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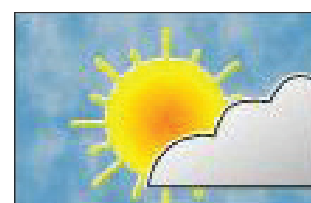
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# HIGH SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 33

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## Moving along

### Coahoma school renovation project making strides

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School district officials here are beginning to see the light at the end of a two-year-long tunnel.

A \$13 million district-wide renovation project has had its delays and rough spots, but is now on course to be completed this summer.

"We're still a little behind where we want to be, but things are coming along now," said Randy Brown, superintendent of Coahoma Independent School District.

Only one major renovation project remains — construction of a second wing of classrooms at the high school. Demolition of the old wing was recently completed and Brown

See **COAHOMA**, Page 3A



**HERALD photo/Steve Reagan**  
Coahoma High School athlete Chance Hart lifts weights inside the new Coahoma High School field house Thursday afternoon. The new facility is part of a \$13 million renovation project at the school district.

## Health officials solicit thoughts

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Local officials in charge of exploring the ins and outs of a proposed health center for Howard County are looking for ideas and suggestions from the very people the facility would aim to serve, as they prepare to hold an interactive community meeting Tuesday.

Set from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. in the Howard County Library's Community Room, the meeting will give area residents — from representatives of community agencies to service providers — a chance to express what they would like to see in a county-run health center, according to Project Director Anne Farley.

"The proposed Howard County Health Center is beginning the process of holding interactive community meetings to compile a list of needs and to address local health disparities," said Farley. "This needs assessment process will be used to design a healthcare plan specifically designed for this health center and specific to the needs of the people in Howard County."

"What should a healthcare delivery system look like for our county? That's the question we're facing right now, and we're seeking to establish partnerships with existing community agencies that provide care for under-served individuals and families in this area."

Farley, who extended an open invitation to all local healthcare service providers, said those attending should come prepared not just to listen, but to participate.

"We need information about the exist-

See **INPUT**, Page 3A

**"What should a healthcare delivery system look like for our county? That's the question we're facing right now ..."**

Ann Farley, project director



## AARP tax-aid service to start up here Jan. 26 at Senior Center

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

While area residents prepare to file their 2008 tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, they won't have to go at the task alone, as AARP prepares to get its annual Tax-Aide program under way.

Local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said she and her team of volunteers will begin seeing area tax-filers Monday, Jan. 26, at the Spring City Senior Citizen Center.

"We'll be back out at the Senior Center this year," said Hopkins. "We had to move around a little last year because of the work being done on the center, but we're very happy to be back."

"Things have been going really



Hopkins

well in preparing for this year's program. We had all of our volunteers lined up early this year, and we'll start training classes Monday. The volunteers really are the heart and soul of what we do, and they put in considerable time and effort to help area residents file their tax returns."

Hopkins said the program aims to help low-to-moderate income taxpayers who might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as

seniors, people with disabilities, those who don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information before heading to the Senior Center.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with

See **TAX HELP**, Page 3A

## Illinois House votes to impeach Blagojevich

By **CHRISTOPHER WILLS**

Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) — Driven by anger and politics, the Illinois House has voted to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

The unprecedented action sets the stage for a Senate trial on whether he should be thrown out of office for corruption and abuse of power.

Blagojevich has betrayed the public trust and should be removed from office, top lawmakers said Friday as

the Illinois House debated whether to impeach the governor, an unprecedented step in state history.

House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie said Blagojevich has "forfeited his right to hold office. He should be impeached."

She noted that he hasn't given the people of Illinois an explanation for the corruption charges filed against him by federal prosecutors that

See **IMPEACH**, Page 3A



AP photo

The Illinois House impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich this morning.

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COMPLETE STORY

## Kidd clutch in Mavericks' win over Knicks

By **DAVID JIMENEZ**

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — With Dirk Nowitzki not feeling his best, Jason Kidd did something Thursday night that he prefers to leave to others.

The pass-first point guard elected to shoot the basketball.

Kidd made two big baskets in the fourth quarter, and the Dallas Mavericks overcame a subpar game from an ill Nowitzki to beat the New York Knicks 99-94.

"You have to erase your floppy disc and become a shooter," said Kidd,

who had 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists. "I had some great looks that didn't go in, but guys kept telling me to keep shooting."

Nowitzki, the NBA's fourth-leading scorer, was 3-of-13 from the floor and scored 10 points, just two more than his season low.

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said after the game Nowitzki played with a temperature of 101 degrees. The Dallas star shrugged it off, saying he had a "head cold," and that his performance had more to do with the Knicks throwing constant double teams at him.

Nowitzki missed his final seven

shots.

"When it was winning time, I didn't have a great rhythm shooting the ball," Nowitzki said. "I was able to get some assists when they double-teamed me."

One of Nowitzki's seven assists gave Kidd the lead for good. He found Kidd open for a 24-foot jumper that put the Mavericks on top 87-86 with 5:44 left.

Kidd, who was 6-of-15 shooting, nailed a 3-pointer with 4:11 remaining to put the Mavericks up 93-89.

The Mavericks' point guard hadn't taken that many shots since Dec. 9, a

double overtime loss to San Antonio. "(Kidd) made a couple tough shots there," Nowitzki said. "They basically left him alone all night. He knocked some shots down for us."

The Mavericks have beaten the Knicks nine straight times in Dallas. New York hasn't won on the Mavericks' home court since a 100-93 victory on Dec. 16, 1999, back when Dallas played a couple of miles down the road in Reunion Arena.

Knicks center Eddy Curry, who missed the first 33 games with a

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

## Gator Nation

Florida contains high-scoring Oklahoma for BCS crown

By **BEN WALKER**

AP National Writer

MIAMI — Tim Tebow gave Florida the jolt it needed, and the Gators toughed out a second BCS title in three years.

Their 24-14 win over No. 2 Oklahoma in a choppy, sloppy affair Thursday night made them a national champion. But it likely did little to quiet fans of Southern California, Utah and Texas, all of whom already claimed the top spot.

The high-scoring shootout between Heisman Trophy winners never materialized. Oklahoma's Sam Bradford couldn't score from in close and Tebow threw two interceptions, as many as he had all season.

Tebow, however, shook off

two miserable throws to rescue the top-ranked Gators (13-1). He drove them to the clinching score — he took two hard steps toward the line, jumped and zipped a 4-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:07 to make it 24-14.

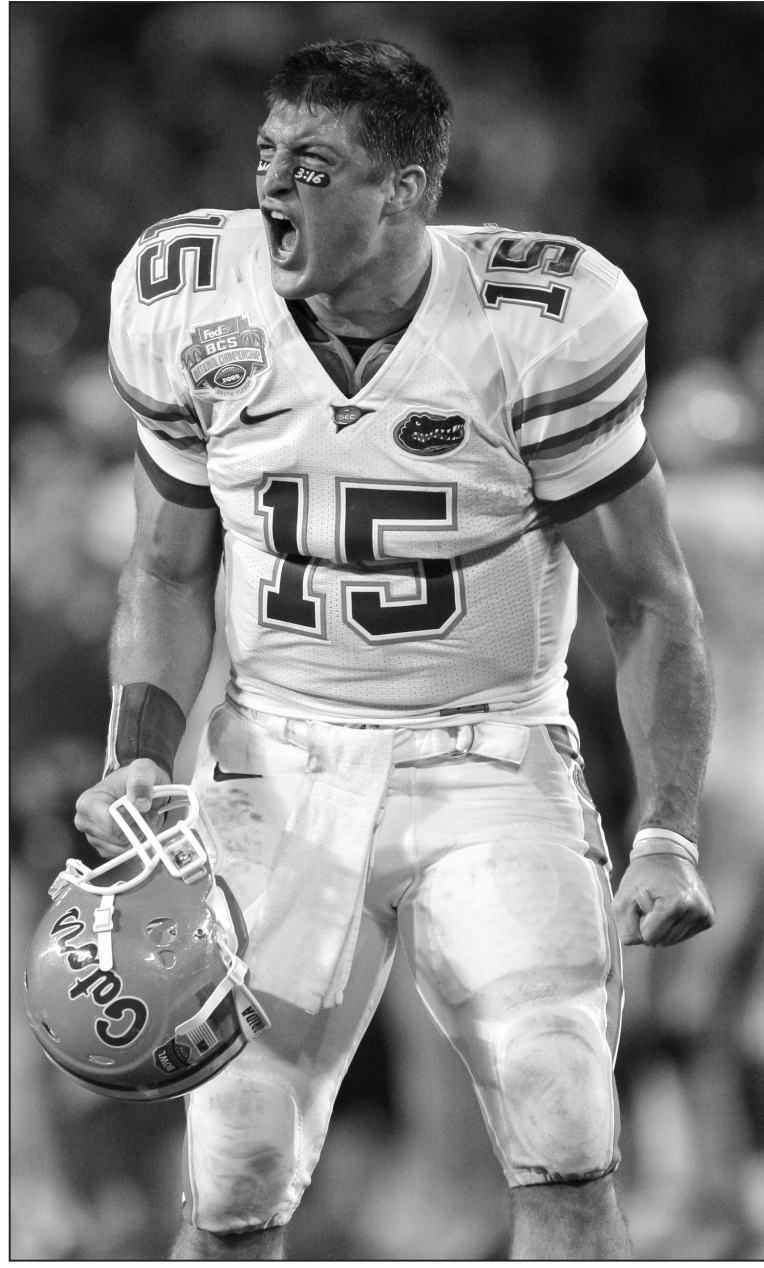
Percy Harvin returned from an ankle injury and dashed for 122 yards on only nine carries. His 52-yard gallop set up Jonathan Phillips' 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter for a 17-14 lead.

Tebow added to the title he helped the Gators win in 2006 with a rout of Ohio State and, one season after winning the Heisman, brought home

See **BCS**, Page 2B

AP photos/Mark Humphrey

At right, Florida's Tim Tebow yells to his teammates during the fourth quarter of the BCS Championship against Oklahoma in Miami Thursday. Florida defeated Oklahoma, 24-14. Below, Dustin Doe kisses the BCS Championship Coaches Trophy.



## AP pollsters: Gators No. 1

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

MIAMI — Florida is No. 1 in the AP Top 25. Utah is perfect at No. 2, though not perfectly happy.

Texas and Southern California also claimed to be the best — but media voters didn't think so.

The Gators received 48 first-place votes and 1,606 points in the poll released early Friday, after they beat Oklahoma 24-14 in the BCS national title game.

Utah, the only team in major college football to go undefeated this season, got 16 first-place votes and 1,519 points.

"I thought we had an outside chance," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said in a telephone interview with the AP. "There was enough national sentiment, I thought we might get the No. 1 slot. It wasn't to be."

Florida won its third AP national championship and second in the last three seasons. Steve Spurrier and Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel led the Gators to the 1996 title.

No. 3 USC received one first-place vote. Texas was No. 4 and will have to settle for finishing ahead of fifth-ranked Oklahoma.

The Longhorns beat the Sooners in the regular season and thought they deserved OU's spot in both the Big 12 and national championship games.

The Utes from the Mountain West Conference swept through their regular season, while Florida and Alabama from the SEC, Texas and Oklahoma from the Big 12 and Southern California from the Pac-10 jockeyed for position in the national title chase.

The Mountain West does not have an automatic bid to the BCS — it's not considered a strong enough league to deserve one — but the Utes earned their way in.

Utah was seventh in the final regular-season poll, but that perfect record looked much more impressive after the Utes beat Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl last week.

"All you can do is go out and beat the people on the schedule, which was exactly what our guys did," Whittingham said.

See **AP**, Page 2B



## Sports in brief

### Big Spring basketball boosters meeting Monday

The Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club is meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Steers' basketball players from the junior high to the varsity level are encouraged to attend and discuss ways to support the Big Spring basketball teams.

For questions, call Sam Segundo at 268-3025.

### Lady Steers Booster Club meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is holding a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the ATC.

All parents of Lady Steers' athletes ranging from junior high to high school are encouraged to attend.

### YMCA basketballers being introduced at Hawks' halftime

All Big Spring YMCA Youth Basketball League teams will be introduced at halftime of the Hawks' games Monday.

Girls and coed squads will take the court at the intermission for the women's game, which is scheduled for a 5:30 p.m. start, while boys teams will be introduced at halftime of the men's game, which starts at 7 p.m.

Howard will be hosting Western Junior College Athletic Conference foe Western Texas College that night.

All players, coaches and their families will be admitted free into the game.

For additional information, contact Rosie Franco at 466-3050 or Stan Feaster at 264-5045.

### Lady Steers softball team raising funds at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Lady Steers softball team will be having a fundraiser Thursday, Jan. 22, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Pizza Inn.

The Lady Steers will be helping with service and a portion of Pizza Inn's profits during that time will go to the team.

### Coahoma softball alumni needed for annual game

The 7th Annual Coahoma Softball Alumni Game has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, and will be played at the Coahoma High School field. Former Bulldogette softball players are needed for the game.

Any former player interested in participating should call Amy Dunn at 263-2228 or 394-4323.

## Obituaries

### Timothy John Mayes

Timothy John "Tim" Mayes, 43, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The family will be at 2612 Lynn.

## Support Groups

### TUESDAY

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

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Teen Challenge will be held at The Path. They will present a Rally for Jesus.

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

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### 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.

## Take Note

- 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.

- 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

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

Note: An activity log for the corresponding time was not available due to computer problems, according to BSPD officials.

- DANIEL VERA FLORES, 40, of 1507 W. Fourth St., was arrested Thursday on charges of assault by threats and public intoxication.
- TIFFANY VILLAREAL, 21, of 608 N.W. Third St., was arrested Thursday on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license, unrestrained child under five years of age and displaying an expired motor vehicle registration.
- KRISTAN NICOLE RIOS, 20, of 1002 N. Main St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- JESUS BARRIENTOS, 17, of 1514 Kentucky Way, was arrested Friday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- JOSEPH GARCIA, 18, of 1011 Runnels, was arrested Friday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

- BRANDIE JETTON, 32, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of harassment and criminal mischief.
- MARTIN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of assault of a public servant and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- ROBERT DONALD GILBERT, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- CLAYTON DOW BIRMELIN, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 68, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- JUAN PABLO FERDIN, 49, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- JIMMY FRANKLIN MASSINGILL, 41, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid.
- ALEXANDER BURCIAGA, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping – failure to appear and evading arrest or detention.
- EDRIAN PATRICK HOUSTON, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- THOMAS ROYLYNN WHITE, 17, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.
- LORENZO FERRERA YANEZ, 34, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of McDonald. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Gatesville. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Colby. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 300 block of W. Fifth Street.

## Your Local Weather

Sat 1/10	Sun 1/11	Mon 1/12
<b>57/28</b>	<b>65/32</b>	<b>64/31</b>
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afe.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.

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## Bulletin Board

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

### TODAY

- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

### MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

### TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- The Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society meets at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh St. at noon Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at (432) 264-7599.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

### WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 17-2-7-3. Bonus Ball: 24. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$900,000. Winning ticket sold in: Sugar Land.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 27-31-7-1-33. Number matching five of five: 6. Prize: \$4,128. Winning tickets sold in: Fort Worth, The Colony.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-6-5-1. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-4. Sum It Up: 7.



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AP

Continued from Page 1B

Whittingham proclaimed his team No. 1. USC's Pete Carroll had already done that after the Trojans' 38-24 victory in the Rose Bowl against Penn State. Texas coach Mack Brown followed suit, proudly touting his Longhorns as the nation's best after a 24-21 victory over Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl this week.

Whittingham said he would vote his team No. 1 in the USA Today coaches' poll, even though the American Football Coaches Association has agreed to have all its voters place the winner of the BCS national championship game first on their ballots.

Utah did receive one first-place vote in the coaches' poll and finished fourth.

Whittingham isn't worried about losing his vote.

"That's their call," he said. "I have to look out for my players."

Brown said he would vote for his team, too, but Texas was not listed first on any ballots. The Longhorns

ended up ranked No. 3 in the coaches' poll, right behind USC.

Carroll has never had a vote in the coaches' poll, always skeptical of the way major college football crowns a champion.

Florida's Urban Meyer became the 17th coach to win multiple AP national championships.

"I'll tell you, we're going to enjoy a big win, we're going to enjoy the national championship," he said, brushing off questions about other coaches claiming their team is best. "Let someone else worry about that. Gators are No. 1"

Alabama's loss to Utah dropped the Crimson Tide to No. 6 in the final poll.

TCU, Utah's Mountain West rival, finished seventh, followed by Penn State, Ohio State and Oregon.

Boise State led off the second 10, followed by Texas Tech, Georgia, Mississippi and Virginia Tech.

Oklahoma State, Cincinnati, Oregon State, Missouri and Iowa rounded out the top 20.

Florida State, Georgia Tech, West Virginia, Michigan State and BYU were the final five.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

knee injury, saw his first action of the season. He entered with 2:42 left in the first quarter and scored just more than a minute later.

That's was Curry's only shot attempt in 2½ minutes of action. He also grabbed two rebounds.

Chris Duhon hit his first nine shots and scored 24 points, and Wilson Chandler added 20 for the Knicks, who have lost two in a row since beating defending champion Boston on Sunday.

New York's David Lee had 13 points and 15 rebounds — his seventh consecutive double-double. Duhon finished 10-of-14 from the field.

Josh Howard led six Dallas players in double figures with 19 points. Antoine Wright had 13 points, Brandon Bass added 12 and Jason Terry 10.

Dallas has won five of six, all against losing teams. But the Mavericks had to rally from 29 down to beat Minnesota last week, lost to

Memphis on Sunday, and needed a late surge to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday.

Al Harrington converted a three-point play to cut Dallas' lead to 95-94. The Knicks had a chance to take the lead on their next three possessions, but failed on those chances.

Nowitzki hit two free throws to put Dallas ahead by three, and Terry sealed it by hitting a long jumper with 9 seconds left.

The Knicks (6-of-24) shot 25 percent in the fourth. Over the last 2:18, they missed all six of their shots.

Duhon, 9-of-9 from the floor in the first half, had 22 points as the Knicks led 59-54 at halftime.

The point guard capped his perfect half with a layup and his fourth 3-pointer of the game to give New York an eight-point edge just before halftime.

Duhon's first miss came when Erick Dampier blocked his layup attempt with 8:40 left in the third.

Notes: Knicks G Nate Robinson, 1-for-9 from 3-point range Thursday, is 3-of-30 from long distance in his past five games. ... The Mavericks have won 12 of their last 14 home games.

# 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.

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

# BCS

Continued from Page 1B

another trophy.

"Tebow, just call him Superman," Harvin said.

National chomps, indeed!

The Associated Press will release its final poll early Friday morning.

Tebow was picked the game's most outstanding player, running for 109 yards. His passing wasn't so precise — 18-for-30 — yet it was his sheer will that kept coach Urban Meyer's team going.

It was the third straight national title for a team from the Southeastern Conference, and marked the Sooners' fifth straight loss in a BCS game. Oklahoma (12-2) set a modern record for scoring this season and put up at least 60 points in its last five games, yet

never found its rhythm.

Bradford, who beat out Tebow for the Heisman, was a disappointing 26-for-41 with two interceptions. Like

Tebow, he's going to explore his potential for the NFL draft — not exactly the performance he wanted.

Tebow struggled throughout the first half, his lone highlight a 20-yard touchdown pass to Louis Murphy for a 7-0 lead early in the second quarter. Bradford came right back with a swift 65-yard drive, capped by his 6-yard TD toss to Jermaine Gresham.

Florida's defense, rather than Tebow, Harvin and its speedsters on the other side of the ball, kept the Gators close.

Poised to break the tie midway through the second quarter, Oklahoma owned a first-and-goal at the 9. Chris Brown carried four

straight times and the Gators stood up the 1,100-yard rusher, twice stuffing him from the 1.

Rarely turned back in the red zone this season, the Sooners let it happen to them again in the final minute before halftime.

There were 10 seconds left and Oklahoma was out of timeouts when Bradford dropped back from the 6. He tried to hit Manuel Johnson at the goal line, but the pass deflected off him and the Gators ran a perfect tip drill, with three defenders touching the ball before Major Wright had the interception.

Tebow, meanwhile, kept stopping the Gators.

The interceptions were bad picks, too — Tebow telegraphed a long, cross-field throw that Nic Harris easily grabbed and later made a short flip over the middle right to Gerald

McCoy.

Were the Gators out of whack? Hard to tell, though offensive coordinator Dan Mullen certainly had a lot to think about. Hired recently by Mississippi State, he becomes the Bulldogs' full-time head coach Friday.

Both teams seemed to have trouble with the game officials. The crew kept interrupting play for various reasons, and the result was a sloppy, scoreless first quarter.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops and Meyer took turns hollering at ACC referee Ron Cherry, as if to tell him "Let 'em play!"

Florida linebacker Brandon Spikes was equally vocal. A few days after calling Big 12 defenses "a joke," he got into a couple of early shouting and shoving skirmishes with the Sooners.

It was even a bit edgy before the game — warming up in the end zone, an Oklahoma kicker rolled his eyes when two Gators leaned against the goal post right behind him.

Tebow, naturally, came out charged up.

He got off the team bus, walked over to a clutch of Florida fans, waved his arms and then ripped off his tie and threw it into a bunch of tailgaters — tail-Gators, in this case.

By the time Tebow trotted out for warmups, most of the Gators were already kneeling along the goal line to stretch. Tebow walked up and down the line, slapping hands and backsides of all 90-soe players.

Notes: The BCS title game next year will be played at the Rose Bowl. ... Oklahoma opens the 2009 season against BYU in the Dallas Cowboys' new \$1 billion-plus stadium. Florida starts off at home vs. Charleston Southern.

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► **Texas briefs**

**Lamar doctoral student indicted on alleged terror threat**

BEAUMONT (AP) — A Lamar University doctoral student has been indicted for allegedly sending an e-mail threatening to disrupt the school's commencement ceremony last month, federal prosecutors announced Thursday.

An indictment accuses Daniel Ogwoke Siringi, 34, of sending an e-mail to the president of Lamar University that threatened to violently disrupt the graduation ceremony because he was upset about not graduating.

The U.S. Attorney's Office alleges Siringi also said he would carry out the threat by means of a "Virginia case," referring to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings in which a student killed 32 people before turning the gun on himself.

Siringi was arrested Dec. 19, 2008.

**Police planned to arrest ex-Utah trooper**

SOUTHLAKE (AP) — An ex-Utah state trooper who police say was involved in a series of roadway shootings last month learned just hours before the deadly incidents that he would soon be arrested on burglary and robbery charges.

Southlake police planned to arrest Brian Smith in

connection with a Dec. 17 mugging and a Dec. 22 vehicle burglary, according to the Thursday online edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Southlake police Detective Richard Anderson interviewed Smith about the burglary about 12:45 p.m. Dec. 22, about two hours after it was reported, documents released Thursday said. Detectives connected Smith to the crimes after a witness to the vehicle burglary wrote down his license plate number.

Anderson's affidavit said Smith was "very calm" at first, but grew "irritated" after nearly 30 minutes of questioning. Smith asked to stop the interview after Anderson told him about a surveillance video that showed him committing the burglary while an unidentified woman was in the car with him in Southlake, about 25 miles northwest of Dallas.

After Smith said the woman was not his wife, Anderson ended the interview then walked Smith to the police parking lot, according to the Dec. 22 affidavit.

**Report: Army veteran won't face more charges**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An Army veteran sentenced to probation for fabricating a dazzling military career will not face additional felony charges for the benefits he allegedly received based on false

claims, according to a newspaper report.

Brian Culp, 38, was sentenced to three years probation Dec. 30 after falsely claiming a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with valor along with creating a fake military identification that gave him access to bases. He also was being investigated over allegations he received \$11,000 in benefits fraudulently.

Culp told detectives he was receiving 60 percent disability payments from the Veterans Administration based on false claims about seeing mass war graves in Bosnia and being wounded there, according to the investigative file. However, Culp was never in Bosnia.

**Schlumberger to slash North American work force**

HOUSTON (AP) — Schlumberger Ltd. has announced a 5 percent reduction of its North American work force along with job cuts internationally, a spokesman for the world's biggest oilfield services company said.

The move comes as other major oil field services companies, including Halliburton Co., are also weighing cuts after crude and natural gas prices dropped, leading oil companies to decrease spending on exploration and production in 2009.

Schlumberger's cuts will eliminate up to 1,000 of the company's 19,000 North American employees.

**COAHOMA**

Continued from Page 1A

said workers should begin laying the foundation for the new addition soon.

Officials are hopeful the new wing will be completed in August, which would effectively bring an end to the renovation project. Comparatively minor work remains to be done at the elementary and

junior high school buildings and that should be completed this summer, as well, Brown added.

District campuses are definitely showing signs of the multi-million-dollar spruce-up.

Construction of the new athletic field house, which was hampered by several delays, is now complete and officials plan to start moving in furniture and equipment in the

next few days, Brown said.

Other completed work includes a second wing of classrooms at the high school, which are already in use, and extensive infrastructure renovation at the elementary and junior high.

"This is something we're definitely going to enjoy when it's all completed," Brown said.

Brown lauded CISD administrators, teachers and stu-

dents for dealing with a myriad of distractions the past two years.

"When you compare this project to other school construction work, it's really been a complex project," he said. "Just building a new school and moving in would have been simpler than this, which is not to say I disagree with the project ... It's been complex, but we're getting there.

"Worrying about the renovation has been my job. The campus principals, teachers and students have all done a wonderful job dealing with everything and focusing on our first priority, which is the instruction of our students," he added.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com)

**INPUT**

Continued from Page 1A

ing services in our area," said Farley, "and we need to determine where the gaps are in the system. That's what we're aiming for."

The county announced plans for the center in late 2008, spurred by a \$80,000-plus grant from the federal government.

According to Joani Sarkiss, lead consultant for J. Sarkiss and Associates, the company hired by the county to develop the health center project, the proposed health center could have a very positive impact on Howard County.

"A new community health center means fewer unmet medical needs in Howard County and more health care

choices for consumers, whether they are covered by insurance or not," said Sarkis. "Individuals without health insurance are provided services on a sliding discount fee schedule, based on their income and family size. The quality of health care services is the same for everyone once they walk in the door."

Sarkis said a health

center would also help address the growing need for primary care providers in the Crossroads area.

"Lower health care costs are also an added benefit of having a community health center in Howard County," said Sarkis. "Medical expenses for health center patients are 41-percent lower compared to patients that are seen in

other health care settings. By keeping health care costs to a minimum, health centers are generating costs savings for the entire health care system."

To RSVP for Tuesday's meeting, contact Farley at 264-2269 or e-mail her at [ann.farley@co.howard.tx.us](mailto:ann.farley@co.howard.tx.us)

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

**TAX HELP**

Continued from Page 1A

them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," said Hopkins. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2008 earnings and their 2007 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

A possible stimulus payment on the horizon could make preparations for filing tax returns more complicated, according to Hopkins, but it's nothing new for her and her volunteers.

"It looks like there could be another round of stimulus payments going out, and just like last year, it changes everything," said Hopkins with a laugh. "However, we handled last year, so there's no reason we can't make it through

this year.

"We're also looking at some changes in the way homeowners treat their property taxes. In the past, those property taxes would have been an itemized deduction. This year, however, they are part of the taxpayer's standard deductions. So homeowners need to be sure to bring proof they paid their 2008 property taxes with them. The deduction can be as much as \$500 for a single person and \$1,000 for married couples."

Hopkins said filers will also need to show how much they received in last year's round of stimulus payments if they received one.

"They need proof of their stimulus payment, or at the very least, how much they received," said Hopkins. "The Internal Revenue Service is supposed to be sending out statements with this information. It won't effect the amount of taxes you pay, but the IRS does

require it be included in your returns.

"Also, for individuals who didn't receive a stimulus payment last year, there's a chance they may be eligible to receive it now. That's something we just have to look at and see if they qualify."

Participants in the program will be able to e-file their tax returns at no charge, according to Hopkins.

The program will continue each Monday from the start date until April 13 at the Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

Illinois of Abraham Lincoln and Paul Simon and Barack Obama," Rep. John A. Fritchey said.

A House committee had been studying the possibility of impeachment since shortly after Blagojevich's Dec. 9 arrest.

On Thursday, the 21-member panel unanimously recommended impeachment, saying Blagojevich has abused his power and mismanaged the state.

"As you've heard, those of us on the committee found a clear case of what happens when one man finds himself above the law," Fritchey, a Democrat, said Friday. "What happens in the people of Illinois suffer and must suffer no more."

The governor seemed to acknowledge the inevitable when he issued a statement Thursday night that looked past the House vote and predicted a different outcome in the subsequent Senate trial.

His statement criticized the hearings leading up to the House vote as unfair and biased.

While the governor maintains his innocence, the committee's

report noted he did not appear before the panel to explain himself. "The committee is entitled to balance his complete silence against sworn testimony from a federal agent," it said.

The report recounted the federal charges but includes other allegations as well — that Blagojevich expanded a health care program without proper authority, that he circumvented hiring laws to give jobs to political allies, that he spent millions of dollars on foreign flu vaccine that he knew wasn't needed and couldn't be brought into the country.

"The citizens of this state must have confidence that their governor will faithfully serve the people and put their interests before his own," the committee's report said.

"It is with profound regret that the committee finds that our current governor has not done so."

Blagojevich was allowed to have lawyers present at the hearing. They could question witnesses to clarify points but not conduct full cross-examinations.

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

### Legislature ought to pass workplace smoking ban bill

The Texas Legislature hasn't even begun its biennial session yet, but already a state representative from Denton County has filed amoke-free workplace legislation — something that many of us predicted was coming back when the Big Spring City Council mandated a similar move for our community.

Of course Rep. Myra Crownover proposed bill goes a little bit further. It would eliminate smoking in all indoor public and private workplaces — including restaurants and bars.

House Bill 5 will protect employees and other individuals from secondhand smoke, Crownover said, citing a National Cancer Institute report stating secondhand smoke kills 53,000 non-smoking Americans every year and is the third leading cause of preventable death.

"No one should be forced to choose between their health and a paycheck," Crownover said. "There is no debate about the dangers of secondhand smoke. Study after study has shown dramatic and immediate health benefits for employees and patrons in areas with a comprehensive ban."

Crownover cites some pretty impressive statistics in backing up her bill. Take for instance a study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health that in November of last year concluded that Massachusetts' comprehensive smoking ban reduced the number of heart-attack deaths by 577 each year. The study linked the drop in heart-attacks to the legislation because the reduction in heart-attacks did not affect areas that already had a local comprehensive ban on smoking. Furthermore, those local areas saw a similar drop in their heart-attack rates in the years immediately after the local ordinance was enacted.

She also cited that in 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General stated that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and the only way to protect everyone from its health hazards is to completely limit exposure. The report also noted that designated non-smoking areas and ventilation technology do not eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

When one considers a 2007 statewide poll showed 66 percent of Texans favor statewide comprehensive legislation to eliminate smoking in all indoor workplaces and public facilities there's plenty of reason to believe HB 5 will be enacted. We hope so. We believe HB 5 or similar legislation should be signed into law.

That would mean that Texas would join 24 other states with comprehensive smoke-free laws — laws that, as Crownover noted, "save lives, save taxpayers money on healthcare and is good for business. This legislation will save thousands of lives at no cost to business or to Texas."

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, are our viable alternative to earthly problems.

Amen

# Negotiating with Russia again

Russia seems to be practically everywhere these days. From possibly selling Iran the S-300 air defense system, to intimating that it will field missiles in Belarus, to strengthening its military and diplomatic relations with Latin America, Russia appears to be readying itself to be a major global player again. While much of its strength recently has stemmed from its oil and gas reserves, there is still a residual effect of the Cold War that cannot be ignored: Russia's vast nuclear and missile arsenal. And while some may view arms reductions talks as musty relics of the past, they are in actuality very much a part of today's balance of power.

This is being played out over talks to renew the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), a bilateral treaty between Russia and the United States that limited the number of nuclear warheads and delivery systems, reduced the overall number of nuclear weapons, and provided extensive verification measures. It will expire Dec. 5, 2009, unless negotiations to extend it are successful. While the cuts have long since occurred, its verification measures inspire transparency between the two primary nuclear powers and would be crucial for future arms agreements.

Over the past few weeks, Russian and American officials have also commenced discussions

on a new draft treaty. Already obstacles have popped up: the United States wants whatever new informal arrangement is created to focus on operationally deployed strategic nuclear weapons, allowing it to work on its Prompt Global Strike program, while Russia wants the new treaty to be formalized and cover delivery vehicles as well as nuclear weapons.

Prompt Global Strike is dubious for many reasons. Its premise is that former nuclear-tipped ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) would be converted to carry solely conventional weapons, allowing the United States to quickly respond to terrorist threats globally. However, a launch of an ICBM from a known nuclear missile silo can very easily be misinterpreted as a nuclear launch. Besides the potential for catastrophic misunderstanding, the Prompt Global Strike program depends very heavily on excellent, timely and dependable intelligence: It's no good having the capability of striking any place on the planet if military officials don't know where to target. As we have seen in the debacle of prewar intelligence about Iraq, this level of trustworthy intelligence does not always exist.

Now, before it has even been fielded, Prompt Global Strike is already weakening U.S. national security by punching a hole in START talks. Said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, "The approach proposed by the U.S. side could eliminate a key element of our bilateral relations: predictability in strategic arms control, seriously destabilizing the strategic situation."

Ryabkov also stated that it would "open a loophole for secretly building up nuclear arms." This distrust may seem misplaced, but then again, given the reticence on Washington's part in formalizing a follow-up to START, combined with American efforts to put missile defense in Eastern Europe that Russia finds highly suspicious, maybe it isn't. Not to say that the United States is actively creating an offensive arsenal designed to counter Russia, but that Washington's plans can be misconstrued.

U.S. officials have strenuously objected to missile defense having an effect on nuclear arms reductions. But the Russians cannot disentangle the two, and so, if we want to make progress in one area, we must acknowledge the other.

John Rood, arms negotiator for the United States, has said that Russia's dismay over U.S. missile defense plans is merely an attempt to "test the mettle" of incoming President Barack Obama.

Perhaps he should listen to the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. In a Dec. 15 interim report, the commission noted, "The advent of a new administration creates the opportunity to open a new strategic dialogue with Russia." The United States has the opportunity to move away from Cold War posturing and Bush-era unilateral moves. Let us hope that the new administration takes advantage of this.

*Victoria Samson is a senior analyst for the Center for Defense Information, a non-partisan think tank in Washington, D.C., that focuses on military and security issues.*



VICTORIA SAMSON



# Halt aid to Colombian military

Nearly 10 years ago, Washington feared the worst for South America's oldest democracy. The hand wringing from the Pentagon to the State Department suggested Colombia's government could be brought to its knees by the dual threat of a robust cocaine trade and powerful guerrillas. Congress held its nose while passing legislation making the Colombian military — by far the hemisphere's worst human rights abuser — the largest recipient of U.S. military aid outside of the Middle East. Human rights concerns were brushed aside as military brass proudly declared that training by U.S. Special Forces would transform the military into a professional fighting force with a spotless human rights record.

With \$4.9 billion in security assistance and eight years of U.S. military training in the rearview mirror, it is time for a reality check in Washington.

While the \$100,000-a-month lobby machine working in Washington for the Colombian government has assured Congress that violence has declined from all-time highs earlier this decade, there is a dirty little secret hidden behind this public relations makeover: an alarming increase in human rights abuses committed by the U.S.-backed

Colombian military.

On March 11, 2006, Martha Giraldo's heart pounded as she stood at the gate of her father's humble farm outside of Cali, Colombia. When the soldiers surrounding the house finally owned up to killing her father, they told Martha and her family to watch their step or they would be next. Martha pushed past them to discover her father's body, riddled with bullet holes and signs of torture. The soldiers' tale of Martha's father being a member of the guerrillas killed in fighting has not stood up in court.

Martha's horrific experience is not unique. A coalition of Colombian human rights groups recently reported that between 2002 and 2007, 1,122 civilians were murdered by the armed forces, a staggering 68 percent increase over the previous five-year period. The report further indicates that the rate of killing is still on the rise. Between January 2007 and June 2008, 535 such murders were reported.

While Colombian President Alvaro Uribe's canned response to such reports had been to accuse the victims and their supporters of working at the behest of the guerrillas, his hand was forced in late October when the Colombian press extensively reported on the military's execution of 19 young men who disappeared from a city near the capital. President Uribe fired 27 Army officers — including three generals — in an attempt to turn the page. Yet it appears none of these officers are being prosecuted for their crimes.

Unfortunately, such impunity is common. Colombian human rights groups report that there are no legal proceedings in 78 percent of the military's murder cases that they are following.

Undoubtedly it is soul-searching time in Washington. The dramatic increase in human rights violations at the hands of the U.S.-backed Colombian military — what the United Nations has dubbed a "systematic practice" of extrajudicial executions — sets in plain light the failure of U.S. policy to transform the Colombian military into a professional fighting force respectful of human rights. In fact, the military's human rights record appears to have worsened while receiving billions in U.S. military aid.

Washington's risky experiment with the hemisphere's most abusive military has become a stain on our foreign policy in the region. The new Congress and President-elect Barack Obama now need to turn the page on this flawed policy and immediately end military aid to Colombia.

The tears Martha Giraldo and untold others have shed for their loved ones allegedly killed at the hands of the Colombian military scream out for change. Is Washington listening?

*Jess Hunter-Bowman is the Bogotá-based Andean Regional Director for Witness for Peace, a nonprofit organization with 25 years of experience monitoring U.S. policy in Latin America. A short video on this topic featuring Martha Giraldo can be seen at [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org).*

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**► Church News**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

St. Paul Lutheran Church invites everyone to attend services beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday with adult, youth and children's Sunday school classes following at 10:15 a.m. Our services are led by Pastor Wayne Frost.

A big reminder that Small Group Bible Studies are starting back up after the holiday break. There are several groups to choose from and are open to anyone wishing to attend. You may contact the church office for locations and times. The office number is 267-7162, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Operation Ongoing Support for our troops is not stopping just because it is a new year. We will continue through 2009 to help our troops receive simple items that make their stay more comfortable. Items for the January shipment are hand/feet warmers (as used by skiers, hunters, etc.), vitamin C drops, beef or turkey jerky (no pork). You can also donate to the AT&T Phone Card Fund which allows our troops minutes to call home.

We would like to wish one and all a happy new year in God's grace.

**North Birdwell Lane**

**United Methodist Church**

The Sunday morning worship time is now 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9:30. Sunday night services are at 5 p.m. Lay pastor Jacque Mauch leads both worship services.

The adult Sunday school discussion will be "Rahab Helps Israel" taken from Joshua 2:1-4 ,12-14 and Joshua 6:22-25. Madeline Boadle will be the discussion leader.

Bible study is held at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays at 503 E. 16th. United Methodist Women meet at 4:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at 503 E. 16th St. All persons are invited to attend these meetings.

As host church for the Angel Food Ministry, orders will be taken today from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 2702 N. Birdwell.

Orders will also be taken Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is a mission-minded church and welcomes anyone who wishes to join in being the hands and feet of Christ.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell. For more information, call 267-2203 or 263-2536.

**Baptist Temple Church**

We are continuing our sermons series "I Need To Change." All of us need to change the way we are. We are incapable of doing it on our own. Only God can change us. It isn't easy for change to take place, but we must allow God to change us if we are ever going to be set free.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, starting Jan. 25.

We will start a new Sunday school class called Temple 101. This is open to anyone wanting to know what our church is about. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays. We also have activities for all ages Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Our 12-Step group meets Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall. This is open to anyone struggling with addictions of any kind. It is free, but donations are accepted.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at [btchbigspring.org](http://btchbigspring.org).

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Everyone is invited to attend worship service at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Episcopal Church Women will hold their meeting at 11:45 a.m. Sunday in the library.

St. Mary's Vestry will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the library. The Planning Group will need to have everyone participate in the first meeting with the new rector at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the church office. The calendar will be planned for the next three months.

For more information

about St. Mary's Episcopal Church call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at [www.stmarysbs.org](http://www.stmarysbs.org). St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

**Circuit Riders**

**Cowboy Church**

Things are happening again at Circuit Riders Cowboy Church. We are starting a children's ministry. The age groups are 8-12 and 3-8. Sundays, the 8-12 years old group meets at 9:15 a.m. and the 3-8 year olds meet at 10 a.m. We are also hosting a Trail Ride Sunday, Jan. 25 right after service. Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts served early.

We meet at 500 N. Birdwell at the Big Spring Livestock Auction Barn. For more information, contact Anna King at (432) 816-0934.

**Spring Creek Fellowship**

We all have questions about life and how we should respond to what life dishes out. The Bible contains questions people during Biblical times asked. Amazingly, these questions are still appropriate for life today.

Pastor Dennis Teeters, has begun a series of sermons on the questions asked in the Bible.

Sunday's sermon is "Isaiah's Question" based on Isaiah 6:1-13. Join us for this helpful sermon Sunday. God has the answers to our questions. The new year is a wonderful time of new beginnings and would be a great time to start coming to church. Spring Creek Fellowship is a loving and welcoming church where we have a place for every member of your family.

Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by worship at 10:45. Sunday evening service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening is a special time of fellowship, food and Bible study for your family. AWANAs is a great opportunity for children to learn the Bible and the discipline and fun of memorizing verses. Join us for a free potluck meal at 5:45 p.m., followed by Bible studies for youth and adults.

You are welcome at Spring Creek Fellowship. Come down I-20 east to the Salem exit. Go under the overpass and turn left on the service road and then right at SCF.

**First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma**

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the Scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Saturday evening at 7 p.m. we will have our regular Frolic. Everyone is invited to come to participate and spectate in the talents presented. A light supper will be provided.

The lectionary for the Baptism of the Lord Sunday is Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

**First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring**

Bible study at 5:17 p.m. will continue as usual, and youth group from 6-8 met Jan. 7 and will continue next week. This week the youth will take charge of the removal of the Christmas decorations. Choir practice at 6 p.m. will resume Jan. 14.

Liturgist for January is Helen Glass.

Saturday, at 9 a.m. there will be a retreat for new church officers at the Morgan Ranch.

Sunday, our annual congregational meeting will be held after worship.

The lectionary for the Baptism of the Lord Sunday is Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11. The choir will present "Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come," by Mark Bender and "The Beginning of Wisdom," by Austin Lovelace. Rev. Bronaugh has

**Only one claim to fame**

**I** have only one claim to fame. I share a birthday with a celebrity. Being born exactly two weeks after Christmas, there were always three significant days in my childhood holiday season – Christmas, New Years and my birthday. I don't want to seem ungrateful, but I figured out a long time ago that kids born just after Christmas never fare as well when it come to birthday celebrations as those whose birthdays come just after payday. Being able to say that I share a birthday with a famous person somehow always made my birthday seem a little more important.

As my post-Christmas anniversary approaches, the frenzy has already started again. But all the fuss is not for me. It's for my birthday competitor whose face has appeared on the covers of record albums for decades. Thirty something years after the death of the star, the television networks are showing the "King's"



BONNIE WHEAT

movies, and the radio stations are playing his rock and roll hits from the 50s and 60s. The slick-haired impersonators are polishing their guitars and wriggling into their rhinestone studded costumes, hoping to be handed a microphone on the big day.

Those who strive so hard to immortalize Elvis Presley are singing his praises loudly enough to break the bars of his "Jailhouse Rock" and shatter the windows of his "Heart-break Hotel." When Jan. 8, has come and gone, diehard fans of all ages still will be celebrating the birthday of their hero, and I will be another year older.

However, the Scripture has something to say about what is really important: "A good name is better than a good ointment, And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth" (Ecclesiastes 7:1 NASB).

I'll probably never be as famous as the American idol, who shares my birthday, but I do hope to leave the legacy of a good name, and although I prefer to have a lot more birthdays, I'm looking forward to my first day in Heaven. That really will be the best day of my life.

chosen as the topic for his sermon "The Work Begins," based on Mark 1:7.

**First United Methodist Church**

This Sunday our senior pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese will begin a life-changing journey for us as a church family. She will begin the study of "Irresistible Invitation; Responding to the Extravagant Heart of God." For those who would like a study book they are available in the church office for \$12. There are 40 short daily readings that will challenge you and your perceptions about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Our goal is a rich, rewarding and blessed life of adventure, joy, peace and purpose in Christ. You are asked to prayerfully consider the invitation to become involved.

This will be the Rev. Jim Wright's last Sunday as our minister of music. As he gets ready to retire we ask that we fill the choir loft to overflowing for his farewell. Plan to attend the luncheon and reception following worship Sunday, Jan. 18. We send a spe-

cial invitation to those from the community who have been a part of the Living Christmas Tree under Jim's direction.

Tuesday, the Kids Club will resume meetings after school and in the evening the College Coffee House Ministry will again at Spanky's at 6:30.

We ask for continued prayers for Amy, wife of our youth director, Brent Williams. For information on Amy and to send her get well wishes go to Caringbridge. That's [www.mcaringbridge.org/visit/amywilliams](http://www.mcaringbridge.org/visit/amywilliams).

If you are searching for a church home in this new year we ask that you come and visit us. Our church buildings are located at Fourth and Scurry in the heart of downtown Big Spring. We're First Methodist where families grow in Christ.

**Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS**

Come celebrate with us! We had our first church service in August with 42 in attendance. This is

See CHURCH, Page 7A

*You deserve a factual look at . . .*

**Jerusalem (I)**

**Whose city - whose "holy city" - is it?**

It's been over forty years since Israel's victory in the Six-Day War in 1967 that the city of Jerusalem, which had been divided for nineteen years, has been reunited under Israeli rule. But there is still much talk that the "Middle East problem" cannot be solved unless the city, or at the very least its eastern part, be "returned to its rightful owners," the Muslim Arabs. In fact, this claim for Jerusalem, together with the "return" of the 1948 refugees, whose descendants have miraculously swollen to 5 million, are posited as "non-negotiable demands" in discussions with the Arabs.

**What are the facts?**

**A city of many nationalities.** Before the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, during which the Israeli Defense Forces reconquered Jerusalem from the Jordanians, claims to Jerusalem being a Muslim holy city were rarely, if ever, asserted. Jerusalem had always been a city in which many religions and nationalities lived side by side. It was only after the old city was back in Jewish hands that the Muslim Arabs declared their desire to wage "jihad" (holy war) to bring the city back into Arab possession.

The notion to call Jerusalem an Islamic holy city has only come about in modern times, especially after the Arabs lost the city to Israel in the Six-Day War. It now has gained currency by dint of constant repetition. The basis for the claim is that Jerusalem does indeed contain an Islamic holy site, namely the Temple Mount (sacred to both Muslims and Jews) with its two mosques, El Aksa and the Dome of the Rock. It is the place from which Mohammed, who had never set foot in the city, is believed to have ascended to heaven. But aware that it was the holy city of Christians and Jews, and wishing to convert them to his new religion, he commanded his followers to build a mosque in Jerusalem. But never in Muslim history did this mosque or this city compare in significance to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina - cities that no "infidel" may visit.

**A tenuous Muslim claim.** It is on the basis of this religious tradition that the Muslims designated the entire Jewish Temple Mount to be their holy site. The Israeli government, in its constant spirit of accommodation to Muslim sensibilities, has largely acceded to this tradition

and has put the area in and around the two mosques entirely under Muslim control. But how would Christians feel if, instead of from the Temple Mount, Muslim tradition had Mohammed ascend from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and if the Muslim Arabs were to claim that site as their property? The Christian world, often ready to consent to Muslim claims against Jews and

**"Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish life, of Jewish yearning and of Jewish thinking for over 3,000 years. That is the reason that the State of Israel has rededicated the Jewish holy city to be its indivisible capital."**

Israelis, would be greatly astonished and would certainly resist such claim. But Muslim Arab assertiveness doesn't end there. On the tenuous claim of their right to the Temple Mount, they have construed a claim to the entire city of Jerusalem (or at the very least to its eastern part), which they have declared to be their "third holiest city." And, it would be an insult to all Muslims and all Arabs to leave

the city in the hands of the "infidel Jews." **Jerusalem: Never an Arab capital.** But the city of Jerusalem - in contrast to Baghdad, Cairo, and Damascus - has never played any major role in the political and religious lives of the Muslim Arabs. It was never a political center, never a national or even a provincial or sub-provincial capital of any country, since Biblical times. It was the site of one Muslim holy place, but otherwise a backwater to the Arabs. The passion for Jerusalem was not discovered by the Muslim Arabs until most recent history. **At the center of Jewish life.** But Jerusalem has stood at the center of the Jewish people's national life since King David made it his capital in 1003 BCE. After the return from Babylonian exile, Jerusalem again served as the capital of the Jewish people for the next five-and-a-half centuries.

Jews are not the usurpers in Jerusalem. They have been living there since the Biblical era and have been the majority population since the 19th century. Jews have synagogues and other holy sites in most cities of the world. But do they claim sovereignty over those cities because of it? Of course not! It would be preposterous and people wouldn't accept it. And the Muslim Arab claim to Jerusalem, based on the mosques on the Temple Mount, is just as untenable. Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish life, of Jewish yearning and of Jewish thinking for over 3,000 years. That is the reason that the State of Israel has rededicated the Jewish holy city to be its indivisible capital.

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It's the eve of the full moon and time to make a plan. Look around; see what needs spiffing up in your world. It could be something physical, or it could be a habit or pattern that needs changing.

Either way, there's a material fix that will symbolize or support the change you desire.



You're better off thinking your plan through instead of acting on it just yet. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19). A change in **MATHIS** your ideology is afoot. You'll be busy making up new rules about what to accept and what to resist. You intuitively know that this restructuring of your operating system will be wildly beneficial.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You and many others are in a sticky situation. Some perceive recent events as disappointing, but the long view will prove that what's unfolding is actually for the highest good. You are in exactly the right place. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21).

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Luckily some youthful dreams never see daylight. A world of nothing but firemen, astronauts and ballerinas would indeed be a nightmare. There's another dream in creation today, and this is one the world really needs.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You have become a hearth around which many gather to feel the warmth and wisdom radiated by your affectionate soul. You are the embodiment of everything you once admired in others. Enjoy hugs and kisses.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Accept the lesson life is offering you through your common sense or learn it experientially. The choice is yours. You're pretty smart now and with only the slightest effort on your part, a lesson sticks.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Friends in a tight spot inspire you to act. You could do some good here. Listen to your inner voices to know when and how to make your moves. You'll execute this assist with speed and skill.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your secret may not be kept much longer. You're bursting with strong emotions and if someone else doesn't spill the beans, you're likely to do it yourself. Just be sure that you tell the right people and for the right reasons.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The friend who keeps running through your mind deserves at least a phone call. You tend to get so caught up in your ever-evolving social scene that you could forget someone who has been a blessing to your life.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Reflect. To examine your past will be a powerful motivator

toward the life you want. It also triggers immense creativity in you. Savor the joy of watching your own imagination in action.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Never feel bad because you still enjoy reading comics, watching an occasional cartoon and retaining a healthy sense of play. If the sour pusses you encounter could muster up your level of joy, they would. You are lucky.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Escape, from time to time, is healthy, but when done in excess, that from which you escape will only worsen. With this in mind you might decide to stick to the reality of your present work until it's finished.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You deserve a pat on the back for managing so much so well. Of course, you expect nothing less from yourself. What if you expected the same industry from others — would you get it? Not a chance, say the stars.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES:** You will probably remember a loved one's request at the last minute, but at least you will remember. **TAURUS:** You dare to be yourself, no airs. You make your no-nonsense pitch for getting what you really want. **GEMINI:** Potential loves spy you in moments of unbridled, unselfconscious fun and fall instantly in love. **CANCER:** Only spend your time with people who are honest; otherwise it's not really worth the effort. **LEO:** People who are good for you bring you up whenever you're around them, even when you're already in good spirits. **VIRGO:** Give a loved one specific examples of how he or she can make you

happy and you won't be disappointed. **LIBRA:** You're intrigued by a new proposition. This either strikes up a new relationship or takes an old one deeper. **SCORPIO:** You respect a loved one's world and back off when it's obvious that your love needs to feel more powerful in it. **SAGITTARIUS:** Infatuation makes a fool of you, but true love makes you wise. **CAPRICORN:** You show your caring in quirky ways. You are repaid in sweet laughter. **AQUARIUS:** You're concentrated on observing someone who fascinates you, and you don't feel you have to impress this person at all. **PISCES:** You'll become better versed in a loved one's private language.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** Jupiter is the guiding planet of Sagittarius. As this big daddy of the zodiac takes a visit in Aquarius, Sagittarius and Aquarius natives who have been following their own separate interests may now notice that they have new common ground. Furthermore they each have something the other needs. A deliciously revealing conversation on Saturday could set the ball rolling toward a co-adventure.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My friend "Josie" drives me crazy with her neediness and dependency. She apparently looks up to me as a mentor, and at first, this was very flattering.

But her needs are embarrassing (wanting hugs, reassurance that I am "proud of her" or "love her") and sometimes infuriating, calling me repeatedly in tears over some perceived slight on my part or someone else's.

I am aware that Josie has a mood disorder, so I don't want to simply tell her to call her doctor and cut her off. I have made it clear that I like her as a friend, but none of my other friends behave like this. I am losing sleep over her. — Georgia

Dear Georgia: Insecure friends like Josie can suck the energy right out of you if you don't put up boundaries. It may not be entirely her fault that she behaves so over-the-top, but that doesn't mean you have to be her security blanket.

It's OK to give her a hug when you see her, but if she demands another, just pat her arm reassuringly and change the subject or do something else. When she calls in tears, sympathize for a few minutes, then tell her nicely that you have to go and hang up.

See her less often. And feel free to suggest counseling as a way to deal with her "passionate emotions." If she becomes angry or upset, it's HER problem. Don't make it yours.

Dear Annie: I recently married for the second time. We each brought two teenage children into the marriage. My

problem is that we spend significantly more money on his two children than on mine.

His ex-wife contributes nothing toward their support, and he pays all their expenses, which is fine. My ex-husband sends his check like clockwork.

However, my husband spends freely on his children, but expects me to account for any spending on mine. I want to scream when he makes judgments about what I want to buy for them. In a few years, we will be paying full college tuition for both of his children.

My kids, however, are getting one-third from me, one-third from my ex and the other third they are expected to pay themselves. This certainly influences their choice of schools.

When I think of the money we're putting out for his two kids, it makes me want to spend more money on my kids to even things out. I know this is childish, but it's making me lose sleep at night. How can I get past the feeling that my kids are getting shortchanged? — Sleepless in N.J.

Dear Sleepless: This is a common problem with divorced parents who have remarried. Your husband feels responsible for his children's welfare, but he thinks your ex-husband is responsible for yours.

While you say your kids are being shortchanged, your husband might believe they are benefiting twice. The two of you need to sit down and establish a budget detailing who pays what costs and what is discretionary, and how

to make it equal. If you cannot do this on your own, consult a professional through your bank or the National Foundation for Credit Counseling ([nfcc.org](http://nfcc.org)) at 1-800-388-2227.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Tyler, Texas," who asked whether her husband's death notice could include a request that people donate to their grandson's college fund.

I find it offensive to expect people to reach into their pockets upon the occasion of a death. A funeral is not a reason to beg for money.

According to my burial instructions, my death notice will read: "In her memory and spirit, have lunch with a friend." The family of a friend wrote: "In his memory, take a walk in the woods."

Many people have commented favorably on this attitude and have followed suit. — Trying To Change the World, One Obituary at a Time

Dear Trying: Those are lovely suggestions, and we hope our readers will take them to heart.

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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com). © 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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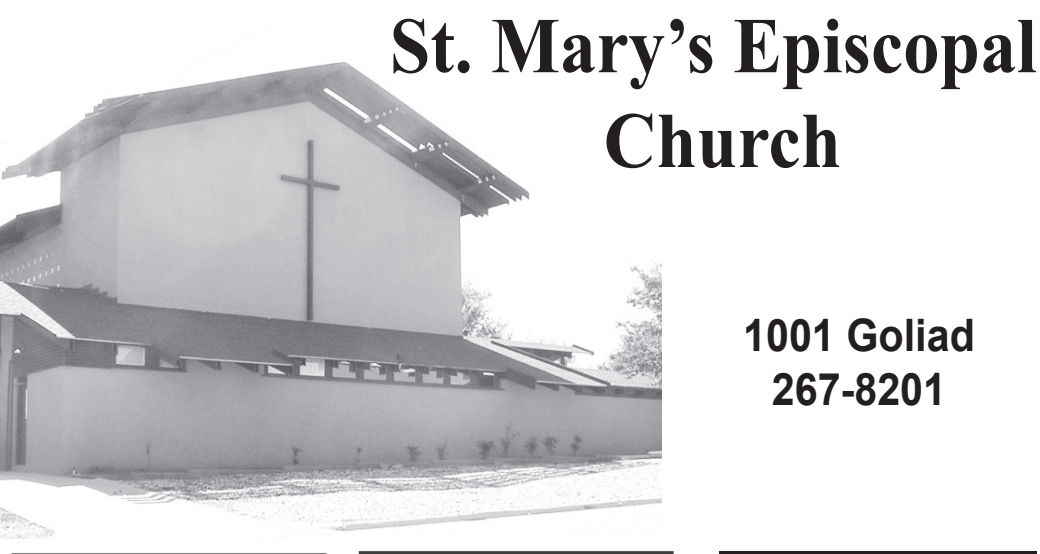
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Philippians 4:13

Those who trust God's action in  
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Romans 8:6 - The Message

"Perfect love expels all fear"  
(1 John 4:18)

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Ephesians 3:17-18

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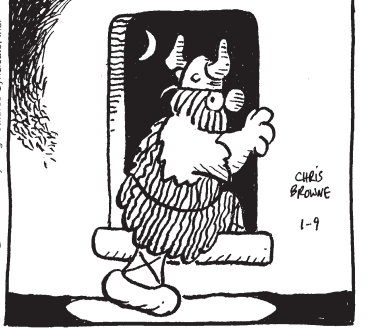
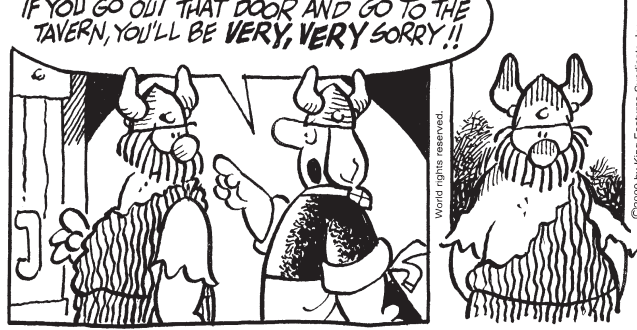
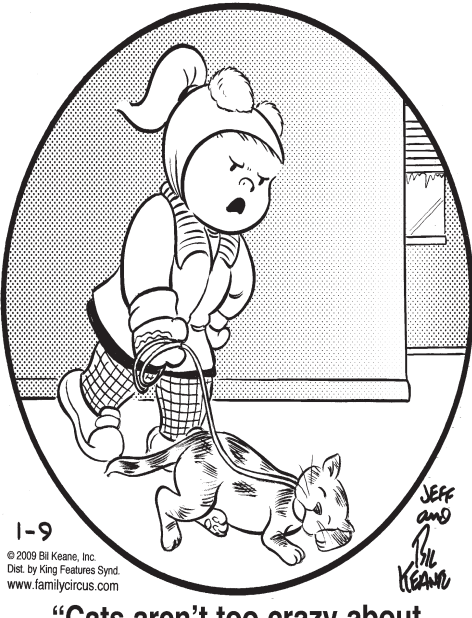
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Table with columns for local stations (WFAA, KMid, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and rows for time slots (5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30) listing various programs and channels.

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"Cats aren't too crazy about goin' for walks."

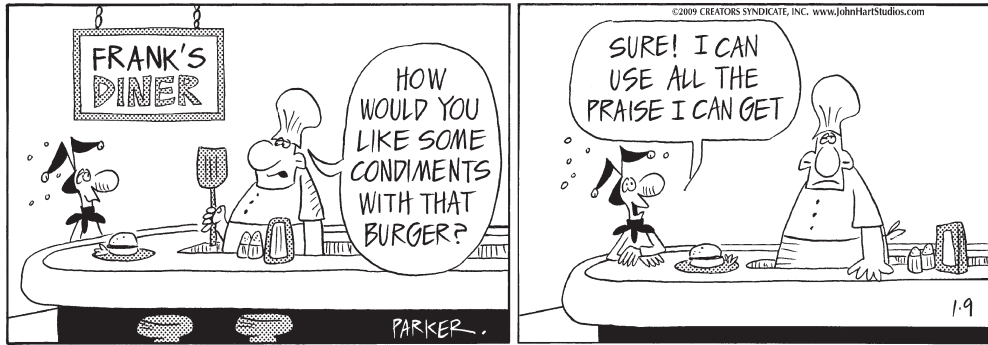
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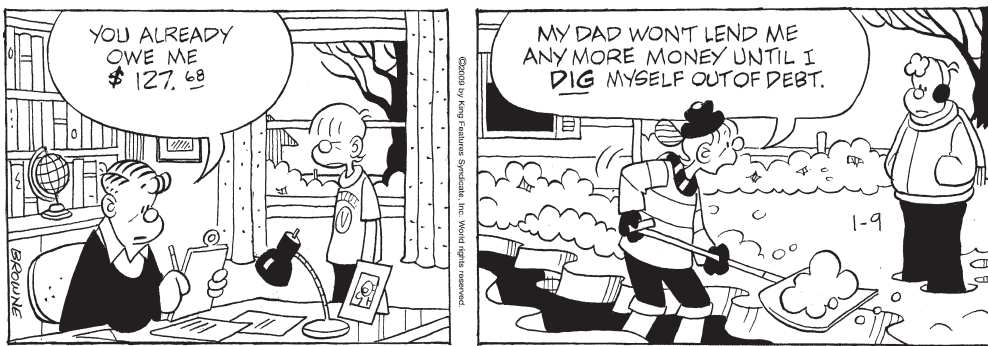
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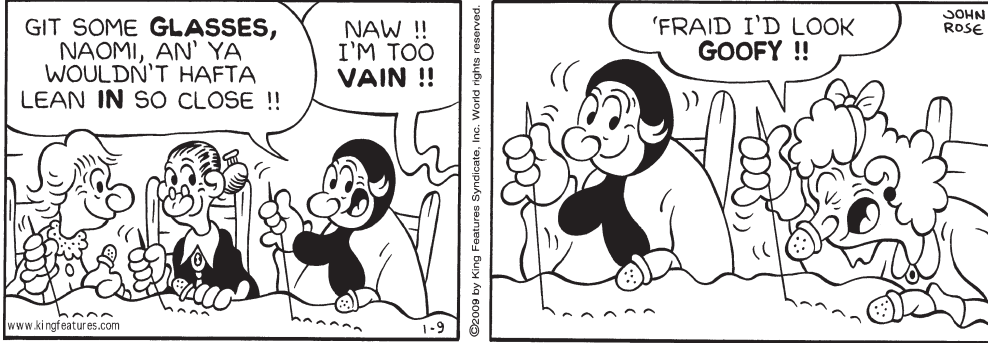
HI AND LOIS



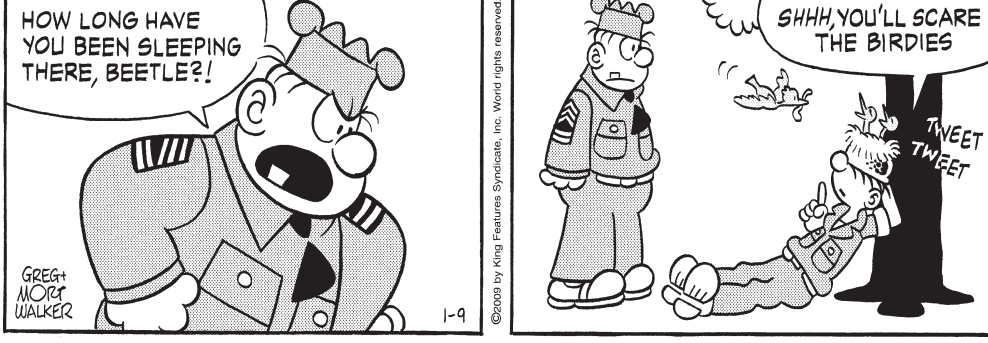
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2009. There are 356 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, Calif. In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, N.J. In 1859, women's suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt was born in Ripon, Wis. In 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union. In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines. In 1959, the Western series "Rawhide" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1964, anti-U.S. rioting broke out in the Panama Canal Zone, resulting in the deaths of 21 Panamanians and several U.S. soldiers. In 1968, the Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface. In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purportedly authorized biography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake. In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 81. Football Hall-of-Famer Bart Starr is 75. Sportscaster Dick Enberg is 74. Actress K. Callan is 73. Folk singer Joan Baez is 68. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 68. Actress Susannah York is 68. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 65. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 59. Singer Crystal Gayle is 58. Actor J.K. Simmons is 54. Nobel Peace

laureate and human rights activist Rigoberto Menchu is 50. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 46. Actress Joely Richardson is 44. Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 42. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 42. Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 41. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 31. Pop-rock musician Drew Brown (OneRepublic) is 25. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 22.

Thought for Today: "No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion." - Carrie Chapman Catt, American women's suffrage leader (1859-1947).

Answer to previous puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

Newsday Crossword

GOOD RIDDANCE by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Sadie Hawkins Day creator
5 Time for a break, maybe
10 Brandy designation
14 Paint-store calculation
15 Defendant's words
16 Looney Tunes company
17 Very dark
19 Mardi \_\_
20 Trumpet call
21 Kind of cactus
23 Arch
24 Petty officer
27 Fraught with meaning
28 Cookware material
30 Truth in Advertising agcy.
33 Venerated one
36 Serves perfectly
37 Tony sport
38 Toasted too much
39 Arles article
40 Lakota people
41 Heaps
42 Give up
43 Not sharp or flat
44 Informal affirmative
45 Floor covering
47 Lima home
49 Small annoyance
50 Std.
53 Dry-cleaning liquid
56 Green one
58 "Hold it!"
59 Meat entrée
62 Not a pro

- 63 Harry Potter owl
64 Cartoon dog in uniform
65 '90s German leader
66 Group of software programs
67 Senior member

DOWN

- 1 Team ldrs.
2 Computer typeface
3 Childish
4 Summit result, maybe
5 Off-limits stuff
6 Room extension
7 Actress Long
8 Things to learn first

- 9 Japanese emperors
10 Foggy
11 Place for keepsakes
12 Ike subordinate
13 Nogales coin
18 Tasmania's capital
22 Atty. \_\_
25 Less fresh
26 Words with a pat
28 Euro coin
29 Mended
31 Most of Iceland's flag
32 Clunky
33 Cyberspace marketplace
34 Pip
35 Paperhanger's accessory

- 37 Sonar sound
40 Kennedy colleague
42 Raffle purchases
45 Ash Wednesday monogram
46 Cause resentment
48 Be of use
50 Slow
51 Grand view
52 Fare
53 Letters on some letters
54 "Oops!"
55 Traffic-sign word
57 Fifth-anniversary gift
60 Sch. at Kingston
61 Camp sight

Crossword puzzle grid for Newsday Crossword.

# Don't succumb to the pressure

In coming to the end of 2008, we find ourselves living in a world that is facing some real pressure, especially extreme economic hardships. The pressure of our world, as I'm sure you've realized, can translate right into our



**JERRIE STOCKS**

own lives. When it does, it is sometimes easy to think we are alone in facing these kinds of troubles, but we are not. Even the apostle Paul lived in a constant atmosphere of pressure. Over and over in his letters to the churches, he wrote about the pressure he was under. But he never stopped there. He also wrote of God's power to deliver him. And that is the same power that is ready and available to deliver us today, no matter what the problem

may be. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, Paul wrote, "We do not want you to be uninformed brothers about the hardships we suffer in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our heart we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us." When you face times like these, when you are feeling the pressure, you have to set your hope on Him for He will deliver you when you cry out

for His help. The whole purpose of pressure is to put you in a state of fear and worry. It is to cause you to give up on your dreams, to give up on your goals and to give up on your faith in Christ. But don't be pressured into giving up. Stand strong and allow your vision to become even stronger. King Solomon had a solution when he said, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not upon your own understanding." In other words, get into partnership with God where you cannot fail. It is smart and just makes good sense to link up with God as your partner, considering that He has never failed at anything He ever did. When you do that, you receive a part of His life

and ability. Many famous businessmen had a connection and a strong faith in God when they pursued their dreams, often overcoming impossible odds. They did not allow the pressure to stress them out and forfeit their dreams. So in these difficult times, you must lean strong on your faith in God. One thing is for certain, He is in control and He already knows the beginning to the end. The only thing you can change is you. The financial situation of our country today did not take God by surprise. He knew every detail even while He was hanging on the cross, and He still knows the outcome today. So we keep a good outlook on life, and trust Him exclusively!

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

not bad for a mission church. We had 78 in attendance for the Christmas Eve services. We are very pleased and happy to have grown so much in so little time.

This Sunday, at 9 a.m., we will be signing our charter with everyone included. Then the voting members will be signing the constitution. After services, we will be celebrating with a potluck dinner. Pastor Robert Boyce of Abilene will again be our pastor.

David Carlisle will be our scripture reader and Crystal Wood will be our acolyte. Angela Newton will be our organist.

All officers will be installed, officially. All committee members will continue to serve.

Youth confirmation studies continue Wednesday with Bobby Roever as teacher. An adult instruction class will be started soon. Please sign up if you are interested.

There is still room for you to volunteer for any committee you are interested in. So far, everyone has a job and we are all happy in it.

January 18, the Rev. Karim Baidou will be preaching at Holy Cross Lutheran Church LCMS in Midland for the 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. Rev. Baidou is a pastor with the

Partners in Missions with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He will also hold a special session concerning dating and marriage relationships for teens at 2 p.m. A number of Alive in Christ members will be attending the 11:30 a.m. services. Please speak to one of us if you need a ride.

You are always welcome at "Alive in Christ."

### Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Sunday worship services are 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Midweek service is 7 p.m. Wednesday. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. Sunday morning with children's church during the worship hour for ages 4-12.

For a ride to services, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. For further information call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

### First Baptist Church

Happy new year to you. We are pleased to announce that The Stamps Quartet will be returning to Big Spring next Friday to be in concert here at the First Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

This quartet has been sharing and singing gospel music for a long time, and we look forward to their being here next week. Won't you come and

join us? There are no tickets to purchase for the concert, but a love offering will be taken to support these men in their ministry.

A Monday morning Bible Study begins January 19 at 9:30 a.m. There will be childcare available. The study is Beth Moore's latest study, "Esther:

It's Tough Being a Woman." Are you currently attending church? What better way to start 2009 than beginning to invest your life and grow your relationship with the Lord? First Baptist invites you to come and worship with us. Call 267-8223 for more information.

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