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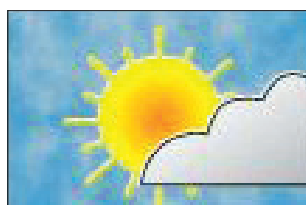
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 23, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 19

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Thank you, Mr. Crooker

Longtime county commissioner is honored Monday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

In 1968, the Vietnam War was raging, Richard Nixon completed an amazing political resurrection by claiming the U.S. presidency and a former World War II prisoner of war became the first Republican to win a Howard County election.

Nixon is long gone and the Vietnam War is just a memory. And that former POW? He's stepping aside, too.

W.C. "Bill" Crooker, commissioner of Howard County Precinct 3 for the past 40 years, celebrated his impending retirement at a reception in his honor at the county courthouse Monday afternoon.

Friends, colleagues and family members joined in the celebration to mark the end of Crooker's lengthy political career.

"I think the service Bill Crooker has given this community ... is beyond comprehension," said Big Spring Mayor Russ

"I learned a long time ago that if you treat people the way you want to be treated, you'll get a great response, and if you always work for the betterment of the community, you'll win in the long run."

—William 'Bill' Crooker



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

State Rep. Joe Heflin, center, and Stefanie Wilkerson, right, local office manager for State Sen. Kel Seliger, present retiring Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker with a Texas flag and copies of proclamations during a reception in his honor at the county courthouse Monday afternoon.

Barr: Jail construction on schedule

Under budget, too

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Despite the recent frigid weather, construction on the new Howard County Jail continues on schedule and under budget.

That was the news county commissioners learned during their regular meeting Monday morning at the courthouse, as they opened bids for furnishings and other interior fixtures for the new jail.

County Judge Mark Barr said ac-

tion on the bids will not be taken until commissioners meet Jan. 12.

"We want to give (project director) Jeff (Hefflefinger) time to review the bids and make sure they meet specifications," Barr said. "He'll come back on the 12th and give us his recommendations."

Overall, Barr said he was very pleased with the progress made on the new jail, which is scheduled to open in March.

"It's about 65 percent completed," Barr said. "It's coming along very nicely ... We're looking at around Feb. 1 for completion, then after that, we have to give the state time

to inspect it to make sure it meets standards. Overall, we should be ready to move prisoners in sometime in March."

County officials were very concerned that "cost inflation" — the invariable increase in supply costs that occur between approval of a bond project and actual construction — would exceed budget projections, but that hasn't been the case with the jail, Barr said.

"Costs have been very stable," he said. "Some of them have been even less than we expected. There

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

Festival of Lights nears record number of visitors, founder says

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Festival of Lights officials announced they are well on their way toward setting an attendance record for the event.

The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights will illuminate the city park with more than 1 million lights nightly through Dec. 31.

Admission to the 12th annual drive-through event is free, although donations are accepted. Pat Simmons, long-time chairman of the festival committee, said all donations are used to help finance future events.



Simmons

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

Simmons said more than 6,000 people have visited the festival in its first week.

"As of Friday, we've had 6,522 people, including folks from 20 states and two countries," Simmons said. "Personally, I'm very pleased with the light presentation. There's been a couple of darker spots, but overall, I'm pleased."

At this rate, the festival will finally realize Simmons' long-held goal of 20,000 visitors; the event fell just 600 shy of that mark last year.

"Hopefully, we will reach 20,000 visitors," she said. "I have heard some spectacular statements from people, saying that our festival is better than the ones in Marble Falls or San Angelo, or that this is the best one they've ever seen. That is something great to hear personally."

Poinsettias, candy canes, snow men ... all these holiday symbols

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3A

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Baugh given cowboy send-off

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

ROTAN — Sammy Baugh, the NFL's original gunslinger, was given a cowboy send-off.

The last surviving member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's inaugural class of 1963, the Washington Redskins star was remembered by family and friends Monday, five days after he died at age 94.

Baugh's saddle and chaps were draped over his coffin at

the front of First Baptist Church in Rotan, where Baugh's life was celebrated through the memories of those closest to him.

He was taken by hearse to a nearby cemetery where a horse-drawn wagon awaited for the slow procession to his grave site.

As the hearse slowly approached the wagon, about a dozen black Brangus cattle sauntered to a nearby fence corner, almost as if the bovines Baugh loved to raise

and ranch came to say their farewells.

Two of Baugh's friends — one wearing a referee's uniform and the other dressed as a cowboy — stood with their hats off and heads bowed as the wagon made its way to the grave site.

Baugh was laid to rest beside Edmonia Baugh, his wife of 52 years, who passed away in 1990.

See **BAUGH**, Page 2B



AP photo/Donna McWilliam

A sign is shown in downtown Rotan honoring the late Hall of Fame quarterback Sammy Baugh Monday.

One more chance

Phillips excited about Cowboys' opportunity

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Cowboys coach Wade Phillips doesn't gamble and doesn't make predictions. He does, however, make observations based on 31 years of working in the NFL.

So as gloomy as things looked for his club's playoff chances after losing to Baltimore on Saturday night, Phillips remained relatively cheery before Sunday's games began. He didn't know whether Tampa Bay or Atlanta would lose, but he was confident at least one of them would, opening a direct path for Dallas to make the playoffs.

Sure enough, the Buccaneers lost — their first defeat at home all season, and to a San Diego team that was seemingly playing out its schedule. That brought into play another truism Phillips has been preaching the last two months.

"Ten wins," he said. "It's usually 10 wins that gets you in."

Dallas indeed can clinch a wild card if it picks up victory No. 10 on Sunday in Philadelphia. Lose, and the Cowboys' season is over.

"You can't get any more motivated than that," Phillips said Monday. "It's something that's right there."

Because of the high stakes, the league announced Monday the game's kickoff has been moved to



AP photo/Matt Slocum

Dallas Cowboys coach Wade Phillips stands on the sideline in the second quarter of their NFL game against the Baltimore Ravens Saturday in Irving. The Ravens won 33-24, forcing the Cowboys into a must-win situation when they visit the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday.

4:15 p.m. EST.

Phillips gave players Sunday and Monday off, but he saw most of them Sunday night at the team Christmas party. What might've been a sullen affair turned out pretty well thanks to the Chargers.

"I talked to a bunch of them last night and they're all really excited about this," Phillips said. "It's been a long season. It's not a long season any more. It's one game. ... Everything you are fighting for and everything you are fighting for and all you have to do is go get it. That's all you can ask for."

Phillips said the biggest health concern this week is tight end Jason Witten's sprained left ankle. He's expected to play, "but how effective he can be I don't know," Phillips said.

Running back Marion Barber remains a question, too. He had just two carries against Baltimore because of a dislocated right pinkie toe. The Cowboys haven't missed him much because rookie Tashard Choice has been so productive, but Phillips obviously would like to have his battering-ram starter back in the lineup.

"We just have to see where he is," Phillips said. "He's been better and better every week, but he still hasn't been 100 percent."

Quarterback Tony Romo went into the Ravens game with a bruised back and took enough hits to keep it from getting much better. But it didn't get much worse, either, and Phillips expects him to be fine.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

BSU, TCU coaches have long history

By **TIM BOOTH**

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — As the starting quarterback at UC Davis more than 20 years ago, Chris Petersen had grown accustomed to the program's low key demeanor.

Two coaches were referred to as "coach," but everyone else was on a first name basis. No one screamed or ranted. Everything was taught and instructed with a calm and steady message.

Then Gary Patterson showed up. "In came Gary, a fireball of energy," Petersen recalled Monday. "And we were like, 'who's this guy, where did he come from?'"

Paths that first intersected 22 years ago at then Division II UC Davis will meet again Tuesday night when Petersen's undefeated No. 9 Boise State faces Patterson's No. 11 TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl.

It's arguably the most anticipated non-BCS matchup of the bowl season, and a coup for a bowl game in just its fourth year of existence. The Broncos are trying to complete their second unbeaten season in the last three years, while a TCU win would help the Horned Frogs' resume as one of the elite non-BCS teams in the country.

"I think it's one of the best matchups of all the bowl games," Patterson said. "Besides the national championship game, I'd put this one right up with the one that'll be played up north of here."

The two head coaches share a bond as the leaders of two of the top non-BCS programs in the country, but their personal connection started in 1986. Petersen was a senior quarterback for the Aggies and Patterson was a newly hired linebackers coach, all of 26 years old and full of intensity that wasn't often seen inside the program.

"Really different and equally as good," Petersen said of Patterson's arrival. "It was really a unique and interesting change."

Added Patterson, "I was a little bit more energetic."

While the UC Davis family tree of offensive minds — Oregon's Mike Bellotti, former Hackett and Petersen, among others — is well known, it can now claim a defensive forward-thinker to its bloodline, even if Patterson hung around for only one year.

At the time, Patterson was in the early stages of his career, bouncing around the country to the next job opening. It was his first venture west, after previously spending two years at Tennessee Tech. He joined head coach Jim Sochor at a time when the Aggies were the dominant Division II program in the West. From 1971 to 1990, UC Davis held at least a share of its conference title every year.

Ironically, Patterson was the defensive coordinator at Sonoma State in 1991, the school that ended UC Davis' title run.

"One thing I learned from UC Davis was I learned how to teach even at a higher level. I came to the Midwest and I found out there were different ways to do things," Patterson said.

"They didn't have whistles. They didn't raise their voice. It was a unique situation and one of those situations where you understood why they were successful. The problem for me was it didn't fit my personality."

Patterson, who isn't one to hide his emotions, left after only one year to become the defensive coordinator at Cal Lutheran. And while Petersen

See **POINSETTIA**, Page 2B



AP photo/Julie Jacobson

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford poses after being awarded the Heisman Trophy Dec. 13 in New York. Bradford was voted The Associated Press college football player of the year Monday.

Bradford named AP player of the year

By **MURRAY EVANS**

Associated Press Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — Sam Bradford is back in his comfort zone, hanging out with his Oklahoma teammates.

He is happiest when he's just "one of the guys," quarterbacks coach Josh Heupel said. That, however, is becoming harder to do.

The sophomore quarterback won another honor Monday when he was voted college football player of the year by The Associated Press. Bradford already captured the Davey O'Brien Award and Heisman Trophy.

Now he's home after a whirlwind trip to New York, and while he appreciates all the recognition there's a BCS title showdown with Florida waiting on Jan. 8. It's time to return to the routine again.

In winning the AP award, Bradford beat out the same two quarterbacks he did for the Heisman — Colt McCoy of Texas and Tim Tebow of Florida.

Bradford received 27 votes from the AP media panel that votes in the weekly poll. He was followed by McCoy with 17 votes. Tebow, who won the award last year, had 16 votes this time. Texas receiver Michael Crabtree had two votes.

Bradford is the third Oklahoma player to win the AP award, which began in 1998. Heupel won in 2000 and Jason White in 2003.

Bradford's next test comes in the national title game, with No. 2 Oklahoma (12-1) facing No. 1 Florida (12-1) in Miami.

Bradford has passed for 4,464 yards and 48 touchdowns this season, breaking the school record White set in 2003.

Obituaries

Jay Jarmes

Jay Jarmes, 68, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, at his residence. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Sharon Weise, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

He was born Feb. 22, 1940, in Des Moines, Iowa. He married Lucy Prewitt in February 1965 and she preceded him in death in January of 2001. He then married Judy Gard in July of 2001.

Jay graduated from Hugo High School in Hugo, Okla., in May of 1958 and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1962. After graduation, he was hired by the IRS in Tulsa, Okla., working fraud income cases. In November of 1962, Jay joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and was scheduled for Air Force pilot training. He attended and graduated from Air Force pilot training at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring. From 1964 to 1969 he flew with the Oklahoma and New York Air National Guard, flying cargo into and out of Vietnam, Japan, the Phillipines, Thailand, Hawaii and Europe in support of the Vietnam War. Jay was hired by American Airlines in 1966 and was based in New York, Chicago and Dallas-Fort Worth, flying Boeing 727's and the Douglas DC-10, retiring in 1995.

Jay volunteered at the Hanger 25 Air Museum, for the Big Spring Humane Society and for the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Jarmes of Big Spring; a step-daughter, Kandace Gard-Dawson and husband Tom of Big Spring; a step-son, Eric Gard and wife Meeghan of Marshall; four grandchildren, Brock Gard, Baylee Gard, Katcher Dawson and Kennadee Dawson; three brothers, Jon Jarmes of Pasadena, Calif., Jim Jarmes and wife, Dorothy of Postville, Iowa, and Jack Jarmes and wife Janet of Muskego, Wis.; one brother-in-law, Bob Enyart of Postville, Iowa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Beatrice Minerman Jarmes; and one sister, Glenna Enyart.

The family suggests memorials to the Big Spring Humane Society, P.O. Box 823, Big Spring 79721-0823 or to the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services, P.O. Box 231, Big Spring 79721-0231.

Jay wrote the following for his 50th class reunion: "Judy and I live in Big Spring on 20 acres of scrub brush, rocks and rattlesnakes. We enjoy traveling, visiting our grandkids and families, and riding our ATV or golf cart on trails that I have cleared on our property. And taking care of our 18 critters, including 2 miniature donkeys. I'm Happy. It's been a good life."

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

Paid obituary

Alvino Valdez

Alvino Valdez, 74, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, in San Angelo. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born April 4, 1934, in Shafter, Texas, to Louisa and Jesus Valdez. He was a retired construction worker and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by two brothers, Ramon Valdez of Big Spring and Hector Valdez and his wife Carmel of San Angelo; three sisters, Mary Rodriguez and her husband Victor of Odessa, Gloria Perez and her husband Luis of Houston and Delia Nieto and her husband Victor of Floresville; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Rene Valdez.

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

Elva E. Jaynes

Elva E. Jaynes (Thames) (Schafer), 75, of Bastrop, formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 12, 2008.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; mother, Kathleen Thames; son, Brant Schafer; daughter, Su Anne Schafer.

She was preceded in death by a son, Randy Schafer.

She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1950. Services are under the direction of Marrs-Jones-Newby Funeral Home in Bastrop. Services will be held in Brownfield. She is to be cremated.

David G. Reyna

David G. Reyna, 74, of Kerrville, formerly of Big Spring died May 13, 2008, in Kerrville. His remains were cremated and there was a memorial service May 19, 2008, in the Notre Dame Catholic Church in Kerrville with the Rev. Mike Peinemann officiating. His cremains were interred in the San Jose Cemetery in Comfort.

He was survived by a daughter and two sons and spouses, Jon and Carol Brown of Kerrville, Brenda and Brian Ballard of Floresville and Fred Brown of Cibolo; and four grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to www.schae3tter.com

Police

Because of computer difficulties at the Big Spring Police Department, no arrest log or activity report was available today.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Monday (note: officials reported 63 prisoners in the county jail):

- STACY LYNN PENDLETON, 33, was arrested by deputies on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMES ARTHUR WHITED, 43, was arrested by deputies to begin serving judgment and sentence for driving while intoxicated/second offense.
- LUCAS SHANE HUGHES, 27, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft from the person.
- LUPE HINOJOS, 35, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/family violence.
- ANTONIO GARCIA JR., 20, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of displaying a fictitious inspection certificate.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Monday:

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at Sixth and Johnson streets. Service was refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on S. Highway 87. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Stamford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of 18th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Ninth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Vicky. One person was transported to VAMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Providence. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 500 block of Gregg. It was determined to be a smoke scare.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1300 block of Stadium. The call was cancelled en route.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. It was determined to be a false call.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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




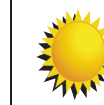
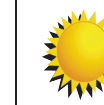
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Your Local Weather

Wed 12/24	Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28
				
64/39	71/46	73/35	54/29	59/33
Partly cloudy skies. High 64F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy and windy. High in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
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Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 34-33-26-37-10. Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-22-17-33. Bonus Ball: 18.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-3-7-7. Sum It Up: 21.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-5-4. Sum It Up: 16.

Take Note

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

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

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

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

POISETTIA

Continued from Page 1B

wasn't directly coached by Patterson, each left a lasting impression with the other, one that has carried over into their careers as head coaches.

After Boise State beat TCU in the Fort Worth Bowl in 2003, Patterson and his coaches paid a visit to Boise to swap and share ideas.

"There was a lot of information passed back and forth," Petersen said. "Gary knows what he's doing and if you get one or two things to focus on that you are not doing, it can really make a difference."

Petersen hopes there weren't too many secrets shared. His young, but talented, offense will get its toughest test of the season against Patterson's fast and aggressive defense that was second in the country and held high-powered Oklahoma to its lowest point total of the season.

The Broncos averaged 49 points over their final five games of the regular season, but those numbers came against teams with a combined record of 20-38 this season.

"It's a pretty impressive (defense) to watch," said Kellen Moore, Boise State's redshirt freshman quarterback. "They don't give up a lot of points."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

While the Cowboys are thrilled to be so close to the playoffs, it's worth remembering this club wasn't supposed to cut it close.

Dallas was the consensus pre-season pick to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. The Cowboys had every major contributor back from the group that went 13-3 last season, plus some quality additions. They also should've been driven by last year's playoff flop.

Instead, Dallas spiraled to 5-4 and last place in the NFC East going into its bye week. A 4-2

stretch since then — coinciding with Romo's return from a broken pinkie on his throwing hand — has salvaged the chance for this year's team to still live up to the hype. As Phillips noted Monday, the New York Giants won the Super Bowl last season after going 10-6 and getting into the playoffs as a wild card.

Phillips also tried stamping out the notion that this team has underachieved.

"Let's finish the season and see what happens," he said.

He then propped up what Dallas has done thus far compared to Green Bay missing the playoffs after being 13-3 last year, and Seattle going from perennial division winner to near the bottom of the NFL. He didn't mention that

the Packers went through a tumultuous quarterback change and the Seahawks' season was riddled with injuries to key players.

The reality is that if the Cowboys lose to the Eagles, this season will be a colossal failure. It might even cost Phillips his job, although team owner Jerry Jones insisted otherwise after the loss to the Ravens.

"I don't even want to discuss that," Phillips said. "That's the furthest thing from my mind. ... This is a big game for us and our team is going to try to play its best and that's what we are going to try to do. We are looking forward to it. I think we can win this one and go from there."

BAUGH

Continued from Page 1B

At the funeral, family members remembered Baugh more for his skills as a father and a cowboy than anything connected to football. They recalled him as kind and amiable.

Son David Baugh told how his father frequently opened up his home near this small West Texas town to folks — strangers sometimes — and always made them feel like they were the most important people in the world.

"That's the kind of man he was," David Baugh said. "It could be the poorest guy in the world and Sam made you feel like a million dollars. People would come back to see him all the time."

Grandson Brant Baugh said sometimes he'd find some of those strangers sleeping in the bed he used when he'd come visit his grandfather. The first time his grandfather told him it was a friend. The next time, though, the grandson was more dubious.

"What's his name?" Brant Baugh asked his grandfather.

"Well," Brant Baugh recalled the elder Baugh responding, "I just met him."

One of those who came to visit wasn't a stranger. Robert Duvall visited Baugh as the actor was preparing for the role of Gus McCrae in Lonesome Dove. Baugh was known to be very animated with his hands.

"Those hand movements that Robert Duvall uses in that movie

he really got from Sam," David Baugh said.

Friends he made after retiring and those he golfed with spoke of what a good man Baugh was. He and longtime friend Bob O'Day started a benefit golf tournament a few years ago, the Slingin' Sammy Baugh Tournament, at Western Texas College in Snyder.

So far, the tournament has raised enough money to help 57 young adults earn college degrees.

"Sam was a man's man," O'Day said. "He never met a stranger and he could talk to anyone. When you were around, Sam made you feel good."

"He had a heart of gold."

Baugh's reputation blossomed as a star high school athlete in football, baseball and basketball in Sweetwater. It began to grow during his college days at TCU.

It was there that he picked up the nickname "Slingin' Sammy" — but it wasn't for his passing. It was for the blistering throws he fired to first base as a shortstop and third baseman.

Starting in the 1930s, Baugh turned the sparingly used forward pass into a potent weapon for the Washington Redskins. He was also a standout punter and defensive back.

He not only led the league in passing six times from 1937 to 1952 but he also punted and played safety on defense.

In 1943, he led the league in passing, punting and interceptions.

In one game, he threw four TDs

and also intercepted four passes. He threw six touchdowns passes in a game twice. His 51.4-yard punting average in 1940 remains the NFL record.

Baugh guided the Redskins to five title games and two championships, playing his entire career without a face mask. His No. 33 is the only jersey Washington has retired.

His high school in Sweetwater has done the same, retiring No. 21. TCU also retired his jersey, No. 45; the Horned Frogs will wear "45" stickers on their helmets to honor Baugh when they face Boise State on Tuesday night in the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego.

After his NFL career, Baugh retreated to his large West Texas ranch near Lubbock. The Hall of Fame and the Redskins tried to lure him east for ceremonies over the years, and he always turned them down.

He never got lost in the accolades heaped on his athletic skills and if forced to choose, Baugh would have always picked the ranch over football, returning to his thousands of acres after each season.

For years he drove to Snyder three or four times a week to play golf, until sore knees and searing heat made the long trip too difficult.

Several years ago he went into a nursing home in nearby Jayton as dementia and Alzheimer's ravaged his mind.

"He was a great dad to me," David Baugh said. "I enjoyed him. I'm going to miss him."

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sudoku

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News at a glance

2 killed, 1 hurt in road shootings

DALLAS (AP) — A manhunt is on for a gunman in a pickup who is suspected of killing two people and injuring another in a series of rush hour shootings on Dallas-area roads.

The suspect was last seen Monday evening heading west on Interstate 635, a loop that goes around Dallas and connects to other interstates, said Sgt. Gil Cerda, a Dallas police spokesman.

The shootings happened within minutes of each other. Afterward, rush hour traffic slowed along the highway as police shut down all westbound lanes of 635 east of the shooting scenes for several hours.

Police had a few witnesses after the shootings and were hoping to contact more. "We've got detectives working," Cerda said.

The first shooting occurred around 5:45 p.m. Monday in Garland. A pickup truck heading south on a major road pulled up alongside a small Nissan stopped at a red light and began shooting, police spokesman Joe Harn said. The Nissan driver was killed.

Witnesses told police the pickup then drove off toward I-635 in Dallas, where an 18-wheeler was shot at shortly after. The driver of the 18-wheeler was not hurt, police said.

The suspect continued west on the highway, then shot and killed the driver of a United Van Lines 18-wheeler rig, Cerda said.

Then the suspect drove about a quarter- to a half-mile on the interstate and fired at another 18-wheeler. The driver was injured by debris and glass but not

struck by a bullet.

Health coverage extended for kids

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is extending Medicaid coverage for 90 days for 34,000 children because Hurricane Ike may have prevented their families from re-enrolling, state officials said.

"Given the widespread damage and disruption in services caused by Ike, we believe it's wise to err on the side of caution and give these families more time to renew their children's coverage," said Albert Hawkins, executive commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services.

The extension begins Jan. 1.

State officials had said thousands of children living in Hurricane Ike-devastated areas were in danger of losing health coverage in 2009 because they had not re-enrolled in government health insurance programs.

The agency surveyed more than 100 southeast Texas families, and one in four said they never received a renewal form, agency spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman said. Of those who did receive the form, nearly 80 percent said they returned it, she said. Goodman said the state has been unable to determine why the forms weren't received at the postal boxes used by an enrollment center.

The extension does not apply in cases where the state received the application and determined that the family was not eligible, Goodman said.

New packets will be sent to families in order to be renewed by April, officials said.

CROOKER

Continued from Page 1A

McEwen. "We're celebrating 40 years of Bill being a commissioner, but we're also celebrating 40 years of him serving the community and serving it well."

Crooker, a native of White Plains, N.Y., joined the U.S. Army Air Corps after the outbreak of World War II and served at the Bombardier School in Big Spring before shipping off to Europe. The "high-light" of his war service — if one wishes to call it that — was his time as a POW in Germany after his plane was shot down.

After the war, he married his wife, Joyce, a Big Spring native, in 1945 and was serving as personnel manager at Cosden Refinery in 1968 when he was approached by a group of people to gauge his interest in a run for political office.

"A few Republicans here got together and asked me to run for county commissioner," Crooker said. "It was a great point of pride to me that I was the first Republican elected to office here."

It almost didn't happen, though.

Unofficial election results from the 1968 general election showed Crooker trailing Democratic incumbent Mae

Hayden by 91 votes, but because the winning margin was by less than 5 percent, he was able to request a recount. A special commission appointed by the county overturned the initial count, which resulted in Crooker winning the contest by 149 votes.

That, he said, nearly overshadowed everything else that occurred during his time on the commissioner's court.

"Forty years is a long time but it's really gone by fast," he said. "I can't remember anything really outstanding that I accomplished. What really was outstanding was what happened in the beginning."

Others at Monday's reception were quick to differ with Crooker's assessment. McEwen particularly recalled the commissioner's effort on behalf of the local VA Medical Center when it looked as if the facility would be closed a few years ago.

"The day we learned we had a problem, Bill was in my office, asking me what he could do to help," McEwen recalled. "You can't imagine the hours and hours and blood, sweat and tears he put into this effort ... Without Bill's efforts, I truly believe that hospital would be closed by now."

Crooker's fellow members on the commissioner's court said they would remember the

knowledge and experience he brought to the job.

"I really hate to see him go," fellow commissioner Jerry Kilgore said. "I don't think a lot of people realize how Bill helped a lot of people get involved in government. He certainly helped me."

Kilgore and others also recalled Crooker's stubbornness on certain issues.

"He is a little bit of a hard-headed Yankee, but he's really a good man," Kilgore noted.

County Judge Mark Barr, who crossed swords with Crooker on occasion, also said his influence on the court would be missed.

"I really respect Bill. He brought a lot of experience and knowledge to the table," Barr said. "Sometimes we didn't agree on things, but we always settled our differences and moved on from there ... He was one of the hardest-working commissioners on the court."

During Monday's ceremony, Crooker was presented with a Texas flag by State Rep. Joe Heflin and Stefanie Wilkerson, local office manager for State Sen. Kel Seliger, as well as a U.S. flag that had recently flown over the nation's capitol from Lisa Brooks, local office manager for U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer.

In addition, McEwen read a proclamation de-

noting Monday as "Bill Crooker Day" in Big Spring.

Crooker promised to remain active in community affairs even after his retirement becomes official Jan. 1.

"It's been a wonderful, wonderful 40 years," he said. "I'm truly overwhelmed by all this ... It's been a privilege for me to work for the people of Howard County. I

learned a long time ago that if you treat people the way you want to be treated, you'll get a great response, and if you always work for the betterment of the community, you'll win in the long run."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Alvino Valdez, 74, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

really haven't been any surprises and we're all tickled to death about that."

In other matters, commissioners approved the terms of court for 2009 and personnel considerations, Barr said.

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

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

and more are reproduced and encased in lights at this year's festival.

The festival has been a big drawing card for visitors in past years — Simmons said residents of 41 states and 16 foreign countries have toured the festival in past years.

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

comes to the festival tonight, Simmons said.

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

"This is my last year being in the field," she said. "I'll still handle the

administrative stuff, but ... Howard Stewart, Pascal Odom and Jesse Baker will be co-chairmen in the future."

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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OTHER VIEWS

Regulators slept while investors lost

Early in 2003, as word spread of Bernard Madoff's remarkable financial acumen, French bank Societe Generale considered making a sizeable investment with him. It sent a team of analysts to New York to take a closer look.

They found enough red flags, The New York Times reported last week, that the bank not only refused to invest, but also quietly warned its wealthy clients to stay away.

On Dec. 11, the New York investment firm run by Madoff collapsed. He was arrested on charges of running what may be the largest Ponzi scheme in history. It took in \$50 billion by Madoff's own account.

U.S. securities regulators had the same opportunity to spot the red flags that the French bankers did, but America's watchdogs missed them.

As long ago as nine years and as recently as last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission had credible information about irregularities at Madoff's company. Instead of aggressively pursuing those leads, it closed the inquiries.

Christopher Cox, who heads the SEC, said last week that the agency might have discovered years ago that Madoff's firm was concealing losses by using money from new investors to pay off others who wanted to cash out.

Foreign banks and wealthy investors were taken in by the scheme.

Last Tuesday, Cox issued a statement ripping SEC staffers for failing to pursue the investigations and failing to bring the allegations to the attention of commissioners. By Thursday, he had toned down his language, telling reporters he was "enormously proud" of a staff he regarded as "extraordinarily professional."

In any event, Cox, a former Republican congressman and staunch advocate of deregulation, bears at least as much blame as his staff. In fact, the Madoff case is only the most recent breakdown of oversight at the SEC. The agency's failure to enforce its own rules, for example, allowed investment bank Bear Stearns to collapse in March. Just three days before that company's failure, Cox assured investors that it was financially sound.

Part of the problem is resources. The SEC's enforcement division has been hammered by years of lean budgets, even as the complexity of the industry it regulates and the number of complaints it investigates grew. The cuts made it more difficult for the SEC to do its job and left employees demoralized, former SEC chairman Arthur Levitt told Congress this fall.

That's no excuse for the lack of effective oversight of Bear Stearns in the months leading up to its collapse, however, or the abandoned investigations into complaints that could have prevented losses of billions of dollars.

Even more basic problems, including real and potential conflicts of interest, have come to light through congressional hearings and reports from the SEC Inspector General.

A multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme of the kind allegedly run by Madoff is out of the ordinary, of course, but it could succeed only because of the persistent belief that markets effectively regulate themselves and, therefore, that the kind of oversight envisioned when the SEC was created in 1934 is obsolete. That idea has fueled much of the deregulatory zeal in Congress and Wall Street in recent years under Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

On Thursday, President-elect Barack Obama named Mary Schapiro as his choice to chair the SEC when he takes office next month. A former SEC commissioner and now chief executive of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, an industry group, Schapiro would seem to know the terrain.

One would hope she also knows that history has shown, more than once, that relying on industry self-regulation to protect the public interest is a discredited fantasy.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Quick! Get Jesse Junior G-Man

With so much news on the impeachment of Gov. Rod Blagojevich, I almost missed an incredible aspect of this amazing case:

The Jesse Junior G-Man Task Force to Fight Political Corruption thing.

So I called the federal building in Chicago and asked for the Jesse Junior G-Man Task Force.

"Pardon me?" asked a female federal employee.

Don't be obtuse.

It's been all over the national TV news, U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Bud Light) working with the feds to fight corruption. So connect me to the Jesse Junior G-Man headquarters.

"I don't know what you're talking about," she said.

It might not be a formal "task force." Perhaps there's another name for it, like Jesse Junior G-Man Blago Working Group. I'm a reporter. You can tell me.

"Sorry," she said. "No Junior G-Man office here."

Oh, c'mon! Just stop with your little bureaucratic games. The story was on TV. Jackson's been working with the feds, which means he's a good guy.

But she had nothing for me, so I called someone else.

"Jesse Junior G-Man? No," a guy said. "Not on this floor."

Just tell me. The Junior G-Man works in a high-tech complex buried deep underground, right? Behind a series of cool interlocking steel doors, protecting the Cone of Silence, right?

"No," the guy said. "This is the second call you've made on this subject. We're tracking you. Now stop. I mean it."

Jeez. Could TV news be wrong? Could it have just been media puffery and political spin that got out of control?

The Junior G-Man thing began after the governor was charged with trying to sell the Senate



JOHN KASS

seat of President-elect Barack Obama to the highest bidder, including emissaries of an unidentified Candidate 5, who later was identified as Jackson.

The Chicago Tribune then reported that a group of Indian businessmen held a fundraiser for Blagojevich — with Jackson's brother Jonathan in attendance — and quoted several businessmen that they raised the money hoping Blagojevich would make Jackson the next senator.

"I never sent a message or an emissary to the governor to make an offer, plead my case or propose a deal about a U.S. Senate seat, period," Jackson said.

Jackson was in a bind. He wasn't being accused of a crime, but people who wanted him in the Senate were willing to pony up, and things were getting sticky. You could imagine the Jackson brain trust pacing the floor in fear, stroking their chins, muttering, "What to do? What to do?"

So on Monday, unnamed "sources" told Chicago WLS-TV that Jackson wasn't only Candidate 5, but that he was actually feeding information to the feds about Blagojevich. Wow, that's so cool.

"Sources tell (WLS) that Jackson has been in regular contact with the feds and has told the government that in 2003, Blagojevich denied the congressman's wife, Sandi, an appointment as Illinois lottery director because Jackson would not donate \$25,000 to the governor's campaign fund," said reporter Charles Thomas.

But if Blagojevich was truly shaking down Jackson, why would Jackson later actively seek Blagojevich's support for the Senate? Didn't those "sources" know that Blagojevich believed the Senate seat was, like, bleeping golden?

Thomas' report made all of broadcast news seethe with jealousy. The others just had to have one. So the next night, "NBC Nightly News" went national

with a "bombshell" of a story.

"Now we shift focus to Illinois, a new bombshell in the scandal surrounding the governor of Illinois, Rod Blagojevich," anchor Brian Williams said. "Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. now says he has been an informant, talking to federal authorities about the governor (dramatic pause) for years!"

And lo, Jackson was transformed, from Candidate 5 to Candidate Snitch.

My sources tell me that he'd been spotted hanging out on Rush Street while lobbying for the Senate job. Clearly, he was undercover.

"Maybe he's like the Big Pussy character in 'The Sopranos,' when Big Pussy wired up on Tony and started to think he was a G-man, too," said Wings, my able assistant. "He lectured the feds about legal strategies for racketeering indictments. He was so into it, remember? Big Pussy talking about RICO predicates to the feds?"

Yes, Wings, I remember. It was so touching, especially the episode when Big Pussy tried to make an arrest as a federal agent. All he was missing was a decoder ring.

And, at that exact moment, I wished I were a TV reporter, so I could interview the fat guy who played Big Pussy on HBO and ask him about how federal investigations really work and about Illinois political corruption.

Unfortunately, Wings ruined everything by reading me a statement from Jackson spokesman Kenneth Edmonds, who said Jackson passed knowledge of "perceived corruption" to the feds but insisted that Jackson was no "informant."

And I believe it. Jackson's no informant, he's a Junior G-Man. Now if I can only get his secret number, we can sit in the Cone of Silence and talk.

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him e-mail at jkskass@tribune.com.

A particular American life

Last Friday morning, Cardinal Avery Dulles died in New York. Dulles was one of the world's preeminent theologians and intellectuals. As such, his absence will be noticed in the public square.

His passing also marks the end of a very particular kind of American life. The Dulles clan was never quite royalty, but it was, in its way, an American version of the British nobility. Three of Avery Dulles' forebears were secretaries of state. His father had an airport named after him, and his uncle was director of the CIA.

Born in 1918, Dulles was educated in Switzerland and then at Choate Rosemary Hall before being packed off to Harvard. He entered Harvard Law but left to serve in the Navy, where he was distinguished with the Croix de Guerre and also contracted polio. His early life looked something like the traditional upbringing of a young British gentleman — not all that different from, say, Winston Churchill's.

Yet Dulles took a couple of unexpected turns along the way. A Presbyterian by birth, he was fashionably agnostic by the time he reached Harvard. And in 1940, he converted to Catholicism.

One must understand how radical this was at the time. The Dulles family was the epitome of elite, respectable Protestantism. Catholics were immigrants and laborers, viewed as suspect and perhaps un-American.

But Dulles continued down the road to Rome. After leaving the Navy in 1946, he became a Jesuit; in 1956, he was ordained as a

priest. That event — a Dulles becoming not just a Catholic, but a priest — was significant enough to be noted on the front page of the New York Times.

Over the course of his time in the priesthood, Dulles often taught (at Fordham, Catholic University, and many other schools) and always wrote. There were 23 books and more than 700 articles when all was said and done — the product of a mind engaged with the world right up until the end. His last book was released in April.

Dulles' body of work demonstrates an astonishingly lucid mind, linked to a gentle, charitable soul. He explored theological subjects, such as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, with the same careful inquisitiveness he brought to discussions of societal topics, such as human rights.

Dulles' most lasting work involved the Second Vatican Council, of which he was an important interpreter and reconciler. It was a task he was born for. "I think of myself as a moderate trying to make peace between opposed schools of thought," he explained.

Dulles' particular gifts were grounded in a kind of intellectual modesty that barely exists anymore. He knew what he did not (and could not) know, and he placed enormous value in the sum of human philosophical achievement. "I do not particularly strive for originality," he remarked toward the end of his life. "Very few new ideas, I suspect, are true.

If I conceived a theological idea that had never occurred to anyone in the past, I would have every reason to think myself

mistaken."

This humble man became the most important American theologian of the 20th century. In recognition of his importance to the church, Pope John Paul II made him a cardinal in 2001 — a rare elevation, since Dulles was not a bishop.

Into his 90th year, Dulles continued to inspire, even as his physical condition suddenly deteriorated. The aftereffects of polio robbed him of his voice and began to paralyze him, forcing him to abandon his teaching duties. In April, Pope Benedict XVI met privately with him to bless him and say goodbye.

Two weeks earlier, Dulles had delivered his farewell lecture at Fordham.

"Suffering and diminishment are not the greatest of evils, but are normal ingredients in life, especially in old age," the cardinal explained.

"As I become increasingly paralyzed and unable to speak, I can identify with the many paralytics and mute persons in the Gospels, grateful for the loving and skillful care I receive and for the hope of everlasting life in Christ. If the Lord now calls me to a period of weakness, I know well that his power can be made perfect in infirmity."

Faith and reason were never better met.

Jonathan V. Last is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: jlast@phillynews.com.

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Bird Poop: Dazed and confused

In late October, the vet clinic in Andrews called regarding a befuddled Swainson's hawk. "It appears to be dazed," was their description of its unusual behavior. After bringing it home, we realized what they meant. Refusing to eat, the raptor required force feeding. On the fourth morning, it decided to eat on its own.

Then it regressed. Although the hawk seemed to improve over a week, we felt it required a trip to the wildlife center in Lubbock.

While there, we cautioned the volunteers that this bird's eating disorder seemed to indicate a serious problem with its brain telling it to eat. Otherwise, the hawk was fairly typical.

Once the bird had been examined and placed in a carrier for a trip to the vet, Gail Barnes, volunteer, mentioned that we needed to see "Toenails." Describing how beautiful he was after experiencing a complete molt, she added that Tom, another volunteer, had done a wonderful job working with and teaching the hawk to be an educational bird. "You saw the 'before,' now you need to see the 'after.'"

Since this raptor was another Swainson's hawk we had brought to the center in August 2007, we decided our next trip would include Toenails.

A few days before Thanksgiving, we made a special trip and were reacquainted with the hawk that had touched our souls.

As we entered a mew on Ambassadors Row, Toenails glanced our way and began his endless chatter.

Handsome, with every greasy, broken feather replaced, Toenails was the essence of the majesty of creation.

Handing me a leather glove, Gail took the ends of his jesses. As I moved my hand next to the hawk's legs, it readily stepped on to the glove. Then the leather straps around his legs were secured within



Courtesy photo

Standing beside the pond at the wildlife center in Lubbock, Bebe McCasland holds "Toenails," an educational Swainson's hawk. In the background are Ambassadors Row and the three-story, wooden barn that provides mews for birds of prey.

my grasp.

At first, Toenails seemed somewhat wary of another handler. Accustomed to Tom and other volunteers, he knew I was a stranger. Several times he tried to fly off my hand, but the jesses limited his movement.

Having to put him back on my wrist, I had no fear of his biting or footing me.

After he settled down and was content to be carried outside, Art and I slowly walked him to the pond area that was created as a soothing site where volunteers could sit, reflect and release the pressures of rehab work. Adjoining this scenic Walden is a tiered theater for educational programs.

Continuing his verbal conversa-

tion, Toenails brought to mind that hot August morning some fifteen and a half months prior to this day. We had heard his cries from the weedy easement behind a residence as we hurried from our truck. After catching the hawk, we had discovered its feathers to be coated with a cosmetic gel or grease. Having laid the bird on its back to check body fat, I had discovered that someone had cut off all of his talons back to his toes.

Knowing that his nails might never grow back, and if they did, the talons might never be tapered and razor-sharp, I knew the hawk had been "somebody's bird." Its constant calling when approached by humans was a clear indication.

Thin, the Swainson's had escaped

only to be deprived of obtaining food. With no talons, it could not roost nor pierce and hold a mouse, or even grab a grasshopper.

Slowly, it would have starved to death due to the inhumane mutilation of its feet.

Notifying Gail of the plight of the hawk, I had to pause because I could not talk.

Through tears, I begged for its life. "This bird needs to live as an example of the cruelty of some humans."

For the next three days, the Swainson's cried or talked incessantly. If it heard me in the kitchen making coffee, its call began. Sitting with it, talking to it, holding it in my lap, I spent those moments trying to assure the bird that its life would improve.

On the fourth day, we delivered the hawk to Gail. "It's worse than I thought," she said. Sending it to the vet, she firmly stated, "That bird will be used for education."

The drive home was less tense in knowing that the Swainson's would not be put down.

Gail's phone call came shortly after we had unpacked the vehicle. "The vet says the talons will grow back, but will never be sharp-pointed. If whomever cut them had done it when it was younger, it would have bled to death.

Looks like we have another ambassador!"

As Toenails shifted his weight on my wrist, I welcomed the memories of "before and after." Remarkable in his metamorphosis, the hawk is now the epitome of hope that rehab volunteers experience with every bird or mammal.

His constant calling also brought to mind one of the literary gems of Emily Dickinson:

"Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul, and sings the song without words, and never stops, at all."

Thinking back to this experience with Toenails as the Holidays began, I'm sure Christmas came early this year.

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7:00 p.m. Saint Thomas

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11:00 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary
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Christmas Day Mass

Thursday, December 25, 2008

10:00 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary

New Year's Eve Mass

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

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 The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

RFB#09-001 Charter Bus
 Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105A, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the bids submitted. The final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu. (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #6012 December 16 & 23, 2008.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

In spite of advances in psychology there is still a lot about human behavior that goes unexplained. People may act in ways that, on first observation, will probably make absolutely no sense. The Scorpio moon has a suggestion: Close your eyes and focus your heart. Let go of the facts and allow the feel of the situation inform you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The truth about you is exposed -- to you. How beautiful it is! You never thought about yourself before in the terms that come to you now. Your soul expands to embrace this change in your definition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Other people are trying their best. However muddled the attempts may seem, be mindful to respect the effort. How fortunate you are that you don't have to suffer through their ordeal. Be aware of your bounty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be aware today that you may be drawn into a struggle of egos. By resisting the urge to put those around you in their place, they find their own way there. And you emerge smelling like the rose you are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Normally, possessive and controlling people

Tomorrow's Horoscope

would turn you off. However, right now you might find someone's overwhelming energy toward you quite flattering, and perhaps even comforting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As your sign mate Alfred Hitchcock found out, sometimes shadows on the wall are more frightening than seeing the real thing. Consider that your mind could be trumping thing up and scaring you quite a bit more than is warranted.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are cordially invited to explore the mysterious. Old paradigms shift. Not only is it acceptable to question beliefs, it is very beneficial to do so now. Fine-tune the basic principles of your belief system.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There is much information to exchange now, but don't worry your lovely head about getting the details right. The feeling you project is your most important communication. Without words you say it all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Hopefully you can recall how in childhood you, when you felt under siege by your world, withdrew into a temporary solitude for a bit of defragmenting and rebooting. This tool is still available. Use it as needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is it possible that you could view the person kicking sand into your face as a tired little child? Try to do the saintly thing and forgive. This person has an obvious need for

extraordinary growth and you could be part of that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your heart is especially bountiful now. The degree to which it will affect the lives of many, even just in this 24-hour period, is incalculable. Your endeavors contribute to the saving of the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is not the day to make irrevocable decisions. Continue the debate for at least another day. Clarity comes with exercise. Move your blood and breath and answers will materialize in perfect time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anticipation makes time go slowly. Just when it seems that tomorrow will never come, you'll be hit with a flurry of details that somehow got missed. Have fun with the unpredictable nature of things like seconds and hours.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Christmas is supposed to be about having a giving heart, and guess what? I hate it. And you know what I especially hate about it this year? It seems like the men get out of Christmas scot-free and it's just not fair. My husband comes from a big family and I'm always the one to buy presents and send cards to everyone from parents to the zillions of nieces and nephews. And then there is my family, my work people, his work people, my daughter's teachers, her dance teachers, her friends, the neighbors -- even if I do something relatively simple like bake

cookies, the mere number of people we interact with over the course of a year turns the whole thing into a large-scale production. It's expensive, stressful, time consuming and the worst part is that if I don't do it, it won't get done. What is the answer for a Capricorn Grinch?"

I'm so sorry to say this, but the answer is to bite the bullet and try to be happy. An overachiever such as yourself would probably not be able to skip a year of Christmas without an aftermath of self-punishment. Like death and taxes, Christmas is inevitable and must simply be accepted.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: From "Spinal Tap" to "The Simpsons" with many hilarious stops along the way, Harry Shearer is a first-class comedian with an endless potential for creating new funny characters. As Capricorn with his moon and Venus in Scorpio, Shearer teams his strong business and career savvy with his innate sense for determining the truth about what motivates human behavior.

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 the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have known "Gary" for three years and we are now engaged. I love him with all my heart and soul. However, I am being pushed just a little too far, not by Gary, but by his parents. He cannot say no to them.

Gary's father has a major gambling problem, and his mother is a hard-core drinker. These people neglect Gary in his times of need and have tried to destroy everything in his life. They have used their son for money, which he doesn't have, and played on his emotions by throwing guilt trips on him. They make him feel bad whenever they find out he has extra money in his bank account. Yet somehow they can find money for booze and casinos while their house is going into foreclosure.

I have minimal contact with his parents because they tried to split us up. They want Gary to move back in with them. When I talk to Gary about the controlling, manipulative, hurtful things his parents do, he gets mad and walks out on me. Last week was the third time he packed his things and left.

Gary is a kind, sweet man, but he won't deal with this problem. He doesn't like confrontation. I have been nice to his parents and even try to help them out within reason, but they still have it in for me.

I don't see why we should be giving them money when we don't have much. I am so burnt out over this that I can't see us having any kind of future together. Am I making a mistake by marrying him? -- Enough Already

Dear Enough: This is not about Gary's parents. It's about the way Gary responds to them. It is not a good sign that he refuses to stop enabling their addictive behaviors and then won't discuss it. Suggest he contact Al-Anon



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

anon.alateen.org) and Gam-Anon (gam-anon.org) for information.

We guarantee this will be an ongoing problem, and whether or not you break off the engagement will depend on how much you are willing to tolerate.

Dear Annie: Recently, I needed to use the men's room at a local bookstore, but there was a woman standing in front of the door. When I politely asked her to move, she said, "You can't go in. A woman is using it." I said, "Isn't there a ladies room across the hall?" She replied, "All the stalls in there are full."

I told an employee what was going on, but he wasn't sure what to do, and by that time there were several men waiting impatiently to use the bathroom.

I know we need to be accommodating, but I doubt it would be acceptable for a man to take over the ladies room. Was this fair? -- Crossing My Legs

Dear Crossing: Restrooms in retail stores are intended for one or two people at a time and no more. The woman should not have used the men's room unless it was an absolute emergency. The employee could have knocked on the restroom door and asked the woman to please leave as soon as possible, but beyond that there was nothing you could do without getting arrested.

Dear Annie: "Really

Married" is a refreshing change from all the guys who want us to feel sorry for them because they're not getting as much sex as they want and think that justifies an affair or a divorce.

What a wonderful man to realize that sex is not the main part of a relationship, love is. He even appreciates his wife's many years of being a good mother, and that she provided him with a wonderful family to love and cherish.

What a lucky woman she is to have such a caring, understanding, compassionate husband. God bless them both and I hope this man's attitude is contagious. He gives me hope for all the other husbands out there, maybe even mine! -- Still Waiting

Dear Still: He does indeed sound like a gem, and we hope his wife appreciates him.

Dear Annie: I'm a sophomore in college and live far away from my hometown, so I rarely see my friends or family. I wouldn't mind so much except that I'm in a long-distance relationship with "Rob," whom I have known since I was very young.

I know such relationships can be difficult, but this one is completely over the top. Rob has always been emotionally and verbally abusive, but now he has gotten so bad I'm afraid he's becoming mentally unstable. Schizophrenia runs in his family, but he refuses to seek counseling.

Here's the real problem. I've met another guy. "Alex" is funny, sweet and kind, and he loves me a lot. The feeling is mutual. What do I do now? Should I dump Rob and risk making him angry? Should I ditch Alex and be miserable? Should I throw away my life for the wrong guy? -- Didn't Mean To Two-Time

Dear Didn't Mean: So you've outgrown Rob, who is unstable and abusive, but you don't want to make him angry because

he's a little scary. You can talk this over with one of the university counselors. Then tell your parents that you want to break up with Rob, but you are worried about his potential for being abusive.

It would be best if you could find a way to separate yourself gradually and naturally. Be nice on the phone and in your e-mails, but not too friendly or romantic, and don't contact him too often. Don't say you miss him or love him. Talk about class to the point where he's bored. Your aim is to convince Rob he'd like to move on, too.

Dear Annie: My husband and I are part of a book club that meets at a different member's house each week. One of the couples has three large dogs that jump on us, sniff up and down my legs, stick their noses in my crotch and lick my feet. I hate going to their house because of the dogs.

This couple doesn't attempt to control the dogs' behavior. Instead, they say if we ignore the animals, they will stop. Trust me, it doesn't work. They can clearly see that we spend the night trying to keep the dogs off of us. What can I say or do so my evening isn't ruined? - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous: This couple is being inconsiderate of their guests. Not everyone finds it charming to have their feet licked, their bottoms sniffed and dog hair deposited on all their clothing.

The next time it's their turn to host the book club, call in advance and ask if they will please put the dogs in another room for the evening, as they make you very uncomfortable. If they refuse, you have the choice of putting up with it, attending only at other members' homes or finding another book club.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar.

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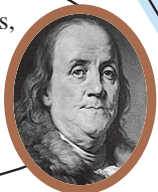
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"Be always at war with your vices,
at peace with your neighbors,
and let each new year find you
a better man."

— Benjamin Franklin,
quotegarden.com



KID NEWS

Wacky Facts

- At birth, squirrels have no hair or teeth.
- A squirrel's brain is about the size of a walnut.
- The male tree squirrel is the cleanest animal in the rodent family and takes twice as long as the female, to groom itself.

— www.squirrels.org

SHAUN WHITE
LIVING THE BONUS LIFE

Shaun White, the former kid wonder on a snowboard, is all grown up. With 14 X Games wins and an Olympic gold medal already under his belt, the 22-year-old athlete is gearing up for another busy snowboarding season.

White is hard at work off the slopes, too. He just completed a fan-filled tour with the rest of the Burton Global Team. And his new video game, "Shaun White Snowboarding," just hit stores.

Time For Kids kid reporter Harrison Gilman caught up with White at the Los Angeles stop of the Burton tour.

TFK: How did you get started with snowboarding?

WHITE: It was pretty wild. At the time, no one was really doing it too much. But I have a brother seven years older than me. He started snowboarding at about the time it started to become popular. And having an older brother, it was like anything he did, I had to do. I got on my board and it just felt right and I took off.

TFK: How about skateboarding?

WHITE: It was a funny thing. Have you seen little kids on the street when they are on their knees (on a skateboard) and they kick at the ground to get around? I did that forever because I didn't want to stand on my board. One day, I got into a race with my brother to see who could go faster. I was on my knees and he was standing, and he beat me at the race. After that, I started standing because it obviously was faster the way he did it. The local YMCA had a skate park in Encinitas, (Calif.), where I live, and, after that, I pretty much would go there every single day.

TFK: You've been competing since a very young age. What is the greatest challenge you've had to face?

WHITE: There was a point where I went

from being a kid snowboarder to an actual professional adult, and it was a weird transition. I was 12 years old when I first started traveling. I went to Japan and all these (other new) places. Picture being in Japan and having to close the curtains in the hotel to do homework. It was a challenge to get through school and then to find my own way because all my competitors were about 22 and 23 years old, and the cartoons I was watching weren't really that funny to them. I ended up doing my own thing until around 16 or 17 years old, which is when I made a transition from being a young kid snowboarder to one where I was actually winning events.

TFK: For you, what is the hardest snowboarding or skateboarding trick?

WHITE: I would say learning a new trick is hardest. You get to a certain point where your new trick has got to be a double back flip with a 1080 and something else. How do you work up to that? It gets so complex, and you have to work it out in your head before you go for it.

TFK: Tell me about your new video game, "Shaun White Snowboarding."

WHITE: I've been working on it for two years now. I did motion capture, with motion sensors they put on your body. I looked like a futuristic Christmas tree. I used a skateboard because you can't capture snowboarding be-

cause it's too big. They put me in this ridiculous outfit, and I had to do all these tricks in a special room. I did a lot of voiceover for the game too. My actual voice is (the voice of) my character.

TFK: You've won many awards.

What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment?

WHITE: The Olympics was pretty heavy. It maybe wasn't the hardest competition ever, but it was more about what it stood for. I would have people come up to me that had nothing to do with the Olympics, but they work in the snowboard industry, and they would say, "Since you did so well in the Olympics, my aunt or my grandmother knows who you are, and it gives me a legitimate career. She now understands what I do." It was a crazy thing.

TFK: Besides snowboarding and skateboarding, how do you like to spend your free time?

WHITE: I just like hanging out. I rarely get free time, so I go to movies and do normal stuff, like help my dad in the garden.

TFK: What advice would you give to kids who share your dream?

WHITE: Have fun. That is obviously why I started. It was fun, it was what my brother did, and I wanted to do it. Every time I'm up on the mountain, I sit there and I say, "I'm going to train, I'm going to learn this new trick." I beat myself up about learning a new trick and then I can't do it; I can't learn it. And right when I let go and start having fun, everything comes together and starts happening.

— Harrison Gilman



PAUL SCHMID/THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

In The News

Squireling away
for the winter

Squirrels have been getting ready for winter — looking for nuts and seeds, digging holes or finding crevices in tree trunks. That's where they've stored food they will need during the coming months, when the weather is cold and sometimes snowy.

This year, naturalists across the country are reporting an acorn shortage. Oak trees from the East Coast to the Midwest are producing a mysteriously low number of acorns this season. Acorns are a significant food source for squirrels and other wild animals such as turkeys, bears and deer. Some naturalists say the shortage will result in a particularly difficult winter for squirrels.

SQUIRRELLY BEHAVIOR

Eastern gray, fox and red squirrels are some of the most common squirrels in many parts of the country. Eastern gray squirrels can also be black. Fox squirrels are brown to reddish brown. They are the biggest and bushiest of this group.

Squirrels spend a lot of time in trees, which are like restaurants for them.

Among their favorite things to eat are nuts and other parts of trees, like the tender buds. Red squirrels prefer pine cones and nuts. So you're most likely to find red squirrels in forests of cone-bearing trees.

Squirrels may also eat corn, insects and other animals. And, as anyone who has a bird feeder knows, squirrels love birdseed!

Gray, fox and red squirrels stay active all winter, so they need a supply of food to help keep up their energy. Gray and fox squirrels tend to bury food underground, piece by piece. Red squirrels may gather food into piles they put at the base of trees or bury underground.

When they need the food, the squirrels use memory and smell to help them find what they buried. Sometimes, you'll even see them digging through the snow.

Squirrels make nests in trees, either in the branches or inside holes in the trunks. Some squirrels spend much of the winter in underground tunnels, where it stays warmer.

When spring comes, squirrels switch their food preferences to new plant growth, like buds and leaves. Sometimes they forget to dig up all the buried nuts.

That's why you'll sometimes find a tree seedling growing in a place where neither you nor your family planted it. Must have been Johnny Applesquirrel.

— Marty Hair, Detroit Free Press



MELINA YINGLING/MCT

The North American red (front) and Eastern gray squirrels



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PHOTOS BY ANDREW P. SCOTT/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Try This

Time
capsule letter

On New Year's Eve, write a letter to your future self. List your favorite things (books, songs, ice-cream flavors, TV shows, foods, colors, animals, games) and make predictions (how tall will you be in a year?). Pack away the letters with the holiday decorations so they'll be out of sight but easy to find next year. On Dec. 31, 2009, open your letters and see how much your tastes have changed — or haven't!

— FamilyFun magazine

Hot vanilla

Turn the classic hot-chocolate treat on its head by serving up steaming mugs of this vanilla-flavored tummy warmer — topped with dollops of chocolaty cream.

Start with the topping. In a medium bowl, whip 1/2 cup of whipping cream until it's frothy. Add 1 tablespoon of chocolate syrup and a dash of cinnamon, then continue to whip the mixture until everything is well blended and peaks form. Makes enough to top about six drinks.

For each hot vanilla, microwave 1 cup of milk and 2 teaspoons of sugar in a mug for 90 seconds. Stir in 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract. Top with a dollop of chocolate cream, a drizzle of chocolate syrup and a dash of cinnamon.

— FamilyFun magazine



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

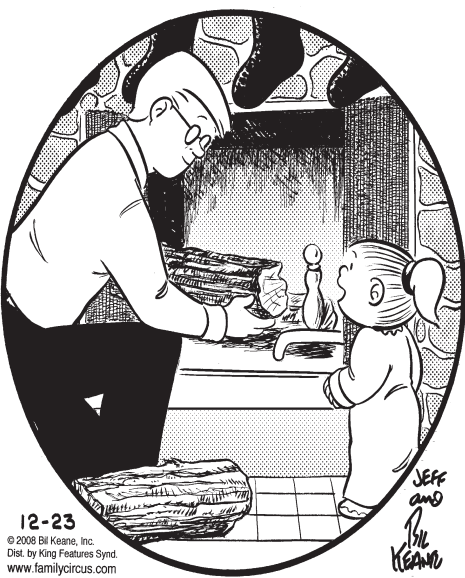
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney
5 :PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond	Scrivner	BBC	Time Wrp					
5 :30	ABC	ABC	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Friends	Uri Harel	Business	Time Wrp					
6 :PM	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	12 Cora-zones	News	Fam. Guy	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Time Wrp					
6 :30	Entertain	Fortune		Two Men	Entertain		Millionaire	Fam. Guy	Hagee		Time Wrp					
7 :PM	Grinch Stole	Grinch Stole	Cuidado-Angel	House	Home-Holid	Doña Barbara	Law & Order	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Time Wrp	Movie: Prancer, Cloris Leachman	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas
7 :30											Time Wrp					Phineas
8 :PM	Rediscovered	Rediscovered	Fuego en la Sangre	(:01) Fringe	NCIS	El Rostro de Analia	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy	Victory	Commercials	Time Wrp					
8 :30											Time Wrp					
9 :PM	ABC's the List	ABC's the List	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ	The Mentalist	Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order: SVU	Office	Office		Time Wrp					
9 :30											Time Wrp					
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Frank TV	Israel		Time Wrp	Movie: A Christmas Carol	UFC Unleashed	Leverage	Cole	Wizards
10 :30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Commercials	Cortes		Time Wrp					
11 :PM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Sex & Sex	Israel	(Off Air)	Time Wrp					
11 :30											Time Wrp					
12 :AM	News	Paid	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Raymond	Church	Time Wrp					
12 :30											Time Wrp					
1 :AM	Paid	Basco	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	News	Raymond	Church	Cash Cab					
1 :30											Time Wrp					

DENNIS THE MENACE



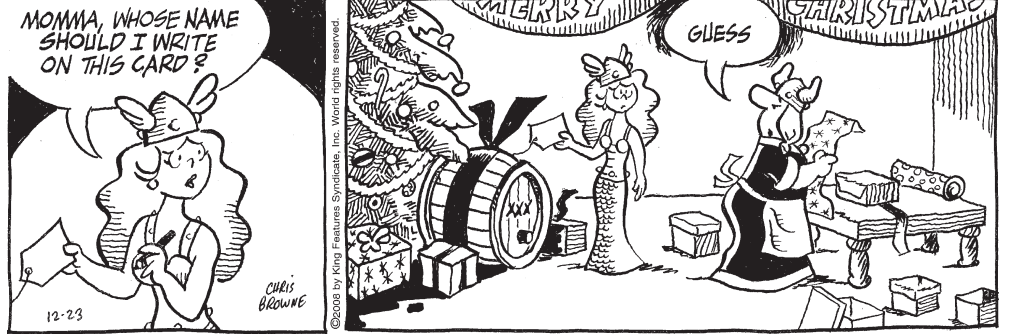
"YA THINK SANTA WOULD TAKE THESE OLD TOYS BACK TO HIS WORKSHOP AN' F'X 'EM?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Christmas is coming, Daddy. Instead of logs shouldn't we put some pillows in there?"

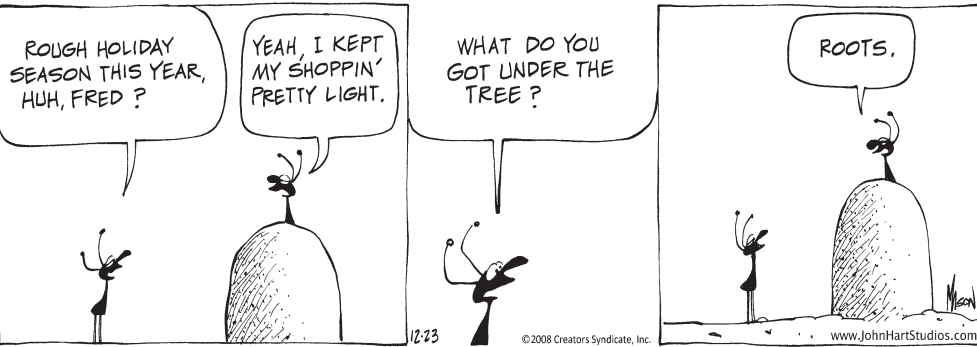
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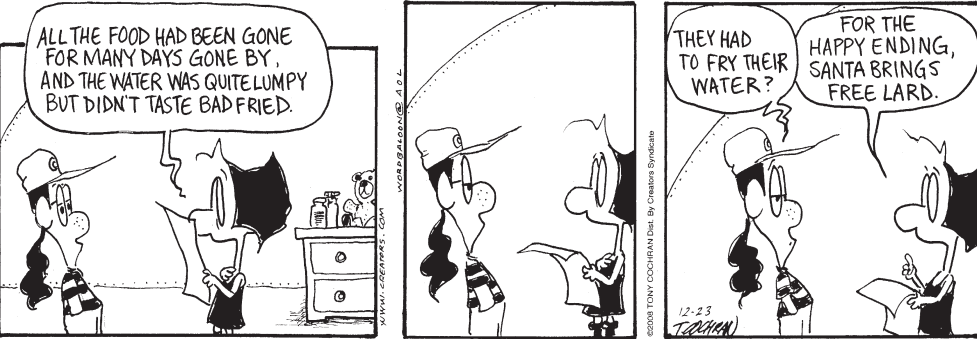
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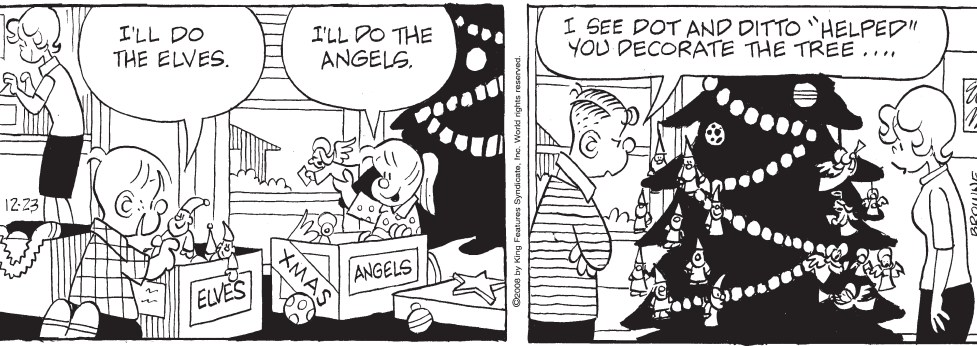
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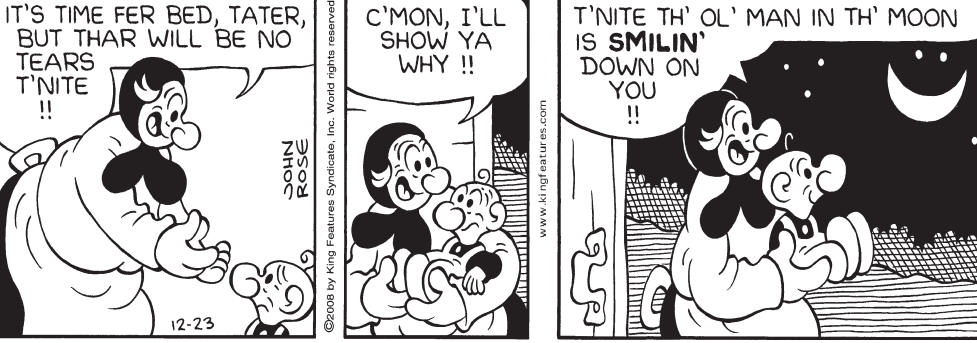
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 23, the 358th day of 2008. There are eight days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 23, 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.
On this date:
In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Va.
In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about two-thirds of the area became the District of Columbia.
In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attrib-

ed to Clement C. Moore.
In 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Haensel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.
In 1908, portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh was born in Mardin in present-day Turkey.
In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.
In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.
In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.
In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson held an unprecedented meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.
In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled, round-the-world flight as it landed safely at Edwards Air Force Base in California.
Today's Birthdays: Actor Gerald S. O'Loughlin is 87. Actor Ronnie Schell is 77. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 75. Actor Frederic Forrest is 72.
Actor James Stacy is 72. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 68. Rock musician Ron Bushy is 67. Actress Susan Lucci is 62. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 59. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 52. Actress Joan Severance is 50. Singer Terry Weeks is 45. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 44. The first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 41. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 33. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 31. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 18.
Thought for Today: "It ain't no use putting up your umbrella till it rains." — Alice Caldwell Rice, American author (1870-1942).

Answer to previous puzzle

CHAR	LARKS	ATMS
RARE	EMAIL	ROOT
AHAT	APPLY	TUNA
BABYSPLIT	PICKY	
POSED	ASH	
ESSES	DONTASK	
RAHS	ASSORT	NUN
APO	BREEZES	DEE
SPR	EMCEES	OGRE
EYETEST	GLOSS	
LIT	SPEED	
MEALS	SPAREPART	
ORAL	FLOUR	ROAR
LIVE	ROUSE	ONCE
DEED	OPTED	SEEK

Newsday Crossword STOCKING STUFFERS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Engineering school, for short
 - 5 Ensnare
 - 9 Abercrombie's store partner
 - 14 "Very funny!"
 - 15 Dreadful
 - 16 Montana neighbor
 - 17 Just slightly
 - 18 Tachometer readings: Abbr.
 - 19 Surround completely
 - 20 Armed conflict
 - 21 Behaves oneself
 - 23 Train stop
 - 25 Hosp. areas
 - 26 Overstuff
 - 27 Tops of semicolons
 - 29 ___ de Janeiro
 - 32 Stage performer
 - 34 Champagne, e.g.
 - 35 Ship off
 - 36 North Carolina nickname
 - 39 Rowboat implements
 - 40 Successful films
 - 41 Angelic toppers
 - 42 Army cops: Abbr.
 - 43 Lowers, as lights
 - 44 Apple center
 - 45 Check-writing need
 - 46 Predict
 - 49 Like a sprint runner
 - 54 Harbor boat
- DOWN**
- 1 Starts to melt
 - 2 Erode
 - 3 People in a novel
 - 4 Used to own
 - 5 Family gathering place
 - 6 Become mature
 - 7 Charity
 - 8 Pain in the neck
 - 9 Clothing threads
 - 10 Admired ones
 - 11 Car for hire
 - 12 Goatee locale
 - 13 Sharpen
 - 21 Jeweled topper
 - 22 Bellhop's employer
 - 24 Jogging paces
 - 27 Food plans
 - 28 Small bills
 - 29 Homes-for-sale newspaper section
 - 30 A big fan of
 - 31 Poems of praise
 - 32 Physicist's study
 - 33 British fellow
 - 34 Passing fancy
 - 35 Look impolitely
 - 37 Big African beast
 - 38 Concise
 - 43 Can't stand
 - 44 Not as warm
 - 45 Green pasta sauce
 - 46 Blacksmith's workshop
 - 47 Dutch coins
 - 48 Cairo's country
 - 49 Make an escape
 - 50 Table light
 - 51 Grand story
 - 52 Give lunch to
 - 53 Grow dim
 - 57 Mover's vehicle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61						62				63		

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