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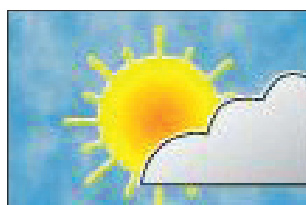
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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 12, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 10

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Mayor 'outraged' over arson

City ups reward to \$5,000 for information on Kids Zone fire

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Outrage.
 It's one of several feelings Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen used to describe the Tuesday night arson attack on the Kids Zone in Comanche Trail Park, and it's a feeling he said the city has decided to translate into cold, hard cash being used to catch the crimi-



McEwen

nal or criminals responsible. "The council and I have decided to up the reward being offered in the case to \$5,000," said McEwen. "That's \$5,000 to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the people

responsible for this atrocity." Firefighters were called to the kid-oriented recreation area shortly after 10:45 p.m. Tuesday, and according to Big Spring Fire Department officials, spent more than 45 minutes and used more than 1,000 gallons of water to douse the fire, which law enforcement officials have confirmed was set.

"We're outraged that someone would try to burn up an area designated to bring the children of the community pleasure," said McEwen firmly. "We're hoping this \$5,000 reward will help shake some fruit from the tree. Tipsters can remain completely anonymous. I want to make that very, very clear. And their call could very well put \$5,000 in their pocket."

Damages to the facility have been estimated between \$30,000 and \$50,000, according to Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray. However, McEwen said the fiscal damages pale in comparison to what went into building Kids Zone.

"It was basically a bunch of parents that got together and

See **ARSON**, page 3A

Now what?

With bailout dead, Big 3 mull options

By **KEN THOMAS**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The auto industry's cash-flow crisis has landed back at the White House doorstep and no "Welcome" mat is yet in sight. "For God sakes, I hope the president acts,"

See **AUTOS**, page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Third grade students at Washington Elementary show off their reindeer antlers during a special Christmas program Thursday night.

13 Shopping Days Til Christmas



Medicine Center Pharmacy



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Festival of Lights starts Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

For the 12th straight year, the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights is ready to literally brighten the holiday season.

The festival, which will illuminate the city park with more than 1 million lights, will debut Monday evening and continue nightly through Dec. 31.

Admission to the drive-through event is free, although donations are accepted. Pat Simmons, long-time chairman of the festival committee, said all donations are used to help finance future events.

"Donations are what makes this organization happen," Simmons said. "It all goes right back into financing next year's festival."

You'll find poinsettias, candy canes, snow men ... almost any holiday symbol you can imagine and



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Oversized Christmas cards such as these are just a few of the attractions offered by the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights, which begins its 12th season Monday evening at Comanche Trail Park.

the FoL volunteers have wrapped it in lights.

Simmons said preparations for this year's festival are going better than expected.

"Things are going great," she said. "We're actually ahead of schedule for a change ... We'll definitely be ready to go

Monday."

The festival has been a big drawing card for visitors in past years — Simmons said residents of 41 states and 16 foreign countries have toured the festival in past years. Last year, almost 20,000 people visited the event.

"I think that is a posi-

tive statement for Big Spring, Texas, right there," Simmons said.

A new feature at this year's event will be a gift shop, where visitors will be able to buy Christmas ornaments, T-shirts and coffee mugs. And the gift shop will have a special visitor when Santa comes to the festival Dec. 22 and 23, Simmons said.

Simmons, who has steered the festival committee since the event's inception, said this is the last year she will oversee day-to-day operations.

If this is indeed the last festival with Simmons' active chairmanship, she would like for it to reach its long-time goal of attracting more than 20,000 visitors.

"I'm just hoping and praying we finally get over 20,000 this year," she said. "We came so close last year; I'd like us to finally get that many visitors."

LOCAL NEWS

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COMPLETE STORY

Fryar tumbles again in standings

Herald Staff Report

LAS VEGAS — Another tough ride sent Big Spring's Stephanie Fryar further down in the barrel racing standings at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas Thursday.

In Round 8 of the competition, Fryar appeared headed to a clean ride, easily circling the first two barrels on the course.

However, her horse toppled the third barrel, giving Fryar a 5-second penalty for a time of 19.24.

The mistake drops her from ninth to 11th and puts her further off the lead with just two runs remaining.

Jill Moody continues to lead the average after running a 13.96, which was just the third best time in the round.

Maegan Reichart, who is still more

than six-tenths of a second off of Moody's pace, ran a 13.94.

The round's winner was Lindsey Sears, who was five-one hundredths of a second from equaling a record with a time of 13.57.

It's the fourth times she's had the best time for a round and third day in a row she's led the field.

The NFR wraps up Sunday.

CHS squads win opening round games in Stanton

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

STANTON — For Coahoma Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols the best way to look at his team's 52-51 win over the Tahoka Bulldogs is to believe that you have to be a good team to win when you don't play your best.

Coahoma, which has won its last three games by a combined five points, opened the game with a hot hand, jumping out to a 13-4 lead half-way through the opening quarter. However, as has been the case in recent games, the Bulldogs allowed their opponents to battle their way back into the game.

Tahoka claimed the lead for the first time just under three minutes into the second quarter as the Tahoka squad reeled off a 12-0 run before Coahoma was finally able to break the streak. However, it was nothing more than a speed bump to Tahoka as they outscored Coahoma 16-9 over the remainder of the half to take the 25-22 advantage into the locker room.

With the score 45-40 entering the final quarter, Coahoma finally found some footing scoring 17 points in the fourth while holding Tahoka to 11 for the win.

The combination of brothers Jovi and Josh Paniagua combined to score 26 points with Jovi scoring a game-high 14. Cody Sheppard joined the Paniaguas in double figures, scoring 10, including the game winning basket with just six seconds left in the game.

"We got lucky again," Nichols said. "I told the boys that we must be a good team if we can play that bad and still win. We are going to start playing more consistently. Right now we are doing just enough to win and that kind of thing will hurt you."

The win moves Coahoma's record to 9-0 on the season and they now advance into the second round where they will meet the winner of the game between Sweetwater and Wall. Coahoma defeated both squads in its own tournament last weekend.

Coahoma 13 9 15 17—52
Tahoka 6 1915 11—51

Coahoma — Josh Paniagua 14, Jovi Paniagua 12, Sheppard 10, Hunter Williams 7, Isaac Garcia 6, Karly Green 3.

Tahoka — Webster 14, Seth Hawthorn 12, Taylor Abell 6, Blaine Bovkoon 6, Neiko Garcia 5

Girls

Coahoma 51,
Denver City 47

For the second consecutive game Assistant Lauren Nichols had to take the reins of the Coahoma Bulldogettes for Head Coach Randall Petty, who is out due to the birth of his child.

However, unlike the Bulldogettes blow out win over Miles Tuesday night, Coahoma had to fight its way back from a 26-21 deficit at the half to win 51-47 over the Denver City Fillies in first round action of the Hoopstown Classic in Stanton.

See HOOPSTOWN, Page 2B

Big Spring drops AWHs tourney opener

Herald Staff Report

ABILENE — Similar problems continued to haunt the Big Spring Steers in the 2008-2009 basketball season Thursday.

The Steers were dominated in the second period of a 45-33 loss to Lubbock Trinity Christian in the first round of the Catclaw Tournament hosted by Abilene Wylie.

The Steers took a 1-point lead into the second period, but were outscored 18-8 in the frame, giving Lubbock Trinity the separation it needed to pull out the victory.

"Lubbock had some good shooters. We simply took too quick of shots and didn't make many of them," said Marcus Morris. "It was kind of the same old thing for us."

Offensive struggles continued for the Steers in the second half and they scored a mere 12 points in the third and fourth periods combined.

Trinity's Tyler Kennedy and Garrett Wentz came close to equaling the Steers' total for the game by themselves.

The duo combined to score 32 points with Kennedy scoring 21, including five treys, while Wentz added 11.

Jerrell Williams led the Steers with 15 and was the only player to score in double figures.

The Steers faced Lubbock Cooper at 1:30 p.m. today and could play a second game at 6 p.m. with a win. A loss means the Steers play at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

"Cooper is a good club," said Morris. "We lost to them last year. They shoot well and run a lot of set plays. They don't make many mistakes. Their coach does a good job of getting them prepared. It'll be a tough test for us and we'll have to show up ready to play hard to pick up a win."

Lubbock Trinity 12 18 8 8—45
Big Spring 13 8 7 5—33

Lubbock Trinity — Kennedy 21, Wentz 11.

Big Spring (5-5) — Darius McCallister 2, Jerrell Williams 15, Zamir Linton 2, Tyrone Clemons 6, Xavian Parnell 4, Matt Ritchey 2, Sidney Parker 2.

3-point goals — LT 7 (Stephenson 2, Kennedy 5); BS 1 (Williams). Free throws — LT 4-5, BS 4-10. Total fouls — LT 13, BS 14. Fouled out — None.

Lady Steers fall to Clyde



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Desiree Anderson (24) goes up for two points in the Lady Steers win over Pecos Tuesday at Steer Gym. The Lady Steers lost to Clyde in the opening round of the Clyde Lions Club Tournament Thursday and played either district-rival San Angelo Lake View or Ballinger at 11 a.m. today.

Bufs, Lady Bufs sweep through first two rounds in Gail

Both Forsan squads face state-ranked Roscoe today at Borden Co. tournament

Herald Staff Report

GAIL — Forsan's Buffaloes continue their dominance of the 2008-2009 basketball season Thursday, but now get ready for their biggest test of the year.

The Bufs won their first two games over Crosbyton, 61-39, and New Home, 66-47, taking them to the semifinals of the Borden County

Tournament in Gail.

However, their semifinals foe is the most highly-regarded opponent they've faced to this point in the season. Forsan took on the Roscoe Plowboys at noon today with the winner advancing to the finals of the tourney.

The Plowboys are the second-ranked squad in Class A, Division I.

The Lady Bufs also won

their first two games over Crosbyton and New Home, setting them up with a semifinals matchup vs. the No. 7 Roscoe Plowgirls at 10:40 a.m. today.

The Bufs got out to an early start on Crosbyton in the first period and after intermission.

Jeremy Robbins, Evan Burton and Nathan Atkerson scored 14 points apiece. Alex

Huckabee added 10.

In the second game vs. New Home, the Bufs Tristian Clay and Huckabee started sharpshooting from the 3-point line with Clay connecting on four treys, while Huckabee swished three.

Robbins led Forsan in scoring once again, posting 16 points. Atkerson had 15, while Clay scored 12 and Huckabee added 11.

Forsan 61, Crosbyton 39

Forsan 18 9 21 13—61
Crosbyton 6 6 9 18—39

Jeremy Robbins 14, Jace Sandridge 3, Tristian Clay 6, Evan Burton 14, Alex Huckabee 10, Nathan Atkerson 14.

Forsan 66, New Home 47

Forsan 12 24 21 9—66
New Home 12 11 10 14—47

Jeremy Robbins 16 Tristian Clay 12, Ryan Flores 2, Evan Burton 9, Alex Huckabee 11, Zach Dykes 1, Nathan Atkerson 15.

Sports in brief

Big Spring basketball boosters meeting Monday

The Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club is holding its first parents meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Steers' basketball players from junior high to varsity are encouraged to attend.

For questions, call Sam Segundo at 268-3025.

Amigo's Washer Club sets date for winter tourney

The Amigo's Washer Club is holding its Winter Washer Tournament Saturday at the La Verda

Club.

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

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

For more information, call 466-9969.

Obituaries

Evelyn Redman



Evelyn Redman, 77, of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

She was born Feb. 20, 1931, in Big Spring. Evelyn had worked as a nurse for 38 years before retiring.

Survivors include one daughter, Susan Barber of Big Spring; one son, Homer Lee Williford Jr. of Big Spring; 13 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Texas Kidney Foundation, 1525 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas 75235.

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

Louie Gaitan

Louie Gaitan, 57, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, in a Sterling County nursing home. No services are planned.

He was born April 21, 1951, in Howard County. Louie had worked as an operator for Holly Wells Service and was an avid fisherman. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Bustamante of Big Spring; one daughter, Yvonne Hodge of Austin; one son, Erik Gaitan of San Angelo; two brothers, Juan Angel Vasquez Gaitan Jr. of Biloxi, Miss., and Agustin Vasquez Gaitan Sr. of Big Spring; two sisters, Audelia Vasquez Gaitan-Morales of Dallas, and Elena Vasquez Gaitan-Gomez of San Antonio; and nine grandchildren.

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

Take Note

• Donnavan J. Silvas, 1, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 in a local hospital. The parents are in need of help with burial expenses. All donations can be made at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring.

• The Big Spring Salvation Army will be conducting free blood pressure and glucose screenings 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.

• West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. As a promotional introduction, no fare is charged. Beginning April 1, the daily fare will be from \$3 to \$8, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

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

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

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

Police blotter

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

- ALBERTO RIVAS, 50, of 1009.5 E. 15th St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of violation of a probationary order.
- STEVEN CROFT, 30, of 207 Washington, was arrested Friday on a charge of burglary of a building.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of Goliad.
- THEFT was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT - OFFENSIVE GESTURES was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 700 block of 11th 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.
- SHAUNEA LYNN LEWIS, 18, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- TIMMY WAYNE ROGERS, 29, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- JUAN GABRIEL MORAN, 34, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid - DWI related.
- CHANCE LANG, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- QUINCY LAMAR HENRY, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear - burglary of a habitation, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, evading arrest or detention and fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.
- SANTIAGO JIMINEZ MORALES, 48, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated (15 days work release).

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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.

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

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

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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

CHANGING DATES
• The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

Your Local Weather

Sat 12/13	Sun 12/14	Mon 12/15	Tue 12/16	Wed 12/17
69/46	74/38	54/31	59/45	65/39

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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

MONDAY
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

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

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-29-22-5. Bonus Ball: 21.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 2. Prize: \$125,000
Winning tickets sold in: Riverside, Richardson.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 13-6-20-17-18.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,151
Winning ticket sold in: San Elizario.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-1-5. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-7-9. Sum It Up: 21.

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Witten still taking blame for Cowboys' loss

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Cowboys tight end Jason Witten stumbled coming out of his break and never got to the ball.

DeShea Townsend did. Even though quarterback Tony Romo tried to take the blame for that interception, which was returned for the go-ahead touchdown with less than 2 minutes left in Pittsburgh, Witten stood at his locker after the game and pointed the finger squarely at himself.

"I felt accountable for that and it was just disappointing," Witten explained Thursday. "After a game like that, I wanted to make sure to step out and let everybody know that I was taking the fall there, and rightfully so."

Witten answered questions, even those repeated several times for several waves of media, until the last reporter was done. He was the last Dallas player to leave.

"I just wanted to get clear Tony and teammates," he said. "I think something that's needed on this team is accountability. Fortunately, I haven't been in that situation very much."

The Cowboys got one more chance after the interception, but Romo's fourth-down pass was incomplete. Witten never turned to see that pass coming his way, though it was never clear if he ran the wrong route or if Romo threw to the wrong receiver.

When the ball whizzed by Witten and dropped incomplete Sunday, Pittsburgh had

overcome a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit and made the closing stretch of the season even more trying for the wild-card hopeful Cowboys (8-5).

"That stuff comes up. Usually me and 'J' are always on the same page," Romo said this week. "This game is not without human error. ... To think somebody's always going to do it right is just fooling yourself."

Witten, who has been to the last four Pro Bowls, is the Cowboys' leading receiver with 64 catches, nine more than Terrell Owens. And Witten, who was back at practice Thursday after a day off, hasn't missed a game this season despite several ailments: the broken rib, the sprained ankle, the separated shoulder and the hard shot to

the chest he took just before halftime against the Steelers.

"I was banged up, but I felt like I could come back and help," Witten said. "That's part of the game. You've got to fight through it."

Individually and as a team. Dallas, which plays the NFC East champion New York Giants on Sunday night, is again facing questions about winning when the games really count.

Since winning its last playoff game during the 1996 season, Dallas is 17-29 in December. The only winning December in that span came in 2001, and they won't have one this season — which may be a necessity to get into the postseason — without beating New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

"We kind of dug ourselves a little bit of a hole, and don't have any room for error," Witten said. "It seems like the same old story, but more so now than ever. We have to dig deep and stick together, and try to find a way to win these three games."

That stretch begins against the same Giants team that dominated them 35-14 in New York on Nov. 2, when Romo was still out with a broken pinkie finger on his throwing hand.

"Obviously, Tony makes a huge difference being out there, but they took it to us," Witten said. "We didn't do too much good outside of the quarterback. That is a huge motivation, if we need any more than what is already at stake."

Crabtree, Bradford headline college awards list

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Tim Tebow won the Maxwell Award for the second year, edging Texas' Colt McCoy and Texas Tech's Graham Harrell for the honor given to college football's best all-round player Thursday night at the college football awards.

The Florida star joined Notre Dame quarterback Johnny Lattner as the only two-time winners of the Maxwell Award. Lattner won in 1952-53.

Tebow, who will lead Florida against Sam Bradford's Oklahoma Sooners in the national championship game next month, was the first sophomore to win the Heisman last year and, on Saturday in New York, could become the second player to win it twice.

"All these awards are special — and they mean a lot to me — but they don't compare to winning the championship because you share that with everyone on the team," Tebow said. "That's the one I really want."

The versatile Tebow is fifth in the nation in passer rating (176.7) with 28 touchdown passes and only two interceptions.

He hasn't been asked to run as much this season, but still has 564 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns.

Earlier, Tebow took Disney's Spirit Award for service off the field.

Fellow Heisman finalists, Bradford and McCoy, also were big winners Thursday.

Bradford beat out Harrell and McCoy for the Davey O'Brien Award. Bradford

directed the highest-scoring team in major college football history. He led the nation in passer rating (186.3) and TD passes (48) while throwing for 4,464 yards.

"It will be an honor just to be there with those guys," Bradford said. "This is great to win. I was a little surprised. It's too early to tell what else will happen."

Tebow won the Davey O'Brien Award last year ahead of winning the Heisman.

Everyone sharing the top awards here "just shows the diversity, the balance in college football today," Tebow said. "I think it's a great thing."

McCoy was the Walter Camp Player of the Year, leading the All-America team.

Michael Crabtree, a Texas Tech sophomore, won his second straight Biletnikoff Award for best wide receiver. Crabtree caught 18 touchdown passes, and has 93 receptions for 1,135 yards. He made headlines for his last-second, winning touchdown catch against Texas.

"This one feels just as good as the first one," Crabtree said. "You always think you're going to win, but you just never know for sure."

Running back Shonn Greene of Iowa won the Doak Walker Award as the nation's best running back, finishing ahead of Knowshon Moreno of Georgia and Javon Ringer of Michigan State, who will meet in the Capital One Bowl on New Year's Day in Orlando.

The Outland Trophy (best

interior lineman) was won by Andre Smith of Alabama.

On the defensive side, Rey Mauluga of USC won the Chuck Bednarik Award as the best defensive player over James Laurinaitis of Ohio State and Aaron Maybin of Penn State.

And the Jim Thorpe Award (best defensive back) went to Malcolm Jenkins of Ohio State, finishing ahead of Eric Berry (Tennessee) and Taylor Mays (USC).

"This is something I've had my eye on for some time," Jenkins said. "And it's not just about stats. If it was, I wouldn't be here. It's about leadership, and setting an example, too. You can't imagine what this means to me. I was a semifinalist last year, and I've wanted to win it ever since."



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News in brief

Obama says he'll quickly probe possible contacts between his staff and embattled governor

CHICAGO (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama says he will release in a matter of days the results of an internal investigation into what conversations his aides and advisers may have had with embattled Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

The internal probe, which aides described as thorough, is looking to root out every contact between Obama's camp and Blagojevich's camp, according to the Obama camp. There was no clear timeline for the self-investigation to end, although Obama told reporters Thursday he would make the results public during "the next few days."

Obama sought to end questions about whether members of his staff were involved in Blagojevich's alleged schemes to sell Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder.

Prosecutors have said repeatedly Obama was not involved, something Obama repeated at a news conference Thursday.

"I have never spoken to the governor on this subject," Obama said Thursday, announcing his picks for top aides on health care issues. "I'm confident that no representatives of mine would have any part of any deals related to this seat. I think the materials released by the U.S. attorney reflect that fact."

Just in case, he's still checking everyone out. It wasn't clear who would run such an investigation. An Obama spokesman declined to detail the investigation's leaders.

Employment picture gets weaker as recession deepens; more gloomy retail data expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is expected to provide fresh evidence Friday that retailers are taking a hit as consumers continue to pull back amid what appears to be a deepening recession.

Wall Street economists expect retail sales in November fell 1.9 percent, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters.

That would be an improvement over October's record 2.8 percent drop, but still the fifth straight monthly decline reported by the Commerce Department.

The report comes a day after the Labor Department said initial jobless claims rose to the highest level in 26 years, though the work force has grown by about half over that time.

Movement to impeach Illinois governor gains momentum as he holds on to position of power

CHICAGO (AP) — The movement to impeach Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is picking up steam almost by the hour, with voters and lawmakers alike demanding his ouster as the scandal-plagued politician boldly hangs on to power.

The lieutenant governor joined a bevy of lawmakers Thursday in demanding that Blagojevich be impeached, saying he has become an embarrassment to the state and can no longer lead. His

approval rating plummeted to a shockingly low 8 percent.

"When you have no confidence from the people, in a democracy there's nowhere else to go but to resign," Lt. Pat Quinn said.

The impeachment push was part of a riveting political drama that extended from Illinois to Washington and drew President-elect Barack Obama into the fold. He made his first public comments about the scandal on Thursday, calling charges that Blagojevich put Obama's U.S. Senate seat up for sale appalling and saying neither he nor his aides had any involvement in the governor's alleged scheming.

Child's remains found near home of missing Fla. toddler may bolster case against Casey Anthony

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Prosecutors looking to convict a central Florida mother in the death of her missing daughter are waiting to find out if they have the crucial evidence they need: a body.

A utility worker discovered a child's skull Thursday less than a half-mile from 3-year-old Caylee Anthony's home in some woods that, until recently, had been flooded. The remains could solve a six-month-old mystery.

Caylee's mother, 22-year-old Casey Anthony, was indicted in October on first-degree murder and other charges, even the toddler's body hadn't been found. She has insisted that she left the girl with a baby sitter in June, but she didn't report her missing until July.

AUTOS

Continued from page 1A

Mayor Virg Bernero of Lansing, Mich., exclaimed Friday morning.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, which have said they could run out of cash within weeks, have few options left after the dramatic defeat in the Senate of a \$14 billion bailout for the domestic auto industry.

Its demise late Thursday prompted immediate calls from lawmakers in both parties for the Bush administration to tap into the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout to rescue the beleaguered auto industry. The bill failed after talks broke down over the refusal of the United Auto Workers union to meet Republican demands for aggressive wage reductions.

The Senate rejected the bailout 52-35 on a procedural vote — well short of the 60 required — after the talks fell apart.

"I dread looking at

Wall Street," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in anticipation of Friday's stock market reaction. "It's not going to be a pleasant sight."

Indeed, stock markets in Asia and Europe dropped sharply on Friday after getting word of the bailout's failure, and U.S. markets were set to plunge when trading opened. Dow Jones industrial futures were down more than 200 points.

The Bush administration has repeatedly opposed using a bailout fund being administered by the executive branch, saying it should not be used for emergency aid to the automakers because it was designed specifically to restore stability to the financial sector. Following the vote, the White House said it was studying its options.

"Due to this colossal failure by the U.S. Senate, now it's up to the president and the Treasury secretary," Bernero said Friday on CBS' "Early Show." "Working Americans will appreciate the president stepping in — and pull us back from

the precipice, pull us back from the economic cliff."

Lawmakers, who aren't scheduled to return to legislative work until early January, were looking to the president, as well.

"Plan B is the president," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said action by President George W. Bush was the "only viable option."

General Motors and Chrysler are in the most immediate danger while Ford Motor Co. has said it does not need federal help now, but could face collateral damage if one of its domestic rivals fell. With the economy in recession, the auto industry has struggled with lackluster sales and choked credit markets.

Detroit's carmakers employ nearly a quarter-million workers, and more than 730,000 others produce materials and parts for cars.

If one of the automakers declared bankruptcy, some estimate as many as 3 million U.S. jobs could be lost next year.

The White House said it was disappointed by failure of legislation that "presented the best chance to avoid a disorderly bankruptcy while ensuring taxpayer funds only go to firms whose stakeholders were prepared to make difficult decisions to become viable."

Many congressional Republicans and some economists said the companies would be best to pursue a pre-arranged bankruptcy that would allow them to restructure quickly. But most Democrats and the carmakers rejected that, arguing it would quickly lead to liquidation because consumers would never buy cars from a bankrupt auto company.

As it lobbied unsuccessfully on Thursday, White House officials said the weak economy couldn't afford the collapse of the auto industry.

President-elect Barack Obama said an industry shutdown would have a "devastating ripple effect" on the already battered economy.

GM said in a statement is was "deeply

disappointed" that the bipartisan agreement faltered. Chrysler said it was also disappointed and would "continue to pursue a workable solution to help ensure the future viability of the company."

The companies efforts for funding failed after a marathon set of negotiations at the Capitol among labor, the auto industry and lawmakers who bargained into the night to salvage the auto bailout at a time of soaring job losses and widespread economic turmoil.

The group came close to agreement, but it stalled over the UAW's refusal to agree to wage cuts before their current contract expires in 2011. Republicans, in turn, balked at giving the automakers federal aid.

Aid to the automakers gained urgency last week when the government reported the economy had lost more than a half-million jobs in November, the most in any month for more than 30 years.

The stunning disintegration of the auto bailout proposal was

eerily reminiscent of the defeat of the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout in the House, which sent the Dow tumbling and lawmakers back to the drawing board to draft a new agreement to rescue financial institutions and halt a broader economic meltdown. That measure ultimately passed and was signed by Bush.

It wasn't immediately clear, however, how the auto aid measure might be resurrected in a bailout-fatigued, post-election Congress, with Bush's influence at a low ebb.

Earlier in the week, the House approved a bill that would have created a Bush-appointed overseer to dole out the money and monitor the companies' progress in restructuring.

Some Senate Democrats joined Republicans in turning against the House-passed bill, despite increasingly urgent calls from the White House and Obama for quick action.

ARSON

Continued from page 1A

said, 'Let's do something special for the children,'" said McEwen. "They not only raised the money for the project, but their blood, sweat and tears were in that place. They got out there and put their hearts and backs into building Kids Zone."

"There's plenty of ways I would describe what's happened. Thoughtless. Inconsiderate. Ridiculous. It's just so hard to put into words. Sure, there's been van-

dalism in Big Spring before. Graffiti, broken windows, you name it. But when I heard about this... it's so hard to put into words. You just feel like, OK, enough is enough. Where's this going to end?"

Tuesday's fire wasn't the first reports of vandalism to come out of the park in the past few weeks, as vandals — possibly the same vandals that set fire to Kids Zone — destroyed the totem pole that has been a part of the park since the 1950s.

"The totem pole was totally irreplaceable," said McEwen gravely. "It's been there since

the 1950s. You have to ask yourself, why would anyone do that? You begin to wonder if anything is sacred anymore."

City officials said the southwest corner of Kids Zone has been closed off while the rest of the kid's park remains open. According to McEwen, plans to rebuild the effected area is already under way.

"Make no mistake about it, we will rebuild," said McEwen. "We're going to go back with the original concept and do it right."

In the meantime, however, McEwen may be making a new entry on

his Christmas list.

"I hope we can catch whoever did this," said a determined McEwen. "I really do."

Anyone with information regarding the fire or totem pole — or any other acts of vandalism — are asked to call Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 264-TIPS (8477). No caller ID is ever used, and informants can remain anonymous.

Information can also be left with the Fire Marshal's Office at 264-2305, or the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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Scandal has risk, reward for Obama

The Illinois corruption scandal is an unwelcome opportunity for President-elect Barack Obama to prove he can manage a crisis that threatens to detract from his new administration's bid to confront the economy and other challenges.



CHARLES
BABINGTON

If inquiries and accusations touch Obama aides, even tangentially, his political foes will try to paint him with the broad brush of dirty Chicago politics. At a minimum, that would annoy and distract a new president.

If his associates get dragged in as witnesses, or if FBI wiretaps turn up embarrassing conversations — related to the current scandal or not — it could be worse.

But if Obama can further his image as a political helmsman who navigates polluted waters without getting wet — as he generally did during the presidential campaign — he can endear himself all the more to those who see him as an agent of change and high-minded government.

In short, Obama must show that while he's from Chicago's political world, he's not a part of it.

He made every effort to do just that at a news conference Thursday.

Obama acknowledged an unsavory history of Illinois politics that involves "wheeling and dealing and 'What's in it for me?'"

But he said he is living proof that "you can get elected by doing the right thing. That's what I hope we have modeled in this campaign. And that's what I intend to model in my administration."

For now, Obama's chances of skating unscathed past the Blagojevich scandal seem reasonable.

He could not have asked the federal wiretaps to pick up a more helpful line than one on page 66 in the criminal complaint, which alleges the governor schemed to sell Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder.

Obama's associates, a foul-mouthed Blagojevich was caught saying, are "not willing to give me anything except appreciation." He dismissed them with a vulgarity.

Republicans, including presidential nominee John McCain, have tried before to besmirch Obama by linking him to shady Chicago politics, with little success.

Antoin Rezko, a former Obama friend, fundraiser and adviser, was convicted in June on charges of using influence with Blagojevich's administration to seek kickback payments. Trial testimony raised new questions about Blagojevich, but Obama was accused of no wrongdoing, to the dismay of GOP operatives.

Obama seems to have a knack, or the good luck, of knowing how far to push friendships and influence. Blagojevich apparently took for granted that the president-elect would offer favors to steer his former Senate seat to an associate.

Some powerful politicians indeed aspire to play kingmaker in their states. But evidence so far suggests that Obama had little if anything to say about who would succeed him as he looked ahead to his presidency.

That's not to say Obama is home free. The criminal complaint says Blagojevich wanted an unnamed Obama adviser to help raise millions of dollars for a planned nonprofit group. It does not suggest anything came of the plan, but does not say so explicitly.

Obama said Thursday he was "absolutely certain" that "our office had no involvement in any dealmaking around my Senate seat."

But he raised questions about how he could be so certain when he said he plans "to gather all the facts about any staff contacts that I might — may have — that may have taken place between the transition office and the governor's office."

Obama indicated Thursday that no such conversations took place. Still, GOP leaders have signaled plans to use Blagojevich as a cudgel against as many Democrats as possible.

Babington writes for the Associated Press

Small beginnings and Dairy Queens

About as close as I get to getting in touch with my feminine side is to love on my bride as often as possible. After all these years we still hold hands and send each other notes and cards. Believe it or not, we actually like being around each other.



TROY
BREWER

I still write her a song every now and then and she still sits there and smiles while I sing it to her. It's a lot like Pepe Le Pew wooing an alley cat — maybe ridiculous to others but to us it's cool.

I love the whole romance thing. When we were kids I didn't have enough money to take her to any place nice so I would say, "Let's me and you go to the Dairy Queen." Several hours later, we pulled into the Dairy Queen parking lot in Wichita Falls.

This was back when gas was really cheap. She would say, "Why would you drive me all the way out here?" and I would answer, "Because I want to spend the day with you." Like the ice

cream we were eating, I was smooth.

Those were fun days for us.

After awhile, our Dairy Queen World Tour took us to further and further places. I promised her I would take her to see the world, even if we had to start out eating DQ Dudes and Hunger Busters. It was fun, and for a couple of very poor kids and in a funny kind of way, it was actually romantic.

See, we both wanted to travel but I couldn't afford to take her to London. So I was faithful to take her where I could. She loved it and God blessed it.

Twenty-two years later, we can officially be called world travelers.

We have been to every state except for 12 and stomped all over the globe. Our missionary journeys have taken us to London more than 20 times now.

We have orphanages and family in India, Uganda and in Mexico.

Leanna goes to our orphanage in Uganda so much that sometimes she goes without me, if for nothing else but to love on the kids. While it's hard work and a huge responsibility, its one of the greatest privileges of our lives.

It all started by travel-

ing to Dairy Queens. I think you have to be faithful in little things before you graduate to bigger things. I know this concept is going to sound stupid to a lot of readers because most people think they have an infallible right to better things.

When it comes to getting your upgrade, the Bible has lots to say about it and so does common sense. Kingdom promotion and advancement is all about the practical reality of how faithful you are with what little you have.

You want a Cadillac? Take care of your Volkswagen. You promise you'd manicure the lawn of your mansion? Clean up your trailer park first.

You'll do really good in college you say? Do really good in high school first.

The way to the throne room is through the servant's quarters and it's a principle that's unknown to this generation. Instead of small beginnings, we look to big government and say, "Give me a loan for my mansion and a grant for my education." This kind of a mindset spins great nations off into terrible recessions.

I just want to encourage you in your small beginning. You're

not stupid for going the extra mile with what little you have. Continue in it and do it as unto the Lord because you believe he sees you and that how you get your promotion. You secretly serve him in being outwardly excellent.

If your house is little bitty, it's really neat that you clean it and doll it up. If you only have a small front yard, it's just awesome how you keep it mowed and make it look nice.

If your job is to push carts at a big store, may the Lord bless you for being on time, well dressed and courteous to the rest of us.

If you only have two or three friends in this world, its inspiring how you go out of your way to bless them and help them.

It's a big deal and the world needs more people who are faithful in the little things and less people who think they are owed bigger.

Since God is more faithful than us, The Brewer believes your small beginning will soon turn into a better new beginning.

For who hath despised the day of small things? — Zechariah 4:10a

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Welcome to the Bailout Generation

For eight years, Democrats have hurled all manner of criticism at President Bush. Some of the heat was well deserved, some was not.

Either way, it is about to be their turn to be held to the standards they held for Bush — and they are not prepared.



DEBRA
SAUNDERS

I saw a taste of the future at the Democratic convention in Denver, when Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., sat down with journalists to discuss the now President-elect Barack Obama's economic plan. In light of an anticipated \$482 billion deficit — how quaint that humble number seems today — I asked Stabenow, how can Obama propose a tax cut and more spending?

Her answer: "The first question is: How do you do a tax cut and fight a war, which is what George Bush did." Funny thing. Stabenow seemed genuinely and completely oblivious to the fact that her nomi-

nee was campaigning daily on a platform that promised a tax cut for 95 percent of American families, while he pledged to beef up the U.S. presence in the war in Afghanistan. Sounds like a tax cut during a war to me.

And now, after Obama spent the silly season saying he would rescind the Bush tax cuts on families earning more than \$250,000, Obama is rethinking the issue. Sunday he said on "Meet the Press," "My economic team right now is examining, do we repeal that through legislation? Do we let it lapse so that, when the Bush tax cuts expire, they're not renewed when it comes to wealthiest Americans? We don't yet know what the best approach is going to be."

That is, there could be a new tax cut and old tax cuts while America is fighting two wars — without Bush in the Oval Office.

It makes you wonder: Did Democrats not believe what they said on the campaign trail in 2008? Or did they believe what they said then, but they've moved away from their core beliefs because they'll do anything and

spend any amount of other people's money to retain power?

They complained that Bush gave tax cuts to corporations. Now that they are in charge of Congress, Democrats are raiding the cookie jar so that they can toss cookies to favored industries. Note the proposed emergency credit line of \$15 billion for Detroit's Big Three. (Credit Bush, by the way, for insisting that the money come from an existing program.)

Blame Bush for the \$700 billion bailout bill — which Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid inflated by another \$110 billion. Obama promised "change you can believe in." Here it is: Earlier this year, Obama proposed a \$50 billion stimulus package, which grew to \$175 billion before Election Day. Now the proposed price tag is reported to be \$700 billion — with well-wishers suggesting a \$1 trillion package.

The bailout mentality is growing — as is the list of people who believe they should be recipients. It's not just the auto companies who want to follow greedy investment houses. State governments want in. Experts are calling for billion-

dollar infrastructure projects — I guess because state governments weren't spending on infrastructure.

Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, proposed redistributing the unspent \$350 billion in Bush bailout money by suspending federal payroll taxes for two months. It's a bad idea, in that the last stimulus package failed to stimulate the economy as hoped. It makes the entire country look like the Wal-Mart shoppers who crushed to death a Long Island temporary worker in their rush for a bargain.

So where is Barack Obama? Sure, I know many readers will jerk their knees and blame Bush. It's a freebie. But after a while, the public may start to wonder: Where's the responsibility now?

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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Terry, Nowitski lift Mavs past Bobcats, 95-90

DALLAS — Dallas coach Rick Carlisle warned his team that the trade-depleted Charlotte Bobcats were still dangerous. The Mavericks got the message just in time.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a key 3-pointer with less than 30 seconds to play and finished with 23 points, 13 rebounds and five assists to help the Mavericks hold off the pesky Bobcats 95-90 on Thursday night.

“We escaped,” Carlisle said. “All these teams are capable. They (the Bobcats) are really hungry for a win.”

Jason Terry had 26 points, 11 in the fourth quarter, to help the Mavericks improve to 10-0 against the Bobcats. The Mavericks bounced back from a double-overtime loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night and have won 10 of their last 12.

Emeka Okafor had a season-high 27 points and 17 rebounds, and Raymond Felton added 16 points for Charlotte. The Bobcats have lost five straight.

“We gave them confidence early and they kept coming,” Terry said. “They weren’t going to back down. They were short-handed and we have to play better.”

The Bobcats had a short bench after the trade Wednesday that sent top scor-

er Jason Richardson, Jared Dudley and a 2010 second-round draft pick to the Phoenix Suns for Raja Bell, Boris Diaw and Sean Singletary. The Charlotte newcomers are expected to make their Bobcats debuts Saturday night at home against Detroit.

“We played a lot of guys who’ve never really played before,” Bobcats coach Larry Brown said.

Charlotte rookie point guard D.J. Augustin went 3-for-16 from the field, finishing with nine points and 10 assists.

“(The Mavericks) were closing off the lane and we

couldn’t penetrate and get anything to fall,” Augustin said.

The Mavericks played poorly on defense in the first half as the Bobcats scored 26 and 28 points in the opening two quarters. But Dallas clamped down in the final quarter, limiting Charlotte to 16 points.

“It was about defense tonight,” Carlisle said. “They’re a difficult team because they’re very persistent.”

Okafor also limited Nowitzki to 9-for-21 shooting.

But Nowitzki, who began the night as the NBA’s No. 3 scorer at 25.5 points per game,

came through when it counted.

Dallas was up 90-89 when Nowitzki hit a 3-pointer from the right wing with 28.3 seconds left. Terry added two foul shots with 19.4 left for the final margin.

Terry’s short jumper triggered a 12-2 fourth-quarter spurt, with Nowitzki’s 3-pointer ending it as Dallas built an 86-80 edge with 5:53 remaining. But the Bobcats answered with an 8-2 run, capped by Ryan Hollins’ dunk with 3:09 left, to tie it at 88.

Terry’s two free throws with 2:54 remaining put Dallas in front for good, 90-88.

HOOPSTOWN

Continued from Page 1B

“I was really proud of the way the girls adjusted to their height,” Nichols said. “Their size gave us some problems at first, but once the girls got used to it we were alright. I just can’t say how proud I am of the girls, though. They came out in the second half and did what they had to do and got the win.”

Senior Shelbi Paige led the way for

the Bulldogs, hitting the stat sheet for 11 points including three treys. The duo of Alex Moore and Kylie Gee added 10 apiece.

Laura Romo scored a game-high 14 points for the Fillies.

The Bulldogettes will next be in action today at 3 p.m. in the semifinals of the tournament, taking on the winner of Tahoka and Grape Creek.

Coahoma	10	11	15	15-51
Denver City	17	10	8	12-47

Coahoma - Paige 11, Moore 10, Gee 10, Berkley Iden 8, Kalea Neff 6, K’Leigh Fowler 4, Hilari White 2; Denver City - Romo 14, Breeann David 12, Karen Saenz 11, Shahala Hawkins 10

Three’s - C - Paige (3), Neff (2)

Stanton Hooptown Classic Thursday’s boys boxes

Sands 49, Stanton 48				
Stanton	12	13	14	9-48
Sands	12	19	11	7-49
Leading scorers: Stanton - Sidle 11, Sands - Seth Fry 19.				

Reagan County 51, Grape Creek 42				
Grape Creek	3	18	12	9-42
Reagan Co.	11	14	17	9-51
Leading scorers: GC - McCall 19, RC - Willis 21.				

Sweetwater 56, Stanton JV 26				
Stanton JV	8	8	5	5-26
Sweetwater	11	25	10	10-56
Leading scorers: Staton - Almanza Gray 5, Sweetwater - Campbell 16.				

Wall 66, Seagraves 61				
Seagraves	18	15	13	15-61
Wall	7	24	15	20-66
Leading scorers: Seagraves - Griffen 14, Wall - Willman 13, Schooley 13.				

Today’s games
Championship Bracket
Game 7: Sweetwater vs. Wall, 10:30 a.m.
Game 12: Reagan County vs. Sands, 7:30 p.m.
Game 10: Game 7 winner vs. Coahoma, 4:30 p.m.

Consolation Bracket
Game 6: Grape Creek vs. Stanton, 1:30 p.m.
Game 8: Stanton JV vs. Seagraves, 9 a.m.
Game 9: Game 6 winner vs. Game 7 loser, 6 p.m.
Game 11: Game 8 winner vs. Tahoka, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday’s games
Third-place game
Game 10 loser vs. Game 12 loser, 4:30 p.m.
Championship Game
Game 10 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 7:30 p.m.
Consolation Final
Game 11 winner vs. Game 9 winner, 1:30 p.m.
Guarantee Games
Game 6 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 9 a.m.

Game 11 loser vs. Game 9 loser

Thursday’s girls boxes

Stanton 45, Midland Christian 30				
Stanton	14	10	3	18-45
Mid. Christian	18	9	3	0-30
Leading scorers: Rachel Fleckenstein 11, MCS - Guthrie 15.				

Tahoka 51, Sands 29				
Tahoka	13	9	18	11-51
Sands	0	8	12	9-29
Leading scorers: Tahoka - B. Hair 13, Sands - B. Blagrave 20.				

Grape Creek 45, Sweetwater 37				
Sweetwater	12	8	12	5-37
Grape Creek	11	12	10	12-45
Leading scorers: Sweetwater - McKinney 22, GC - Burner 15.				

Kermit 45, Brownfield 37				
Brownfield	10	4	13	10-37
Kermit	19	5	11	10-45
Leading scorers: Brownfield - Lawrence 14, Kermit - Montoya 14.				

Today’s games
Championship Bracket
Game 7: Tahoka vs. Grape Creek, 9 a.m.
Game 12: Kermit vs. Stanton, 6 p.m.
Game 10: Game 7 winner vs. Coahoma, 3 p.m.

Consolation Bracket
Game 8: Sands vs. Sweetwater, 10:30 a.m.
Game 6: Brownfield vs. Midland Christian, Noon
Game 9: Game 6 winner vs. Game 7 loser, 4:30 p.m.
Game 11: Game 8 winner vs. Denver City, 3 p.m.

Saturday’s games
Third-place Game
Game 10 loser vs. Game 12 loser, 3 p.m.
Championship Game
Game 10 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 6 p.m.
Consolation Final
Game 11 winner vs. Game 9 winner, Noon
Guarantee Games
Game 6 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 9 a.m.
Game 11 loser vs. Game 9 loser, 10:30 a.m.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Don't Miss This Section
Sunday, December 21, 2008

Area Schools Students, Submit Their Letters To Santa Claus

“DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008”

Advertisers, Don't Be Left Out!

Dear Santa,
I have been very good most of this year. Will you wake me up when you come? I have a gift for you and something for the raindeer. Can you bring a football for another so he can stop a mine? I sent 2 stuff I want you Santa.

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts th got last year. I still have m of them. I'd like a puppy, a game and a new bike. If you want to bring more stuff it's ok with me. I know I sent a letter before but this new list is what I really want. Thank you Santa.

With Love,
Sam

Send Holiday Greetings to all your customers!

Whew! How the time really flew...We wish each of you the best the coming season can bring ... and now you can delivery best wishes to each of your customers and save money, too.

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Church news

First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday activities: Bible study at 5:17 p.m., Youth Group from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and choir practice at 6 p.m. resumed at their regular times. During Advent, the children, youth, and adult video classes are meeting together in the Fellowship Hall. Activities begin each week with breakfast served by Ellen Austin at 9:30, followed by singing at 9:45. The emphasis this year is on remembering our homebound members through a cookie project and a Christmas program at Park Place.

This Sunday, after breakfast and singing, we will deliver the cookies that we decorated last week to the homebound. December 21, we will practice for our Christmas program, which will be performed twice: once for Park Place residents at 4 p.m. and again for our church at 5 p.m. The performance of "Remembering" in the chapel will be followed by a chili supper, hosted by the Church Life Committee, featuring Max Green's infamous chili. Everyone is invited to come and share the fun and joy of the Advent season.

You may purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas. Each plant is \$15 and may be taken home after the Christmas Service. You may designate a person to honor or remember with your order. The proceeds from these

sales will go to the Youth Mission Trip. Our Youth Group decided rather than go on a ski trip during Christmas break to use their funds to go on a mission trip to help those affected by recent storms on the Texas coast.

Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14, our church will host a short Christmas Concert by our choir, following the Big Spring Symphony's Tour of Homes, at 4:30 p.m. You don't have to attend the Tour to come to the concert, which will be in the Sanctuary.

Neva Green is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments for Dec. 14.

The lectionary for the Third Sunday in Advent is Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; I Thessalonians 3:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28. The choir will present "The Angel Gabriel," arranged by Alan Smith and "Il Est Né," a French carol arranged by Craig Courtney. Rev. Bronaugh's sermon is entitled "The Magnificence of God."

First Presbyterian Church Coahoma

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

The Presbyterian Women are having their Christmas meeting Wednesday, Dec. 17,

at 6 p.m. at Pam Hicks' home. Please bring finger foods and a \$20 gift to exchange.

The lectionary for the Third Sunday in Advent is Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

First Christian Church

This Sunday at 10:50 a.m., the Josh Hamby family will light the Advent candles of hope, peace and joy to kick-off our morning worship. Our liturgist will be Ms. Lisa Currie and Dr. Ken McIntosh's message, "What Shamu Teaches Us About Life," will come from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

Next Thursday, Dec. 18, you are invited to our annual Christmas dinner and show. The dinner starts at 6 p.m. This year the children and youth will be putting on a production of the Nativity Story in the sanctuary. If you never have seen a production of the Christmas story by children, you may want to join us this evening. There is nothing better for the soul. Following the production, a special guest will make an appearance with small stocking gifts for all the kids.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

Safeguarding the Children Class is Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon in the library.

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

College Baptist Church

Music will be the focus at both worship services at College Baptist on Sunday. The adult choir will present the cantata, "On Christmas Day" in the morning service and The King's Kids will perform "Angels We Have Heard" in the evening.

Men of the church are invited to a special breakfast Saturday morning in the church fellowship hall.

Church members are advised that the Lottie Moon Post Office will be open again this year to deliver Christmas cards. Save the postage and donate it to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The children's Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. On the same day, the College Sunday school class will enjoy an outing in Lubbock.

On Dec. 12, Adult 3 and 4, along with the Open Door Men's Class enjoyed a Christmas dinner in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

Spring Creek Fellowship

Sunday evening will be an extra special one at Spring Creek

Fellowship! We will be enjoying a "Family Night Christmas" with the church family of SCF. Beginning at 6 p.m., we will enjoy some of the first gifts of Christmas as people are invited to share some of their talents with us.

There will be solos sung, groups singing, musical offerings on various instruments, poems read, favorite Bible passages about Christmas read and whatever else people want to share to praise and honor God.

Afterwards, we will enjoy a family night fellowship with everyone bringing goodies to share and fellowship enjoyed. Come and enjoy this time with us.

Sunday morning at 10:45, our hearts will continue to be prepared for Christmas as our pastor, Dennis Teeters will continue preaching about Christmas in a sermon titled "The First Christmas Carol" found in Luke 1:26-38. Our Sunday school connection time begins at 9:30 a.m. with groups for all ages. We have a place for you and every member of your family, where you are welcome to come just as you are.

Spring Creek Fellowship is a church that wants to help you make connections for life and beyond. Come and experience the precious fellowship of the love and acceptance of Jesus Christ. We'll be looking for you. You get to SCF by going down I 20 East of Salem exit. After taking the exit, turn left at the overpass and left at the service road. SCF is on the

right, just before the on ramp of the highway. Check out our Web-site at springcreekfellowship.org.

Baptist Temple Church

Our children will present "Emmanuel: The Story of Christmas" During the morning worship service this Sunday followed by Christmas dinner in our fellowship hall.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages and they meet at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Mondays we have Financial Peace University class that meets at 7 p.m. We wrap up the course for this semester this Monday but will offer it again in the spring. Our 12-Step group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall. This is open to anyone struggling with addictions of any kind.

It is free but donations are accepted to cover the cost of the workbook.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the web at btcbigspring.org.

Circuit Riders Cowboy Church

Things are happening again at Circuit Riders Cowboy Church. Come join us at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. We will be having a Christmas fellowship

See **CHURCH**, page 6A

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Keith Graumann
Music Director and Conductor

with



Midland Festival Ballet

THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Saturday, December 20

7:30 pm

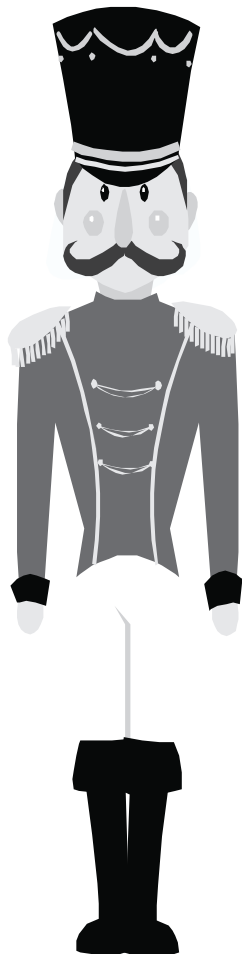
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium

TICKETS AVAILABLE

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
Blum's Jewelers
Big Spring Herald Office
Faye's Flowers
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or at the door of the Municipal Auditorium
the night of the performance

ADMISSION
Adult \$15
Senior Citizen \$10
Student \$5

For more information,
Call (432)264-7223



15107

Christmas is Jesus



Trinity Baptist Choir

Sunday Evening - 6:00 p.m.

December 14th

810 Eleventh Place

Come join us as we celebrate
the birth of our Savior
through song.

(A Nursery will be provided)

15293

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SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ on monuments/markers. We deliver to all cemeteries. Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mt Olive Monuments. 432-264-7722.

SPECIAL SALE. Two grave spaces for the price of one. Pay-out plan available. \$50.00 Down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

Auction
Saturday, December 13th
Potluck Christmas Party 5:30 p.m.
Auction 6:30 p.m.
Preview: 1:00 p.m. through sale time
Table & 6 Chairs, 2 Curio Cabinets, Buffet, Roll Top Desk, Sideboard, Antique Dresser w/mirror, Antique Bed, Couch, 2 Wingback Chairs, Patio Table & Chairs, (1 Large, 1 Small), Dearborn Heater, Wood burning Stove, Fireplace Logs, Brass & Glass Enclosure for Fireplace, Computer Desk, City Bug 4 Wheel Scooter, Stain Glass, Violin, Trumpet, Microwave, New Rotisserie, Floral Arrangements, 2 Ficus Trees, Quilt, New Christmas Gift Ideas (Mini Fridge, Toys, Games, Coffeemakers, Airbed, Stuffed Animals, Dolls), Shawnee King Corn Casserole, McCoy Cookie Jars, Hull Creamer & Sugar, Pyrex, Glass (Fenton, Crystal, Candlewick, Cut, Depression), Comic Books, Breyer Horses, Danbury Mint Bridal Collection, Vintage Cameras, Baseball Cards, Cookbooks, Candles, Luggage, Pet Carriers, Pictures, Polaris Telescope, Knives, Chainsaw, Great Gift Ideas & Lots More.
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Forty-hour workweek is standard with overtime required. Occasion call-out response & occasional travel is required. General duties will include, but not limited to working primarily on pipeline electrical/instrumentation equipment and ensures equipment is operating properly, troubleshoots, tests, maintains, repairs, and installs electrical/instrumentation equipment, maintains pipeline integrity and instrumentation operators use to obtain information, installs and calibrates instruments and safety equipment and ensures that all calibration reports are current, ensures that all test equipment, gauges and relief valves are certified, performs minor pump repairs, programs SCADA controls and equipment required to safely operate and maintain pipelines and terminals as necessary, balances the terminal (i.e., Barrels in/Barrels out), performs quality control checks on the product, responds to upsets and abnormal operating instances, generates various reports for daily distribution, verifies compliance with DOT requirements, ensures operations and safety procedures are followed at all times, may be responsible for "dig test" one call system, monitoring one calls, and dispatching to the location as needed, may be responsible for training less experienced technicians. Must be moderately computer literate, able to communicate effectively with others and have a high degree of mechanical aptitude. High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent required. 5 years of related pipeline experience required along with a working knowledge of the pipeline department. A general familiarization with DOT safety rules and regulations is preferred. Working knowledge of instrumentation methods and ability to apply this knowledge as it pertains to the company. Special training in Instrumentation and the SCADA system is desired. Must be able to read and interpret wiring diagrams/schematics. Familiarity with programmable logic controller (PLC) is also desired. Individuals must be able to successfully complete a comprehensive physical that includes a drug and alcohol screen and wear respiratory protection equipment (NO BEARDS). Must be able to climb to heights of 60' and able to lift at least 50 lbs . Must be able to work safely in a hazardous environment and solve problems quickly & efficiently. Be able to make decisions, take responsibility, & work with minimal supervision. **Applications may be obtained at the Texas Workforce Commission located at 501 S. Main, Big Spring, TX 79720. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, December 12, 2008 at 5:00.**
All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
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Garage Sales

CHURCH GARAGE Sale. 604 E. 13th. Saturday only! 8:30a.m.-? Lots of miscellaneous and Homemade Tamales.

GARAGE SALE: 2502 E. 24th, Friday 3pm-6pm & Saturday 9am-2pm. Oak cabinet, dishes, crystal, clothes, pictures, dresser. Lots of \$1.00 items.

HUGE GARAGE Sale!!!!!! 2804 Apache, Saturday 8:00-1:00. Huge toy and name brand clothing (4t thru 10), Dora castle and house, barbie houses, stuffed animals-ride-ons and more.

HUGE SALE, 210 East 11th Place. Saturday, 9:00-? Cookie jars, bells, music boxes, TV, hall table with mirror, Christmas trees & decorations, heaters. Lots of new stuff.

Help Wanted

NEED WATER Well pump person. Call (432)517-0510.

Help Wanted

AMERICAN STATE bank is seeking a self-motivated employee with excellent sales, communications, and customer service skills to work a flexible part-time teller schedule. Credit and criminal checks are part of our application process. Apply at 1411 Gregg Street.

ATTENTION OTR DRIVERS. 5% More Paid Miles. Van/Flatbed/Reefer. Affordable Benefits. ROEHL, Experience the Power of Red. Over 46 years and still growing. Students Welcome. Class A req'd. Training Avail. AA/EOE 1-888-867-6345 GoRoehl.com

BIG SPRING Oil Company, needs experienced Tool Pusher. Must be able to pass drug test. Competitive salary and limited benefits. Most work within 60 miles of Big Spring or Snyder. Please send resume to: PO Box 1870, Big Spring, TX 79721.

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA taking applications for Sales Clerk all shifts. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

CARING HEARTS Home Health is seeking a LVN PRN Only. Great hours, friendly atmosphere. Call for appointment (432)714-4512, 1900 Scurry.

CARING HEARTS Home Health is seeking a full-time RN Position. Great hours, friendly atmosphere and Benefits. Sign-On Bonus \$2500.00. Call for appointment (432)714-4512, 1900 Scurry.

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. Call after 7:00 p.m. (432)684-5418.

Help Wanted

CDL Driver needed for Ameri-Tech Building Systmes. Must have clean driving record. Local hauls/ home most evenings! Excellent pay and full range of benefits.

Apply in person at Ameri-Tech Building Systems 5212 S. Service Rd/ E I-20 Big Spring, Texas 79720

COMFORT INN is now hiring housekeeping with competitive pay. Please apply at 2900 East I-20, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

Director of Maintenance: Sands CISD has a position open for a Director of Maintenance. Plumbing and electrical experience is required. Resumes can be faxed to (432)353-4650 or mailed to P.O. Box 218, Ackerly, TX 79713. For more information call (432)353-4888.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Wanted You will work on a variety of print related projects from logos, branding, packaging, POS, advertisements, sales presentations, large banner graphics, magazine design and much more? The ideal candidate will have at least 2-3 years of experience in graphic design and have a strong command of Adobe Programs. To apply please visit us online at www.themediaco.net or email your resume to brian@themediaco.net or call 432-599-8018.

NEED 2 Backhoe operators with at least 5 years experience. Must pass drug test. Call 432-394-4161.

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DRIVERS WANTED. We need drivers now and get hired on the spot, subject to qualifications. We have best delivery compensation in the business. Make cash every day. Great part time and full time shifts. Health Insurance plan. Great starting wage- \$7.00 an hour, plus delivery compensation, plus tips. We more than compensate for high gas prices. Got experience? Work for Papa or the Hut? Come on over and get an additional hiring bonus. Senior citizens and stay at home Moms always welcome. Apply at Domino's Pizza.

EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com

MATURE CHRISTIAN person interested in substituting for Christian childcare enter. Experience preferred, but will train. Must be able to pass Criminal History Check and FBI fingerprint check. Apply in person at NHCS 118 Cedar Rd.

NEW AD

MITCHELL COUNTY Hospital District in Colorado City has these employment positions with enhanced pay open:
1. Mitchell County Hospital is in need of a RN for the Emergency Room on the 7PM to 7AM shift. The pay for this position has been raised to PRN rate of \$35 hourly for the night shift and weekend shifts.
2. The Wallace/ Ware Prison Medical Units are in need of LVNs for 3PM to 11PM shifts. The sign on bonus for these positions have been raised to \$4,000.
Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

RED DIRT Co. LLC is taking applications for a Equipment Operator, must be able to run blade and dozer. Apply at 210 Midway Road, Big Spring between hours of 8:00 am- 3:00 pm Mon. thru Fri..

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Help Wanted

NOW ACCEPTING resumes for plant operator and telemetry/measurement specialist @ natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Salary DOE Send resume to: Plant Supervisor 11703 E. FM 846 Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax 432-399-4290.

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehabilitation is now seeking a full time Charge Nurse. We offer competitive pay, Retirement, Vacation, and a fun, friendly atmosphere. Apply in person or online at www.parkviewnursing.net 3200 Parkway, Big Spring, Tx. (432)263-4041.

PIZZA INN
EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

PLANT SUPERVISOR needed for Ameri-Tech Building Systems. Experience required in Portable Metal Building Manufacturing. Competitive Salary and Benefits available. Email to kwr_atbs@yahoo.com or fax to 254-938-2762. EOE

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING! Avg. Pay \$20/hr, \$57K/yr including Federal Benefits, OT. Placed by adSource, not affiliated w/ USPS who hires. 1-866-795-4058.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time Cashiers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

WALL STREET DISASTER GOT YOU WORRIED? TRY AVON! 3 Immediate openings in this area. 100% guaranteed product. Up to 50% commission on sales and your own purchases, free training, and discounted insurance. We still provide products that people need despite the bad economy. Call 432-270-2125 TODAY! (Independent Rep)

WANTED DRILLING Supervisor with at least 7 years experience. For Sharp Image Energy Inc. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

WANTED OIL and Gas Drilling Engineer with at least 7 years experience and Reservoir Engineer experience would be helpful in their job application. For Sharp Image Energy Inc Please send resumes to P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring, Tx. 79721.

Items for Sale
2 NEW Twin Mattress Sets, will separate, and take \$95 per set. Factory Sealed. 432-664-8980.

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Brand New 5pc Micro fiber Sofa/Love seat, with Warranty. \$550. 432-664-8980.

CHURCH

Continued from page 5A

with lots of food, caroling and of course fun.

We also had lots of fun participating in the Christmas parade. We meet at 500 N. Birdwell Lane. For more information, contact Anna King at 432-816-0934.

Chapel of Faith

The Chapel of Faith invites everyone to come celebrate the most joyous season of the year with us. Worship services are held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. We are very informal and enjoy the opportunity to visit with each other during fellowship before services.

This week, Associate

Pastor Scott Willis will present the message, "God's Revolutionary Purpose," based on the scriptures found in Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11. The lighting of the third Advent candle will be by Pastor Joel Miller, as he explains the significance of the candle.

Saturday, the church family will gather for the annual holiday dinner. Serving will begin at 7 p.m. Following the meal, a special Christmas program will be presented with music by Rachel Overby and an instrumental by Laren Simer. Members will meet at 3:30 p.m. Saturday to decorate the church.

Angel Tree gifts have been purchased and will be delivered to the Salvation Army Monday. The church selected 10 "angels" and gave church members

\$100 each to purchase the items on the tags. As God has blessed us as a church and individually, we pray He will bless those who receive the gifts.

Please attend the church of your choice Sunday. If you don't have a church home, we invite you to join with us at the Chapel of Faith, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad. Remember that God loves you unconditionally.

First Baptist Church

Our pastor, the Rev. Ken Coffee, is preaching a series of sermons on the signs of Christmas. This Sunday morning's sermon title is "The Immanuel Sign." Our morning worship begins at 10:50 a.m., but the First Baptist Family invites you to come at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School. There are classes for everyone, from the cradle to the ... classes for all ages.

At 6 p.m., the Music Ministry will present an evening of Christmas music by the choir, ensembles and soloists. After the program, we will have a time of fellowship in the north foyer and would also like to invite you to come to this event. Parents, bring your children. There is going to be a really special surprise that evening, and it does not concern someone jolly in red.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Greetings to you and yours this holiday season. May you have a blessed Christmas season.

Sunday worship ser-

Making a list, checking it twice

Christmas is coming, and Santa Claus has already been seen around town. He appeared in the Christmas parade, and he has had his picture taken dozens of times at the museum. Just like the jolly old elf, I've started making a list and checking it twice. But I'm not keeping track of who has been naughty and who has been nice. Watching for good little girls and boys is Santa's job, not mine. I'm checking my list two or three times daily because I can't remember what I need to do or where I am supposed to be that day.

The first Sunday of

Advent was the beginning of the event season for me this year.



BONNIE WHEAT

I've been juggling my schedule ever since. My worst fear is not that I will miss something. I'm just afraid that I will show up with a covered dish somewhere when no meal was planned or walk into a potluck dinner empty handed. After I check my list to see where I'm supposed to go, I have to check it again to see if I need a hot dish, a batch of

brownies, or a plate of sandwiches. It just doesn't seem right to leave the house this time of the year with a purse on my shoulder and nothing to balance on my hip while I lock the door behind me.

Making a list and checking it twice seems like a good idea. It's the only way I'll ever keep my agenda straight, but the Bible warns us not to get too attached to our own plans: The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps (Proverbs 16:9 NASB).

Maybe instead of checking my list, I should be checking with God to see what He wants me to do each day.

Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. They are practicing for the Christmas program Dec. 21.

For further information call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

First Church of the Nazarene

The annual Live Drive-Thru Nativity is today through Sunday from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. We hope everyone will take time to enjoy the beautiful, live, narrated picture story of Jesus, from birth through his resurrection and ascension.

Sunday mornings we have a "Meet and Greet" time with coffee and donuts in the commons at 9:30 a.m. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. with a mixture of contemporary and traditional music sure to uplift your soul. This is

followed by a scripture-based message from our pastor.

Wednesday nights all adults are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for your choice of one of three interactive Bible studies in the sanctuary building. Kim Shafer is presenting "How to Know When You Are Heading in the Right Direction: Discovering God's Will," by Andy Stanley. Pastor Brown is presenting ministry through a DVD presentation study with John Bevere, "Driven by Eternity" and Leonard Hadley's class meets in the Commons with scripture studies.

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

This is a busy season for the children at FCN. The children are preparing and practicing for caroling at several nursing homes Tuesday evening. New Hope Christian School and the FCN children's choir will present their Christmas programs at the church Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The community is invited.

Our Prime Timers Group, which is for those 55 years of age and older, meets the first Sunday evening of each month at 6. Burl and Barbara Cooley lead this reorganized ministry that reaches out to the senior adults of the church. They have finger foods and desserts and lots of good conversation and fun.

First Church of the Nazarene's ministry to Hispanics is led by the Rev. Felix and Marta Torres. Worship and Bible study are at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday evening in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to this Spanish-speaking service.

Dare to Care Ministry will be conducted Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.

God is waiting to bless you!

East Fourth Street Baptist

We welcome you to come worship with us this Sunday. We celebrated our Hanging of the Greens this past Sunday evening and are getting ready for our

See **CHURCH**, page 7A

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

CHURCH

Continued from page 6A

Christmas Cantata, to be presented by our choir Sunday, Dec. 21.

Our church is located at 401 E. Fourth St. We have Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 11 a.m.; Mission classes at 5 pm. and evening worship at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, adult prayer and Bible study, children Back Door Bible study and music and youth Bible study and music all are at 7 p.m. Saturday mornings at 7 a.m. is men's Bible study. For more information, contact the Church office at 432-267-2291.

1st United Methodist Church

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteered their time and

talents into making the 30th annual Living Christmas Tree a beautiful gift to our community.

On Saturday, we will celebrate yet another tradition — Christmas caroling. It's planned as a family-friendly activity, something that spans generations and creates special memories. We will sing at nursing homes, the VA hospital and for our shut-ins from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Afterward, we will return to church for fellowship, hot chocolate and more.

This Sunday, our pastor, the Rev Sharon Wiese, will portray Mary's mother as she tries to reconcile the word she has from her daughter and the ordinariness of her life.

Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. and will continue to be conducted in front of the beautiful, ceiling-high

Christmas tree through the special holy season.

Sunday evening from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the congregation is invited to the Parsonage Open House at 715 Edwards Blvd. Join Bill, Sharon and their family and see "Teddy Bears on Parade."

The Angel Tree Ministry for children of incarcerated parents is a big success. All 42 names have been taken and the wrapped gifts are to be returned to the church by Dec. 19. There will be a Christmas party for these children on Saturday, Dec 20 at noon in Garrett Hall.

For more complete information regarding special Christmas events for children, youth, adults and our Senior Ministry, please contact the church office at 267-6394.

That's First Methodist Church, where families grow in Christ.

Are you a good citizen?

Since we are special people to God, we should be special in all of our endeavors. If there is anyone we don't want to disappoint, it should be God. Those who favor God are also favored by God. It is not that God loves one of us more than another, but His blessings just automatically follow those who put Him first place in their lives.



JERRIE STOCKS

Since God Himself instituted government, it would be hard to imagine a world without rules and authority, for God is not only a God of order, but He is a God who desires that each of us be obedient to the laws and governing rules of the land.

Being a good citizen is a requirement if we want God's favor and blessings in our lives, as well as the favor of the authorities in the

land. Proverbs 12:2 tells us, "A good man obtains favor from the Lord, but a man of wicked intentions He will condemn."

God did not create this beautiful world for us to occupy without expecting us to care for it and obey His rules. When He put Adam and Eve in the garden, He told them to tend it and keep it (Gen. 2:15). Even then, God's desire was that Adam and Eve be good citizens and care for the garden, and well as obey His orders.

Since His Word and rules have never changed, we as citizen of this planet are to care not only for our own property, but to be careful that we are good citizens of other people's property, too.

How often do we see signs along the highways and freeways telling us not to litter? Can you imagine what our streets and freeways would look like if no one honored these signs?

We cannot claim to be good citizens if we do not obey the simplest signs along our

roadways. And we cannot expect God's favor when we neglect to honor and obey, not only His rules, but the state laws, as well.

These signs are there for our protection. Our traffic lights, yield signs and stop signs are all for our protection. Driving the speed limit and wearing our seat belts is a law enforced to protect us, but how often do we read stories in the newspaper of people who were thrown from their automobile during an accident who were not wearing a seat belt?

This statement may sound a little strong, but when we purposely fail to obey the laws of our land, I believe we are as guilty as Adam and Eve were in the garden when they disobeyed God.

Yes, God is a loving God, but His laws and His Word are forever established in heaven. They are settled and will never change for any of us. God knows what is good and right for all mankind and that's the principle He goes by.

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Shurtine Cookie Dough
chocolate chip or sugar
16.5 oz. **2 for \$4**

Pillsbury Pie Crusts
15 oz. **2 for \$5**

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

SodaCare Shower Soothers
3 ct. tablets **\$3.99**

PediaCare Gentle Vapors Refill Pads
5 ct. **\$3.99**

Triaminic
select varieties
• 4 oz. liquid
• 14 ct. strips
• 20 ct infant saline drops
• 2 oz pure natural saline mist
• .67 oz. nasal/sinus congestion spray **\$3.99**

Alka-Seltzer Plus
select varieties
6 oz. liquid or 12-20 ct. **\$3.99**

Sudafed PE Nasal Decongestant
10 mg 18 ct. **\$3.99**

Colgate Toothbrushes
select varieties each **\$1.99**

Colgate Toothpaste
select varieties
6.4 oz. **\$1.69**

Wet Ones Wipes
select varieties
24-56 ct. **3 for \$4**

StayFree Feminine Pads
select varieties
16-24 ct. **\$2.89**

Johnson's Baby Products
select varieties
6.5-15 oz. or 14 ct. head-to-toe washcloths **\$2.99**

PRICES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 11-17, 2008

FULLER FOODS

THRIFTWAY

COLORADO CITY, TEXAS

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AFFILIATED FOODS INC.
MEMBER STORE
AT PARTICIPATING STORES

	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 :30	News ABC	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond Friends	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	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 :30	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	12 Coronas	News	Seinfeld	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Made	Made	CSI: NY	Law & Order	Suite Life	Suite Life	Football	NBA
7:PM :30	Wife Swap	Fortune	Cuidado-Angel	You Smarter?	Entertain	Doña Barbara	Songs-Sea-son	Fam. Guy	Update	Wash Wk	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Har-nibal, Ray Liotta	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: Wais-t Deep, Larenz Tate	Suite Life	College Foot-ball: NCAA Division I Semifinal -- Teams TBA.	NBA Basket-ball: Hornets at Celtics
8:PM :30	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	Don't Forget	To Be An-nounced	El Rostro de Analia	Lipstick Jungle	Talladega Nights: Ricky Bobby	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	Survivorman	Survivorman	The Ultimate Fighter	Movie: Mis-sion: Impos-sible III, Ving Rhames	American Gangster	Suite Life	Wizards	NBA Basket-ball: Rockets at Warriors
9:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Nuestra Navid.	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos	Dateline NBC			Charlie Rose	Survivorman	Movie: Gremlins, Hoyt Axton	Jackass Game Next	Movie: Mis-sion: Impos-sible 2, Thandie Newton	Hatchett	Montana	Rodeo: 2008 PRC A National Fi-nals -- Ninth Round.	SportsCenter
10:PM :30	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Funny Mov.	Church Cortes	Smiley	Man vs. Wild	Survivorman	Movie: Gremlins 2: The New Batch, John	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi	Suite Life	SportsCenter	NBA Basket-ball: Hornets at Wizards	
11:PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Desmadru-gados	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Sex & Sanchez	Sanchez	Smiley	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Survivorman	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi
12:AM :30	News	(36) Wife Swap	Madre	Faith	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Something's Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	Best of Light of the Southwest	Update	Update	Update	Update	Update	Update	Update	Update	Update
1:AM :30	Paid	Everyone	Humor	Tyra Banks Show	Paid	Película: I a Mávima	Poker After Dark											

DENNIS THE MENACE



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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How come these are all exactly the same?"

HAGAR

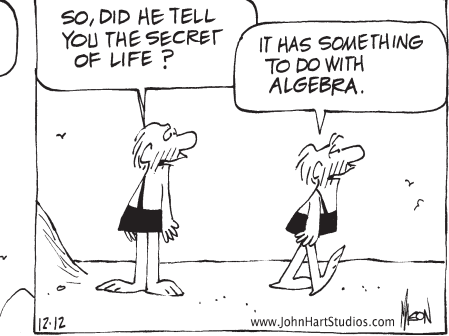
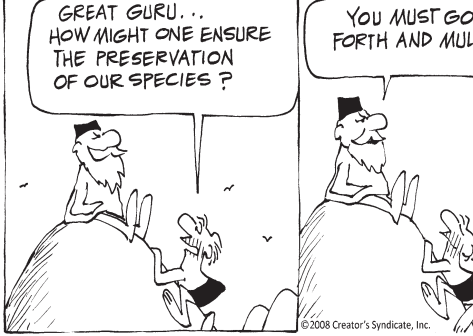


I'M GLAD YOU CAME OVER TONIGHT, FAST FREDDY!

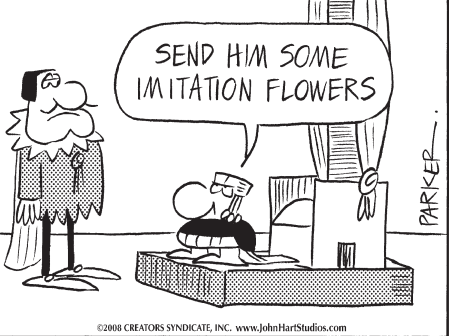


WHAT TIME DO YOUR PARENTS GO TO BED?

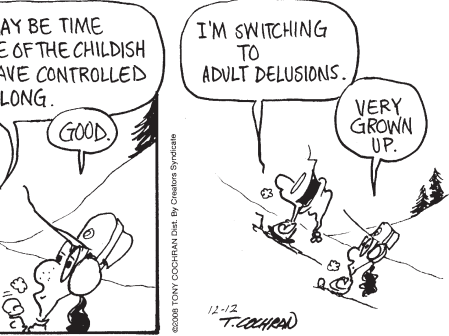
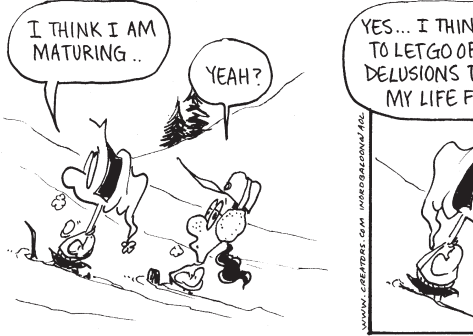
BC



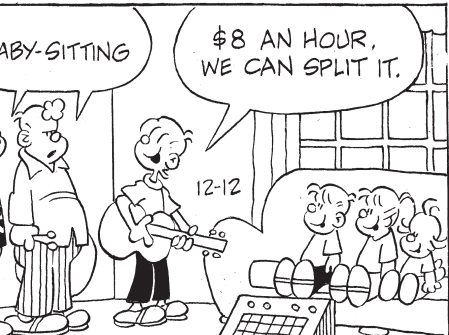
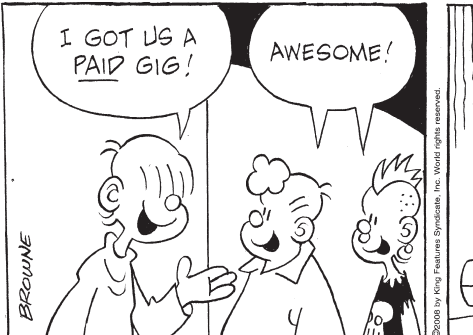
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



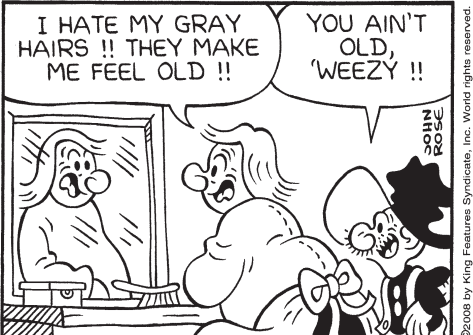
HI AND LOIS



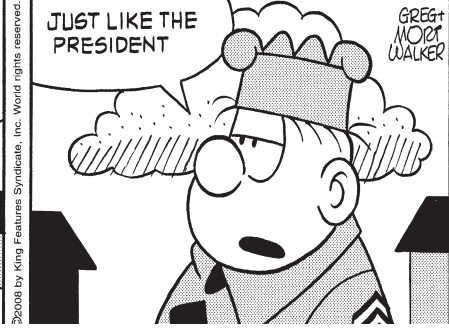
THE OTHER COAST



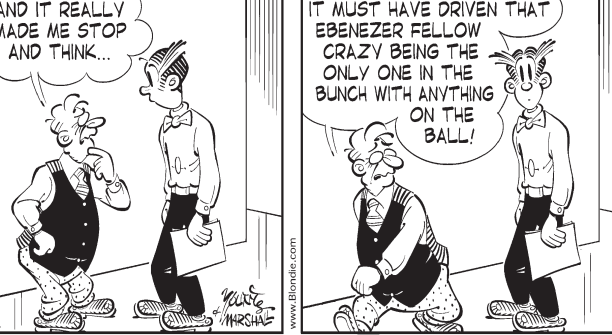
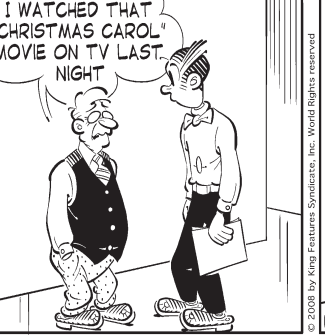
SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



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 over-work, but many who died from doubt." — Charles Horace Mayo, American surgeon and co-founder of the Mayo Clinic (1865-1939).
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Answer to previous puzzle

BOISE	ANNO	SOBS
ANNEX	MAIM	WALE
SCOTCH	PINE	ITEM
SENSEI	FENGSHUI	
SGT	ASIS	
POLISH	SHAM	SWAMI
AMIN	IRE	STALIN
RAND	QUIET	TINA
THEIRS	OLE	CCCL
SARAH	CUBAN	HEEL
NEAL	ALE	
AVOCADOS	TWERPS	
WELL	DUTCH	TREAT
LIEU	IDEA	OMANI
SLOB	NYPD	NADER

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

ACROSS	63 Source of quote	9 Turn blue	38 WSJ employees
1 Airspeed measure	66 Fruit drinks	10 Construes	40 Belly laugh
5 Backdrops for oaters	67 Towel fabric	11 Mrs. Gandhi's father	41 Dental tissue
10 Some are soy-based	68 Hammer end	12 Jeweler's measure	42 Russian river
14 Canyon comeback	69 Digital readouts: Abbr.	13 Post-blizzard mess	47 Wide ties
15 Kemper competitor	70 Feed a fire	18 Bear in the sky	48 McQueen's Bullitt costar
16 Hud Oscar winner	71 Is off	25 Pertaining to	50 Persian comment
17 Start of a quote	DOWN	26 Ground grain	51 Like some cavities
19 Traffic-sign word	1 DC subway	27 Management level	52 Get around
20 Send, as to a specialist	2 Pined	28 Abrasive quality	53 Expressed a preference
21 Satirical periodical	3 Course creators	30 [Not my error]	54 Film preceder
22 Pound stats	4 What remained in Pandora's box	31 NATO member	55 Edmonton NHLer
23 GI uniforms	5 Scratch	32 Med. test	56 Inferior to
24 Part 2 of quote	6 Shoebox letters	34 Where Columbia is: Abbr.	57 Cold temps
28 Candy shape	7 PAID, for one	36 Informal refusal	61 Water carrier
29 Salon sound	8 Historical records	37 ___ fix	64 Indy quest
30 Japanese sport			65 Scotch alternative