



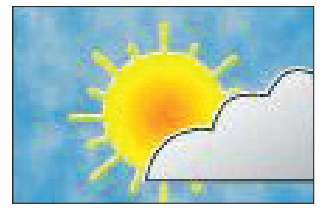
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 13

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The Christmas Story



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke 2: 1-20

Caution urged for motorists during heavy holiday traffic

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

As motorists all over the state get ready to hit the highways to see family and friends this holiday season, local law enforcement officials are urging Texans to make sure they are prepared before hitting the road.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, one of the biggest concerns travelers should have before pulling out the driveway is the weather.

"You can get road condition reports by calling the Texas Travel Information hotline at 800-452-9292, or pay close attention to the local weather channel," he said. "The



Texas Department of Public Safety report all road closures to both.

"Pay close attention to bridges and overpasses during freezing weather as well. Another thing to remember is to allow extra time for travel because the high level of traffic is going to increase how long it takes to get where you're going."

Everett said planning your trip —

as well as your route — ahead of time can really pay off in the event of an emergency.

"If you're traveling to see family, be sure to tell them what your route will be," said Everett. "That makes it a lot easier when we have to go out and look for someone. Also, be sure to keep emergency items in the vehicle, such as first-aid kits

and blankets. "No one wants to think about what can go wrong out on the road, but it's always a good idea to be prepared."

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

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McNamee preserves right to sue Clemens

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens' former personal trainer filed paperwork preserving the right to sue the seven-time Cy Young Award winner in New York.

Brian McNamee, who told federal investigators that Clemens used performance-enhancing drugs, contends the pitcher defamed him after McNamee spoke to investigators for former Senate Majority Leader George

Mitchell. The summons, filed in Queens Supreme Court last week, preserves McNamee's right to sue, Richard Emery, a lawyer for McNamee, said Tuesday.

Clemens filed his own defamation suit against McNamee in January after the trainer said in the Mitchell Report that he regularly injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens later told a

congressional committee under oath he had never taken steroids.

In the federal case in Texas, McNamee's attorneys say the trainer was forced to talk to investigators under threat of prosecution, rendering him immune from any defamation lawsuit.

A federal prosecutor backed McNamee's claim, but a judge has yet to rule on his request to toss the case.

NFL asks courts to reconsider suspensions

By ELIZABETH DUNBAR

MINNEAPOLIS — The NFL wants an appeals court to reconsider a federal judge's order that blocked the suspensions of five players for violating the league's anti-doping policy, according to court documents filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Minnesota.

Attorneys for the NFL filed notice they were asking the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals to take up the issue after U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson in St. Paul, Minn., earlier this month cleared the way for Kevin Williams and Pat Williams of the Minnesota Vikings, and Charles Grant, Deuce McAllister and Will Smith of the New Orleans Saints to continue playing.

Magnuson had said he needed more time to consider the dispute between the NFL and the NFL Players Association.

Monday was the deadline for the parties to propose a schedule for further proceedings in the case.

The NFL also asked Monday that discovery proceedings before Magnuson be put off until the 8th Circuit Court makes a decision on the league's appeal.

The players were suspended four games each after testing positive for a banned diuretic — bumetanide — in the dietary supplement StarCaps.

Bumetanide can be used as a masking agent for steroids. Diuretics are also used to quickly shed weight. The StarCaps label didn't list the diuretic as an ingredient, and the players' union had argued the NFL didn't properly inform players about what it knew about StarCaps.

The NFL's attorneys have argued that claim, and others, had been considered and rejected in a process set out by the league's collective bargaining agreement.

Magnuson's initial ruling Dec. 5, and another ruling Dec. 11, allowed the players to rejoin their teams for the rest of the season. Barring a quick reversal by the appeals court, it's likely at least Kevin Williams would play for the Vikings if the team makes out the playoffs. Pat Williams is out with a broken bone in his right shoulder. He missed Sunday's loss to the Atlanta Falcons and will also sit out when the Vikings play the New York Giants this Sunday.

Pat Williams has said he hopes to return to his team for the first potential playoff game in January.

The Saints have been eliminated from the playoffs.

In other court filings Monday, the union proposed a schedule for proceedings in the case that would delay a decision on the suspensions for more than three months — well after the Feb. 1 Super Bowl.

Still not a winner

Loss to Oakland leaves Texans short of earning first winning season

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans followed up their best game of the year with their worst.

The Texans lost 27-16 to the lowly Oakland Raiders on Sunday, a week after beating AFC South champion Tennessee. The loss snapped a franchise-record four-game winning streak — and made earning their first ever winning season impossible.

Now the best Houston can hope for is matching last season's 8-8 record with a win over Chicago in next Sunday's season finale.

For a team long out of playoff contention, the loss leaves the Texans with very little motivation for the Bears game.

But coach Gary Kubiak is confident the Texans will bounce back.

"I expect our team to be up every week," he said. "That's the National Football League. You play a lot of games. It's very emotional week to week."

Houston has had an up and down season, starting 0-4 before winning three straight. The Texans then lost three in a row before the four game winning streak.

"We have to learn how to keep the winning streak going," Andre Johnson said. "This is a step back, but we can't hang our heads. We have to learn from it."

Johnson followed his career-high 207 yards receiving for 19 yards on Sunday. The Texans inexplicably threw to the NFL's leading receiver only once in the first three quarters.

"Naturally, there are calls made to get him the ball and to get him more involved," Kubiak said. "Coverages dictated that we go some other places with the ball."

Kubiak partially blamed the lack of receptions on an overall poor performance by his team.

"Part of not playing well is Andre's part of that, the (offensive) line's part of that, the quarterback's (part of that)," he said. "We're all part of that. So naturally he didn't touch the ball



AP photo/Ben Margot

Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub (8) passes under pressure from Oakland Raiders' Kirk Morrison during the fourth quarter of an NFL game Sunday in Oakland. The Raiders won 27-16, denying the Texans a chance for the first winning season in the franchise's brief history.

See TEXANS, Page 2B

Time for playoff reduction? Bad teams are making NFL postseason

By DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

The Arizona Cardinals have lost four of their last five games, allowing 37, 48, 35 and 47 points. Their only win during that period was over St. Louis, a 2-13 team. And if they don't beat 4-11 Seattle at home on Sunday, they will finish 8-8.

Do we really want these guys in the playoffs?

Same for some of the other teams we will see in the postseason: Minnesota or Chicago; Tampa Bay or Dallas; Denver or San Diego, one of whom will win the AFC West? Heck, even the embarrassing New York Jets with the embarrassing Brett Favre have an outside chance to get in.

Very outside, fortunately.

For a number of years, there have been suggestions from some teams (usually ones just on the outside) to increase the number of teams qualifying for the postseason from 12 to 14 or even 16. For a number of years,

thankfully, a majority of owners have decided the current number is just fine.

This year, 12 may be too many because the random ways of division alignment are producing playoff teams that don't belong.

In the NFC, the East and South are relatively loaded, with the last place teams each 8-7. But the North and West are, respectively, mediocre and dismal.

"Right now, we aren't what we were," Kurt Warner acknowledged after Arizona Patriots lost 47-7 to Bill Belichick's Patriots on Sunday, out-gained 514-186. "If we're happy with winning the division, then that's all we'll do."

Here's a very easy prediction: that's all the Cardinals will do.

That's because they are the beneficiaries of the nature of division alignment that this season has them grouped with the Rams, the Seahawks and the 49ers (6-9).

You can argue that San Francisco,

Goldberg: On the NFL

4-4 since Mike Singletary took over as coach and installed Shaun Hill at quarterback, might have won the division if the Singletary-Hill combination had been in place from the start. Instead it was J.T. O'Sullivan at QB, installed by offensive coordinator/genius Mike Martz with the concurrence of now departed head coach Mike Nolan.

But that would have provided just another mediocre playoff team.

In the AFC, the West is awful; the North and South strong at the top and the East a mystery — a division in which the Patriots, champions the last five seasons, could get left out with an 11-5 record although they are playing better than anyone in the division right now.

The only positive thought: Belichick sitting in front of his tele-

vision set watching an 8-8 team (or two) struggling through the postseason. As he watches the Chargers and Cardinals stagger through a playoff game, he mutters to himself. In public, he says: "(We) weren't good enough. Didn't do what we had to." Pressed on that, he says: "It is what it is."

That's if Belichick bothers to watch, which is unlikely.






How did we get here?

Blame the random nature of division alignment (see above). Plus bad coaching, bad luck and Ed Hochuli.

But not injuries. Yes, the Chargers' defense was shredded without Shawne Merriman, but the Giants lost their equivalent, Osi Umenyiora, during the preseason and are currently 12-3 with home-field advantage in the NFC against a much tougher schedule than San Diego endured in the AFC West. And Tennessee beat Pittsburgh on Sunday without Albert

See NFL, Page 3B

Your Local Weather

Thu 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat 12/27	Sun 12/28	Mon 12/29
				
71/46	73/35	54/29	59/33	65/34
Windy with times of sun and clouds.	Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Obituaries

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.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Joyce Conner

Joyce Conner, 87, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, in an Odessa hospice facility. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Sharon Weise officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

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

Fran Osburn

Fran Osburn, 76, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2008, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

• 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.

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

Take Note

due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

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

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the

month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

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

CHANGING DATES
• The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets

every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

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

Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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

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

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Weis to call plays for Irish in Hawaii Bowl

By JAYMES SONG

AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU — Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis will call the offensive plays against Hawaii in Wednesday's Hawaii Bowl instead of offensive coordinator Mike Haywood.

"I'll be calling the game," Weis said during his first media availability Monday. "He's here. Don't worry. Coach Haywood and I are on the same page on this one."

Weis called plays during the team's final three regular-season games and downplayed the move.

"That's the other thing you read when you do that: All of the sudden you're trying to run someone out or there's a rift between you, but we couldn't be any closer than we are right now," Weis said.

The Fighting Irish (6-6) are seeking to snap their NCAA-record nine-game bowl losing streak against the Warriors (7-6).

Haywood took over play calling for the Irish this season, but Weis led the offense against Navy because Haywood missed a practice attending a cousin's funeral. Weis also called plays the following weeks against Syracuse and Southern California.

Haywood had indicated he has no problem with Weis calling the plays, saying, "Whatever I'm asked to do, I do."

Weis wouldn't elaborate on the decision, which leaves open questions surrounding Haywood, who has been interviewing for head coaching jobs the past two seasons, including at Washington.

"That's just the way it is. That's why," he said. "There's no further explanation. That's just the

way we're doing it for this game. After this game, we'll worry about next year."

Weis said at the beginning of the year that Haywood would be calling plays all season and dismissed those who said he would take over before the season was over.

Receiver David Grimes, one of the three team captains, said there wasn't a difference for the players as far as which coach calls the plays.

"At the end of the day, it's still the same plays called," he said. "We still have our packages and what we run on third down, first and second downs, and red zone."

Grimes spoke highly of Haywood, who is in his fourth season at Notre Dame.

"He's been here ever since I've been here. I learned a lot under him," Grimes said. "He's had a tremendous impact on my career here. He's helped me on and off the field. He's had a big impact on me."

See HAWAII, Page 4B

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Acts of kindness

It's our annual account of real people doing unselfish acts of kindness in the true spirit of giving and helping. This year's story is all about how one family gives of themselves to help others. Plus, plugging energy leaks and creole jambalaya.

American Profile

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

enough yesterday for us to win. So, it's disappointing for all of us."

Johnson not getting the ball was far from Houston's only problem

against Oakland.

The Texans gave up a punt return for a touchdown in the third quarter and let the Raiders grab an onside kick in the first. In the fourth, offensive lineman

Chester Pitts' 15-yard penalty for swinging at an Oakland player

forced Houston to settle for a field goal after getting inside the 10-yard line.

"It cost us a touchdown possibly right there," Kubiak said. "So, you can't do that. You hurt your football team. You lose your composure for a second

and whether you got hit or not, it doesn't matter."

Still, the Texans had a chance to cut the lead to one score with about eight minutes remaining.

Amobi Okoye sacked JaMarcus Russell and forced a fumble which the Texans recovered on the 14. Steve Slaton ran for eight yards on first down and one yard on second down, but two straight throws to Kevin Walter in the end zone fell incomplete.

Kubiak defended his decision to go for it on fourth down.

"I'd still go for it and naturally I'd call a different play," he said. "Just the momentum of the football game and the way the day had went, we were looking for a spark for our football team."



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Courtesy photo

K-Best 95.7 awarded lucky winner Angie Ontiveros a check for exactly \$534.07 Friday morning. Angie correctly identified the secret amount in dollars and cents during the "Christmas Cash High-Low Game." Listeners of K-Best 95.7 had been calling to place guesses since Monday morning in hopes of winning the jackpot, sponsored by Sonic, Allan's Furniture, Culligan Water, Lone Star State Bank and Pollard Chevrolet. Pictured from left to right: Angie's father Jerry Jamison, KBST personality Tim Larson, Angie, daughters Leah and Destiny, and KBST Operations Manager Tim Knox. When asked how her mother should spend the prize money, daughter Destiny suggested "On Christmas presents!"

Chex Mix :This gift idea never goes stale

By SHARON THOMPSON

McClatchy Newspapers

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The fondness we have for homemade food gifts ranks right up there with treasured memories of Santa and his reindeer.

A popular homemade recipe that has made the rounds for more than 50 years is Chex Mix. The recipe first appeared on the box of Wheat Chex in 1953, and that standard recipe gets a new twist with every generation.

More than 70 versions of the mix appear on Chex.com, but there probably are as many recipes as there are squares of Chex.

Ruth Ann Storrow of Lexington, Ky., has been making the original Chex Mix for her friends and family at Christmastime for about 20 years.

Storrow's recipe is tattered and yellowed with age, while Bethany simply prints a recipe from her computer.

When Storrow began giving Chex Mix as a gift, she bought attractive holiday tins and told the recipients that if they returned the tin, they would get Chex Mix again the next year. "They all bring their tins back to me," she said.

Ruth Ann Storrow's tattered recipe calls for baking the mix for two hours at 200 degrees. "I like it better than the microwavable version," she said.

CHEX MIX

- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1½ teaspoons celery salt
- 1½ teaspoons onion salt
- ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cups oil
- 2 pounds salted mixed nuts
- 12 ounces Wheat Chex
- 10 ounces Cheerios
- 6½ ounces Rice Chex
- 1 package pretzel sticks

Place garlic salt and powder, celery salt and onion salt in a bowl. Mix in Worcestershire sauce and oil. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine nuts, cereals and pretzels. Divide cereal mixture among 3 baking pans. Pour seasoning mix over each pan and mix well. Cover and bake 30 minutes. Remove cover and bake 1½ hours, stirring every 15 minutes. Pour onto paper towels to cool.

Storrow makes this sweet version of Chex mix.

CHRISTMAS CHEX MIX

- 3 cups Cheerios
- 3 cups Corn Chex
- 3 cups Rice Chex
- 2 cups pretzels
- 2 cups peanuts
- 2 cups M&Ms
- 1½ pounds white bark

Combine cereals, pretzels, peanuts and M&Ms in a large bowl. Pour cereal mixture onto wax paper on countertop. Melt bark in microwave according to package directions. Pour over Chex mixture. It will be very gooey. Wash hands, then grease them with butter; combine mixture with fingers. Let cool overnight. After mixture hardens, break into pieces and place in containers.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Dear Savvy Senior,

Over the past few years my mother, who is 75, has gotten where she dreads the holiday season and becomes very melancholy. What can I do to help?

Hating the Holidays

Dear Hating,

Millions of people experience the holiday blues this time of year, but seniors tend to be especially vulnerable. Here are some suggestions that can help.

Holiday Blues

There are lots of factors that can contribute to an older person's sadness or apathy around the holiday season such as the loss of a spouse, sibling or a close friend. Some seniors feel alone and isolated because their grown children and grandchildren live far away. While others may feel blue because of financial concerns, poor health or because they're unable to perform routine holiday activities like shopping, baking or even attending religious services.

How to Help

Depending on what's making you mother blue during this holiday season, here are some tips that may help:

- Be a good listener: Talk to your mom about how she's feeling and why. Very often just being able to share feelings with someone can help.
- Prevent isolation: Encourage family members to be around your mom as much as possible during the holidays. If you can't be there physically, be sure to call more often.
- Find community help: Contact her church or other community resource where someone may be able to stop by for a visit, or pick her up for a religious service or community activity.
- Ease her financial guilt: If your mom is on a tight budget, be sure she doesn't feel guilty if she can't afford to buy the grandchildren fancy gifts. It's not what the holidays should be about.
- Lend a helping hand: If poor health or physical limitations are causing her blues lend her a hand with shopping, decorating and other holiday preparations.
- Suggest volunteering: Many

churches or civic groups would love her help (also see Web sites like www.volunteermatch.org and www.get-involved.gov to find volunteer opportunities). Helping others is a great way to forget your own troubles.

- Watch the holiday spirits: Alcohol consumption for many people goes up during the holiday season, and alcohol is a depressant that can intensify the problem.

- Go for a walk: Exercise is a natural antidepressant so encourage your mom to go for a daily walk, or if possible, take one with her.

Watch for Depression

There's a big difference between feeling sad or blue and being chronically depressed. If your mom's blues linger beyond the holidays into the New Year, she may have a more serious problem. Here are the signs to watch for:

- A persistent feeling of sadness.
- Lost interest in hobbies or activities that she formerly enjoyed.
- Feeling worthless or hopeless.
- Inability to sleep or sleeping too much.
- Loss of energy or motivation.
- Not eating or eating too much.
- Trouble thinking, concentrating, and making decisions.
- Feeling anxious, restless, or irritable.
- Thinking about dying or killing herself.

Another good way you can check your mom's mood is by giving her a depression screening test at www.depressionscreening.org. If you find that she's depressed, encourage her to get help beginning with her own doctor. There are a variety of treatment options that can help such as medications, professional counseling or a combination of both.

Savvy Tips: The American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry provides a variety of helpful publications on senior depression including "Coping with Depression and the Holidays." To order your free copies, visit www.aagponline.org or call 301-654-7850 ext. 100. Also see www.positiveaging.org.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Contact the Herald at
newsdesk@bigspringherald.com
or
citydesk@bigspringherald.com
or
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.
Fran Osburn, 76, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

The Big Spring Herald office will be closed Both Christmas Eve and Day
Wednesday's, Dec. 24th edition will be delivered by noon that same day. To report a missing paper, call 263-7331 and leave a message. Someone will contact you shortly.
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AN ENCOURAGING WORD
By Eddy Pitchford

Christmas can become a warped mixture of competing loyalties. While tangled in many ways, it has roots that pay tribute to Christ. Materialism is certainly a major component of Christmas today. Family relationships also receive attention during this time. Expressions of charity round out the list of key ingredients. Of course, this all needs to be packaged with songs about peace and joy.

If you look over the list and check it twice, what do you really find? *A little bit of confused religion, a desire for things, a yearning for family bonding, a passing awareness of needy people and dreams of peaceful joy.*

Prayerfully check the list a third time. Now you know the need for "The Savior, Who Is Christ The Lord."

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NFL

Continued from Page 1B

Haynesworth and Kyle Vanden Bosch, its two most heralded defensive linemen.

Let's start with Hochuli, who in the second week of the season blew a call that took away a late fumble recovery from the Chargers and ended up handing the Broncos a 39-38 victory. If San Diego had won that game, maybe it wouldn't have spent the season struggling to get to .500, a "landmark" it can achieve if it beats Denver at home on Sunday and ends up winning a division that also includes dysfunctional Oakland (4-11) and youth-laden Kansas City (2-13).

But the Chargers, notably president Dean Spanos and general manager A.J. Smith, are as responsible as anyone for their team's under-achieving.

After a 14-2 season in 2006, they fired coach Marty Schottenheimer, who is sixth on the all-time wins list but was/is 5-13 in the playoffs; "is" because his name keeps popping up

for any number of potential vacancies.

So they hired the milder and more compliant Norv Turner, who had been San Diego's offensive coordinator in 2001. Dallas, meanwhile, hired Schottenheimer's defensive coordinator, the laid-back Wade Phillips.

Which brings us to the Cowboys, who managed to close Texas Stadium with a loss that dropped to 9-6 a team that was supposed to be the NFL's most talented. Then they lucked out when everything broke right for them Sunday and put them back in the lead for an NFC wild-card spot.

Phillips is doing a wonderful job of calling defenses — that unit seemed to keep the Cowboys close until Baltimore broke two late, long TD runs Saturday night. But the face of the team is owner Jerry "Coach" Jones or Terrell Owens, depending on what paper you read, what Web site you visit or what network you watch. ESPN managed to give T.O. plenty of face time to rebut the findings of its own reporter about the discord of which he is the alleged centerpiece.

The Cowboys continue to cling to a

scenario that makes them this year's Giants — a team that sneaks into the playoffs and goes on a run to win the Super Bowl.

But there's a huge difference: last season's Giants were an unselfish and well-led team. Think Michael Strahan, Antonio Pierce, Eli Manning and Tom Coughlin in place of T.O. and "Coach" Jones.

The NFC field will be the battle-hardened Giants at the top with either Carolina or Atlanta at No. 2. Indeed, the Panthers, the conference's second-best team, could slip to No. 5 if they lose Sunday at New Orleans and the Falcons, as they should, beat the dismal Rams at home.

Remember this: No road team has won an NFC South game, so the Panthers could lose to the 8-7 Saints.

As of now, the rest of the field would include the Vikings, Cardinals and Cowboys with the Eagles, Bucs and Bears a possibility. In order: average; bad; dysfunctional; and inconsistent times three.

Other than Tennessee and Pittsburgh, the most dangerous team in the AFC may not make the playoffs: New England.

Baltimore has the defense, but can a rookie quarterback (Joe Flacco) win three playoff games? (That question also can be asked about Matt Ryan in Atlanta.)

If Miami wins the East, is it a threat? For one win, perhaps.

That leaves the Colts, the team most everyone perceives as a distinct threat.

Maybe.

But Peyton Manning, who is emerging as a most valid candidate for MVP, saved the Colts on Thursday night against a Jacksonville team that had long since stopped playing. Until the fourth quarter, the defense couldn't stop the Jaguars — no one tackled, especially when Maurice Jones-Drew had the ball.

On the other hand, when the Colts won the Super Bowl two years ago, a defense that couldn't tackle in the regular season suddenly was huge in the playoffs.

So make the Titans, Steelers, Colts and maybe the Ravens legitimate contenders.

Better than the NFC, but not great.

Fisher calls 'Terrible Towel' stomp unnecessary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jeff Fisher didn't see any of his Titans stomping their feet on Terrible Towels after beating the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Seeing the footage Monday didn't make him happy.

"This was just a couple guys playing around with a towel. It was unnecessary in my opinion," Fisher said.

Linebacker Keith Bulluck dropped a towel, then swiped his foot across it celebrating the Titans' 31-14 rout of the Steelers on Sunday. He wasn't alone. Running back LenDale White stomped on a towel, and defensive end Jevon Kearse used one as he pretended to blow his nose

in actions replayed in video highlights over and over.

Fisher defended his players, saying the Terrible Towel is just a towel to the Titans.

"They don't understand the significance or the meaning of the towel itself to the organization, the Steelers history or the Steelers fans," he said. "On one hand, I think they were having fun and just playing with a towel. It was certainly not a shot at the organization or the players or the staff or the fans."

Rookie running back Chris Johnson pulled a flag hanging from his waist and waved it around in celebrating his 21-yard touchdown run in the third quar-

ter that put the Titans ahead to stay. Fisher said that potentially could be a problem since the rules prohibit using a prop.

The footage of those Titans stomping on the Terrible Towel will be replayed heavily if these teams meet again in the playoffs. With Tennessee seeded No. 1 in the AFC and Pittsburgh No. 2, that would only be in the AFC championship.

"If we're fortunate to see Pittsburgh again and that's the motivation they need to play better, then that's OK," Fisher said. "I think by the time you get to that ball game, whenever it is, I think both teams will be highly motivated."

Burress driving without insurance before crash

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Add this to the growing list of Plaxico Burress' problems: getting in a car crash and not having insurance on his nearly \$140,000 Mercedes-Benz.

The suspended New York Giants wide receiver was sued last week in Florida's Broward County Circuit Court for rear-ending a woman in May.

Compounding the Super Bowl star's defense, according to a document provided by the woman's attorney, is the fact his car insurance lapsed three days before the crash. A letter from Allstate says

Burress neglected to pay his premiums.

Burress' attorney, Adam Swickle, declined comment.

Burress is still serving a team suspension for shooting himself Nov. 29 in a nightclub with an illegally carried handgun. Burress shot himself at the Latin Quarter when he accidentally pulled the trigger on the .40-caliber Glock that was in his pants after fumbling a drink.

Teammate Antonio Pierce took the 31-year-old who caught the winning pass in the Super Bowl to New York-Presbyterian

Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center for treatment.

Burress pleaded not guilty and was released on \$100,000 bail. He is due back in court March 31.

He was placed on the team's suspended/non-football injury list, and the NFL Players Association filed a grievance. The union said the Giants violated the collective bargaining agreement when they placed Burress on that list, suspended him for the final four games of the regular season and fined him an additional week's salary for conduct detrimental to the team.

Texas WR Shipley granted 6th year of eligibility

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA.

Shipley missed the 2004 and 2005 seasons because of knee and hamstring injuries. He is the top receiver for the No. 3 Longhorns

with 79 catches for 982 yards and 11 touchdowns.

The third-team AP All-American also returned a punt and a kickoff for TDs this season, becoming just the fourth Longhorn to have both in a career.

"It is definitely a blessing to be able to play one more season at Texas," Shipley said in a statement released by the school Monday night.

Texas plays Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 5.



Merry Christmas

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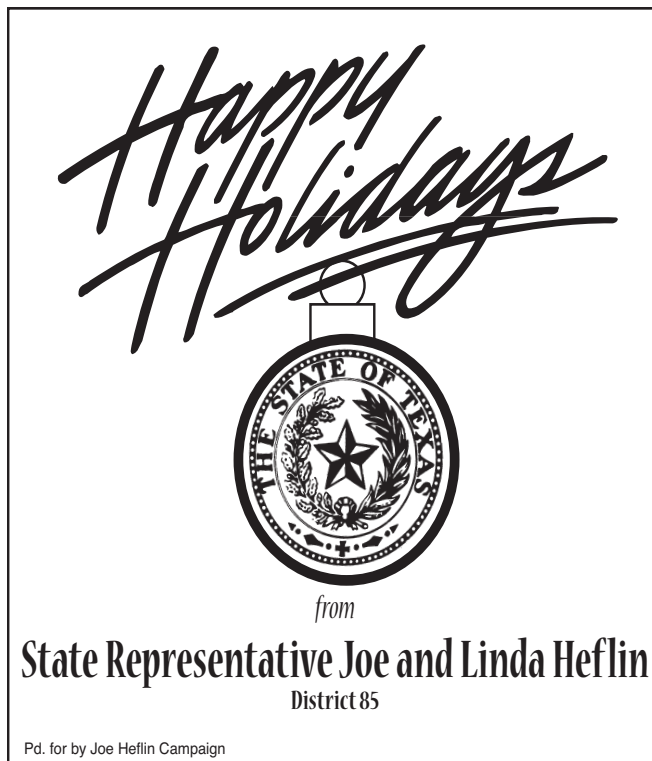
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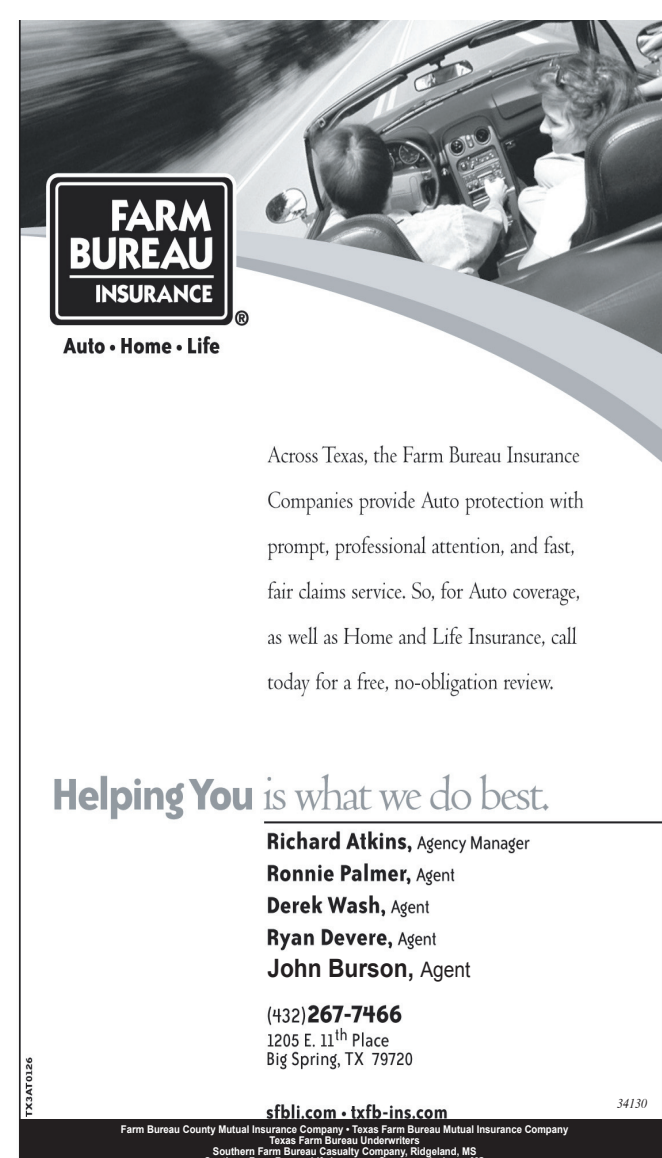
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Indeed, the reason for every season

What a wonderful time of year the Christmas season is ... the parties, parades, carols, the gathering of families and giving and getting of all those gifts. There's absolutely no surprise that most people will tell you this is their favorite time of the year.

But enjoying what is for most of us our favorite time of the year, we need to remember the "reason for the season."

Every year on Dec. 25 we Christians celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, we know there are a great many "educated" people who want to remind us that the winter solstice has been a celebrated pagan holiday since time immemorial.

Some Christians are even ready each year to remind us that Dec. 25 wasn't the date of Christ's birth. And that's true. The date of Dec. 25, roughly corresponding to the date of the winter solstice, was chosen as the "traditional" birthday of Jesus by early Christians for no other reason than to appease pagan tribesmen. The Christmas tree, the Yule log, the wreath and countless other Christmas traditions come directly from pagan celebrations and ceremony.

But that makes little difference today.

Christmas is not a few days off from school or work. It is not the giving and receiving of material gifts. The true meaning of Christmas is not even found in the opportunity for families to come together and fellowship.

It isn't found in Dickens' a "Christmas Carol," the songs about "Frosty the Snowman" or "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" or even in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" penned by good old Dr. Seuss.

All of those things have become Christmas traditions and we should cherish them.

What we must not forget, once again, is that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ.

We Christians know why that is important. The real reason for the season is to remember what His immaculate birth represents for all of us.

Yes, we believe that Jesus is the reason for the season. More importantly, we think, He is the reason for every season.

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

"Is there a Santa Claus?" is the question Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip F. O'Hanlon, put to the editor of the (New York) Sun in September, 1897. Her Letter was received by Edward P. Mitchell, who turned it over to his associate, Francis Pharcelius Church, to answer.

With some reluctance Mr. Church undertook the assignment. The product of his fine nature, mellow wisdom and sound craftsmanship was the editorial article "Is there a Santa Claus?" — the most famous editorial article that has ever been written. It first appeared in The New York Sun in 1897 and has since been produced in every conceivable form, in every quarter of the globe.

The publication of Virginia's question and Francis Pharcelius Church's response is an annual tradition at the Herald. We hope you enjoy it.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor:
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus!

You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you every see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what make the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

ADDRESSES

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• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
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20510-4305

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Home: 263-2566.

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• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
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A heartfelt Christmas card for you

signed Christmas cards the other night. There's something kind of special about writing "Merry Christmas" over and over that helps me get in the holiday spirit. At least until I get bleary eyed. To those of you who receive a "Mary Chrissmus" card from the Bull McClellan family, I apologize. It wasn't an attempt at humor. It was writer's cramp. And it's not that you were among the last on the list, either. It's just that... Well OK, it is because you were last on the list. But hey, at least you were on the list. Lucky you, huh?



BILL McCLELLAN

Actually, no one can send a card to everyone, I don't care how cheap the Dollar Store has marked them down. At 42 cents per stamp... well, some of you just aren't worth it. But if you didn't get a card from me, don't assume I didn't send you one. Blame the post office. Everybody does.

Seriously, signing those cards gave me a moment to reflect on some things and I decided that what I would do is just write a Christmas card column here, for all of you. Sort of a Merry Christmas from Bull, err, Bill.

First, the obvious... Merry Christmas.

I hope your Christmas is every-

thing you want it to be. I hope you get whatever you wish for except woofers for your car stereo system.

Mostly, I wish for you a spirit of joy. If I could personally give you anything, it would be a smile on your face and peace in your heart.

Mainly, I hope you have a wonderful time experiencing those things that are not material. Those opportunities where you pause long enough to hold the door open for someone, carry packages or groceries out to a car for a stranger, wave another motorist toward that parking place right near the door. That last one's a tough one, I know.

I hope you'll sing your favorite carols out loud whether you can keep a tune or not, shout "Merry Christmas!" to someone you don't know and pour a cup of eggnog for a new friend.

I hope you'll place work aside. Take a reprieve from worrying about the bills, put off the wash and the ironing, wait before you rake the leaves from the yard. Take some time to relax and enjoy what's going on around you, even if it's just for a few hours. If it means telling loved one, "Get off your rear and get your own piece of pumpkin pie," then do it — in a Christmasy way, of course.

I wish for you the spirit of giving. Place a dollar in a kettle, buy an extra toy for a child you don't know or purchase a warm robe for an elderly person you

may never meet. Because no matter how much or little you have, sharing it with others gives you the greatest feeling in the world.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to thank your maker that you live where you live and savor the freedoms you have. Give thanks that while you are enjoying your holiday meal, opening gifts and treasuring the smiles on the faces of your children or grandchildren, somewhere your brothers and sisters are under fire, crawling on their bellies through the rubble of a bombed out building in a hostile land they barely know. Celebrate a little extra for them. They — and their comrades before them — are the reason we live in a land where celebrating Christmas is a choice we make, and not one that someone makes for us.

Finally, I wish for you the joy and happiness of celebrating what Christians call the true reason for the season — the birth of Christ. We consider the Lord's gift the greatest gift of all — and I couldn't and wouldn't wish for you any letter gift than that.

Have a wonderful, wonderful Christmas.

**THE McCLELLANS
BILL, DIXIE, SKEETER & CHASE**

Bill McClellan is the Herald news editor. He can be reached at (432) 263-7331, ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

A SHORT PRAYER

Thank you Lord, for your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

COLLEGE BOWL FORECAST

Games
through
Dec. 30



Jonathan Hull



Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Tim Larson



Tim Knox

Wake Forest vs. Navy
Colorado St. vs. Fresno St.
Memphis vs. South Florida
BYU vs. Arizona
Southern Miss vs. Troy
Boise State vs. TCU
Hawaii vs. Notre Dame
Fla. Atlantic vs. C. Michigan
West Va. vs. North Carolina
Wisconsin vs. Florida State
Miami, Fla. vs. Cal
Northern Illinois vs. La Tech
NC State vs. Rutgers
Missouri vs. Northwestern
Maryland vs. Nevada
Western Michigan vs. Rice
Oklahoma State vs. Oregon

Wake
CSU
USF
Arizona
~~Troy~~
TCU
Notre Dame
CMU
WVU
Florida St.
Miami
NIU
Rutgers
Mizzou
Nevada
Rice
Oklahoma St.

Wake
Fresno-St.
USF
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TCU
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CMU
WVU
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Oklahoma St.

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Mizzou
Maryland
Rice
Oklahoma St.

Record to date

4-1

3-2

0-5

2-3

2-3

2-3

3-2



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- ♪ Weddings
- ♪ Anniversaries
- ♪ Quinceañeras
- ♪ Get-Togethers
- ♪ Funerals

Any Special Occasion or Request

15347

HAWAII

Continued from Page 1B

Gray gone

Backup cornerback Gary Gray, who had an interception in the regular-season finale against USC, did not make the trip because of personal

reasons.

Gray has been a regular contributor in his sophomore season, playing in all but three games. He has 15 tackles and two interceptions.

Weis said Gray had to go home and wouldn't comment on the player's future at Notre Dame.

"He's home right now, so we'll have to wait and see what happens, but he had to go home," Weis said. "Right now, I'm trying to get through this game. I can't be worrying about Gary who's not here right now. I'm worry about the guys that are here right now."

The Irish, however, will have starting cornerback Terrail Lambert back after he missed three games with a knee injury.

"It's almost like a trade off," Weis said. "We've been playing without Lambert for the last few games. Now, we have him back. I would've liked to have both of them here. But the fact that we have Lambert back, that gives us the extra player at the corner position. We're OK."

Holiday surgery

Weis, who has been using crutches to walk around because of bad knees, said he'll need to have his right-knee replacement surgery next Monday.

"The right one is actually worse than the left one," he said.

Weis said he hopes to be back on his feet very shortly after surgery to get going on recruiting.

Near sellout

David Matlin, executive director of the Hawaii Bowl, said nearly 42,000 tickets have been sold for the Hawaii Bowl. The Warriors haven't sold out 50,000-seat Aloha Stadium all season.

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star wars set.
Lane

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2nd. & 3rd Grade
Coahoma Elementary

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Jaedan

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Chance

Dear Santa,
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Matt

Dear Santa,
I want a black psp and I would

Dear Santa,

Can you get me a radio with CD's and a whole collection of Cam Jansen books. Please!

Micah

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I want a computer and games. I want a roller coaster pony and a good Christmas.

Ariel

What I want is a TV.

Shaundra

knife.

Ethan

Tia

Dear Santa,

My name is Victoria and I want a puppy, a cupcake baker oven, a phone, a laptop and a lock for my locker. Have a merry Christmas.

Love, Victoria

Dear Santa,

I wish I could have a Ben Ten Alien force game and a game boy and a TV.

Asia

Dear Santa,

I would like A DVD player and I would like a new game.

Joseph

Dear Santa,

I want a baby alive that goes potty and some clothes. I want Bitty twins the changing table and the stroller and three outlets for a tv for my room. I want some high hills and a baby doll that comes with a pacifier and a bottle and some clothes. I want a mp3 player some jewelry, and a really soft blanket. I want a Barbie house and Barbie stuff.

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I want two new 4-wheelers and a new wallet and a pocket

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This is what I want for Christmas: D.S. games, wii games, scary movies, American doll and American doll clothes, and a new backpack with peace signs on it.

Mckinna

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is an ipod and a lego

Dear Santa,

What I want is a pony and Barbie with a boat.

Hannah

Dear Santa,

I would like to have an ipod, xbox 360, iphone, playstation, and nintendo ds. And don't forget I'm really looking forward to this Christmas and I do believe in you and I love you.

Sydney

Dear Santa,

I love you and I am sorry for the way I act. I want a nintendo ds and games.

McKenzi

Dear Santa,

I want a black psp and I would

Dear Santa,

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- Operating and maintaining production equipment
- Conducting on-lease activities making minor repairs and adjustments as needed
- Assuring that all leases are operating within regulatory compliance
- Providing vacation relief for Lease Operators as needed
- Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field near Westbrook, Tx

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By **TRELLIS LUCAS**
Special to the Herald

Our pets seem to like the cold brisk days of winter, but there are some things we need to be aware of to make cold weather safer and more comfortable for pets.

If your dog or cat spends most of its time outdoors, it needs a warm weather-proof area, to escape the cold and wet. A dog house

Tips from Animal Control

should be just large enough for the animal to stand and stretch and turn around in. It should have a thick layer of old blankets or straw for the animal to curl up in.

The house should be placed in an area that

is protected from wind and rain, if possible. A source of clean water is as important in cold weather as in hot weather. Water bowls need to be checked and refilled often, especially if temperatures are cold enough to freeze the water.

Keeping fresh water available in winter can be a challenge, but there are several types of heated water containers on the market. Whatever type you decide on, check it often to make sure water is available for your pet. It's a lovely scene — a

dog or cat sleeping contentedly in front of the fireplace. Animals are drawn to a cozy fire just as we are, but it can be a safety hazard. Make sure you have a sturdy fire screen to prevent them getting too close and that pet beds are out of the range of sparks. A flying spark can cause a burned pet, or at the very worst a house fire.

If you use a space heater, make sure it is tip proof, and in an area away from wagging tails and curious noses. A baby gate to keep animals out of the area is the safest way to use one.

Older dogs and cats and very young puppies and kittens can be affected by cold much quicker than a mature healthy animal. If they get wet and chilled, they should be brought inside and dried and kept in a warm place.

Older and younger pets should be given a bit more attention and care in winter to keep them healthy. This can help them resist the normal winter ills, such as Kennel Cough, Canine Flu and Rhino Virus.

Should you get your pet a coat or sweater? Some breeds and types of dogs can benefit from wearing a coat or sweater when going out in cold weather. Many of the toy breeds that are kept inside do not grow a heavy coat, and wearing a coat or sweater can make going outdoors more enjoyable.

Some of the toy breeds such as Chihuahuas, Dachshunds Chinese



Crested, Italian Greyhounds can get cold very quick. These types of small dogs usually appreciate the added warmth of a sweater or coat and can become quite the little Prima Donna showing off in their winter duds.

Some of the larger breeds, like the Greyhound, Whippet and Doberman Pinscher who have a slender build with less body fat, also do well wearing a coat or sweater. This type of dog has what is called a single coat, meaning that they don't have the dense fluffy undercoat that double-coated breeds have. Without this extra layer of fluffy hair, they don't have the protection from the cold, especially on windy wet days.

There are all types and style of doggie wear

available now, in many sizes. A coat or sweater should fit comfortably and not interfere with the dog's movement and cover the back from neck to base of the tail. It should cover the chest and tummy area.

There are also many types of dog boots and some dogs adjust to wearing boots very well — after all, they are very smart, and warm dry feet is much better than cold wet feet.

With a little extra care and planning, our pets can enjoy the winter weather and stay healthy and happy.

Stop those litters — spay those critters.

If you have any questions about pets or animal regulations in Big Spring, contact Animal Control at AC@big-springpd.net

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Little-known holiday facts

I enjoy studying our different holidays to see if I can find some unknown facts. For instance, the celebration of Christmas has changed throughout the years. Many of today's Christmas traditions were celebrated centuries before the birth of Jesus. Let's review a few.

The custom of gift-giving on Christmas goes back to Roman festivals. The very first gifts were simple items such as twigs from a sacred grove as good luck emblems. Soon that escalated to food, small items of jewelry, candles and statues of local gods.

To the early Church, gift-giving at this time was a pagan holdover and therefore severely frowned upon. However, people would not give it up and some justification was found in the original gift giving of the Magi.

By the Middle Ages gift giving was accepted. Before then, it was more common to exchange gifts on New Year's Day or Twelfth Night.

Singing carols at Christmas is of English origin. During the Middle Ages, groups of serenaders called waits would travel around from

house to house singing ancient carols and spreading the holiday spirit. Most of the popular old carols we sing today were written in the 19th century.

The hanging of greens, such as holly and ivy, is a British winter tradition with origins far before the Christian era. Greenery was used to lift sagging winter spirits and remind the people that spring was not far away.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe is descended from ancient Druid rites. The decorating of Christmas trees, though primarily a German custom, has been widely popular in England since 1841 when Prince Albert had a Christmas tree set up in Windsor Castle for his wife Queen Victoria, and their children.

The word wassail is derived from the Anglo-Saxon phrase "waes hael," which means "good health." Originally, wassail was a beverage made of mulled ale, curdled cream, roasted apples, nuts, eggs, and spices. It was served for the purpose of enhancing the general merriment of the season.

Like many of the ancient customs, wassailing has a legend to explain its origin. It seems that a beautiful Saxon maiden named Rowena presented Prince Vortigen with a bowl of wine while toasting him with the words "Waes hael."



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Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, Jan 15, 2009, for the purchase of **Fleet Vehicles.**
At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.
This project consists of supply and delivery of 10 pickups & 1 Sport Utility Vehicle. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 406 E.23rd Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721 during normal business hours.
Inquiries regarding equipment specifications are to be directed to **John Womack, Field Operation Superintendent,** telephone (432) 267-6341, email: jew@crmw.d.org, #6011 December 18 & 24, 2008 and January 1, 2009

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Sagittarius moon is an expedient travel companion. This bodes well for those trying to get to their distant loved ones on Christmas Eve. The greater number of people journeying will only make the facilitators of travel bridge the distance with greater efficiency. Capricorn sun appreciates all who honor the tradition of togetherness.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It probably feels like you're in a holding pattern, although your mind is busily sorting life out on many levels. You'll have the brightest ideas while in transit, especially as you travel the night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The supposed difficulty you face in a family scenario is merely a guidepost. Endure learning this lesson for the useful knowledge it instills. Think about what this represents instead of what is actually happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Coming to terms with circumstances will be a crucial step in your holiday celebration. Twinkling lights, good food and well-intended family make it easy for you to let go of strife. The peace in your heart is felt by all around you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A thorough search of your attic uncovers a pre-

viously overlooked treasure. It was highly valued long ago and was securely stored for safekeeping. You will know when you find it. To keep it or to sell it is your next decision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Stay uncomplicated. Don't let superfluous details throw you off-track. The simplistic view may not encompass all of the nuances that affect your situation, but it doesn't matter. All is taken care of as you focus on your No. 1 goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're considering a change of habit as the end of the year grows nigh, though you're not yet ready. For now, imagine with all of your senses how you will feel once you finally go for it. With each vision, you grow bolder.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your dreams may be filled with travel, excitement and adventure, but your reality is even more riveting. You may not even realize how interesting your life really is until someone comments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A new venture is the perfect fit for you, although it may not seem that way at first. Ask more questions and follow up so as not to let a miscommunication keep you from a truly interesting opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Searching for love? You will know you have met a new sweetheart when you feel a confident sense of yourself at the introduction. At first you may wonder if

stronger feelings will grow. Stay strong and they will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been promising enough lately and it's time to do things your way. Others will be comforted by your firm sense of what you want and need from them. Lead and they will comply.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone may be flaunting his or her success. Drive envy from your focus by congratulating a winning competitor and showing sincere respect. This act is an unmistakable sign of your maturity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You receive cryptic messages via print or conversation. If you cannot unravel it alone, bounce the ideas around with someone intuitive -- like your mother or a Cancer.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Because of the mix of religion in my household, the holidays are weird and every year they keep getting weirder. I'm half-Jewish. My husband is Catholic. My daughter now tells me she's a Buddhist. Everyone is coming to my house this year including my mother, who is 'born again,' and my father, who keeps kosher. How do I pull it all off in a PC fashion and make everyone happy? Signed, Open-minded Aquarius."

In the spirit of the Sagittarian moon, it might benefit you to think of your family as tourists visiting a foreign country -- the country of you. Most people, when they visit a foreign country, do not

get offended when the natives don't speak their language. The whole point of travel is to broaden your horizons. Sure, it's nice to have an embassy where people can stop if they run into trouble adjusting. But for the most part your family has gathered at your place because they want to be together in the spirit and style of the atmosphere you naturally create around yourself. So other than providing a few kosher meals, you don't need to worry about making anyone happy. Just make yourself happy and they will follow suit. In short, it's your house and it's your rules.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ryan Seacrest was a wonderful early Christmas present to his mother and father, and as he reportedly earns \$32 million a year doing what he loves, he continues to make them proud. Capricorns often begin their career paths earlier than others and this is also true of Seacrest, who hosted the morning announcements in high school and interned at a radio station at 15 years old.

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. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My boyfriend, "Dennis," and I were friends for seven years before we became a couple. A few nights ago, during a normal conversation, he suddenly said he was really annoyed with my questions. He said he couldn't believe I needed to ask about things "even a person of average intelligence would know."

Annie, I work at a university, hold a master's degree and consider myself very intelligent. The meanness Dennis used to express his annoyance is what worries me. After his initial outburst, I tried to change the subject, but he immediately went back to complaining that my questions were not intelligent.

I felt attacked. Dennis apologized the following day, using as an excuse the fact that he's been under stress, but it struck me as emotionally abusive. We rarely fight or exchange unpleasant words, but his mean streak showed up once before, and now I worry what will happen when we marry. I'm thinking about calling off the engagement. Am I overreacting? -- Worried

Dear Worried: A major component of a good marriage is respect for your partner. It doesn't sound as if Dennis thinks very highly of your intellect. It is, of course, possible that you are asking too many questions altogether and Dennis simply became exasperated. Review your conversation and decide whether you may have been partly at fault. If not, please get premarital counseling before taking the next step.

Dear Annie: I am a 25-year-old single mother of two. I live in a home that my mother purchased to get my son and me out of a bad situation.

My dilemma is that my parents are very religious and go to church twice on Sundays. I have come to realize that I no longer



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

want to be a part of the church. I believe God is everywhere and loves everyone. I just don't want to be a part of a church that feels like a cult to me.

I don't know how to tell my mother I no longer wish to go with her on Sundays. I'm afraid it will break her heart and that she will ask me to leave the house she owns. I feel hypocritical attending church, but I don't want to hurt anyone. -- Confused Christian

Dear Confused: This is one of those things you should be honest about, although you don't have to hit your mother over the head with it. Simply say, with great sincerity and regret, that you are uncomfortable attending this particular church.

If she questions you about your decision, be prepared to answer truthfully. Of course, you must be willing to take your lumps, even if that means moving out of the house.

Dear Annie: "Susie in Texas" thinks people without health insurance have chosen to live off of others instead of pulling their own weight. I don't have health insurance, but I don't live off of Susie or anyone else. When I go to the doctor, I pay cash at the time of treatment.

I don't have health insurance because the best plan I could find costs \$239 a month and comes with a \$6,000 deductible. That means before I get any coverage,

I'm out \$8,868. On the other hand, when I go to the doctor (for considerably less), I get a discount for paying cash. It doesn't make financial sense for me to buy health insurance (it amounts to 25 percent of my income -- too much for me), and I'm not the only one who finds the cost excessive.

I've been lucky not to be terribly ill, but if it were to happen, I'd probably just suffer rather than use all my resources to stay alive. And I certainly wouldn't want to use up Susie's assistance. Thank you for pointing out to her that it is a complicated issue. -- Cam in Washington

Dear Cam: We understand how expensive insurance can be, but some people have found that catastrophic insurance, which covers only major illness and hospitalization, suits their needs. You might look into it.

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.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Meats

Top Sirloin Steak Family Pack \$1.99/lb <small>Limit 4 thereafter \$2.19/lb</small>	Boston Butt Pork Shoulder 2pc Pkg 99¢	New York Steak Family Pack \$3.99/lb <small>Limit 4 thereafter \$4.19/lb</small>
Beef Tripe Block Family Pack 99¢/lb	Ramirez Masa 5lb pkg \$3.49 ea	Hillshire Farm Smoke Sausage 2 for \$5 <small>All Varieties 1lb pkg</small>
Chicken Tenderloin Family Pack \$1.69/lb	Hormel Black Label Sliced Bacon 2 for \$5 <small>Select Varieties 1lb pack</small>	Shurfine Cocktail Smokies 2 for \$5 <small>14oz</small>
Hormel Little Sizzlers Links or Patties Regular or Hot 2 for \$3 <small>10-12oz pkg</small>	Cooks Shank Portion Bone In Ham 89¢/lb	Pig Feet 99¢/lb

Dairy & Frozen

Plains Egg Nog 2 for \$4 <small>Quart</small>	Shurfine Cream Cheese 99¢ <small>Original or 1/3 Less Fat 8oz</small>	Red Diamond Tea Select Varieties Gallon \$2.29
Shurfine Sour Cream 16oz 2 for \$3 <small>All Natural</small>	Shurfine Whipped Topping 59¢ <small>Select Varieties 8oz</small>	Shurfine Regular Pie Crust 5 for \$5 <small>2ct. 12oz in pan</small>
Mrs. Smith Pie Select Varieties 27oz 2 for \$6 <small>Pumpkin Pie</small>	Plains Dips 2 for \$3 <small>Select Varieties 12oz.</small>	T.G.I. Friday's Appetizers 2 for \$6 <small>Potato Skins Varieties 7.6-12oz</small>

Deli

Pork Spare Ribs \$2.99/lb <small>Fully Cooked Rotisserie Style</small>	Whole Chicken \$3.99 ea <small>Fully Cooked Rotisserie Style Limit 4</small>	Fresh Menudo \$3.99 qt
French Bread 99¢ ea	Pound Cake Assorted \$3.99 ea	Red Rind Cheese \$2.99/lb <small>Deli-Style</small>

Grocery Specials

Duncan Hines Cake Mixes 15.7-18.25oz 2 for \$1.99	Gladiola Cornbread Mix Yellow or White 3 for \$1	Gold Medal Flour 5lb Bag Regular or Unbleached 2 for \$3
Folger Coffee Regular Only \$5.99 <small>33.9oz</small>	Shurfine Saltine Crackers 16oz Reg. Only 99¢	C&H Granulated Sugar 4lb Bag 2 for \$3
Lay's / Wavy Lay's 10.5-11oz, Select Varieties Reg. \$3.99 Buy One Get One FREE	Shurfine Blackeye Peas 3 for \$1 <small>Fresh Shelled or with Snaps 15oz</small>	Shurfine Blackeye Peas 3 for \$1 <small>Dried 1lb</small>
Shursaving Vegetable Oil 43oz \$1.99	General Mills Cheerios 2 for \$3 <small>Whole grain 14oz</small>	Hawaiian Punch Fruit Juicy Red 99¢ <small>64oz</small>
Wolf Chili Regular Only 15oz Can 99¢	Hershey's Standard Candy Bars 3 for \$1	

Produce

Apples Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, or Granny Smith 79¢/lb	Yellow Onions Medium & Large 2 lb for \$1	Barkers Chili Pods Extra Hot, Mild, Hot, Medium Hot 8oz pk 2 for \$5
Navel Oranges Extra Large 79¢/lb	Eat Smart Tray Vegetable, Meat, Cheese With Dip 38oz \$14.99 ea	Premium Corn Husk For Tamales 11lb Pack \$4.99 ea
Baby Peeled Carrots 1lb pkts 99¢ ea	Eat Smart Vegetable Tray with Dip 2.5lb \$9.99 ea	

Drinks

Dr. Pepper or Pepsi Assorted 12pk Cans Limit 4 thereafter \$3.29 4 for \$12	Budweiser Regular or Light \$17.99 <small>24 pk LN BTLS Limit 4</small>	Coors Regular or Light \$17.99 <small>24 pk LN BTLS Limit 4</small>
Miller Lite \$17.99 <small>24 pk LN BTLS Limit 4</small>	We Now Sell Gift Cards	

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	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Israel	BBC Business	Man vs. Wild	Prancer, Cloris Leachman	Never Say Never Again, Barbara Carrera	Raider	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Movie: The Santa Clause
6 :PM :30	Entertain Fortuna	Jeopardy!	Pelicula: Jesús, el Niño Dios, Luis Alarcón	Two Men Bones	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Prophecy Hagee	News-Lehrer	Man vs. Wild			Movie: Spider-Man, Kirsten Dunst	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Williamson	Movie: The Santa Clause 2
7 :PM :30	Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe	Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe			Christine Gary	Pelicula: Pepe, Shirley Jones	Movie: It's a Wonderful Life, Lionel Barrymore	Movie: A Christmas Story	Israel Scott	Christmas-Mor	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory		Movie: Die Another Day, Toby Stephens		
8 :PM :30				Bones	Criminal Minds				Light of the Southwest	Christmas at Luther	Man vs. Wild			Movie: Spider-Man, Kirsten Dunst	Brother Cole	Wizards of Life De
9 :PM :30			Noche Buena	TMZ Raymond	CSI: NY			Movie: A Christmas Story	Israel Dr. Young	Charlie Rose	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory			Brother Cole	Wizards of Life De
10 :PM :30	Family Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News	Noticiero	News		CCM	Smiley	Man vs. Wild				Brother Cole	Wizards of Life De
11 :PM :30	Christmas Eve	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Misa de Gallo del Papa	Law Order: CI	Voices of Christmas	Decisiones	River Parade	Movie: A Christmas Story	Israel Scott	Smiley	Man vs. Wild			Movie: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Williamson	Movie: So Flaven Cory
12 :AM :30	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve		RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	(:35) Christmas Eve Mass 2008		Israel Sanchez	(Off Air)	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Prancer, Cloris Leachman				Movie: Replace Kim
1 :AM :30	Lights Festival	(:06) Extra Light	Navidad en Viena	Friends Paid	Entertain Paid	Pelicula: La	HEB Parade	Movie: A Christmas	Light of the Southwest		Man vs. Wild			Law & Order	The Deal	Emperor Dragon

DENNIS THE MENACE



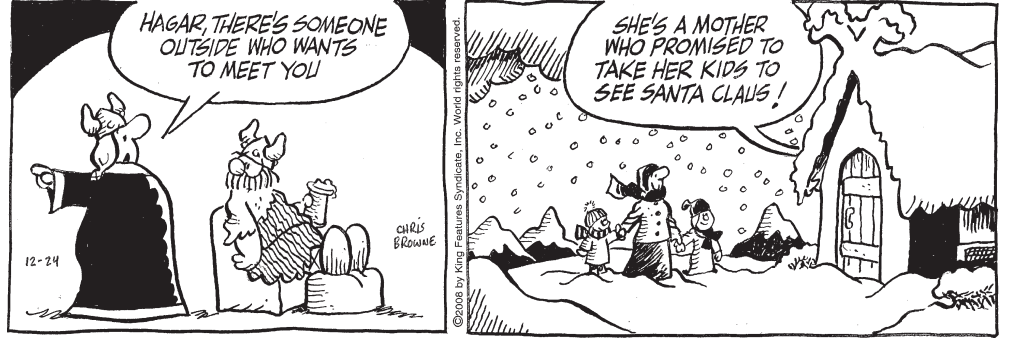
"REMEMBER, RUFF... DON'T BARK AT SANTA, OR HE WON'T LEAVE YOU ANY TREATS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

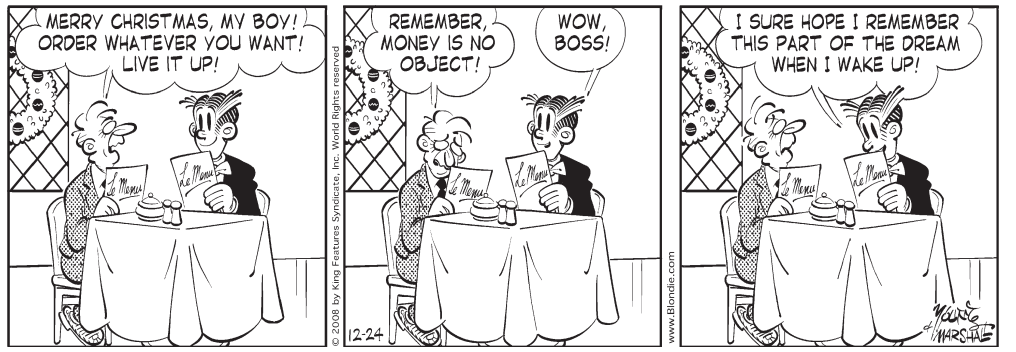


"Don't you wish we lived in Australia, Mommy. It's already Christmas there."

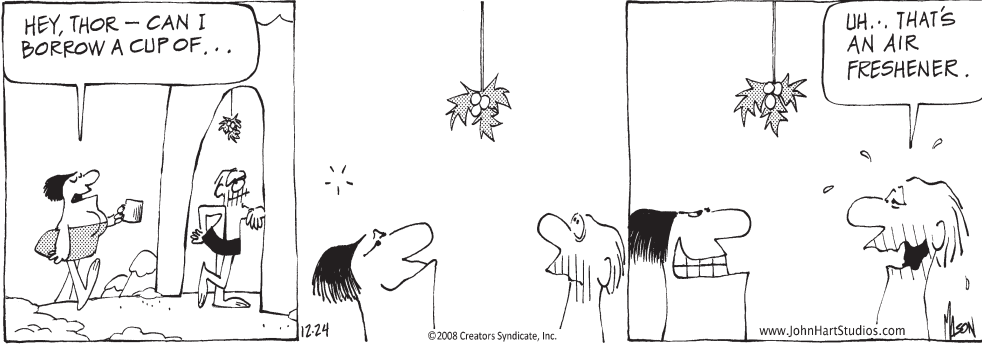
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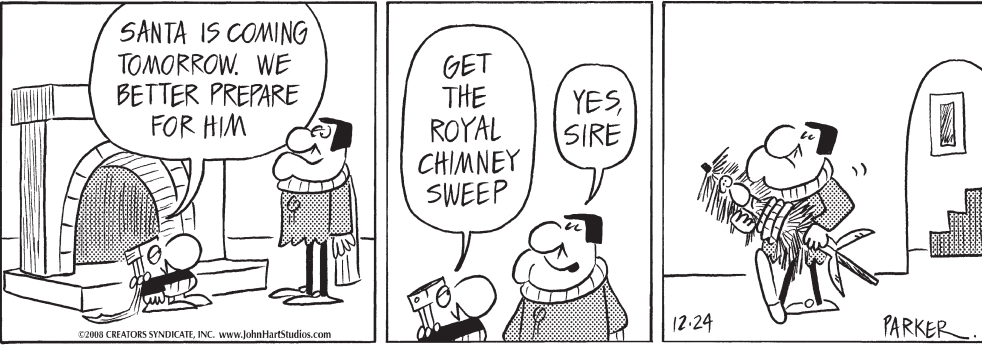
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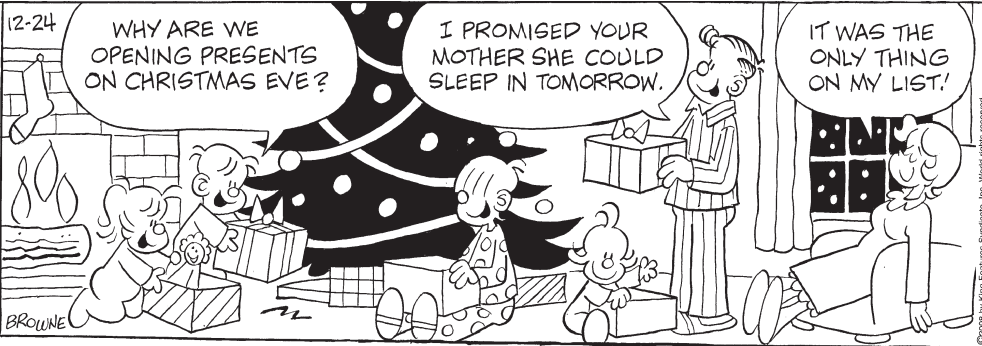
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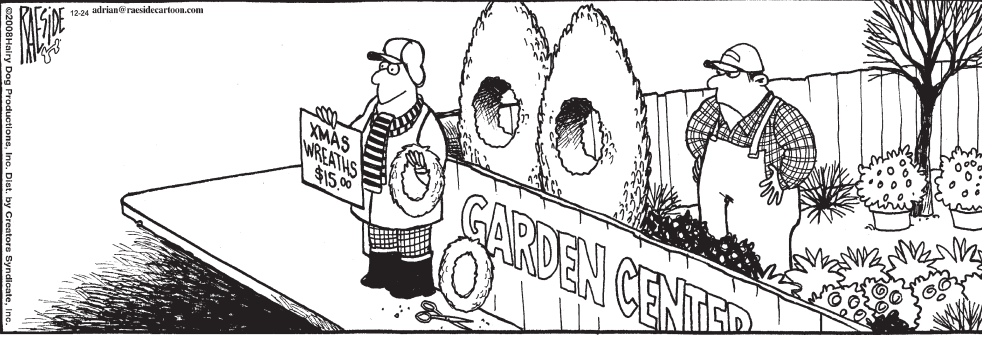
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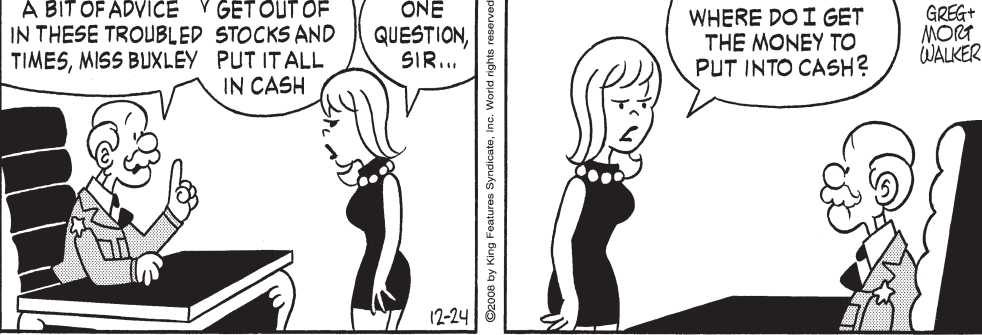
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2008. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast that featured live images of Earth.

On this date: In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski,

Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1908, citing morality concerns, New York Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. temporarily closed the city's movie theaters. (The action gave rise to creation of a motion picture censorship board.)

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC-TV.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds, one second for each day of captivity.

In 1993, the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, who blended Christian and psychiatric principles into a message of "positive thinking," died in Pawling, N.Y., at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave

Bartholomew is 88. Author Mary Higgins Clark is 81. Federal health administrator Anthony S. Fauci is 68. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 64. Actor Grand L. Bush is 53. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 53. Designer Kate Spade is 46. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 45. Actor Mark Valley is 44. Actor Friedrich Bader is 42. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 38. Singer Ricky Martin is 37. "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest is 34.

Thought for Today: "Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." — The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993).

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Answer to previous puzzle

TECH	TRAP	FITCH
HABA	VILE	IDAHO
ATAD	RPMS	BOXIN
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STATION	ORS	
CRAM	DOTS	RIO
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MPS	DIMS	CORE
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FLEET	OFF	FOOT
LAPSE	EARL	VARY
EMITS	EDGE	ATOP
EPCOT	DEER	NEST

Newsday Crossword

SOME OF THE GUYS by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 61 Fernando's farewell | 10 Henchman | 38 Metric prefix |
| 1 Birds of New Zealand | 63 Enjoy a feast | 11 Midwest airport | 41 Villain's work |
| 6 Pig chow | 64 Jab playfully | 12 Asks for ID | 44 Snoozes |
| 10 Slug | 65 Happy tunes | 13 Warm welcome | 45 Film spectacular |
| 14 Royal decree | 66 Tackles' neighbors | 22 Long-armed animals | 47 Expires, as a policy |
| 15 Twist | 67 Really raced | 23 Nonswimmer, maybe | 49 It turns litmus blue |
| 16 Asian cuisine | 68 Slacker | 25 Return of the Jedi girl | 50 Ate heartily |
| 17 Oktoberfest tune | | 27 IOU | 51 Correct |
| 18 District | DOWN | 28 Drifter | 52 Widely known |
| 19 Outrigger gear | 1 Military cap | 29 Author Jong | 53 Oriental-art stone |
| 20 Under the weather | 2 Role model | 30 Small container | 54 Gunk |
| 21 "You'll see!" | 3 Determination | 33 Puritanical | 55 Music player, for short |
| 24 Bread-seed source | 4 "Ugh!" | 34 Monthly payment | 57 Big handbag |
| 26 Wise ones | 5 Postage | 35 Leather item | 58 Former UN member |
| 27 Pick | 6 Hair-raising | 36 Iowa city | 62 Accomplished |
| 29 Get away from | 7 Skulk about | | |
| 31 Coyote's plaint | 8 City near Provo | | |
| 32 Brownie | 9 Isn't serious about | | |
| 34 Cops' org. | | | |
| 37 Load-bearing girder | | | |
| 39 Estuary | | | |
| 40 Change the length of | | | |
| 42 Rocky peak | | | |
| 43 Eaves hanger | | | |
| 46 Field mouse | | | |
| 47 Andes beast | | | |
| 48 Wields a brush | | | |
| 50 ___ with (handled) | | | |
| 52 Monsieur's daughter | | | |
| 53 Aerobic exercise | | | |
| 56 Heat unit: Abbr. | | | |
| 59 Census data | | | |
| 60 Grad | | | |

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