



## Texas Stadium's finale

Last game is not quite right. **SPORTSDAY, 1C**  
Numbers tell the stadium's story. **SPORTSDAY, 16C**  
Irving ready for post-stadium era. **METRO, 1B**

# The Dallas Morning News

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### AUTO BAILOUT

## Car dealers feel let down by GOP

**Analysis:** New-vehicle sellers upset that Republicans they support opposed loans

By **TERRY BOX**  
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President George W. Bush's 12th-hour decision to lend \$17.4 billion to General Motors and Chrysler may ease some of the pressures on their finances.

But it might not relieve the tensions in a strained relationship be-

tween new-car dealers — many of whom are active politically — and the Republican Party.

Many area dealers say they were deeply disappointed that Republicans they had supported essentially put politics over the economy in opposing loans to GM and Chrysler.

Only three members of the area congressional delegation supported the loans — Democrats Eddie Bernice Johnson and Chet Edwards and Republican Joe Barton. North Texas

See **NEW-CAR** Page 15A

**INSIDE**  
How the first half of the \$700 billion bailout is to be spent, **15A**



**Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson** calls for the rest of the bailout funds. **15A**

**Q&A:** The auto rescue plan's impact, **15A**

## GM, Chrysler get a lifeline

Bush OKs \$13.4 billion for rescue; firms must have profitability plans

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — President Bush agreed to an emergency bailout of General Mo-

tors and Chrysler, giving them a few months to get their businesses in order, but left to President-elect Barack Obama the decision of ruling on their progress.

The plan pumps \$13.4 billion by mid-January into the companies from the fund that

Congress authorized to rescue the financial industry. The companies have until March 31 to produce a plan for long-term profitability, including concessions from unions, creditors, suppliers and dealers.

See **BUSH** Page 15A



### Weekend to receive cold temperatures

Following a record-tying high Friday, a cold front today should bring temperatures into the low 40s and below freezing Sunday. **Metro, 1B**

**Complete weather, Metro, back page**

### NATION

#### Illinois governor says he won't quit

A combative Gov. Rod Blagojevich served notice that he has no intention of quitting over his corruption arrest. **5A**

### BUSINESS

#### Texas job market growing, but slower

The Texas job market is still growing, but at a slower pace. **1D**

**Also:** Support groups for the suddenly unemployed, **1D**

### WORLD

#### Arrested Iraqi officers to be freed

Iraqi authorities are expected to free most of the officers detained for allegedly aiding insurgents of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. **13A**

### GUIDEDAILY



#### Couple spreads Christmas cheer

A North Dallas couple spreads Christmas cheer through humor, home and hospitality. **1E**

#### Kids may need to know budget woes

If the economy is cutting into your family's holiday budget, experts say, be honest with your kids. **1E**

### CHRISTMAS IN A CRUNCH

Kids making lists, but they sense grown-ups have wishes, too



JENN ACKERMAN/Staff Photographer

**Because Santa gets lots of mail,** Linda Geter-Williams of Grand Prairie helps him out. The Dallas postal worker has been reading Santa letters and responding for 17 years. No letter with a return address goes unanswered.

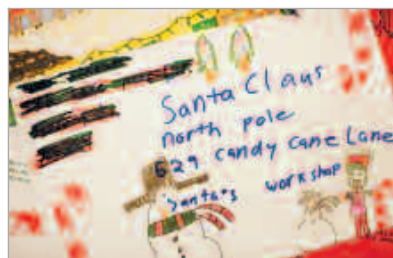
## Dear Santa, they write ...

By **ELIZABETH LANGTON**  
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For children, drafting a letter to Santa Claus is like writing in a diary. They confess, reveal their deepest desires and express their worst fears.

The Dallas main post office receives about 5,000 Santa letters each year. Among them are both the timeless and the timely.

"Do you want regular or soy milk? Reduced fat cookies or what?" asked one young letter writer named



**SEE POSTAL WORKERS** talk about letters to Santa. [dallasnews.com/video](http://dallasnews.com/video)

Patrick.

But postal workers, who read and answer St. Nick's mail, say that this year's batch contains more than the usual number of heart-tuggers. Even the jolly old elf can't escape the realities of a worldwide economic meltdown.

"My parents are having difficulties trying to let us have a good Christmas," wrote Ka-Deidra.

For a sampling from this year's mail bag see **Page 14A**.

### CABINET | U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

## Obama, Kirk built special bond with their shared paths to history

Ex-Dallas mayor gets piece of dream with appointment in D.C.

By **GROMER JEFFERS JR.**  
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Ron Kirk doesn't fit the profile of most members of Barack Obama's future Cabinet.

He's not from Chicago. He

**INSIDE:** Kirk expects robust trade policy. **11A**  
**METRO:** Ex-colleagues praise selection. **1B**

didn't go to an Ivy League school. He lives in a ruby red Republican state.

So it was a tight bond between Mr. Kirk and the president-elect, forged in recent

years as both ran history-making races for the Senate, that led to the former Dallas mayor's appointment as Mr. Obama's trade representative Friday.

To varying degrees, both are trailblazing politicians who cast themselves as voices of unity in a post-civil rights era

See **KIRK** Page 10A



JOHN GRESS/Reuters

**President-elect Barack Obama and Ron Kirk,** with Hilda Solis, embrace after Mr. Kirk's appointment as U.S. trade representative. The two met for the first time in 2002.

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