

## **Robberies mark weekend**

### **By THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A trio of aggravated robberies during the holiday weekend have investigators with the Big Spring Police Department searching for suspects, as two local motels and a local woman were targeted by people with similar descriptions.

According to BSPD Lt. Terry Chamness, the first report came Christmas Day from the Quality Inn in the 300 block of Tulane.

"A male suspect approached

the motel clerk wanting a room for the night," said Chamness. "At that time he produced what appeared to be the barrel of a gun and demanded money. The clerk complied and the suspect made away on foot."

The suspect was described

as a Hispanic male with a full ficials. beard, wearing a black beanie hat, a black jacket and blue jeans.

No injuries were reported as a result of the crime, and the assailant made away with an undetermined amount of cash, according to police of-

The second robbery, according to Chamness, occurred in the parking lot of the 7-Eleven convenience store located on the corner of Owens and Third Street the following

See ROBBERIES, Page 3



AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

Lelia LaRue shows her father, George Francis, a copy of the morning newspaper with President-elect Barack Obama on the front page, at a Sacramento, Calif. nursing home. Francis, the nation's oldest man who lived through both world wars, man's first walk on

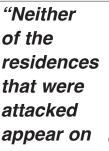
## Suspects sought in pair of local drive-by shootings

### By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Investigators with the Big Spring Police Department are searching for a suspect believed to be responsible for a pair of shootings Saturday evening that sent a local man to the emergency room.

According to BSPD Lt. Terry Chamness, the first report of deadly conduct - discharge of a firearm was received at approximately 8:05 p.m. Saturday from the 100 block of Canyon.

"We received a report of shots fired," said Chamness. "It was a drive-by shooting and the suspect used a shotgun. No injuries were reported as a result of the shooting. Officers were able to get a de-





the PD's list of known gangrelated residences. so these shootings aren't believed to be gang related at this time."

if he was struck by the shot from the shotgun or if it was glass from the window, but it didn't penetrate. He was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he was conscious and talking to officers."

the moon and got to vote for the first black president, has died. He was 112.

## **Oldest man in the states** dies in Sacramento at 112

### **By JASON DEAREN**

Associated Press Writer

SANFRANCISCO-George Francis, the nation's oldest man, who lived through both world wars, man's first walk on the moon and the election of the first black president, has died. He was 112.

Francis died Saturday of congestive heart failure at a nursing home in Sacramento, his son, Anthony Francis, said Sunday.

"He lived four years in the 19th century, 100 years in the 20th century, and 8 years in the 21st century. We call him the man of three centuries," said the younger Francis, 81.

UCLA gerontologist Dr. Stephen Coles, who maintains a list of the world's oldest people, said Francis lived 112 years and 204 days.

With Francis' death, Walter Breuning of Montana, who is 112 years, 98 days old, becomes the country's oldest living man. At 114, Gertrude Baines of Los Angeles is the nation's oldest living person. The world's oldest person is Maria de Jesus of Portugal, who is 115 years, 109 days old, and the oldest

See OLDEST, Page 3

scription of the vehicle, however."

And while the search for the vehicle used in the shooting got under way, Chamness said the gunman turned up less than 30 minutes later, involved in a second shooting.

"The second shooting was reported in the 1100 block of Lancaster at approximately 8:29 p.m.," said Chamness. "This was also a drive-by shooting. A vehicle drove by the residence and opened fire on a vehicle where three people were sitting listening to music.

"One of the occupants of the vehicle, a 22-year-old male, was struck in the head. We're not sure at this time

Chamness said descriptions of the vehicle used in the second shooting were similar to the first.

"It's believed the same vehicle was used in both shootings," said Chamness. "Neither of the residences that were attacked appear on the PD's list of known gangrelated residences, so these shootings aren't believed to be gang related at this time." Chamness declined to com-

See SHOOTINGS, Page 3



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HOME

DELIVERY

## Nearly 200,000 without power in Michigan

### **By DAVID RUNK**

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT - Crews were working to restore electricity to nearly 200,000 Michigan homes and businesses early Monday, a day after strong winds knocked down tree limbs and power lines, while residents in parts of the Northwest braced for another winter storm.

Meanwhile, flood warnings were posted throughout the Midwest as temperatures rose after a week of heavy snowfall. Forecasters said flooding was possible in areas of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and northwest Ohio.

Winter storm warnings were issued throughout the Northwest, which has been hammered by storms in recent weeks. The National Weather Service said northeastern Washington and the Idaho panhandle could expect 3 to 7 inches of new snow in the valleys, and 6 to 10 inches in the mountains through Monday evening.

In Michigan, winds gusting more than 60 mph knocked out power Sunday as temperatures dropped back into the 20s and 30s. Parts of the state also got about 4 inches of snow.

"We've had an intensifying storm system track northeast through the state," said Mark Sekelsky, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids. "As that storm intensified, it brought the

See POWER, Page 3





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**LOCAL VIEWS** COMPLETE STORY

### LOCAL

## **Obituaries**

### Camilo 'C.R.' Rocha Chavez Sr.



Camilo "C.R." Rocha Chavez Sr., 87, of Midland, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29, 2008 at the St. Stephens Catholic Church with the Rev. Frank Chavez, his son, officiating. Interment will follow at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

A rosary service was held Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Chapel and Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at 7 p.m. at St. Stephens Catholic Church.

He was born July 18, 1921, in Martindale and married Macaria Arguello Oct. 18, 1947, in Big Spring.

While serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, his specialty was being an auto mechanic, and was qualified on a sharpshooter rifle on July 5, 1943. Camilo served in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns. He was awarded the Bronze Arrowhead to EAME Campaign Medal, the American Theater Campaign Medal, EAME Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, a Victory Ribbon, one Service Stripe and three Overseas Service Bars. After serving, he worked for the Department of the Air Force (Civil Service) at the Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, as an aerospace mechan-

ic/diesel mechanic and then at the Naval Station in Corpus Christi. He retired July 31, 1981, after 23 years of Civil Service. Camilo also retired from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Big Spring Aug. 25, 1998,

after 10 years of service as a park ranger. Survivors include his wife, Macaria Arguello Chavez of Midland; two sons, Camilo Chavez Jr, and the Rev. Frank Chavez; a daughter and son-inlaw, Janie and Jake Jr. Balderrama, all of Midland; three grandchildren, Angelique Guardiola, and husband Eli Jr., of Azle, Jake Balderrama III of Lubbock and Bianca Balderrama of Camp Lejeune, N.C.; three great-grandchildren, Eli Guardiola III, Brynden Guardiola and Ayden Guardiola, all of Azle; two brothers, Elias Chavez and wife Grace, and Chon Chavez, all of Big Spring; and two sisters, Mary Chavez of Big Spring, and Antonia Podhirney and husband Ted of Burkburnett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Gavina Nunez, and a brother, Nate Chavez.

Memorials can be made to Meals on Wheels, 3301 Sinclair Ave Midland 79707.

We want you to know, Dad, you were the greatest father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We love you. Also, thanks to Dr. Robert Vogel, the other doctors who took care of him and to all the staff at Midland Memorial and Midland West Campus.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com Paid obituary

### Janie M. Lownes

Janie M. Lownes, 58, of Big



### Horace Lynn King

Horace Lynn King was born Nov. 5, 1949, in Mitchell County to E.H. and Nelda Roselle (Moore) King and raised in Coahoma. He was a "Coahoma Bulldog" and attended Howard College in Big Spring. He passed to eternal life Christmas Day.

Lynn married Martha Nell Hawkins in 1975 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Temple. He was from a long line of carpenters and had recently retired from the TDCJ Lynaugh Unit, where he was the carpenter foreman. He was a cowboy and horseman and loved the ranching way of life. He possessed a kind and gentle spirit and winning smile. He lit up a room or a group of cowboys with his laugh.

Lynn's passion in this world was raising and training good horses. His gentle hands and calm nature were his greatest gift, and he was able to inject his personality into many colts. His body language spoke safety and trust toward horses, as well as people. He enjoyed studying bloodlines of the American quarter horse and shared his knowledge with others. His horses did well in competition.

He supported and cared about the 4-H youth in Fort Stockton, always following their progress in the horse world. He was an awesome husband, father and grandfather, and taught Christian values by example — kindness and patience were foremost. His legacy includes his children's inheritance of horse sense, hard work and the belief that anything is possible.

Lynn was preceded in death by a daughter, Lacie Anne King.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; son, Jesse Lynn; daughter, Julie Anne Seay and husband, Tommy; daughter, Mary Cheyenne; granddaughter, Kylie Lynn King; mother, Nelda Watts of Coahoma; mother-in-law, Anne Hawkins of Temple; father, E.H. King of Houston; brother, Lanny King and wife, Dornell, of Coahoma; sister, Gay Nell Walker and husband, Danny, of Coahoma; sister Laura Shackelford and husband, John, of North Richland Hills; half-sisters, Regina Thigten, Haven Willis, Paula Ketron; half-brothers, Karl King, Raymond King; and many special aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are Billy King, Lanny King, Danny Walker, Mark Hawkins, John Hawkins, David Schiller, Paul Garner and Pee Wee Faulkenberry. Honorary pallbearers are Bill Johnson, Jim Wallace, Mike Miranda, Rex Carpenter, Henry Fuentes, Dale Sloan and Randy Moore.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Memorial Funeral Home. A vigil service will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Stockton. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10 a.m. by Rev. Felix Okeke. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the Pecos County 4-H Horse Club.

Paid obituary

### Janie Tovar

Janie Tovar, 73, of Ennis, formerly of Big Spring

### Sheriff rd County Shoriff's Office report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

• EDWARD GARCIA, 51, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• RUBEN GOMEZ AGUIRRE, 41, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of failure to appear.

• BRANDON MANUEL ONTIVEROS, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

• MARCUS ANTHONY PINA, 25, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of purchase/furnishing alcohol to a minor and driving while license invalid.

• JEFFREY MICHAEL HAGGARD, 34, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• BENITO PAREDEZ, 43, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

• DOMINGO LUJAN GALAVIZ, 47, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for criminal trespass and bondsman off bond for failure to identify – giving false information.

• DALTON WILL WHITE, 31, was was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault – family violence.

• JIMMY RICHARD DUBOSE, 46, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke deferred adjudication – probation and a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• PAULA ISABEL LEOS, 27, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• LISA ANN CHAVARRIA, 42, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• HECTOR LOPEZ JR., 28, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while intoxicated.

• JIM HARLAN DANIELS, 40, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation, and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JOHNNY BARRAZA, 40, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for resisting arrest, search or transportation and a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• RANDA RACHELL WEEKS, 25, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• XAVIAN FELIX YOUNG, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• VERONICA RODRIGUEZ, 27, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of theft of services, driving while intoxicated – open container and no driver's license.

• MONICA ANN GONZALES, 24, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of theft of services.

• PAOLA VILLALTA, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of minor in consumption and public intoxication.

• MICHAEL MCNEW, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, possession of a prohibited weapon, no driver's license and no liability insurance.



Spring died Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday and vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Memorial mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla and Deacon Victor

Lopez officiating.

She was born Jan. 1, 1950, in Lamesa. She married David Lownes Jan. 19, 1986, in Big Spring. She had worked in the meat market at Safeway a number of years and later worked as an aid at Moss Elementary. She also managed Barcelona Apartments for several years. She retired in 1991, due to ill health. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, David Lownes of Big Spring; one son, Johnny Arispe Jr. and his wife Becky of Big Spring; one daughter, Lisa Rubio of Big Spring; parents, A.G. and Paula Martinez; three sisters: Mary Lopez and her husband Deacon Victor of Midland, Lupe Pattin and Yolanda Bryant and her husband Ray, all of Big Spring; six brothers, Joe Martinez and his wife Debra of Pecos, J.R. Martinez of Big Spring, Jack Martinez and his wife Melanie of Cape Coral, Fla., David Martinez and his wife Mikki of Austin, Fidel Martinez and Ricky Martinez, both of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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



died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at Ennis Regional Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Funeral H	lome.	1	0							
Your	Local	Weat	her							
Tue 12/30	Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat <b>1/3</b>						
		2 ANANA	2 ANANA							
74/35	56/35	69/39	61/34	69/40						
Mostly sunny skies. Warm. High 74F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.						
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452-204-7205 (Fax)       Sun. 8a.mnoon)         Ron Midkiff       Publisher Ext. 250         John A. Moseley       Managing Editor Ext. 230         Rick Nunez       Advertising Manager Ext. 230         Robert Smith       Circulation Manager Ext. 244         Tony Hernandez       Production Manager Ext. 256         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										
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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. • JOSHUA PAUL SILVA, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• LOUIS ANTONIO SILVA, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of speeding, driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid/suspended.

• PEDRO HERNANDEZ BRISENO, 25, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

• JESUS MARTINEZ-GARCIA, 42, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOSE GUADALUPE GARCIA-MARTINEZ, 25, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of tampering with governmental records, fraudulent use/ possession of identifying information, no driver's license and speeding.

• DUSTIN DWAYNE ROBBINS, 26, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.



### Let's Go Dancin' At The Eagles! 803 W. 3rd 263-6862

New Year's Eve Dance Now Taking Reservations \$10.00 Cash

> Buck Shots 8:30-12:30 am

Black-eye peas & corn bread at midnight. Party Favors will be provided

Sunday, & Friday

806 E. 3rd



## LOCAL/WIRE

of a pistol, demanding money.

He made away with an undeter-

mined amount of cash, fleeing

Chamness said the suspect was

described as a male, thin in stat-

ure, approximately 5 feet 10 inch-

es, wearing a ball cap, a black

"It's hard to say if it's the same

person committing any of these

crimes," said Chamness. "How-

ever, the descriptions would cer-

No arrests have been made in

any of the cases, Chamness con-

Contact Staff Writer Thomas

Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by

e-mail at citydesk@bigspringher-

tainly make you think so."

firmed.

ald.com

hoodie and light colored pants.

the motel on foot."

## **Police blotter**

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- DENNIS AUSBIE, 48, of Lubbock, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.
- PEDRO BRISENO, 25, of Denton, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, 36, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- THEFT was reported:
- in the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place.
- in the 300 block of Owens.
- in the 2500 block of Wasson Road.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- DEADLY CONDUCT DISCHARGE OF A FIRE-ARM was reported:
- in the 1100 block of Lancaster.

in the 100 block of Canyon.

- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: in the 1100 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- in the 400 block of 18th Street.
- in the 3200 block of Auburn.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 500 block of Owens.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
- in the 2600 block of Albrook.
- in the 1500 block of Fifth Street.
- in the 800 block of Douglas.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported:

in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

## **Fire/EMS**

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3800 block of Piper Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of S. Second Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the area of Cauble Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Dow. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Hernandez. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Croze.

## **ROBBERIES**

Continued from Page 1

day.

"The call came in at about 8 p.m.," said Chamness. "It's what we call a snatch and grab, where an assailant will simply push the victim and take their purse or wallet. In this case, the victim was a 26-year-old female. The suspect pushed her down and made off with her purse, which contained her driver's license, bank cards and other items."

Chamness said the woman escaped the encounter with only minor injuries, but because the purse snatcher physically attacked her in the course of committing the crime, it's being treat-

OLDEST

said.

Continued from Page 1

more than 100 pounds,

was born June 6, 1896,

in New Orleans. As an

the South, he felt the

sting of the Jim Crow-

era segregation laws in

His son said Francis

African-American

his early life.

ed as an aggravated robbery.

"He used bodily force to take her purse. That's what makes it an aggravated robbery," said Chamness.

The assailant is described as a male, thin in stature, approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, wearing a ball cap and hoodie jacket.

And while the purse snatcher may have made it from the scene without being arrested, Chamness said his criminal efforts may not have ended there, as a third aggravated robbery was reported Sunday at the Scottish Inn Motel in the 1200 block of Third Street

"The call came in at approximately 12:40 a.m. Sunday," said Chamness. "The suspect walked up to the manager and produced what appeared to be the barrel

> Francis died of cancer in 1964.

> Even in his waning days, Francis never lost his passion for politics, his family said. He voted for Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s and for Barack Obama in 2008.

In an interview with The Associated Press after Obama's victory, Francis, who used a wheelchair, said he felt like jumping up and down.

"He is going to give black men a break in the world, and give them a better opportunity

to live and make more money," he said. "For people who say voting doesn't matter, I think that's crazy."

Anthony Francis said his father was devoted to his family and that he attributed his longevity to them.

"He said 'My children and my friends, I live off of them," he said.

Besides his four children, Francis is survived by 18 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great grandchildren.



in

## **POWER**

Continued from Page 1

winds."

Detroit-based DTE Energy Co. said about 135.000 customers were without power early Monday, mostly in Wayne and Oakland counties. down from about 230,000 Sunday. DTE said some could be blacked out into Wednesday CMS Energy Corp. subsidiary Consumers Energy said about 183,000 of its customers lost power Sunday because of the winds and 62,000

remained blacked out early Monday. Consumers said all of its customers should have power by Wednesday.

Strong winds also gusted across upstate New York on Sunday, reaching 75 mph and toppling some power poles and trees from Buffalo to central New York. More

knocking down tree limbs and power lines.

National Weather Service predicted the Fox River would crest about a foot over flood stage Tuesday in the town of Wheatland.

### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Antonia Davila 98, Marquez, died Thursday. Funeral Mass was at 11:00 AM Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Janie M. Lownes, 58, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Monday and Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Memorial Mass will be at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Janie Tovar, 73, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

AP Photo/Jan Lovell A fallen tree obstructs a lane of traffic in **Detroit Sunday. Tens of thousands** of customers were without power in Michigan after high winds hit the state,

Amtrak canceled one train Sunday night and one Monday morning between Chicago and Grand Rapids, Mich., because of the weather,

cis, had a son and three daughters. Josephine

school after the sixth grade, became an amateur boxer as a voung man and later worked as a chauffeur, an auto

mechanic and a barber. He and his wife, Josephine Johnson Fran-

because of his stature. "We always attributed man is Tomoji Tanabe his longevity to his menof Japan, who is 113 tal and physical toughyears, 101 days, Coles ness," Anthony Francis said. Francis, who at his George Francis quit prime barely weighed

tried to enlist in the U.S.

Army during World War

I but was turned down

One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Canary. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Park. One person was transported to SMMC.

 $\bullet$  MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of E.  $15^{th}$ Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of State. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Settles. Service refused.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT/MEDICAL was reported near the 201 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1100 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 23rd Street and Edgemere. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Lancaster. Service refused.

## SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

ment on whether the shooter or shooters were targeting a specific person in the attacks.

Dragon China Buffet 1300 Gregg 268-8888

Off Per Adult **JU**Off Per Child Up to 10 People L

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EXP. 12/30/08

than 9,000 customers in five western and northern counties were without power early Monday, down from more than 60,000 the night before.

Melting snow and ice caused problems in the Midwest. In southeastern Wisconsin, the

COUNTS

**EXPERIENCE** wyers with over 85 years combined expertise. may occur 30 to 50 years after ex-Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D. posure to asbestos. Many work-Richard A. Dodd, L.C. ers were exposed from the 1940s Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. through the 1970s. Industrial mainrd Certified Personal Injury Trial Law and Civ Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specializatio NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT tenance and operators are among those at risk for mesothelioma, 1-888-MESO-FIRM throat cancer or lung cancer. Call us for professional insight. www.AsbestosLaw

2009

Amtrak spokeswoman Tracy Connell said.



Max F. Moore President / Certified Applicator

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In observation of the New Year, The Big Spring Herald will observe the following deadline schedule:

### **RETAIL / CLASSIFIED ADS**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31ST Deadline Monday, Dec. 29nd, 3:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 1ST** Deadline, Tuesday, Dec. 30TH, 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2ND Deadline Tuesday, Dec. 30TH, 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4TH Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 31ST, 3:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

The Following Financial Institutions will observe the following Holiday Hours:

**State National Bank** OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

**First Bank Of West Texas** CLOSED AT 2 P.M. NEW YEAR'S EVE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

**Big Spring Community FCU** OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

**CITIZENS FCU** OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE

CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY **Wells Fargo** 

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### OPINION

# 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

News Editor

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

## **O**THER VIEWS

## A lesson in Mumbai

etal detectors, armed guards and sniffer dogs aren't usually the signs of a celebration. But the cel-Lebrations Sunday night marking the partial reopenings of two hotels hit last month in the terrorist siege of Mumbai are, of necessity, accompanied by a heightened vigilance. That's the new reality in India.

Indians - Mumbaikers in particular - have long prided themselves on bouncing back from terrorist attacks that have become far too common. But last month's assaults on Mumbai, which left 171 people dead, finally moved a famously resilient and unflappable people to anger.

Yes, Indians are angry at Pakistan, which served as a launch point for the Mumbai onslaught. The rest of the world is watching nervously, waiting to see if Pakistan will turn over to India people who are suspected of masterminding the attack.

But there's another aspect of this that has international implications. Citizens of India are also angry at their own government for failing to keep them safe.

The three-day assault on Mumbai, carried out apparently by just 10 men, exposed India's rickety security.

Mumbai police were outgunned by the small band of terrorists. The police didn't have bulletproof vests or radio communications. Many were armed with nothing more than lathis bamboo sticks. Fire crews arrived hours after they were needed at the burning Taj Mahal Hotel. India's best forces, the "Black Cats" commandos, are based outside Delhi and didn't get to Mumbai until nearly 10 hours after the attacks started. The Research and Analysis Wing, India's equivalent of the CIA, had warned of a potential terrorist attack on Mumbai, specifically on its hotels. State and local police insist they received no information upon which they could act. Beyond the disastrous response, India has generally been lackadaisical about security. The nation has about 122 police officers for every 100,000 citizens; the United Nations recommends 222 police. McClatchy Newspapers reported that there are fewer than 2,300 weapons - revolvers, rifles and the like - available to the 180,000-strong police force of Maharashtra state, which includes Mumbai. The priorities of leaders have come under sharp scrutiny. Julio Ribeiro, a former police chief in Mumbai, told McClatchy, "All this can change only when politicians stop recruiting yes-men to the top echelons of the police, and stop diverting elite commandos toward their own personal security." All this is astonishing, given that India has suffered numerous terrorist attacks in recent years. Last year alone, 1,093 people were killed in terrorist violence in India. Only Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan suffered more terrorism-related deaths.

## **Amigos or imperialists?**

They choose to overlook Cuba's 50 years without free elections, free speech or freedom of the press. They refuse to see the dissidents rotting in jail or drowning while trying to escape from the Communist island. They shamelessly align themselves with the world's oldest dictatorship, vet Latin American leaders make it seem as if the only country that has stood firmly against

such atrocities -- the United States -- is really the villain.

"We ask the government of the United States of America to fulfill the requirements of the 17 successive resolutions approved by the **United Nations General Assembly** 

and put an end to the economic, trade and financial blockade it maintains against Cuba," the leaders declared in a joint statement issued at the end of a twoday summit in Brazil last week.

Not surprisingly, no mention was made of the numerous U.N. resolutions condemning human rights violations on the Communist island or the countless refusals by the Fidel/Raul Castro regime to allow U.N. inspectors to look in their dungeons for political prisoners.

As the Castro dictatorship turns 50 years old Jan. 1, 2009, the world wants to turn a blind eye on a half-century of atrocities in Cuba. Some leftist Latin American leaders now want to make it seem as if the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba -- instead of the Castro brothers -- is the reason the Cuban people are living in a state of misery. Because Cuba trades with the rest of the world (even U.S. products constantly are arriving there, through third-party countries), the Cuban government uses the U.S. embargo as a phony excuse for all its failures. Only the leftist "useful fools" are duped into believing that the U.S. embargo is more evil than Fidel.

"In the defense of free exchanges and the transparent practice of international trade, the application of unilateral

coercive measures that affect the well-being of the people and obstruct the processes of integration are unacceptable," noted the statement from 33 presidents and top officials from Latin American and Caribbean countries. If world leaders felt that way about all economic embargoes, South Africa still would be ruled under apartheid.

In reality, what has made the U.S. embargo against Cuba ineffective is the fact that it has been unilateral. Had it been bilateral -- had the rest of the world, especially Latin America, joined the United States in squeezing the Castro brothers out of power -- Cuba would have been a free country some decades ago.

The problem is that through the years, with some rare exceptions, most Latin American leaders have been a bunch of cowards. They fear Cuba and its leftist guerrilla allies much more than they fear the United States. And because the Latin American left -- led by Venezuela's Hugo Chavez -- has been much more aggressive and intimidating in recent years, nowadays more cowards than ever are finding it easier to condemn the United States instead of Cuba.

One such leftist leader. Bolivian President Evo Morales, went as far as to propose expelling U.S. ambassadors from Latin American countries. Most of these countries never have expelled Cuban ambassadors -- not even to condemn Castro's firing squads or Cuba's support of terrorists and guerrillas throughout the Americas -- but now Morales wants to give an ultimatum to the Obama administration. "If the new United States government doesn't lift the economic blockade, we should expel its ambassadors," Morales said.

However, giving Barack Obama an ultimatum is not a very bright idea. If they want the embargo lifted, the last thing the Latin American left should do is pick a fight with the U.S. president-elect. After all, although Obama has pledged not to lift the embargo until Cuba makes some steps toward democracy, he also has vowed to lift some travel restrictions to Cuba. Obama has said he would meet with the Castro brothers

"without preconditions," and he has surrounded himself with Cabinet members who oppose the embargo. If Obama doesn't ease U.S. sanctions on Cuba, no one will!

Yet we have to wonder whether there is a motive behind Morales' illogically antagonistic attitude toward the "new United States government." With a leftist president in the White House, how will the Latin American left opt to deal with the United States? Will we still be "Yankee imperialists," or will we become "amigos"?

If we go by Morales' attitude, it is safe to assume we still will be imperialists. And what about Raul Castro's response to a question about Cuban dissidents? While in Brazil, Castro sarcastically suggested that the dissidents, whose only crime was to try to express themselves freely, could be exchanged with five Cuban spies serving time in U.S. prisons. That statement once again demonstrated that perhaps the Castro regime still will be unwilling to engage in democratic reforms and still prefers to have us as "enemigos."

Do the Latin American socialists really want the U.S. embargo against Cuba lifted, or are they seeking to create impediments to prevent it from happening, as they have in the past? On more than one occasion when the U.S. government has begun a process of easing its sanctions against Cuba, it is the Castro brothers who have made some outrageous moves to prevent it from happening. Many Cuba observers believe the Castro brothers may want to continue using the embargo as a reliable pretext on which to blame their amazing mismanagement of the Cuban economy.

After all, once the embargo is lifted, what excuse will the Castro brothers have for all their cruelty and all their failures?

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



MIGUEL Perez

**Bill McClellan** 

India had plenty of warning and time to prepare.

Perhaps it couldn't have avoided an attack, but it surely could have been better prepared to try, better prepared to respond more quickly and effectively.

India, its citizens stunned and angry and blaming their failed leaders, will have to play catch-up if it hopes to protect the country. The citizens of India are angry. And the rest of us have a reminder: Be vigilant.

### Chicago Tribune.

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## The other marriage penalty

nergy czar-designate Carol Browner's husband does it. So does Health and Human Services Secretary-designate Tom Daschle's

wife. Congressman John Dingell's wife has been doing it for years.

Should they all be forced to stop and go home and bake some of those chocolate-chip cookies, the very

mention of which got Secretary of State-designate

Hillary Clinton in so much trouble so many years ago?

Former Sen. Daschle's wife is a lobbyist. So are former Congressman Tom Downey -aka Mr. Browner -- and Debbie Dingell.

The Obama administration has announced new and much-needed limits on lobbying for those who take jobs in the administration. It's the latest attempt to make the ever-revolving door spin a little more slowly. But it raises, in a bad week, the issue of how, if at all, spouses should be allowed to go through that door.

It's a bad week because one of the reasons being offered as to why securities regulators took so long to figure out that Bernie Madoff was running a Ponzi scheme might have something to do with the fact that his niece, Shana Madoff, who was general counsel to the firm founded by her uncle, is now married to one of the former Securities and

Exchange Commission (SEC) lawyers charged with keeping an eye on Madoff.

Shana and Eric Swanson met in 2003, started dating in April 2006 and married last year. He left the SEC in 2006, after participating in the examination of Madoff's operations in 1999 and 2004. There is certainly more than enough blame to go around in this one, and Swanson's reps are saying that his role in investigating Bernie came before his relationship with Shana.

If nothing else, it proves that rules are needed, both for mates and dates, to ensure both the reality and the appearance of integrity, not to mention to avoid financial gloom and doom.

Back in 1992, as some might recall, Hillary Clinton came under fire for her role in representing banks and other financial institutions (what was the name of that savings and loan?) that were subject to state regulation at a time when her husband was governor of the state and appointed the regulators. Her less than artful effort to defend her decision to work full time as a lawyer (at a time when the salarv for the governor of Arkansas topped out at \$30,000) posed the alternative of staying home and baking chocolate-chip cookies -a slip of tongue that has left her baking countless chocolate-chip cookies ever since.

The point was that law firms, at least most of them, do represent banks and other financial institutions, and that avoiding the appearance of conflicts when you're a corporate lawyer married to the governor is a difficult if not impossible task.

The good news is that Michelle Obama, herself a trained but lapsed lawyer, apparently has no plans to join Covington and Burling once she moves to town.

But the other Cabinet spouses, not to mention the large number of congressional spouses who work as lobbyists, are likely to come under increasing scrutiny thanks to the new Obama rules and the questions about the relationship between Mr. Swanson and Ms. Madoff.

Marrying someone who opts for public service is always going to require certain sacrifices, like never seeing your spouse, filling out endless forms and the fact that for most people in top jobs, pay checks that sound like a lot are actually substantially less than what they could earn in the private sector. But it shouldn't also necessitate the sacrifice of your career.

The obvious answer is that spouses of public officials should not be allowed to lobby their spouse's departments. They should not be allowed to lobby Congress on the issues over which their spouses have jurisdiction. By the same token, public officials should not be reviewing or regulating businesses or concerns in which their spouses have jobs, financial interests, etc.

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

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LIMBAUGH

# Sports

## BIG HERALD

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

> Page 5 Monday, December 29, 2008

## Texans spoil Bears' postseason plans

### By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Chicago Bears got the help they needed to make the playoffs. They just couldn't take advantage of it.

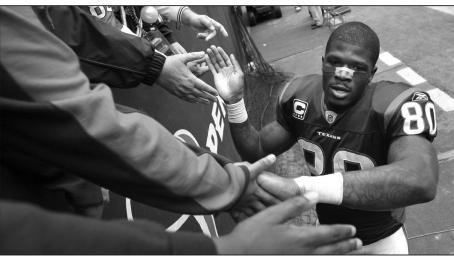
Matt Schaub threw for 328 yards and two touchdown passes to Andre Johnson, and the Texans knocked the Bears out of playoff contention with a 31-24 victory on

Sunday.

Minnesota beat the New York Giants to clinch the NFC North, but the Bears (9-7) could've made it into the wild-card game after losses by Tampa Bay and Dallas.

All Chicago had to do was beat the Texans, who were eliminated from the playoffs weeks ago. The Bears led 10-0,

See TEXANS, Page 6



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson (80) celebrates with fans after beating the Chicago Bears in an NFL game Sunday in Houston. The Texans beat the Bears 31-24.

## Letdown

Eagles drill Cowboys, 44-6, for NFC's final playoff berth

### By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb flexed his muscles, danced on the sideline and revved up the crowd.

The Philadelphia Eagles are going to the playoffs, so the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback had plenty to celebrate on a day when many came to the stadium wondering if they were seeing his last game in this city.

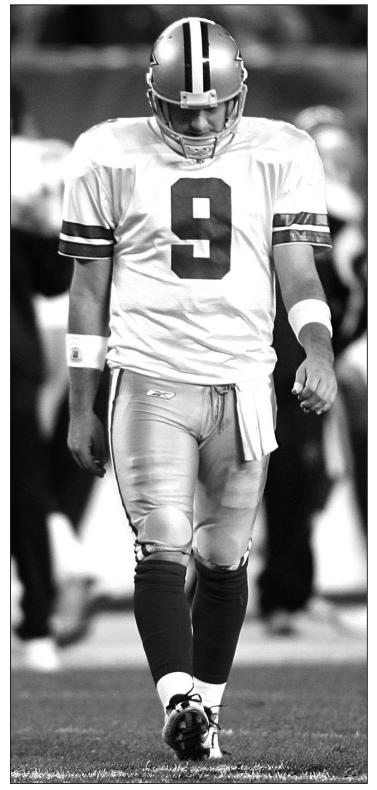
McNabb threw two touchdown passes and ran for another, Brian Dawkins forced two fumbles that were returned for scores and the Eagles overcame daunting odds to capture an NFC wild-card spot with a dominating 44-6 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

So much for all that preseason Super Bowl hype in Dallas — America's Team can start its vacation plans early. It could be a turbulent offseason for the Cowboys (9-7) after another dismal finish.

The Eagles (9-6-1) will play at NFC North champion Minnesota (10-6) next Sunday.

"I've been kind of revived, I guess," McNabb said. "They've (critics) thrown me out, they ran over me, spit on me, but you know what, I just continue to prevail."

Written off after a 10-3 loss at Washington last week, Philadelphia avoided elimination when Oakland upset Tampa Bay and Houston beat Chicago in the early games. The Raiders were 13-point underdogs against the Buccaneers, who lost their fourth straight.



## Dolphins, Vikings, Bolts win divisions

### **The Associated Press**

Far from the imperfect abyss into which the Detroit Lions have fallen, the NFL's latest playoff qualifiers are celebrating.

Shockingly, those party-goers include the Miami Dolphins.

Hours after the Lions became the first team to go 0-16 in a season, the Dolphins, who were 1-15 a year ago, completed a memorable turnaround and won the AFC East at 11-5. That alone should give hope to all of the league's tailenders.

"I don't think words can describe it," running back Ronnie Brown said Sunday after a 24-17 win over the New York Jets. "Earlier in the season, we could only imagine being in this situation.

"It's a great accomplishment. With it comes more motivation to keep winning games. Obviously, now we're in a situation where each one counts and if you lose, you go home."

That begins next Sunday when the Dolphins host the Baltimore Ravens, who earned a wild-card berth with a 27-7 victory over Jacksonville.

"We have an opportunity to prove we're the best team in the NFL," said Baltimore's John Harbaugh, like Miami's Tony Sparano a rookie head coach. "That's what we're going to try to do."

Of course, there are 12 teams looking to prove just that. The playoff qualifiers in the NFC on the final day of the schedule were Minnesota and Philadelphia, joining previous entrants Carolina, Arizona, Atlanta and the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

In the AFC, San Diego also got in with a

"I want to thank the Raiders and Texans," coach Andy Reid said. "They did a heck of a job."

Of all the teams that remained in contention for a playoff berth entering the final weekend, the Eagles had the lowest odds. Meanwhile, Dallas knew all week it just had to win to get in.

How 'bout them Cowboys!

Tony Romo came up way short in another crucial game, dropping his record to 5-8 in December. T.O. was a non-factor, despite six catches for 103 yards.

"With our destiny in our own hands, we kind of just stunk it up," Owens said.

According to multiple media reports, Romo sustained a rib injury late in the game and collapsed

See COWBOYS, Page 6



#### AP photo/Danny Moloshok

Dallas Mavericks forward Josh Howard shoots over Los Angeles Clippers forward Al Thornton during the first half of an NBA game in Los Angeles Sunday. Dallas won 98-76. AP photo/Tom Mihalek

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo walks to the huddle late in the fourth quarter of an NFL game against the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday in Philadelphia. The Eagles won, 44-6, clinching a playoff spot, while also eliminating the nemesis Cowboys from postseason contention.

## Mavs coast to win without Nowitzki

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks didn't miss Dirk Nowitzki nearly as much as the Los Angeles Clippers missed Zach Randolph.

Josh Howard had 29 points, nine rebounds and a career-best seven assists, leading Dallas to a 98-76 victory Sunday while Nowitzki served a onegame suspension.

"Overall, the team came together," Howard said. "Once we found out about Dirk not playing, we had to come in tighter and just be a better unit without him."

The suspension was announced by the NBA about 3 hours before the game. Nowitzki, the Mavericks' leading scorer and rebounder, received a flagrant-2 foul and an automatic ejection in the fourth quarter of Friday night's 97-88 loss at Utah. He took a backward swing at Matt Harpring with a closed fist and hit him in the face, after he and the Jazz forward got tangled up under the basket.

"It was not surprising, just because of the way the rule is written," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "We had contingency plans, based on whether or not there was a suspension, so it wasn't like it ruined our preparation. We had a feeling this could happen. But, for the record, I don't believe it was an intentional thing."

Nowitzki, the league's MVP two seasons ago, averaged 31 points in the other two meetings with the Clippers this season. The missed game will cost him \$164,344 in salary. Nowitzki missed only two games in each of the previous three seasons, including a one-game ban for his hard foul against Utah's Andrei Kirilenko. 52-21 romp past Denver to take the West. Already in were Tennessee, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

The other games next weekend are Atlanta at Arizona and Indianapolis at San Diego on Saturday, and Philadelphia at Minnesota on Sunday.

On Jan. 10, Tennessee and Carolina will be the hosts. The next day, it will be New York and Pittsburgh.

In other finales, it was Green Bay 31, Detroit 21; Minnesota 20, New York Giants 19; Carolina 33, New Orleans 31; New England 13, Buffalo 0; Oakland 31, Tampa Bay 24; Atlanta 31, St. Louis 27; Pittsburgh 31, Cleveland 0; Arizona 34, Seattle 21; San Francisco 27, Arizona 24; Indianapolis 23, Tennessee 0; and Cincinnati 16, Kansas City 6.

### Dolphins 24, Jets 17

Chad Pennington, cut in the offseason by the Jets to make room for Brett Favre, threw two touchdown passes at the Meadowlands. Miami joined the 1999 Indianapolis Colts as the only teams in NFL history to make 10-game improvements. Miami, which has won five straight and nine of 10, made the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons. It's also the Dolphins' first AFC East title since 2000.

The Jets (9-7) lost four of their last five.

### Ravens 27,

Jaguars 7

At Baltimore, Le'Ron McClain ran for two touchdowns in the first half and Baltimore

See NFL, Page 6

### NFL wild card schedule

### Saturday

Falcons at Cardinals, 3:30 p.m. Colts at Chargers, 7 p.m.

### Sunday

Ravens at Dolphins, noon Eagles at Vikings, 3:30 p.m.

### First-round byes

AFC: Titans, Steelers NFC: Giants, Panthers

Continued from Page 5

(11-5) never let up against the stumbling Jaguars (5-11), who committed four turnovers and were held scoreless over the final 45 minutes. The seven points were a season low for Jacksonville.

A year ago, Baltimore went 5-11 and

### **COWBOYS**

Continued from Page 5

in the shower after. He had to be helped to his feet by teammates. Romo had X-rays and was able to meet with reporters, though he blew off questions about his health.

Right from the start, the Eagles played with more urgency. While fans cheered Tampa's loss to Oakland, players ran onto the field for pregame introductions seconds after that game ended.

McNabb scored on a sneak from inside the 1 to put Philadelphia ahead 10-3 in the second quarter. He kept the drive going with a 59-yard catch-andrun to Correll Buckhalter on third-and-6.

Then the Eagles scored 17 points in the final 2:03 of the second quarter. McNabb tossed a 4-yard TD pass to Buckhalter to make it 17-3 just before the 2-minute warning. He twice kept the drive going in third-and-long situations, connecting with Kevin Curtis for 15 vards and DeSean Jackson for 34 yards to the Cowboys 3.

finished last in the AFC North. This season, with a first-year coach, a dynamic defense and rookie quarterback Joe Flacco, the Ravens finished with nine wins in their last 11 games.

Packers 31,

Lions 21

At Green Bay, the Lions earned a distinction no team wants: worst in NFL history.

Facing one last chance to avoid

TD pass to Brent Celek.

T.O. often does.

going into halftime.

their dubious destiny, the Lions lost for the 23rd time in 24 games.

The 1976 expansion Tampa Bay Buccaneers (0-14) were the last NFL team to complete a full season without a victory.

The Packers wound up 6-10.

Vikings 20,

### Giants 19

Sheldon Brown intercepted Romo's underthrown

pass to Roy Williams on Dallas' ensuing possession

and returned it 23 yards to the Dallas 42. Then two

big penalties — a personal foul on Adam "Pacman"

Jones and pass interference against Terence

Newman in the end zone — set up McNabb's 1-yard

A fired-up McNabb sprinted toward the Eagles

Jones was stripped by Quintin Demps on the

kickoff and Omar Gaither recovered at the Cowboys

31 with 3 seconds left in the half. David Akers made

a 50-yard field goal to give the Eagles a 27-3 lead

Dallas pulled out all the tricks on the first posses-

sion of the third quarter, including a 42-yard pass

from tight end Jason Witten to Owens to the Eagles

14. But Dawkins sacked Romo on the next play,

and Chris Clemons picked up the fumble and raced

Joselio Hanson returned Marion Barber's fumble

"It's frustrating," Romo said. "We obviously had

73 yards for a score that gave Philly a 34-3 lead.

sideline and suddenly stopped. He turned around

toward the Cowboys bench and flexed, the way

Ryan Longwell's 50-yard field goal as the game ended lifted the host Vikings to the NFC North title for their first postseason appearance in four years.

New York (12-4), the NFC East winner with home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, was on cruise control for much of the second half with backups on the field. The Vikings (10-6), who pulled within two points on a 54-yard touchdown pass by Tarvaris Jackson to a wide-open Bernard Berrian after third-string cornerback Terrell Thomas fell down, took advantage.

hopes to play a lot better than we did."

The Eagles seemed headed for their third lastplace finish in four years after they tied lowly Cincinnati and were routed by Baltimore in consecutive weeks last month. McNabb was benched for the first time in his career in that loss to the Ravens and his future in Philadelphia was the hot topic.

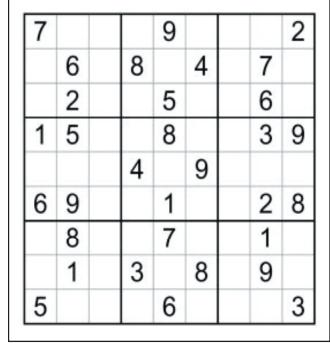
But McNabb came back strong and led the Eagles to three straight wins only to fall short against the Redskins — Reggie Brown was tackled at the 1 on the final play.

Still, the Eagles found a way to make the playoffs after getting all the help they needed around the league.

"Everybody turned their backs on us," Dawkins said. "But we believed in one another."

## sudoku

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



tory. "Every game, it's the same stuff happening,' defensive end Alex Brown said. "It's the same stuff happening week in and week out

game. It seems like we go through a second- or third-quarter lapse where we don't do a whole lot. We've got to find a way to get that corrected."

The Texans (8-8) won five of their last six games and were, like the Bears, lamenting what could have been after their season finale. They've still never finished with a winning record or made the playoffs in seven seasons, but they rallied from an 0-4 start to reach .500 for the second straight year.

"I think we're a better team than we were last year," coach Gary Kubiak said. "There's no doubt in my mind that we're headed in the right direction, but there's two or three more games that you want, I want, every guy in the locker room wants, and we'll find them."

Slaton rushed 20 times for 92 yards and beat out Chicago's Matt Forte for the rookie rushing title. Slaton ran for 1,282 yards this season; Forte finished with 1,238 yards.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself for next year,' Slaton said.

Brandon Lloyd made a leaping catch in the front corner of the end zone on Chicago's first series. The Bears scored six touchdowns on their opening possessions this season.

Slaton caught a short pass on the Texans' next series, but Tillman knocked the ball loose. Brown recovered and Robbie Gould kicked a 37-yard field goal to stretch the Bears' lead to 10-0.

The Bears got the ball near midfield after a Houston punt early in the second quarter. On third down, Mario Williams tackled Orton for his 12th sack of the season. Schaub moved Houston across midfield, then froze the Bears' defense with a play-action fake and found Johnson wide open for a 43-yard touchdown with 5:50 left in the first half. "They got an easy one on that one," Tillman said. "Breakdown on the coverage." Danieal Manning fumbled the ensuing kickoff and kicker Kris Brown recovered at the Bears 38. On third-andgoal, Johnson outfought Tillman on a timing throw from Schaub in the end zone for another touchdown.

Johnson caught multiple TDs in a game for the only time this season and the fourth time in his career.

Schaub threw long passes to Johnson and Walter on Houston's first series of the second half.

Ryan Moats capped it with a 2-yard touchdown run, his first with the Texans.

Devin Hester then caught a 37-yard pass in double coverage to move the Bears to the Texans 1 and Orton found tight end Greg Olsen open in the end zone with 5:30 left in the third quarter.

kicked Brown а 22-yard field goal with 11:55 left to put Houston up 24-17.

## TEXANS

### Continued from Page 5

but then gave up 21 straight points over the next quarter and a half and never recovered.

"We didn't seize the moment," cornerback Charles Tillman said. "We didn't finish, plain simple. and **Opportunities presented** themselves and we just didn't get it done."

The game followed a familiar pattern for Chicago this season. They played well at the start, struggled in the middle of the game and needed a strong finish to try and salvage a vic-

and we see it and can't

96 yards for a TD on the next series.

correct it.'

The Bears stayed in the playoff hunt by winning their previous two games in overtime, but Houston rookie Steve Slaton sealed this one with a 2-yard touchdown run with 3:24 left to put Houston up 31-17.

After Kyle Orton capped a last-ditch drive with a short TD run with 1:31 remaining, sure-handed Houston receiver Kevin Walter recovered the onside kick and the Texans ran out the clock.

"We've played pretty good at the start and finish of games," Orton said. "We just have to find ways to make it last throughout the entire

Having Johnson back next year will certainly

be a good place to start. He caught 10 passes for 148 yards on Sunday, his eighth 100-yard game this season. He pulled down at least 10 receptions for the seventh time this season, an NFL record, and finished with 1,575 yards, the most by a receiver since 2003.

"You know, if we would have lost the game we would have had a losing record," Johnson said. "So, that was a big deal to everybody and we didn't want to lose this game today. We started off slow but we found a way to get it done.'



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FIRST BANK of West Texas has opening for Teller, and a Head Teller. Teller experience perferred. Please apply at 1810 E FM 700 or 607 S. Scurry St., Big Spring.

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

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

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

**Help Wanted** 

TEXAS CAJUN Cafe, now hiring wait staff. Apply in person at 802 West I-20 between the Exxon & Advantage Inn Motel.

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

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

WANTED! FUN people for a new fun business. The patented product. Experienced networkers preferred. Up Scene Income! 1-877-355-0617.



710 Scurry · PO B 2-264-7205

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

L

City \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Box 1431 ⋅ Big Spring, TX 79721 ⋅ (432) 263-73	3 <u>31 ∙ Fax 432-2</u>
State Zip	Date Taken:

	CLASSIFIED AD
Write one word on each line:	
Three Consecutive days \$22 Six Consecutive Days \$30 \$85.65Garage Sales (3 days	nly \$19.75One weekday only \$12.75Two Consecutive Days \$17.50 .00Four Consecutive Days \$25.50Five Consecutive Days \$28.25 0.75Two weeks \$56.65Three Weeks \$71.65Four weeks s) \$17.00 20-cents per word per day. Add \$1 for Wednesday (TMC)
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ord for entire run:Bolding \$1.00Centering \$1.00Italics \$1.00 _Blind Box \$12Photo \$4.00Graphics \$1.00 Logos \$1.00
Prices Incl	lude placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com
Start Date	Classification:
DEADLINES:	CLASSIFICATIONS:
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon.	Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garag Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost an
for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for	Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Peter

### www.bigspringherald.com

#### Items for Sale

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

Cherry sleigh-bed solid wood still in box with mattress set, both new \$395. 432-664-8980.

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Love	brand	new	has	War-		
ranty	Will	ta	ke	\$650.		
432-60	64-8980					

3 pcs King Pillow Top Mattress Set still in plastic w/Factory Warranty. \$235. 432-664-8980.

FOR Sale. \$250.00 per cord, \$150.00 per half cord. Call 432-213-3399.

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

FOR SALE: 94 Villager Van-\$850, Sofa- \$200., Truck tool box- \$130., Range- \$10., microwave- \$10., Recliner- \$10. Call 432-714-4402.

\_ \_

COOKS & CARHOP. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Wanted You will work on a variety of print related projects from lobranding, packaging, gos POS. advertisements, sales presentations, large banner graphics, magazine design and much more? The ideal candidate will have at least 2-3 years of experience in graphic design and have a strong command of Adobe Programs.

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

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

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

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

POLLARD CHEVROLET is taking applications for Body shop repair/ technician. Experience required. Must have on tools. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply in person.

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

[Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

\_\_Cash \_\_Money Order \_\_Check Enclosed is \$

Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for

Are you a subscriber: \_\_Yes \_\_No

Salesperson:

\_\_Credit Card#\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_



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### **LEASE OPERATOR**

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

Pump as needed monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data

Operating and maintaining production equipment

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

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

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

To become part of our outstanding Westbrook team, a growing Industry Leader in the Permian Basin, for immediate consideration please go to: www.energen.com and select Job Opportunities under employment to complete an online application.



### LEASE OPERATOR / TECH ASSISTANT

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

Run Dynamometers' and Shoot Fluid Levels as Needed (Training Available) Monitoring, recording, and optimizing production data Connect, Set-up and Monitor Step Rate Test Equipment Operating and maintaining production equipment Conducting on-lease activities making minor repairs and adjustments as needed Assuring that all leases are operating within regulatory compliance Provide vacation relief for Lease Operators as needed Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field near Westbrook, Tx

The qualified applicant will have 1 - 3 years's electrical experience with a broad knowledge of all types of related equipment. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets and electrical background a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

## CLASSIFIED



### CLASSIFIED

### Items for Sale

NO SPRINGS or coils MEM-ORY FOAM mattress set, pressure relieving sleep, New with warranty, \$385. 432-664-8980.

NEW Canopy Bed with Mattress Set, Still pkgd brand new. \$289. 432-664-8980.

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

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

### National Ads

\*\*\*FREE FORECLOSURE Listings\*\*\* Over 200,000 properties nationwide. LOW Down Call Payment. NOW! 1-800-817-6272.

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Hiring 6 People. Free to Travel All States + Resort Areas. Transportation & Lodging Furnished. NO Experience Necessary. Paid Training. Over 18 + Start ASAP. 1-877-936-7468 www.protekchemical.com

**ADOPT A HOMELESS PET** This holiday season, give the ultimate gift -save a life. Find 1000's of adoptable dogs, cats near you at Petfinder.com

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COMPLETE T-SHIRT PRINT SHOP! \$1195.00+shipping Silkscreen equipment, supplies+training video. Free Brochure. Video & Manual only \$19.95.

www.homecashbusiness.com 1-866-499-9631.

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National Ads

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to \$150 a day. Call 1-877-306-3966.

**OWN A** Computer? Put it to Work!

Earn \$1500-\$7500/mo. PT/FT FREE info package online. www.HeresLiving.com

**POST OFFICE NOW HIRING!** Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K /yr. incl Fed Benefits and OT Placed by adSource, not affiliated w/USPS who hires. 1-866-483-1059.

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Loving families available nationwide. Housing, living and aftercare expenses paid. Call us 24/7.

Forever Blessed Adoptions. 1-800-568-4594. THESE ARE NOT NORMAL TIMES!! Changes On A Global Scale Are Fulfilling Bible Prophesies. Prepare for What

Is Coming Next by Going to: www.Biblically.com DRIVERS TRUCK Wanted-Best Pay and Home Time! Apply Online Today over 750 Companies! One Application, Hundreds of Offers! http://hammerlanejobs.com

### On the Farm



**EZELL KEY FEED & GRAIN** 98 Lancaster (432)267-8112 Big Spring, Texas 79720 NOW OPEN TILL 4:00PM **ON SATURDAYS** We have Deer Corn \$9.00 We also will be carring Moormans Pig Feed We have all your Feed Needs

COME SEE US!!!

#### Pets

AKC REGISTERED Miniature Dachshund Dapple Puppies. On the 25th of December will be 6 weeks old. \$300.00 each. Call (432)816-2479.

### Real Estate for Rent

1205 STANFORD Remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, tile floors, fenced yard. \$550. CH/A. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)517-0373.

1601 LEXINGTON- A & B. Very Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath, tile floors, CH/A. \$450. month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)517-0373.

### **BARCELONA APARTMENTS \*299 MOVE IN SPECIAL** + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.

### Real Estate for Rent

2200 SQ. ft. building for lease in a high traffic area @ 1307 Gregg St. Front & rear parking available. Please contact Lucy @ 432-263-5000 for mor information.

4104 MUIR. 2 bdr./ 2 bath. two living area's, CH/A. References required. \$700 mo./ \$400 dep. Prefer Non-Smoker. No HUD. No Pets. Call 432-270-3849.

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Carport, CH/A, \$550.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

703 EDWARDS 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. CH/A. washer/dryer connections. One Year Lease. No HUD. No Pets. No Bills Paid. \$900. month plus deposit. (432)267-2296.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!! \$100. off 1st month rent! SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENT 2911 West Hwy 80 Big Spring 432-263-2292 1 Bdrm \$350 month 2 Bdrm \$395 month !!!!!!! Now Available !!!!!!!

COMPLETELY REMODELED-410 Dallas. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, tile floors & new carpet, CH/A. Washer & dryer connections. \$575. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)517-0373.

LOFT FOR Lease, 123-C Main. \$1,000. month plus deposit. One year lease required. No pets. (432)770-5656. or office (432)517-0038 or (432)263-6514.

ONE BEDROOM duplex. \$295. month, \$100. deposit. Water paid. (432)267-4536, Call (417)276-8083.

SHORT TERM Leases. Furnished houses for rent. All bills Call Lesile. paid. (432)213-0909.

#### SOUTH PLAINS APTS. 3304 West Hwy 80 Efficiency 1, 2, & 3 Bdrms.

Now Available 432-714-4840 559-309-1968

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

VICTORIA HOME, 2101 Runnels. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. \$1200. month plus deposit. References required. Call (432)816-2525 10 (432)816-5797.

### **Real Estate for Sale**

BY OWNER Ranch style brick. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, jetted tub, fireplace, sunroom. 3-1/3 acres, storage, barn. Coahoma ISD (Derrick Rd.). Reduced (432)264-0330. \$179,900. 816-9969

### Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** The moment the moon slips into her Aquarian

garb she begins to seem feel the HOLIDAY of MATHIS Creativity is

liberated. With the prevalent Capricorn energies these are the kinds of ideas that are actionable and profitable -- all it takes is a bit of follow through.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fanciful surprises are in store for you once you shake yourself from your neutral mood. Here's how: Take a moment to honor your recent struggles. Then wear your strength and resilience with a contagious smile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). An astute person will see something in you that you haven't been aware of -- a talent that was there all along. Make a plan to use and develop your gift. Your life will be enriched exponentially.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A recent turn of events seems to have a bizarre sense of comedic timing. Exploit the meter and flow by dusting off that whimsical grin of yours and doing some quirky, unexpected things yourself. The reaction is favorable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you look with your heart instead of your pupils, you can see the essence of yourself in anotherís eyes -- someone who you would least Compassion expect. begins to gestate within you. It's your call to service.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your selfless devotion to (Feb. 19-March 20). The

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a recovering alcoholic and

friends and family will be rewarded with their overwhelming support. But if you decide to spend this day in a more selfish way instead, you will also be supported, and in the exact manner you wish. evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Toiling at home can lead to a toxic dose of martvrdom. Get out of the house. Move past that scene you've been replaying in your mind. Put the ghosts to rest and be among the living again. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Get organized -- again! It seems you've been shuffling your things around for a few weeks now, but you will still be astounded by what you uncover today, both literally and emotionally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No, the funny feeling between you and an associate is not static electricity. But donít forge a protective barricade just yet. This may be the time to throw caution to the wind. Why not some romance?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will find your mind drifting to faraway places, but donit fight it. You will rekindle that sense of adventure and spontaneity by planning a short trip. The experience will be like tap shoes for your soul.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've done work to improve yourself from within -- mind, body and soul. Now it's time to show the new you to the old crowd. Your sense of romantic confidence will soar as you mingle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The need to please and be pleasing is a normal part of humanity, so don't be too hard on yourself for wanting approval. However, do consider providing the pats on your own back so as not to lean too heavily PISCES on others.

bounce in your step will be felt by those around vou. Study the way they feed off your energy and pass it around. Consider this as only one of your untapped powers as you transition into the

YOUR MOST AUSPI-CIOUS WAY TO USHER IN THE NEW YEAR: ARIES: Whether you go out or stay in, make sure that fire is a part of your New Year's Eve ritual. Burn a candle and say a prayer, or sit with your loved ones around the fireplace and talk about all you want to accomplish in the new year. The flames positively invigorate your intentions. TAU-RUS: Let nothing restrict your flow of creativity and money as you head into the new year. This is no time to be thrifty or feel badly about spending money on quality entertainment and good times with friends. Furthermore, by tipping well you're expanding the channel for abundance to flow back to you. GEMI-NI: Your need to connect with people is powerful and vour head can only rest once you're satisfied that you've contacted each person in your social network in some manner. You'll be especially lucky when you reach out to those you haven't seen in a long while. CANCER: Go on a cleaning binge and reorganize that hidden messy place in your house -- for instance, under the kitchen sink or in the catchall drawer. Orderly surroundings make for mental stillness, clarity and readiness.

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. To find out more about Holiday Mathis, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

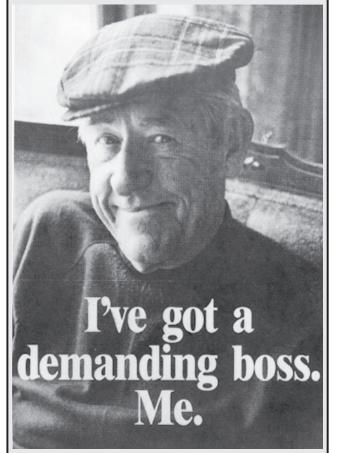
son or just make up an



ALL BILLS PAID **538 Westover** 263-1252 **Housing Assistance Accepted** 



### \$400 TO \$1,000 PROFIT PER MONTH



But the rewards are great! I work for myself and make a good living. I take responsibility for my performance - it's all up to me. A lot of people depend on me, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Contracts are available now for motor route carriers. For information, call 432-263-7331.



BY OWNER---- 2600 Carelton 3 Bedroom, 2 bath w/covered carport. New A/C unit. New carpet and paint. All New Appliances. Remodeled kitchen and baths. No Owner Financing. Please call 432-213-2681.

FOR SALE By Owner- 3547 Sq. Ft. Brick-10 rooms, 4 bedrooms-2-1/2 baths, dining, living room, family room, loft, 7 closets, 2 car garage, 1-1/2 acres, 8403 Gail Hwy. Below appraisal 179,500.00, Call 432-270-4646.

HERE'S FLORIDA! Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.flmanufactured

homes.com

OWNER FINANCED HOUSES. Easy Terms. Low Down Payment. Bad Credit OK. Call Lana at TruStar Realty (432)264-8166.

OWNER FINANCE, 5 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2,500 sq. ft.. \$2,500. Down, \$735. per month plus taxes and insurance. Call (432)714-4555.

OWNER FINANCE. 1524 East 17th. Large 2 bedroom, with garage. Deserving Buyers. Call for information, (325)277-4923.

OWNER FINANCE. Fixer Upper! Low monthly. Low down. 1300 & 1302 Wright. (325)277-4923.

OWNER FINANCE, Low Down, Low Monthly, Easy Terms. 1505 Cherokee- 3/2, 808 Settles- 3/2. Call Trent 512-426-1850

WE BUY HOUSES and LAND. Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

### Vehicles

2002 NISSAN Pathfinder, super nice. Only 38,000 with sunroof. Call (432)264-9897.

have worked in addiction recovery for the 22 years I have been sober. Two years ago, I married a wonderful man. I am 60 years old and it is my first marriage. We are quite happy.

Several months ago, my best friend of over 30 vears called to tell me she had started dating an old beau of mine, a man I once had a very passionate relationship with. He is the most charming man I have ever known. But he is an alcoholic and an addict. He went through treatment once, but didn't stay sober.

"Lorraine" proceeded to tell me how beautiful his body still is, how great the sex is, and all the things I did that apparently still irritate him. I was shocked. I told her as gently as I could that he is an addict and there will be "another always woman" in his life as long as he drinks and does drugs. She didn't want to hear it. She told me he was seeing a therapist who assured her his brain could be "rewired." I don't believe it's possible. We have reached a compromise of sorts -- she does not mention his name to me.

Lorraine is a dear friend and I want to stay close, but I don't want an active alcoholic in my life. Was I unreasonable to react so negatively to her relationship? Her daughter said I overreacted. -- Kentucky

Dear Kentucky: When you believe a friend is making a huge mistake, it is natural to want to warn her. Still, you must respect her choice, even if you don't agree. You've told her how you feel.



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

Now say nothing more about it. You can remain close by spending time together without your significant others. We have wonder, however, to about Lorraine's motives in so graphically flaunting her new relationship to you.

Dear Annie: I am invited to a birthday party for my niece's 1-year-old son. The problem is, my husband and I have 25 nieces and nephews and 13 greatnieces and nephews, with the potential for many more.

I send a card on each birthday, but not a gift. If I attend this party, I will have to bring a gift, and this doesnit seem fair to the ones who don't receive anything. My sister, who is the grandmother of this boy, never bothers to send anything to my grandchildren for their birthdays.

I am happy to continue buying presents for my nieces and nephews, but would like to stop there. I spend enough on family members without buying for the offspring of offspring.

I don't plan to attend this party, but was wondering whether I should be honest about the rea-

#### excuse and send a card. --Had Enough

Dear Had Enough: Has it occurred to you that your niece may simply want the pleasure of having her son's great-aunt at his first birthday party? You don't have to give a reason for turning down an invitation, but if your niece should ask, you may tell her that you worry the other greatnieces and nephews would feel slighted.

Dear Annie: The letter from "Tried To Raise Him Right," whose son gnawed on a T-bone steak bone, reminded me of a family story.

When I was a young girl back in the '30s, my mother took me to Erie, Pa., for a treat -- dinner at the Boston Store. We ordered pork chops, and I proceeded to chew on the bone. My mother discreetly whispered to me to put it back on my plate. In my loudest voice I said, "Why? We eat bones at home." My lovely mother was mortified.

Over the years, that day often came up in conversation. For me, it's a fond memory of a special time with my mother. -- St. Albans, Vt.

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 SYN-

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### Comics

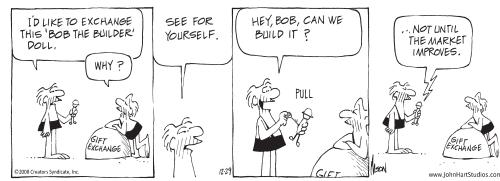
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_	:PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond	ССМ	BBC	Deadliest	Movie:	Married	Law & Order	106 & Park:	Suite Life
5	:30	ABC	ABC	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Friends	Granger	Business	Catch	Fargo, Wil-	Married		BET's Top 10	Suite Life
G	:PM	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	12 Cora-	News	Seinfeld	Van Impe	News-Lehrer		liam H. Macy	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Suite Life
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### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



"WOW! CAN OPENERS OPEN ALL KINDS OF STUFF BESIDES CANS.

### BC



### WIZARD OF ID



### AGNES



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Forget it, Barfy! You'll only hafta bury it again when the snow melts!"

### HAGAR





WE FORGOT TO TIP THE PAPER CARRIER FOR CHRISTMAS AGAIN!



SPI



### This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 29, the 364th day of 2008. There are two days left in the year. Today's Highlight in

History:

Two hundred years ago, on Dec. 29, 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

On this date:

In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.

In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm

who'd wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was murdered by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

In 1934, Japan formally denounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London." In 1957, singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme

were married in Las Vegas. In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, kill-

ing 11 people. In 1978, during the Gator Bowl, Ohio State University coach Woody Hayes punched Clemson player Charlie Bauman, who'd intercepted an Ohio pass. (Hayes was fired by Ohio State the next day.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clarence Swensen ("The Wizard of Oz") is 91. Actress Inga Swenson is 76. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 74. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 71. Actor Jon Voight is 70. Country singer Ed Bruce is 69. Rock musician Ray Thomas is 67. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 62. Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 62.

Actor Ted Danson is 61. Actor Jon Polito is 58. Rock singermusician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 47. Movie director Andy Wachowski is 41. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 39. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 38. Actor Kevin Weisman is 38. Actor Jude Law is 36. Actor Mekhi Phifer is 34. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 33. Actor Diego Luna is 29. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 25.

Thought for Today: "Ours is the age of substitutes: Instead of language we have jargon; instead of principles, slogans; and instead of genuine ideas, bright suggestions." - Eric Bentley, British-born American author and educator.

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ODYSSEY

RANGE REVIEW by Gail Grabowski

DRESSED

### **HI AND LOIS**



### THE OTHER COAST



### **SNUFFY SMITH**



### **BEETLE BAILEY**



them.

In 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk"

ACROSS       54 Kid's interlocking block       6 Hunger for 7 Actors' parts 30 Butter portions 32 Fractions of a yard 33 Give yard 33 Give yard 31 Give permission to 36 Pay out 36 Pay out 37 Dishwasherful 16 Be in possession of 17 Conceited 159 High-society possession of 17 Conceited 16 Bible 159 High-society 11 Place for datendant attendant attendant attendant attendant 61 Short golf block       61 Short golf block 22 Felt poorly 10 werpriority items 12 Day before a datendant 63 Shrill bark 22 Felt poorly 24 Pulled apart 24 Fulled apart 258 Across party guestion park 25 Shrill bark 23 Gisper 20 Contaminate, as water 31 With no warranty 31 With no mered highway: Abbr. 35 Christmas tree as water 31 With no mered highway: Abbr. 35 Christmas tree af Came down in freezing pellets 38 Zich 39 TV commercials 11 Rol-call response 42 Pull back from the front lines 44 for the fort lines 45 Shrill bark 29 Break of day 21 to 10 11 12 13 for the fort lines 45 Shrill bark 22 for the fort lines 45 Shrill bark 22 for the fort lines 45 Shrill bark 22 for the fort lines 44 for the fore thore 45 for the fore thore 45 for the fort t	Newsday C	ros	SSV	VO	ra		н		GEI							)WSKI Jiman
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34 Numbered highway: Abbr.       17       18       19       19         35 Christmas tree 36 Came down in freezing pellets       21       22       22         38 Zilch       27       28       29       23       24       25       26         38 Zilch       27       28       29       30       24       25       26         39 TV commercials       27       28       29       32       33       34       23         40 Rhyme writers 41 Roll-call response       35       36       37       38       34       38         42 Pull back from the front lines       39       40       44       45       41       41         42       43       44       45       51       52       53         44 Made a touchdown       46       47       48       50       51       52       53         54       55       56       59       60       57       53         58       59       60       57       53       57       53         58       59       63       53       53       53       57       53		14					15						16			
34       Numbered highway: Abbr.       20       21       22       22         35       Christmas tree 36       26       21       24       25       26         38       Zilch       27       28       29       30       24       25       26         38       Zilch       37       32       33       34       23       34       24       25       26         39       TV commercials       31       32       33       34       35		17					18	+	+				19			+1
35 Christmas tree       36 Came down in       23       24       25       26         38 Zilch       27       28       29       30       24       25       26         39 TV       commercials       27       28       29       30       24       25       26         30 TV       commercials       27       28       29       30       24       25       26         30 TV       commercials       31       32       33       34       23       34       24       25       26         40 Rhyme writers       31       32       33       34       34       34       34       34       34       34       34       34       34       36       37       38       34       35																
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38 Zilch       27       28       29       30       30       34       34         39 TV       31       32       33       34       34       34         40 Rhyme writers       35       36       37       38       38       34       34         40 Rhyme writers       35       36       37       38       38       34       34         40 Rhyme writers       35       36       37       38       38       34       34         40 Rhyme writers       35       36       37       38       38       34       34         41 Roll-call       response       39       40       41       41       41       41         42       43       44       45       44       45       44       45       44         44 Made a       46       47       48       51       52       53         47 Terrific bargain       49       50       57       51       52       53         54       55       56       59       60       60       60         50       Two-days-a       61       62       63       63       63					23						24				25	20
39 TV       31       31       32       33       34       34         40 Rhyme writers       35       36       37       38       38         41 Roll-call response       39       40       41       41       41         42 Pull back from the front lines       42       43       44       45       41       44         42       43       47       48       44       45       44       45       44         44 Made a touchdown       46       49       50       51       52       53         46       49       50       51       52       53         54       55       56       59       60       57       53         50       Two-days-a week worker       61       62       63       53       55		27	28	29						30			1	+	-	+1
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42       Pull back from the front lines         44       45         44       45         44       45         44       45         44       45         44       45         44       45         44       45         45       46         46       47         48       46         49       50         50       51         54       55         56       57         58       59         50       60         58       59         61       62         63       53		39				40							41			
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44 Made a touchdown       46       48       47       48       50       51       52       53         46 Cyprus or Malta       49       50       50       51       52       53         47 Terrific bargain       49       56       57       57       56         49 Illinois neighbor: Abbr.       58       59       60       60       60         50 Two-days-a week worker       61       62       63       53       56		42			43						44	45				
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