

VOLUME 104. NUMBER 16



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FRIDAY

DECEMBER 19, 2008



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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Capt. Henry G. Billings, commanding officer of the Marine Corps detachment at Goodfellow AFB, right, presents several military medals to retired Marine Cpl. Lyndall Preslar, a resident at the VA Medical Center. Preslar was a prisoner of war during World War II, having spent more than three years in Japanese captivity.

Belated honors

60 years later, Preslar receives medals

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Nearly 60 years after being awarded several prestigious medals for his military service in World War II, Big Spring's Lyndall Preslar, a retired Marine corporal, had them placed in his hands for the first time during a special ceremony at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

"Mr. Preslar, for your service

"During his time as a POW, he was brutalized, starved, treated as less than human and used as slave labor."

—Capt. Henry G. Billings

to your country, you are being awarded today with the Prisoner of War Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the China Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Bronze Star," Capt. Henry G. Billings, commanding officer of the Marine detachment at Goodfellow AFB, announced Thursday.

See **HONORS**, Page 3A

Downes gives up certificate

Herald Staff Report

Michael Downes, former Big Spring Independent School District superintendent resigned in June amid allegations of possible misconduct, voluntarily surrendered his Texas educator certificate this week.

According to the State Board for Educator Certification, Downes surrendered his certificate



been serving

as Big Spring ISD superintendent for five years, had resigned effective June 30, citing "distractions"

See **DOWNES**, Page 3A

Aggravated robbery among indictments

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Howard County grand jury handed down

indictments Thursday, including one for aggravated robbery in connection with the Nov. 12 robbery of

Viera Jr. a local 7-Elev-

en convenience store. Paul Viera Jr., 23, currently in the Howard County Jail, was indicted on a charge of aggravated robbery, a first-

degree felony.

According to law enforcement officials, Viera allegedly robbed the 7-Eleven convenience store located at the intersection of 18th Street and Gregg at approximately 4 a.m., holding the store's clerk at knife point.

"Upon arrival, officers learned the suspect had fled the store," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "The clerk told them a Hispanic

See INDICTED, Page 3A

'Nutcracker' to take local auditorium stage Saturday

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

One of the most-anticipated holiday musical "treats" will take the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium stage Saturday night as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Midland Festival Ballet present "The Nutcracker Ballet."

The two-act performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of symphony conductor Dr. Keith Graumann.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Herald, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas and the Midland Festival Ballet. Tickets will also be available at the auditorium Saturday night, while they last.

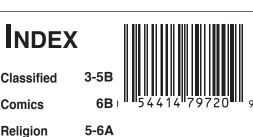
"Nutcracker" was composed in 1891-92 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. It has since become a traditional holiday blend of colorful dance moves and stirring music, familiar throughout the world.

"Much of the music is very difficult, but our orchestra is

very capable and anxious to perform it for vou. And, exposing the wonderful plot onstage through dance will definitely make for a memorable evening," said Graumann.

Graumann said he is de-

See **BALLET**, Page 2A



Opinion 4A

To reach us:

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com 1-2B **Sports**

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8

a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

President Bush says automakers to get \$17.4B

By DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Citing danger to the national economy, the Bush administration came to the rescue of the U.S. auto industry Friday, offering \$17.4 billion in emergency loans in exchange for concessions from the deeply troubled carmakers and their workers.

At the same time, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Congress should authorize the use of the second \$350 billion from the financial rescue fund that it ap-

See BAILOUT, Page 3A



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SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Friday, December 19, 2008

Rogers, Armendariz lead Sands in district, region honors

By Jonathan Hull

Sports Editor

ACKERLY — It was a memorable football season for the Sands Mustangs in 2008 and their accomplishments were well noted with 11 players receiving All-District and All-Region honors.

As was the case for the Mustangs throughout a season that saw them make their first playoff appearance since 2002, headlining the awards were juniors Johnny Rogers and Daniel Armendariz.

Rogers received first-team honors as a spreadback in both Division II, District 6 and Region I. He was a second-team All-District selection as a linebacker.

Armendariz Mustangs with more than 180 tackles this season. His defensive efforts were recognized as he was named first-team linebacker in the district and the region. He was also listed

as a first-team All-District received honorable mention fullback and a second-team special teams player.

Two other Mustangs made the All-Region first team with Ethan Zant qualifying as a safety and Gabe Guillen placing on the defensive line.

Seth Fry, Xavier Elizondo, Landon Parker, Albert Ybarra, Michael Gomez and Poncho Mendez were all second-team All-District selections at their respective positions, while Adam Hernandez as a receiver.

All-District, All-Region Mustangs

Johnny Rogers - First-team All-District spread back, first-team All-Region spread back, second-team All-District Linebacker.

Daniel Armendariz - First-team All-District fullback, first-team All-District linebacker, first-team All-Region linebacker, second-team All-District special teams player.

Gabe Guillen - First-team All-District defensive line, first-team All-Region defensive line.

Ethan Zant - First-team All-District safety, first-team All-Region safety, All-

District honorable mention tight end.

Seth Fry - Second-team All-District tight end, All-District honorable men-

tion kicker. Xavier Elizondo - Second-team All-District center.

Landon Parker - Second-team All-District quarterback.

Albert Ybarra - Second-team All-District safety.

Michael Gomez - Second-team All-District nose guard, All-District honorable mention fullback.

Adam Hernandez - All-District honorable mention wide receiver.

Poncho Mendez - Second-team All-District punter.

Final farewell

Cowboys, Ravens ready for hole-in-the-roof finale

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — In the 38-season history of Texas Stadium, only two NFL teams have never lost there: the Oakland-Los Angeles Raiders and the Baltimore Ravens.

The Ravens, however, carry an asterisk — they have yet to play under the hole in the

Better late than never, that will change Saturday night when Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco and the Ravens have the dubious honor of being the Dallas Cowboys' final foe at their landmark stadium.

"I'd just call it another arena, but it is a great place of tradition." Lewis said. "I look forward to it.'

With both teams 9-5 and fighting for wild-card berths into the playoffs, the importance of this game to both teams can't be understated.

Yet, to the average fan, this being the 313th and final game at this place is pretty

"I know the fans will be excited, I know the players are excited," quarterback Tony Romo said. "We'd like to send it out on the right

In fact, the game is merely the opening act for Saturday night's farewell show.

Soon after players head to the locker rooms, a postgame ceremony will commence featuring some of the guys who turned the Cowboys into "America's Team" evoked the notion the roof was left open so God could watch his team play.

Although the exact guest list is being kept secret, expect Roger Staubach, Bob Lilly, Tony Dorsett, Randy White, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin to be among the headliners. Probably Deion Sanders, too, since he'll be analyzing the game for the NFL Network. (Programming note for Cowboys lovers — or haters — who get the NFL Network: Cowboys-oriented programming will run from 6 a.m. EST all the way to kickoff.)

During the postgame ceremony, roughly 100 former Cowboys players and coaches who spent at least five years at Texas Stadium will make one last stroll across the midfield star. Current players are expected to take part, too. And it only seems logical that the team's world-famous



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo walks down the tunnel to the playing field at Texas Stadium Sunday in Irving. The Cowboys will close out the season with the last game scheduled for the stadium Saturday, playing host to the Baltimore Ravens.

cheerleaders also will be involved.

As for the game itself, Dallas comes in on a 4-1 roll since Romo returned from a broken pinkie on his passing hand. The only loss was in the final minutes of a tight game in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers bashed Romo pretty good that day and the New York Giants nearly finished him off Sunday night. He went down wincing with a back injury late in the first quarter and probably will still be feeling it when Ray Lewis and the hard-hitting Ravens take the field.

Fans ache just thinking about that.

"He has a lot of playmakers on his side of the ball, so (we can't) let him sit back there and pick and choose," Lewis said. "People that have had success against him have really made him not sit back there comfortable."

Dallas' collection of playmakers seemingly got along just fine this week, unlike their turmoil-filled week leading up to the Giants game. T.O. acknowledged that a win makes all the difference, an indication that tempers could flare again with a loss.

Baltimore is coming off a late, tough loss in Pittsburgh that was even tougher to overcome because of a controversial ruling on the Steelers' winning touchdown. As much as the Ravens insist that play is behind them, they're going to need a strong showing against the Cowboys

to prove it.

That won't be easy. Dallas' defense is playing on par with Pittsburgh's and Baltimore's.

The Cowboys lead the league in sacks, with DeMarcus Ware four away from setting the NFL singleseason record.

The unit has held teams without a touchdown three times this season, and the Ravens offense is coming off a touchdown-less game of its own.

job all year of stopping anybody's pressure," Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco, who averages a sack every 15 attempts. "I'm going to trust that they are going to do another great job this

Ware worries

Raven's first priority: Stop LB's pass rush

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) - There are at least 19 reasons why the Baltimore Ravens' offensive line has cause for concern heading into Saturday night's pivotal game at the Dallas Cowboys.

The number reflects Cowboys Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware's sacks total this year, the most in the NFL since Michael Strahan established the record with 22 1/2 seven years ago. Ware has already tied Mark Gastineau (New York Jets, 1983), Bruce Smith (Buffalo Bills, 1990) and Clyde Simmons (Philadelphia Eagles, 1992) for eighth-most sacks in a season in league

One week removed from stonewalling Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl outside linebacker James Harrison as he was held to no sacks in



Dallas Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware (94) sacks San Francisco quarterback Shaun Hill (13) during an NFL game in Irving Nov. 23. There are at least 19 reasons why the Baltimore Ravens' offensive line has cause for concern heading into Saturday night's pivotal game at the Dallas Cowboys. The number reflects Cowboys Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware's sacks total this year.

Colts playoff bound after 31-24 win over Jacksonville

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Peyton Manning asked his coaches at halftime if they had any suggestions for him. All he got was, "You haven't thrown any incompletions. Just try to keep doing what you're doing."

Great tip.

Manning was nearly perfect all night, exactly what the Indianapolis Colts needed to overcome whatever emotion the Jackson ville Jaguars got from Richard Collier's return.

Manning completed his first 17 passes, Jacksonville's secondary and led the Colts to their eighth consecutive win and seventh straight playoff berth. He finished 29-for-34 and threw for 364 yards and three touchdowns, and the Colts secured the No. 5 seed in the AFC playoffs with a 31-24 victory over the Jaguars on Thursday

"Peyton Manning is unbelievable," coach Tony Dungy said. "He put a lot of it on his shoulders and kept us in it. He played unbelievably under the circum-

stances. "All in all, with everything that was riding on it ... it was a great performance. It was an MVP performance for

Manning led the Colts back from deficits of 14-0 and 24-14, and Adam Vinatieri's 45-yard field goal tied the game at 24-all late in the fourth.

Indianapolis (11-4) took the lead for good when Keiwan Ratliff intercepted a pass from David Garrard and returned it 35 yards for a touchdown with 4:48 remaining.

"One of those plays I was in the right place at the right time," Ratliff said. "He threw the ball and I just caught it and tried to get to the end

The Jaguars had two chances to tie it, but both drives ended with sacks. Garrard drove Jacksonville to the 7-yard line with 29 seconds remaining, but Jones-Drew Maurice

See NFL, Page 2B

See WARE, Page 2B

Obituaries

Willie Armendariz

Willie Armendariz, 71, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

• 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.

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.
- •The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.
- •Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- · Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Take Note

- Donnavan J. Silvas, 1, of Big Spring died Dec. 5 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 purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring Volunteer program today. We request potential volunteers not to volunteer for one year after a significant loss. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432)517-4073.
- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.
- 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, roundtrip, 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

Police blotter

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

- JOSE DOLORES FRANCO JR., 35, of 1206 Sycamore, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DANIEL VERA FLORES, 40, of 1507 W. Fourth Street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of Class C assault – family violence.
- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia. • GRAFFITI was reported in the 1800 block of
- Hamilton. • CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 3800
- block of Dixon. • BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the
- 1700 block of Alabama.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

• KAYLA M. OSBORNE, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of duty on striking fixture/highway landscape. • JESSE LENDELL WOODRUFF, 23, was arrested

Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of engaging in organized criminal activity. • JOSE H. OLIVARES, 47, was arrested Thursday

by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

 JOE MORRIS HAYS, 52, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• BLAKE EDWARD LAMB, 21, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and no driver's license.

VICTORIA HANNABASS, 19, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

MICHAEL PAUL HOGAN, 37, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of no valid driver's license.

Fire/EMS

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

MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of N. Main Street in Coahoma. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 7500 block of the I-20 N. Service Road. One person was transported to

MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Bethel. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

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, call 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. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.
- Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

Purina DEER CORN See Our Purina Lineup

267-6411

Your Local Weather

low 70s and

lows in the

mid 20s.

J	Local	WCati		
Sat 12/20	Sun 12/21	Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24
Z ₄₄₄ x	Agas .	Zink.	Z ₁	0P3
71/45	72/26	44/23	49/34	64/36
Areas of dense morning fog.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid	Partly cloudy. Highs in the	Windy with times of sun and clouds.

40s and lows

in the low

20s.

upper 40s

and lows in

the mid 30s.

Bulletin Board

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

Partly cloudy

skies. High

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

MONDAY

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

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

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

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday

Winning numbers drawn: 15-9-31-2. Bonus Ball: 12.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball:

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 35-6-30-9-3. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$12,588

Winning tickets sold in: Houston, Fort Worth The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

3-1-6. Sum It Up: 10

BALLET

Continued from Page 1A

0-0-6-3. Sum It Up: 9

lighted to have the Midland Festival Ballet as guest artists for the performance. Ballet directors are Judy Coleman, ballet studio founder, and Susan Clark. Their studio has trained most of the 80 dancers in the show, including a number from Big Spring.

Corporate sponsors are Citizens Federal Credit Union and Alon USA, with support from the Big Spring Symphony board of directors, association members and the Dora Roberts Foundation.

This is the second subscription performance



Graumann

added.

be performing 'The Nutcracker' with our wonderful orchestra and this talented ballet company. I know that this will be an unforgettable evening and I urge everyone to come and

2008-2009

concert

season. "Times to

Remem-

"I am tre-

mendously

excited to

ber."

For more information on Saturday's performance, call the symphony office at (432) 264-

share the excitement

with us," Graumann

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Continued from Page 1B

sprained his knee on a reception, and since the Jaguars had no timeouts, there was a 10-second runoff.

Garrard misfired on first down, then got sacked by Dwight Freeney to end the game.

The Colts won without receiver Marvin Harrison (hamstring), running back Joseph Addai (shoulder) and linebacker Gary Brackett (leg). Dungy said the victory would allow him to rest many starters next week

against Tennessee, giving some players as many as 17 days of rest before opening the postseason.

The Jaguars (5-10) lost for the seventh time in the past nine games and fell to 2-6 at home.

Collier, a 6-foot-7 offensive linemen paralyzed from the waist down following a shooting in early September, returned to the field for the first time and was recognized during pregame ceremonies. He drove onto the field, sat next to his teammates during the national anthem and then headed to midfield as an honorary team captain for the coin toss.

WARE

Continued from Page 1B

the Ravens' 13-9 loss, the offensive line faces arguably its toughest challenge yet against the 6-foot-4, 257-pound Ware. Ware has a deadly quick first step to go with the acceleration, power and array of moves that make up his pass-rushing repertoire.

"He's quick, agile, a little taller than James Harrison, who's a little stouter and more compact, where DeMarcus is almost what you would consider a bigger defensive end," Ravens offensive tackle Adam Terry said. "He's a heck of a pass rusher, a really good technician."

The Ravens have allowed just 25 sacks this season, but Dallas leads the league with 53 sacks. And Ware has been the centerpiece of that constant harassment of quarterbacks with five more sacks than last year's total of 14, when he set a franchise record for sacks by a linebacker.

"He's relentless," Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said of Ware during a conference call with Baltimore reporters. "He's a great athlete certainly, but he goes hard every play. I think the thing that sets him apart is that he's not a pass rusher only. He plays the run very well. He's a complete player and he's a special pass rusher."

The Ravens will have a real challenge trying to protect rookie quarterback Joe Flacco, who was sacked twice, intercepted twice and fumbled once against the Steelers' top-ranked defense. Both Cowboys and Steelers are skilled practitioners of the 3-4 defensive alignment.

"I don't know if it's

tougher than what we saw last week pass rush wise, but it's every bit as tough," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "The Cowboys have one of the best pass rushes in football. It's a little bit different type of scheme, same basic front, though, same type of talent, and that's going to be a big priority for us. If we can protect the quarterback, then well have a chance to throw the ball."

The Cowbovs had eight sacks in a win over the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants last week as Ware got Eli Manning three times. It has been five games since the Cowboys have allowed a 100-rusher, with just one touchdown allowed over the last three games and four consecutive games with at least four sacks.

Besides Ware's banner season, defensive end Greg Ellis (seven sacks), nose guard Jay Ratliff (seven sacks) and linebacker Bradie James (six sacks) have all had their moments penetrating the line of scrimmage.

"We've got our work cut out for us," center Jason Brown said. "It's a challenge but, as an offensive line, we look forward to the challenge."

Ravens tackle Jared Gaither, who has battled through a painful sprained shoulder to excel in his first year as Ogden's Jonathan replacement, will likely draw the assignment of blocking Ware the majority of the time.

The Ravens also run unbalanced lines with tackles Terry, Gaither and Willie Anderson all lining up at the same time.

"Ware's a great playthe er," said Gaither, who practice Wednesday due to the flu. "I'm looking forward to playing against

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

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Alon complying with OSHA recommendations

Agency fines petrochemical company \$52,725 for mostly fire-related violations

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

Alon USA is cooperating fully with the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration and will not contest \$52,725 in fines for violations cited by that agency earlier this year. David Foster, Big Spring Refinery manager said Thursday.

Most of the violations are in connection with the Feb. 18 fire and explosion at the plant. The citations were issued Aug. 14.

Foster said Alon's investigation into the fire revealed that liquid propylene was released through a rupture in one of the pumps located at the Propylene Splitter Unit and reached an ignition source. The rupture in the pump was determined to be caused by a faulty original weld on



Foster

Foster.

the refinery as a result of this failure as well as implementing other recommendations to prevent reoccurrence," said

"The

refinery

The explosion shut down crude oil processing at the plant for the better part of six months and reconstruction of the facility employed as many as 1,700 workers at one time. The cat cracker was restarted in September but there is no timetable for start up of the propylene splitter — which separates propane and polypropylene, Foster said.

Among the citations:

• Fire protection facilities were not adequately maintained or periodically inspected and tested.

• Employees working for the propylene splitter, alkylation area, catalytic cracker, Cat Light Ends and other united relieved by the flare system were potentially exposed to equipment failure and subsequent catastrophic release of flammable or toxic materials resulting in toxic exposure, explosion and fire hazards.

 The process hazard analysis for the propylene splitter unit did not address engineering controls to indicate to board operators the fluid levels in the three propylene splitter towers, resulting in a hazard to employees.

• Written operating procedures used for startup of the

propylene splitter unit did not provide clear instructions for safely conduction activities, and did not address operating limits, safety and health considerations.

• The frequency of inspections and tests of the process equipment was not consistent with manufacturer's recommendations and good engineering practices.

 Alon did not correct deficiencies in equipment that was outside acceptable limits before further use or in a safe and timely manner. Piping and components at the propylene unit were outside acceptable limits as defined by design codes and standards employed by Alon USA.

 Piping inspection drawings for the reboiler area were not consistent with design specifications.

 Alon did not investigate each incident which resulted in or could have reasonably resulted in a catastrophic release of a highly hazardous chemical in the workplace.

 The employee alarm system did not provide warning for necessary emergency action as called for in the emergency action plan or for reaction time for safe escape of employees.

"We have cooperated fully with OSHA, have not contested the citations, and will be implementing their recommendations at the PP splitter along with additional ones from our investigation," said Foster.

Foster said the refinery is operating at design rates following the restart. The refinery processes 70,000 barrels of oil daily.

DOWNES

Continued from Page 1A

by an ongoing TEA investigation into possible misconduct with students at a previous stop in his education career.

In Tuesday's settlement with the Texas Education Agency Educator Certification and Standards Division,

Downes denied "each and every allegation" made against him. He indicated he agreed to the settlement for the "sake of resolving this dispute without further delay, expense and hardship which would be incurred by all parties and witnesses should this matter go to trial."

According to the TEA, the surrender of Downes' certifi-

cate ends the agency's investigation into the complaint against him. Under the agreement, he can no longer serve as a teacher or administrator in any Texas public school.

Arrow Educational Services, a search firm headed by Mabank ISD Superintendent Russell D. Marshall, has spent the past few months gathering applications to

fill the position vacated by Downes. Michael Stevens, former chief of Hereford ISD, has been serving as interim superintendent. Marshall said earlier this

present about 40 applications to the board prior to an interview process. Following the Christmas

year the firm expected to

break, trustees plan several

meetings in the first two weeks of January to interview candidates.

A second round of trustee meetings in February have been scheduled to conduct follow-up interviews.

Once a finalist for the position is announced, the district must wait 21 days before officially hiring the new superintendent, Marshall said.

INDICTED

Continued from Page 1A

male had entered the store and grabbed him while brandishing a knife, and ordered him to give him the money from the cash register. The clerk did as he was told and the suspect fled the scene on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.

"Approximately one hour later officers responded to the Town & Country on the N. Lamesa Highway in reference to a disturbance. Apparently, there had been a fight or altercation between Viera and another individual in the parking lot. At the scene officers contacted a man identified as Paul Viera Jr. Based on 26, currently in the Howard County Jail, possession of a his description and clothing,

along with evidence found by officers, Viera was taken into custody by the officers and charged with aggravated rob-

Everett said no injuries were reported as a result of the robbery. "It gave the clerk a pretty

good scare, but no one was injured in the altercation," said Everett. If convicted, Viera could

face five to 99 years to life in prison, including a fine not to exceed \$10,000. Also indicted Thursday

 Dijuan Edward Ausbie, 20, of 801 18th St., possession of a controlled substance (second-

County Jail, delivery of a con-

trolled substance (state jail felony) and possession of a controlled substance (seconddegree felony).

• Pierre Je'an Gordon, 18, of 806 Ohio, delivery of a controlled substance (seconddegree felony), delivery of a controlled substance (state jail felony) and possession of a controlled substance (second-degree felony).

• Quincy Lamar Henry, 19, currently in the Howard County Jail, possession of a controlled substance (seconddegree felony).

• James Lynn Parker, 28, of 2501 Langley, possession of a controlled substance (seconddegree felony).

• Charles Rene Lanary, • Christian Davon Gordon, 17, currently in the Howard substance (state jail felony). controlled substance (second-

degree felony).

• Misty Nicole Bosley, 31, currently in the Howard County Jail, forgery (two counts, state jail felonies). • Robert Diaz Jr., 26, of

1111 Ridgeroad, burglary of a building (state jail felony) and possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony). • William Russell Parks, 40,

of 3228 Cornell, possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony). · John Jay Flores, 37, of

1207 Frazier, delivery of a controlled substance (three counts, all first-degree felonies enhanced). · Edrion Patrick Houston.

18, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 161, delivery of a controlled

 Anthony Thomas McGruder, 38, of 100 Lockhart St., pos-

session of a controlled substance (third-degree felony, enhanced). • Cynthia Mendez, 38, of

306 N.E. Sixth St., tampering with governmental records (third-degree felony). • Benjamin Moore, 28, cur-

rently in the Howard County Jail, theft from person (thirddegree felony).

• Freddy Cano Rodriguez Jr., 21, of 601 E. 17th St., possession of a controlled substance (third-degree felony).

· John Manuel Solis, 23, of 1501 Wood, possession of a controlled substance (seconddegree felony, enhanced) and possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

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

HONORS

Continued from Page 1A

Preslar, a man many officials at the VA Medical Center described Thursday as fun and talkative, found himself struggling to describe his feelings following the ceremony.

"I have no words," said Preslar. "I had no idea this would ever happen."

Preslar's family joined him for the ceremony, including his wife of 59 years, Maxine; daughter, Lydia Len Redmon; granddaughter, Cari Loffler; two great-grandsons, Michael Hesson and Sawyer Simpkins; and one great-greatgranddaughter, Ciera Hesson.

degree lelony).

were:

Billings said Thursday's ceremony serves as a reminder for him and other Marines.

"It reminded me of how very blessed each of us are, and how we take it for granted," said Billings. "In 1942 on the island of Baton in the Phillipines, after five months of air artillery siege, Mr. Preslar and the Fourth Marines were ordered to surrender to an overwhelming Japanese force. He subsequently remained a prisoner of war for the next 40 months until the war ended.

"During his time as a POW, he was brutalized, starved, treated as less than human and used as slave labor. During his three-and-a-half years in captivity, he weighed 75 to 85 pounds, standing six-feet tall. He and others were used as slave labor to carve an airfield out of the jungle and were exposed to disease and horrible amounts of cement, which has effected his health for the rest of his life.' Billings also described

Preslar's trip to Japan following his capture.

"He was then put on a Japanese Hell Ship and shipped to Japan for use as slave labor, which is where he remained un-

said Billings. "Mr. Preslar spent 50 days on a ship with 750 men in the worst and most inhumane conditions imaginable. During his time as a POW, he was beaten more than 80 times and received no medical treatment. He endured diseases and lost all of his teeth, and received no mail or information for the entire time and he became almost deaf." The Bronze Star Medal

til the end of the war,"

is a United States Armed Forces individual military decoration which may be awarded for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. When awarded for bravest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces and the ninth highest military award — including both combat and noncombat awards — in the order of precedence of U.S. military decorations. Thursday's During

ery, it is the fourth-high-

ceremony, Preslar presented his wife, Maxine, with an anniversary gift to commemorate their many years together.

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BAILOUT

Continued from Page 1A

proved in October to rescue huge financial institutions.

President Bush said, "Allowing the auto companies to collapse is not a responsible course of action." Bankruptcy, he said, would deal "an unacceptably painful blow to hardworking Americans" across the economy.

One official said \$13.4 billion of the money would be available this month and next, \$9.4 billion for General Motors Corp. and \$4 billion for Chrysler LLC. Both companies have said they soon might be unable to pay their bills without federal help. Ford Motor Co. has said it does not need immediate help.

Bush said the rescue package demanded concessions similar to those outlined in a bailout plan that was approved by the House but rejected by the Senate a week ago. It would give the automakers three months to come up with restructuring plans to become viable compa-

If they fail to produce a plan by March 31,

the automakers will be required to repay the loans, which they would find very difficult. "The time to make

hard decisions to become viable is now, or the only option will be bankruptcy," Bush said.

Santa Clause will be at the Big Spring Mall

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley

Bill McClellan News Editor

Managing Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Little light lies: Holding tobacco companies accountable

▼obacco companies have sold "light" cigarettes for decades by promoting their supposedly low tar content, implying that this might make them less harmful to smokers' health than cigarettes with more tar. For most of that time, they've known the claim is misleading. But they've never been held account-

That may change. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that smokers may sue tobacco companies on the grounds that the companies' marketing strategies and tactics deceived them.

The ruling concerns a Maine case in which three smokers claimed they were defrauded. They asked to be compensated for economic losses rather than health problems. Their claim: Deceptive ads led them to believe light cigarettes were safer than regular cigarettes.

In 2002, a similar (but not identical) lawsuit was filed in Illinois. That case also rested on fraud allegations. It ended in a \$10.1 billion judgment against Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, but the verdict was thrown out on appeal.

Tobacco companies wanted smokers to believe that light cigarettes were safer. Internal industry documents described light cigarettes as "an effective marketing gimmick" that offered addicted smokers "the image of health reassurance."

After the Surgeon General's 1964 report on smoking and health — and especially after warnings were added to cigarette packages — tobacco company researchers devoted great amounts of time and money trying to understand light cigarettes' appeal. Their conclusion: People who bought them want "nothing less than to be conned," the documents said.

Tobacco companies obliged them. They continued advertising the unique qualities of light cigarettes, even after agreeing in 1998 to stop misrepresenting the health effects of their products.

In 2006, a federal judge ordered them to stop labeling products "light" and "low tar," but they continued to do so while appealing the decision.

There is no dispute about the basis for the claims made in the Maine lawsuit. The only place where "low tar" cigarettes produce less tar and nicotine than other kinds of cigarettes is, coincidentally, on machines built to simulate smoking. But in the real world, people who smoke light cigarettes inhale just as much tar as those who smoke regular cigarettes. That's because of unconscious changes in the way they hold and smoke the ciga-

The smoking machines were used by the Federal Trade Commission for a landmark 1967 report on tar and nicotine yields of various brands. The report came out just two years after a federal law restricting cigarette advertising and was part of a national effort to discourage smoking.

Yet big tobacco companies survived those restrictions, just as they survived the Surgeon General's reports and the 1998 suit by 48 state attorneys general. Indeed, the companies turned the restrictions to their advantage.

When people sued for injuries caused by smoking, tobacco companies argued that warning labels absolved them of responsibility.

In the Maine case, they argued that a 1965 law restricting advertising prevented them from being sued in state court for claims "endorsed" by the FTC. This week, by a vote of 5 to 4, the Supreme Court rejected that argument. The Maine plaintiffs now have to put on and win their case

Tobacco companies have good lawyers, lots of cash and plenty of avenues for appeal if they lose. Even so, they are a step closer to finally having to answer in court.

And after millions of lives ruined and billions in medical costs, they have a lot to answer for.

THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

42 and just plain having fun

eep the change The Brewer celebrated his 42nd birthday last week. That's right, I'm half way to 84.

I am still a ways off from sinking my teeth into a steak and

seeing them stay there but I am closer to 60 than 20 now. I know that the days are coming when an all-nighter means I didn't go to the bathroom once but that's not here yet, thank God. What is here is



Brewer

the healthy realization that my days are numbered. At the same time I really feel I've got lots of life to live. I no longer feel bullet proof but do feel like I had better hurry up and do something cool. Forty-two is fun. Forty-two as a progressive Christian means I passionately believe in mortality and eternity at the same time. I think that's a good thing.

The new 30

I have never been afraid of getting older. I really enjoyed my teenage years, but my twenties were much better. As a teenager my life was full of snuff cans, football, shenanigans, girl friends and small town life. My twenties were full of marriage,

ministry, having babies and learning how to live life in the big city.

My 30s turned out to be way better than my 20s and now I am full blown into my 40s. So why would I not be optimistic? Leanna and I are about to celebrate 20 years of an incredible marriage, my oldest daughter is in college and the other three are in high school. It's a neat time, really. It's a time of closure for some things and wild possibilities for others things.

A really healthy attitude and a bi-product of victorious Christian living is the willingness to embrace transition. I think a blessed life is one that is growing and transforming. I also know I would not only be cursed but would be a curse to everyone around me if I was still the same person at 42 as I was at 21.

The next level

So transition is not about getting older, it's really about advancing. It's living from faith to faith or from everlasting to everlasting. It's learning how to hope for big things and remain confident through constantly having to deal with closure. It's about bitter/sweet goodbyes and hopeful/expectant new beginnings. One thing I am convinced at the end of 2008 is constant change is here to stay.

I am not going to change some-

day, I already have and I will again and again. So why fear it? It's a lot like the world we live in. We need not fear the world is going to change. It already has. You and I will live in a whole other world 10 years from now, some for the better, a lot for the worse. So since we have no control over the direction of the world we might as well be determined to be better and better people. To be more and more hopeful, thankful and happier. I also want to be more and more useful to the Lord and more and

I love this life God has trusted me with. I don't really think I own anything; I'm just a steward. Part of being a faithful steward of the life I live means an adventurous willingness to embrace transition in growing, advancing and seeing how far the rabbit hole goes. So I think I'll keep the change.

valuable to those around me.

A big Thank You goes out to everyone who plays such a key part in enriching my life, especially my 84-year-old grandmother. After all these years, she is still a hottie and somehow still sees me as a very good boy. I love you, Nana. I am half way there to you in age, but a million years away in goodness of heart.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

ADDRESSES

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The next Senator Kennedy

he news that Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the late president and much-dubbed Princess of Camelot, is seeking to replace

Hillary Clinton in the United States Senate has set many tongues to wagging.

It's all about entitlement, some are saying: What has she done to deserve a seat in the Senate? What does she know? Who does she think she is?



Estrich

Some years ago, I was helping a candidate prepare to enter politics for the first time. He didn't know what to say. I did. "How come I'm running and you're not?" he said to me, not entirely in jest. The answer was obvious: You can hire someone like I used to be to brief you on issues, write speeches, talk through positions. He had the money and the contacts to finance the race. I didn't. End of He did a great job, by the way.

He learned what I could teach him and put together the money to run a successful campaign. It may not be fair, but what is?

Politics isn't a contest to see who can name the most heads of state or rattle off the most bill numbers. That you can learn. What you can't learn is what Caroline Kennedy already has: stature, charisma, standing in

the world. What you can't buy or shouldn't — is the kind of influence that can be wielded by someone who can call anyone in the world and have their call taken, walk into any room and be noticed, give a speech on anything and get an audience

Her supporters point out that she raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the New York City schools. Her critics point out that raising that kind of money doesn't prove you know anything about education. They're right, but it's beside the point. Raising that kind of money proves you know how to tap into the levers of power, who to call and how to get them to say yes — and that you are big enough in every sense of the word to get big things done.

Will Caroline Kennedy be a more effective spokesperson for New York for all these reasons? Of course she will. When she stands up, people will listen. When she asks, people will respond. When she puts herself on the line, the chances of a bill passing or a nominee being confirmed will increase. Most junior senators, especially the ones even people in their home state can't identify, don't have much clout in Washington. Caroline Kennedy will be a player from the moment she

arrives. I remember when I first went to Washington, too many years ago, being awestruck as I sat in

the Senate galley and recognized

one giant after another on the floor below. Humphrey and Kennedy, Hart and Russell, Jake Javitz and Pat Moynihan and Paul Douglas and Ed Brooke, J. William Fulbright and George McGovern. I'm not sure I could point out as many people today as I could then; actually, I'm sure I couldn't. With Hillary leaving and Ted Kennedy fighting serious cancer, the

Senate is heading for a giant gap. Caroline Kennedy doesn't need to be a senator in order to be noticed, listened to, taken seriously and invited to fancy parties. She can do all those things right now. She doesn't need the Senate in order to speak her mind and have her voice be heard. She certainly doesn't need the salary, and she could probably live without the aggravation. Two campaigns in two years is not exactly a gift. She will lose her privacy and become a target for the toughest media crowd in the country.

I think it speaks well for her and for the idea of public service that her father so eloquently championed — that Ms. Kennedy is throwing her hat in the ring. I wish her the best of luck.

She doesn't need the Senate, but the Senate could certainly use her.

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



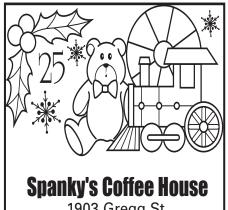
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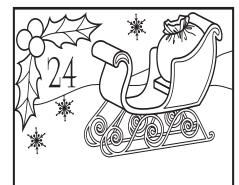
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- 2. Contestants may use crayons, colored pencils or markers. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but not in the coloring.
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- 4. All entries must be turned in by Dec.22, 2008, 5 p.m.
- 5. Submissions are considered property of this newspaper and may be printed by this newspaper.
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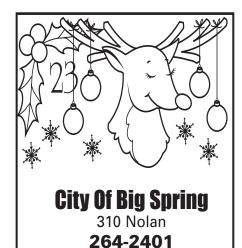


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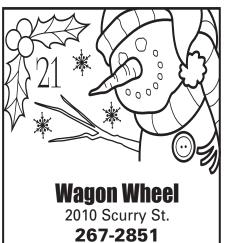


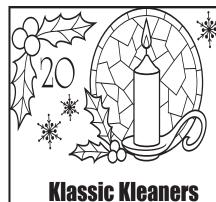
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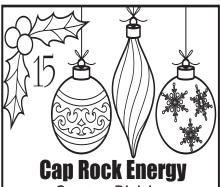








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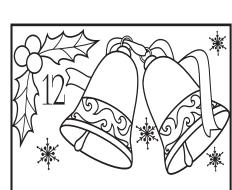
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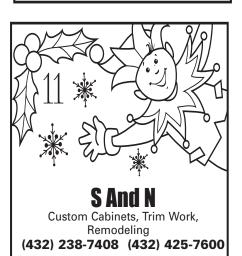
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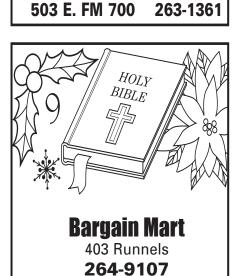


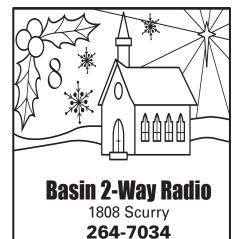


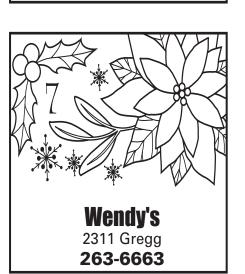
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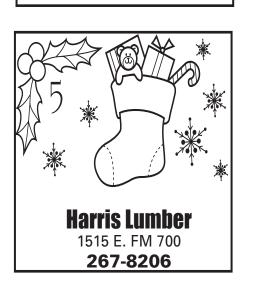


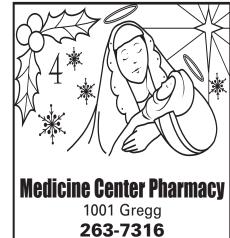














393-5712







CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

BONNIE

WHEAT

Church News

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Wednesday activities: Bible study at 5:17 p.m., youth group from 6-8 p.m., and choir practice at 6 p.m. occurred at their regular times, but will not take place Dec. 23 because of Christmas activities.

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, 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 still may purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas. Each plant is \$15 and may be taken home after the Christmas service. The proceeds from these sales will go to the Youth Mission Trip.

Another opportunity for giving is to order a Christmas gift, which might be a goat, a sewing machine or a literacy lesson, from Church World Service to help a neighbor a world away, given in the name of someone you love. Ask at the church office or order by phone 1-800-297-1516, ext. 222, or online at www.cwsbestgifts.org

December 14, our church hosted a short Christmas concert by our choir and The Tardy Bells, a group of retired teacher bell ringers, following the Big Spring Symphony's Tour of Homes.

December 24, we will have our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight communion service at 7 p.m. "God's Sign of Peace," by Eugene Butler and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," a Polish carol, will be the choir's offering for the service. The Rev. Bronaugh has chosen for the sermon topic "The Birth," based on Luke 2:7.

The church office will be closed Dec. 25-26, for the holiday.

The lectionary for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38. The choir will present "Awake, Shepherds, Awake," by David Lantz and "God's Sign of Peace," by Eugene Butler. Rev. Bronaugh's sermon, "Mary's Song," is based on Luke 1:50.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

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

Sunday, during the worship service, new elders Rae Nell Best, Class of 2009; and Elmer Lindsey and Bob Read, Class of 2011, will be installed.

We will have a Christmas Eve worship service beginning at 11 p.m. Dec. 24. We invite everyone to come, bring their families and share this special time of worship with us to welcome Christmas Day.

The lectionary for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

This year is almost past, but we have a lot of activities happening at East Fourth. We are gathering our "White Christmas" non-perishable food items to be placed in boxes in the front foyer by Sunday. The food will be divided and delivered to our families in need.

Our church will be presenting our Christmas Cantata this Sunday during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Worship Center. This year's Cantata is titled "A Song Was Born At Christmas". Come and enjoy a musical celebrating the birth of the Messiah, led by Music Director Joe Whitten.

On the evening of Dec. 24, we invite you to our Silent Lord's Supper Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. in our Family Worship Center. This will be a time of remembrance.

We welcome you to come visit us at East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 E. 4th St. Our regular Sunday services are: Sunday school (all ages), 9:45 a.m.; morning worship service, 11 a.m.; evening worship, 6 p.m. On Wednesday at 7 p.m., adult, youth and children prayer and Bible study; and on Saturday at 7 a.m., men's Bible study.

If you are seeking a place of love and worship, come to East Fourth Street Baptist Church, led by Pastor Keith Weaver.

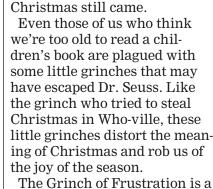
First United Methodist Church

This Sunday there will be a new look in the sanctuary at First Methodist; the Living Christmas Tree is down

Fighting the grinches of Christmas

It was Dr. Seuss who loosed the Grinch upon us. This green, mythical character has been trying to steal Christmas ever

since. Dressed in a Santa Claus suit, Dr. Seuss' Grinch came down the chimnevs in the town of Who-ville to loot and to destroy Christmas. To the Grinch's dismay, even after he had stolen all the food, all the lights and trees, and all the stockings, toys, and presents,



snare for Christmas shoppers.

and put away for anoth-

er year. In its place are

dozens of live poinsettia

plants placed in honor

and or memory of loved

ones in addition to the

Chrismon Tree with all

the beautiful handmade

At both the 8:30 a.m.

and 10:50 a.m. service of

worship, Agustin Ypina

and Mary Ann Marquez

portray the innkeeper

husband and wife and

the dilemma they faced

at the arrival of Joseph

and Mary who was

There will be no noon

Bible study and lunch

Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. The

weekly meetings will

The Coffee House Min-

istry at Spanky's for all

college age will resume

One of the most spe-

cial of our yearly ser-

vices is held Christmas

Eve at 6 p.m. This is a

candlelight service at-

tended by families who

have come home from

far and near and make

this part of their own

We will observe an open

communion, our pas-

tor will present a short

meditation and the con-

gregation will leave the

sanctuary by candle-

light to the strains of

"Silent Night." You and

your family are invited

to join us for this the be-

ginning of the celebra-

The Senior Adult Min-

istry (SAM) heralds the

new year by inviting the

entire congregation to

a New Year's breakfast

buffet at 9:30 a.m. Jan.

1 in Garrett Hall. — at

tion of Christ's birth.

tradition.

about to give birth.

regular schedule

resume Jan. 7.

Jan. 13.

Christmas

Christian symbols.

He hides things on the store shelves so they can't be found. He prompts stores to run out of chocolate chips and candy canes on Christmas Eve. He makes check-out lines long and causes feet to hurt.

The Grinch of Worry instigates tenseness over picking the right gift in the right size and the right color. He produces stress when the money runs out before the bargains stop being advertised, and he stirs up anxiety about cooking the perfect

The Grinch of Exhaustion induces apathy about decorating the tree and vacuuming the rug. He causes tempers to flare when traffic gets crazy and parking spaces are hard to find. He piles up dirty dishes in the sink, and prevents Christmas cards from getting mailed.

The Grinch of Depression thrives on thoughts of loneliness, self-pity, and despair. He encourages negative thoughts and discourages positive thinking. His stocking stuffers are lumps of coal and bitter reflections instead of candy and sweet memories.

Perhaps, though, the worst grinch of all is the Grinch of Greed. He works overtime to convince both children and adults that Christmas is about getting instead of giving. Temptation is his favorite game. He works overtime creating new enticements. However, he always leaves a trail of disappointment because greed is never satisfied.

Whether we fight off the grinches of Christmas this year or embrace them whole heartedly, Christmas will come. It will come because Christ came. The Scripture records that after Jesus was born a multitude of heavenly host praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14

Just as Christmas came to the Whos in Who-ville, Christmas comes to Any-ville. Christmas isn't about the trappings of the holiday. Christmas is a celebration in the hearts of those who believe. It is the source of peace and good will.

where families grow in

First Methodist Church,

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Worship service is at 9 a.m. by the Rev. Chester McCown. Sunday school and Bible classes are at

time, all able bodied members will be hanging door-knockers on as many homes in Kentwood as can be reached, inviting them to Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. at the church. Many children, young adults and adults will be participating in this special Christmas Eve program titled "Away in a Manger." There will also be a chime choir with the youth and adults volunteering. Angela Newton is the music leader of this program, as well as the church organist. We are very grateful for her many talents.

Christmas Day, there will be worship services at 10 a.m. The Rev. Carroll Kohl, vice president of the Texas District, will be our worship leader. Everyone is invited to come worship the Savior on Christmas Day.

Sunday, there will be a congregational church dinner and gift exchange at 6 p.m. Each person should bring one item (new or gently used) for the Chinese Auction. Please bring nickels to participate in the fun of this game. Bring your friends and family. Everyone has volunteered for different food categories so if you don't know what to bring, call Jaunell Roever at 393-5377.

Last Sunday,

10:15 a.m.

During Sunday school

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Keith Graumann

Music Director and Conductor



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at 3315 E. FM 700.

person

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son. Call (432)517-0510.

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BIG SPRING Oil Company, needs experienced 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.

BLUE BELL Creameries is seeking a responsible, dependable Part Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves site maintenance, loading and unloading trucks, etc. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and flexible hours. M-F, 20 hours per week. Apply in person at 401 East I-20.

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Jailer

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Senior Center Coordinator

Heavy Equipment Operator

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(432)714-4512, 1900 Scurry.

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

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

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To apply please visit us online www.themediaco.net email your resume to brian@themediaco.net or call 432-599-8018.

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tress Set, Still pkgd brand new. \$289. 432-664-8980. QUEEN MATTRESS with box

NEW Canopy Bed with Mat-

both are new with warranty. \$135. Frame available. 432-664-8980.

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

SHELLED PECANS. Excellent quality. Call (432)267-1180 or (432)816-4644. Delivery twice weekly on orders over 2 lbs.

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\$400 REWARD-Brittany Spaniel "Luke" (Liver & White), 2 years old, male, red collar no/tags. Last seen near Jeffrey Rd. Please call 432-416-0118 or 263-0926.

LOST IN Silver Hills Addition. Yellow female Lab, no collar. Missing since Saturday, if call found please (432)270-7868 (432)213-4088.

LOST WOMAN'S wedding ring at Shell Station (350 & I-20) or Bowl-A-Rama. Please (432)935-1432.

Lost and Found

LOST YORKIE, black & brown. Wasson area. Orange collar. Please call (432)213-3263.

Miscellaneous

BRAND NEW 16X16 Ceramic Tiles. Beautiful Neutral Color. Approximately 540 sq. feet. \$500.00. Call 432-353-4891 or 432-425-8359.

COMPLETE BEDROOM suite, cherry bed. dresser. mirror. nightstand, List. \$1900. Sell \$875. 806-549-3110.....

QUALITY BEDROOM Cherry finish, complete. Never used!!! \$499. 806-549-3110......

DINETTE SET and chairs, stone top BRAND NEW!!! Me-\$260. dium brown. 806-549-3110.....

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263-1252

LEASE OPERATOR

Because of our continued expansion and growth through an aggressive acquisition program, Energen Resources, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation, has an immediate opening for 3 Lease Operators at our Westbrook field located near Westbrook, Texas. Responsibilities include:

Pump as needed monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data Operating and maintaining production equipment

bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

For more information go to www.mybigspring.com

or call (432) 264-2346

Conducting on-lease activities for assigned area making minor repairs and adjustments as needed Assuring that all leases are operating safely within regulatory guidelines

Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field located approximately 4 miles NW of Westbrook, Texas

The qualified applicant will have 1 - 3 years of production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Experience working in secondary recovery environments a plus. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and

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538 Westover

LEASE OPERATOR / TECH ASSISTANT

Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator / Tech Assistant at its North Westbrook Unit located four miles northwest of Westbrook, Texas. Responsibilities include:

Run Dynamometers' and Shoot Fluid Levels as Needed (Training Available)

Monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data

Connect, Set-up and Monitor Step Rate Test Equipment

Operating and maintaining production equipment Conducting on-lease activities making minor repairs and adjustments as needed

Assuring that all leases are operating within regulatory compliance Provide vacation relief for Lease Operators as needed

Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field near Westbrook, Tx

must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

The qualified applicant will have 1 - 3 years's electrical experience with a broad knowledge of all types of related equipment. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets and electrical background a

For immediate consideration please go to: www.energen.com and select Job Opportunities under Employment to complete an online application.

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CHURCH

Continued from Page 1A

Lutheran Youth Fellowship gave us a brunch to say thank you for all the congregation's help in raising funds so that five youth and several adults were able to attend "Glorybound" in Dallas. It was a great experience to be with over 1,200 other Texas young people. They gave us their individual opinions and testimonies of their weekend there.

Last Sunday, 12 youth and their sponsors, Darren and Dana Byrd as well as Richard and Bev Von Hassell, went to join the Holy Cross Lutheran LYF in Midland for a party.

December 16, The Lutheran Women's Missionary League met at Leighrene Kohl's home for their first annual Christmas party and gift exchange. The 15 ladies and two guests selected the name of their organization. We will be the Rachel Circle of Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS. After Jan. 11th, we will elect new officers.

On Wednesday, there will be confirmation classes at 5:30 p.m. led by Bobby Roever, followed with Christmas program practice at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Adult instruction class, since this class was completed last Sunday. Everyone who is interested in becoming a member of Alive in Christ on Jan. 11th should sign a form of their intentions and they will be accepted by confirmation, transfer or affirmation of faith.

We look forward to Jan. 11th, when we will all sign the church charter (even those who are too young to write well), and will also sign the church constitution, This will be a special celebration and you will hear more about it later.

Very favorable reports were heard about our first church float in the Christmas parade. Kudos to all who helped.

Remember our motto is "Celebrating & sharing God's love and grace in our lives". Amen! May it be so!

First Baptist Church

This Sunday, our pastor, the Rev. Ken Coffee, will complete the series of sermons on the signs of Christmas. The morning sermon will be centered on "The Manger Sign" and the evening on "The Star Sign."

If you have no church home, what better time than at this time when we celebrate His birth. Come, join us as we celebrate the Christ child this Sunday. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:50 a.m., and the evening service is at 6 p.m.

May the Lord bless you.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

This Sunday during the 11 a.m. worship service the junior and senior youth will perform a Christmas program. We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. For a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. Our evening service at 5 p.m. will be our Christmas fellowship and Adult Chinese Christmas Party. We welcome all visitors.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year. For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship service at St. Mary's this Sunday. Morning prayer will be observed at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages

begins at 9:30 a.m. The youth and children will share their Advent program with us during the morning service. After church, we will have a brisket dinner in the Parish Hall. Join us for this special time to meet the new rector, the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris and her husband, Bill Norris.

St. Andrew's Brotherhood meeting and breakfast is this Saturday beginning at 8 a.m.

St. Mary's Christmas Eve celebration is Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 10:30 p.m. A light snack will be served in the Parish Hall after the service. We would be delighted if you would join us for this glorious service of the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

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

Baptist Temple Church

This Sunday, our sermon will be from Luke 2:8-20 "Of Shepherds and Sheep." The shepherds were among the first to see Jesus and then went testifying to everyone what they had seen. This should be our behavior this Christmas season, too. Sunday evening will have our candlelight Christmas service at 6 p.m.

We just wrapped up our Financial Peace University course for the fall. We will offer the course again in the spring.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages 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 Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. 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.

Due to the Christmas break, we will not have evening activities Dec. 24. and Dec. 31. On Dec. 28, we will only have worship service at 11 a.m. Our Sunday school classes will not meet and we will have no Sunday evening service in order to allow our people to spend time with their families. Our 12-Step group will also take a Christmas break and resume the first Tuesday in January.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or visit our Website at btcbig-spring.org.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church: "To serve Jesus Christ In word and deed, through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the love of God so that everyone may have eternal life." St. Paul is located at 810 Scurry. We are led in worship at 9 a.m. by Pastor Wayne Frost. Adult, youth and children's Sunday school classes follow at 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, LWML held its annual Christmas salad supper and gift exchange. Sixteen members were present for the fun and fellowship.

Our congregational Christmas dinner was held Dec. 14, with 52 in attendance. There will also be a brunch directly after the services this Sunday.

A Christmas celebration will be Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. There will be lots of beautiful Christmas music. Everyone is invited.

Operation On-Going Support for our troops continues through the month of December. Suggested are: Pop Tarts, Christmas candy, mole skin and blister packs.

You can also donate to the AT&T Phone Card Fund. This allows our troops to call home. You can send a Christmas card to the troops at: A recovering American Solider, c/o Wal-

Oh, glorious night when Christ was born The Tith Christmas just a Himself and became obedient to the

JERRIE

STOCKS

ith Christmas just a few days away, I hope we do not get too busy to celebrate the real

meaning of this, the most celebrated holiday of the year.

Visiting with old friends and family, exchanging gifts and enjoying all the wonderful food is definitely part of our tradition for celebrating the Christmas holidays. And though all of these things are good, they should never be mistaken as

the reason we celebrate. We should never forget the real benefit this holiday affords us. Had it not been for the birth of Jesus, His death, burial and resurrection, we would not have this holiday to celebrate. The birth of Jesus was a major

event in history when God Himself came to live among us. Philippians 2: 5-8 says, "Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made of Himself no reputation, taking on the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled

Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

What a price this almighty God

What a price this almighty God paid for mankind, and that includes you and me.

The announcement of His birth came with no flowery proclamation made in the presence of dignitaries and kings. The announcement was made to lowly shepherds tending their flocks in a sandy field on a very cold winter night. Angels, surrounded by bright lights, appeared in the sky above them and announced the birth of Jesus Christ.

The shepherds were frightened at first, but soon began to worship with the angels the birth of the Messiah. They quickly left their field and went to see and worship the new born baby Jesus.

Christmas is truly a celebration of the coming of Jesus so we must not forget to keep Christ in Christmas. The news media wants us to wish others a "Happy Holiday", which is fine as long as their motives for doing so are not wrong. They are, however, doing everything possible to omit the name of Christ, but be assured, as He promised in His Word, He is coming again!

Have a very Merry Christmas! God bless.

ter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW; Washington, D.C., 20307-5001.

During Advent we prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus our Savior, we should all be reminded that it's not about us. It's always all about Jesus.

Circuit Riders Cowboy Church

Things are happening at Circuit Riders Cowboy Church. Saturday at 5 p.m. come join us for caroling, food and fun as we get ready to celebrate the reason for the season, baby Jesus'

birth. We meet at the Big Spring Live Stock Auction Barn which is located at 500 N. Birdwell. For more information, contact Anna King at (432) 816-0934.

Templo Belen Assembly of God

Templo Belen Assembly of God invites you to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The children's ministry will be presenting a "Mystery of the Manger" musical and much more. Our service will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday.

\$10,075,975

843,513

1,458,334

2,668,784

4,331,825

3,130,707

1,892,500

1,647,821

26,907,515

858,056

15332

Howard County Junior College District STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended August 31, 2008

REVENUES Operating revenues Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$2,067,041 and \$1,713,917)

Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$2,067,041 and \$1,713,917)	\$2,733,937
Federal grants and contracts	4,637,915
State grants and contracts	697,007
Local grants and contracts	19,626
Nongovernmental grants and contracts	689,902
Sales and services of educational activities	297,044
Auxiliary enterprises	508,650
Other operating revenues	139,090
Total operating revenues	9,723,171

EXPENSES

Opening expenses
Instruction
Public service
Academic support
Student services
Institutional support
Operation and maintenance of plant
Scholarships and fellowships
Auxiliary enterprises
Depreciation
Total operating expenses

Obama's choice of evangelical pastor for inauguration draws ire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gay rights advocates are criticizing President-elect Barack Obama's choice of a popular evangelical minister to deliver the invocation at his inauguration as a show of disrespect for a constituency that strongly supported his campaign.

Pastor Rick Warren, a best-selling author and leader of a Southern California megachurch, is one of a new breed of evangelicals who stress the need for action on social issues such as reducing poverty and protecting the environment, alongside traditional theological themes. But, the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights organization, said Warren's opposition to same-sex marriage is a

sign of intolerance.

"We feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination," the group said in a letter asking Obama to reconsider.

Obama was asked at a news confer-

ence in Chicago, Illinois, about his choice of Warren to give the invocation. The president-elect indicated the choice was an effort at unity, not dissension among Democrats.

America needs to "come together," even when there is disagreement on social issues, Obama said.

He said it is "no secret" that he is a "fierce advocate for equality" for gays and lesbians, and that support will continue.

Operating loss	(\$17,184,344)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	(+ -) -)-)
State appropriations	14,070,776
Property taxes for operations	3,979,612
Property taxes for debt service	1,488,617
Investment income (net of investment expenses)	1,207,245
Interest on capital related debt	(979,815)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(22)
Other non-operating revenues	284,187
Net non-operating revenues	20,050,600

Income before other revenue 2,866,256
Other revenue
Capital contributions 1,180,549
Increase in net assets 4,046,805

Net assets - beginning of year 26,824,362

Net assets - end of year \$30,871,167

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World Briefs

Mark Felt, Watergate source who helped bring down Nixon, dies at 95

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — W. Mark Felt, the former FBI second-in-command who revealed himself as "Deep Throat" 30 years after he tipped off reporters to the Watergate scandal that toppled a president, has died. He was 95.

Felt died Thursday in Santa Rosa after suffering from congestive heart failure for several months, said family friend John D. O'Connor, who wrote the 2005 Vanity Fair article uncovering Felt's secret.

The shadowy central figure in one of the most gripping political dramas of the 20th century, Felt insisted his alter ego be kept secret when he leaked damaging information about President Richard Nixon and his aides to Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward.

While some — including Nixon and his aides — speculated that Felt was the source who connected the White House to the June 1972 break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, he steadfastly denied the accusations until finally coming forward in May 2005.

"I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat," Felt told O'Connor for the Vanity Fair article, creating a whirlwind of media attention.

Paulson: 'Orderly' bankruptcy might be best option for dealing with ailing automakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is convinced the ailing economy could not withstand the demise of Detroit's Big Three and is looking at "orderly" bankruptcy to keep the automakers from collapsing.

A White House decision on helping the industry could come as early as Friday — none too soon for carmakers suffering from their slowest sales in 26 years and dwindling operating cash.

Bush administration officials were reviewing several approaches to assisting the automakers, including short-term loans from the Treasury Department's \$700 billion Wall Street rescue program. But Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told a business forum in New York on Thursday night that while bankruptcy for the automakers should be averted if possible, an "orderly" reorganization might be the best solution.

"If the right outcome is reorganization or bankruptcy, then isn't it better to get there through an orderly process?" Paulson asked.

Paulson said President George W. Bush wants to avoid bankruptcy — "if it can be avoided." But Paulson said the No. 1 priority was getting U.S. automakers back on a viable path. Part of that effort, he said, would require all sides making sacrifices to boost competitiveness with foreign carmakers.

Attorney plans legal fight over wiretaps at heart of corruption case against Illinois governor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. Rod Blagojevich's attorney is offering a glimpse of his client's unfolding legal strategy, saying he'll challenge the lawfulness of court-ordered wiretaps at the heart of federal corruption allegations against the Democrat. But the two-term governor may go public to defend himself first.

With Blagojevich saying he's itching to talk, perhaps as early as Friday, Chicago attorney Ed Genson continued bashing what's gotten his client in a legal bind: FBI wiretaps that prosecutors say catch Blagojevich scheming to deal President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat for campaign cash or a plum job.

Genson told an Illinois House panel considering whether to impeach Blagojevich that its consideration of the recorded excerpts he cast as meaningless "jabbering" was inappropriate, if not illegal. "I think you're using evidence that was illegally obtained," he said Thursday.

After the committee recessed its hearing until next week, Genson told reporters he planned to go after the taped conversations in court at some point.

Obama schedules 5th news conference in as many days for Friday, and more Cabinet picks coming

CHICAGO (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama is nearly finished choosing his Cabinet as he prepares to leave Saturday on a holiday vacation in his native Hawaii.

Obama settled on California Rep. Hilda Solis for labor secretary and former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk for U.S. trade representative, officials said Thursday. He was ready to introduce Republican Rep. Ray LaHood of Illinois as transportation secretary at a news conference Friday afternoon, although it wasn't clear who else might join him at the podium.

The officials who disclosed the choices spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized

to discuss selections that had not yet been announced.

In addition to transportation, labor and U.S. trade representative, Obama also has yet to announce senior intelligence positions.

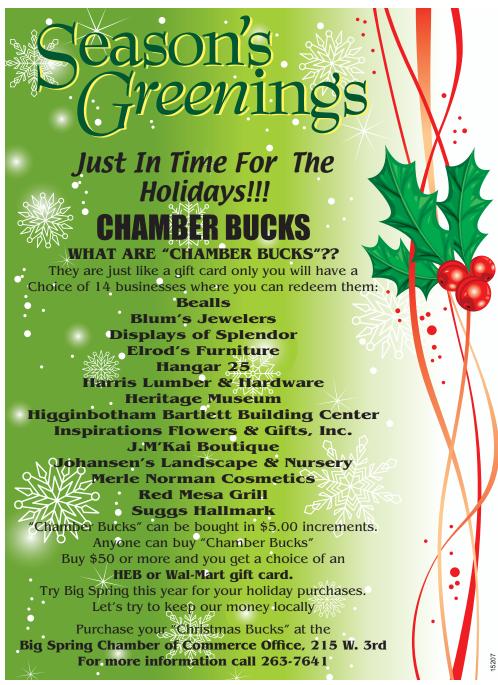
Democratic officials said on Thursday that Dennis Blair, a retired admiral and the former head of U.S. Pacific Command, is a leading contender to become director of national intelligence.

The president-elect also has a host of sub-Cabinet selections to make. For instance, Oregon State University professor Jane Lubchenco, a marine biologist and a top expert on overfishing and climate change, is a leading contender to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, according to colleagues at the school.

Panasonic aims to acquire Sanyo with \$9 billion tender offer in Japan

electronics alliance

TOKYO (AP) — Panasonic will acquire rival Japanese electronics maker Sanyo for up to \$9 billion through a public tender offer after top shareholders, including Goldman Sachs, agreed to the takeover, the companies said Friday.





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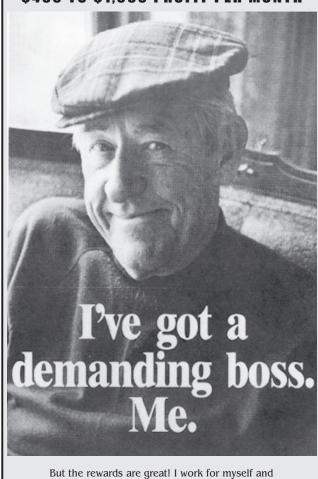
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SPRING HERALD

Real Estate for Sale

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS It all works out during Mobile home Space for rent. these last days in the

> Sagittarian sun. The last quarter of the moon in Virgo makes sure of it. Someone brings in the goods and another counts and organizes them. Someone

makes the



MATHIS

sale and another analyzes what went well. Someone attracts company and another hosts them. All bases are covered.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Can you do it? You may ponder this question for quite a long time before you realize that it's totally irrelevant. The key is that you wish to do it -you can even see and feel yourself doing it. And do it you must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The accidental happening was not an accident after all. You invited it, and it came to you. Realizing this makes you feel powerful. You're capable of attracting far lovelier scenarios.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What's a cinch for one person is difficult for someone else. You're the first to throw up your hands with a mirthful "viva la difference!" and enjoy what people are bad at. It makes you appreciate what they are good at all the more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're on the lookout for majestic synchronici-

ty and you will experience it. What occurs will make perfect sense and

still fill you with wonder. Someone leaves you with an awe-inspiring gift and you may never find out who it was.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Plan ahead -- not because you're supposed to, but because it helps you relax in the moment. Then when the moment is upon you, you'll feel playful enough to pull off some of your famously mirthful

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your dream life may be getting the shaft lately. Give back to it by getting more than enough sleep tonight. Allow your mind the time to let loose and lavish in its adventures. Tomorrow you'll be sharper than ever.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're sunny and bright and you just can't help it. You'll excel in the roles that capitalize on your natural inclination to accentuate the positive such as teaching, sales and entrepreneurial work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. Your focus is 21). unbreakable. No one can confuse or distract you. You can immediately tell the difference between what's worthwhile and what's worthless. Your mind remains keen and undeterred throughout the evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You already know that you have to give if you want to get. So when inexperienced people ask for the world and have little to contribute,

you can tell that what they really need is a mentor. That mentor is you.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take solace in the fact that everyone, from time to time, thinks about what could have been different. Even if you feel bad about what happened you can still feel good about yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be telling people how great they are, but they won't believe you unless you are specific, tangible and personal in your manner of praise. Semantics matter, but it's no sweat to you. You get the communication exactly right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may clash with your friends in the morning and early afternoon, but by sundown all of your personal relationships will sing in sweet harmony. Friends get along with friends, and family support who you are.

LOVE WEEKEND FORECAST: ARIES: The one whose needs you attend to most often is your love. TAURUS: Follow the rules of etiquette to honor your partnership. GEMINI: Whatever antics you try in the name of drawing your love closer, giggling and laughter are the best sign that it's working. CANCER: Practice being strong in moments when it wouldn't matter either way. LEO: The further you get from your ex, the more clearly you'll see the relationship. VIRGO: A radio song will sing your secret heart. LIBRA: If

you're too strict with yourself you'll lose the sense of freedom that attracted your love to you in the first place. SCOR-PIO: Love is a quality of attention. SAGITTARIUS: Your quest for beauty is answered with gorgeous surroundings. CAPRI-CORN: The technicalities of getting together with one person may be more than you can work out, but that's just a sign that you're supposed to be with the person who is much more available to you. AQUARIUS: No matter whom you're with, you set the tone and you call the shots. PISCES: You'll go where it looks like people are having fun, and you'll do the same.

COUPLE $_{
m OF}$ WEEKEND: Sagittarius and Virgo relationships are more passionate than breezy. The energy of these two signs is so different from each other, but one's strength is another's weakness, so their need of each other is intense. Also, this fire and earth combo provides a solid system of checks and balances so neither is able to get carried away with power or overcome with humility. All in all it's a solid match.

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

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Our 23vear-old daughter, "Shawna," recently decided to get married in May. She is living at home while attending graduate school. She has at least one more year to go.

For years, we've been telling Shawna that when she has her master's degree and can get a decent job to support herself, we would give her any kind of wedding she wanted. Her boyfriend, whom neither my husband nor I like, was responsible for her losing her job. He was accused of theft, and because he worked with Shawna, she was also terminated due to their relationship. In the short year she has been with him, he has managed to get her heavily in debt. Now Shawna's credit is damaged, too. She would have to go to work full time, which would delay finishing her education.

We have told her that we will not enable her choice to marry until she has finished her education. We hope that if we stand our ground, she will back down and wait. We do not want her to have a cheap, tacky wedding, but we can't in good conscience support this. Please help. -- Torn in Louisiana Dear Torn: You do not

have to give Shawna a big, fancy wedding under any circumstances and certainly not if she hasn't fulfilled the conditions you originally set up. But there is no guarantee she will back down, and if she goes ahead with the marriage without your emotional support, your relationship will suffer. We agree she is making

a mistake, but she is an adult and must face the consequences of her decisions. Do your best to welcome this man into your family. If he's not the right guy, Shawna will have to see that for herself.

Dear Annie: I am a middle-aged, slightly overweight, menopausal



MARCY SUGAR

woman. I have a message to retailers: If you want our group to buy clothes, please give us something we want to wear.

We don't want large psychedelic flowers, prints (that we already wore in the '60s), empirewaisted shirts, ruffles and things that tie in the back. I don't want low-cut, see-through fabrics I can't wear to work or cute blouses with matching undershirts that have spaghetti straps that can't be worn with a bra.

Is it too much trouble to produce simple blouses in pretty colors and cool, breathable fabrics? What about short sleeves or three-quarter length? Our arms aren't made for sleeveless things, and hot flashes make long sleeves uncomfortable. And why are navy shoes so difficult to find? -- Won't Be Shopping Until Things Change Dear Won't Be

Shopping: We've seen plenty of navy shoes, and long-sleeved cuffs can be unbuttoned and rolled up, but a lot of your complaints are valid. Most styles are created with young, slender women in mind, so we hope some enterprising designers will remember that there thousands baby menopausal boomers out there who would like to look fashionable in appropriate,

flattering clothes. Dear Annie: I have to respond to "Confused Out West," whose husband

loves to referee. About 20

years ago, I was in the same boat. My husband refereed both football and basketball games, plus we had four kids. I, too, was at my wits' end and thought he should quit. However, a wise person said to me, "Why do you want him to give up something he loves so much? Find a compromise."

We discussed it and decided he would ref on Friday or Saturday night, but never both nights in one weekend. The night he was gone became a special time for Mom and the kids. Now the kids are grown and my husband still refs. I enjoy having one weekend night to myself. I can work out, watch a chick flick or relax and read. The night he is home we try to do something together. As an added benefit, he is in better physical shape than most 60-year-old men. --Glad He Refs

Dear Annie: I'm having problems with my mother. For her, the worst is always to come: financial crises, prowlers in the neighborhood, war, death, famine. Yet if she calls and you aren't all sunshiny, she berates you. Mom has little contact with family and runs hot and cold with her friends. She would probably benefit from therapy if she were open to it, but she's not.

The last time we talked she insisted we were going to lose our house (not so), and when I tried to steer the subject elsewhere, she became agitated. I tried to calm things down and she hung up on me. We haven't spoken since.

The strange thing is, I don't miss her. I don't want to feud with my mother and it's peaceful not hearing about the end of the world or how stupid I am. I've thought of calling to mend things, but I have no idea what to say and I'm not sure I want to reconcile.

If I contact her, Mom will expect me to grovel and she'll list all my "sins"

against her. I used to beat myself up over it, but after therapy I realize I'm not so bad. I've taken care of her when she was sick, given her money, helped her with paperwork and other matters, and listened to her problems. But it's never enough. How do I handle this? --Tired of Groveling

Dear Tired: Your mother is a drama queen who thrives on creating turmoil. You can maintain contact without getting sucked into her guilt vortex by setting boundaries and disengaging when she becomes difficult.

Call her up and say hello as if no time has passed. Don't grovel. If she berates you in any way, respond sweetly that you're glad she's feeling OK, say goodbye and hang up. Do it again in a week. When she sees that she can't ruffle your feathers, she will adjust.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Have Medicare But No Doctor," whose physician told her she was no longer taking Medicare patients. Your readers may be interested to know that the website www.medicare.gov offers a search for physicians and other health care professionals, including those who participate in Medicare. Those who don't have Internet access can call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). I hope this helps her to find a doctor who cares about patients and not just the bill. --K.H.L. in Omaha, Neb. Dear Omaha: Many

thanks for the extremely useful information. We know our readers will appreciate it. Annie's Mailbox is writ-

ten by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers

column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit theCreators Syndicate Web page at

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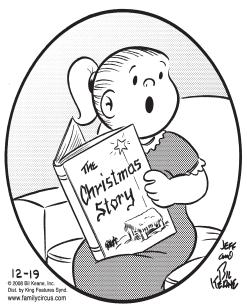
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5	:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Untouch- ables, Robert De Niro	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10	Montana Montana
6	:PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Cora- zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sprna Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made Made	De Nilo	CSI: NY	Law & Order	Live	Montana Montana
7	:PM :30	Feed the Children	Wife Swap	Cuidado- Ángel	You Smarter?	Ghost Whis- perer	Doña Bar- bara	Holiday: TV & Film	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Update Sala	Wash Wk NOW	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Casino, Joe	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Shrek	Movie: Pa- per Soldiers,	
8	:PM :30	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	Don't Forget	NUMB3RS	El Rostro de Analia	Dateline NBC	Anchorman: The Legend	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	Survivorman	Pesci	UFC Fight Night	(:40) Movie:	Damon Dash	Nick Jonas
9	:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Rosa Gua- dalu	TMZ Raymond	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos El Cartel		of Ron Burgundy		How Art Made	Survivorman			Monster House	American Gangster	Wizards Life De
10	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Sex &	Church	Charlie Rose	Made				Hatchett	Suite Life
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex &	Cortes		Made			National	Hatchett	Montana
4.4	:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-	Desmadru-	Law Order:		Decisiones		Movie:	Sanchez	Smiley	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Motel	MAN	Lampoon's	Movie: Pa-	So Raven
11	:30	Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	gados	CI	Late Late	de Famosos	Late Night	Jumanji, Kirsten	McGee	Smiley		Hell, Paul Linke	MAN	European Vacation	per Soldiers,	Cory
10	:AM	mel Live	Extra		RENO 911	Show			Dunst (DVS)	Update	(Off Air)	Survivorman	LITIKE	Game		Damon Dash	Replace
12	:30	News	Paid	Madre	RENO 911	Insider	Programa	News	Bunot (BVO)	ССМ				Disorderly	Movie: The		Kim
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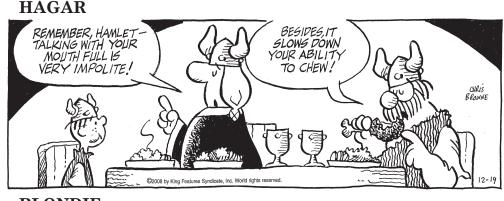


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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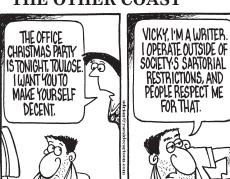


HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST







SNUFFY SMITH







BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2008. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Dec. 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the win-

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pa.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corporation began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia. In 1946, war broke out in

Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway. In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed

up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings. In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice

down in the Pacific, winding

president of the United States. In 1986, Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent

counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair. In 1997, a SilkAir Boeing 737-300 plunged from the sky, crashing into an Indonesian

river and killing all 104 people

One year ago: President George W. Bush signed legislation increasing fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles and requiring wider use of ethanol.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Little Jimmy Dickens is 88. Composer-lyricist Robert Sherman ("Mary Poppins") is 83. Actress Cicely Tyson is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 67. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 64. Rock singer Alvin Lee (Ten Years After) is 64. Actress Elaine Joyce is 63.

Musician John McEuen is 63. Singer Janie Fricke is 61. Jazz musician Lenny White is 59. Actor Mike Lookinland is 48. Actress Jennifer Beals is 45. Actor Scott Cohen is 44. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 42. Actress Kristy Swanson is 39. Model Tyson Beckford is 38. Actress Amy Locane is 37. Actress Rosa Blasi is 36. Actress Alyssa Milano is 36. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal is 28. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 28. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 23.

Thought for Today: "Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them." Paul Valery, French poet and critic (1871-1945).

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Answer to previous puzzle PFCS CARTS RAMS

		•	•		•	-		•	•			-)
Е	L	L	Ε		0	M	Α	Н	A		Α	L	Ī	T
С	0	U	N	T	R	Υ	Н	Α	М		Р	0	N	Ε
S	W	Ε	D	Ε	N			Т	Ε	Α	S	Н	0	P
				N	Υ	S	Ε			R	Ε	Α	R	S
S	Т	Α	R	S		Ε	X	Α	С	Т	S			
Ρ	Ε	K	0	Ε		T	Н	R	U		S	E	R	F
E	R	1	С		S	Т	Α	R	Т		I	D	Ε	Α
W	T	N	K		Р	E	L	E		P	0	Τ	N	T
			G	L	Α	R	Ε	S		Α	N	Т	E	S
Α	D	L	Α	I			S	T	Α	N				
N	Ε	Α	R	Ε	S	T			Z	Ε	Α	L	0	T
N	Ε	R	D		Р	0	Р	C	U	L	T	U	R	E
U	R	G	Ε		Α	N	D	0	R		0	X		N
L	Е	0	N		М	Е	Α	D	Е		Р	Е	S	Т

Newsday Crossword

stand-in

69 Sondheim

DOWN

1 Wanderer

subject

mouthed

4 One who's

5 Stage boor

Hari

messages

6 Encouraging

dubbed

word

8 Modern

9 Scotch

10 Spills it

14

cocktail

3 Smart-

protagonist

ACROSS

- 1 Warmonger
- 5 It lands in the stands
- 10 Blue hue
- **14** Valhalla bigwig
- 15 Texas tourist stop
- **16** Joy's lioness
- 17 Herb's energy
- level? 20 End of an
- alphabet
- **21** "Bird"
- 22 Arizona native 25 Hi's partner
- 26 Verbal
- flim-flam
- **30** Pantry items
- **34** Appropriate
- 35 Windshieldwiper target
- **37** Boor
- **38** Memorable mint?
- 42 Storage
- place 43 Sun Devils'
- home 44 Monogram pt.
- **45** Swan Lake
- princess
- 48 No longer in **50** Gulf State
- 52 Osiris' spouse
- 53 Pupu-platter
- piece
- 57 Not-nice look
- 61 Spicy old poem?
- **64** Minor prophet 65 It means

67 Baked dessert

- "sacred" **66** Allowed to
- mellow

- 'TIS THE SEASON by Donna Levin Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com **68** Standish's
 - alias
 - **12** Soc. 13 Unconvincing

 - **19** Bee Taylor's
- grandnephew 2 Sistine Chapel
 - Alto
 - 24 Start of a Bennett title
 - **26** Dom DeLuise
 - film of '80
 - **27** Ladybug nosh 28 Panache
 - 29 Excited, with "up"
 - 31 Dirties
 - 32 Massachusetts 59 Watched school
 - 33 Cubic meter

15

68

36 My Cousin Vinny actress

- 11 Essayist's 39 Auto Club patron 40 Checkers' bars
 - 41 Frank extra
- 18 Taoism founder 46 Ness et al.
 - **47** Singer Kitt 49 Pin-
 - comparable 51 It meant nothing to
 - Caesar **53** Fitzgerald forte
 - **54** Cougar
 - **55** Santiago sweetheart
 - **56** Engendered
 - **58** So
 - carefully
 - **60** Sly Foxx **62** PST st.

69

63 Heap

10 |11 |12 |13

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 | 27 | 28 31 32 33 34 35 38 40 |41 39 42 43 45 48 58 | 59 | 60 53 | 54 | 55 64 65 66

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