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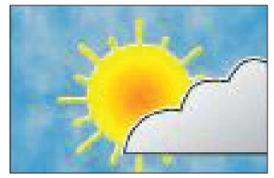
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 30, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 24

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Construction on the new \$11.57 million Howard County Jail continued this week, with work on track to have the facility completed in the spring, according to county officials. The 96-bed jail will replace the current facility, located in the county courthouse.

See ya' next year

Holiday prompts closings

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

As area residents get ready to ring in the new year, many area businesses and agencies are preparing to take time off from their routines.

The city of Big Spring will close all offices, including the municipal landfill and compost facility, Thursday in observance of New Year's Day. There will be no sanitation pick-up Thursday, as well. Business is expected to resume as normal Friday morning.

Howard County employees will also be afforded time to enjoy the new year, with offices also to be closed Thursday. County operations are to resume Friday morning.

The Big Spring Post Office will also be following the city and county, closing

See **CLOSED**, Page 3A

GMAC given \$5B in bailout funds

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department said that it will provide \$5 billion to GMAC Financial Services LLC, the ailing financing arm of General Motors Corp., in a move that's expected to stave off a bankruptcy protection filing at the company but also severely limit GM's control over it.

In exchange for the slice of the \$700 billion bank rescue package, the government will receive preferred shares that pay an 8 percent dividend and warrants to purchase additional shares in return for the money, the department said.

Treasury also said it will lend up to

\$1 billion to General Motors so that the company can purchase additional equity that GMAC is planning to offer as part of its effort to raise more capital.

The government aid is also expected to provide a needed boost to domestic auto sales by freeing up more credit for consumers. GMAC said Tuesday that it would immediately resume lending to certain customers it had previously said were too great a risk for auto loans as a result of the tight credit markets.

The assistance is part of a larger government effort to aid the auto industry and is on top of the \$17.4 billion in loans the Bush administration agreed to provide to the industry Dec. 19, a Treasury Department official said.

Analysts had speculated that if GMAC didn't obtain financial help it would have to file for bankruptcy protection or shut down, which would be a serious blow to GM's own chances for survival.

Last week, the Federal Reserve approved GMAC's application to become a bank holding company, which made it eligible to receive money from the financial rescue fund. The Fed's approval was contingent on GMAC raising additional capital.

JPMorgan's Himanshu Patel said the moves show how Treasury is taking a comprehensive look at GM's entire business and make a bankruptcy pro-

See **GMAC**, Page 3A

City officials: Recycle those live Christmas trees

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents considering dumping their live Christmas trees in city dumpsters may want to think again.

According to Kenny Davis, director of code enforcement and the municipal landfill



Davis

for the city of Big Spring, officials will treat the transgression just like any other code violation, and the end result could be a fine for wrong-doers.

"If someone puts their tree in a dumpster or next to the dumpster, we won't pick it up," said Davis. "We'll simply notify code enforcement and let them handle it."

Davis said area residents should instead consider a slightly "greener" approach

when it comes to disposing of their live Christmas trees this year.

"The tree recycling program is going to be operated mainly out of the City Compost Facility this year," said Davis. "If people want to leave their trees at the old

Wal-Mart parking lot like they have in years past, we'll be glad to pick them up. However, we won't be able to have a container out there to collect them, since we have all of our containers out right

See **TREES**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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BSHS cheerleaders place eighth in national contest

The Big Spring High School varsity cheerleaders took eighth place in their division during Monday's National Cheerleader Association Championship competition in Dallas.

According to BSHS officials, Monday's placing was the first time the varsity cheerleading squad has made it to the national competition.

The squad, which is coached by Marie Wells and Shana Braseo, also received the Superior Showmanship Award.

Snow plow driver in hot water

CROOKSTON, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota snowplow operator is in hot water with his boss after driving a \$200,000 loader into a frozen river.

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

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

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

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

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HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris talks to his players during a timeout Dec. 5 in Andrews. The Steers split their first two games at a round-robin tournament in Kerrville Monday.

Steers split two in Kerrville tourney

Herald Staff Report

KERRVILLE — Big Spring's Steers are trying to keep fresh over the holidays and did so by splitting a pair of games at the Kerrville Tournament Monday.

Big Spring opened by edging host Kerrville Tivy, 53-51, but fell in its second game to Dripping Springs, 64-51.

Against Tivy, the Steers watched a 7-point halftime lead dissipate as Tivy came out of the locker room hot, outscoring Big Spring 22-9 in the third period.

The Steers rallied, though, holding a

19-11 edge in the final frame which gave them the 2-point victory.

Jerrell Williams sank six 3-pointers to score a game-high 23 points. Tyrone Clemons added 11.

Dripping Springs jumped out early on the Steers in the first period, and kept its lead in double figures throughout the rest of the game.

Big Spring simply couldn't deal with the Tigers' star player Daniel Alexander. Alexander, a junior, is 6-8 and considered one of the top wings

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Change coming

'Boys fixing approach, not reassigning coaches

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys aren't changing coaches. Instead, coach Wade Phillips plans to change.

After seeing Super Bowl hopes fizzle into a 9-7 season that wasn't good enough to make the playoffs, team owner Jerry Jones has vowed to bring back Phillips, and Phillips vowed Monday to do things differently.

"We know things must improve. The only way is to change things," Phillips said. "To get to the standard we want, I don't see any other way."

This was Phillips' second season in Dallas and his second straight devastating finish.

The Cowboys went 13-3 last year and owned the No. 1 seed in the NFC, only to lose their first playoff game; the fact it was at home a week after Tony Romo, some teammates and their significant others went to a resort in Mexico only made it worse. This time, Dallas overcame injuries and infighting to have a chance to make the playoffs by winning the finale, only to come out emotionless and error-prone in a 44-6 loss to Philadelphia.

"You can't say, 'Well, OK, everything's going to be all right,' because it's not going to be all right if you do the same thing and I'm talking about myself," Phillips said. "I have to look at myself from how I deal with things, from how we have training camp, how we have practices, whatever."

Phillips said he and Jones already "talked man to man" about what went wrong and what needs to be done without it. All he's decided so far is that he needs a plan; he's only started putting it together. However, he expects both coordinators and all the star players to return.

The big change Phillips seems to be talking about is getting tough, a la previous Dallas coaches Bill Parcells and Jimmy Johnson. That would be quite a change for a 61-year-old man whose reputation as a players' coach has been forged over 32 seasons in the NFL.

"If it means being more demanding, more whatever, I have to get it done," Phillips said.

Asked how he can do that while being true to himself, Phillips said: "My personality is probably not going to change as much as what you ask them to do. ... My personality of looking like I'm laid back all the time, that's not going to change."

Phillips said he's been through similar, successful "changes" at the boss when he was an assistant at Buffalo under Marv Levy and at San Diego under Marty Schottenheimer. He plans to get advice from those coaches and from another former boss, Dan Reeves. While all are respected, none has ever won a Super Bowl.

One change Phillips already made was opting not to address the team Monday. Players met with position coaches, cleaned out their lockers, tied up other loose ends and were free to go.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Forsan surging in Sterling City



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Forsan Buffaloes guard Jeremy Robbins goes to the hoop for two points in action from Nov. 24 at Buffalo Gym in Forsan. Both the Buffs and Lady Buffs won their first two games at the Sterling City Tournament Monday and will play for the tourney championship Tuesday. The girls are set to tip off at 4:30 p.m. vs. Denver City, while the boys play at 6 p.m. against an opponent that was unknown at press time.

Owls, Broncos looking for milestone win in Texas Bowl

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Not exactly steeped in tradition, Rice or Western Michigan will add a milestone victory to their modest football histories Tuesday at the Texas Bowl.

The Owls (9-3) haven't won a bowl game in over 50 years, while the Broncos (9-3) are winless in three previous bowl appearances. Western Michigan is trying to secure its first 10-win season, while Rice is trying to reach double-digit wins for the first time since 1949.

"A lot of people aren't going to look at this and say, 'Look at that matchup,'" said Rice senior quarterback Chase Clement. "But I know we've got a great opportunity, because of the season they've had, and for us to get to 10 wins. We have a great opportunity to accomplish a lot, just by winning this game."

Rice lost to Troy in the 2006 New Orleans Bowl, ending a 45-year postseason drought. The Owls' last bowl victory came Jan. 1, 1954, a 28-6 win over Alabama in the Cotton Bowl.

Western Michigan lost to Cincinnati in the International Bowl after the 2006 season, two years removed from a 1-10 campaign. The Broncos have reached nine wins for just the second time since 1988, the year they lost to Fresno State in the California Bowl. The only other bowl appearance came in 1961, and the current players have talked about what a victory in Houston would mean for the program.

"We'd love to be remembered as the best team ever to go through Western," junior

See **BOWL**, Page 2B

Browns, Lions, Jets make coaching moves

By RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

Lofty expectations did in Eric Mangini and Romeo Crennel, as their teams' seasons crumbled from high hopes to demoralizing finishes.

Little was expected of the Detroit Lions, though nor was the worst season in NFL history. That cost Rod Marinelli his job, too.

"You can't go 0-16 and expect to keep your job," Marinelli said.

Now two interim coaches who breathed some life into downtrodden clubs — the Rams' Jim Haslett and the Raiders' Tom Cable — await word on their fates.

Three NFL clubs fired coaches Monday, less than 24 hours after the regular season ended. Out were Marinelli, the New York Jets' Mangini and the Cleveland Browns' Crennel.

Only Mangini's firing came as a bit of a surprise. The Jets harbored Super Bowl aspirations after an 8-3 start that followed an offseason

spending spree, including the trade for Brett Favre. But they didn't even make the playoffs, losing four of their last five games.

"I don't think it was one thing," owner Woody Johnson said. "We had to go in a different direction. There's nothing specific. It's just a call we made. Hopefully, it's correct."

The Browns' search to replace Crennel is already off to a disheartening start: Bill Cowher told owner Randy Lerner on Saturday that he doesn't intend to coach in 2009.

Cleveland was rewarded with five prime-time TV appearances this season after going 10-6 in 2007 and placing six players in the Pro Bowl. But the Browns collapsed to 4-12 amid injuries and didn't score an offensive touchdown while losing their last six games.

"Romeo was a gentleman through and through," Lerner said. "He was gracious to a fault."

The Lions became the first NFL club to go 0-16 with their loss to the

Packers on Sunday. Marinelli won only one of his last 24 games.

Three coaches were fired during the regular season: Mike Nolan in San Francisco, Scott Linehan in St. Louis and Lane Kiffin in Oakland.

Mike Singletary replaced Nolan and will be retained after the 49ers went 5-4 in their final nine games.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones insists Wade Phillips will return as coach after Dallas, a preseason Super Bowl favorite, failed to make the playoffs — and was eliminated in humiliating fashion in Sunday's 44-6 loss to Philadelphia.

Phillips vowed Monday to do things differently.

"We know things must improve. The only way is to change things," he said. "To get to the standard we want, I don't see another way."

Cable went 4-8 after taking over the Raiders and ended the season with two straight victories, knocking the Buccaneers out of the playoffs Sunday. Haslett went 2-10 with the Rams.

Obituaries

San Juana 'Janie' Tovar

San Juana "Janie" Tovar, 73, of Ennis, formerly of Big Spring, left this world to be with her parents and brothers Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at Ennis Regional Hospital. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel, led by Isabel Escovedo. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial

Park. She was born Dec. 27, 1935, in Buda, Texas, to Emilia and Juan Tovar. She lived most of her life in Big Spring except for a short while in Ennis. She was a retired nurse's aide. She was a Catholic and was a Cursillista. Though she had no children of her own, as the eldest of nine children, she helped raise three generations. After retiring, she devoted her life to raising her great nieces, Zoe and Rosie Tovar, and her great nephew, William Tovar.

She is survived by four sisters, Feliza Torres and her husband Carlos and Guadalupe Tovar and her husband Kenneth, all of Los Angeles, Diane Chavez and Petra Tovar and her husband Gregory, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Pablo Tovar and his wife Nancy of Sherman and Fidel Tovar and his wife Marion of Pasadena; 28 nieces and nephews; and 58 great nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Juan Tovar Jr. and Mike Tovar.

Palbearers will be Freddie Salazar, Martin Tovar, Jimmy Futrelle, Kyle Stevenson, Patricia Fiess and Amanda Torres.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- ASSAULT ON A PUBLIC SERVANT was reported in the 400 block of fourth.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION USING A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of Donley.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1600 block of Donley.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway and the 800 block of Interstate 20.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (note: officials reported 68 prisoners in the county jail):

- JESUS MARTINEZ-GARCIA, 42, was arrested by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOSE GUADALUPE GARCIA-MARTINEZ, 25, was arrested by DPS on charges of tampering with a government record and fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.
- DUSTIN DWYANE ROBBINS, 26, was arrested by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, 36, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- ROBERT DIAZ JR., 26, was arrested by deputies on a charge of burglary of a building.
- MICHAEL JOSEPH LEDFORD, 36, was arrested by deputies on charges of ride not secured by safety belt, no liability insurance, violating promise to appear and possession of marijuana.
- ADRIAN YANEZ, 20, was arrested by deputies on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CRISTOVAL MORENO, 49, was arrested by deputies on two charges of burglary of a building.
- ORLANDO MONTANEZ, 27, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mesa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of White Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

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

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

West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job

Your Local Weather

Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3	Sun 1/4
 57/35	 70/35	 60/40	 73/37	 58/39
Abundant sunshine. Colder. High 57F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

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Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-10-12-35.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-10-12-35.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-5-9-7. Sum It Up: 24.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-5-6. Sum It Up: 19.

Financial News

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street showed more signs of stability Tuesday as investors shook off a record low reading on consumer confidence and placed some moderate bets in the last days of a brutal 2008.

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence index dropped to 38 in December from a revised 44.7 in November, well below the expectation of 45 of economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

Investors were well prepared for a disappointing reading after consumers reluctant to spend left retailers with their worst holiday season in years. The International Council of Shopping Centers reported Tuesday that weekly same-store sales dropped 1.5 percent last week from the 40 retailers it polls.

The market got some support from a slight rise in the Chicago Purchasing Managers Index, which measures manufacturing activity in the Midwest. The index for December crept up to 34.1 from November's 33.8. It is considered a precursor to the national index to be released by the Institute for Supply Management on Friday.

Investors also drew some comfort from the government's decision to provide \$5 billion to General Motors Corp.'s troubled financing arm. The Treasury Department said late Monday it would provide the money to GMAC Financial Services LLC from the \$700 billion bank rescue program. The Federal Reserve last week approved GMAC's application to become a bank holding company, a move that cleared the way for the company to receive money from the financial rescue fund.

Take Note

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

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

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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



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

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

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

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Upcoming Bowl Schedule

- Saturday**
Humanitarian Bowl
Maryland vs. Nevada, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Holiday Bowl**
Oklahoma State vs. Oregon, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
- Texas Bowl**
Western Michigan vs. Rice, 7 p.m. (NFL)
- Wednesday**
Armed Forces Bowl
Houston vs. Air Force, 11 a.m. (ESPN)
- Sun Bowl**
Oregon State vs. Pitt, 1 p.m. (CBS)
- Music City Bowl**
Boston College vs. Vanderbilt, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Insight Bowl**
Kansas vs. Minnesota, 5 p.m. (NFL)
- Chick-fil-A Bowl**
LSU vs. Georgia Tech, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
- Thursday**
Capital One Bowl
Georgia vs. Michigan State, noon (ABC)
- Rose Bowl**
Penn State vs. USC, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
- Orange Bowl**
Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech, 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

BOWL

Continued from Page 1B

quarterback Tim Hiller said. The matchup at Reliant Stadium — home of the NFL's Houston Texans — figures to be one of the highest-scoring games of the bowl season. Both teams pass about 40 times per game and rank among the top 25 nationally in total offense.

The Owls ranked 10th nationally in total offense (472 yards per game) and eighth in scoring (42 points). Clement ranked third in total offense (369 yards) and sixth in pass efficiency, finishing the regular season with a 165.4 rating.

Rice was the only team in the nation with two players in the top 10 in receiving yards per game — Jarett Dillard and James Casey. Dillard is the NCAA's career leader in touchdown catches (59) and he needs nine catches in the bowl game to crack the top 10 in that category.

"He's got great body control in the air," said Rice coach David Bailiff, finishing his second season. "If you took a football out of his hands and put a basketball in

it, you'd think he was Dr. J. His leaping ability, at times, he's still going up when others are coming down."

The Broncos ranked 24th in total offense (423 yards per game) and 37th in scoring (30 points per game).

Hiller led the Mid-American Conference in yards passing (294 per game) and Jamarko Simmons ranked second in the league in yards receiving (98.7 per game).

"The only thing that's stopped us is us," said Hiller, who threw 34 touchdowns to only eight interceptions. "We have a lot of confidence in ourselves."

Western Michigan's defense ranked seventh in the MAC and 11th against the pass, an ominous sign. But senior defensive back E.J. Biggers said the Broncos won't be caught off-guard by the Owls, since they face a high-powered offense every day in practice.

"They have some great firepower," said Biggers. "But we have great firepower, too, and that's going to make it easier for us to prepare."

The Owls ranked as one of the nation's worst defenses, allowing 467 yards and 35 points per game.

They allowed 30 points or more five times — and won all five of those games.

Rice led Conference USA with a plus-13 turnover margin and Bailiff said that will be a key statistic in the bowl game. Western Michigan was minus-3 in the category.

But Bailiff isn't expecting either defense to hold down the opposing offense.

He said defenses across the country are still trying to catch up as offenses — like the two in this game — have evolved and become more complex.

"You used to tell a defensive lineman they had 4 seconds to get to a quarterback. Now you have 1.8 seconds and the ball's probably gone anyway," he said. "It used to be that your defense had to be in the teens to win a football game. Now, if you can hold somebody to 28, you're probably in pretty good shape, you know, in the fourth quarter."

"Football has changed," he said. "The quarterbacks are so much more intelligent on reading all the different coverages. They know where the soft spots are. It's a wide-open football game."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Linebacker Bradie James, a defensive team captain, didn't like that change.

"I don't want to just end this thing and be in the dark," James said.

So James had to hear from reporters that Phillips

is plotting a new approach. Asked if that will work, James smiled wide and said, "If you know a person to be a certain way and then all of a sudden you have an extreme change, I don't know how well that's going to be taken. I don't know what he means by that. Like I said, he didn't address us, so I don't know. ... Whatever needs to be done, I'm all for it."

Here's something that hasn't changed: soap opera side stories.

The only reason James spoke to reporters was to clear up an incident he just had with a fan who was standing outside the driveway into team headquarters wearing a sandwich board that read "Our team has no heart" on the front, and "Wade is an embarrassment to the star" on the back.

James tore the sign off the man, breaking his sunglasses. James then went to his locker, got a pair of expensive shades he'd been given and returned with an apology, a handshake and a gift. Police came and left without taking any action.

"He was like, 'Why you guys didn't have that fire last night!' You should've showed that much heart last night!' So the next thing you know I'm just ripping that sign off of him," James said. "So I went and gift-wrapped some Oakleys, and he got something out of the deal. I told him, 'I share your frustrations. But where we differ is I wouldn't go to anybody's job, especially not up here with 300-pound guys, trying to tell them what they didn't do right.'"

James turned out to be the most high-profile player to step up in front of cameras Monday. The only others were linebacker Zach Thomas, receiver Roy Williams and rookie running back Tashard Choice, all whom were in their first season in Dallas and thus have less perspective about what went wrong.

James' take: "There were a lot of personalities put on this team and we didn't jell. We didn't find a way to jell. This past game, you could see it. When you know you've got something on the line and you're playing to go into the playoffs, you know what you have to do, and you go out there and stink it up like that? That just speaks for itself."

Thomas finished his 13th NFL season and said

he'll be healthy enough to return for No. 14, although not necessarily in Dallas.

"I'm going to weigh my options," he said. "I'm healthy and I feel like I still got a lot of fuel left in this tank."

He heads into the offseason shaking his head that this collection of talent won only nine games, while the 1-15 Miami team he left went 11-5. Cowboys fans look at the Dolphins' turnaround and grumble about it being orchestrated by former Dallas folks, from Parcells to coach Tony Sparano, who was among the people passed over when Jones hired Phillips and made Jason Garrett the offensive coordinator in 2007.

"We didn't really get to our full potential," Thomas said. "We were inconsistent all year. I don't understand it, but that's something for them to fix. I mean, they've got a great organization here, a lot of great players. Something's missing. I'm hoping they find out because Jerry Jones deserves it, Wade deserves it."

Williams caught only 19 passes for 198 yards and a touchdown over 10 games after being acquired from Detroit for three draft picks, including Dallas' first-rounder (20th overall). He and Romo never got in sync, including an interception on a ball thrown his way Sunday.

"I would love to take the blame for that one, but I can't," Williams said. "Once we get a training camp under our system, we'll be good."

Notes: Among the things Phillips said must change are penalties (Dallas had the most in the NFL, second-most in yards) and turnovers (second in NFL). Romo had 21 turnovers in 13 games. "We've got to get a plan to help him," Phillips said. ... Phillips said Romo injured rib cartilage during Sunday's game, and a flare-up of the pain caused him to collapse in the shower afterward. Phillips added that Romo or Marion Barber (dislocated toe) need rest, not surgery, to cure all that ails them. ... The 2009 foes are set. In addition to playing the Giants, Philadelphia and Washington at home and on the road, the Cowboys will play host to Atlanta, Carolina, Seattle, Oakland and San Diego; and at New Orleans, Tampa Bay, Green Bay, Denver and Kansas City.

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Performing the Impossible

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 5 3
♥ K J 2
♦ J 6
♣ J 8 5

WEST
♠ A 10 8 7
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 10 9 7
♣ 6 3 2

EAST
♠ —
♥ Q 10 9 6 4
♦ Q 8 4 3 2
♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH
♠ J 9 6 4 2
♥ A 7
♦ A K 5
♣ A K 10

The bidding:
South 1♠ West Pass North 3♠ East Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Doing the impossible is sort of a contradiction in terms, but there are situations in bridge where what appears to be impossible can be accomplished nevertheless. Take this deal where South is in six spades.

South would ordinarily have no trouble making the contract, but in this case he has his hands full because West has all four missing trumps. Suspecting nothing out of the ordinary, South wins the diamond lead with the ace and plays a low spade. West follows with the seven, dummy plays the queen, and East shows out.

It now appears that West has two sure trump tricks, and that all he has to do is sit and wait for them. But if declarer pays close attention to his knitting, West winds up with only one trump trick.

South's only hope is to arrange an endplay in the trump suit. This can be accomplished if West has the right distribution in the three side suits.

Accordingly, South cashes the A-K of hearts and trumps the jack; then he cashes the king of diamonds and trumps a diamond. Next he cashes the A-K-Q of clubs to bring about this position:

North
♠ K 5
♥ J
♦ —
♣ A 10 8

South
♠ J 9 6
♥ —
♦ —
♣ —

The lead is in dummy, and the jack of clubs is played. When South ruffs with the jack, West has no recourse. If he overruffs with the ace, he is on lead, and whether he returns the eight or the ten, declarer takes the last two tricks.

West is likewise done for if he underuffs the jack. South simply next plays a spade toward dummy, and West scores only the ace.

It just goes to show that, no matter how tough the going sometimes is, you still have a chance if you don't give up.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

in the country. He's being recruited heavily by Texas A&M, Baylor and Marquette.

Alexander hit four treys and lit up the Steers for 25 points.

Williams led the Steers again with 19 points, including three 3-pointers, while Clemons added another 11.

The Steers finished the two-day round robin tournament today, playing Cedar Park at 9 a.m. and then facing the state's second-ranked 4A squad Lake Travis at noon.

Big Spring 53, Kerrville Tivy 51
Big Spring 15 10 9 19—53
Kerrville Tivy 8 10 22 11—51
Big Spring: Jerrell Williams 23, Jon Benavides 3, Zamir Linton 2, Tyrone Clemons 11, Pavel Plakhotny 2, Josh Harris 6, Xavian Parnell 1, Matt Ritchey 5.

Kerrville: Eschreine 4, Perry 16, Olgin 7, Finley 12, Kotem 6.
3-point goals: Big Spring 6 (Williams), Kerrville 4. Free throws: Big Spring 17-28; Kerrville 14-29. Total fouls: Big Spring 25, Kerrville 18. Fouled out: Sidney Parker, Perry.

Dripping Springs 64, Big Spring 51
BS 14 12 7 18—51
DS 24 18 11 11—64
Big Spring: Williams 19, Benavides 5, Linton 3, Clemons 11, Harris 2, Parnell 8, Ritchey 4, Parker 2.
Dripping Springs: Beckman 2, Batson 4, Drury 3, Lewis 6, Collier 1, Beyer 10, Gilliam 3, Poole 6, Alexander 25, Rice 2, Powell 2.

3-point goals: BS 6 (Williams 3, Clemons 2, Benavides 1). DS 7 (Alexander 4). Free throws: BS 11-16, DS 9-15. Total fouls: BS 14, DS 14. Foul out: Ritchey.

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News in brief

Israeli warplanes slam Gaza government compound, ground troops mass along border

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli aircraft kept up a relentless string of attacks on Hamas-ruled Gaza on Tuesday, smashing a government complex, security installations and the home of a top militant commander as thousands of Israeli ground troops, backed by tanks and artillery, massed along the border and waited for a signal to attack.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told President Shimon Peres on Tuesday that the aerial phase of the operation is “the first of several” phases of attack that have been approved, an Olmert spokesman said.

Warplanes launched their bruising aerial offensive on Saturday after the Islamic Hamas defied Israel’s warnings that it would not stand for the rocket barrages on southern Israel that resumed nearly two months ago, toward the end of a recently expired truce.

More than 360 Palestinians have been killed, most of them members of Hamas security forces but at least 64 of them civilians, according to the United Nations. The toll includes two sisters, aged 4 and 11, who perished in an airstrike on a rocket squad in northern Gaza on Tuesday.

Militants, battered but unbowed, have pressed on with their rocket and mortar assaults, killing three Israeli civilians and a soldier and bringing a widening circle of targets into their sights with an arsenal of longer-range missiles.

Former Bush advisers say Katrina severely damaged

Bush’s ability to talk to nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hurricane Katrina not only pulverized the Gulf Coast in 2005, it knocked the bully pulpit out from under President George W. Bush, according to two former advisers who spoke

candidly about the political impact of the government’s poor handling of the natural disaster.

“Katrina to me was the tipping point,” said Matthew Dowd, Bush’s pollster and chief strategist for the 2004 presidential campaign. “The president broke his bond with the public. Once that bond was broken, he no longer had the capacity to talk to the American public. State of the Union addresses? It didn’t matter. Legislative initiatives? It didn’t matter. P.R.? It didn’t matter. Travel? It didn’t matter.”

Dan Bartlett, former White House communications director and later counselor to the president, said: “Politically, it was the final nail in the coffin.”

Their comments are a part of an oral history of the Bush White House that Vanity Fair magazine compiled for its February issue, which hits newsstands in New York and Los Angeles on Wednesday, and nationally on Jan. 6. Vanity Fair published comments by current and former government officials, foreign ministers, campaign strategists and numerous others on topics that included Iraq, the anthrax attacks, the economy and immigration.

Police say Santa gunman planned to kill his mother and ex-wife’s lawyer after attack at party

COVINA, Calif. (AP) — The man who killed nine people at his former in-law’s Christmas party while dressed as Santa Claus had plotted the attack several months ago and his hit list was longer than first thought.

Police said Monday that Bruce Pardo planned to also kill his mother and his ex-wife’s divorce attorney but committed suicide before he could complete the task.

Authorities said his plan was thorough and detailed. Pardo had a getaway car, an airplane ticket to the Midwest, several guns, and high-powered ammunition only sold outside the state.

He launched the attack on Christmas Eve, putting

on his Santa Claus suit, arming himself with four guns and barging into a party at his ex-relatives’ home. He then killed nine people and torched the home.

Police Lt. Pat Buchanan said Pardo knew his mother had been invited to the party and intended to kill her because he felt she sided with his ex-wife in their divorce. Lucky for her, Buchanan said, she felt ill and opted to stay home.

Family of missing cruise passenger believes she jumped overboard, but investigation continues

MIAMI (AP) — A woman who went missing from a cruise ship in the Gulf of Mexico might have jumped overboard, her family believes, but authorities are still investigating whether someone could have pushed her.

The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search Monday for Jennifer Ellis Seitz, a Florida journalist, who was reported missing by her husband about eight hours after a surveillance camera captured a person falling overboard on Christmas night. Mexican authorities said they planned to search until Wednesday.

The FBI said agents were still trying to determine whether a crime was committed.

Seitz had “previous emotional issues,” yet there were no outward signs of distress while on the seven-night cruise from Miami, her family said in a statement given to two Florida newspapers where she had previously worked. Seitz’s mother joined her daughter and son-in-law on the cruise.

“Jennifer was in a very happy and uplifted mood both before and during the cruise,” the Ellis family said in the statement. “She was excited about starting a new job and her future career with a local newspaper. She and her husband had been talking about starting their family. The family suspects that Jennifer chose an unfortunate ending to her life. She was a beautiful and caring person and will be truly missed by all who love her.”

GMAC

Continued from Page 1A

tection filing and liquidation extremely unlikely.

But at the same time, the automaker is losing control of the financing business, which may or may not have positive results down the road.

“GM is now on a path to become the first global carmaker to have no influence/control over a captive auto finance company — this may prove a disadvantage to GM sales or, if not, it may prompt other (original equipment manufacturers) to follow,” Patel wrote in a note to investors.

The analyst said that the moves could allow GMAC to pickup market share in the long term,

or may even eventually spur a public offering.

Separately, GMAC said Monday that it has accepted all the bonds tendered in a debt-for-equity swap that was also part of its capital-raising efforts. The company released few details about the results of the swap, but said that the conditions of the offers had been satisfied.

GMAC “intends to act quickly to resume automotive lending to a broader spectrum of customers,” the company said in a statement.

The company’s goal is to reach \$30 billion in capital, the majority of which would come from the debt-for-equity exchange. GMAC has struggled to get bondholders to convert 75 percent of their debt into equity of the com-

pany and has yet to say whether it has met its goal.

The Treasury Department’s investment in the company does not mean it is “passing judgment” on whether GMAC has met the Fed’s requirements to raise additional capital, the official said.

GMAC, meanwhile, said the government’s \$5 billion investment was completed Monday. The \$1 billion loan is still in progress, the Treasury official said.

The Treasury Department said after initially bailing out the auto industry earlier this month that it had committed the first \$350 billion of the bank bailout fund, and said Congress should release the second half.

But in several cases

the Treasury hasn’t actually spent all the committed funds, and the department will use money that hasn’t yet been spent to fund the investment in GMAC, the official said. For example, the department allocated \$250 billion for a program to inject capital into banks, but has so far spent only about \$162 billion of that amount.

General Motors’ partial ownership of GMAC has kept the finance arm lending to dealers and car buyers, even as credit from traditional banks has dried up. If GMAC went bankrupt, other institutions would be unlikely to step in to replace the credit lost by GM’s dealers and customers.

GMAC said Tuesday that it will resume offer-

ing automotive financing to customers with credit scores as low as 621, eliminating restrictions put in place two months ago that mandated a minimum score of 700.

“We will continue to employ responsible credit standards, but will be able to relax the constraints we put in place a few months ago due to the credit crisis,” GMAC President Bill Muir said in a statement. “We will immediately put our renewed access to capital to use to facilitate the purchase of cars and trucks in the U.S.”

Muir said the change will allow the company to return to “more normal” financing volumes and help stabilize the domestic auto industry. GM owns 49 percent of

GMAC, while the rest is owned by private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management.

As part of its order last week approving GMAC’s application for bank holding company status, the Federal Reserve said GM will reduce its stake to less than 10 percent of the voting and total equity interest of GMAC. Cerberus, which led an investment group that bought a 51 percent stake in GMAC from the automaker for \$14 billion in 2006, will reduce its stake in GMAC to no more than 33 percent of total equity.

CLOSED

Continued from Page 1A

its offices Thursday for the holiday.

Post Office officials said the only deliveries that will be made will be express deliveries, with business expected to resume Friday morning.

As many people prepare to enjoy a day off

for New Years, area emergency personnel will be bracing themselves for the inevitable holiday onslaught. Local agencies, including the Big Spring Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Howard County Sheriff’s Office, all report the special day will be busier for them, as they pay special attention to

motorists and party-goers. The police department’s main office will be closed Thursday, and will reopen at 8 a.m. Friday.

Those looking for party supplies at the last minute will be relieved to know the local Wal-Mart Supercenter, which is open 24-hours, will be open throughout the holiday. H-E-B will also be taking the

holiday in stride, adhering to its normal 6 a.m. until midnight schedule both New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

Keeping with their 24-hour, 365-day image, local 7-Eleven convenience stores will also be open throughout the New Year holiday.

The Spring City Senior Citizens Center will close its doors Thursday in observance of the

New Year, resuming activities Friday morning.

The Herald office will be closed Thursday, reopening at 8 a.m. Friday.

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

TREES

Continued from Page 1A

now.”

Davis said the seasonal effort is two-fold.

“The compost facility will grind the trees up to be used in the compost,” he said. “That way we’re recycling them and not just throwing them in the landfill. The other reason we do this is to

keep people from putting the trees in their dumpsters. When people put them in their dumpsters they get stuck and cause a serious problem for us.”

Davis said dropping your tree off is free of charge, and there are only a few, simple guidelines to follow.

“We need people to make sure all of the lights and ornaments are off the tree,” he

explained. “We also can’t take it if it’s still wrapped in plastic or anything like that. You also need to make sure the tree stand has been taken off. Once they drop it off, we’ll take it from there.”

For more information, contact Davis at 264-2505.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

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Janie Tovar, 73, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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John A. Moseley
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OTHER VIEWS

... as a terror threat grows

It's a vigilance we have to extend to our dealings with Pakistan, which is supposed to be our ally in the fight against terrorism.

Pakistan said last week that it had placed Hafiz Muhammad Saeed under house arrest. It was an "arrest" loosely defined for Saeed, the leader of a charitable front group accused of plotting the Mumbai attacks. According to The New York Times, Saeed has moved freely throughout his Lahore neighborhood since his arrest. His visitors come and go.

That's not nearly good enough. Despite overwhelming evidence — and the confession of the lone surviving Mumbai gunman — Pakistan's government refuses to admit that the perpetrators were Pakistani.

The United States must continue to apply pressure to Pakistan, and make sure it brings Saeed — and his co-conspirators — to justice. How? We have to ensure that Pakistan doesn't follow its usual pattern of high-profile roundups in the face of world attention, followed by quiet releases when everyone looks away. Pakistan should extradite Saeed to India to stand trial in the country where the crimes were committed. And Islamabad must ban and break up the vast infrastructure of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the Islamic charitable organization that has served as a cover for terrorist activities.

This isn't just about supporting a U.S. ally — India — hit by terrorism, though that, on its own, is a worthy aim. It's about protecting the United States.

Because unless we make sure Pakistan devils and dismembers Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the group will continue to plot destruction from Pakistani soil. And someday we may find that the next major terrorist attack on U.S. soil originated in the Pakistani training centers of this so-called Islamic charity.

According to its Web site, Jamaat-ud-Dawa is "a Pakistan based Islamic relief and welfare organization." That part is true. Jamaat-ud-Dawa did substantial and sustained relief work following the devastating 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan.

It also functions, however, as a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terrorist organization that was officially banned by the Pakistani government under U.S. pressure in 2002. In the years since, Lashkar-e-Taiba has gone underground, with its leaders, including Saeed, moving into the upper ranks of Jammat-ud-Dawa. But it has continued to plan and perpetrate deadly attacks in India, killing hundreds; train and house al-Qaeda operatives; and attack American military personnel in Afghanistan. Most galling, it continues to draw support from the Inter-Services Intelligence, the spy agency that is deeply intertwined with the Pakistani military.

The civilian government of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has insisted that is had nothing to do with the Mumbai attacks. There's no reason to doubt him. But as the "arrest" of Saeed shows, the government has been hesitant to stand up to militants — and military-intelligence factions who serve as the militants' patrons.

Washington needs to make clear to Pakistan's government and its military — which relies heavily on U.S. funding — that the United States no longer will stand by as the Pakistanis tolerate terrorists.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Christmas card? Next year!

Sorry, but you won't be getting a Christmas card from me this year. I missed that deadline big-time.

It looked attainably far in the distance the day after Thanksgiving. But that was pure illusion. What with soccer tournaments and final exams, meetings, receptions and, oh, yes, a day job, writing meaningful end-of-the-year notes got procrastinated right up to Christmas Eve.

My cards wouldn't have been clever, anyway, not like the one we got from friends who step up their level of creativity each year.

Their latest card looks suspiciously like a ticket for a red-light camera violation — it features their family photo, not ours.

And mine wouldn't have been animated e-cards, which are delightful to receive but seem less personal to send than those addressed by hand.

Of course, there's no guarantee mine would have found your mailbox, given that it hasn't taken rain or sleet or any other weather impediment to bollix our postal service this year. Bills, bank records and magazines simply don't get delivered,

though somehow we've received more than our share of political fliers and junk mail.

But instead of complaining, I'd rather count blessings and get an early start on best intentions for the New Year.

So here are some resolutions for 2009:

Learn to download music.

I am a technophobe. My cellphone's so ancient that it doesn't take pictures.

Nifty and fascinating gadgets though they are, iPhones and BlackBerrys seem mostly like expensive toys.

But my profession's evolving into new media with a vengeance. If I can blog and code hyperlinks, which I learned in 2008, then surely I can master a music player the size of a credit card.

Fill out a FAFSA.

It's one of the great challenges of raising a teenager. You need a FAFSA to determine your EFC, which will then be included on your SAR and used to calculate how much FSA you can get for college.

Filing a FAFSA online requires a PIN, which is based on your child's SSN and DOB. If you need help, there are handy FAFSA FAQs and PIN FAQs at fafsa.ed.gov.

After navigating the college financial aid application maze (for the uninitiated, FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid), surely college applications will be a breeze.

Read "Team of Rivals."

It took half of 2008 to get through "The Best and Brightest," David Halberstam's damning examination of how brilliant men helped lead the Kennedy and Johnson administrations into horrendous decisions about U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

President-elect Barack Obama earlier this year cited Doris Kearns Goodwin's book about President Lincoln's advisers in discussing how to build a Cabinet to lead the country through our current crises.

Let's hope that by the time I finish the book, we'll have evidence that Obama's team has its A-game on.

Care about Jennifer Aniston.

This is the resolution I know I'll break. It's simply not realistic. No matter how many tabloid covers beckon at the checkout stand.

Start writing my Christmas cards in the summer. And remember where I put them come next December.

Follow the example of those who find joy in doing for others and remembering to appreciate, every day, those who matter.

Thank you for reading. Happy New Year.

Linda P. Campbell is a columnist and editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at lcampbell@star-telegram.com

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Drop everything as you read this

My left hand held the phone. My right hand pecked at the computer keyboard.

On the phone, my mom was talking about her weekend, the elections, the family, the usual. On the computer, I was looking up MapQuest directions to get to an evening activity.

I meant to respond to something my mother said. Instead, I muttered part of the directions. "What?" she asked.

Yeah, what? I thought.

What was I doing? My mom is 84 years old and lives half a continent away. I can't do as much for her as I would like, but the least I can give her is my full attention when we talk on the telephone.

Publilius Syrus, a Roman slave-turned-sage, observed in the 1st century B.C. that "to do two things at once is to do neither."

That was two millennia before e-mail, BlackBerrys, text-messaging, Bluetooths, and iPods turned life into a multitasking free-for-all.

So what happens when we try to do three, four or five things at once? Logic says that instead of walking in place we end up moving backward.

Research concurs.

A University of Michigan study found that participants took much longer to complete math problems if they tried to switch back and forth among the tasks. Researchers at UCLA asked

participants to sort index cards both in silence and while simultaneously taking note of randomly presented sounds. The subjects sorted the cards equally well under both conditions. But they remembered much less about the cards they'd been sorting while listening to the tones.

Multitaskers think they can focus on more than one thing at the same time. What's actually happening, researchers say, is that parts of the brain are switching from task to task, losing time and focus with each pivot.

With certain exceptions - practicing Buddhists come to mind - people have always valued the ability to do more than one thing at once. Knit and watch TV. Cook while listening to music. Drive and talk. But in the last two decades, devices that were supposed to make us more efficient and connected have actually made us more attention-deprived and anti-social.

This seems impossibly quaint, but as recently as 20 years ago, telephones were stationary devices. You could walk around and clean and cook only at the risk of wrapping yourself in the phone cord.

So usually you plunked yourself down, had a conversation and that was that.

Same with computers. You used them for word processing, design and certain other functions. Switching back and forth was cumbersome and usually not worth the trouble.

There were ways to procrastinate, of course — skipping out to the vending machines has always been my personal favorite. But diving into e-mail or a pre-

ferred Web site every five minutes became a temptation only in the last decade or so.

Now we have college professors lecturing to students who are busy texting friends or checking their Facebook pages.

We have office workers who respond every time they're alerted to a personal e-mail.

And we're all becoming resigned to the BlackBerry brush-off — when we become painfully aware that whatever we're saying is much less interesting than the message on the listener's screen.

Eventually, everybody is going to have to set limits.

College faculties are debating whether to ban devices during classes — I say, do it.

Business have a right to draw a boundary between work and personal business, and employees should be able to make the same distinction when they leave the office.

Parents should be clear that it's scientifically impossible for students to master math while instant messaging.

Me, I'm trying.

I'm working on completing a task before checking e-mail. I've even given up the habit of reading a book while flossing my teeth.

And when my mom is on the phone, I find a place away from the computer, TV, even the newspaper, and just talk.

Barbara Shelly is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by e-mail at bshelly@kstar.com



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Bird Poop: Eared grebe makes unexpected stop

Having wished the employees a "Happy New Year," the businessman walked to his car. As he started the long drive home, he saw ahead what looked like a small duck in the middle of the road.

Even with little traffic on this stretch of pavement, he wanted to get the struggling bird out of any car's path. Pulling over on the shoulder, he discovered that catching the water bird would be easier than he had thought.

Not able to stand and walk, the bird pushed its outstretched legs and feet in an effort to propel itself forward. From a few feet away, the man noticed the damaged feathers on the left wing. Using both hands to scoop the bird from the road, he was promptly nipped by its thin, pointed bill.

As he walked back to his car, the bird's soft, thick feathers took on a sheen in the afternoon sunlight. Although black above, and white to gray below, the bird wore a whitish patch back of each ear. Noticeable were its red eyes and short, black bill upturned at the tip.

Having wadded tissues for a soft bedding, the man tried to offer the bird a comfortable nest for the ride back to Big Spring. As he lowered it into a box, he observed the long, tapered toes that cupped inward. He had never seen any bird with such strange feet.

"Old Highway 80 in Pecos," gave us the locale, and after the description of the bird's size, feet, and slender neck and head, we thought we knew what the man had. Since the

caller only lived two blocks away, we were soon holding an eared grebe.

Even in its winter plumage, the bird's profile indicated the slight peak over the eyes where a crest forms during breeding season. Its drab attire would blossom with golden tufts of feathers starting at its eyes and flaring backwards. To accent this colorful transformation, a black crest, forehead, neck and back would be highlighted by rusty flanks.

Since the grebe had mistaken a highway for a stream, it desperately needed a body of water, both aquatic and land insects and their larvae, and small fish, to survive. For a bird that rarely flies except for migration, the grebe was accustomed to living most of its life on and in water. It might have been one that had never answered the yearly urge to relocate due to freezing ponds and lakes.

In our bathtub, the grebe exercised its lobed feet by swimming in rectangular circles. We could sense its frustration at the small enclosure. Although there was no break in the left wing, the bird had slightly damaged four primaries.

A private lake that offered the aquatic life needed was an answer to the bird's problem. Having heard from a biologist, who had recently sampled the life in those waters, reassured us that with some of our mild, even warm winter days, the insect and fish part of its diet would be met.

The long drive over dirt roads led us to the catch basin and a scenic

Courtesy photo
Found on inland lakes, but seldom seen in flight, the eared grebe feeds, sleeps, and courts on water. Sensing danger, the bird can readily sink beneath the surface, only to reappear further away with only its bill and eyes above the water.



background. Knowing that migrating water birds were constantly seen on the lake reassured us that the little grebe would soon have company.

Placing the bird on the surface of the lake, we expected it to sink, swim underwater, and reappear when safely away from us. Instead, it glanced from side to side as it studied its new location. As it paddled away from the shoreline, it stopped to preen its damaged feathers.

Then tucking its wings tightly to its side, it jumped upward and dove straight down. Seconds passed. Break-

ing water about twenty feet further into the lake, the grebe continued to dive as it searched for a natural meal. A weak flier, the bird was a marvel at diving and swimming.

Whatever time was needed for its recovery, the eared grebe had been provided a temporary home. Some night

in the new year the bird would begin its run on the surface of the lake.

Gaining speed before becoming airborne, its flapping wings would carry it into the future.

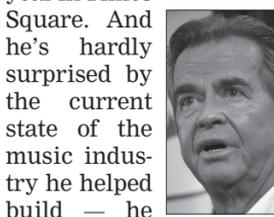
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Dick Clark, 79, is still rockin' New Year's Eve

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Four years after a stroke, Dick Clark is relishing the prospect of another New Year's Eve celebration, determined to appear for his 36th year in Times Square. And he's hardly surprised by the current state of the music industry he helped build — he predicted this, after all.



Clark

Clark, who turned 79 last month and has been in front of the cameras for 61 years, said in a recent interview by e-mail that his involvement in "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2009," diminished though it may be, is a labor of love and "not really a job."

"Obviously, I'm not able to be as actively involved as I used to be out on the street, up on a platform and interacting with the crowds in Times Square" in New York, Clark wrote. "Thank goodness my friend Ryan Seacrest is able to handle that end

of the activity on the show these days."

Clark woke up with right-side paralysis on Dec. 6, 2004 — "Your life changes overnight," he said. (Regis Philbin filled in for Clark on the New Year's Eve show that year.) Clark still uses a walker or wheelchair, and speaking is difficult.

"I am one of the fortunate ones who survived and have been minimally impaired, so I'm just thankful I'm still able to enjoy this once-a-year treat of bringing in the New Year."

The "American Bandstand" icon and longtime producer of the American Music Awards, Academy of Country Music Awards and Golden Globes has long considered them "my television kids."

He's also watched their ratings plummet in recent years.

"There was a time when they attracted a huge audience," Clark wrote. "The audiences have dropped off as the years have gone by because of increasing television competition."

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Do you see a glimmering shortcut to making someone feel good? Maybe your choice is an easy piece of flattery or a sweeter than usual tone in your voice, and whatever manner you find your aim will hit. The Aquarian moon spreads kindness and the Capricorn Sun makes compliments count toward raising our social status.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Spend some time thinking about how much energy you expend by either maintaining the status quo or avoiding confrontation. Standing up for your principles will be both satisfying and invigorating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Culture or business connected to Asia will soon play an important role in your career. Do a little research, stay ahead of the curve. Learn all you can about any Asian country that has ties to your business.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Let your disdain for mediocrity and your love of nostalgia spur you into creativity. You might find inspiration in the words or clothing styles of a bygone era. Put yourself in a different context. The change in perspective will be fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will learn that there is a method to all

Tomorrow's Horoscope

the madness that has enveloped you lately. You are in the throes of a major breakthrough. Allow yourself some time to celebrate your ingenuity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your mind finds the extremes. One moment you'll believe you are a piece of work and the next you'll decide that you are a work of art. In order to stay positive it's best not to draw any conclusions about yourself either way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll hear many different opinions, some of them said louder than others, but the voice in your head is the one that carries to the far reaches of the universe. Stay honest and supportive when talking to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Travel outside of the region of your residence brings luck. Consider playing the lottery or entering contests. See as many clients as possible. A financial windfall is coming your way. But you still have to play by the rules.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Setting a good example is key. The eyes around you repeat what they see. Have you ever allowed anyone to witness you rebuilding yourself through meditation? You'll be around someone who can understand such things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Every progression has its beginning. Create as many new beginnings as possible without worrying how they will play out or where they will end. You

can later decide which are worthy of your follow through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relax; you already know which sweetheart is for you. You do not have to reject anybody. The person not chosen by you will intuit your intentions and bow out. This frees you up to meet with your destiny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may become involved with governmental agencies. Perhaps it is your turn to serve jury duty. Check to see that your automobile's license is up to date. Renew all licenses before you face a fine.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Self-expression is part of your DNA and you'll be doing it right out loud now. A quieter person will be very attractive to you. You will notice and appreciate the different ways people celebrate themselves.

YOUR MOST AUSPICIOUS WAY TO USHER IN THE NEW YEAR: LEO: Give your family, friend and neighbors as much time as possible. Even short visits will put you in a lucky mood. You are regenerated by their smiles, rejuvenated by their hugs, reanimated by their laughter. You go into the new year as a real people person. VIRGO: Chances are you can't give up being a perfectionist or being hard on yourself -- and you really wouldn't want to. The result of your high standards and impossible drive is so fabulous! But there is one habit you could lose. Write it on a

piece of paper and burn it over a candle. LIBRA: If you can manage to get some exclusive time with your No. 1 supporter, that will be magical. As long as you are together, what you do really doesn't matter. You could even just watch television. You are so receptive now to the kind of healing that occurs with a close connection to your most significant other. SCORPIO: Express your kookier side. You'll be around the people who can really appreciate your humor and you almost can't go too far with things. And when you're not being funny, there is poetry in your heart that needs to be unleashed.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Today Show" co-host Meredith Vieira has natal sun, Mercury and Venus in the get-it-done sign of Capricorn. She's the poster woman for having it all, as she toggles multiple jobs, charities and appearances with a robust family life. Vieira turned down major jobs when her children were small. With Mars in Scorpio, she intuitively knew she'd get other opportunities when the time was right.

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

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a female college student living with my parents until I finish school. I love my family, but there are a few problems, most involving my older brother, "David."

When we were children, we were fond of making each other's lives miserable, as siblings tend to do. Things got a little easier after David was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome. My parents made some changes and David began to behave more normally.

Lately, David and I fight a lot, mostly because my workload means I'm not always home to take care of my chores and he feels the need to do them for me, even though I don't ask him to. He later uses that to make me feel guilty.

We also get into fights that can occasionally become physical. He gets so mad over little things that I don't always see it coming. A few days ago, he threw me to the floor and kicked me. I ended up with a bruised arm and back, swollen lip and cheek, and a sizable bump on my head. Because he has Asperger's, my parents blamed me, saying I "should know better."

I can get counseling through my job, but my parents have no interest in getting David into therapy or anger management classes. I don't want to



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

report him for abuse, but I also don't want to be seriously hurt. Any advice? -- Hurt in Michigan

Dear Hurt: Your brother's disorder does not mean he gets to abuse you, and your parents are setting him up for future difficulties if they don't help him learn to control himself. They can find help through MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome (asperger.org), P.O. Box 524, Crown Point, IN 46307.

You also must protect yourself by staying out of David's way. Don't interact with him unless others are present, and move into your own place as soon as possible.

Dear Annie: It has been about 15 years since my last blood test. In that time, I have slipped up on a couple of occasions and had unprotected sex.

Though I have no reason to suspect anything is wrong, I would like to be sure.

The problem is, I am terrified to walk into a clinic or doctor's office and request an AIDS test. If by some chance it should come back positive, I would be mortified. Is there an anonymous home test available to detect the HIV virus without all the public humiliation? -- Worried but Not Enough

Dear Worried: The only FDA-approved home testing kit, "The Home Access HIV-1 Test System" is available at most drug stores. You will, however, have to mail your blood sample to a lab for testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has an information hotline (1-800-342-2437), and someone there should be able to answer your specific questions about confidentiality.

Dear Annie: I cannot in good conscience allow the letter from "California," whose daughter didn't get into a sorority, to go unchallenged. Who would put their daughter on medication and under a doctor's care as a result of a poor choice?

Perhaps a better solution would be to share with the daughter the reality of her choice and some alternatives available to her. She is 18, and the consequences of her

choices are hers to deal with. The parents should discuss the odds of getting into the sorority in the first place and explain that she is allowing this sorority to have complete control of her life, that she will often face disappointment and rejection, and that how she chooses to deal with them is what creates maturity. Perhaps she could brainstorm solutions to make this a more empowering experience.

Our self-worth should not come from others' acceptance of us. Maybe a few weekends working with Habitat for Humanity would change her focus. -- H.D.

Dear H.D.: Some people have a more extreme reaction to rejection than others. Your suggestions are good ones, but if she needs additional help, she should get it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Wacky Facts

- Jan. 26 is the first day of the Chinese (lunar) calendar. 2009 is the year of the Ox.
- The Chinese New Year is a major holiday that reunites friends and family for food and celebration. Red clothing is worn to ward away bad fortune. — holidaysmart.com

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"You have no idea what a high it is for me to see the delight on people's faces when they see how these homes work."

— Brad Pitt, on affordable housing built by his Make It Right Foundation in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, in *Architectural Digest*.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In The News

Teen chefs develop five healthy snacks that kids will like

BY NANCY CHURNIN
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Kids come home from school ready to snack.

Too often, that means they'll start grabbing chips, soda or cookies — the kind of high-fat, high-sugar foods that can start them on the road to childhood obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes.

And that's why it's so important to get them in the habit of making healthy choices, experts say. With that goal in mind, high school students from Frisco Independent School District's Culinary Arts Program in Frisco, Texas, took on a challenge from Medical City Heart in Dallas and the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association to come up with healthy treats that kids can prepare for themselves.

That means they also had to be safe, fast and easy for kids to prepare. So the young chefs had to ply their creativity without burners, ovens, food processors or sharp knives, while meeting one quarter of a child's daily calcium or fiber requirements, using low saturated fat or protein, and staying under a 450-calorie limit for each snack.

The judges were fifth-graders from Shawnee Trail Elementary in Frisco, who were each given three coupons to put in front of the three snacks they liked best out of eight offered.

The teen chefs, resplendent in their white aprons and tall chef hats, demonstrated how to prepare their snacks and offered samplings under the watchful eyes of Jennifer Gause, executive chef and director of the culinary arts program. Afterward, the very satisfied fifth-graders confessed the tough part was choosing favorites. "They were all delicious!" said Ariel Benzvi, 11.

Recipes for the top three snacks are also available on www.medicalcityheart.com and in the free Medical City Heart book, "City Heart," which is due out in February. Here, we showcase the top five.

1. FRUIT SHISH-K-BOBS

By Jordan Molder, 17, and Alessandra Bernd, 17

Recipe: Cut 1/3 small banana into small pieces. Cut the green leaves off the top of 3 strawberries. Take a skewer and stick the banana, strawberries and three grapes on it, alternating fruit. Put 2 teaspoons Nutella in a zip-top bag.

Mash it around until it's soft and push it all to one of the corners at the bottom. Once most of it is in a corner, take your scissors and cut a small piece of the corner so you can squeeze it out on the fruit.

Per Serving: Calories 113; fat 4 g (1 g sat); no cholesterol; sodium 6 mg; fiber 2 g; carbohydrates 20 g; protein 1 g



2. MOON PIE

By Amanda Schneider, 17, Teresa Medrano, 18 and Nataly Mora, 17

Recipe: Spread 1 tablespoon of crunchy peanut butter thinly enough just to cover half a slice of very thin bread. Spread just enough marshmallow crème thinly enough to cover the second half slice of bread. Cut a quarter of an extra-small banana into little circles and place on the marshmallow crème. Top with the slice of bread with peanut butter.

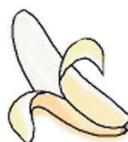
Per Serving: Calories 241; fat 9 g; no cholesterol; sodium 125 mg; fiber 3 g; carbohydrates 37 g; protein 6 g

3. ANTS IN A BOAT

By Don Nichols, 17

Recipe: Take an apple slice (about 1/8 of an apple) and stand it up on its peel. Spread 1 teaspoon peanut butter on top. Put 4 raisins on top of the peanut butter.

Per Serving: Calories 47; fat 3 g (1 g sat); no cholesterol; sodium 25 mg; fiber 1 g; carbohydrates 5 g; protein 1 g



4. BEAR ESSENTIALS

By Everardo Zamarron, 18, and Alex Munoz, 17

Recipe: Use a bear cookie cutter to cut two bear shapes out of two slices of bread. Cut a bear shape out of a yellow pepper. Put the bear-shaped yellow pepper on one slice of bread. Drizzle honey on it. Put two banana slices on the yellow pepper. Put two squirts of honey on it. Cover with second bear-shaped slice. Put two dots of honey on the bear. Put a chocolate chip on each dot. Use a straw to cut out two banana circles for the eyes and attach with honey.

Per Serving: Calories 229; fat 5 g (3 g sat); sodium 176 mg; fiber 8 g; carbohydrates 46 g; protein 6 g

5. APPLE CINNAMON GRAHAM CRISP

By Kendall Reding, 17, Madison Pritchett, 18 and Brandon Teplansky, 16

Recipe: Mix 1 tablespoon peanut butter and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl with a spoon. Spread half on top of two graham crackers. Use two more graham crackers to make two sandwiches. Spread the peanut butter-cinnamon mix on top of the sandwiches. Cut an apple in six slices and remove the seeds. Dip apples in 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice. Layer the apples on top of the spread and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Per Serving: Calories 203; fat 10 g sat; no cholesterol; sodium 171 mg; fiber 4 g; carbohydrates 25 g; protein 50 g



A focus on math adds up to success

You do the math. In 1995, American fourth-graders received an average score of 518 on an international math test. The 2007 test results were announced this month. This time, the average score for fourth-graders in the United States was 529. Education leaders say the 11-point jump is good news.

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, TIME FOR KIDS, is the world's largest review of math and science achievement. The tests have been given every four years to fourth- and eighth-grade students in the United States and more than 35 other countries since 1995.

SOME PLUSSES AND A FEW MINUSES

This year, American fourth-graders and eighth-graders scored better in math than they had in the past. The fourth graders outscored their peers in 25 of the 36 participating countries. Experts say these results show that American students are on the same level as kids in other wealthy countries. "Certainly, our results do not show the United States trailing the developed world," said Ina V.S. Mullis, a professor who co-directed the study.

The study reported dramatically higher scores in five Asian countries. Students in Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Japan scored the highest on the math test. "The Asian countries are way ahead," Mullis says. Still, there is room for improvement. In Hong Kong, where kids did the best on the math exam, the average score was 607. And when it came to science American students did no better than they had done in the past.

Science scores for American students have not gone up since 1995. Although Americans continue to score way above average in science, students in other countries, including Singapore and Hong Kong, have made big gains. U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings says that the science scores "remind us that ... we must pick up the pace."

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to make math and science education a national priority.

HOW WOULD YOU DO?

Try these questions from the 2007 tests. The answers are below.

From the fourth-grade math test:

Al wanted to find how much his cat weighed. He weighed himself and noted that the scale read 57 kg. He then stepped on the scale holding his cat and found that it read 62 kg. What was the weight of the cat in kilograms?

From the eighth-grade science test:

Which characteristic is found ONLY in mammals?

- Eyes that detect color
- Glands that make milk
- Skin that absorbs oxygen
- Bodies that are protected by scales

— Suzanne Zimmler

ANSWERS: FOURTH-GRADE TEST, 5; EIGHTH-GRADE TEST, B

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JUAN GARCIA/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

High school students from Frisco (Texas) Independent School District's Culinary Arts Program took on a challenge from Medical City Heart in Dallas and the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association to come up with healthy treats that kids can prepare for themselves.

Help!

Feeling blue

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: When I'm down in the dumps, how can I cheer myself up?

— Gloomy

■ If you're feeling blah, get moving. Even a walk around your neighborhood could help perk you up. Better yet, invite a friend along. Sharing what's on your mind can make you feel better. Other ideas: watch a funny movie, play with a pet, or help a friend or family member who's feeling blue. Also, talking to your mom or another adult you trust about what's bothering you can really help.



DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: My friends get invited to lots of parties, but I don't. Even my really good friend did not invite me to a party she had. I get really jealous.

— Too Jealous

■ How about throwing your own party? Invite a few friends to a weekend sleepover or organize a picnic. Also, you should take time to look at your relationships and think about which ones work and which ones don't. Focus on building a few really great friendships. In time, as your relationships grow, the invitations will, too.

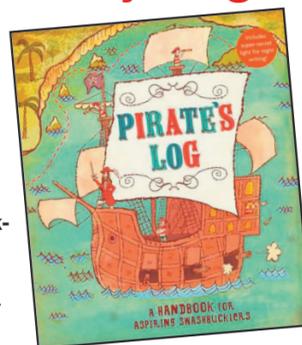
Visit "Fun for Girls" at americangirlmagazine.com to get or give advice. © 2009 American Girl, LLC. All rights reserved.



Reading Rack

All you scurvy dogs, read this!

You don't see many pirates sailing the high seas these days (though recently, there have been a few!). But maybe there would be more of them around if they'd had "Pirate's Log: A Handbook for Aspiring Swashbucklers" (Chronicle Books, \$15.95) to teach them the basics of the pirating trade. The fun and funny guidebook offers tips and advice for kids who want to follow in the footsteps of Capt. Jack



Sparrow. As you make your way through the book, com-

pleting tasks and answering questions, you'll progress through the pirate ranks, from shark-bait to captain. The book includes 23 "very important pirate lessons" (No. 10: Bathing is for land-lubbers). You'll learn pirate phrases, take a pirate license exam and design your own pirate ship. The book even comes with a tiny nightlight so you can read and write in the middle of a ship-tossing storm.

— Becky Sher, MCT

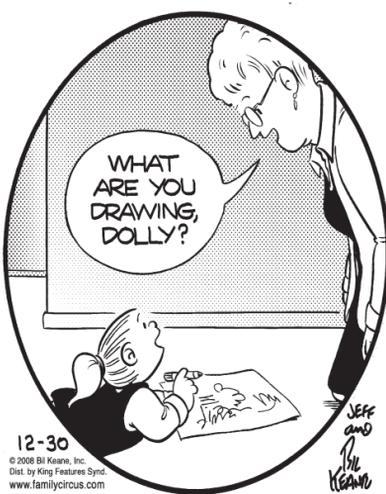
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Storm Chasers	With the Devil, Jewel	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men CBS	News CBS	12 Corazonas	News NBC	Seinfeld Dr. Young	Seinfeld Hagee	News-Lehrer	Storm Chasers	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Phineas	Suite Life Montana	
7 :PM	Charlie Rudolph's-New Year	Charlie Rudolph's-New Year	Cuidado-Angel	House NBC	NCIS	Doña Barbara	Law & Order	Fam. Guy Victory	Israel Light of the Southwest	Nova (DVS)	Storm Chasers	Movie: The Wild Bunch, Robert Ryan	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Rush Hour 2, John Lone	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Movie: Minutemen
8 :PM	Jim Eli Stone	Jim Eli Stone	Fuego en la Sangre	(:01) Fringe	31st Annual Kennedy Center Honors	El Rostro de Analia	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Storm Chasers	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	Leverage	Cole	Phineas
9 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Sex & Sx & Sx	Israel Cortes	Digital	Storm Chasers	Movie: Silverado, Kevin Costner	MAN	Bones	Hatchett	Suite Life Montana
10 :PM	Nightline ABC	Nightline ABC	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Movie: Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst (DVS)	Ministerio-Vida Smiley	Smiley Smiley	Storm Chasers	CSI: NY	Leverage	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	So Raven Cory	
11 :PM	Insider ABC	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	News NBC	Israel Church	(Off Air)	Storm Chasers	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	The Deal	Emperor Dragon
12 :AM	News ABC	News ABC	Clasicos	Friends	TMZ	Pelicula: Mis		Richie Rich	Light of the Southwest		Storm Chasers	Movie: The Magnificent Seven				
1 :AM	News ABC	News ABC	Clasicos	Friends	TMZ	Pelicula: Mis		Richie Rich	Light of the Southwest		Storm Chasers	Movie: The Magnificent Seven				

DENNIS THE MENACE



"EVEN MARGARET'S NEW DOLL HAS AN ATTITUDE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I don't know. I'll decide after I'm finished."

HAGAR



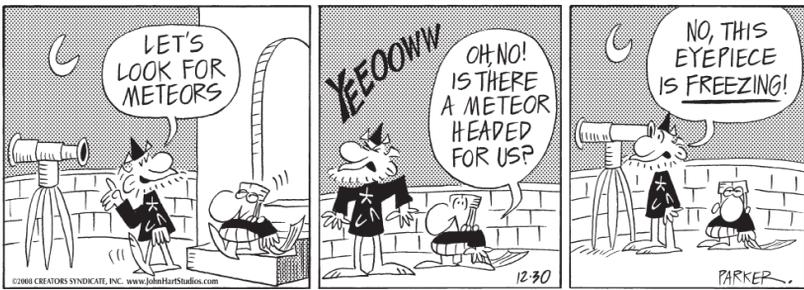
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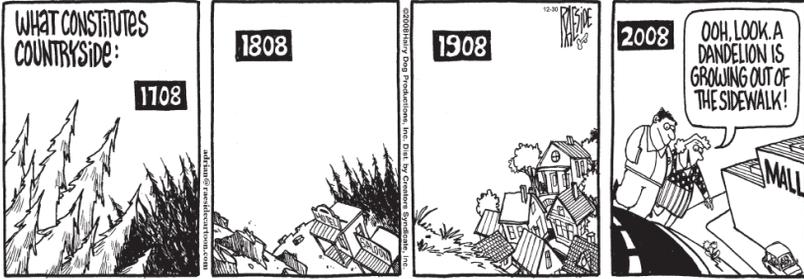
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2008. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 30, 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase. (The area covered by the agreement is located in present-day southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.)
On this date:
In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.
In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.
In 1907, the Mills Commission issued its final report concluding that Abner Doubleday invented baseball, a finding that few sports historians

embrace.
In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.
In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.
In 1948, the Cole Porter musical "Kiss Me, Kate" opened on Broadway.
In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.
In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees and wounding five other people. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)
In 2006, Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein had been hanged; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate.
Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 74. Actor

Answer to previous puzzle

BLAB	SCRAM	CBER
LUBE	AROMA	HAVE
VAIN	VALET	ICED
DUTCHOVEN	ASK	
HARES	TIEBAR	
SAFETY	POLLUTE	
ASIS	FLARE	RTE
FIR	SLEETED	NIL
ADS	POETS	HERE
RETREAT	SCORED	
ISLAND	STEAL	
IND	PARTIT	DATA
LEGO	GOTIT	TIMER
OAHU	ELITE	ADAM
PUTT	LONER	YELP

Newsday Crossword

HOP TO IT by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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57	58	59		60			61	62				63
64			65			66				67		
68						69				70		
71						72				73		

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