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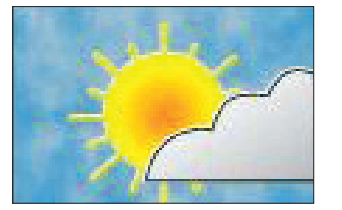
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 25

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12th Festival of Lights ends tonight

Nears goal of 20,000 visitors

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Area residents have one last chance tonight to view one of the community's best holiday traditions. The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights closes its 12th ren-

dition with a showing from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. tonight at the park, said Pat Simmons, festival chairwoman.

The festival, which adorns the park with more than 1 million holiday lights, has attracted visitors from across



Simmons

Texas, many states and several foreign countries.

"Through Monday, we've had 19,448 visitors," Simmons said. "That includes people from 34 states and eight countries ... It's going great, very definitely."

Simmons, who has overseen the festival since its inception, is stepping down from day-to-day management of the event after this year and she would like to end her stewardship with a bang.

"I'd really like to see us get 20,000 visitors," she said. "We've come close a couple of years, but we've never quite made it."

The festival has already attained a record in that department, however, as the totals through Monday already exceed that of 2005, when 19,307 visited the event.

"Everybody has been saying that it is so much better since we've added so much stuff," Simmons said. "They

See **LIGHTS**, Page 3A

Israel rejects call for truce, attacks Gaza

By **IBRAHIM BARZAK** and **MATTI FRIEDMAN**
Associated Press Writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel rejected international pressure for a two-day cease-fire with Hamas and demolished smuggling tunnels that are the lifeline of Gaza's Islamic rulers in a fifth straight day of airstrikes Wednesday.

The diplomatic efforts to forge a truce were set in motion by the scale of destruction in Gaza since Israel unleashed an offensive Saturday against Hamas militants firing barrages of rockets that are striking closer to the Israeli heartland.

Gaza officials say the five days of airstrikes have killed 390, including 200 uniformed members of Hamas security forces, and have wounded about 1,600. The U.N. says at least 60 Palestinian civilians are among the dead. Four Israelis have been killed by militant rocket fire, including three civilians.

The offensive has touched off protests across the Islamic world. In Iran on Wednesday, fundamentalist students asked their government to authorize volunteer suicide bombers to attack Israel. The Tehran government had no immediate response.

On Tuesday, France urged Israel to halt its operation for 48 hours. Calls for an immediate cease-fire have also come from the U.S., the European Union, the U.N. and Russia.

Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert discussed the idea of a two-day truce with his defense and foreign ministers overnight, but the trio decided to pursue the punishing aerial campaign.

Olmert told ministers Israel launched the operation to fundamentally change the situation in the south, and would not leave the job half done with a unilateral cease-fire.

"If conditions ripen to the

"If conditions ripen to the point that we assess they promise a safer existence in southern Israel, we will consider it. We're not there yet."

—Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Department of Public Safety and Howard County Sheriff's Office personnel inspect the scene of a one-car rollover just east of the Snyder Highway overpass on Interstate 20 Tuesday afternoon. Two persons were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries.

Texas charities curb Mexico outreach efforts amid violence

By **ALICIA A. CALDWELL**
Associated Press Writer

EL PASO — With the death toll in the Mexican city of Juarez mounting, the increasingly bloody struggle for control of the city can now count one more victim: charity from its American neighbor across the Rio Grande.

At least two El Paso, Texas church groups

have chosen not to send members over the border to aid the poor because of the ongoing drug cartel war.

"It pains us. The violence is out of hand. We actually had a parishioner who was kidnapped, so it's too close to home," said Mon-

See **OUTREACH**, Page 3A

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Marine Lt. Gen. Krulak dies

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak, who headed all U.S. Marine forces in the Pacific during part of the Vietnam War, has died. He was 95.

Krulak died Monday at the Wesley Palms Retirement Community in San Diego, according to Edith Soderquist, a staff member at the facility. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Krulak commanded about 100,000 Marines in the Pacific from 1964 to 1968 — a span that saw the United States dramatically increase its forces in Vietnam.

Krulak, nicknamed "Brute" for his direct, no-nonsense style, was a decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Minn. man who drove plow into river fired

CROOKSTON, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota snowplow operator who drove a \$200,000 loader into a frozen river has been fired.

Mike Raymond was clearing snow from county parking lots early Monday when he decided to also clear off a boat ramp on the frozen Red Lake River in Crookston.

Raymond says he wanted to make it easier for people who pull fish houses on trailers onto the river. He so happens to have a fish house on the river himself — but told the Grand Forks Herald that's not why he wanted to clear the area.

The John Deere 544 loader slid down the cement ramp, through the ice to the river bottom.

Emergency workers quickly helped Raymond out, but it took hours to retrieve the loader.

Raymond told the newspaper that he was fired Tuesday after 28 years on the job.

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Coahoma edges Lady Steers in Slaton

Herald Staff Report

SLATON — Rarely do teams from Coahoma and Big Spring High Schools meet on any athletic field. However, the Bulldogettes and Lady Steers clashed on the hardcourt Tuesday night at the West Texas Invitational in Slaton.

The result was a very competitive game with Coahoma edging the Lady Steers, 46-43.

Big Spring did have a chance to tie the game at the buzzer, but Bridgette Tuitt's 3-point attempt didn't fall through the hoop.

The Lady Steers have gone 0-2 at the three-day tournament so far, falling to host Slaton in the first round, 40-26.

"We look like we haven't worked out for a week and are starting over again, which is the case," said Big Spring Head Coach Mike Warren. "We need to practice and get back into a routine. We're working on a matchup zone defensively. It will be a good compliment to our man-to-man. Right now, we're using this tournament to get better at that."

For Coahoma, it was Kylie Gee who led the way throughout the first half.

The Lady Steers struggled to contain the Bulldogettes post as she posted a game-high 21 points. In the second half, it was Berkley Iden who shredded the Lady Steers defense. Iden finished the night with 13 points.

The Lady Steers had more balanced scoring with freshman Bridgette Tuitt leading the team with 10 points. Cerbi Ritchey scored nine in the post and was complimented by Crystal Woodson's eight.

See **TOURNEY**, Page 2B

Forsan claims tourney title

Herald Staff Report

STERLING CITY — Forsan's Buffaloes won their second tournament this season, coasting to a 59-45 victory over rival Stanton in the finals of the Sterling City Tournament Tuesday.

The Buffs jumped out early on Stanton, but watched an 8-point lead vanish in the second period as the two teams went into intermission tied at 27.

Forsan exploded out of the locker room in the third period, though, outscoring Stanton 21-8 in the frame.

Forsan was led by Jeremy Robbins' 21 points, while Evan Burton chipped in 18 and Nathan Atkerson scored 11.

Robbins was selected as the tournament MVP, while Atkerson was named to the All-Tournament team.

Tyler Fulton led Stanton with 19 points. Forsan defeated Stanton in the title game at this tournament last season as well.

Forsan Coach Terry McDonald praised the depth of the team for the Buffs' tournament victory.

"Playing three games in two days was a real test for us after coming off a 10-day break," McDonald said. "A lot of the credit for the success we're having this year can be attributed to the bench players, even those that sometimes do not get in the game. These guys push the starters every day in practice and give good, hard minutes when their time comes."

The Lady Buffs were also in the finals of the Sterling City Tournament, but results from their matchup with Denver City was not available at press time.

The Buffs improve their record to 15-1 and are currently ranked 19th in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class A, Division I poll. Their only loss came at the hands of No. 2 Roscoe.

Forsan's next game is against Crossroads rival Grady Tuesday in Lenorah.

The Buffs have met the Wildcats twice this season, coming out on top in both affairs.

Forsan	20	7	21	11-59
Stanton	12	15	8	10-45

Forsan: Jeremy Robbins 21, Evan Burton 18, Nathan Atkerson 11, Tristian Clay 5, Alex Huckabee 4.
Stanton: Tyler Fulson 19.
3-point goals: FHS 2 (Robbins, Huckabee).

Owls roll by WMU

Rice wins first bowl since 1953

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Just a few miles from campus, Rice put on a show at the Texas Bowl that the Owls hope sets an example for future teams to follow.

Chase Clement threw three touchdown passes, ran for a score and caught a TD pass from Jarrett Dillard to lead the Owls to a 38-14 win over Western Michigan at Reliant Stadium on Tuesday night.

The Owls (10-3) won a bowl game for the first time since the 1954 Cotton Bowl. They also reached 10 victories for the first time since 1949, and the second time in school history.

Clement was a redshirt freshman in 2005, when Rice went 1-10.

"Coming in with the way that Rice was and looking at the way that we're leaving, it's amazing how much this place has changed," he said. "Hopefully, that can be the standard for Rice football. Coming in and being 3-8, then 1-10 and just the way that the program was, it's been fun to see the transformation and go out the way we did."

See **RICE**, Page 2B



AP photo/David J. Phillip

Rice quarterback Chase Clement (16) rushes for a touchdown as Western Michigan's Louis Delmas, left, tries to tackle him during the first quarter of the Texas Bowl Tuesday in Houston. Rice easily won 48-14, claiming its first bowl victory since 1953.

Jones facing big challenge in fixing Cowboys

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Jerry Jones is stuck.

The Dallas Cowboys' roster is loaded with expensive, talented players who don't seem to get along. There are legitimate questions about whether Tony Romo has the mettle to continue the lineage of Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman. There are more questions about whether Terrell Owens is part of the problem or the solution.

And Jones insists he's keeping a coaching staff that's overseen two of the most stunning underachievements in recent NFL history.

How's that for a sales pitch to potential buyers of the unsold seats and luxury suites to his new \$1.1 billion stadium? In a swooning economy, no less.

About the only benefit of the Dallas Cowboys' offseason already being under way is that Jones has more time to figure out his escape plan. Or, in the parlance of his previous career, Jones must find a way to turn this dry hole into a gusher or brace for yet another disappointing finish in 2009.

Let's start with the roster. Among the few players brave enough to meet with the media Monday, a word frequently used was "chemistry," as in the lack of it. Putting personalities together is never easy, but it's even tougher when you have a quarterback with



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

Dallas Cowboys head coach Wade Phillips pauses as he responds to questions during a news conference at the teams NFL football training facility in Irving Monday. After seeing Super Bowl hopes fizzle into a 9-7 season that wasn't good enough to make the playoffs, team owner Jerry Jones has vowed to bring back Phillips, and Phillips on Monday vowed to do things differently.

more pop star girlfriends than playoff victories, a me-first receiver (or two) and a defense with Adam "Pacman" Jones, Tank Johnson and Ken Hamlin acting tough by calling their corner of the locker room "D Block" yet doing little to punish foes on the

field. Part of the problem is that Jones stocks his roster with bold-face names because he loves hearing people talk about his club, regardless of what they're saying. Besides, he remembers the stew of stars he collected in

1995 and the Super Bowl they won under the loose reins of Barry Switzer.

What Jones seems to have forgotten is that Switzer took over a group that

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Dorothy Baker



Dorothy Elaine Baker, 53, of Stanton, died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, in Midland. Visitation will be Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Gilbreath Funeral Home, 209 N. St. Charles in Stanton. Funeral services will be Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Stanton. Interment services will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

She was born June 23, 1955, to Harry and Karola Jones in Lubbock and married Albert H. Baker Nov. 18, 1978 in Lubbock. She worked as a bookkeeper and tax accountant in Midland and in Stanton for 16 years. In 1996, she helped with the development of the computer programs at Stanton ISD and joined the Stanton High School staff as the computer science and BCIS teacher.

She is survived by her husband, Albert H. Baker of Stanton; three sons, Jay Baker and his fiancée Cassie Stroud of Lubbock, Clayton Baker and his wife Marisa of Azle, and David Baker and his wife Magan of Stanton; two sisters, Valerie Hlavaty and her husband Doug of Lubbock and Loucille Battig and her husband Doug of Sacramento, Calif.; a brother, Roy Jones and his wife Annette of Lubbock; three grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials be made to the PFC Clayton Henson Scholarship Fund c/o Permian Basin Area Foundation, 550 W. Texas, Suite 1260, Midland 79701.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$46 million for Friday's drawing.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$37 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 1, 22, 29, 44, and 52. The Mega Ball number was 39.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 4 - 17 - 22 - 27 - 28.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5 - 0 - 1 - 7. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6 - 6 - 9. Sum It Up: 21.

The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring Volunteer program today. We request potential volunteers not to volunteer for one year after a significant loss. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432)517-4073.

The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

The Big Spring Salvation Army will be conducting free blood pressure and glucose screenings Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Army's Corps Building, located at 811 W. Fifth St. The screenings are being sponsored by In-Home Care. For more information, contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. As a promotional introduction, no fare is charged. Beginning April 1, the daily fare will be from \$3 to \$8, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- COREY HOFFPAUR, 32, 1308 Sheppard, was arrested on a local warrant.
- JUAN ORTIZ, 28, 1407 Virginia, was arrested on eight local warrants.
- KEVIN BOYCE, 30, 2206 Cecilia, was arrested on a Waco County warrant.
- ELEUTERIO PADRON, 59, Lamesa, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (note: officials reported 66 prisoners in the county jail):

- ROBERT LEE AIKINS, 43, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.
- JESUS MANUEL RAMIREZ, 51, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- SHELIA MARIA WOODRUFF, 45, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of assault on a public servant.
- JESSE LENDELL WOODRUFF, 23, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the 177 mile marker of Interstate 20. Two persons were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. 24th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported on FM 821 east of Highway 87. Service was refused.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 700 block of Nolan.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 3900 block of Hamilton.

Take Note

The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

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

HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

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

Your Local Weather

Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3	Sun 1/4	Mon 1/5
75/35	70/41	73/35	57/33	51/36
Mainly sunny. Warm. High around 75F. Winds SW at 15 to 25 mph.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

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

CHANGING DATES

The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

at her office at Home Hospice.

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

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

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

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

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

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Upcoming Bowl Schedule

- Tonight**
Insight Bowl
Kansas vs. Minnesota, 5 p.m. (NFL Network)
- Chick-fil-A Bowl*
LSU vs. Georgia Tech, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Thursday**
Outback Bowl
South Carolina vs. Iowa, 10 a.m. (ESPN)
- Gator Bowl*
Nebraska vs. Clemson, noon (CBS)
- Capital One Bowl*
Georgia vs. Michigan State, noon (ABC)
- Rose Bowl*
Penn State vs. USC, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
- Orange Bowl*
Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech, 7:30 p.m. (FOX)
- Friday**
Cotton Bowl
Mississippi vs. Texas Tech, 1 p.m. (FOX)
- Liberty Bowl*
Kentucky vs. East Carolina, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
- Sugar Bowl*
Utah vs. Alabama, 7 p.m. (FOX)

RICE

Continued from Page 1B

Clement went 30-for-44 for 307 yards and was the game's MVP. Dillard caught his 60th touchdown, adding to his NCAA record, and also tied former Memphis runningback DeAngelo Williams' Conference USA record for career TDs.

"I was just surprised at how well we were executing," Dillard said. "With everything that happened, it was just a team effort and we really stepped out on the field and played as one."

The performance by Rice's defense may have been just as remarkable.

The Owls, who were giving up 467 yards and 35 points per game, shut out the high-scoring Broncos for more than three quarters before Tim Hiller threw a 2-yard TD pass to Kirk Elsworth with 6:33 left in the game.

Western Michigan, ranked 24th in total offense coming in, gained only 278 yards and went 3-for-14 on third down. Hiller, who led the Mid-American Conference in yards passing, finished 19-for-42 for 198 yards with two interceptions.

"Defensively, by far that's the best this defense has played in

my time here," said Rice coach David Bailiff, finishing his second season.

The Broncos (9-4) dropped to 0-4 in bowls and missed their chance for the first 10-win season.

Hiller broke down in tears at the postgame press conference and coach Bill Cubit embraced him. Cubit then revealed that Hiller played the last three games with a torn left knee ligament.

Jamarko Simmons caught a 9-yard pass on the Broncos' first play from scrimmage, setting a school record with his 99th reception of the season. But Juan Nunez dropped a touchdown pass behind the Rice defense and John Potter missed a 51-yard field-goal try, setting the tone for the Broncos' night.

Safety Louis Delmas was called for pass interference to set up Clement's 26-yard touchdown run with 5:21 left in the first quarter.

The Owls' 102nd ranked rush defense stuffed Brandon West on a third-and-1 from the Western 39, Clement threw a 29-yard pass to James Casey and Clark Fangmeier kicked a 30-yard field goal.

"Third downs killed us," Cubit said. "Offense, we were never in sync. We just didn't play real well."

Corbin Smiter couldn't handle a third-down pass from Clement

early in the second, but Broncos safety Mario Armstrong was flagged for a high hit that knocked off Smiter's helmet. A pass interference call on cornerback Londen Fryar gave the Owls a first down at the 2 and Toren Dixon caught a TD pass from Clement with 6:53 left in the first half to make it 17-0.

Under pressure, Clement threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Casey with 1:15 remaining in the half for a 24-0 lead.

"I think sometimes, it's just not your day, it's not your time," Hiller said.

Western Michigan receivers dropped third-down passes on the first two series of the second half, dropping the Broncos to 1-for-9 on third downs for the game.

Rice increased its lead to 31-0 with 6:35 left in the third. Clement passed to Dillard, who threw back to a wide-open Clement for the score. It was Dillard's first career completion and the 51st touchdown produced by the duo, but the first with the roles reversed.

Dillard caught an 18-yard TD pass from Clement in the fourth.

The Broncos drove for one more score in the final minute, with Hiller finding Schneider Julien open in the end zone with 25 seconds left.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 1B

The Lady Steers got off to a strong start, leading 9-4 early in the game and holding on to an 11-8 advantage headed into the second period.

That's when Coahoma started to distance itself, outscoring the Lady Steers 29-20 in the second and third frames combined.

Big Spring made a comeback bid in the fourth, but came up three points short.

"Gee killed us in the first half and Iden hurt us in the second," Warren said. "We never gave up and kept hustling. We had our shot to win it, but it didn't go in. It just happens that way sometimes. We found a bit of scoring in this game and it was balanced. When Woodson and (Lauren) Porras score for us, then it helps a lot. Give Coahoma some credit, though. They played well. Gee is a good post player and she's hard to defend."

Despite the major difference in margin of loss in the two games the Lady

Steers have played, Warren is most proud about Big Spring's performance in the Slaton game.

"I thought our best play came against Slaton in the third period," he said. "That's the best we've looked in the tournament. We got within six points of them after being down big early. Our defense was playing well and we got them out of rhythm. We just couldn't sustain it."

The Lady Steers wrapped their tournament experience Wednesday against Lubbock Roosevelt.

Coahoma 46, Big Spring 43
Big Spring 11 11 9 12-43
Coahoma 8 15 14 9-46

Big Spring: Bridgette Tuitt 10, Cerbi Ritchey 9, Crystal Woodson 8, Valerie Ross 6, Desiree Anderson 4, Lauren Porras 4, LaShaunte Anderson 2.

Coahoma: Kylie Gee 21, Berkley Iden 13, Shelbi Paige 6, Kalea Neff 3, Hilari White 2, K'Leigh Fowler 1.

3-point goals: BS 0, CHS 1 (Paige). Free throws: 9-18, CHS 19-30. Total fouls: BS 21, CHS 14. Fouled out: None.

Slaton 40, Big Spring 26
Slaton 9 12 7 12-40
Big Spring 6 3 13 4-26

Slaton: Audrey Jaramillo 14, Wilson 14, Ashley Jaramillo 4, Chapman 3, Dean 3, Chapa 2.

Big Spring: D. Anderson 8, Cerbi Ritchey 6, Bridgette Tuitt 5, Valerie Ross 3, Taylor Seaton 2, Crystal Woodson 2.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

learned how to win under Jimmy Johnson. There was enough leadership from the top players to police the locker room and enough talent to overcome bozo coaching decisions.

The current group learned a little about winning from Bill Parcells, but nowhere near enough.

And they certainly are lacking in locker-room leaders.

Romo had the perfect chance to take charge after the team stunk it up while he was out with a broken finger, but it didn't happen.

If anything, he went backward.



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LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

say it's better than (similar events across the state)."

And, until recently, at least, this year's event has run much more smoothly than past editions, she added.

"For awhile, it was like nothing was happening with vandals. Everything was going great," she said. "Then on Saturday, we found out someone had stolen some extension cords ... and someone tried to break into our greeter's booth ... but other than that, there haven't been any major disappointments."

After this year's festival closes, Simmons will hand over day-to-day responsibility for the event to Howard Stewart, while she continues to handle administrative duties. But before she steps aside, she would really like to see the event break that long sought-after mark of 20,000 visitors.

"I think this year we're going to make it," she said. "This has been tremendous. This year it hasn't been stressful and we haven't had all the electrical problems we've had in the past. It's just been going very smoothly and everyone has been so grateful. It's been fantastic."

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

GAZA

Continued from Page 1A

point that we assess they promise a safer existence in southern Israel, we will consider it. We're not there yet," Olmert said, according to a participant in the meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

The chief of Israel's internal security services, Yuval Diskin, told Cabinet ministers that Hamas' ability to rule had been "badly impaired." Weapons development facilities have been "completely wiped out," and the network of smuggling tunnels has been badly damaged, a participant in the meeting quoted Diskin as saying. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed to the media.

Underlying the Israeli decision to keep fighting are the mightier weapons that Hamas has smuggled into Gaza through underground tunnels along the border with Egypt.

Previously militants relied on crude homemade rockets that could fly just 12 miles to terrorize Israeli communities near the border with Gaza. Now they are firing more accurate weapons manufactured in factories in China and Iran that have dramatically expanded their range and put more than one-tenth of Israel's population in their sights, Israeli defense officials say.

More than two dozens rockets and mortar shells were fired by midday Wednesday, including five that hit in and around the major southern Israeli city of Beersheba, 22 miles from Gaza. One hit an empty school. Another landed in a small farming community about 20 miles southeast of metropolitan Tel Aviv, the country's most populated urban area. No serious casualties were reported.

School was canceled in large swaths of Israel's south because of the rocket threat. The 18,000 students at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, southern Israel's only university, were also told to stay home.

Early Wednesday, Israeli aircraft pounded smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border in another attempt to sever the lifeline that keeps Hamas in power by supplying weapons, food and fuel.

Israel and Egypt blockaded Gaza after Hamas violently seized control of the territory in June 2007, and have cracked open their borders only to let in limited amounts of humanitarian aid.

A huge explosion rocked a tunnel that housed a fuel pipeline, and aircraft also smashed the house of a smuggling kingpin. In all, two tunnels were destroyed in the raid, Egyptian security officials in Rafah said.

An Egyptian official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said Israel has destroyed 120 tunnels since the aerial campaign began.

According to conservative estimates, there were at least 200 tunnels before Israeli warplanes began striking.

In Gaza City, powerful airstrikes sent high-rise apartment buildings swaying and showered streets with broken glass and pulverized concrete. The Israeli military said government buildings were hit, including an office of Gaza's Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh.

A Palestinian medic was killed and two others were wounded when an Israeli missile struck next to their ambulance east of Gaza City, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said it did not know of the incident.

Israeli navy ships also fired at Hamas positions along the coastline.

Diskin, the Israeli security services chief, said Hamas was trying to smuggle out some of its activists to Egypt through tunnels that were still passable. Other militants were hiding in Gaza hospitals, some disguised as doctors and nurses, and in mosques, where militants had set up command and control centers, Diskin said.

Although Hamas leaders have been driven underground, spokesman Taher Nunu said the Gaza government was functioning and had met over the past few days.

"What our people want is clear: an immediate stop to all kinds of aggression, the end of the siege by all means, the opening of all border crossings, and international guarantees that the occupation will not renew this terrorist war again," Nunu said in a state-

ment.

Israel fears that opening crossings with Gaza would allow Hamas — which remains officially committed to Israel's destruction — to strengthen its hold on the territory even further.

Israel has been massing troops and armor along the Gaza border in an indication the air campaign could morph into a ground operation. The government approved a plan to call up an additional 2,500 reserve soldiers late Tuesday, following a decision earlier this week to authorize a call-up of 6,700 soldiers. The call-ups have yet to be carried out.

In two phone calls to Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Monday and Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner appealed to him to consider a truce to allow time for humanitarian relief supplies to enter Gaza, two senior officials in Barak's office said.

While rejecting the truce, Israel said it would allow 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies to enter Gaza on Wednesday, in addition to 4,000 tons the military says have been allowed in since the offensive began. Several dozen chronically ill Gazans have also been authorized to enter Israel for treatment Wednesday, the military said.

The U.N. planned to resume food aid distribution on Thursday, after halting it two weeks ago because of shortages caused by the blockade. Most of Gaza's 1.4 million residents rely on U.N. food handouts.

Dallas police seek 3 suspects in store shooting

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities searched for three suspects after gunmen opened fire in a store in far North Dallas, killing one person and injuring three others.

Police said they couldn't immediately pinpoint a motive for the deadly shooting, which occurred about 9 p.m. Tuesday at The Gas Pipe, a store that sells rolling papers, pipes and other items.

Three gunmen entered the store through the front door. While it's still uncertain what unfolded next, the three left on foot after shooting four people inside the store, said Lt. Craig Miller, Dallas Police Homicide.

State briefs

Man cleared by DNA to get reconstructive surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — A man recently freed from prison after being wrongly convicted of the sexual assault of an 8-year-old boy will receive facial reconstructive surgery at no charge from a renowned Houston surgeon.

Ricardo Rachell spent five years in prison and was freed Dec. 12 after DNA evidence, which had gone untested until recently, showed he didn't commit the crime. The testing was completed Oct. 28 and it identified the attacker as being another man who is a known sex offender. Rachell always maintained his innocence and was vehement there was DNA in his case that was never tested.

His face was disfigured in a 1992 shotgun accident, unrelated to his conviction. The disfigurement also makes it difficult for him to speak. Coming to grips with freedom, Rachell, 51, said he isn't interested so much in any financial compensation for the errors that kept

OUTREACH

Continued from Page 1A

signor Arturo Banuelas, of El Paso's Roman Catholic diocese.

Banuelas, whose young nephew was shot and killed in an ambush in the west coast state of Sinaloa earlier this year, said parishioners from El Paso would normally make trips to a city jail and several missions around Juarez to deliver food, clothing, blankets and Christmas gifts at this time of year.

But because of the on-going drug cartel war — more than 1,300 people have been killed in the city of 1.3 million this year — he canceled the church's outreach. Officials with the

Abundant Living Faith Center in El Paso also have canceled trips to orphanages and local ministries in Mexico that aid Juarez's poorest.

Pat Rodriguez, the center's outreach director, said her church group has been forced to wait for aid organizers from Mexico to cross the border and pick up supplies. And even that effort has waned as the violence in the sprawling city across the Rio Grande has mounted in the last year.

"Some of them don't come now," Rodriguez said of her Mexican colleagues. "I'll go two or three weeks, or even a month without seeing them."

Rodriguez said before the situation in

Juarez became so volatile, aid workers would make weekly trips to her church's food pantry. But criminals have forced many of those groups to scatter or dramatically reduce their own efforts amid threats of violence, she said.

Both Rodriguez and Banuelas said their churches have historically taken youth volunteers to pass out food or do community service, but the risk is simply too great now.

For Banuelas, the final straw came this summer when a youth group returned from an outreach mission south of Juarez. Shortly after the group left, more than a dozen people were killed in the same small town.

"So we just decided that it was too dangerous,"

Banuelas said. "If it was just persecution against the church, or against what we believe, I'd be the first one there." But he said, "It's just drug and cartel violence."

Warring cartels have been fighting for control of the city's lucrative drug and human smuggling trade. Mexican authorities have stationed thousands of soldiers and additional police officials in the city, but the fighting has only intensified.

Armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom have increased across Mexico. Officials estimate that more than 5,300 people died in Mexico in organized crime-related slayings in the first 11 months of 2008.

Despite the violence,

Banuelas said many of his parishioners still want to go to Juarez. Instead, he has directed their efforts at impoverished communities in and around El Paso.

George W. Grayson, a Mexico expert at the College of William and

Mary in Virginia, said the churches' fear is well-founded and likely to continue until the Mexican government regains control of Juarez.

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Lifesaving dream a message from God?

By **SUE NOWICKI**

McClatchy Newspapers
MODESTO, Calif. — When Anne Abruzzini of Turlock, Calif., had a dream in August 1997, she had no idea it would save her life.

"I was dreaming, and I knew I was dreaming," she said. "I was seeing this woman in medical clothing with brownish-blond hair. I was telling her I had a pain in my breast. I didn't in real life, and I'm thinking, it's silly of me to be dreaming this. At the same time, I thought, this woman doesn't look anything like my girlfriends who are nurses, so why am I dreaming this?"

Then she woke up. "It was Sunday morning and we were to go to church, and I shared my dream with my husband," she said. "He reached over and felt a lump. I had no idea it was there."

The next day, she was in her gynecologist's office. He referred her to a surgeon, who saw her at the last appointment that Friday.

"I know the surgeon was tired and had been quite busy that day," Abruzzini said. "He wanted to let this go, and I pressed him for a biopsy. He did a biopsy in his office that evening. When I came back into the room for the results, he told me I had Stage 3 cancer. It was a fairly large tumor. He wanted to do surgery within a couple of days. I said I wanted a second opinion."

The surgeon sent her to an oncologist. She went to the appointment with her husband, Michael.

"He was professional and answered all my questions," Abruzzini said. "After he left, my husband said, 'He seems pretty good.'"

I said, 'I don't think he's the one for me.' My husband asked why. I said, 'If I'm going to die from cancer, I want someone who cares. Even if they can't save me, I want someone with compassion.'"

So she talked with a girlfriend who also was fighting cancer.

"I had been supporting her, not realizing I had cancer myself," Abruzzini said. "She referred me to her oncologist in the (San Francisco) Bay Area."

The local medical experts had wanted her to have a complete mastectomy — removal of both breasts — plus aggressive and extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatments following surgery.

"I preferred a more conservative therapy: less chemo and removing the lump to start with," Abruzzini said. "I think I had more courage because of the dream and feeling that I was watched over by God. When I told that to the oncologist, he asked if I would mind him referring me to a colleague, a surgeon over at (University of California at San Francisco). I said that would be fine."

The surgeon was able to work her in that day so she and her husband wouldn't have to make another trip.

When Dr. Laura Esserman walked into the room, "I was shocked,"

Abruzzini said. "There was the woman in my dream. It was so vivid, the feeling of deja vu, that I told her about seeing her in my dream, and that this was where I was supposed to be."

"I asked her if she had faith in God. She said she believed me, that these things happened, and she did believe in God. I felt someone who had faith would care. That needed to be No. 1. Next would be, of course, medical training and skills, and she had gone to Harvard and Stanford and was in charge of all the surgeons, male and female, there. And third, bedside manner, and she had a wonderful bedside manner."

"Laura Esserman saved my life."

Pain Puts Focus on God

Abruzzini had three rounds of chemotherapy to shrink the tumor, followed by the lumpectomy, which was done between Christmas and New Year's in 1997.

"They didn't quite get all the cancer, so they had to do a second surgery to get 'clear margins' in January (1998)," she said. "They even had to scrape cancer off the chest walls; that's how deep it was. But she stretched herself as a surgeon to save my breasts. She realized how important that was to a woman. I never did have to have reconstructive surgery."

There was one glitch: After being released from the hospital following the second surgery, Abruzzini and her husband ate dinner near the hospital. Then she discovered she was bleeding from the incisions. She called Esserman, who was in another surgery at the time and talked with Abruzzini through a phone held to her ear by an assistant. The surgeon told the patient to return to the emergency room and wait for her.

"They had emergency surgery and couldn't put me to sleep because I had eaten, so I was wide awake," Abruzzini recalled. "She was cauterizing blood vessels and she said, when she saw my tears coming down, 'How can you do this? You must be in so much pain.' Since my late teens I had written to Mother Teresa, and she (or another nun) always answered. I told the doctor, 'Mother Teresa said, 'Never are you closer to God than when you are in total pain.' I told her, 'I'm so focused on God. That's how I'm handling the pain.'"

"I also told her that my grandmother had always taught us to offer our sufferings in



Anne Abruzzini poses for a photo with husband Michael and sons Adam and John, far right, at their home in Turlock, Calif. When she had a dream in August 1997, she had no idea it would save her life.

this world for others to be saved. When she heard that, she began to sing to me. She sang two songs, one in English and one in Spanish. She was just so compassionate and caring. I said, 'Laura, not only are you the top doctor at UCSF, but you were trained at Harvard and Stanford, you're married to a lawyer and have two lovely children, and you sing, too?' She chuckled."

Esserman, director of the UCSF Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center, is nationally known as a breast cancer surgeon, one who is on the cutting edge of developing new, more effective ways to treat patients.

"I am so glad that she had a great experience," she said in an e-mail last week. "I appreciate the value that personal beliefs can provide to help patients recover."

When asked if she believes in miracles, Esserman responded, "I believe that what makes for miracles is when everyone comes together

to do everything they can to help patients. These acts of kindness are what make up the fabric of everyday miracles."

"In addition, it's important to combine scientific data with patient preferences and help them to find the solutions that work for them."

Cancer 'A Blessing'

Abruzzini was clear of cancer for 10 years. In January, doctors found a small cancerous spot "about the size of a fingernail" on an MRI; Esserman again was the doctor who removed it.

"I've been doing just fine," Abruzzini said.

Her sons, Adam, 22, and John, 19, were in elementary school at the time of her first surgery; they're now students at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

"The cancer was a blessing to remind me of the importance of being a mom at home, caring for my children," Abruzzini said. "They were able to cook and clean,

and they would come up to ask me when I was going through chemo what they could do for me. It made me know that they would be OK, that God would watch over my children."

She believes the dream was given for much the same reason.

"I often wondered why (I had the dream). I think God wanted me to be here to tell people

that miracles don't just happen in the Bible. They happen every day around us. We just have to pay attention. Knowing that these things happen today is to encourage us. When this happened to me, I knew God was watching over me. I know he wanted me to have the dream to encourage others, maybe to give someone hope."

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The final hours of 2008 are exceptionally lucky as Mercury the messenger joins with auspicious Jupiter to chime in with what promises to be a robust and raucous count down. Then to further spice things up, Saturn, the disciplinarian of the zodiac, goes retrograde, leaving us with the feeling that anything goes to bring in the new year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Here's something to count on: Some things are and will always be out of your control. You can now use this to your advantage as an aspect of your life unfolds in an unexpected way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Beware of a bug-eyed busybody snooping around your back stair. If you do not want a molehill turned into a mountain keep your porch spick-and-span and your window shades all pulled completely down for now.†

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Romance, though it may have been long in coming, was worth the wait. Nothing worthwhile is easy. It just may be time to pick the china pattern as a wedding song plays in the wind. Dance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being an expert at finding balance in all areas of your life, you won't mind being



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

stretched a bit more. You have become so good at juggling you will be asked to either join the circus or dance in the spotlight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your willingness to meet head on and overcome your problems inspires your subordinates to overcome their own tribulations. Without your brave example they would have had markedly less success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Use careful evaluation of the insights you make into your career. Whichever insight becomes your focus will also become the new incarnation of your situation. You will paint, write, sing or dance the new creation into existence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No one has the right to ask you to be someone you are not. People around you have needs and expectations, and that's their problem, not yours. Refuse to morph yourself. You serve best just as you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The limelight you usually manage to avoid shines on you even more brightly tonight. Your act of great humility draws much unwanted attention. You are changing the world little by little. Let them gossip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You must create your own self-esteem. It's just one of those things that no one can give to you. Glamour and fun both fall into that category, too. Get back in touch with what delights you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). You are a force to be reckoned with. You don't always turn up your power to high voltage because it's usually unnecessary and sometimes in bad taste to do so. However, you can afford to amp up some now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's someone you want to know. But how well? You'll dance between creating intimacy and distance. You could probably read this person's mind if you wanted to, though you're a little afraid of what you would find there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be moved in a profound way. Tears are not something to hide or fear, especially not the tears of joy that might come this afternoon. Accept your catharsis as a gift.

YOUR MOST AUSPICIOUS WAY TO USHER IN THE NEW YEAR: SAGITTARIUS: You love to be with your next of kin, but you also need a fair amount of new acquaintances around you as the ball drops. The more diverse your crowd, the better your spirits. Creating a common experience with very uncommon people helps you feel connected with all of humanity.

CAPRICORN: You are in your glory these days and there is a long list of people who would like to be around you when the old calendar goes in the trash. Frankly, some of them fear that you'll grow distant in the new year. Your fortunes increase when you provide the reassur-

ance they need. **AQUARIUS:** The prospect of starting a new project or relationship has you feeling positively effervescent. Follow your spirit's call and boogie your way into the new year. You don't even need a club! Life is a party even if you happen to be home alone. **PISCES:** The spiritual energy you feel going into the new year is so strong that it would be a shame not to share it. Gather with those with similar beliefs and offer up a prayer for the new year. Don't be afraid to make a few personal requests of the divine while you're at it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Disco diva Donna Summer is a New Year's Eve baby who was born to get people dancing. This five-time Grammy Award winner also has five natal planets in Capricorn, which shows a driven character with serious business savvy. And though this is the chart of someone who loves to work, with Venus in life-of-the-party Sagittarius Summer also knows when and how to have rockin' fun.

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

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for two years. I recently found out he has been using his parents' credit card for years. When I saw their card a year ago, I asked about it and was told it was only for emergencies. But, Annie, in the past two months he has charged almost \$2,000 to their account. I asked what he spent the money on and he claims he doesn't remember. He won't give me the credit card statement. He said, "It's between me and my parents," and his mother agrees. We both work full time. While money is tight, we



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

We agree that your husband should be sharing this information with you, but if his parents are footing the bill, we'd leave it alone. If, however, the money is coming from your family finances, you are entitled to know what's going on.

Dear Annie: My wife, "Sara," is a bright, educated woman and a successful attorney. She has many fine qualities, but she is a conversational bully. She has a terrible habit of interrupting people and cutting them off in mid-sentence.

This is really causing a strain on our marriage. I am constantly embarrassed by her rudeness, which has caused harm to our relationships with other couples. When she behaves like this, she becomes completely unattractive to me and she senses as much.

Sara is an only child who is idolized by her parents and, in their eyes, can do no wrong. I have tried countless times to talk with her about this, but she becomes defensive and insists I am hypersensitive. She can't see how this alienates our friends. I don't know how else to make it clear that her actions are unacceptable. -- Out of Patience in the Southeast

Dear Out of Patience: Sara never learned proper social interaction and doesn't understand what

have a decent income. I have asked him repeatedly to work with me on a budget, but he won't. I am outraged. He continued to take money out of our joint account while running up these bills. Where is it all going? Either he is charging items he shouldn't, or charging basics and using the cash for something he shouldn't. I don't understand why his parents are protecting him instead of encouraging him to be open with me.

I am ready to pack my bags, but I don't want to cause more upheaval for my kids. I have been very vocal about his dishonesty and his parents' enabling behavior. What next? -- Broke, Broken and Distrusting

Dear Broke: Who is paying the bill for these charges? Is it possible your husband is buying things for his parents?

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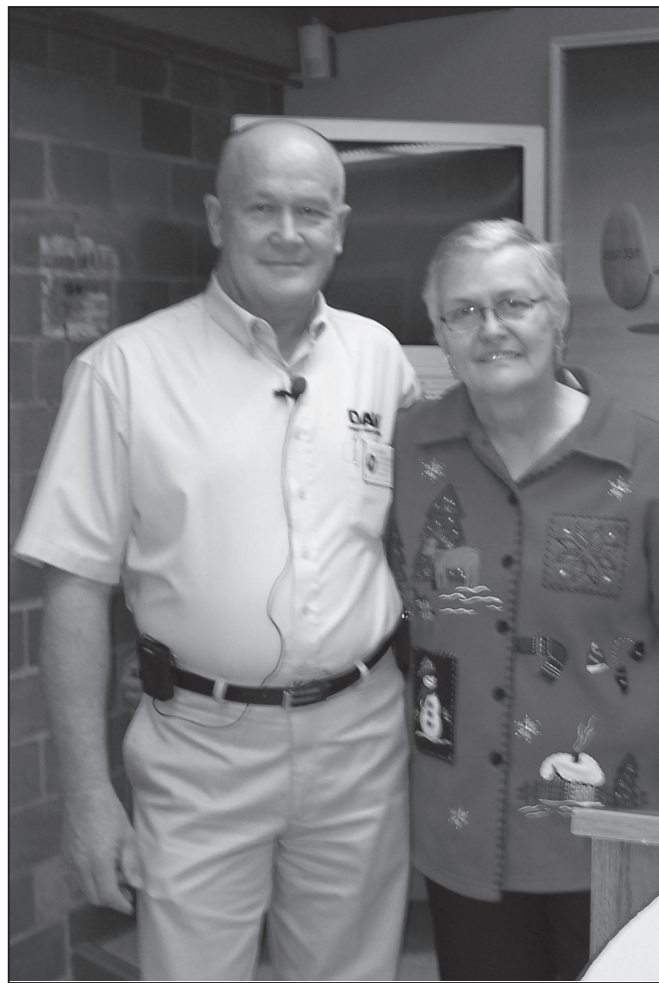
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Recently the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club presented James Bowen of Big Spring High School the October student of the month award. Pictured are Shelley Smith, vice president of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, Bowen and Mike Ritchey, BSHS Principal.



Ed Meiser, pictured with his wife, Heidrun, was the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for December. Meiser served in the United States Air Force from 1968-1974. He was as air traffic controller during the Vietnam War.

Courtesy photo

Something simple and good!

Don't Say Diet

By **KATHY MANWEILER**
McClatchy Newspapers

grilled cheese sandwich creates a popular meal, but its calorie count

and fat content could surprise you.

OliveGarden.com's

recipe for cream of tomato and basil soup contains 482 calories and 34

fat grams per cup, but I slim it down by using a mixture of tomato puree, mashed potato and half-and-half in place of two cups of heavy cream. I also substitute chicken broth for white wine. My alterations to this soup cut the calories by 74 percent and slash the fat by 80 percent.

The "Taste of Home" cookbook's recipe for three-cheese grilled cheese has at least 703 calories and 59 fat grams per sandwich, but I lighten it up by choosing light wheat bread and reduced-fat cheeses. My version keeps the gooey texture but eliminates the butter. Those changes trim the calories by 66 percent and slice off 81 percent of the fat.

You can have one of my three-cheese grilled cheese sandwiches plus a cup of my cream of tomato and basil soup for 365 calories and 17.7 fat grams.

Kathy's

Three-Cheese

Grilled Cheese

- 2 slices Sara Lee Delightful wheat bread
- 2 tablespoons reduced-fat cream cheese with chives and onion, softened
- ¼ cup shredded, reduced-fat Colby-Monterey Jack cheese blend

With both pieces of bread on a baking sheet, spread the cream cheese

on one piece and sprinkle the shredded cheese blend over the cream cheese.

Put the baking sheet under the oven's broiler until the cheese is melted and the other slice of bread is browned.

Once the cheese is melted, put the sandwich together and flip it over to broil the other side. Serve this straight out of the oven with a cup of the cream of tomato and basil soup.

Makes one sandwich.

Per sandwich: 240 calories, 11 fat grams, 515mg sodium, 21 carb grams, 4 fiber grams, 17 protein grams, 33 mg cholesterol

Adapted from a recipe in the "Taste of Home" cookbook

Kathy's Cream of Tomato and Basil Soup

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 cups chicken broth (low-sodium, if desired)
- 1 15-ounce can of diced tomatoes
- 1 11-ounce can tomato puree
- ½ cup plain mashed potatoes
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 3 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in a heavy saucepan. Add chicken broth and tomatoes and simmer until the mixture is reduced by half. Decrease heat and add tomato puree, mashed potatoes and half-and-half. Use an immersion blender or a food processor to puree the mixture until smooth. Stir in the chopped basil and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 6 cups. Serves 6.

Per cup: 125 calories, 6.7 fat grams, 25mg cholesterol, 335mg sodium, 10 carb grams, 2 fiber grams, 1 protein gram

Adapted from an OliveGarden.com recipe

Reach Kathy Manweiler at 316-268-6266 or kmanweiler@wichtaegle.com.

For more Don't Say Diet recipes, visit the Alive & Well Web site at www.wichitaliveandwell.com.



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sudoku

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

In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald



Objects of desire

Have you ever wondered why people collect certain things? Read about four collections that will leave you laughing, shaking your head, and maybe even a little jealous! Plus, skaking off the weight and breakfast bars.

American Profile

Last Cotton Game At The COTTON BOWL

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Friday, Jan. 2, 2009

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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Israel	BBC Business	Apocalypse How	rickies	CSI: Crime Scn	Saving Private Ryan, Tom Sizemore		New Year New Year
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Premios Juventud 2008 Celebra 5	Lopez	Two Men Two Men	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Mark Hagee	News-Lehrer	Apocalypse How		CSI: Crime Scn		Notarized: Top 100 Video Countdown	New Year New Year
7 :PM	Movie: Shrek 2, Cameron Diaz	Movie: Shrek 2, Cameron Diaz		Bones	Christine Gary	Fiesta de Año Nuevo	Knigh Rider	Payne	Israel Scott	Live From Lincoln Center	Machines of Malice	Movie: Heartbreak Ridge	CSI: Crime Scn			New Year New Year
8 :PM					Criminal Minds		Law & Order: SVU	Payne	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Machines of Malice		CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Walking Tall		New Year New Year
9 :PM	New Year's	New Year's	Don Francisco Presenta: ¡Feliz 2009!	TMZ	CSI: NY		New Year's	Payne	Payne		Machines of Malice	(15) Movie: Hang 'Em High, Ed Begley	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Walking Tall		New Year New Year
10 :PM	News ABC	News ABC		Raymond	News		News	Seinfeld	Israel	Dr. Young	Machines of Malice		CSI: Crime Scn		106 & Party: New Year's Eve Special	New Year New Year
11 :PM	Entertain	Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest		King-Hill	Late Show		Law & Order: SVU	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	CCM	Machines of Malice		CSI: NY	Law & Order		New Year
12 :AM	Insider	Paid		Law Order: CI	Late Late Show		New Year's Eve	Sex & Scott	Scott	Smiley	Machines of Malice		CSI: NY			New Year
1 :AM	Insider	Paid		RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	Tonight Show	Movie: Clueless, Brittany Murphy	Israel Sanchez	(Off Air)	Machines of Malice	Movie: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Lee Van Cleef	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order	Movie: Hustle & Flow, Taryn Manning	New Year New Year

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-31

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"HE HAD ANOTHER 'JUNIOR' MOMENT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

12-31

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"How did they get pictures of 2009 when it's still 2008?"

HAGAR

12-31

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OKAY, MEN— THE PLAN IS TO SURPRISE THE ENEMY BY ROWING UP ON THEM SILENTLY...

SO MUFFLE YOUR OARS!

HEY! MY MUFFLER IS BACK HOME IN MY CLOSET!

MINE, TOO!

YEAH! MINE WAS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US SOONER, HAGAR!

BC

12-31

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THOR GOT ME A BRACELET FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR.

HE GOT ME A DIAMOND NECKLACE.

I'D LIKE TO EXCHANGE THIS FOR A BODY CAST.

BLONDIE

12-31

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I JUST REALIZED THIS IS THE LAST SANDWICH I'LL EVER MAKE THIS YEAR

THAT'S PRETTY SAD, ISN'T IT?

OH WELL, TIME MARCHES ON, DOESN'T IT?

TRY TO BE STRONG, DEAR

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2008.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

On this date:

In 1775, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In 1857, Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife, Lucy, celebrated their silver anniversary (actually, a day late) by re-enacting their wedding ceremony in the White House.

In 1908, Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal was born in Buczacs in what was then Austria-Hungary.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed

WIZARD OF ID

12-31

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YOU'D BETTER LET ME DRIVE

HICCUP HICCUP HIC HIC

MAYBE WE SHOULD GET A TOW

AGNES

12-31

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WELL, HERE WE ARE! ANOTHER NEW YEAR'S EVE.

YEP.

NO! NO! YOU DON'T SAY 'YEP!' REMEMBER? I ALWAYS SAY "HERE WE ARE, ANOTHER NEW YEAR'S EVE" AND YOU SAY "HOPE IT'S A GOOD ONE"!

NOT 'YEP!'! IT'S NOT CUSTOMARY!

"CUSTOM IS THE PLAGUE OF WISE MEN AND THE IDOL OF FOOLS."

WHAT?! YOU'RE QUOTING THOMAS FULLER?! YOU? THIS YEAR WILL BE NUTS!!

HOPE IT'S A GOOD ONE.

HI AND LOIS

12-31

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GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU LOOK 10 YEARS YOUNGER!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY THAT!

COLOR MY HAIR?

GREEN WOULD LOOK NICE WITH THAT SWEATER.

THE OTHER COAST

12-31

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TOULOSE, WHAT'S THIS BOX OF HARD-TACK BISCUITS IN THE ATTIC?

THEY BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDDAD, WHO WAS A SAILOR ON A SQUARE-RIGGED SAILING SHIP.

HARDTACK BISCUITS WERE ALL HE COULD EAT WHILE HANGING OFF THE RIGGING BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH.

I THINK I'VE FOUND HIS TEETH.

SNUFFY SMITH

12-31

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I ONLY HAVE EYES FER YOU, MAW !!

BUT MY NOSE SHORE LIKES THAT GAL'S PARFUME !!

BEEETLE BAILEY

12-31

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DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, GIZMO?

NO

DON'T YOU NEED A GIRL TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH? SOMEONE TO LOVE?

SHHH!

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Oodles

6 From square one

10 Hibachi residue

13 Desert mount

14 Jury member

15 Choral voice

16 Cash dispenser

18 Crotchety sort

19 Stampede sound

20 Work hard

21 Safe and sound

23 Media mogul Turner

24 Fruit-filled pastry

25 Acted like a nag

29 Mosaic artist

30 Steer clear of

31 Butcher-scale button

32 Runs into

36 Potter's oven

37 Kitchen gizmo

38 Nobelist Wiesel

39 Blissful spot

40 Pupil's site

41 Produce Z's

42 Underdog's win

44 Walk shakily

45 Sends in

48 de mer

49 Investigator

50 Supermarket department

51 Sort of shuttle

54 Beastly sort

55 Nest egg

58 "Home on the Range" beast

59 With

62 Across, pre-kickoff ritual

60 Where to spend rupees

61 Mag. staffers

62 See 59 Across

63 Short-tempered

DOWN

1 Con game

2 Ancient Roman statesman

3 BBs and bullets

4 JFK or LBJ

5 Like Venetian blinds

6 Rose-garden pest

7 Singer Sedaka

8 Bard's nightfall

9 Tag-team member

10 Spoken

11 Squirrel away

12 Monopoly buy

15 Kind of electricity

17 For men and women

22 Bard's "before"

24 Horse fathers

25 "Upside-down" dessert

26 Gung-ho

27 Auditor's goal

28 Access to a 16 Across

29 Silently understood

31 Is ready to rest

33 Oodles

34 Mucky stuff

35 Tea-leaves reader

37 Part of DC

41 Drum up, as business

43 Place for key limes

44 Baby-powder ingredient

45 Wedgwood alternative

46 Pushed hard

47 Causes to yawn, perhaps

48 Stands for

50 Banquet-area

51 Flowers-to-be

52 Condo apartment

53 Hang in there

56 Aussie leaper

57 Word on a dollar

REDUNDANCIES

by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

SIFT	PENS	MANGO
UCLA	OVAL	OMENS
BEAU	PITA	NASAL
JUMP	ALLOVER	TWO
PEEKA	STOP	
IRON	HEADON	
ANGST	NOTI	GENE
LEAP	ATTHE	CHANCE
PAPA	ROIL	ENTER
STEREO	TEEN	
	KNOT	ANGLE
CPR	SPRING	GALEAK
ALIBI	IDOL	EDGE
DEFOG	ELSE	ATEE
SATON	SEES	MORN

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News at a glance

Defiant Ill. Gov. Blagojevich names Burris to fill Obama's Senate seat as race enters case

CHICAGO (AP) — A defiant Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Tuesday named a black political trailblazer to Barack Obama's Senate seat, a surprise move that put the governor's opponents in the uncomfortable position of trying to block his choice from becoming the Senate's only black member. Blagojevich's appointment of former state Attorney General Roland Burris injected race into the drama surrounding the embattled governor, who repeatedly sought to distance his selection from charges that he tried to sell the seat to the highest bidder.

"Please don't allow the allegations against me to taint a good and honest man," the governor said, turning to the smiling 71-year-old standing by his side.

"This is about Roland Burris as a U.S. senator, not about the governor who made the appointment."

Burris was the first African-American elected to major statewide office in Illinois, serving as comptroller and running for governor three times — the last time losing to Blagojevich.

He said he has no connection to the charges against Blagojevich, who was arrested earlier this month.

World prepares to ring in 2009

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Amid the jubilation and celebration of New Year's Eve, another feeling is present for many as a decidedly rocky 2008 comes to a close: relief.

Randolph King, 63, of York, England, tried to forget his retirement fund losses as he sat on a hill overlooking Sydney Harbor, awaiting the city's annual New Year's fireworks display. "I'm looking forward to 2009 — because it can't get much worse," he said.

Facing the end of a year that saw global markets come crashing down — taking the world's morale with them — partygoers everywhere struggled to forget their troubles on what is typically a joyous night.

In the Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo spoke of hope for better days to come, while in Hong Kong, some admitted they were too depressed over their monetary woes to join in the revelry. And in Malaysia, the government — mindful of the shaky economy — opted against sponsoring any celebration at all.

In Sydney — the first major city to ring in the new year — organizers were hoping the \$4 million (6 million Australian dollar) New Year's festival would offer revelers a brief respite from the global gloom.

Manager of dairy at heart of China milk scandal delayed reporting quality issues for 3 months

BEIJING (AP) — A former dairy boss who could face the death penalty in China's tainted milk scandal testified Wednesday that she began investigating product quality issues in May but did not notify authorities until August, a state news agency said.

Tian Wenhua, former board chairwoman and gen-

eral manager of Sanlu Group Co., pleaded guilty to charges of producing and selling fake or sub-standard products, the Xinhua News Agency said. Three other executives faced similar charges after being linked to infant formula contaminated with the industrial chemical melamine.

They could be executed if convicted, the China Daily newspaper reported.

Melamine, commonly used to make plastics and fertilizer, has been blamed for the deaths of at least six children and sickening nearly 300,000 others.

Authorities say milk suppliers mixed the nitrogen-rich powder into raw milk to fool quality tests for protein. When ingested in large amounts, melamine can cause kidney stones and kidney failure.

'Colbert,' 'SpongeBob' may be dropped from Time Warner Cable in fee dispute with Viacom

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "SpongeBob SquarePants" may be getting squeezed off of Time Warner Cable.

Media giant Viacom Inc. said its Nickelodeon, MTV, Comedy Central and 16 other channels will go dark on Time Warner Cable Inc. at 12:01 a.m. Thursday if a new carriage fee deal is not agreed upon by then.

The impasse over carriage fee hikes would mean "SpongeBob" and other shows like "The Daily Show" will be cut off to 13 million subscribers, said spokesman Alex Dudley, a vice president at Time Warner Cable, the nation's second-largest cable operator.



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