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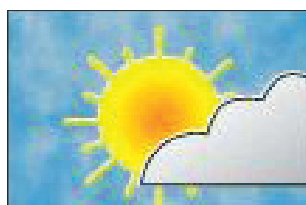
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 19, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 16

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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 who 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



Downes

Tuesday. The Texas Education Agency received notification Thursday.

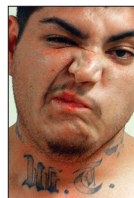
Downes, who had been serving as Big Spring ISD superintendent for five years, had resigned effective June 30, citing "distractions" caused

See DOWNES, Page 3A

## Aggravated robbery among indictments

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

A Howard County grand jury handed down 17 indictments Thursday, including one for aggravated robbery in connection with the Nov. 12 robbery of a local 7-Eleven convenience store.



Viera Jr.

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 pres-

ent "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 you. And, exposing the wonderful plot on-stage through dance will definitely make for a memorable evening," said Graumann.

Graumann said he is de-

See BALLET, Page 2A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:  
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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### 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 led the 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 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, Alberto Ybarra, Michael Gomez and Poncho Mendez were all second-team All-District selections at their respective positions, while Adam Hernandez

received honorable mention 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 mention 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 roof.

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 special, too.

"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 note."

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" and 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 mid-field star. Current players are expected to take part, too. And it only seems logical that the team's world-famous



AP photo

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 sit back there comfortable."

Dallas' collection of play-makers 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 the Steelers and Baltimore's.

The Cowboys lead the league in sacks, with DeMarcus Ware four away from setting the NFL single-season 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.

"Our line has done a great job all year of stopping anybody's pressure," said 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 week."

# 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) and Clyde Simmons (Philadelphia Eagles, 1992) for eighth-most sacks in a season in league history.

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



AP file photo/Donna McWilliam

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 Jacksonville Jaguars got from Richard Collier's return.

Manning completed his first 17 passes, picked apart 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 night.

"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 circumstances.

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

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 zone."

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 Maurice Jones-Drew

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.

## 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. 11<sup>th</sup> 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 SMMC.
- 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. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

## 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, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the

## Your Local Weather

Sat 12/20	Sun 12/21	Mon 12/22	Tue 12/23	Wed 12/24
<b>71/45</b>	<b>72/26</b>	<b>44/23</b>	<b>49/34</b>	<b>64/36</b>
Areas of dense morning fog. Partly cloudy skies. High 71F.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 20s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	Windy with times of sun and clouds.

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## Bulletin Board

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

### TODAY

- 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 night:

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

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

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:

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

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

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

of the 2008-2009 concert season, "Times to Remember."

"I am tremendously excited to 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 share the excitement with us," Graumann added.

For more information on Saturday's performance, call the symphony office at (432) 264-7223.

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NFL

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 post-season.

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 lineman 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 the 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 we'll have a chance to throw the ball."

The Cowboys 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 Jonathan Ogden's 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 player," said Gaither, who didn't practice Wednesday due to the flu. "I'm looking forward to playing against him."

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.

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	8	1		7		2
			2	5	3	9
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- 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J087A - Sandstone NOW \$8,995 Was \$9,995
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- 2003 Buick Lesabre Custom V6 Stk# J207 - White NOW \$9,995 Was \$10,995
- 1996 Chevrolet Impala V8 Stk# J192 - Black NOW \$10,495 Was \$11,495
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- 2004 Chrysler 300M Sedan 4D Stk# J104 - Purple NOW \$11,995 Was \$14,995
- 2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D Stk# J098 - NOW \$12,995 Was \$13,995
- 2006 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk# J088 - Gold NOW \$12,995 Was \$14,995
- 2007 Pontiac G6 4 cyl. Stk# J243 - Silver NOW \$13,995 Was \$14,995
- 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J242 - Gray NOW \$13,995 Was \$14,995
- 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J181 - Gray NOW \$13,995 Was \$15,995
- 2007 Chrysler Sebring 4 Cyl. Stk# J152 - Red NOW \$13,995 Was \$15,995
- 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J234 - Black NOW \$14,495 Was \$15,495
- 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J237 - Yellow NOW \$14,495 Was \$15,495
- 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J241 - White NOW \$14,995 Was \$15,495
- 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J260 - White NOW \$14,995 Was \$15,995
- 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# H179 - Bronze Stone NOW \$14,995 Was \$15,995
- 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J172 - Silver NOW \$14,995 Was \$16,995
- 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# H236 - Stone Gray NOW \$15,995 Was \$16,995
- 2005 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk# J249 - Sandstone NOW \$16,995 Was \$17,995
- 2005 Cadillac Deville V8 Stk# H143A - Silver NOW \$17,995 Was \$18,995
- 2006 Honda Pilot V6 Stk# H267 - Light Blue NOW \$18,495 Was \$23,495
- 2006 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan 4D Stk# H020 - Sand Stone NOW \$19,995 Was \$23,995
- 2007 Cadillac DTS V8 Stk# H181 - Glacier White NOW \$25,995 Was \$31,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe 2D Stk# H195 - Black NOW \$32,995 Was \$39,495
- 2005 Chevrolet Corvette V8 Stk# H195 - Black NOW \$36,995 Was \$37,995

★★ SUVs ★★

- 2006 Honda Pilot EX Stk# H267 - Light Blue NOW \$18,995 Was \$24,495
- 2006 GMC Light Duty Sierra 1500 PU V8 Stk# J073 - Pewter NOW \$19,995 Was \$20,995
- 2008 Chevrolet Equinox V6 Stk# J258 - Silver NOW \$20,495 Was \$21,495
- 2006 Hummer H3 Stk# H198 - White NOW \$21,995 Was \$29,995
- 2006 Honda Pilot V6 Stk# H267 - Light Blue NOW \$23,495 Was \$24,495
- 2005 Cadillac Escalade V8 Stk# J221 - Sports Red NOW \$23,995 Was \$24,995
- 2006 Hummer H3 5 cyl. Stk# H198 - White NOW \$28,995 Was \$29,995
- 2007 Cadillac DTS V8 Stk# H181 - Glacier White NOW \$30,995 Was \$31,995
- 2007 Cadillac Escalade Ext. PU Stk# H243 - Sports Red NOW \$34,495 Was \$44,995
- 2007 Cadillac Escalade V8 Stk# J223 - Diamond White NOW \$35,995 Was \$36,995
- 2007 Chevrolet Suburban V8 Stk# J197 - Black NOW \$38,995 Was \$39,995
- 2007 Cadillac Escalade V8 Stk# H243 - Sports Red NOW \$44,495 Was \$45,495

★★ TRUCKS ★★

- 2004 Dodge Truck Ram 1500 PU V8 Stk# J262 - Silver NOW \$9,995 Was \$10,995
- 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer Stk# J167 - White NOW \$11,995 Was \$12,995
- 2002 Toyota Sequoia V8 Stk# J066 - Green NOW \$14,995 Was \$15,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab Stk# J056 - Red NOW \$15,995 Was \$20,995
- 2005 Ford Truck F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# J228 - Gray NOW \$16,995 Was \$17,995
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Stk# J032 - Light Blue NOW \$16,995 Was \$20,995
- 2006 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab Stk# J074 - Pewter NOW \$16,995 Was \$21,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Stk# J133 - Black NOW \$17,995 Was \$18,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J056 - Black NOW \$17,995 Was \$18,995
- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# H172A - Silver Birch NOW \$18,995 Was \$21,995
- 2006 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J032 - Light Blue NOW \$18,995 Was \$19,995
- 2006 Ford Truck F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# H172A - Silver Birch NOW \$20,995 Was \$21,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J254 - White NOW \$20,995 Was \$21,995
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J054 - Red NOW \$21,995 Was \$22,995
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup Classic Ext. Cab Stk# J065 - Black NOW \$21,995 Was \$22,995
- 2006 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab Stk# J007 - Pewter NOW \$21,995 Was \$23,495
- 2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J054 - Red NOW \$21,995 Was \$22,995
- 2007 Chevrolet Truck Silverado Classic 1500 V8 Stk# J065 - Black NOW \$21,995 Was \$22,995
- 2006 GMC Light Duty Sierra 1500 HD Pickup V8 Stk# J007 - Pewter NOW \$23,495 Was \$24,495
- 2006 Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab Stk# H275 - Light Blue NOW \$25,995 Was \$30,995
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J149 - White NOW \$26,495 Was \$28,995

★★ SUVs ★★

- 2002 Toyota Sequoia SR5 Stk# J066 - Green NOW \$12,995 Was \$17,995
- 2006 Buick Rendezvous V6 Stk# J259 - Silver NOW \$12,995 Was \$13,995
- 2004 Buick Rainier 16 Stk# J217A - Silver NOW \$12,995 Was \$13,995
- 2005 Ford Expedition V8 Stk# J185 - Black NOW \$13,995 Was \$15,995
- 2003 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 Stk# H281 - Brown NOW \$14,995 Was \$18,995
- 2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk# J134 - Silverstone Metallic NOW \$14,995 Was \$18,995
- 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe Stk# H159 - White NOW \$14,995 Was \$21,495
- 2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk# J244 - White NOW \$16,995 Was \$17,995
- 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe Stk# H161 - White NOW \$17,995 Was \$25,495

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267-7421





## 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**  
Managing Editor**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

## Little light lies: Holding tobacco companies accountable

Tobacco 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 accountable.

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 cigarettes.

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 on its merits.

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

**K**eept 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 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 valuable to those around me.

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.

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.*

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## The next Senator Kennedy

**T**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?

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 story.

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 for it.

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 and 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.

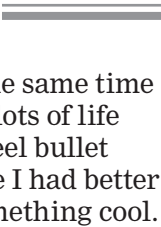
I think it speaks well for her — and for the idea of public service that her father so eloquently championed — that Ms. Kennedy is throwing her hat in the ring. I wish her the best of luck.

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](http://www.creators.com).*



TROY BREWER



SUSAN ESTRICH

# CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

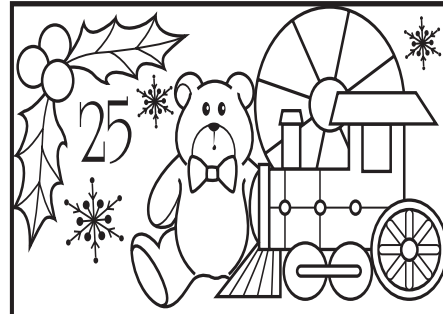
**Kids Submit Your Entry  
Color 1 Block & Bring To  
The Big Spring Herald  
By**

**Monday, Dec. 22, 2008  
5:00 p.m.**

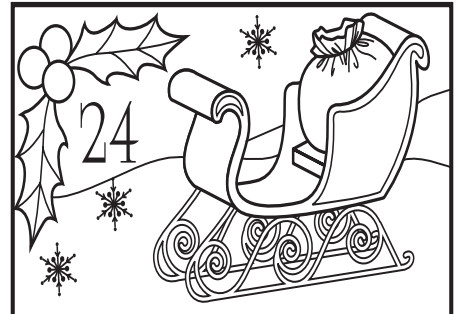
**1ST PRIZE: \$50.00 GIFT CARD  
2ND PRIZE: \$35.00 GIFT CARD  
3RD PRIZE: \$25.00 GIFT CARD**

**COLORING CONTEST RULES:**

1. Contest open to children ages 10 and under. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
2. Contestants may use crayons, colored pencils or markers. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but not in the coloring.
3. Limit one entry per child. Entries will not be returned.
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.
6. Decision of the judges is final.



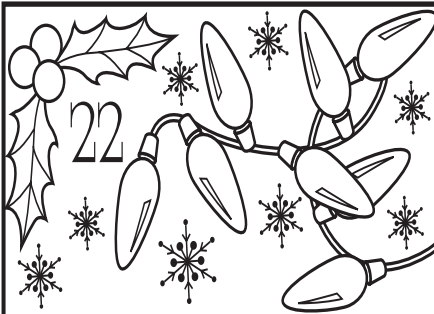
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**935-6767**



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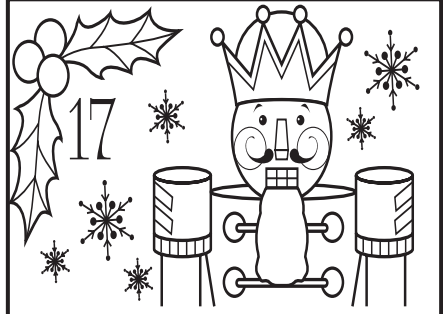
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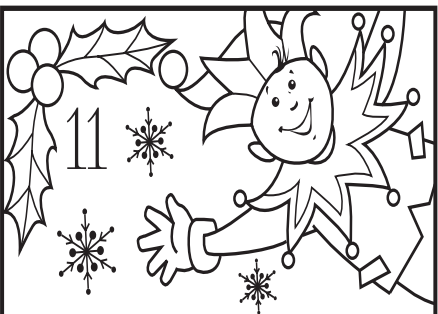
**Blum's Jewelers**  
Inside The Big Spring Mall  
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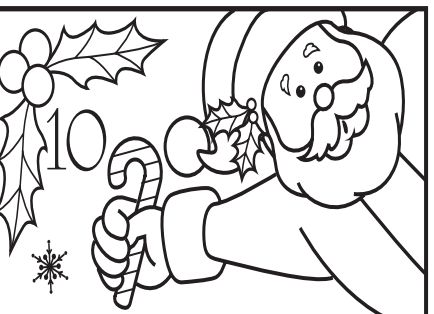
**Big Spring Community  
Federal Credit Union**  
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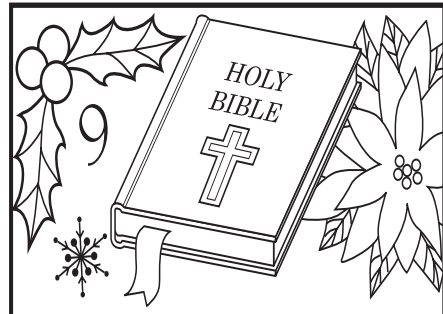
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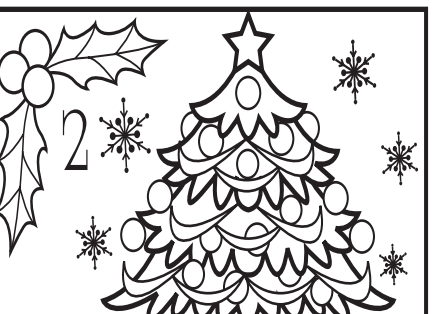
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CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: THE BIG SPRING HERALD  
710 SCURRY ST.  
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720  
Merry Christmas and Good Luck!  
**DEADLINE: MONDAY, DEC. 22ND**



**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.cws-bestgifts.org](http://www.cws-bestgifts.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 choir 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 grinchers 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 chimneys 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, Christmas still came.

Even those of us who think we're too old to read a children's book are plagued with some little grinchers that may have escaped Dr. Seuss. Like the grinch who tried to steal Christmas in Who-ville, these little grinchers distort the meaning of Christmas and rob us of the joy of the season.

The Grinch of Frustration is a snare for Christmas shoppers.

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 meal.

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 grinchers 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 KJV).

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.



BONNIE WHEAT

and put away for another 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 Christian symbols.

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 about to give birth.

There will be no noon Bible study and lunch Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. The regular schedule of weekly meetings will resume Jan. 7.

The Coffee House Ministry at Spanky's for all college age will resume Jan. 13.

One of the most special of our yearly services is held Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. This is a candlelight service attended by families who have come home from far and near and make this part of their own Christmas tradition. We will observe an open communion, our pastor will present a short meditation and the congregation will leave the sanctuary by candlelight to the strains of "Silent Night." You and your family are invited to join us for this the beginning of the celebration of Christ's birth.

The Senior Adult Ministry (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

First Methodist Church, where families grow in Christ.

**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 10:15 a.m.

During Sunday school 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 in-

vited 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, the

**Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

Keith Graumann  
Music Director and Conductor



with

**Midland Festival Ballet**

**THE NUTCRACKER BALLET**

**Saturday, December 20**  
**7:30 pm**

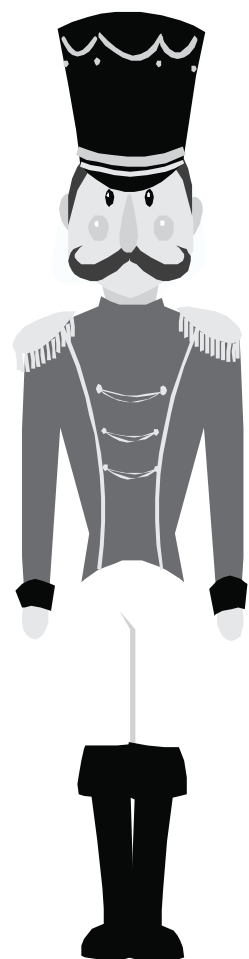
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## CHURCH

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 Roeber, 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

With 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 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.



JERRIE STOCKS

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.

## 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)	\$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	<u>9,723,171</u>

**EXPENSES**

Opening expenses	
Instruction	\$10,075,975
Public service	843,513
Academic support	1,458,334
Student services	2,668,784
Institutional support	4,331,825
Operation and maintenance of plant	3,130,707
Scholarships and fellowships	1,892,500
Auxiliary enterprises	1,647,821
Depreciation	858,056
Total operating expenses	<u>26,907,515</u>

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	<u>20,050,600</u>

Income before other revenue	2,866,256
Other revenue	
Capital contributions	<u>1,180,549</u>
Increase in net assets	4,046,805
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>26,824,362</u>
Net assets - end of year	<u>\$30,871,167</u>

## 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 conference 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.



## 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.

**Season's Greenings**  
**Just In Time For The Holidays!!!**  
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**WHAT ARE "CHAMBER BUCKS"???**  
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- **Red Mesa Grill**
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# Goliad Cavs show they 'can'



Courtesy photo

The Goliad Cavaliers participated in the Annual Salvation Army Canned Food Drive, collecting 787 cans of food to help the area's hungry and less fortunate. Despite tough economic times, the group managed to reach their goal in approximately four days.

In observation of the Christmas Holiday, The Big Spring Herald will observe the following deadline schedule:

**RETAIL / CLASSIFIED ADS**  
**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24TH**  
 Deadline Monday, Dec. 22nd, 3:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 25TH**  
 No Paper Christmas Day

**FRIDAY, DEC. 26TH**  
 Deadline Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 28TH**  
 Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

**MONDAY, DEC. 29TH**  
 Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 23rd, Noon

Merry Christmas!

**LOWER PRICES. Merrier Savings!**  
**THREEDAYSALE**

**save \$2.69**  
**\$1 ea.**  
 "Cars" Pullbacks Assortment regular retail \$3.69 ea.

**save \$4.97**  
**\$5 ea.**  
 Holiday Party Barbie regular retail \$9.97 ea.

**\$4.98 ea.**  
**Bakugan Booster Pack**  
 1 Bakugan and 1 metal card included

**Great Deals**

selection varies by store  
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selection varies by store  
 Select Barbie Toys price reflected at shelf

**Your Choice!**  
**25% Off**

**25% to 50% Off**  
 all Christmas Décor, Trim-A-Tree, Lights and Artificial Christmas Trees  
 excludes American Greetings price reflected at shelf

**Plush** excludes Aurora plush & Webkinz price reflected at shelf

**Pedi-Paws**, gently and painlessly files your pet's nails

- fast, easy & gentle
- perfectly controlled so your pet is perfectly safe
- won't crack, splinter or break nails
- it's easy and there's no mess

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**\$19.97 ea.**

**Big City Slider**, makes delicious restaurant city style mini burgers in minutes  
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**Micro Force Rechargeable Razor**  
 get a closer, cleaner shave in half the time!

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**  
 to our Neighbors, Associates, Customers & Friends

New Year's Greetings To Our Customers... Neighbors... Associates... & Friends!

Logo Here

Logo Here

**Send Holiday Greetings to all your customers!**

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

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**get 2nd FREE!**  
 with in-store coupon

**BUY** one (1) 20 oz. Mottled Wax Candle  
**get 2nd FREE!**  
 with in-store coupon

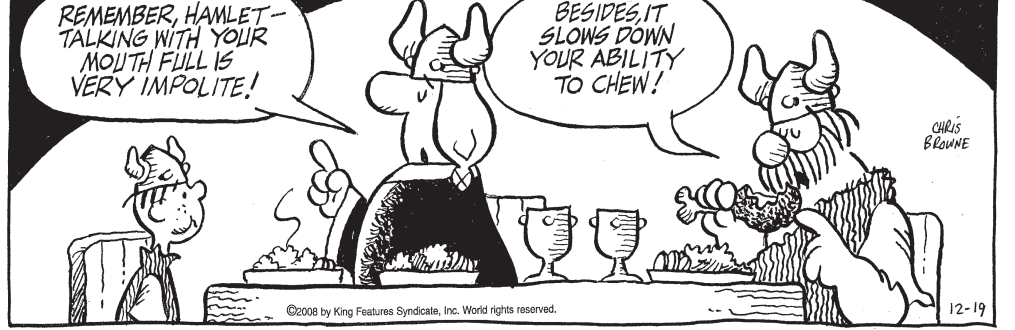
Gift ideas that fit under the tree... and within your budget!  
 over 100 different cards to choose from!

Table with 27 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN) and rows representing time slots from 5:30 PM to 1:30 AM. Each cell contains the channel name and the program being aired.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGGAR



"I THINK I'LL ASK SANTA TO BRING MR. WILSON A GOOD MOOD."

"Mommy, did you save my swaddling clothes?"

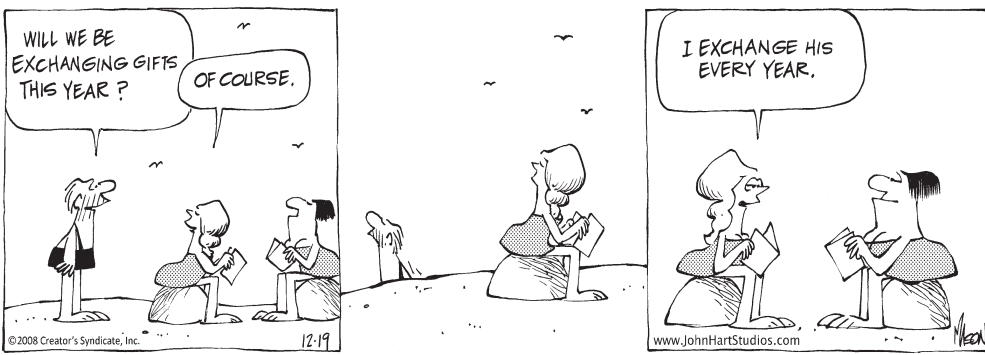
REMEMBER, HAMLET - TALKING WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL IS VERY IMPOLITE!

BESIDES, IT SLOWS DOWN YOUR ABILITY TO CHEW!

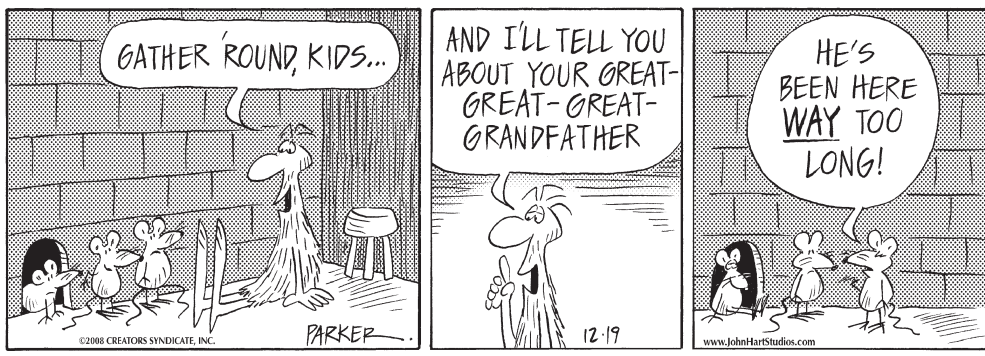
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



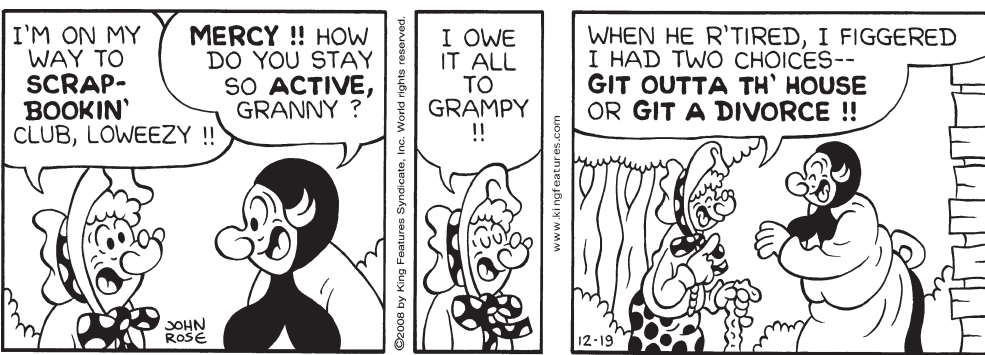
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



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

In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway. In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings.

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.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with letters arranged in a crossword pattern.

Newsday Crossword

'TIS THE SEASON by Donna Levin Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of clues and the crossword grid itself.