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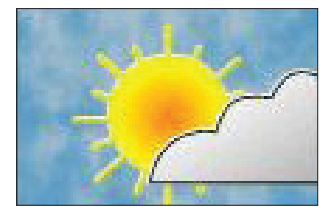
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# HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**

JANUARY 4, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 28

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## TURN OUT THE LIGHTS...



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Shan Smith, executive director for Victim Services, gathers Christmas lights at her organization's spot in the annual Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail park Friday afternoon. Smith was just one of many volunteers charged with putting up and taking down the annual spectacle, which drew more than 20,000 visitors this season.**

## Property taxes are due by the end of January

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

It's tax time. Area residents who haven't paid their property taxes have until the end of January to ante up their 2008 tabs or face penalties and interest, according to local tax officials. Area property owners can avoid the annual last-minute dash to pay their taxes by getting them out of the way early in the month, according to County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles. "Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Sayles. "As of

**"Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month."**



July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

—Kathy Sayles, county tax assessor  
See **TAXES**, Page 3A

## Authorities decline to disclose why man may have committed suicide

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The bizarre Dec. 17 death of a Big Spring man has been ruled a suicide by medical examiners in Lubbock, according to local law enforcement officials. Billie Odell Rawls, 61, was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center by a Howard County Justice of the Peace following a brief chase with Howard County

Sheriff's deputies that ended when the Big Spring man shot himself in the chest with a handgun. "We've received the preliminary autopsy results. The cause of death was determined to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound," said HCSO Chief Deputy Mark Hall. "It could take several more weeks to receive toxicology and other

See **DEATH**, Page 3A

## Lawmakers to focus on transportation politics

By **KELLEY SHANNON**  
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — If anyone wondered whether Texas toll road rage had subsided or lawmakers' irritation at the Texas Department of Transportation had eased, those questions got answered a few days before Christmas: Not so much. Denouncing the massive transportation agency as dys-

functional and out of control, a group of lawmakers reviewing the department said it will be intensely debated in the legislative session that begins Jan. 13.

"This is a big agency that is a mess," said Rep. Carl Isett, a Lubbock Republican and one of the leaders of the Sunset  
See **ROADS**, Page 3A

- Transportation items Texas lawmakers will likely address:
- Finding money for road construction to ease current and future congestion.
  - More legislative oversight of the Texas Department of Transportation, described as "out of control" in a key legislative report.
  - Financial accountability after a \$1 billion bookkeeping error.
  - Changing the governing structure of the five-member transportation commission, possibly naming or electing just one commissioner.
  - Public-private toll road partnerships.
  - The Trans-Texas Corridor, a vast network of toll roads envisioned by Gov. Rick Perry.

## Insurgents plot overthrow of House speaker

By **JAY ROOT**  
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Republican dissidents selected Rep. Joe Straus of San Antonio on Friday night as their candidate to overthrow long-serving House Speaker Tom Craddick, one of the most powerful leaders in state government.

Emerging from a meeting in tony West Austin, Straus said he had the support of 10 other Republicans and he vowed to bring more into the coalition in the days ahead. The vote for speaker takes place on Jan. 13, opening day of the 81st Texas Legislature. "This group is united," Straus said.

"I'm going to try to bring everyone together."

Straus, a wealthy San Antonio businessman, is a relative newcomer to Texas politics. He was first elected in a 2005 special election, so the 2009 session

See **SPEAKER**, Page 3A

**INDEX**

Business 4-5C  
Classified 6-8C  
Life 1-3C  
Obituaries 2A  
Opinion 4A  
Sports 1-4B

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# Steers start off '09 with OT victory

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

For one afternoon, at least, the Big Spring Steers were push-proof.

Pressured repeatedly by the Lubbock Cooper Pirates, the Steers continually found the right answers en route to a 65-59 overtime victory in non-district basketball action in Steer Gym Friday.

Tyrone Clemons and Jerrell Williams provided the offensive firepower with 23 and 19 points, respectively, and a defense that found itself pushed to the limit all game pushed back in overtime, effectively shutting down the pesky Pirates.

"The way we started the game may have been

the best 16 minutes we've played this season," BSHS coach Marc Morris said of his 6-10 squad. "I wouldn't say we coasted after that, but we definitely did not play with the same intensity. Still, a win is a win. Lubbock Cooper is a good team and it's always good to beat a good team."

Fueled by Clemons, who drained his first four three-point tries, and Williams, who added 8 points, the Steers mostly had their way in the first half, stretching their lead to 13 points at one point in the second quarter.

But Cooper, which fell to 14-7 with the loss, closed the half with a 6-point run,

See **STEERS**, page 2B



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
Big Spring Steers' coach Marc Morris, center, talks to his team during a break in their game against Lubbock Cooper in Steer Gym Friday afternoon.

# Hawks hold off SMCC

Herald Staff Report

PHOENIX — Howard College's women's basketball team played the first of three games in Phoenix, Ariz., Friday, claiming a 76-65 win over South Mountain Community College.

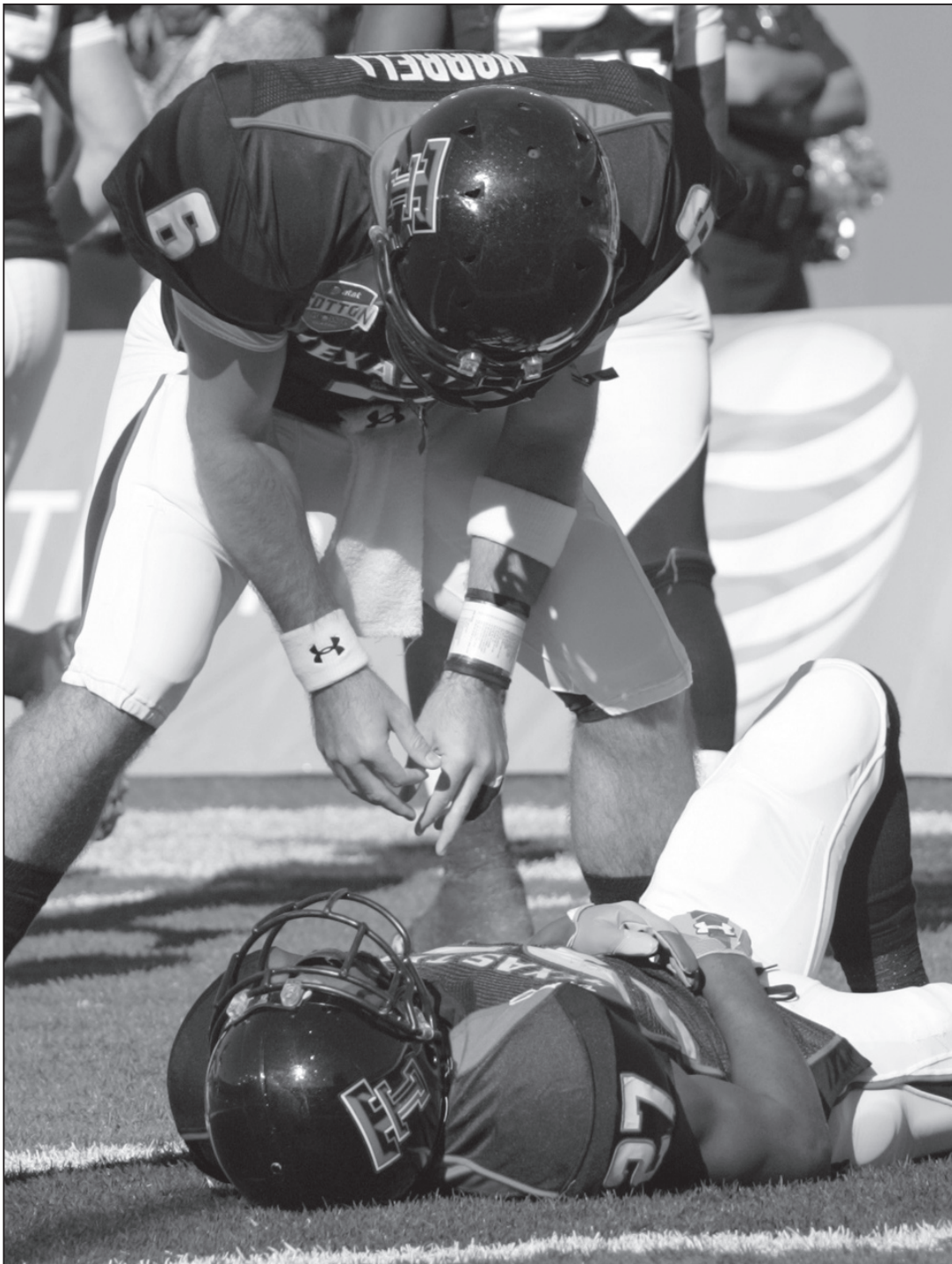
The Hawks held a 40-33 advantage at half-time, but were led by the efforts of Miesha Blackshear in the second half. Blackshear finished the game with 27 points, including four free throws in the final minutes to clinch the victory.

Howard had four other players in double figures with Chasidy Cole chipping in 13, while Deandra Thomas and Rachael Dryver had 11 apiece and Clarissa Krum added 10.

Howard outrebounded South Mountain 46-29 with Dryver pulling down a game-high 13 boards.

The Hawks played Glendale Community

See **HAWKS**, page 2B



AP Photo/Donna McWilliam  
Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell (6) celebrates with wide receiver Edward Britton after Britton scored a touchdown during the first quarter against Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl game Friday in Dallas.

# Tech: From sizzling to fizzling

By SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Texas Tech's once-great season didn't look so hot when it ended Friday.

The No. 8 Red Raiders were left to ponder how history will view a year that started 10-0 and included the highest ranking in school history, but fizzled with a 1-2 finish after a 47-34 loss to Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl.

"It's the best one I've ever been a part of," quarterback Graham Harrell said. "All you all get to decide what's the best ever."

Texas Tech (11-2) looked like it might have a great finishing kick, taking a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. The Rebels, though, went ahead for good before half-time and outscored the Red Raiders 38-7 over a two-quarter stretch before Tech pulled within 38-28 on a touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

At that point, the Red Raiders were hoping for a rally similar to their previous two bowl games, which included the biggest comeback in major college history. Instead, a sack of Harrell for a safety and an ensuing touchdown drive put Mississippi ahead 47-28.

"I don't think we ever thought we were out of the game until the very end," receiver Eric Morris said. "But they did a good job of continuing to execute and not make mistakes."

See **TECH**, page 2B

# Manning's reward for challenging season is 3rd MVP

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning considers 2008 the most challenging season in his 11-year career.

It also proved to be the most rewarding.

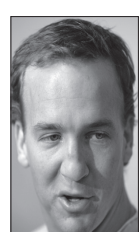
The Colts quarterback overcame two knee surgeries, uncertainty and an uncharacteristically sluggish start to win his record-tying third Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award.

Manning won in a landslide, taking 32-of-50 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL.

Miami quarterback Chad Pennington and Atlanta runningback Michael Turner tied for second with four votes in balloting announced Friday.

The difference: Manning's performance in a nine-game winning streak that gave Indianapolis its sixth straight 12-win season and put it back in the playoffs.

"I'm honored to receive this award, firstly, because of the numerous other worthy candidates that were in the hunt,"



Manning

Manning said. "It was fun for me to watch some of these other players have these outstanding years. That's really why I'm honored to win this award."

The latest win comes with Manning's traditional trademark — more milestones.

He now shares the league record for most MVPs with Brett Favre, who won three straight from 1995-97. Manning won the award in 2003 and 2004, and both players were co-MVPs once. The Associated Press first awarded the MVP in 1961.

Manning didn't look like an MVP candidate at first.

Lacking some mobility and unable to finish some throws, he struggled throughout September and October as the Colts went 3-4.

But as he got healthy, Manning reverted to form.

He topped 4,000 yards for the ninth time, extending his NFL record, throwing 17 touchdowns and only three interceptions in the final nine games. It was good enough to produce the franchise's longest season-ending winning streak since 1975 and get the Colts into the playoffs for a seventh straight year.

Indy plays at AFC West champion San Diego on

Saturday.

Those who have witnessed Manning's magic week after week and year after year believe he was even better than the numbers suggest.

"I've seen some stretches where he's been hotter, but how we've done it and the fact that they've been must-win games from Nov. 1 on and how he's prepared, that's the thing people don't see," coach Tony Dungy said. "For winning under pressure and doing it consistently when we needed it, this has been a great stretch."

See **MVP**, page 2B



# Delish GAME DAY DISHERS

### FAMILY FEATURES

Savor the Super Bowl with a game day party that really scores with guests. Keep them cheering with finger-friendly food such as sausage roll ups, cheesy dip and delicious, hot subs and hoagies. And introduce a new all-star to the menu with a football pancake that's sure to earn some extra points!

The entertaining experts at Johnsonville Sausage have come up with a game-winning strategy that will help you make your big-game party a champ.



Cheesy Cheddar Roll-Ups



Cheesy Game Time Sausage Dip



Football Sausage Pancakes



Brat Super Party Sub

## Game Day Party-Planning Tips

### Set the Game Day Stage

Decorate with fan favorites by topping the table with a piece of artificial turf, found at your hardware store. Then, use white athletic tape to add yard lines and white self-adhesive numbers, found at the craft store, to finish your themed tablescape with yardage markers.

### Score With Sweets

After the delicious appetizers and main entrees, don't forget dessert. Display cupcakes on a platter and add green "turf" and "yard lines and markers" with frosting.

### Send Your Guests Off in Style

Create sports-themed gift bags for guests, featuring team-colored tissue paper and small prizes, such as a freezable plastic mug, bottle koozies and a team bottle opener or coasters. These gift bags also make great prizes for any contests you have during the party, as well!

### Brat Super Party Sub

Prep: 30 minutes  
Grill/Bake: 35 minutes  
6 servings

#### Sauce

- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1/2 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper, optional

#### Sub

- 1 package (19.76 ounces) Johnsonville Original Bratwurst
- 1 loaf (1 pound) French bread
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1 medium tomato, thinly sliced

In a bowl, combine sauce ingredients. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

Grill brats according to package directions. When cool enough to handle, cut into 1/4-inch bias slices. Slice bread lengthwise and transfer to baking sheet. Arrange brat slices on bread bottom. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes or until bread is lightly browned. Remove from oven. Top with sauce, onion and tomato. Cut sub and serve.

### Cheesy Game Time Sausage Dip

Total Prep: 25 minutes  
Yield: 6 cups

- 1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville All Natural Ground Sausage
- 2 pounds Velveeta processed cheese, cubed
- 1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa
- 1 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon anise seed, crushed
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil
- Garlic toast

In a skillet, cook and crumble sausage until no longer pink; drain. Place cheese in a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 6 minutes or until melted, stirring every 2 minutes. Stir in salsa, seasonings and sausage. Microwave 2 minutes longer or until heated through. Serve with garlic toast.

#### Tips:

- Add 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper for a spicier dish.
- Serve garlic toast with diced tomatoes and chopped black olives.
- To serve in a bread bowl, cut off the top of a round loaf of bread; carefully hollow out bottom, leaving a 1-inch shell. Cube removed bread. Spoon cheese dip into bread shell. Serve with bread cubes.

### Cheesy Cheddar Roll-Ups

Prep: 20 minutes  
Bake: 15 minutes  
6 servings

- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 2 tablespoons coarse ground mustard
- 1 package (16 ounces) Johnsonville Beddar with Cheddar Sausage

In a skillet, sauté onion in oil until light golden brown; cool slightly. Unroll crescent dough and separate into triangles (bake or discard two extra triangles). Spread each with mustard and top with onions. Place one sausage on wide end of each triangle; roll up. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.

### Football Sausage Pancakes

Prep/Cook: 35 minutes  
4 servings

- 1 package (12 ounces) Johnsonville Breakfast Sausage Links
- 2-1/2 cups Hungry Jack complete pancake mix
- 1 teaspoon baking cocoa or cinnamon
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Maple syrup

Cook sausage according to package directions; set aside.

In a bowl, combine pancake mix and cocoa/cinnamon. Stir in water and vanilla. Pour 1/2 cup batter onto a hot greased nonstick skillet or griddle in the shape of a football. Place one sausage link lengthwise down center of batter. Cut two sausage links into thirds; arrange on sides of center link to form football laces.

Using two spatulas, carefully turn pancake when bubbles form on top and edges are dry. Cook until second side is golden brown. (Trim edges to resemble a football if necessary). Invert onto a plate, sausage-side up. Repeat with remaining batter and sausage.

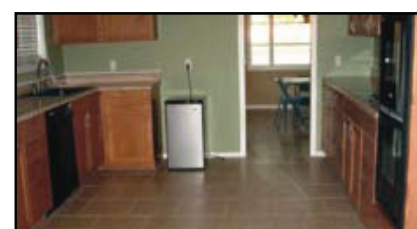
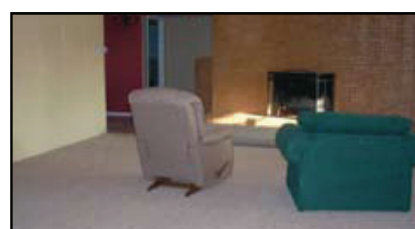
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## Obituaries

## Polly Lancaster



Polly Lancaster, 54, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009, at Midland Memorial Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris officiating.

She was born July 9, 1954, in Big Spring to Norma and Conny Wade. Polly married Steve Lancaster, July 14, 1973, in Big Spring. She received her bachelor of business

administration in accounting from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Polly was comptroller for Fraser Industries for 20 years, and the last six years manager of administrative services for Colorado River Municipal Water District. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Canterbury Retirements Homes. She was a director on the Howard College Workforce Education Board, and was a member of the Region 4 Government Finance Officers Association of Texas.

Polly is survived by her husband, Steve Lancaster of Big Spring; one son: Todd Lancaster and his wife Paige of Granbury; two grandsons: Riley and Levi Lancaster of Granbury; one sister: Marilyn D. Wade of San Antonio; brother-in-law: Terrell Pierce of Odessa; two nephews: Allen Baker of Yorktown, Va., and Justin Pierce of Odessa; one niece: Michelle Robinson of McKinney; two great nephews: Chace Baker and Beau Baker; and two great nieces: Amanda Reynolds and Rachel Robinson.

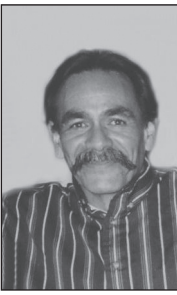
In addition to her parents, Polly was preceded in death by one sister: Cindy Pierce.

The family suggests memorials to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring 79720

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Rey Castaneda Sr.



Rey Castaneda Sr., 49, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 2, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 4, 1959, in Big Spring to Manuela and Margarito Castaneda. He was a brick mason and a concrete contractor. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Catholic.

He is survived by one son: Rey "Viejo" Castaneda Jr. of Big Spring; four daughters: Marissa Castaneda of Big Spring, Michelle Gonzales of Dallas, Stephanie Castaneda of Round Rock and Melanie Castaneda of Gatesville; six brothers: Joe Castaneda, Carlos Castaneda, Martin Castaneda, Ernest Castaneda, and Raymond Castaneda, all of Big Spring, and Margarito Castaneda of Victoria; six sisters: Frances Enriquez, Lupe Loya, Margie Rivas, Mary Lou Marquez, and Viola Castaneda, all of Big Spring, and Anita Gonzales of Fort Worth; 12 grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Take Note

• The Howard County Master Gardeners will begin its spring class with an orientation at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Howard County Library basement. Registration is \$75. Classes will be held at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday through May. Learn about plants, gardening skills, pruning, pest management, landscape and design. Call Katie Grigg at (432) 661-4707 for more information.

• 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

## Dorothy Belle Phillips



Dorothy Belle Phillips, 91, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 2, 2009, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Sharon Weise, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

She was born July 26, 1917, in Electra and married Elmo Phillips Nov. 24, 1937, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on May 14, 1977.

Dorothy had been a resident of Big Spring since 1927. She worked as a sales clerk for Tom Boy Casual Shop and Pretty Things for more than 30 years.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church and was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and had served on the advisory board of Rainbow for Girls.

Survivors include three daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and James Drake of Big Spring, Marilyn and Odys Woodall of Lake Thomas and Linda and Norman Arnold of Irving; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Alice Riggs; two brothers, Jack Riggs and Durwood Riggs; and one sister, Billie Anderson.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1229, Big Spring 79721-1229.

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

## Nova Scudday



Nova Scudday, 89, of Eastland, formerly of Forsan passed away Jan. 2, 2009 in Eastland.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday Jan. 3, 2009, in the First Baptist Church in Eastland with the Rev. Dr. Shawn Brewer officiating. Burial was at 3:30 p.m. in the Mount Olive Cemetery in Big Spring, directed by Edwards Funeral Home of Eastland.

Born Nova Holloway on Sept. 10, 1919, in Moorcroft, Wyo., to Thomas and Ethel Sue [Barnes] Holloway, the family moved to Sterling and Howard Counties in Texas in 1923 where Mr. Holloway was a rancher. Mrs. Scudday attended Forsan Junior High and was a 1936 graduate of Wink High School.

She married Woodrow Scudday and they made their home in Forsan where she worked for the Forsan School District for 20 years as business manager/tax assessor/collector and Woodrow owned and operated the Conoco Service Station and hardware store from 1940 to 1980 when they retired. They moved to Eastland near their daughter Ginny in 1990. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She is survived by a daughter and son in law, Ginny and Jerry Mathews of Eastland, two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1995 and children Sherry Ann Scudday in 1939 and Bernie John Scudday in 1985.

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.

## Your Local Weather

Sun 1/4	Mon 1/5	Tue 1/6	Wed 1/7	Thu 1/8
51/27	50/37	63/33	67/37	70/38
Partly cloudy. High 51F. Winds NE at 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.

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## Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- GEROLD WILLIAM HARGIS, 49, Coon Rapids, Minn., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- STEVEN JOHN ALVAREZ, 44, 1401 Settles, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- SHERRY CRAVENS DARDEN, 43, 15010 N. County Road 41, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JENNIFER DELOSSANTOS, 28, 401 N.W. 11<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on charges of speeding and failure to appear.
- JAMES CANTU, 38, 205 W. 18<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARCUS HATTENBACH, 36, 1806 E. 15<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct.
- JAMES DELOSSANTOS, 34, 401 N.W. 11<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- GILBERT REICO, 35, 1007 Wood, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALBERT SMITH JR., 35, 1609 Oriole, was arrested on charges of evading arrest or detention and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

## Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

## MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weight-in 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.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.

## Lottery

ATLANTA (AP) — A single winner has taken the \$46 million jackpot from the latest drawing of the multistate Mega Millions lottery.

The only ticket to match all the winning numbers and Mega Ball from Friday night's drawing was sold in California.

The next Mega Millions drawing Tuesday night will have a jackpot of \$12 million.

One player won the second prize of \$250,000 and one player won the third prize of \$10,000.

The winning numbers from Friday night's drawing were: 2, 11, 19, 21 and 34. The Mega Ball number is 38.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 13-9-23-19-28. Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: \$8,535. Winning tickets sold in: Mexia, Port Arthur, Houston

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-4-1. Sum It Up: 23

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-2. Sum It Up: 9

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.



**HAWKS**

Continued from page 1A

College Saturday and wrap up their trip of the Grand Canyon State Sunday against Eastern Arizona in Thatcher.

Howard resumes Western Junior College Athletic Conference play Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. with a trip to Hobbs, N.M. for a game against New Mexico Junior College.

Howard 76  
Miesha Blackshear 9-11  
8-12 27, Patricia Malouff 1-8  
0-0 2, Rachael Dryver 5-8 0-0  
11, Chasidy Cole 4-10 3-4 13,  
Thomas 4-12 3-3 11, Danielle  
Cota 0-0 2-2 2, Clarissa Krum  
4-9 2-2 10, Totals 27-58 18-23  
76.

South Mountain 65  
Fleming 4-13 3-4 12, Krause  
1-6 0-0 2, Beamy 5-8 0-0  
13, Johnson 12-19 5-6 29,  
Herrick 3-7 2-4 8, Shank 0-0  
1-2 1, Totals 25-53 11-16 65.

Halftime HC 40, SM 33.  
3-point goals: HC 4-9 (Cole  
2-2), SM 4-8 (Finley 3-5).  
Rebounds: HC 46 (Dryver 13),  
SM 29 (Johnson 6). Assists:  
HC 9 (Blackshear 6), SM 12  
(Herrick 4). Total fouls: HC  
17, SM 17. Foul out: None.

**STEERS**

Continued from page 1B

then shaved the Steers' advantage even further in the second 16 minutes.

Paced by Taylor Johnson with 22 points, the Pirates kept nibbling at the Steers' lead until a Jacob Jones three-pointer with 1:42 left in regulation gave Cooper its first lead of the game since early in the first quarter.

Williams answered on the

**MVP**

Continued from page 1B

Manning insisted the Colts' remarkable turnaround isn't all his doing.

He credited other players and coaches Friday for staying focused and making improvements, while thanking team president Bill Polian and owner Jim Irsay for building and keeping Indy's foundation in place in one of the NFL's smallest revenue markets.

"There's no way we would

be in the playoffs right here, could have bounced back from a 3-4 season and won some of those fourth-quarter close games without those three people (Dungy, Polian and Irsay) and their staff creating a winning environment and atmosphere," Manning said. "I know it's an individual award, but I truly accept it as a team award."

Running back Dominic Rhodes, who played with Manning during all three MVP seasons, said Manning was at his best when the Colts needed him most this season.

Manning finished with 27 TD passes, a completion percentage of 66.8 and a quarterback rating of 95.0.

Safety Bob Sanders, the 2007 defensive player of the year, acknowledged Manning faced big challenges after sustaining the first serious injury of his career. It took two surgeries to fix the infected bursa sac in Manning's left knee, procedures that threw off his balance and made it tougher to finish throws when the season began.

Yet during the stretch run, Manning was nearly flawless.

**TECH**

Continued from page 1B

The Red Raiders were left to answer questions of whether they were motivated enough to play a four-loss opponent in the Cotton Bowl while most of the other one-loss teams went to BCS games.

One by one, they knocked down that theory.

"Because if you can't get excited about playing Ole Miss in the Cotton Bowl, you shouldn't play football," coach Mike Leach said. "You should do something else. I would

assume drop off a plane, just have a parachute. Extreme skiing may be one."

Harrell acknowledged that the Red Raiders longed for — and felt they deserved — a BCS bid.

"But I don't think that was much of a letdown just because of how great the Cotton Bowl is and how well they treat you," said Harrell, who threw for a Cotton Bowl-record 364 yards but also had two interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown. "It's home for a lot of us guys. We were excited to play. We were excited to be here."

As it turned out, the high point for Texas Tech was the

stunning final-second victory against then-No. 1 Texas in Lubbock.

A blowout of Oklahoma State a week later — the second consecutive prime-time win in front of the home crowd — kept the Red Raiders at No. 2 nationally, the highest they've been.

The freshest memories, though, are a 65-21 loss to Oklahoma, followed by a lackluster win over Baylor. And now this.

"It's definitely a low," Morris, who grew up in the Lubbock area, said of the Cotton Bowl loss. "We did some really good things this year. We're disappointed right now. This is

He completed 209 of 290 passes for 2,248 yards in the last nine games and had a completion percentage of nearly 82 percent in the last four.

Manning has left little to chance, though.

He dedicates countless hours to film study, logs his throws to keep that right arm fresh and has made 176 consecutive regular-season starts, second only to Favre's 269 among quarterbacks.

And when he returned from knee surgery, Manning played through the pain and produced another MVP second half.

something we can never get back. As old as we get, we'll look back and say, me personally, I lost the last game of my career and the last game in this stadium."

Still, Morris echoed his quarterback on where the season ranks for him.

"Personally, being around Lubbock, Texas, for a long time ... it's the best team I've ever been around," Morris said. "Nobody can take our wins away, but then again, nobody can take our losses away. We're going to take it for what it is, and we're going to be happy that we had the season that we did."

ensuring possession, however, driving the lane for a basket, then adding a free throw after a foul. Xavian Parnell added another free throw with 23 second remaining to give Big Spring a 54-51 lead, but Johnson launched a three-pointer with three seconds left that bounced twice before finally rattling in, sending the contest into overtime.

But the extra time belonged solely to Big Spring.

Matt Ritchey, who finished with 8 points, scored

off an assist from Jonathan Benevides to give the Steers a 56-55 advantage and Big Spring never looked back from there.

Parnell sandwiched a basket and free throw around a Clemons three-pointer and Big Spring was able to coast home from there.

"I was proud of the way the guys played in overtime," Morris said. "They came out and didn't play nervous. They played to win the ball game."

The Steers return to action Tuesday at Lubbock Estacado

before starting District 4-4A play Jan. 16.

Morris feels confident the team will be ready for league play.

"I think we're progressing the way we should," he said. "I think with a few more practices under our belts ... when district time comes, we'll be raring to go."

**Score by quarters**  
Cooper 12 11 11 20 5 - 59  
BSHS 13 17 9 15 11 - 65

**COOPER (59) - T. Johnson 5**

(3) 9-12 22; S. Rebber 1 4-7 6; C. Welch 0 2-3 2; J. Jones 4 (3) 4-4 15; A. Jaskoviak 5 4-7 14; totals 15 (6) 23-34 59.

**BIG SPRING (65) - J. Williams 8 3-5 19; J. Benevides 1 2-2 4; T. Clemons 8 (6) 1-2 23; X. Parnell 2 2-4 6; M. Ritchey 4 0-2 8; S. Parker 2 1-2 5; totals 25 (6) 9-17 65.**

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



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the home add up and taking simple steps toward saving energy and water savings goes a long way.  
“You may be surprised to learn that using a dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing dishes by hand,” said Dellutri. “You can use nearly 5,000 gallons less water and save nearly 10 days of your time each year when your dishwasher is ENERGY STAR certified.”  
Dellutri offers her energy saving tips for saving energy and water throughout the house:  
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• **No Need to Pre-Rinse:** Dishwashers today don't require pre-rinsing of dishes before loading. In fact, skip this step and you'll save as much as 20 gallons of water per load, or 6,500 gallons per year. Just scrape off food and liquids - the dishwasher will do the rest.  
• **Full Loads:** Run both your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads to make your appliances more energy efficient. Most of the energy used by a dishwasher goes to heat water. Since you can't decrease the amount of water used per cycle, fill your dishwasher to get the most from the energy used to run it.  
• **Moisture Sensor Option:** Be sure to use the moisture sensor option on your dryer, if available, which automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry.  
• **Just the Right Temperature:** Set your thermostats at 78 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 68 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. On average, you will use 3 to 5 percent more energy for every degree your thermostat is lower than the recommended summer temperature or higher than the winter temperature.  
*Visit [FrigidaireEnergySavings.com](http://FrigidaireEnergySavings.com), for more information and appliance-buying tips.*

### Area Menus

<p><b>Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center</b> <b>Monday</b> chicken stir fry, buttered zucchini, tossed salad, dressing, garlic bread, margarine, butterscotch parfait, milk. <b>Tuesday</b> pepper steak, baked potato w/sour cream, peas &amp; carrots, rolls, margarine, pineapple chunks, milk. <b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>pinto beans w/ham chunks, okra &amp; tomatoes, cornbread, margarine, coleslaw, cherry cobbler, milk. <b>Thursday</b> sliced ham, black-eyed peas, seasoned greens, cornbread/margarine, tropical fruit, milk. <b>Friday</b> tamales w/chili, Spanish rice, squash medley, tortilla chips w/salsa, tossed salad, dressing, fresh fruit, milk.</p>	<p><b>Big Spring ISD</b> <b>Tuesday</b> biscuits, chicken nuggets, applesauce cups, milk <b>Wednesday</b> baked cheese sticks, fruit juice, milk. <b>Thursday</b> pancakes sausage on stick, peaches, milk. <b>Friday</b> banana loaf, fruit juice, cheddar cheese porti, milk.</p>
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### Reader's Corner

#### Christmas Story

Away down in Texas under West Texas skies a cowboy was round-up cattle one night

an old wolf a-howling the stars shining bright and he heard a babe crying out there in the night.

The baby kept crying and he looked down to see a young girl a-laying with a baby so sweet.

He picked up the young girl and he picked up the

child wrapping them up in his coat for awhile

He lived in an old shack by an old cattle shed he laid them down gently in his old wooden bed. a star up in heaven shone down in the night her golden hair tangled on his pillow of white.

the cattle were lowing and hoped he could keep the golden haired lady and the baby sweet.

The old wolf a-howling

the baby awake but little sweet baby no crying he make.

The wolf brought red berries, laying them on the floor a gift for the baby the child he adored.

And early next morning the berries still lay, the cowboy awakened to a bright Christmas day

The beautiful berries so red and so bright a gift for the baby born Christmas eve night.

—Bernice Reed Jones

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**TAXES**

Continued from Page 1A

Sayles said area residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that's due. So if you

haven't received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.

"They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment."

For taxpayers over the age of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special installment plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest, which can quickly add up.

"There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said Sayles. "You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April,

June and Aug. 1. This is for people 65 and older or are receiving disability."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6

percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

"Just remember, we go by the postmark on the envelope," said Sayles. "As long as it's postmarked by the deadline, you're OK."

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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

**DEATH**

Continued from Page 1A

reports from the autopsy."

While attempting to serve an arrest warrant at a residence in the 100 block of Lockhart, Hall said deputies observed Rawls running from the home and gave chase, following him into the backyard of a nearby home.

"He was crouched down,

hiding behind a block fence in the backyard of the residence," said Hall. "While the officers were looking for him, he simply stood up, pulled out a gun and shot himself in the chest. He wasn't the individual the deputies were trying to serve the arrest warrant on. In fact, he didn't have any warrants at all, as far as our records indicate."

Hall declined to divulge the identity of the suspect police were trying to serve the

warrant on — and remains at-large, according to law enforcement officials — but did confirm there is no obvious connections between him and Rawls at this time.

Investigators with the Texas Rangers out of Abilene were called in to perform an independent inquiry into the shooting, according to Hall, after Rawls' family members expressed concern the shooting could have been a cover-up immediately following his

death.

"We called to Rangers in to investigate allegations made by the family following the shooting," said Hall. "However, after the initial shock of their loved one's death wore off, family members have come forward with possible reasons why Rawls could have shot himself. Now that the Rangers are involved, the family is satisfied, to my knowledge."

As for the family's theories

for why Rawls would shoot himself in the presence of the deputies, Hall said the family has asked that he not discuss them with the public.

"The family has asked me not to comment on why he might have done what he done," said Hall. "And that's what we're doing."

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

**ROADS**

Continued from Page 1A

Advisory Commission that periodically examines state agencies. He said it may take several legislative sessions to repair Texas transportation.

Though legislators agree there are problems, they don't always agree on how to fix them.

Lawmakers are still reeling from the 2007 legislative session and their public feuds with the late transportation commission chairman Ric Williamson, a friend of Republican Gov. Rick Perry, who appointed him to shepherd Perry's vision for Texas highway construction. New commission chair Deirdre Delisi, another longtime Perry associate, has been trying for months to ease tension between lawmakers and the agency.

"We've been working very hard to improve our communications and make what we do as an agency much more understandable to the public and the Legislature," Delisi said in a recent interview. "I think our efforts have been paying off."

But frustration continues over Perry's proposed Trans-Texas Corridor road network that threatens to overtake private farm land, and legislators keep bringing up the agency's \$1 billion bookkeeping mistake. They are calling for more transparency and accountability.

Perry will be watching the Legislature's actions closely. Road-building is a cornerstone of his administration and is certain to be an issue in his 2010 re-election bid. Potential primary opponent Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison also has said transportation should be one of the state's

top priorities.

For years Perry has said the major north-south highway Interstate 35 and other Texas roads are so choked with traffic they can't handle the state's population growth and commerce.

His proposed Trans-Texas Corridor — envisioned as a huge set of highways, rail and utility lines crisscrossing the state — has been under fire almost since its inception. Some lawmakers are pledging to try to abolish it. Perry's advisers acknowledge the corridor may not need to be as extensive as initially planned.

But they say the part of the corridor that will parallel I-35 is essential to alleviate traffic and that Interstate 69, proposed to run through East Texas and into South Texas, is an important trade route.

Delisi said since taking the helm at the transportation

commission last April she has tried to work with legislators to figure out ways to leverage limited money to build and improve roads.

"We've got billions and billions and billions of dollars of state needs," she said.

In mid-December, a citizen's committee made up of Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane and other business leaders outlined for the commission \$313 billion in road and bridge needs between now and 2030. While some spoke about the astronomical dollar figure, Delisi asked, "What's the cost to the state of not doing it?"

Meanwhile, lawmakers on the sunset panel recommended in a narrow vote to do away with the existing five-person commission that oversees the transportation department and replace it with one commissioner named by the governor — much like the insur-

ance commissioner operates. That transportation head would have to be reconfirmed by the state Senate every two years, and there would be more legislative oversight of the agency.

Isett and several senators disagreed with the one-commissioner structure, so dissent over the recommendation could erupt in the full Legislature. Isett argues that representation from several regions of the state is essential.

Other House members want an even bigger overhaul.

"The commissioner's office is where the buck ought to stop," said Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, a San Antonio Democrat, who wants to abolish the five-member transportation commission and replace it with an elected commissioner, similar to the role of the elected state agriculture commissioner.

**SPEAKER**

Continued from Page 1A

will only be his third. Straus portrayed that as a plus, saying he isn't "scarred" by the infamous battles that have left the House bitterly divided.

Straus' official candidacy was not posted on the Web site of the Texas Ethics Commission Friday night, but Rep. Charlie Geren, the Fort Worth Republican who helped spearhead the anti-Craddick rebellion, said Straus had sent in his paperwork as required by law.

Craddick, the longest serving Republican in state elective office, won't go down without a fight. He plans to hold his own meeting Sunday, and his supporters say he has far more votes than any single candidate.

Craddick issued a written statement shortly after Straus spoke to reporters outside the Austin home of Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, who hosted the meeting of GOP members opposing the speaker's re-election.

"There are great challenges facing the state, and there are clear differences in experience and philosophy between Mr. Straus and me," Craddick said. "I am confident that I will be re-elected speaker."

Still, Craddick's own allies have acknowledged that he lacks a majority of the 150-member body, which has sown doubt that the Midland oilman will remain in his powerful post. One top lieutenant, Rep. Will Hartnett, R-Dallas, estimated Craddick's support at 70 members — six shy of the magic 76, or half of the chamber plus one.

"Members are in a position for the first time in memory where some of them feel it's less dangerous to vote against the sitting speaker than vote the way they've been going," said Ross Ramsey, editor of the political newsletter Texas Weekly. "For a lot of them, the uncertainty is just unbearable."

Before the insurgents met, one of them, Rep. Tommy Merritt, R-Longview, said he was willing to give up his own candidacy for

speaker if it means ending Craddick's controversial rule.

"It's a cause greater than one's self. We're going to stop the era of absolute authority," Merritt said. "We will elect a Republican speaker with a Republican majority."

The group that met to overthrow the speaker is known informally as the ABCs — Anybody But Craddick. At least 64 Democrats are also vowing to oppose Craddick "under any circumstances."

The Democrats plan to hold their own meeting to discuss the speaker's race Saturday. With Straus gathering the reform group's support, the Democratic minority could be in the position of kingmaker this weekend.

"I think it's coming together well," said Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, one of the Democratic

leaders. "Folks have sent a message that they're tired of the bickering ... I think there's a lot of people who want to start over."

First elected to his West Texas House seat in 1968, Craddick became speaker in 2003, when Republicans had an 88-62 majority. Today, six years later, it has dwindled to 76-74, a bare two-seat margin. More recently, Republicans who once were counted among Craddick's top GOP supporters have publicly broken from the longtime

speaker and are calling for new leadership.

So far ten Republicans, including Craddick and Straus, have filed the paperwork necessary to run for speaker, and even more could join the race before the saga ends. Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, the speaker's hand-picked chairman of the House Insurance Committee, said he is thinking about running or getting behind another candidate in order to restore "peace and harmony" in the badly divided chamber.

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Polly Lancaster, 54, died Thursday. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Rey Castaneda, Sr., 49, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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Have Answered  
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♦ Bedtime Stories (PG) 2:20 PM, 4:50 PM, 7:20 PM, 10:00 PM  
♦ The Tales of Despereaux (G) 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM  
♦ Day The Earth Stood Still, The (PG-13) 10:10 PM  
♦ Yes Man (PG-13) 2:10 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:10 PM, 9:50 PM  
♦ Marie and Me (PG) 2:01 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 9:40 PM  
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# Sports in brief

## Big Spring basketball boosters meeting Monday

The Big Spring Steers Basketball Booster Club is holding its first parents meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center. All parents of Steers' basketball players from junior high to varsity are encouraged to attend. For questions, call Sam Segundo at 268-3025.

## Referees needed for YMCA basketball

Anyone interested in refereeing basketball at the YMCA needs to attend a meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the YMCA. For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

## Lady Steers Booster Club meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is holding a meeting at 5:45 p.m. Monday in the ATC. All parents of Lady Steers' athletes ranging from junior high to high school are encouraged to attend.

## Bass club slates meeting

The Big Spring Bass Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third. Lakes and dates for the upcoming season will be selected. The public is invited. For more information, contact Jim Crenshaw at 267-6129 or 466-3995.

# Utes bowl over 'Bama, 31-17

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Out of their element, out of their league — and still perfect.

Brian Johnson and seventh-ranked Utah came down from the mountains to SEC country and established themselves as the best of the BCS busters, finishing 13-0 with a convincing 31-17 win over No. 4 Alabama in the Sugar Bowl on Friday night.

Johnson threw for 336 yards and three touchdowns on his way to being selected the game's most outstanding player, a fitting finish to the career of Utah's winningest quarterback (26-7).

Utah became the first team from a non-BCS conference to win two BCS bowls. The Utes beat Pittsburgh in the 2005 Fiesta Bowl under coach Urban Meyer, going for his second BCS national title with Florida when his Gators play Oklahoma on Thursday in Miami.

Yet, after winning the Mountain West Conference, the Utes were left out of the BCS national championship game in favor of perennial powers Florida and Oklahoma, even though both have one loss.

That's bound to bring more calls

## Sugar Bowl

for changes to the BCS system, because Utah showed it could do more than just hang with the big boys, it could dominate one of them.

"I know where I'm voting us. I'm voting us No. 1. End of story," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said afterward.

"I don't know why they wouldn't deserve that consideration," he added later. "Somebody has to explain to me why they wouldn't. There is only one undefeated team in the United States of America right now in Division I football, and it's these guys right here."

Utah's only chance for a piece of the national title — albeit a remote possibility — is in The Associated Press poll. The AP, not part of the BCS, awards its own national champion.

The Utes are the only team in the AP Top 25 that remains unbeaten.

"What else do we have to

prove?" Johnson said. "Without question, we're one of best, if not the best team in the country."

Johnson was 27-of-41 and was not intercepted, and the Utes took charge from the start by bolting to a stunning, 21-0 first-quarter lead.

When Alabama pulled to 21-17 early in the second half, the Utes refused to wilt.

Utah's defense was equally impressive, intercepting John Parker Wilson twice and sacking him eight times, with the seventh sack forcing a fumble that sent crimson-clad Alabama fans streaming for the exits with just more than five minutes remaining.

After surging to No. 1 in the rankings with a 12-0 regular season, Alabama closed with two consecutive losses, the first against Florida in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

Following that first loss, Saban noted that his club still was the only team to have an undefeated regular season in a "real BCS conference."

The comment wasn't aimed specifically at the Utes, but it clearly motivated them.

# Brown, Tressel able successors to Royal, Hayes

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Mack Brown and Jim Tressel struck up a conversation on the Ohio Stadium field as Texas and Ohio State warmed up before their first-ever meeting in 2005.

It was then that the two coaches realized how much they had in common.

Both programs have storied histories — the Longhorns are tied with Notre Dame for second in major-college victories, with 831, and the Buckeyes rank fifth with 808.

Both programs have enormous budgets matched only by the expectations of their die-hard fans. Both schools are located in state capitols, with strong roots in fertile recruiting territory, and neither competes with the NFL for attention.

"There are so many similarities in the two schools, it really just kind of hit us that we're living in the same place," Brown recalled on Friday. "We just have different colors and different weather."

Since that conversation in September 2005, Brown led Texas to a national title, which gives him something else in common with Tressel.

As No. 10 Ohio State (10-2) and third-ranked Texas (11-1) prepare to meet in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday night, the coaches are the most important link between the two programs. Tressel and Brown are creating lasting lega-

## Fiesta Bowl

cies at places where legends left their stamps in cement.

The Buckeyes train in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. Texas plays in Darrell K. Royal/Texas Memorial Stadium.

Before Brown and Tressel arrived, the Longhorns and Buckeyes had endured lengthy droughts since their last Associated Press national titles. Hayes led Ohio State to the 1968 national championship and Royal and the Longhorns followed suit a year later.

It took decades for both schools to duplicate those achievements — and it didn't happen until they hired Brown and Tressel.

"Maybe the reality that we both know is that you can never win enough," Tressel said on Friday. "Woody and Darrell probably never lost a game. I don't know two more similar places."

The Longhorns chewed through three coaches — Fred Akers, David McWilliams and John Mackovic — before finding a fitting successor to Royal.

Likewise, Earle Bruce and John Cooper followed Hayes and won in Columbus, but not enough to satisfy those who pined for Woody.

Brown and Tressel have put up some gaudy numbers — Brown is 114-26 in 10 seasons with

Texas, and Tressel is 83-18 in eight years with the Buckeyes — but they take different approaches to their jobs.

Brown, a 57-year-old Tennessean who graduated from Florida State, favors homespun anecdotes and is at ease bantering with reporters.

The 56-year-old Tressel, a native Ohioan, is more guarded with the media. Tressel created a stir on Friday when he refused

to make starting quarterback Terrelle Pryor available to reporters on Fiesta Bowl media day.

But when it comes to football, Brown and Tressel have much in common.

Start with their compensation packages, which are among the richest in major-college football. Brown makes about \$3 million per year, not including bonuses, in a contract that runs through 2016. Beginning in February, Tressel will be paid \$3.5 million, a \$1 million increase. His deal runs

until 2013. Both men won their national titles by dethroning a defending champion in a memorable bowl game; Texas defeated USC in the Rose Bowl after the 2005 season, snapping the Trojans' 34-game win streak, and the Buckeyes knocked off Miami in the Fiesta Bowl after the 2002 season, ending the Hurricanes' 34-game win streak.

But both Brown and Tressel had to overcome some early hurdles before returning their teams to national prominence.

When Brown arrived in 1998, the Longhorns were coming off a 4-7 season that included a once-unimaginable 66-3 home loss to UCLA. Texas' season-ticket base dropped by about 1,700 fans before Brown's first season.

Brown quickly established stability and upgraded recruiting, and he led Texas to the Rose Bowl after the 2004 season. But Orangebloods still griped about a string of five straight losses to arch rival Oklahoma — a streak Brown snapped in 2005.

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**Stork Club**

**Isaiah Nathaniel Mireles**

Dec. 30, 2008

Josh and Cassandra Mireles of Big Spring announce the birth of their son, Isaiah Nathaniel Mireles, born at 3 p.m. Dec. 20, 2008, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long.

He is the maternal grandson of Jesse and Sylvia Cantu of Big Spring and the paternal grandson of Joe and Patty Mireles of Big Spring.

**Carter Anthony Luna**

Dec. 19, 2008

Karol Foust and Kendall Luna of Big Spring announce the birth of their son, Carter Anthony Luna, born at 6:43 p.m. Dec. 19, 2008, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 ½ inches long.

He is the maternal grandson of Robert and Leslie Foust of Big Spring and the paternal grandson of Erlinda H. Luna of Big Spring and the late Ysabel J. Luna.

Carter was welcomed home by sibling Damian.

**Who's Who**

**Graduates**

Brian J. Wingert graduated from Angelo State University Dec. 13, 2008, with a bachelors degree in kinesiology. Brian is a 2002 Big Spring High School.

Crystal Leanne Wingert graduated from Texas A&M University Dec. 13, 2008, with a bachelors degree in kinesiology. She graduated Magna Cum Laude. Crystal was the valedictorian of her 2004 Big Spring High School class.

The two graduates are the children of Chris and Karen Wingert of Big Spring and the grandchildren of Cad and Anne Wingert of Big Spring and Charles and Linda Towne of Houston.



hearing Charlie Parker at a concert in Omaha, Neb., eventually heading to Los Angeles in 1956 to study music and play jazz.

But even as a member of Coleman's 1958-60 quartet that charted a freer course for jazz improvisation, Haden drew on the harmonies and melodies he learned playing country music. His bass solo on "Ramblin'" from Coleman's 1960 album, "Change of the Century," includes fragments from folk songs such as the fiddle tune "Old Joe Clark."

Haden, who leads jazz groups such as the noirish Quartet West and leftist Liberation Music Orchestra, sees the common link between jazz and country in that both are poor people's music related to "the struggle for independence, identity and to be recognized."

The seeds for "Rambling Boy" were planted 20 years ago when three generations of Haden's gathered in rural Missouri to celebrate his mother's 80th birthday. Cameron, his wife and manager, suggested that everyone sing "You Are My Sunshine," and was struck by the harmonizing of the bassist's triplet daughters.

"The girls just fell into it and I think they all realized they blended so well because when you're related, your voice, the timbre, seems to blend," said Cameron, who sings an Irish ballad "Down by the Salley Gardens" on the new album.

Haden received further encouragement when he won a Grammy for best instrumental jazz performance for his 1997 album with Metheny, "Beyond the Missouri Sky," that included Roy Acuff's "Precious Jewel." Backstage, bassist Mark Fain, of Skaggs' bluegrass band, offered to help Haden do a country record in Nashville.

When Haden finally

took Fain up on his offer, some of Nashville's finest musicians turned up for the January recording session, including Skaggs, guitarist Bryan Sutton, mandolin player Sam Bush and vocalist Dan Tyminski, who was George Clooney's singing voice in the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

"It was more like a family get-together than a studio session," said Tyminski, who sings "Ocean of Diamonds" on the album. "I would consider it very authentic country music. ... All the songs are extremely pure and the arrangements are what I would consider very traditional."

The album spotlights Haden's four children — all of whom come out of the indie rock scene. Son Josh, who leads the band Spain, touchingly sings his own ballad "Spiritual," which Johnny Cash once recorded. The Haden Triplets with their tight, high-tone harmonies create a distinctive blend on the Carter Family's "Single Girl, Married Girl" and other

tracks.

Tanya Haden, a cellist and visual artist, says the experience provided a chance to discover her musical heritage.

"It means a lot that I have that music in my blood," she said. "We've been talking about doing this for so long, but everyone was always so busy. ... It just feels good to be making music together as a family."

Charlie Haden says he not only wanted to teach his children about their roots, but also wanted to pay tribute to his parents. Haden closes the album by tenderly singing "Oh Shenandoah" in honor of the Iowa town where he was born after his parents, stranded by a snowstorm, landed a show at the local radio station. It's one of the few times he has sung on a record since childhood.

"I've always loved that song because it's really about where I come from," said Haden. "Everything that I have musically I owe to my parents because they brought me up in a way to really respect beautiful music and be inspired by it."

(AP Photo/Universal Music Group) This photo provided by Universal Music Group shows Charlie Haden, third from right, performing with the Haden Family band.



**Jazz bassist Haden returns to his country roots on CD**

By CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press Writer NEW YORK (AP) — After a career on modern jazz's cutting edge, bassist Charlie Haden acknowledges being scared before recording his first country music album at Ricky Skaggs' Nashville, Tenn., studio.

But with a little help from family and friends, Haden found he could indeed go home again to his Ozarks roots, and even garner a Grammy nomination.

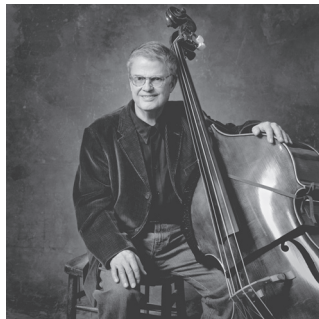
The 71-year-old bassist helped change the shape of jazz a half-century ago as a member of Ornette Coleman's quartet. Now he finds himself nominated for best country instrumental performance — with guitarist Pat Metheny, dobro player Jerry Douglas and pianist Bruce Hornsby — for "Is This America? (Katrina 2005)," a slowly flowing ballad written by Metheny to evoke the sense of sadness and disbelief felt over the government's response to the hurricane.

It's one of the few pieces of contemporary Americana on Haden's new album, "Rambling Boy," that finds him returning to songs made famous by the Carter Family, Hank Williams and other traditional country musicians.

Haden last performed these songs with his parents and siblings as the youngest member of the Haden Family band popular on the Midwest country circuit in the 1930s and 1940s.

Now he's doing them with his wife Ruth Cameron, son Josh, triplet daughters — Rachel, Petra and Tanya, and son-in-law actor Jack Black, as well as Elvis Costello, Vince Gill and

Rosanne Cash. "I've gotten three Grammys and about 15 nominations for jazz recordings ... but this record was very special because it was going back to my country roots



and playing these old songs that I used to sing when I was a little kid," said Haden in a telephone interview from his home in Los Angeles.

"My roots have never left me ... because the very first memory I have is my mom singing and me singing with her. At different points in my life I thought about doing something like this, but I was so involved in modern music, it never seemed that it could ever

really happen." The CD includes Haden's first recorded performance — an excerpt from a 1939 Haden Family radio show on which 22-month-old Cowboy Charlie yodels on a gospel tune.

Haden feels a strong personal connection to songs like "Wildwood Flower" and "Rambling Boy," which he remembers Mother Maybelle Carter playing with her daughters in the Haden family living room in Springfield, Mo.

"We do these songs in a new way yet we don't take their tradition away from them or try to do anything hip," Haden said in an earlier interview at a New York hotel. "We want to allow people to hear this music for the beauty that it has."

Haden speaks in a soft, raspy voice — a lingering effect from the childhood polio that weakened his vocal cords and ended his singing career at 15. He turned his attention to the bass, and was drawn to jazz after

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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.

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Exciting! Thrilling! And so satisfying to see the children's story of the Nutcracker come to life in the age-old classic ballet presentation, Saturday, Dec. 20 at our civic auditorium.

What a wonderful Christmas gift for Big Spring to have the Nutcracker Ballet presented right here in our own auditorium to a "packed" audience.

The amount of work that goes into such a production is awesome. Thank you, Keith, for making the initial arrangements for the ballet. Thank you, Board and Guild members for your many volunteer hours and for being gracious and friendly hosts for the orchestra and dancers all day Saturday.

Thanks to the Howard College Diplomats for their friendly greeting at the doors. Thanks to the well-rehearsed orchestra who made it easy for the dancers to "shine" so well.

As Guild and Board members, we are very proud that "little" Big Spring has the opportunity to present the Nutcracker Ballet for all.

FRAN AND LEE EMERSON  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the elderly and disabled adults who received gifts from the Be A Star program, Adult Protective Services would like to thank everyone in the community who participated.

All of the stars were selected off the trees at the three branches of First Bank of West Texas and many gifts included extra items beyond what was requested. Once the stars were gone, we received calls from people who still wanted to contribute. They provided items such as blankets and personal hygiene products to be held for future needs.

KBST and the Big Spring Herald were instrumental in getting the word out to the community about the program.

Again, thanks to everyone who made the Be A Star program such a great success this year and made Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

DEBORAH ROBINSON  
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUPERVISOR

TO THE EDITOR:

On Dec. 1, 2008, our son Charles was driving near Big Spring. As he got near the TA truck stop he realized he was not feeling well. He pulled into the professional drivers stop.

Steve Adams, who was on duty, saw all was not well, so he jumped in immediately to help. Pat Gray Towing and Recovery Inc. arrived and again Chris Roberts realized the gravity of the situation and took the necessary action and took Charles to Sce-

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When life isn't like a walk in the park, Lord, may we come to You with our fears.

Amen

# Selfless giving changes all

I have a sister-in-law named Lisa. When she was a kid we called her Corn, an irreverent term alluding to her long blond hair. She hates that name, so I thought I might print it in my world famous newspaper column.

If you were living in Johnson County in the '80s you might remember her as Lisa Gorman. Today Corn is all grown up and she has been married to my brother Todd somewhere around 20 years. I still like to give "Corn" a bad time.

Like most, she went into nursing because she wanted to make a significant difference in people's lives. Turns out she's good at it.

While she has worked in doctor's offices and done different things, her main job today is going around to homebound people with ongoing medical problems. She literally goes into their homes and does amazing things to keep people alive.

My sister Missy Meyer does the same thing. Now as a general rule we siblings don't like to talk very well of each other, but I can't help but say they are both amazing women. Not just because they do nursing, which is already amazing, but because they both go so far out of their way for the people they take care of. They are always at the Open Door Food Bank getting food for the shelves of some very poor

patients. I love it.

At Christmas time, they both went into cahoots with my bride and bought a hurting family several gifts for their teenagers and filled up their cabinets with food. She's not allowed to give any details of anyone she takes care of but I know this family had been devastated from some kind of motorcycle wreck.

All she would say about them is though the dad was bed ridden and unable to work, they were grateful and happy to be alive for Christmas. She said they were very special people that remained hopeful through terrible circumstances.

I can't imagine what it was like for that family when Lisa showed up on Christmas day with Ipods, Play Stations, a car full of groceries and cash she had gathered with friends.

I bet for the first time in a long time, their house was a very fun place to be.

That somebody would go so far out of their way for someone they really don't know is something very precious these days.

There's the Christmas story demonstrated.

We saw some of that in helping 500 local kids with Christmas this year. I love giving to the kids, but I love watching the mamas as their little ones open those gifts, even more. The relief and gratefulness when they see the quality of the gifts is awesome.

I think it's worth saying that if your going to give somebody something, especially if you are going to do it in the name of Jesus, please don't give them something cheesy. Give your

best or go do something else.

It's going above what people expect that gets their attention.

A couple hundred people at Open Door Ministries worked hard all year to send us down to Mexico last week with 3,000 backpacks stuffed with toys. We did a huge event in Brownsville on Thursday and then on Friday did two more events in Matamoros, Mexico. We do it every year and always see things that blow our minds.

When we pulled up into the trash dumps we drove our vehicles up a literal mountain of refuse and parked near the peak so all the workers could see we had arrived.

Within minutes several hundred people encircled our vans. We spent the whole afternoon just hugging people, preaching from the back of the truck, distributing what we had brought and seeing what we could do.

There were no fights, no chaos it was actually a real sweet time. For just a little while that terrible place was actually a really good place to be.

I love how God can do that.

One of the great triggers for turning terrible places into good places is the catalyst of selflessness. Going out of your way to be selfless changes everything. I want to encourage you to be a world changer this year. You make the biggest dent by going the furthest out of your way.

In going out of your way you really you get out of the way and let God's goodness show up through you.

Contact the Rev. Troy Brewer at [www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com](http://www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com).



# Suppress vote — win the election

In its present ideological mode, the Republican Party finds itself to be a serious minority. This weakness is especially pronounced among blacks, the fast-growing Latino bloc, and the poor in general.

And as it happens, today the poor are a fast-growing bloc too.

Plainly in politics one's electoral future is not enhanced by being such a small portion of the electorate. Thus it is fortunate for Republicans that the United States enjoys a long history of restricting who actually gets to cast a ballot. You'll recall that at first only property owners could do so. Male property owners at that. After emancipation things opened up and black males were theoretically given the right to vote too. Women came along much later.

But as we all know, becoming and remaining a voter is not just a theoretical exercise. At least in this country that right is hotly contested in hard-fought political combat. He who controls the voter lists often controls the election. One thinks back to the poll tax, an early and effective device for Southern Democrats to deflect newly enfranchised blacks.

Now it is the Republicans'

turn to fear voters. For years, even before this latest tour in the White House, the GOP's close bond with Wall Street had sapped the loyalty of many otherwise conservative average citizens. The current financial meltdown then pushed many others over the edge to the Democrats.

In fact too many left for even this shrewd and conscienceless administration to be able to counteract. Though Lord knows it tried hard, in cooperation with various GOP-controlled state governments. One clever maneuver to retain control was to underfund the Census bureau, thus leading to an undercount in areas heavy with poor, hard-to-find citizens. That reduced their representation in Congress and in state legislatures.

In turn, many states with Republican legislatures or secretaries of state set up stern roadblocks to voting. Registration was made remarkably inconvenient, hard-to-obtain picture identification was made mandatory, voters who move within a town were deleted from the rolls without notification, former felons were denied the vote (sometimes forever) until they completed an elaborate restoration process, voting machines broke down in poor neighborhoods, false information about voting was selectively distributed, non-profit groups aiding in registration were investigated by the FBI, motor-voter registrations

inexplicably disappeared, etc.

Unfortunately complicit in this cabal has been the League of Women Voters. That otherwise noble organization has long been obsessed with our nation's trickle of voter fraud. Consequently it has supported laws which unleashed a flood of disenfranchisement.

Luckily this particular election turned out fairer than most because Democrats had plenty of money to plow into canvassers, lawyers, and literature to offset restrictive state and local rules. The 2006 election had also laid the groundwork by defeating a number of conniving office holders, notably in Ohio. Still more of them lost in this election which should help further improve democracy for 2010.

Nonetheless this round of balloting would have been very suspect as well had it been a close call. The comfortable winning margin for Sen. Obama covered up more massive purging of eligible voters. Perhaps a new Justice Department will alter course and seek out purgers rather than continuing to harass voter registration teams.

Without a universal registration system, however, the term democracy will always be somewhat misapplied to the United States.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



# Red Tag Year End Sales Event

## Chevy Avalanche 2WD LS Victory Red



STK# 8166ET

SAVE  
**\$5,400 & Get  
1.9% APR**

\$34,545 MSRP - \$5,400 Dealer Discount & Rebate = Sale Price \$29,145

## 1500 Crew Cab 4WD Z71 2LT Red

Total Savings  
**\$11,000**



STK# 8308T

\$39,480 MSRP - \$11,000 Dealer Discount & Rebate = Sale Price \$28,480

## Cadillac DTS Crystal Red, Luxury 3 Package, Heated Seats, Bose Speakers, 6 Disc CD & Much, Much More.



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Total Savings  
**\$12,000**

\$49,780 MSRP - \$12,000 Dealer Discount & Rebate = Sale Price \$37,780

## Chevrolet Suburban 1500 1LT Silver Birch

Total Savings  
**\$13,000**



STK# 8235T

\$40,445 MSRP - \$13,000 Dealer Discount & Rebate = Sale Price \$27,445

### ★★ CARS ★★

2001 Buick Regal LS V6 Stk# J176 - Gold	Was \$7,995.....	NOW \$6,995
2002 Nissan Sentra 4 cyl Stk# J250 - Red	Was \$8,995.....	NOW \$6,995
2005 Pontiac Grand AM SE V6 Stk# J193 - Silver	Was \$8,995.....	NOW \$7,995
2004 Suzuki Verona-16 Stk# J252 - White	Was \$9,995.....	NOW \$8,995
2003 Buick Lesabre Custom V6 Stk# J207 - White	Was \$10,995.....	NOW \$8,995
2004 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# J189 - Gold	Was \$9,995.....	NOW \$8,995
2005 Dodge Neon 4 Cyl Stk# H019A - Red	Was \$10,495.....	NOW \$9,495
2005 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk# J162 - Gray	Was \$10,495.....	NOW \$9,495
2005 Chevrolet Impala LS Sedan 4D Stk# H138A - Sports Red	Was \$14,495.....	NOW \$10,995
2004 Chrysler 300M Sedan 4D Stk# J104 - Purple	Was \$14,995.....	NOW \$11,995
2007 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk# J151 - Silver	Was \$12,995.....	NOW \$11,995
2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan 4D Stk# J098 - Red	Was \$13,995.....	NOW \$12,495
2006 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk# J088 - Gold	Was \$14,995.....	NOW \$12,495
2007 Pontiac G6 4 Cyl. Stk# J243 - Silver	Was \$14,995.....	NOW \$12,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk# H179 - Bronze Stone	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$12,995
2006 Hyundai Sonata V6 Stk# J184A - Light Blue	Was \$14,495.....	NOW \$13,495
2007 Chevrolet Malibu V6 Stk# J142A - Black	Was \$14,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 (2 TO CHOOSE FROM)	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2007 Chrysler Sebring 4 Cyl. Stk# J152 - Red	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 (3 TO CHOOSE FROM)	Was \$15,495.....	NOW \$13,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 (2 TO CHOOSE FROM)	Was \$14,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2007 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk# J182 - Silver	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 (3 TO CHOOSE FROM)	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 (2 TO CHOOSE FROM)	Was \$16,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2005 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk# J249 - Sandstone	Was \$17,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2005 Cadillac Deville V8 Stk# H143A - Silver	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$15,495
2006 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan 4D Stk# H020 - Sand Stone	Was \$23,995.....	NOW \$19,995
2007 Cadillac DTS V8 Stk# H181 - Glacier White	Was \$31,995.....	NOW \$25,995
2005 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe 2D Stk# H195 - Black	Was \$39,495.....	NOW \$32,995

### ★★ SUVs ★★

2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer Stk# J167 - White	Was \$12,995.....	NOW \$9,995
2002 Toyota Sequoia SR5 Stk# J066 - Green	Was \$17,995.....	NOW \$12,995
2006 Buick Rendezvous V6 Stk# J259 - Silver	Was \$13,995.....	NOW \$12,995
2005 Ford Expedition V8 Stk# J185 - Black	Was \$15,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2003 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 Stk# H281 - Brown	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$13,995
2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk# J154 - Dark Cherry	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2004 Chevrolet Tahoe Stk# H159 - White	Was \$21,495.....	NOW \$14,995
2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk# J244 - White	Was \$17,995.....	NOW \$15,495
2006 Honda Pilot V6 Stk# H267 - Light Blue	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$17,995
2004 Chevrolet Tahoe Stk# H161 - White	Was \$25,495.....	NOW \$17,995
2008 Chevrolet Equinox V6 Stk# J258 - Silver	Was \$21,495.....	NOW \$19,995
2006 Hummer H3 5 Cyl Stk# H198 - White	Was \$29,995.....	NOW \$21,995
2005 Cadillac Escalade V8 Stk# J221 - Sports Red	Was \$24,995.....	NOW \$23,995

### ★★ TRUCKS ★★

2004 Dodge Truck Ram 1500 PU V8 Stk# J262 - Silver	Was \$10,995.....	NOW \$9,995
2004 Ford F150 Supercab V8 Stk# J266 - White	Was \$11,995.....	NOW \$10,995
2004 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J121 - Silver Birch	Was \$13,995.....	NOW \$12,995
2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J056 - Silver	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$14,995
2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Stk# J153 - Black	Was \$18,995.....	NOW \$15,995
2007 Dodge Dakota Pickup V6 Stk# J188 - Red	Was \$16,995.....	NOW \$15,995
2005 Ford Truck F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# J228 - Gray	Was \$17,995.....	NOW \$16,995
2006 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J032 - Light Blue	Was \$20,995.....	NOW \$16,995
2006 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab Stk# J073 - Pewter	Was \$21,995.....	NOW \$16,995
2006 Ford Truck F150 Supercrew V8 Stk# H172A - Silver Birch	Was \$21,995.....	NOW \$17,995
2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J054 - Red	Was \$22,995.....	NOW \$17,995
2007 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup Classic Ext. Cab Stk# J065 - Black	Was \$22,995.....	NOW \$17,995
2005 Chevrolet Truck Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J254 - White	Was \$21,995.....	NOW \$18,995
2006 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab Stk# J007 - Pewter	Was \$23,495.....	NOW \$21,995
2006 Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab Stk# H275 - Light Blue	Was \$30,995.....	NOW \$25,995
2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk# J149 - White	Was \$28,995.....	NOW \$26,495
2007 Cadillac Escalade Ext. Pickup Stk# H243 - Sports Red	Was \$44,995.....	NOW \$29,995

# Reid and Childress reunite when Eagles play Vikes

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Their bushy mustaches look about the same, and their approaches to building and organizing their teams are similar. Heck, most of their fans want them fired, too.

But Andy Reid and Brad Childress have different personalities and divergent styles, and this branch of the NFL's coaching tree has several variations and twists. "He's maybe a little bit more, if you can imagine this, flat line than I am," Childress said. "Hard for you to see that, right?"

The football staff at Northern Arizona University in 1986 spawned four future NFL head coaches. The bond formed between Reid and Childress during that season together

in the high desert of Flagstaff and the high-scoring Big Sky Conference was strong enough that, 13 years later, Reid chose Childress as his offensive coordinator when he was hired to lead the Philadelphia Eagles.

Childress' chance to be in charge came seven seasons after that in Minnesota, and he has guided the NFC North champion Vikings to a wild-card game at the Metrodome on Sunday against Reid and his old team.

"Well, I wish I wasn't seeing Brad in the first round," Reid said, "but I am proud of him."

Childress was the offensive coordinator at NAU, and Reid was the line coach. Future NFL head coaches Bill Callahan and Marty Mornhinweg, now Philadelphia's offensive coordinator, were also assistants with the Lumberjacks that year.

Reid cracked the NFL in 1992 with Mike Holmgren and the Green Bay Packers and brought Childress with him to Philadelphia after his old buddy spent eight seasons running the offense at the University of Wisconsin.

They've shared plenty of anecdotes and advice about coaching, and their families remain friends.

Despite their attempts to downplay the personal significance of this game, it's surely a source of pride for them — especially considering the hurdles their teams have cleared this season to get here, as well as the public skepticism they've endured about their ability.

Vikings defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier, who spent four years on Reid's staff, recalled Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Johnson telling him he had "the greatest job in the NFL" because of the latitude and trust he had from the boss to lead the defense.

Frazier said he feels the same way working under Childress.

Childress adopted much of Reid's practice schedules, philosophies and routines, both during the season and not, and hired his head athletic trainer (Eric Sugarman) and strength and conditioning coach (Tom Kanavy) away from Philadelphia, as well as other support staffers. The expertise of both Reid and Childress is on offense; Reid was one of Brett Favre's many quarterbacks coaches in Green Bay, and down the road in Madison, Childress

was drawing up plays for Heisman Trophy-winning running back Ron Dayne. The comparisons quickly turn to contrasts, though.

"Once you start talking about

personal aspect, they are nothing like," said Vikings offensive lineman Artis Hicks, who played four years for the Eagles. "They are night and day."

Reid? "He hardly talks. You've got to punch him, threaten him, or do something to get him to say a couple of words," Hicks said. "When he does talk, of course you take heed."

Childress? "He's a psychology major, so he's always challenging you," Hicks said, adding: "You can kind of get caught up in that fog and that haze, and it's good to engage in a conversation where you have to be snapped out of it and be a thinking man for a change."

Reid has his sense of humor. He quipped this week, "I thought you said 'fat line' for a second," when asked about Childress' claim that Reid is more "flat line" than him.

But he's a lot less likely to elicit a laugh in public than his buddy. After a rather uptight first season in Minnesota, Childress loosened up and frequently fires off dry one-liners at his news conferences.

After describing Reid's competitive nature on the racquetball court, Childress zinged this at Reid and his oversized frame: "If you're calling me out, I could probably beat him. But he's a hindrance on the racquetball court, period. Good athlete, though."

Then, pointing to the length of the Eagles' injury list after Thursday's practice, Childress feigned disgust: "That's Belichick-esque." New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick is notorious for his manipulation of the injury report.

There is also the difference in game plan preference. Though the Vikings would be foolish not to use NFL rushing leader Adrian Peterson as much as possible, Childress has always been a run-first coach.

## NFL Playoffs

**Saturday**  
Atlanta at Arizona, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)  
Indianapolis at San Diego, 7 p.m. (NBC)

**Sunday**  
Baltimore at Miami, noon (CBS)  
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m. (FOX)

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### Energy Watch



**Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.**

**Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.**



It was kind of a do little market last week as stock worked off some of the excesses from the prior three week, 20 percent leap upward. Most of our sentiment indicators fell from very bullish levels but remain positive. We believe the dominate market momentum remains up since Nov. 21 and the odds that we saw the bottom of the bear market have increased because of the massive easing done by the Federal Reserve since then.

The message from the Fed last week when they cut interest rates to nearly zero says they have pulled out all the stops and will do whatever it takes to help the economy and the credit market. In life, the old bromide says that "what you don't know won't hurt you." However, in the stock market the opposite is true. Almost no one knew what the sub-prime mortgage and credit market freeze would do to the economy and the stock market. However, the reverse is also true, what we do know can help you and that's critical for investors to think about that as we enter 2009.

We know the economy is in a serious recession and that our country is in a major mental funk. We also know the stock market has dropped 52 percent from its October 2007 highs, which means stock prices have already discounted most everything on the table.

Could things get worse? Yes, of course, but the message from the Fed last week is that they will do whatever it takes to help the economy and the credit market. We also know lots of other things as we enter 2009.

We know that valuation levels are very attractive even if S&P 500 earnings drop to \$55 or \$60 a share. We know that the risk of depression is very unlikely and the odds are improving that the recession ends this summer. We know that despite all the gloom and doom, our economy has always come back due to its diversity, resilience and productivity. We know that most investors are now extremely gloomy about stocks today and into the future. We also know that this is the dominant mood at market bottoms. We also know intellectually that the best time to buy stock is when most "know" it is the wrong time because they are so emotionally upset.

Last week it was reported that stock investors pulled a record \$72 billion from stock funds in October. This is bullish news. It helps explain the October/November sell-off and points out just how bearish most individual investors are, again a classic bottom sign. It also illustrates how much potential buying power is on the sidelines. Fear of inflation is growing because of the giant bail out monies but we believe inflation problems are two to three years off. Near term we will likely have enthusiasm about a change in Washington, record cash, record gloom and doom and attractive valuations. Investors and traders should start to get mentally ready.

*Portions of this article were produced Dec. 24 by Al Goldman, Wachovia Securities chief market strategist. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G. Edwards. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. Opinions and estimates are as of a certain date and subject to change without notice. Investments can fluctuate in price, value, and/or income and you may get back less than you invested. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.*



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**Orveta DeLeon, a teller for First Bank of West Texas, is shown at the bank's FM 700 branch office earlier this week. DeLeon retired Wednesday after 14 years with the financial institution.**

#### Scenic Mountain Medical Center Employees of the Year



**Sheri Nichols, Wound Care Coordinator - 2008 Employee of the Year**



**Mary Castellano, Food & Nutrition Supervisor - Non-Clinical Director of the Year**



**Heath White, Director of Laboratory and Respiratory Services, Clinical Director of the Year**

## It's time to plant and prune trees

**I**t's early winter and most lawns are dormant, but that doesn't mean the work is over. It's now time for tree planting.

Texas Arbor Day is always the third Friday in January. You can plant either bare root or container grown trees and shrubs. Planting is the same for both except that a mound is built up in the bare root hole to spread the roots out and keep the crown at the same level with the soil as it had previously.

The hole should be twice the diameter of the root spread or the soil ball and the same depth. Amendments may be added before planting, but strictly speaking, are not needed.

Backfill the plant with the same soil that was removed, flooding it in two stages to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets.

When planting, prune back the top about 1/3 to compensate for the roots lost in digging. Keep the soil moist for the first few months, then water as usual. Stake taller trees loosely for the first year to allow the roots to get established.

If you haven't already completed your pruning this is a good time to do it.

Only prune spring flowering shrubs that bloom on new wood if they need to be thinned. Wait until after they flower to prune to shape.

Shred your prunings into the compost pile or deliver them to the Big Spring Compost Facility at 3201 Perimeter Road so they can compost

them. While you are there, pick up some compost for your established trees, shrubs and garden beds.

Speaking of garden beds, now is a good time to prepare them for spring planting. Add plenty of organic matter for best results.

The organic matter improves



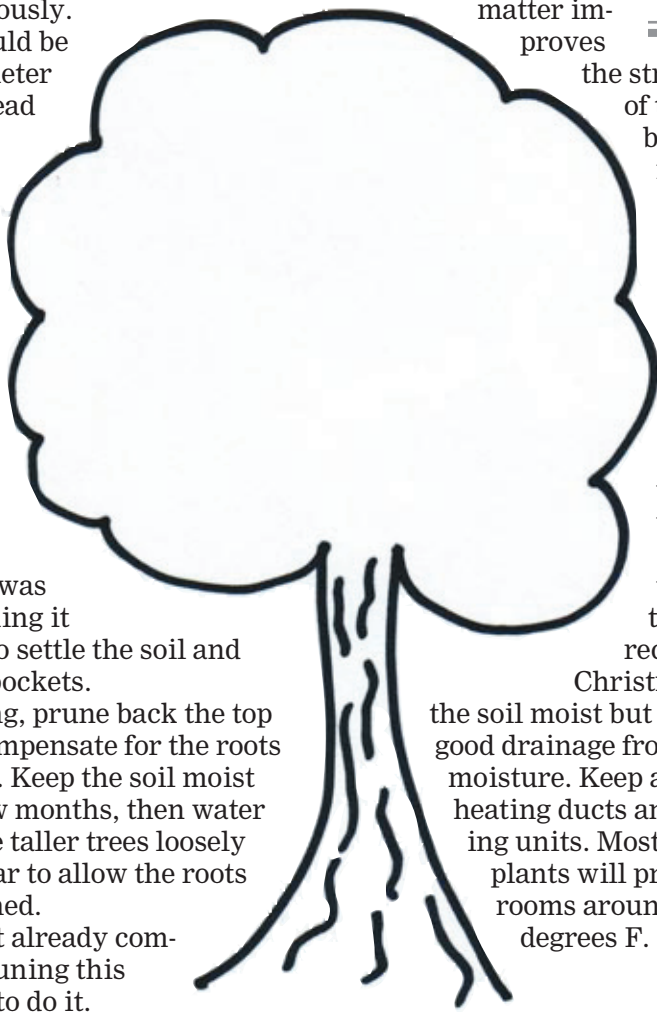
**WALTER WARD**

the structure of the soil by adding nutrients, aeration and water holding capacity to the soil.

Remember that in order to prolong the life of the flowering potted plant that you

received for Christmas, keep

the soil moist but provide good drainage from excess moisture. Keep away from heating ducts and heating units. Most of these plants will prefer cooler rooms around 60 to 65 degrees F.



*For more information, call Walter Ward at (432) 935-6455 or visit the Howard County Master Gardeners Web site at [www.howardcountymastertgardener.org](http://www.howardcountymastertgardener.org)*

## Compass Bank begins rebranding process in West Texas

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Compass Bank announced Friday it has started its rebranding process — to BBVA Compass — at the bank's 14 locations in West Texas, including Abilene, Odessa, San Angelo, Lubbock, Big Spring, Stamford, Plainview and Winters.

The process will continue through mid-January.

"The BBVA Compass brand is more than just a logo, it represents our ongoing commitment to our communities and

the future of Compass Bank," said Manolo Sanchez, CEO of Compass Bank. "This new brand is a symbol of strength to those who desire the security of a financial institution strong enough to withstand the economic turmoil, yet diverse enough to meet their financial needs."

The BBVA Compass brand was first introduced in August in several of Compass' new markets, including the Rio Grande Valley and East

Texas, as Texas State Bank merged with Compass, completing the bank's second successful operating systems and product platforms conversion. Compass successfully converted State National Bank in March and completed its final conversion in November when LNB adopted the BBVA Compass brand and implemented its conversion to Compass' operating systems and product platforms.

The BBVA Compass brand also underscores BBVA's commitment to maintaining local leadership. Customers will see the same banking center managers, community banking leaders and have the same personal service they have come to expect from Compass Bank. At the same time, Compass' customers will have access to the full capabilities of the BBVA Group, a global financial services leader with more than

150 years of experience in delivering innovative products and exceptional customer service.

The rebranding includes the replacement of all external and internal bank signage and new branding for [www.compassbank.com](http://www.compassbank.com), credit and check cards, ATM machines and other customer communications. Compass plans to have all of its 579 branches and 734 ATMs re-branded by the end of first quarter 2009.



# Odds & Ends

## Detroit lawyer gets 5-cent IRS bill, 4-cent refund

DETROIT (AP) — James Howarth is a little confused by two letters he has received from the Internal Revenue Service.

The Detroit defense lawyer received one letter in November that said he owed the IRS money — five cents.

He was warned that he should pay “to avoid additional penalty and/or interest,” the Detroit Free Press reported Saturday.

Howarth says he then received a second letter telling him the government owes him money — four cents.

He was told he would have to request the refund since it's less than \$1.

“When I owe them a nickel, I must pay them. It's not optional,” he said. “But when they owe me, I

have to ask for it.”

Howarth says he's not sure if there is a connection between the two notices, or if the refund represents a recalculation of the original bill.

The perplexed lawyer says he called an IRS 800 telephone number but gave up after spending a long time on hold.

IRS spokesman Luis D. Garcia says the agency doesn't comment on individual accounts.

## Michigan twins born on different days, months, years

ROCHESTER, Mich. (AP) — They're twins, all right, despite what their spanking new birth certificates say.

Tariq Griffin entered the world at 12:17 a.m. on New Year's Day at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, Mich. Twin brother Tarrance was born a bit earlier — 26 minutes to be exact.

That means the boys have the unique distinction of having been born on different days, months and years.

Their dad, Tarrance Sr., is also a twin. The parents say the boys are doing well, which is their main concern.

## Police: Driver switched seats to avoid arrest

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (AP) — Police say a West Valley City woman tried to avoid a drunken driving arrest by putting her daughter in the driver's seat before police arrived.

Charges filed this week in 3rd District Court say the woman drove recklessly on Nov. 28 through a Costco parking lot in West Valley City. Authorities say she hit a curb and blew out a tire in the process.

The charges say witnesses told police she then switched places with her 15-year-old daughter so the girl would be in the driver's seat when police got there.

The woman was found to have a blood alcohol level of .246 percent, more than three times the legal limit of .08 percent.

# LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

nic Mountain Medical Center where he was admitted to ICU on the third floor.

Without these two young men and their car and concern for Charles, he would not be with us now.

The staff at SMMC rendered tremendous care moment by moment. He was blessed beyond measure. We were notified of the critical situation and arrived within hours. As we drove, we felt the hand of God with us. We knew he guided Charles to stop where he did.

The citizens of Big Spring are blessed perhaps more than you realize to have such caring citizens and a wonderful hospital and staff.

Dr. Koup, we will be forever grateful for your care of Charles, especially during the emergency times and for your wonderful care of our family during this time.

To each and everyone of you we pray God's continued blessing as you serve mankind in your field of service. Thank you, from the family of Charles Widner.

ROBERT AND BOBBIE WIDNER  
PORTALES, N.M.

### TO THE EDITOR:

My family lives in Big Spring and we were with them to celebrate Christmas. Last night (Christmas night), we went to see the lights in the park. We have been there a few times over the past few years, but what a surprise we had this year. It was just beautiful!

I send my admiration and thanks for such an enjoyable ride through the park.

ANNE CLINKSCALES SCHULZ  
ANDREWS

### TO THE EDITOR:

On Dec. 22, 2008, I was packing the car for a Christmas trip to my daughter's home, and while arranging the things to take, I set a leatherette photo album (packed with snapshots taken in the 1950s) on the trunk of my car.

You guessed it. Before I could place it inside of the trunk, I had to make a quick trip to the post office. So I drove out of the garage and onto the streets of Big Spring with the photo album on top of my car instead of inside.

I live on Vicky Street and I have no clue where it eventually landed. I did not discover what I had done until I reached my destination in Arizona and my daughter asked for the album.

I am so hoping it landed where a thoughtful person found it and would be interested in getting it to the rightful owner.

On the front of this precious album was engraved my maiden name, Patsy Morton, which would have made it hard to know where to start in finding out who it belonged to.

I'm happy to tell the person who may have found it and is wondering what to do with it, that it belongs to unhappy Patsy Morton Sharpnack and she can be reached by calling 263-3622 or 816-1079.

Please call and I'll be so happy. It's just some silly old snapshots from my youthful days. I'll love hearing from you.

PATSY SHARPNAK  
BIG SPRING

### TO THE EDITOR:

2008 will always be marked by a phone call from a friend Feb. 18: “Remember the refinery in Big Spring?” “Of course.” “Well it just blew up! Turn on CNN!”

The refinery filled the screen with a vast convulsion of black smoke aboil with orange flames shooting miles skyward. Higher still, the cumulus

of the initial blast hung skull-like, evoking the death's head of a nuclear blast with eyeless sockets; mouth and inky stammer. I first thought it was a terrorists' attack but later modifying reports announced no evidence of sabotage, blaming a propylene leak. Miraculously, there were no casualties from an explosion which rocked a 50-mile radius.

Daddy and many neighbors worked at the refinery. Facing the daily threat of injury, even death, they bonded as soldiers in warfare, relying on one another for survival when confronting a common enemy. And make no mistake, the refinery was their enemy, alive with the danger of fire blasts, poisonous discharges, ignitable pools of residue, falls from iron ladders iced in winter, heated to battlefield gunmetal in summer. Men laboring in the thrumming pipeworks, surrounded by risk, were often exhausted, discouraged, bent by the grind, but they did what good men do — laid down their lives for their families.

They would have scoffed if called heroes, but heros they were. In the nobility of their quiet courage, the continuity of their sacrifice, the men drew close, becoming as the decades came and went, a band of brothers inseparable even by death. When I see the refinery, I envision a battalion of fathers fighting for their families, shoulder to shoulder, as tall as the towers they tended.

And thus the explosion brought me home, if only in memory.

When the world was young this land was covered by a sea, long dried to dust. Now, below the surf of sand sways a second sea, sunless and silent, its black waves scalloping fathoms of oil. To those of us who call ourselves natives, we know we are not so much “from” this place as “of it;” extruded into existence like flint. Unlike the flatness which runs through bordering counties like the repeating pattern of a patchwork quilt, home

sits at the charmed conjunction of mesas and prairie, of desert and fields plowed to corduroy. Read them as if text; the snapping gas flares, punctuation.

I'm from Coahoma, a wind-worn speck cleaved by the Interstate's hot hum. To my bumpkin's eye, when lit golden by sunset as if a fan of kleig lights, Big Spring seemed as glamorous as Hollywood.

In those days people “dressed” when venturing downtown, not with the formality accorded church, but a spiffiness which made of shopping or a show, an occasion. Saturdays drew families county-wide. Old timers reminisced under courthouse elm shade while sidewalks flowed as human rivers, their surge spilling into a roll call of such lures as McCrory's, The Record Shop, Hemphill-Wells, The Ritz and Woolworth's — all long swept away, as if tumbleweeds down a dusty trail. Listen closely, for the sawing wind sings our stories.

Big Spring was then home to Webb Air Force Base which meant even the silence of a cloudless day was often interrupted by jet thunder. Looking upward we'd glimpse a glint of metal, like the silver tip of a surgeon's scalpel, its trajectory an incision threatening to slice open sky as if canvas to reveal beyond the blue flap, space eternal arrayed with stars as white and densely packed as cotton in a field.

To me, Coahoma was more tribe than town, its residents bound as if by blood. This sense of belonging was never more certain than when all gathered for football games. In the crowd's Friday night press, a genetic memory stirred — that whisper in the bone — which assured this was no mere game, but at its primal level, a return to battles between ancestral clans.

BOBBY WALLIN  
ASHEVILLE, N.C.

# Something special's happening in the Circle.

## January 2009 Activities

- Jan. 5 – Games 1-4 p.m.
- Jan. 6 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Coffee at Park Place Retirement Center, 10:00 a.m.  
Supper Club “Carlo's”, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.  
“Beef Stroganoff”
- Jan. 8 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Just Peachy Cafe - Coffee Club, 10:00 am.  
\$3.50 Thursday's  
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Jan. 9 – Movie Madness “Must Love Dogs”, 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 12 – Games, 1-4 p.m.
- Jan. 13 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Supper Club “KC Steakhouse”, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 14 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.  
“BBQ Brisket”
- Jan. 15 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.  
Just Peachy Cafe - Coffee Club, 10:00 a.m.  
\$3.50 Thursday's
- Jan. 16 – Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19 – Games, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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## Public Records

**Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:**  
Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80 Apt. 230, Abilene  
Bryan Layton Allison, 1108 College Circle, Ranger  
Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 N. Sixth Street, Lamesa  
Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock  
Vern Black, 329 W Tennessee, Floydada  
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Avenue L, Lamesa  
Dave Bracken, 2720 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lubbock  
Michelle Marie Carrasco, 1704 Yale Avenue, Big Spring  
Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City  
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring  
Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring  
Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring  
Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa

Drive, Big Spring  
Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring  
Wesley Allen Edmondson, 505 E. 14th Street, Big Spring  
James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.  
Gabriel Guerrero, 411 N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Big Spring  
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring  
Rickie L. Henderson, 205 Providence Road, Big Spring  
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan  
Lynda Kynam, 2503 Central, Big Spring  
Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Big Spring  
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland  
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa  
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring  
Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring

Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford, Big Spring  
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, Big Spring  
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 2516 Dow, Big Spring  
Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa  
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Big Spring  
Stephanie Serrato, 1203 E. Mobile, Big Spring  
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring  
Robert Lee Summers, 2404 S. Monticello, Big Spring

**District Court Filings:**  
Howard County vs. Logan Gamble, tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Victor H. Garcia and Margie Garcia, tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Bobby W. Gaskins Sr., tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Michael A. Garza, tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Carlos Gonzalez,

tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Everette Junior Horn, tax suit.  
Howard County vs. Cecil D. Hudgins and Ladonna Hudgins, tax suit.  
Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Sharon D. Plantt, accounts, notes and contracts.  
Billy J. Fallin and Sandra Fallin vs. Danny Herman Trucking Inc. and driver for Danny Herman Trucking Inc., injury or damages involving a motor vehicle.  
Donald Booth vs. Connie Solley Booth, divorce.  
Citibank vs. Jason Rustman, accounts, notes and contracts.  
Alicia C. Morin vs. Donald Cervantes, divorce.  
Barbara J. Nidiffer vs. Donald L. Nidiffer, divorce.  
Lynn Marie Toman vs. Joseph Anthony Toman, divorce.  
Paula Isabel Leos vs. Johnny Leos Jr., protective order.  
Veda Carolina Mezick vs. Conrad Lavell Mezick, divorce.  
Juan M. Perez vs. Philip Childs, depu-

ty warden; Oscar Franco, SIS; Captain Collins, shift correctional supervisor; and Jamie Trevino, unit manager, civil suit.  
Ophelia O. Rodriguez vs. Patrick J. Rodriguez, divorce.  
Judith Hokett vs. Tillman Lavern Hokett, divorce.  
Johnny Leos Jr. vs. Paula Isabel Leos, divorce.

**Marriage Licenses:**  
Thomas Frank Somers, 68, and Janet Lee Davis, 52, both of Big Spring.  
Todd Wayne Railsback, 41, and Sandra Kay Ripple, 45, both of Big Spring.  
John Adam Kemp, 33, of Big Spring, and Mary Faye Capps, 41, of Coahoma.  
Adam Alan Partee, 24, and Stormie Jade Huff, 23, both of Tennessee.  
Randall Joseph Gail O'Hara, 23, of California, and Neomi Marie Haro, 22, of Big Spring.  
Kenneth Floyd Yockers II, 26, and April Lee Canales, 27, both of Big Spring.

# Cash-poor states eager for a piece of Obama plan

By BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK — President-elect Barack Obama's plan to jolt the economy by overhauling the nation's roads, bridges and transit systems has local officials clamoring for their share despite questions as to whether the program will actually work.

"California's fiscal house is burning down," state Treasurer Bill Lockyer declared recently after a California regulatory board halted financing for some 1,600 infrastructure projects because of the state's nearly \$15 billion deficit.

California's woes are far from unique, as the deepening economic crisis has wreaked havoc on state budgets across the country. At least 40 states are running deficits, forcing governors to raise taxes and trim spending while postponing urgent repairs to roads, bridges, hospitals and ports.

"Because of the downturn in revenues, we're all starting to delay construction projects that are clearly maintenance. That risks public safety," said Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in an interview.

The rescue plan, which Obama has called "the largest

new investment in national infrastructure since the creation of the federal highway system in the 1950s," is part of a broader legislative package intended to create up to 3 million new jobs, provide tax relief to middle-class families and help governors cover the soaring costs of education and Medicaid, the public health program for the poor. It is estimated to cost as much as \$1 trillion.

Lest the plan seem too much a throwback to the public works projects of the Depression-era New Deal, Obama has added several 21st-century goals, such as expanding broadband into underserved areas and making public buildings more energy efficient. But the bulk of the plan is old-fashioned construction and repair, much of which would be done by union laborers.

To avoid waste and hasten an economic recovery, Obama wants to target projects deemed "shovel ready" — meaning the design and permitting has been completed and the projects would be ready to launch within 90 to 120 days of being funded. He also is insisting on a "use it or lose it" policy, warning

states that they would lose the money if they didn't begin building promptly after receiving it.

Obama, who summoned governors to a meeting in Philadelphia in December, has said he will hold local governments accountable for money spent.

"If we're building a road, it better not be a road to nowhere," Obama said last month. "If we are building a bridge, it better be because an engineer identified a bridge that has a structural weakness and that has to be dealt with."

So far, the proposed restrictions haven't been much of a deterrent. States have already identified about \$136 billion in shovel-ready projects, according to the advocacy organization Building America's Future.

And interest groups are lining up with their own requests: A ski area in northern Minnesota wants \$6 million for snowmaking and maintenance, while the Association of Zoos and Aquariums announced it too will ask for money.

Most governors professed to be thrilled by the promise of federal help while acknowl-

edging the responsibility attached to it.

"We have to protect the integrity of this effort and invest in things that have value after dollars are expended," O'Malley said. "Let's face it, we're borrowing from our kids."

Polly Trottenberg, executive director of Building America's Future, argued for a balance between immediate need and long-term investment that could have a more transformative impact on the economy.

"There's a pretty broad consensus on 'fix it first,' but we also want to capture projects that might take more than 120 days but could bring real long-term value," Trottenberg said, citing light rail and other infrastructure projects that take years to develop and build.

While Obama's team wants to avoid the kind of special-interest feeding frenzy that has soured taxpayers in the past, many Republicans are doubtful it can be done.

"Taxpayers are in no mood to have a single dollar wasted, but it's not yet been explained how their tax dollars will be protected," Senate Republican leader Mitch Mc-

Connell of Kentucky said in a statement.

On Monday, McConnell and House GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio said they would seek greater input on the proposal and more information on how the money would be spent.

Democratic congressional leaders have been working with Obama's economic team on legislation to be voted on in January.

Republican Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina said he raised concerns at the meeting in Philadelphia, arguing that the plan would plunge the country into deeper debt and questioning whether it would be the job stimulus Obama has described.

"Borrowing money and cutting checks to fund infrastructure is not the best way to juice the economy," Sanford said in an interview.

"And this notion that Washington, with a blink of a wand, can create 2.5 million jobs is strange in a market economy."

But Sanford declined to say that he would turn down federal help for his state if Obama's plan goes through.

"We'll see where we are," he said.

# A year after \$100, oil prices cut in half

JOHN PORRETTO

AP Energy Writer  
HOUSTON — One year ago Friday, crude prices eclipsed \$100 a barrel for the first time, a day largely lost to history because of the year that followed.

In the first trading day of the new year, crude rebounded to around \$46 a barrel.

A variety of factors were likely at work, including a weaker dollar and expectations of OPEC embarking on its largest production cut ever to stem the historic price decline. Investors tend to buy commodities like oil to defend against dollar weakness and as a hedge against inflation.

Oil market activity also was light, as many traders took a long holiday weekend, and that can lead to price swings.

"I have a feeling, more than anything, it's the thin trading conditions pushing the price higher," said Peter Beutel of energy consultancy Cameron Hanover.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery rose \$1.44 to \$46.04 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil's surge into triple digits for the first time one year ago was the start of a climb that would peak above \$147 a barrel by July.

Since then, amid fears

of a prolonged global recession and crumbling worldwide demand, crude prices have plunged more than 70 percent.

"Thank goodness that's over!" Raymond James & Associates said in a note to clients Friday, summing up what many traders feel after the most volatile year since crude futures were first offered on Nymex in 1983.

The same gloomy economic data that drove prices into the mid-\$30s in the final month of the year continued into 2009.

A private group's measure of manufacturing activity fell more than expected in December, hitting the lowest reading in 28 years as new orders and employment continue to decline. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said Friday its manufacturing index fell to 32.4 in December from 36.2 in November. Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected the reading to fall to 35.5.

Any reading above 50 signals growth, while a reading below 50 indicates contraction. The index has fallen steadily for the last five months.

A weakened manufacturing sector suggests demand for energy will

not rebound any time soon.

The February contract for crude rose \$5.57 on Wednesday, the last trading day of 2008, to settle at \$44.60 after Russia threatened to cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

Russia followed through with that threat Thursday, though both countries pledged they would keep supplies to the rest of Europe flowing.

Analyst Olivier Jakob of energy analysis firm Petromatrix in Switzerland said Ukraine has enough reserves to avoid an immediate risk to its supplies, as long as both parties find an agreement by the end of next week.

"If there is a disruption in natural gas supplies to Europe, then you will see an increase in the usage of oil instead of natural gas. It will have an impact on

oil prices," Jakob said.


The European Union depends on Russia for about a quarter of its gas, with about 80 percent of that delivered through pipelines controlled by Ukraine.

Concerns that the week-old conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza could disrupt supplies in the oil-rich Middle East helped keep prices from falling further.

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



By Steve Becker  
**Test Your Play**

**1. You are declarer** with the West hand at Five Diamonds doubled.

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ 4	♠ A Q 7 5 2
♥ 7	♥ 6 5
♦ Q J 8 6 5 2	♦ K 10 9 4
♣ Q J 10 8 4	♣ A K

**The bidding has gone:**

<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
1♥	Dble	3♥	4♦
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass

Dble  
**North leads the nine of clubs.** How would you play the hand?

**2. You are declarer** with the West hand at Seven Diamonds, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided no worse than 3-1.)

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ K J 2	♠ A 8 5
♥ —	♥ 10 7 6 4
♦ A K Q J 8 5	♦ 10 9 7
♣ A Q J 6	♣ K 7 2

\*\*\*

**1. The bidding** clearly indicates that North has the ace of diamonds, and the club lead has all the earmarks of a singleton. If you were to start drawing trumps at trick two, you'd run the risk of North winning with the ace and putting South on lead with a heart to make the killing club return.

To try to prevent this from happening, lead the ace of spades at trick two and continue with the queen!

Assuming South follows low, which is highly likely, discard your singleton heart on the spade queen. This play costs you nothing, as it merely substitutes a spade loser for a heart loser.

North wins the trick but now can't put his partner on lead with a heart, so you get home safe and sound. North's hand probably looks something like:

♠ K J 8 6
♥ A K 8 4 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ 9

in which case the play of the A-Q of spades is the only way to get home safely.

**2. By far the best method of play** is to attempt a dummy reversal, which, if successful, will make it unnecessary for you to rely on a spade finesse.

Ruff the first heart with the jack, lead the five of trumps to the seven, ruff the six of hearts with the queen, lead the eight of trumps to the nine, then ruff the seven of hearts with the king. Next lead a low club to the king, followed by the ten of hearts, ruffed with your last trump, the ace.

A low spade to the ace allows you to cash dummy's ten of diamonds, on which you discard the jack of spades. The last four tricks are then taken by you with the king of spades and A-Q-J of clubs. The 13 tricks you score consist of two spades, four clubs and seven — count them — trump tricks.

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# Autopsy planned in death of John Travolta's son

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — An autopsy is planned for John Travolta's teenage son, who died after apparently hitting his head on the bathtub while the family was vacationing at their home in the Bahamas, authorities said.

Jett Travolta, 16, had last been seen entering the bathroom on Thursday and had a history of seizures, Police Superintendent Basil Rahming said in a statement.

A house caretaker found the teenager unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning. He was taken by ambulance to a Freeport hospital, where he was pronounced dead, the statement said.

Jett apparently hit his head on the bathtub, said a police officer who declined to be named because she was

not authorized to speak on the matter.

Family attorney Michael Ossi said in a statement that Jett died suddenly on Friday. Publicists Samantha Mast and Paul Bloch released the statement but could not be reached for additional comment.

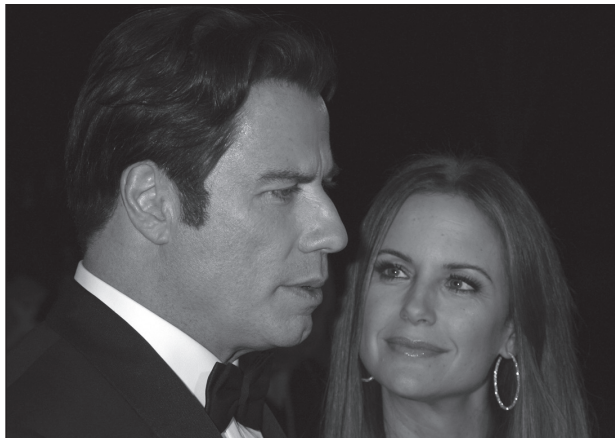
Obie Wilchcombe, a parliament member and former tourism minister in the Bahamas, said that an autopsy is planned for Monday, and "we expect a quick resolution."

"John spoke with the minister of health and the doctors and police are at the hospital. They're very, very quick to resolve things," he said.

Wilchcombe said Travolta "spent a tremendous amount of time with Jett."

"He always brought him along. There was a close affectionate relationship and lots of love," Wilchcombe told "Larry King Live" in a live telephone interview. "People in the old Bahama community today are in shock."

Travolta, 54, and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, 46, also have an 8-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu. The family had arrived in the Bahamas on a private plane Tuesday and was vacationing at their home in the Old Bahama Bay resort com-



Associated Press photo  
Actor John Travolta and actress-wife Kelly Preston arrive at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's Kirk Douglas Award for Excellence in Film in this 2007 file photo. Travolta's teenage son has died after injuring himself at the actor's vacation home. Police spokeswoman Loretta Mackey says 16-year-old Jett Travolta hit his head in a bathtub Friday and died.

munity.

Preston and Travolta have said that Jett became very sick when he was 2 years old and was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease, an illness that leads to inflammation of the blood vessels in young children. She blamed household cleaners and fertilizers, and said that a detoxification program based on teachings from the Church of Scientology helped improve his health, according to People magazine. Both Travolta and Preston are practicing Scientologists.

"I was obsessive about his space being cleaned. We constantly had the carpets cleaned," Travolta said in a 2001 interview with CNN's Larry King, a portion of which was rebroadcast on the "Larry King Live" show Friday night. During that interview, when Jett was 9, Travolta spoke of how his son nearly died when he was 2.

It is unclear whether Jett was taking any medications for his seizures.

The Scientology Celebrity Center in Los Angeles declined to comment.

A spokeswoman for Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport said she could not release any information because

of privacy concerns.

Travolta's corporate and commercial attorney, Michael McDermott, said the actor had a very strong relationship with his son.

"There was unspoken communication between the two. ... It's just so hard," he said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Kelly is very quiet and both are grieving."

McDermott said his family and other friends are with the couple in the Bahamas. The group came for a two-day New Year's celebration and had planned to return to Florida on Sunday.

"We're all here and trying to help in any way we can," McDermott said. "Their pain is so evident."

Travolta, who gained fame as Vinnie Barbarino on the 1970s television show "Welcome Back, Kotter" and the 1977 film "Saturday Night Fever," went on to become one of Hollywood's biggest names. He married Preston in 1991.

A television actress, Preston appeared with Travolta in the 2000 film "Battlefield Earth," based on a novel by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard.

## Complaint: NYC matron knowingly left man on bus

NEW YORK (AP) — Edwin Rivera, a severely disabled 22-year-old, was supposed to be escorted home from his special-needs school.

Instead, authorities said Friday, a matron eager to get to an appointment knowingly stranded him on a bus where he spent an icy New Year's night alone. He was found, curled up and rocking, after more than 17 hours parked in a Brooklyn bus yard.

The matron, Linda Hockaday, was charged with reckless endangerment and fired.

"There's no excuse for it," said Peter R. Silverman, a lawyer for Outstanding Transport Inc., a company that specializes in transporting the disabled. "It's just inconceivable."

Hockaday, 51, did not enter a plea at her arraignment Friday; her bond was set at \$2,500. Her lawyer, Candace Kurtz, said Hockaday has no criminal record.

A telephone number for Ri-

vera's family rang unanswered Friday. One of his sisters, Kristine, told reporters Thursday the episode amounted to "negligence and stupidity."

"Just because he is the way he is doesn't mean he's less of a person," she said. "He just needs extra help."

Rivera's parents reported him missing after he didn't return from his school Wednesday evening.

Their 6-foot-2 son, who has cerebral palsy and is unable to communicate verbally, still had his seatbelt on when he was found, police said.

His body temperature had dropped about three degrees during a night when the outside temperature ranged from 15 to 30 degrees, according to the criminal complaint.

He was in stable condition Friday at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center.

Hockaday told police she knew Rivera hadn't been dropped off

and was asleep on the bus when she got off, the complaint said. But she didn't tell the driver because she was headed for an appointment and didn't want to go back to Rivera's East Harlem home, according to the complaint.

Her lawyer suggested the blame shouldn't fall only on Hockaday.

"If, in fact, what they say is true — and it's a big if — there's a driver on that bus who, I would think, would be a kind of double-checking system," Kurtz said.

The bus company's attorney said drivers rely on matrons, or escorts, to make sure all the passengers have gotten off, and the escorts are held responsible. They get monthly training emphasizing that duty, Silverman said.

Hockaday, who had worked for the company for about a year and a half, was fired Thursday, he said.

If convicted, she could face up to seven years in prison.

## Think-Off 2009: 'Ever wrong to do right?'

NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. (AP) — A tricky question of morality is this year's brainteaser in the annual philoso-

phy competition called the Great American Think-Off.

"Is it ever wrong to do the right thing?" is the

theme of the 2009 Think-Off.

The event is organized by Minnesota's New York Mills Regional

Cultural Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding the cultural and creative opportunities of rural Americans.

Anyone can enter by submitting an essay of 750 words or less. Four finalists will be chosen to debate the question on June 13 before a live audience.

Last year's question was whether immigration strengthens or threatens the United States.

The audience decided Craig Allen, of West Linn, Ore., was most convincing with his argument that the system of immigration and immigration policy is broken, that it encourages illegal immigration and poses a threat to the country.

New York Mills is a farming town of some 1,200 people in central Minnesota, about 170 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

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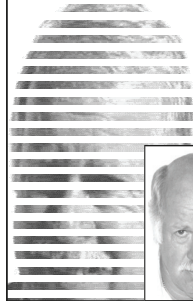
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## ► News in brief

### Obama urges Congress to approve economic recovery plan quickly, support bold investment

CHICAGO (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama urged congressional leaders Saturday to move quickly on an economic recovery plan, even as some Republicans are saying they want more time to review the details. Obama said Congress should pass an American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan designed to create 3 million jobs. The Democratic president-elect hasn't announced a final price tag on it, but aides said the cost could be as high as \$775 billion.

"For too many families, this new year brings new unease and uncertainty as bills pile up, debts continue to mount and parents worry that their children won't have the same opportunities they had," Obama said in an address taped Friday and distributed on radio and posted on YouTube Saturday morning.

The nation's economy remains the top challenge facing Obama when he takes office on Jan. 20. The Federal Reserve estimated that lenders were on track to initiate 2.25 million foreclosures this year, more than doubling the annual pace before the crisis set in. One in 10 U.S. homeowners is delinquent on mortgage payments or in foreclosure.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., are to receive details on Monday. Obama plans meetings next week with other congressional lead-

ers — including Republican members whose support he will need — and made an effort not to blame his predecessor, President George W. Bush.

### Israel blasts new Hamas targets in Gaza, even as diplomatic efforts gain steam

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli warplanes and gunboats blasted more than two dozen Hamas targets Saturday, including weapons storage facilities, training centers and leaders' homes as Israel's offensive against Gaza's Islamic militant rulers entered a second week.

There were tentative signs that the current phase of fighting may be nearing an end. Most of the airstrikes targeted empty buildings and abandoned sites, suggesting Israel may be running out of targets.

Ground troops massed on the border, waiting for a signal to invade Gaza, but international cease-fire efforts were also gaining momentum.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy is visiting the region next week, and President George W. Bush and U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon both spoke in favor of an internationally monitored truce.

Israel launched the offensive on Dec. 27 in response to intensifying rocket fire by Hamas militants in Gaza. The operation has killed more than 430 Palestinians, including dozens of civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. counts. Four Israelis have also

been killed, and rocket attacks on southern Israel persist.

### Bush says he wants lasting Mideast cease-fire, not a short agreement ended by Hamas attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush says any cease-fire in the Mideast must be fully respected, Hamas rocket attacks on Israel stopped and the flow of smuggled weapons into Gaza cut off.

Bush called the Hamas attacks an "act of terror" and said no peace deal would be acceptable unless the flow of smuggled weapons to terrorist groups is monitored and stopped. He made the comments in his weekly radio address taped for broadcast Saturday but released a day early.

It was the first time Bush has spoken about one of the bloodiest Mideast clashes in decades, though a White House spokesman has offered extensive comments in recent days.

The conflict began a week ago. Israeli warplanes have rained bombs on Gaza, targeting the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has traumatized southern Israel with intensifying rocket attacks.

"The United States is leading diplomatic efforts to achieve a meaningful cease-fire that is fully respected," Bush said. "Another one-way cease-fire that leads to rocket attacks on Israel is not acceptable. And promises from Hamas will not suffice — there must be monitoring mechanisms in place to help ensure that smuggling of weapons to terrorist groups in Gaza comes to an end."

### Homicides drop in Milwaukee by a third; '08 slayings also down in Detroit, LA and Cleveland

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Killings dropped by a third here last year, making Wisconsin's largest city among the nation's most successful in tackling its 2008 murder rate.

While New York and Chicago saw an uptick in slayings last year, other cities including Detroit, Cleveland, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Los An-

geles had fewer violent deaths in '08 than '07.

And though a study released Monday by Northeastern University showed black teenagers killing each other in rising numbers, Milwaukee stands out. The number of black men between the ages of 15 and 29 killed dropped nearly two-thirds, from 54 in 2007 to 19 last year.

Total homicides dropped 32 percent, from 105 in 2007 to 71 last year — the lowest number since 1985. The city also saw fewer gun deaths.

While the nation's preliminary crime statistics won't be released by the FBI until spring, a review of unofficial figures released by 25 of the 52 police departments in cities with a population of over 350,000 showed 15 of the 25 had fewer slayings last year than in '07.

In the nation's biggest cities, homicides in New York rose 5.2 percent, to 522 from 496 the year before, while slayings in Los Angeles were down — 376 in 2008 compared to 400 the prior year.

In the 25 cities there were a combined 4,291 slayings in 2008, an overall 2.7 percent drop from the 4,409 recorded in 2007. Data was not reviewed for another 27 cities classified by the Census Bureau as having a 2007 population of over 350,000, however.

### Police say 17-year-old called 911 to report a drunken driver: herself

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Police get calls about drunken drivers all the time, but rarely do they come from the alleged offender. A 17-year-old girl in Bismarck called 911 on New Year's Eve "to report herself driving under the influence," police Lt. Randy Ziegler said. "I've never heard of such a thing happening, and neither has anyone here."

The girl told authorities her location shortly before midnight Wednesday and officers found her in a parked car near downtown, Ziegler said. She failed a sobriety test and was arrested for failing to have control of her vehicle while intoxicated.

The girl, whose name was not released because of her age, was not cited for drunken driving, Ziegler said.



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This holiday season, tell your loved ones you'll forgo gifts of fashion and jewelry in favor of Restylane®. They will be delighted to give you a gift you really want. With just one treatment, Restylane® smooths away moderate to severe facial wrinkles and folds, such as the lines from your nose to the corners of your mouth (nasolabial folds).

A Restylane® Rebate is our gift to you  
We'd like to provide you up to \$100 in savings on a Restylane® or Perlane® treatment. You can receive a \$50 rebate on a 1-ml syringe or a \$100 rebate on two 1-ml syringes. To qualify, receive your treatment November 17, 2008, through January 4, 2009, and postmark your rebate submission by January 5, 2009. Your Restylane® Holiday Rebate Coupon is waiting for you at our office. For Offer Terms and Conditions, click the link below.

We look forward to helping your season be merry and bright — with the vibrant, youthful look you want. Call our office today to schedule your treatment.

Happy Holidays!  **Body Focus Medical Spa** 

1700 W. FM 700 • 264-1900

18173



**Real Estate for Rent**

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD**

- Swimming Pool
- Private Patios
- Carports
- Appliances
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizens Discount
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished

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- Carports
- Most Utilities Paid
- Senior Citizen Discounts
- 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
- Unfurnished

**KENTWOOD APARTMENTS**

1904 East 25th Street  
267-5444 263-5555

**426 DALLAS-** Nice 1 Bedroom house. CH/A. \$500 Month, \$200 deposit. No Pets. Call 432-935-8297.

**Real Estate for Rent**

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

**403 GALVESTON** 90x60 Shop with 12 foot door on both ends, office inside, large fenced yard. \$1000. month, \$1000. deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

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

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

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

**706 SOUTH** Goliad. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath. Stove & refrigerator furnished. CH/A. \$450. month, \$200 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

817 Timothy Lane, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath w/stove & refrigerator Central Heat. \$500. Month, \$250. deposit. No pets. Forsan School District. **Serious Callers Only** (432)816-5025.

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

**Real Estate for Rent**

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

**OVERHEAD STORAGE/** Shop. Approximately 24x40. \$300. month. Insulated 50x40 storage walk thru door. \$350. month. Call (432)213-2319.

**SOUTH PLAINS APTS.**  
3304 West Hwy 80  
Efficiency 1, 2, & 3 Bdrms.  
Now Available  
432-714-4840  
559-309-1968

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

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

**Real Estate for Sale**

**BY OWNER** 3/2/2, 885sq. feet. Highland South, Remodeled in 2007. \$145,000.00. Call 432-264-1364.

**BY OWNER** Ranch style brick. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, jetted tub, fireplace, sunroom. 3-1/3 acres, storage, barn. Coahoma ISD (Derrick Rd.). Reduced \$165,000. (432)264-0330, 816-9969.

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

**CHAMPION LAKE** Cabin. Stocked. Great fishing from city park on lake. Appraised \$23,000.00. Sell \$12,000. Good Investment. Call (325)728-9169.

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

Answer to previous puzzle

S	H	A	R	P	R	A	Z	Z	M	A	S	K			
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N	E	S	T	S	L	I	D	S	N	A	G	S			

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
The Aries moon in its first quarter is a warrior set off on his mission. To align yourself with the power of this moon, try to feel the burning desire in your own heart. Focusing on your inner flame, a sense of purpose will emerge. If you didn't know what your mission was before, you will have a strong idea of it by the end of the day.  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Everyone has an invisible bubble of personal space around them. Your bubble will expand as your need for private time and solo effort increases. Those who are greatly attached to you will back off to respect your wishes.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're considering taking on a highly competitive endeavor. Instead of practicing with your body, practice with your mind. Top performers have the attitude of a winner. Think of yourself as a huge success.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You'll be amazed at the amount of attention paid to you. Once you decide to stop thinking so much and have some fun, your style will be commented on, celebrated and copied. Who knew all of these people were watching?  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Stick to your financial

plan. No matter what you earn, the flat percentage you save is a discipline that will eventually make you rich. For inspiration research those who have made impressive amounts of money.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). I will be all too easy to fuss over frivolous details, but if you take a deep breath and focus on your true responsibilities, you can be very productive. After all, the best accomplishment is no to outdo others, but to outdo yourself.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships go through their own version of growing pains. When the power that be lay down a new boundary, you can't help but test it. The backlash may be acute, but it will be brief.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It feels like the light is shining on your path. Everything is illuminated to lead you to a place of freedom. So resist the urge to pick up too many responsibilities along your way. Continue unencumbered.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be retracing your steps, perhaps to see where you lost something. This is a secret opportunity to remember how you got where you are. Later you'll see the remarkable benefit of this spontaneous review.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The goals you set are certainly lofty, though not at all unattainable. Instead of making a step-by-step plan, consider spending most of your working time just dreaming about living the sweet success you crave.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're so suave that you don't even remember some of the more romantic gestures you've made through the years, but a loved one will, and when this happens even you might be a little impressed.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The miscommunication between people will some times have a funny result sometimes not so funny. You know that you are in a serious relationship the first time you are asked for and give, forgiveness.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Just when you were getting to know yourself you go changing again! It's a wonderful thing to be able to reinvent yourself in this manner. With an open mind you realize that your potential is yet untapped.

Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss? Read!

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE (REAL ESTATE)**  
The State of Texas  
To any Sheriff or any Constable Within The State of Texas-  
Greetings:  
Whereas John G. Kelley on the 16th day of October A.D., 2008 in the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, in Cause No. 45950-A, John G. Kelley, Plaintiff, VS. Nancy J. Fields Defendant recovered a judgment against Nancy J. Fields for the sum of \$7,848.49, with interest from the 2nd of October, 2008 A.D., at the rate of five percent (5%) per annum, and all costs of suit.  
THEREFORE, you are commanded that out of the property of said Nancy J. Fields subject to execution by laws, you cause to be made the sum \$7,848.49 with interest thereon from the 2nd day of October, 2008 A.D., at the rate of five percent (5%) per annum, together with the sum of \$113.00 cost of suit, and also the cost of executing this writ and you will forthwith execute this writ according to laws and the mandates thereof.  
BY VIRTUE OF A Writ of Execution issued out the Court of Howard County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered: 45950A; Issued November 19, 2008 A.D.; John Kelley

versus Nancy Fields writ was delivered to me, as the Sheriff and directed and delivered, I will levied upon 3rd day of February 2009 A.D. at 10:00 in the morning at the north court house doors at 300 Main Big Spring, TX 79720, of said Howard County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all rights, title and interest if any, which defendant: had on the 19th day of November, 2008 A.D., or at any time thereafter, of in and to the following described property.  
**Property Legal Description:**  
E/92 of LT 2 & S/10 W/48 of LT 2 BK 40 Original Town IRR 0704  
LT 6 BK 4 Porter 50x140 402 BLK/Tract 40.161 Acres ACQ 060606  
LT 9 BK 1 Sunset Place Annex 50x140 549 BLK/Tract 10.161 Acres ACQ 060606  
LT 5 BK 38 Cole & Strayhorn 50x140 738 BLK/Tract 380.161 Acres ACQ 060606  
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this day of December 23, 2008.  
Dean Restelli, Civil Investigator  
Howard County Sheriff Office  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Deputy Dean Restelli  
432-264-2244  
#6017 January 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2009

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**\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL** + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.

**ALL BILLS PAID**

538 Westover 263-1252

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Big Springs NEWEST Affordable Apartment HOMES  
(Leasing at the Knollwood Apt. office)  
1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
264-1735

\* Lease by 1/12/09 and receive a \$250 Wal-Mart Gift Card.\*

- < 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Floor Plans
- < Designer Kitchens
- < Built-In Microwave
- < Washer/Dryer Included
- < Swimming Pool
- < Fitness Center

Only 4 Left! - HURRY IN!!

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Or Call:  
**Mark Weingarten**  
**1-800-821-8139**  
**ext 210**

For advertising rates and information on National Classified Advertising visit:  
**www.cnhi-can.com**

**Newsday Crossword**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Undisclosed
  - 8 See, perhaps
  - 15 Informal affirmation
  - 16 Regular
  - 17 Shade
  - 18 Charms
  - 19 Product of fusion
  - 20 Repairperson
  - 22 Taken in
  - 23 Guy from Toledo
  - 24 Only Welsh-born Batman
  - 25 Middle of a three-stage victory
  - 26 Unseen power
  - 27 Sports retiree of 2008
  - 28 #1 indicator
  - 29 Arrest
  - 30 Calculating sort
  - 31 Expeditious
  - 33 Tries to catch
  - 37 Form of *naitre*
  - 38 Battery, for example
  - 39 Black-berry producer
  - 40 Most of it became a unit of Cal State
  - 43 *The Untouchables* producer
  - 44 Don't follow through, with "off"
  - 45 Phrase of resignation
  - 46 Gangway securer
  - 47 It means "surrounding"
  - 48 Restraining order

- DOWN**
- 1 Big turkey
  - 2 Impatient plaintiff
  - 3 Puts back in
  - 4 Where the kazoo was invented
  - 5 A little too much
  - 6 "Science rules!" speaker
  - 7 2007 College World Series finalists
  - 8 Wonder
  - 9 Reason for leaving
  - 10 *The Perfect Store* subject
  - 11 It was domesticated in the Andes about 4,000 years ago
  - 12 Without a key
  - 13 Turn sour
  - 14 Enthusiastic approval
  - 21 Organ study: Abbr.
  - 23 Land
  - 26 Minimal amount
  - 27 Buck's adversary in *Call of the Wild*
  - 30 200-milligram measure
  - 32 Headed for punishment

**SATURDAY STUMPER** by S.N.  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- 33 Do as the Romans do
- 34 Typical resident of Northern Asia
- 35 On the ground
- 36 2008 ticker-tape parade recipients
- 38 Clothes \_\_\_
- 40 Quacks \_\_\_
- 41 Browsing area
- 42 The story of Astorre Viola
- 43 Seven-Oscar nominee in the '80s
- 46 Interrupt
- 47 www.\_\_\_\_.org (WWF Web site)
- 49 Ampere's pier
- 50 Belyache
- 53 Reagan White House dog

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