
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Secret Millionaire	Survivor: Gabon	Doña Barbara	Name	Friends	Israel	Old House Hr.	HowStuff-Works	Movie: The Day the Earth Stood Still	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Wizards	Movie: Tales From the Hood	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	College Basketball	2008 ESPNU College Football Awards
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	You Smarter?	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	To Be Announced	Destroyed	Destroyed	Movie: Star Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	American Gangster	Wizards	Life De	2008 ESPNU College Football Awards	
9:PM	(.01) Private Practice	(.01) Private Practice	Rosa Guadalupe	TMZ	(.01) Eleventh Hour	Sin Senos	(.01) ER	Seinfeld		Charlie Rose	Mining the Moon		Movie: The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	Hatchett	Life De	College Football Awards	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Smiley	HowStuff-Works	Movie: Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Teri Garr	Rock	Inside the NBA	So Raven	Cory	Replace	Kim	
11:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Friends	Van Impe	Smiley	HowStuff-Works	Movie: The Running Man, Richard	Jackass	Married...	The Deal	Emperor	Dragon	Rodeo: 2008 PRCA National Finals -- Eighth Round.	NFL Live
12:AM	Insider	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Poker After Dark	Swallow	Israel	LightWrid	Movie: The Running Man, Richard	Married...	The Deal	Emperor	Dragon	Rodeo: 2008 PRCA National Finals -- Eighth Round.	NFL Live
1:AM	G. Keith	Weekend	Basco	Basco	Friends	Entertain	Entertain	Entertain	Entertain	Swallow	Israel	LightWrid	Movie: The Running Man, Richard	Married...	The Deal	Emperor	Dragon	Rodeo: 2008 PRCA National Finals -- Eighth Round.	NFL Live

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO HAVE AUNTIES AN' UNCLAS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

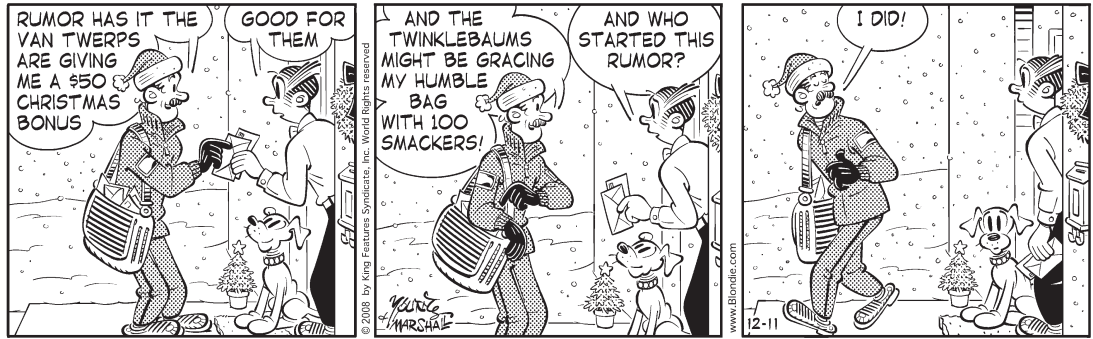


"Do you think your mother will be offended if I email her the children's sizes?"

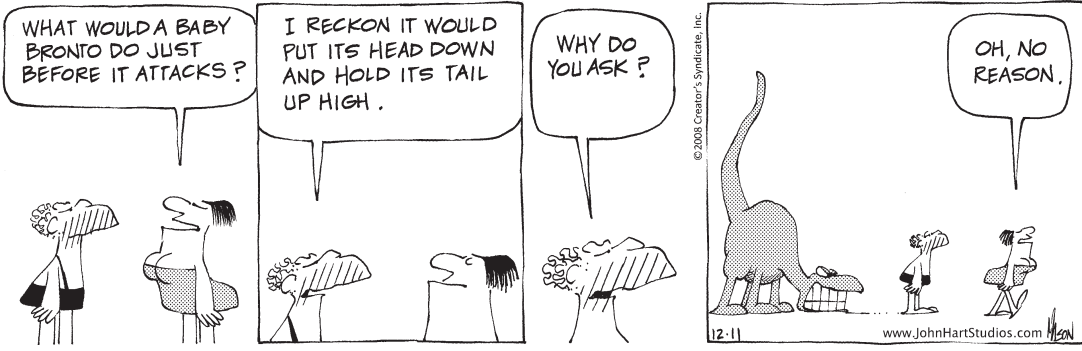
HAGAR



BLONDIE



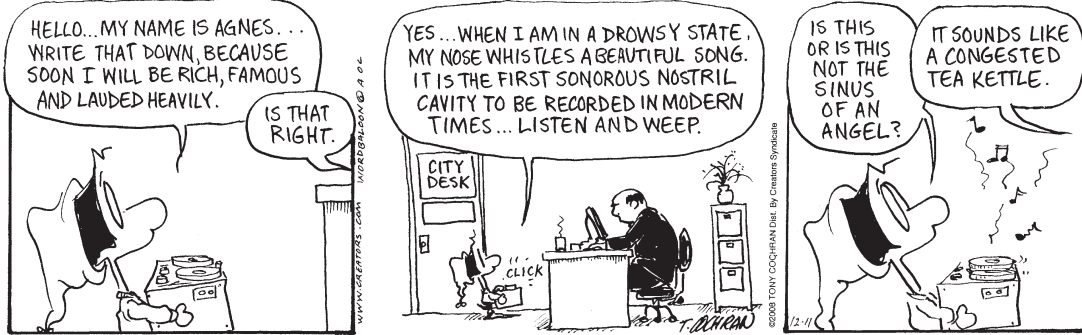
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AGNES



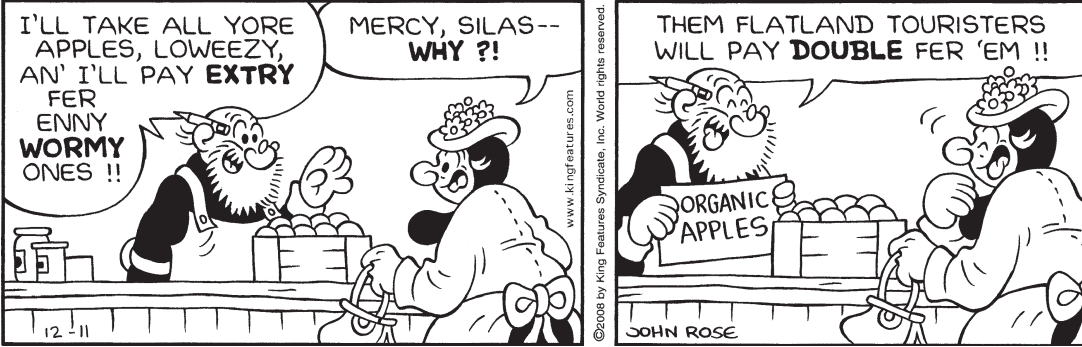
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 11, the 346th day of 2008. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.

On this date: In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.)

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1882, Boston's renamed Bijou Theatre, the first American playhouse to be lighted exclusively by electricity, gave its first performance, of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe, Or The Peer and the Peri."

In 1928, police in Buenos Aires, Argentina, announced they had thwarted an attempt on the life of President-elect Herbert Hoover.

In 1937, Italy announced it was withdrawing from the League of Nations.

In 1941, Germany and Italy

declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the world body.

In 1983, Pope John Paul II visited a Lutheran church in Rome, the first visit by a Roman Catholic pontiff to a Protestant church in his own diocese.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

One year ago: Two car bombs in Algeria, including one targeting the U.N. refugee agency's offices, killed 37 people, 17 of them U.N. employees; Al-Qaida's self-styled North African branch claimed responsibility.

Today's Birthdays: American composer Elliott Carter is 100. Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 78. Actress Rita Moreno is 77. Former California state lawmaker Tom Hayden is 69. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 68. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 67. Actress Donna Mills is 66. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., is 65. Singer Brenda Lee is 64. Actress Lynda Day George is 64. Music

producer Tony Brown is 62. Actress Teri Garr is 60. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 56. Actress Bess Armstrong is 55. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 54. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 51. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Motley Crue) is 50. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 47. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 44. Rock musician David Schools (Gov't Mule, Widespread Panic) is 44. Actor Gary Dourdan is 42. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique ("The Parkers") is 40. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 35. Actor Rider Strong is 29.

Thought for Today: "A technical objection is the first refuge of a scoundrel." — Heywood Broun, American journalist (1888-1939).

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Answer to previous puzzle

CPAS	LAST	TACKLE
ROSH	ALTO	EGRET
ILIE	MOAN	NOONE
MADABOUTYOU	SOW	
PRETEND	URIS	
HAT	DETESTED	
UPSET	ROVE	HALO
MOO	SLIDERS	LSU
PERT	EGGS	POKER
STEERAGE	SIP	
TEEN	STEPDAD	
ASH	STEAMED	DRICE
CAUSE	ALAN	ETTE
RAMEN	SOLO	STUD
EBBED	EELS	SOPS

Newsday Crossword

NATIONAL LEAGUE by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | | |
| 1 Northwest capital | 1 String-section member | 8 Workday start, often | 33 Chop finely |
| 6 Half of AD | 2 Fairy-tale opener | 9 Black cats and such | 34 Counting everyone |
| 10 Shows sorrow | 3 A party to | 10 Exemplar of accuracy | 37 Surreptitiousness |
| 14 Building adjunct | 4 TVs | 11 Swearing-in statement | 40 Napoleon's home, 1814-15 |
| 15 Hurt severely | 5 It's too much | 12 Roquefort relative | 43 Mother of Zeus |
| 16 Corduroy feature | 6 Current unit | 13 Tractor-trailer have | 47 Overcast |
| 17 Tree with green-blue needles | 7 Babe in the woods | 18 What Mensans have | 48 English physicist |
| 19 Part of a list | | 22 Main point | 50 Something extra |
| 20 Judo instructor | | 24 Shortened preposition | 52 Pointy tools |
| 21 Chinese decorating philosophy | | 26 Things to cast | 53 Bridal accessory |
| 23 Snorkel, e.g.: Abbr. | | 27 City on the Missouri | 54 Contents of some tubs |
| 25 Yard-sale phrase | | 28 Cruise ship | 55 Part of a procedure |
| 26 Holiday-dinner entrée | | 29 Exercise equipment | 57 Writer Bombeck |
| 31 Hindu teacher | | 30 The vowels | 58 Checked, as a gauge |
| 35 Erstwhile African dictator | | 32 Author Walker | 59 Window insert |
| 36 "Seeing red" feeling | | | 60 Fuss |
| 37 Yalta VIP | | | 63 Ill-mannered man |
| 38 South African currency | | | |
| 39 Library byword | | | |
| 41 Musical Turner | | | |
| 42 His and hers | | | |
| 44 Corrida cry | | | |
| 45 350, to Tacitus | | | |
| 46 Fergie's first name | | | |
| 47 Flamenco dancer's footwear | | | |
| 49 Country singer McCoy | | | |
| 51 Bar order | | | |
| 52 Essence of guacamole | | | |
| 56 Pipsqueaks | | | |
| 61 Jack and Jill's destination | | | |

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	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	In Touch-Dr	BBC	Cash Cab	Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life	Soccer: NCAA Cup Semifinal	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Made	CSI: NY	Law & Order	Suite Life	Suite Life	Suite Life	Football	NBA
7 :PM	Entertain	Fortune	Cuidado-Angel	Two Men	Entertain	Entertain	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Made	Made	Movie: Hannibal, Ray Liotta	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Suite Life	College Football: NCAA Division I Semifinal -- Teams TBA.	NBA Basketball: Hornets at Celtics
8 :PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	Don't Forget	To Be Announced	El Rostro de Analia	Lipstick Jungle	Talladega Nights: Ricky Bobby	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	American Gangster	Suite Life Wizards	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Warriors
9 :PM	20/20	20/20	Nuestra Navid.	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos	Dateline NBC	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman
10 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Funnier	Church	Charlie Rose	Survivorman	Movie: Gremlins, Hoyt Axton	Jackass	Movie: Mission: Impossible 2, Thandie Newton	Hatchett	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Hornets at Celtics	
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Sanchez	Smiley	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Desmadrugados	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Movie: Something's Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	News	Best of Light of the Southwest	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman
1 :AM	Paid	Everyone Prave	Humor	Tyra Banks Show	Paid	Pelicula: 1 a Máxima	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid

DENNIS THE MENACE



"So, how's the wife and the elves?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How come these are all exactly the same?"

HAGAR



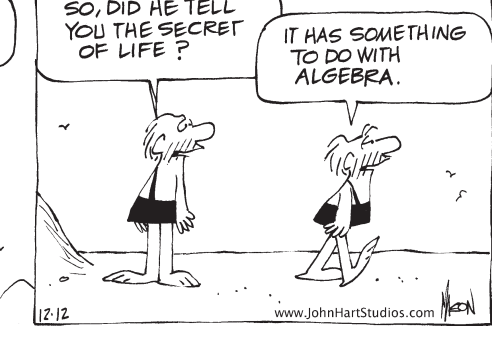
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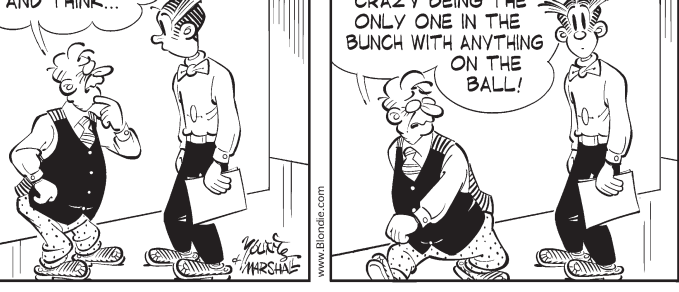
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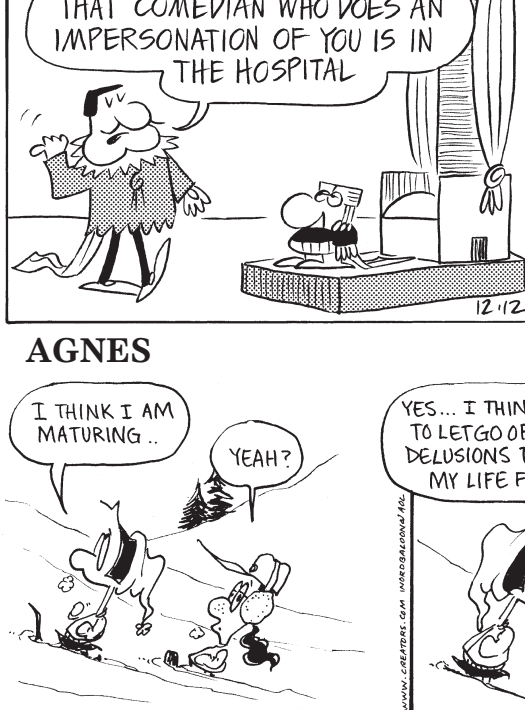
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 12, the 347th day of 2008. There are 19 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On Dec. 12, 2000, George W. Bush was transformed into the president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.
 On this date:
 In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
 In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.
 In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.
 In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.
 In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, Calif.
 In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)
 In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain.
 In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.
 In 1988, 35 people were killed in a triple train collision during morning rush-hour in south London.
 One year ago: Republican presidential rivals gathered in Johnston, Iowa, called for deep cuts in federal spending in a debate remarkably free of acrimony. President George W. Bush vetoed a second bill that would have expanded government-provided health insurance for children.
 Today's Birthdays: TV host Bob Barker is 85. Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch is 84. Singer Connie Francis is 70. Singer Dionne Warwick is 68. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 65. Actor Wings Hauser is 61. Actor Bill Nighy is 59. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 58. Country singer

LaCosta is 58. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 56. Author Lorna Landvik is 54. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 51. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 50. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 47. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 45. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 41. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 39. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 38. Actress Madchen Amick is 38. Country singer Hank Williams III is 36. Actress Mayim Bialik is 33. Model Bridget Hall is 31.
 Thought for Today: "I have never known a man who died from overwork, but many who died from doubt." — Charles Horace Mayo, American surgeon and co-founder of the Mayo Clinic (1865-1939).
 © 2008 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

BOISE	ANNO	SOBS
ANNEX	MAIM	WALE
SCOTCH	PINE	ITEM
SENSEI	FENGSHUI	
SGT	ASIS	
POLISHAM	SWAMI	
AMIN	IRE	STALIN
RAND	QUIET	TINA
THEIRS	OLE	CCCL
SARAH	CUBANHEEL	
NEAL	ALE	
AVOCADOS	TWERPS	
WELL	DUTCHTREAT	
LIEU	IDEA	OMANI
SLOB	NYPD	NADER

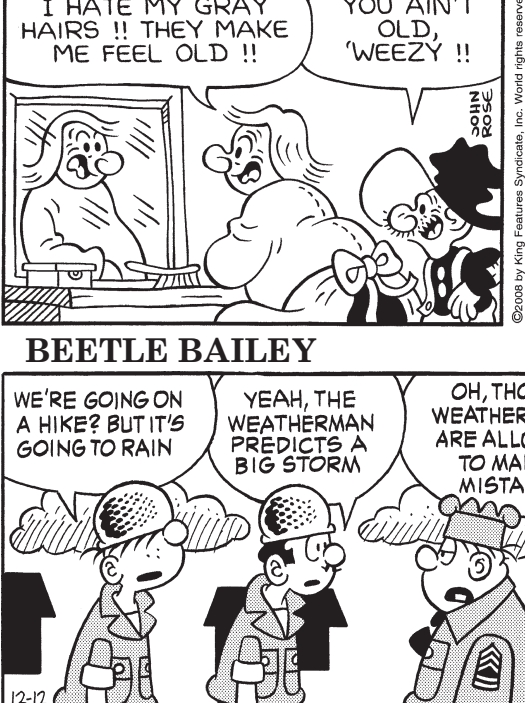
SNUFFY SMITH



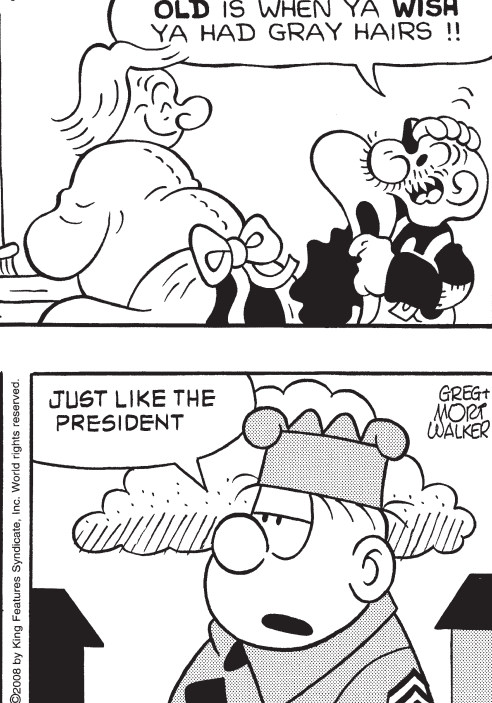
BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

NOTHING IS EASY by David W. Cromer
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Airspeed measure
- Backdrops for oaters
- Some are soy-based
- Canyon comeback
- Kemper competitor
- Hud Oscar winner
- Start of a quote
- Traffic-sign word
- Send, as to a specialist
- Satirical periodical
- Mound stats
- G1 uniforms
- Part 2 of quote
- Candy shape
- Salon sound
- Japanese sport
- Was fast . . . or wasn't
- Tiger rival
- Part 3 of quote
- One of Africa's largest cities
- Mongrel
- Moore poem starter
- Swedish import
- Heads for the hills
- End of quote
- Like last year's styles
- Bard's river
- CBS series
- Express one's views
- Completely fill

DOWN

- DC subway
- Pined
- Course creators
- What remained in Pandora's box
- Scratch
- Shoebox letters
- Historical records
- Source of quote
- Fruit drinks
- Towel fabric
- Hammer end
- Digital readouts: Abbr.
- Feed a fire
- Is off
- Turn blue
- Construes
- Mrs. Gandhi's father
- Jeweler's measure
- Post-blizzard mess
- Bear in the sky
- Pertaining to
- Ground grain
- Management level
- Abrasive quality
- [Not my error]
- NATO member
- Med. test
- Where Columbia is: Abbr.
- Informal refusal
- Fix
- WSJ employees
- Belly laugh
- Dental tissue
- Russian river
- Wide ties
- McQueen's Bullitt costar
- Persian comment
- Like some cavities
- Get around
- Expressed a preference
- Film preceder
- Edmonton NHLer
- Inferior to
- Cold temps
- Water carrier
- Indy quest
- Scotch alternative

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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/12/08

Bird Poop: The case of the hunter and the ruddy duck

Having arrived during the night, the bird fed and rested during the next day. On its journey south, this random fresh water lake was a welcome sight in the arid terrain.

Startled by the pellets that splattered nearby, the frightened bird labored to become airborne with other species on the lake. Simultaneously, its small, rounded wings tried to



BEBE MCCASLAND raise its chunky body as its powerful feet pushed against the surface of the water. By the time the hunter reloaded, it was seeking another watery

haven. As the early winter sky faded into a soft, orange glow, the bird came in to land on a long stretch of water. The impact against its chest and legs was painful. Tumbling to a stop, the bird struggled to swim on the paved surface of a county road.

After a few clumsy steps, the bird's legs collapsed from its futile attempt. It struggled against the grasses and uneven ground of the shoulder.

"At Midway Baptist Church," said the caller. "I've seen ducks in my time, but none like this one," he continued. Having found the bird behind the church, the man realized it was extremely passive and would not fly.

Since he was without a car, we offered to come to the small community east of town. As we drove the short distance, we discussed the possibilities of the duck's coming from Moss Creek Reservoir, or perhaps Powell Lake.

Upon being handed the bird, we told the man it was a first for us as well. Even in its winter plumage, the ruddy duck was unmistakable with its black cap, white cheeks, and faded blue-gray bill. Its chunky body, with legs placed near the back of its body, also helped us in making a specific identification.

"Ruddy?" the man asked. "Doesn't that mean reddish?" "Yes, or rosy," I answered. "You're seeing its autumn to late spring plumage. May through August is breeding season. Its grayish brown back, chest, and sides are going to be a rusty-red. This gray bill will become bright blue." Wishfully thinking, he added, "Don't you wish we could see that?"

Once home, our bathtub was soon filled with water. Readily, the duck paddled from end to end. With feet and legs intended for swimming, not walking, the bird had been helpless on land. When threatened, the ruddy duck was capable of sinking below the surface instantly.

Since the duck was a bottom feeder in need of aquatic plant life, small fish, and insect larvae, we released it on a private lake. There, the bird could recover and continue its migration. As its feet and legs entered the water, the duck sank from sight without a ripple. Further

along the shore line, it resurfaced. Confident in its new freedom, it dove numerous times to feed.

As we watched it become acclimated to nature again as it floated on the water, we noticed its stiff, pointed tail was upright and spread like a fan. During courtship, this gesture, strutting, and puffing out its chest signaled his desires. In the summer months ahead, the drake and its

mate, the smallest of ducks in America, might produce a brood of eight. To be so tiny, his beloved would lay enormous eggs.

For a brief time during winter's drabness, the ruddy duck had taken us from the doldrums of cold, dreary days to the vibrant colors to be displayed in a future breeding season.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



Migrating at dusk, during the night, or in the early morning, the ruddy duck flies at low elevations. With extensive breeding grounds as far north as Canada, it can be found in the Gulf states and Mexico during the winter.

Courtesy photo

Light up the Holidays! BEALLS



TWO DAY SALE

SHOP WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
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GREAT GIFTS FOR EVERYONE!

SPECIAL BUY! **60% OFF**
ENTIRE STOCK MISSES NYLON ACTIVE SETS
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Sterling silver and turquoise.
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18K gold over sterling. Boxed.
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Stores up to 240 photos.
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ENTIRE STOCK ROBES FOR HER
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U.S. POLO ASSN. SWEATERS FOR JUNIORS
Turtleneck and V-neck logo sweaters. S-XL.
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REGISTER TO WIN!
OUR JUMBO PLUSH BEAR
Almost 4' tall. One awarded per store.
Register thru December 17. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

JUST \$6 EACH
2008 COLLECTIBLE BEARS
With any \$50 purchase. Collect all four!
A \$24 value. While supplies last. One bear per \$50 purchase.

Prices effective December 10 & 11, 2008. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Selection may vary by store.

HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. SUNDAY 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
INSIDE THE BIG SPRING MALL

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Troy Tompkins,
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The Prudential Insurance
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Wacky Facts

- Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights that begins Dec. 21. It is celebrated by lighting special candles each day at sundown.
- Kwanzaa is a seven-day African-American festival that begins Dec. 26. It features activities such as candle-lighting and pouring of libations, ending with a feast and gift giving. — *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

Chatter Box



"Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice."
— *Humorist Dave Barry, on thinkexist.com.*



GREAT GIFTS

\$10 & under

1

Palm-size **Automoblox Minis** sport the same sleek design and allure as their bigger Automoblox brothers, but at a fraction of the price. The interchangeable snap-together parts let any budding engineer combine pieces from multiple cars to form new vehicles, all while developing (we have to say it) his motor skills. Automoblox, \$10

This holiday you don't have to spend a lot of money to give a fun present that will be enjoyed all year. Here are seven inexpensive gift ideas from FamilyFun magazine.



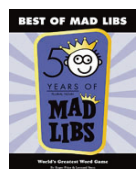
2

Buddha Buddha Life's Pocket Figures let you carry your karma with you. Each of the six 1 1/2-inch-tall figurines represents a Buddhist ideal, such as harmony or peace, and comes with stickers and a bona fide Buddha quote to help guide you on the path to enlightenment — or at least to school. Rocket USA, \$5

Each **Itasho Mini Eraser** is a charming little work of art that makes your mistakes disappear. A popular collector's item in Japan, the 300+ designs (each between one and two inches long) include household objects, desserts, sushi, school supplies and cute critters. Itasho, \$1 to \$4

3

Kids can use **Uber-Dragon's** instructions for building a figure with movable joints or a catapult that sends small objects rocketing — or they can make endless creations of their own. The 71 plastic pieces snap together easily, and the über-versatile parts connect to Legos, K'nex, and even recycled materials, such as straws and paper cups. Uberstix, \$10



4

With **Best of Mad Libs**, the 50th-anniversary edition of the _____, always funny, sometimes _____ word-swap storytelling game, kids get to help write more than 125 silly stories, such as "How to Housebreak a Baby Dinosaur." Who knew grammar could be so _____? Price Stern Sloan, \$7

5



Quick-action **Rock!** is modeled on the classic game of rock, paper, scissors. Players flip over cards and try to be the first to call out the winning object. Sounds simple, but the elements change. Sometimes "rock" is a gray boulder, sometimes a white marble column. The brain-tripping qualities mean lots of laughs. Out of the Box Publishing, \$10

6

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

7

Flatsy may only be 4 3/4-inches tall, but she has loads of personality. The poseable pixie comes with styling accessories for her flowing tresses, a fetching outfit and coordinating shoes (flats, of course!). Available in six styles. Schylling, \$7



In The News

Save the librarians, save the world!

Lisa Brunkan was amazed to see her 7-year-old daughter, Isabel, putting together amazing PowerPoint presentations. "Where are you learning all of this?" Brunkan asked her. "The library," Isabel responded. Whether Isabel was able to include fascinating facts in her homework or was adept at using technology, she always had the same answer about where she had acquired them: "The library."



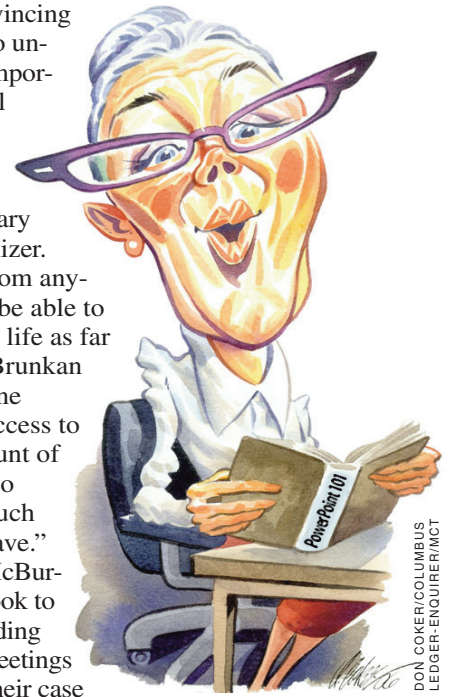
One day, Brunkan went to Isabel's library at Roosevelt Elementary in Spokane, Wash. She wanted to find out just what the kids were learning and to help the school librarian, Ginny Pounds.

"It was absolutely incredible to watch her," Brunkan says. "I was literally watching her change kids' lives."

So when Brunkan read a newspaper article about Pounds' library position being cut, she immediately sprang into action. She was determined to save Pounds' job.

THREE MOMS, ONE MISSION

Brunkan and two other moms, Susan McBurney and Denette Hill, began their fight to get more funding for public school libraries. All three moms focused their efforts on convincing local leaders to understand the importance of school libraries in a child's education. They call the school library the great equalizer.



"Any kid from anywhere should be able to take his or her life as far as possible," Brunkan says. "Everyone should have access to the same amount of information, no matter how much money they have."

Brunkan, McBurney and Hill took to the road, attending government meetings and pressing their case to keep the libraries going. Brunkan says she loved going to the meetings to talk about how much students need their libraries. The lawmakers impressed her. "It was so inspiring just to hear them talk," she says.

The three moms sent out e-mails to as many people as they could, trying to get them to help in the battle for the libraries and librarians. Isabel Brunkan spoke on behalf of students.

"I thought it was great, but it was hard for me and the other kids because our moms were so busy," Isabel told Time For Kids. "They seemed to be on the computer all the time."

VICTORY, BUT MORE WORK AHEAD

Brunkan says she found the experience of seeing democracy in action inspiring. When the three moms learned that the state of Washington had given \$4 million to school libraries, they felt relief and pride. The people had spoken, and lawmakers listened.

"The state gave \$10,000 to Roosevelt Elementary, making it possible for us to get our librarian back," Brunkan says.

The three moms say that they will continue to stand up for libraries for as long as they live — and hope others will too.

— *Emily Jones*

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Here are two fabulous presents that little elves can create and personalize for family and friends from FamilyFun magazine.

BEAUTIFUL BEADED RINGS

Great for aunts, grandmothers and friends, these glamorous rings look so good, the recipients might not even guess they're homemade! You can customize them with your favorite beads, and an elastic band means they'll fit any finger (or toe!).

YOU WILL NEED

- Clear elastic beading cord
- Scissors
- Beads

1. Cut a piece of elastic. To make the beading easier, we started



with a 10-inch length for an adult's ring finger and a 6-inch length for a child's pinkie.

2. Thread the beads onto the elastic.

3. Using a helper's finger as a guide, knot together the ends. Finally, trim the ends and slide the knot into the middle of a bead so it's hidden from sight.

HOLLY JOLLY FUDGE

Great for neighbors, teachers and friends, with these oh-so-tasty morsels with colorful toppings are almost irresistible — which means you may have a hard time getting them out the door! Thankfully, our cookie

cutter technique will leave plenty of leftovers for nibbling. (They make a terrific topping for ice cream too!)

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips or milk-chocolate chips
- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Assorted sprinkles, sugars and candy decorations

1. Place the chocolate chips in a 2-quart bowl and microwave for 1 minute, then stir them with a wooden spoon. If the chips are not completely melted, microwave

them again for 30 seconds, then stir until they're smooth.

2. Stir in the condensed milk, salt and vanilla extract.

3. Line a 9-inch square pan with aluminum foil, extending it about 2 inches beyond each side. (This makes it easy to remove the fudge later.) Lightly spray the foil with nonstick cooking spray.

4. Spread the mixture evenly in the pan.

5. Chill the candy until firm,

about 30 minutes in the freezer or one hour in the refrigerator.

6. Lift the foil from the pan and place it on a flat work area. Use 1-inch cookie cutters to cut out the fudge, then lightly press decorations onto each piece. Makes about 50 pieces.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE



Homemade gifts for the Holidays