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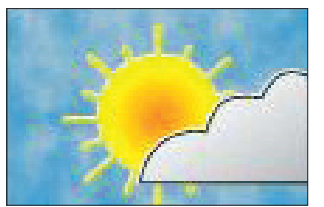
**Kestrel rescued by oil field worker**  
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
DECEMBER 15, 2009



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 8      COPYRIGHT 2009      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## County nixes requests for tax abatement

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners turned down a pair of tax abatements during the court's Monday meeting, saying the measures were not in the best interest of the county's taxpayers.



Long

While commissioners did ratify a pair of reinvestment zones within the county — dubbed Zones D and E — during the meeting, the two businesses, both of which are already located in the Crossroads area, didn't fare as well.

Abatements intended for Amerimex Rig Movers Ltd., Amerimex Drilling Ltd. and

Plains Cotton Cooperative Association were nixed by the court, both by 3-1 votes from the commissioners. Motions in both cases were made by Commissioner Jerry Kilgore and seconded by County Judge Mark Barr. Voting against the measures were commissioners Gary Simer, Jimmie Long and Emma Brown. Barr did not vote in either abatement.

Long said he voted against the abatements because he felt these types of incentives should be used as incentive to bring new businesses to the Howard County area, not to simply reward local businesses that have upgraded their facilities or meet the minimum requirements to be eligible.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3



**Terry Wegman (standing), executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, discusses a pair of proposed tax abatements with Howard County commissioners during a meeting Monday morning.**

## Chili cook-off to benefit Children's Fund

**What:** Fraternal Order of the Eagles Chili Cook-off.  
**Where:** Eagles Lodge 3188, 703 W. Third.  
**When:** Jan. 9.  
**To Benefit:** West Texas Centers for MHMR Children's Fund.  
**Entry Fee:** \$10

By **VALERIE AVERY**  
Special to the Herald  
Cooks in the kitchen already may be planning their Christmas Day dinner — ham, red beans, cornbread — or a repeat of their Thanksgiving fare — turkey, dressing and a colorful fruit salad — but to those known as chiliheads, they are only thinking about one thing: Stirring up a famous pot of flaming hot chili for the Jan. 9 Fraternal Order of

Eagles Eighth Annual Chili Cook-off.  
“Oh, yeah, I have already hinted to my wife what I want this year for Christmas,” said Landon Sturdivant, a local chili lover. “I tend to drop hints quite often. If she doesn't come through, I already have some things picked out.”  
Sturdivant enjoys traveling to chili cook-off competitions in Texas. To him, the atmosphere and the camaraderie is more fun than trying to grab first place, but

his competitive streak often overtakes him when he sidles up beside another chili cook.  
“I like to win — there's no doubt about it,” Sturdivant said. “I go intending to have fun, but then when you get there, it's like, you try to do a really good job. Taking home that blue ribbon or first-place trophy is pretty cool.”  
His interest in chili cook-offs helped him meld two groups in  
See **COOK-OFF**, Page 3

**10 SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

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## Kinky leaves governor's race, seeks ag commissioner's post

By **APRIL CASTRO**  
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Musician and humorist Kinky Friedman said Monday he is dropping his bid to be Texas governor and will instead seek to become the state's agriculture commissioner.

Friedman, who ran for governor as an independent in 2006, says he decided to drop his gubernatorial bid after visiting with Democratic candidates Bill White and hair care magnate Farouk Shami over the weekend.

“The thought of going up against multimillionaires with only my trusty slingshot was a problem,” Friedman said.

Friedman will seek the agriculture post as a Democrat, and will face Hank Gilbert, who also recently abandoned a gubernatorial bid, in the primary.



AP photo  
**Kinky Friedmanj has left the governor's race for the ag commissioner's race.**

White's campaign said they would not be issuing an endorsement in that race. Shami's campaign has previously endorsed Gilbert and would not comment on Friedman's announcement.

Friedman says he's making the change “with a happy heart.”

“It really is about making our government work for the people of Texas,” he said. “Over the past year, even longer than that, I've

been talking to Jim Hightower about what ag commissioner can do really. It's really about what you bring to the job — you can be a corporate stooge, you can be a bureaucrat, or you can do things that haven't been done that need to be done.”

As agricultural commissioner, Friedman says he would promote the development of alternative fuels with farmers' cooperatives and would try to open more animal rescue facilities like the one he runs in Medina. Friedman said he'd also like to set up a statewide public defenders office to help indigent defendants in rural communities.

Gilbert released a statement criticizing Friedman's Democratic credentials.  
“Here we have a candidate who is running for office — any office


See **RACE**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

## Juan G. Martinez

Juan G. Martinez, 81, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, in a Stanton nursing home. A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Bernard Gully, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born July 26, 1928, in Sonora. Juan worked in maintenance for the city of Big Spring at the industrial park. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Melba Mathis of Big Spring; one brother, Jose Martinez of Big Spring; two sisters, Uren Loya of Big Spring and Edith Martinez of Fresno, Calif.; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Josephine Soto and Jorge Alonzo.

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

## Verline Kelley

Verline Kelley, 88, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Dr. Steven King, pastor of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 19, 1921, in Lawn to Mable and Clarence Allen. She lived most of her life in Snyder, moving to Big Spring 25 years ago. She was a homemaker and a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, Troy Koenig of Big Spring; one daughter, Carol Rains of Big Spring; two sisters, Mildred Garrett of Colorado City and Jane Adams of Abilene; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two infant sons, Avery and Tyrone Koenig; and two sisters, Wanda Watkins and JoAnn Nelson.

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

## H.L. Shipp

H.L. Shipp, 95, of Stanton, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Lamesa, officiating and Dr. Delton Chesser assisting. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

He was born Sept. 18, 1914, in Bullard and married Elnora Conner Nov. 29, 1937. She preceded him in death Sept. 9, 1948.

H.L. served in the Civil Conservation Camp in El Paso in 1933 and then in Lamesa from 1935 to 1936. He worked as an auto mechanic all of his life.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Stanton, a member of the Masonic Lodge for 65 years and served with the Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Bobby Noel and Linda Shipp of Dumas; one daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Conrad McKaskle of Stanton; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and four nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity. Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

## Charlie W. Dodson

Charlie W. Dodson, 87, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene with Cal Westerhof, a Baptist minister, officiating.

He was born Oct. 10, 1922, in Alpine. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II.

Survivors include three grandsons and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Georgia Mackey; and one grandson.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

## Ester Rodriguez (Edmondson) Daniels

Ester Rodriguez (Edmondson) Daniels, 30, of Ball, La., formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 10, 2009, in Ball, La.

She is survived by her husband, Jacob Daniels; three children, Heavenly Mendez and Michael Mendez Jr., both of Ball, La., and Ted Diaz III of Big Spring; father, Jimmy Stone Rodriguez; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gaskins; and paternal grandfather, Juan Rodriguez.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Robbie Gaskins; and paternal grandmother, Marie Rodriguez.

Services are pending.

## Murrel Loudamy

Murrel Loudamy, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Support groups

## TODAY

• 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 Hodnett 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.




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## Today's Weather

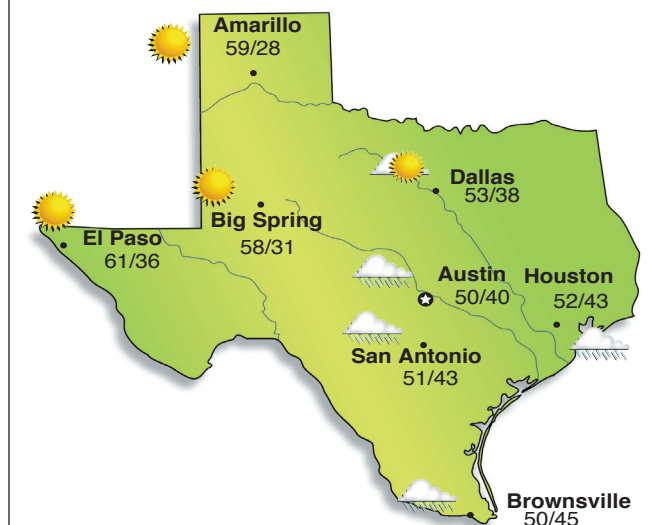
## Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 12/16	Thu 12/17	Fri 12/18
 <b>58/31</b> A mainly sunny sky. High 58F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.	 <b>63/31</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	 <b>57/32</b> Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM



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## Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	56	35	sunny	Kingsville	47	43	rain
Amarillo	59	28	sunny	Livingston	55	40	cloudy
Austin	50	40	rain	Longview	55	38	pt sunny
Beaumont	54	43	rain	Lubbock	61	28	sunny
Brownsville	50	45	rain	Lufkin	57	41	pt sunny
Brownwood	57	36	pt sunny	Midland	61	35	sunny
Corpus Christi	46	44	rain	Raymondville	48	43	rain
Corsicana	53	38	mst sunny	Rosenberg	52	44	rain
Dallas	53	38	mst sunny	San Antonio	51	43	rain
Del Rio	54	41	cloudy	San Marcos	52	40	rain
El Paso	61	36	sunny	Sulphur Springs	54	37	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	61	38	pt sunny	Sweetwater	58	35	sunny
Gainesville	52	32	sunny	Tyler	54	38	pt sunny
Greenville	52	34	mst sunny	Weatherford	53	33	mst sunny
Houston	52	43	rain	Wichita Falls	54	31	sunny

## Take note

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

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

## Lottery

These Texas lotteries were drawn Monday:  
Cash 5: 12-24-27-28-30  
Daily 4 Day: 6-1-5-9  
Daily 4 Night: 4-9-1-0  
Pick 3 Day: 6-3-2  
Pick 3 Night: 4-8-0  
Two Step: 02-03-26-27, Bonus: 11

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608 Holbert - \$40's

**COUNTY**

Continued from Page 1

"I know that anybody can apply for these types of tax abatements, as long as they meet the requirements," said Long. "However, I felt like it was in the taxpayers' interests to not approve these two abatements. One of them (the companies) has re-established and is upgrading and adding to their business."

"I've visited with some who are involved with that particular process and they said it wasn't necessary, and if the county and the city wanted to do that, it would be appreciated, but it wasn't necessary. Based on that information I took the stand that it was in the taxpayers' best interest to not approve it."

Terry Wegman, executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, said while the county has decided not to grant an abatement, the mat-

ter still has to be presented to the local college board.

"We still have to present this to the college (Howard College), but as far as the county is concerned they denied the tax abatements, which is their prerogative," said Wegman. "They chosen not to approve it, so these two companies will not receive an abatement from them over the next five years."

"This only affects the college and the county. The college is their own taxing entity, so they can either approve the abatements or not. The commissioners' decision today will only affect the taxes collected by Howard County. It doesn't effect any of the other taxing entities."

Wegman said the possibility of the county not approving the abatements is something both businesses were prepared for, and should have little or no negative impact on their decisions to stay in the Crossroads area.

"Both companies are

pretty well established here already, so I don't see anything negative coming from that standpoint," said Wegman. "It's an incentive we offer, but the offer doesn't really come from the Big Spring EDC. It's just something that's available and we apply for it. Sometimes you get it and sometimes you don't, and they (the businesses) understand that. They knew going into this it might not be approved."

Also during the meeting, Howard County Jail Administrator Mike Dawson asked the court to consider going out for bids for food services at the new jail facility.

"We've been approached by businesses that would be willing to bid on providing these services to the jail," said Dawson. "I believe this could put us in a position to make the cost competitive, which could benefit the county."

"Between May 1 and Nov. 30, we paid an average cost of \$1.56 per meal

at the jail, which is pretty much the average in the state. The lowest we found in Texas was Harris County, which pays 88 cents, and the highest was \$2.50. We simply don't have the purchasing power that entities such as the school district have. That could improve if we go out for bids on these types of services."

Commissioners gave the go-ahead for Dawson to go out for bids on food services at the jail.

The court also heard from Sheriff Stan Parker, discussing the video recording units in the county's law enforcement vehicles. The court gave the go-ahead for Parker to sign a three-year lease agreement with a new vendor for the cameras and a server to store the video images, as well as the purchase of four new vehicles.

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

**Fetus found in gift box, pair charged**

SAN JUAN, Texas (AP) — A south Texas couple put an aborted 7-month-old fetus in a gift box under a Christmas tree after they were unable to flush the remains down a toilet, authorities alleged Monday.

Ruby Lee Medina, 31, and Javier Gonzalez, 37, of Mission, are charged with abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. Bond was set Monday at \$20,000 each. A woman who answered the telephone at the San Juan city jail Monday night said she could not say whether Medina or Gonzalez had retained an attorney.

San Juan Police Chief Juan Gonzalez said police found the fetus inside the woman's trailer home Thursday after getting an anonymous

tip. Autopsy results are pending, but Gonzalez said police believe the woman used pills to induce an abortion Thursday, then called an ambulance after she began bleeding and told doctors she didn't know where the fetus was.

The police chief said the couple tried to flush the fetus down the toilet, but that didn't work.

"Apparently they cleaned up the fetus and they placed it inside a gift box under the Christmas tree," the police chief said.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
 24th & Johnson 267-8288  
 Verline Kelley, 88, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.  
 Robert Moses Lindsey, 72, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

**COOK-OFF**

Continued from Page 1

which he's heavily involved: West Texas Centers for MHMR, where he serves as deputy director of operations, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188, where he is a long-time member.

"We were having trouble finding a good way to fund the Children in Need fund several years ago and the Eagles were looking for a fund-raiser, so we thought this would be a good way to benefit both groups," Sturdivant explained. "It has really taken off and we get good attendance every year. But it's always fun to get

more people involved in the process. And we hope to draw in even more people this year.

"A lot of people have never been to a chili cook-off," Sturdivant added. "It's just a fun way to spend a day with friends and stay warm cooking around the fire, listening to good music and never going hungry. Anyone who has ever been to one has always had a blast."

The chili cook-off will be Jan. 9 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188, 703 W. Third St.

Cooking starts at 8 a.m. and judging begins just before lunch at 11:30 a.m. For those who want to taste chili, it will cost \$5 per person. Those entering the contest pay \$10. Cooking teams are

limited to two persons per team.

The Eagles raised \$10,000 last year for the Children in Need Fund. "Without their help, we certainly would not be able to help as many people as we could," said West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith.

The Children in Need Fund helps children with the little extras they need to be successful, whether it's to pay for a pair of cleats for participation on a soccer team or tuition for a summer camp. And helps meet other financial needs of special children who are receiving services from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

The Children in Need fund is used to assist

children served by West Texas Center's 23 counties who need material items that don't fit into a "one-fit catchall" that often is required by government organizations.

West Texas Centers for MHMR is the state-designated Mental Health Authority for 23

counties in rural West Texas. Mental Health and Mental Retardation services are provided to more than 2,000 consumers and their families each month.

For more information, call 263-0007, ext. 247.

**RACE**

Continued from Page 1

— solely because he wants to promote his books and personal appearances," Gilbert said. "Kinky is no Democrat. If he was, he never would have stayed in the 2006 race running as an independent and denied our party's nominee a real chance at the governor's office."

Friedman said he will not endorse a Democratic candidate in the governor's race. Friedman said only that he was impressed with White and thinks the two could work well together. Friedman is longtime friends with Shami.

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# EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Share the magic at Big Spring's Festival of Lights

There's absolutely no doubt the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park will once again be a major attraction for Big Spring during the Christmas season when the display opens tonight at 6.

Poinsettias, arranged around and reflected in the waters of the historic Big Spring and those lining the dam along U.S. 87 grab the eye, but they are just a few of the attractions at this year's new and improved Festival of Lights.

New and improved?

Absolutely. Workers always have something new and better than the year before when the Festival of Lights opens.

"We're changing things up some this year," said Pat Simmons of the festival committee. "Once you go past the last archway and make your way toward Cotton Mize Field, there will be a western theme diorama ... and we'll have a very unique gift shop, also."

This holiday season, as in recent years, numerous businesses, civic groups and individuals have again been invited to take part in decorating for the festival and they've come through with even more magnificent efforts than ever before.

The festival begins tonight and will continue through Dec. 31.

The Festival normally draws thousands of visitors from several states and countries and topped the 20,000 mark in attendance for the first time last year.

Visitors are always welcomed to return for another visit during the season.

Don't forget, admission is free, but donations from visitors are gratefully accepted — making it possible to not only maintain the displays, but expand them each year.

Be sure to take a few moments this holiday season, pack up the family or a few friends and take a tour through the park and enjoy the almost magical display volunteers have created.

We're convinced you'll be pleased with what you see and glad you took the time.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be compassionate, Lord, towards others and show them Your love.  
Amen

# Obama opting for more immigrants

Illegal immigration has slowed lately. Since the U.S. economy is no longer a bowl of cherries, why risk your derriere to come up here if there's no job waiting. And those risks are surely mounting. The infamous border security fence is gradually growing longer, and the tactics of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) are getting scarier.

But much of this equation seems about to change. Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano has just announced a White House plan to end the problem of 12 million "illegal" immigrants. She'll legalize them.

That may not help. Our economy is already 10 million jobs short. But why not add another 12 million legal workers to the official unemployment pool if one's real aim is to keep wages down. Of course all this won't happen overnight. It will all take time.

In the meantime, it's not hard to predict the economic fallout. We've been through this one before. Countless hearts will leap in impoverished breasts all across Latin America. Long-deferred plans to defect to El Norte

will be dusted off. The promise of citizenship puts the risks of sunstroke and snakebite into a whole new perspective. Let's go for it!

Thus as we gradually drain the huge bubble of undocumented workers at one end by making them citizens, we will refill that bubble on the other end by enticing millions of more to join us. Their economies back home are terribly dismal, made worse by colonialist U.S. trade policies. Better to risk possible poverty up here than to settle for certain poverty down there. And by attracting such entrepreneurial souls we will again beef up our own gene pool, just like the old days.

But the old days are gone. Back then there was plenty of work to go around. Now there's plenty of unemployment to go around. More immigrants will make matters even worse. Hence it's no shock that Napolitano is seeking out business leaders to garner support for her plan. They foresee a cornucopia of cheap labor. Their loyal spokesmen, Republican Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, add a striking display of bipartisanship to the president's anti-labor proposal. Democratic lawmakers, led by Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, are already on board. They favor humanitarian relief and eagerly support

their constituents in providing a vehicle for their cousins to join those that are already here. And by chance a lot of Democrats also have business contributors who like cheap labor as much as Republicans.

Nor will the current employers of undocumented workers be much hurt. The egregious ones, like Sholom Rubashkin of the Agriprocessors kosher slaughterhouse fame, will simply keep hiring from the new flood of replacements while their current employees, now freshly minted citizens, will graduate to the unemployment line.

To give Napolitano and company credit, they have been pushing their backs into toughening up our border and into a few high-profile enforcement cases.

But so far there's precious little money for humane detention centers, speedier investigations, or more judges. Also no hope for the softening of "free trade" rules, which are increasing unemployment and poverty throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Unfortunately, Mr. Obama's "cure" for immigration seems more likely to infect us with the disease of still greater disparity between rich and poor.

*Minuteman Media columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.*



WILLIAM A. COLLINS



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# Enviro-thugs go on offense

At a time when leftist enviro-tyrants ought to be hanging their heads in shame, they are, instead, taking the offensive. They are not only dismissing the staggering ClimateGate scandal as insignificant but also redoubling and accelerating their push to enslave the world with their progress-swallowing treaties, laws and regulations.

It's the same old leftist playbook: Approach every desired major policy change as a crisis, and demand immediate action. If the public begins to wise up to the distortions and exaggerations, elevate the threat warning from dire to urgent.

We saw it in our domestic politics in the United States when President Barack Obama's leftist Democrats manufactured a simulated crisis over health insurance, deliberately overstating by multiples the number of uninsured as a predicate to Obama's demand that a comprehensive bill had to be passed before Congress' August recess.

Shortly thereafter, it came to light that Democrats had also grossly manipulated the projected costs of their proposals and flagrantly lied about such issues as rationing and government-funded abortions. All the while, these "progressives" concealed from the public the underlying facts and data and their ultimate aims, obliterating Obama's pledge for greater transparency in government.

Like-minded global and American leftists know the jig is almost up on the fabricated global warming "consensus," as the public is catching on to their deception (reflected by fresh polling data) and the ClimateGate scandal has lifted the veil on the leftist scientific community's global conspiratorial corruption. They tell us to pay no attention to the ClimateGate behind the

curtain and to join with them in launching the reverse thrusters on modernity and progress in deference to the global warming hoax. Meanwhile, the Obama-leftist Environmental Protection Agency has hedged its bets (in the event Copenhagen is a bust) by declaring the air that we exhale an environmental hazard.

"The evidence is now overwhelming," said Rajendra Pachauri, the head of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, unfazed by the ClimateGate scandal and what it says about the integrity and methods of the alarmist scientists. Instead of being humbled by the scandal, Pachauri is attacking those who committed "illegal acts" in "stealing" e-mails documenting the climate fraud.

The alarmists tell us that the incriminating e-mails do nothing to discredit global warming science. Well, if that is true, why did these top-gun environmentalists believe it necessary to cheat and lie? If the science is so clear, why did they have to cherry-pick their data and rig the evidence? Why did they have to "hide the decline" of the "real temps"? Why did someone destroy the underlying temperature records that could either support or undermine their catastrophic conclusions?

Is this the way people of good faith behave? Because climate science, like other sciences, is an esoteric field of study, the public places its trust in the so-called experts in the field.

But now these experts have shown their true colors as political hacks.

Although these leftists are trying to tell us that the leaked e-mails are peripheral at best (the U.S. envoy to the Copenhagen summit cavalierly dismissed them as a "small blip"), the reality is that they expose the manipulation of key data on which the entire body of global warming is predicated. We're talking complete lies, built on distortions, founded on falsehoods, facilitated by cynically

dishonest methodologies.

As British columnist Christopher Booker says: "What has become arguably the most influential set of evidence used to support the case that the world faces unprecedented global warming, developed, copied and promoted hundreds of times, has now been as definitively kicked into touch as was (Michael) Mann's 'hockey stick' before it. Yet it is on a blind acceptance of this kind of evidence that 16,500 politicians, officials, scientists and environmental activists will be gathering in Copenhagen to discuss measures which ... would ... utterly (transform) the world economy."

Perhaps the culpability of many rank-and-file leftists should be understood in light of their mind-numbed credulity over the alarmists' claims and the Draconian solutions they offer to avert their mythical Armageddon. These leftist sheep seem engaged in a chimerical search for significance apart from God, whose existence their worldview rejects but for whom their hearts cry out in a self-muted cacophony.

But the leaders of the movement are not so innocent. Their sinister intent is to fundamentally restructure the global economy and its allocation of resources, with an eye, ultimately, to one-world government — or at least ceding control of major aspects of our lives to international bodies.

Am I sensationalizing? The Associated Press reports that Copenhagen envisions a deal to transfer hundreds of billions of dollars from rich to poor countries every year over decades to help them adapt to climate change. And read Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen's expectations for Copenhagen: "The deal that we invite leaders to sign up on will ... (affect) all aspects of society, just as the changing climate does."

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.*

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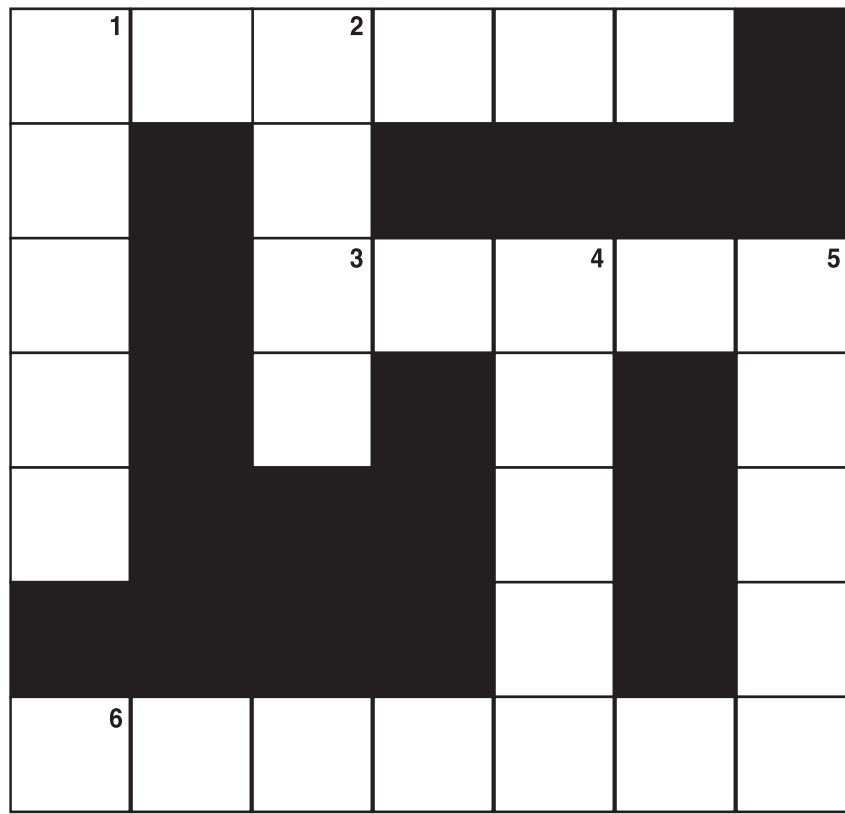
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**ACROSS**

- Santa's transportation
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- Day of celebration

**DOWN**

- Jolly guy
- Very long time
- Shape of Santa's belly
- Holiday plant



WHAT IS A DIFFERENT NAME FOR SANTA CLAUS?

ANSWER: ST. NICHOLAS.

Answers:  
ACROSS  
1. sleigh 3. North 6. holiday  
DOWN  
1. Santa 2. eons 4. round 5. holly



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*How they SAY that in...*

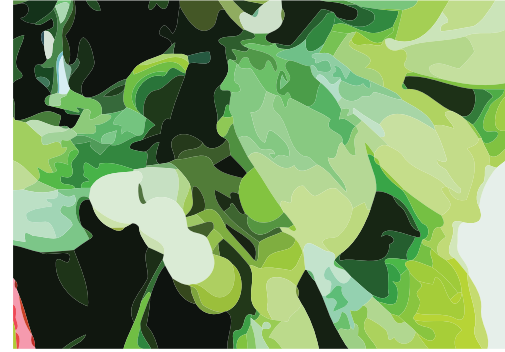
- ENGLISH:** Night
- SPANISH:** Noche
- ITALIAN:** Notte
- FRENCH:** Nuit
- GERMAN:** Nacht

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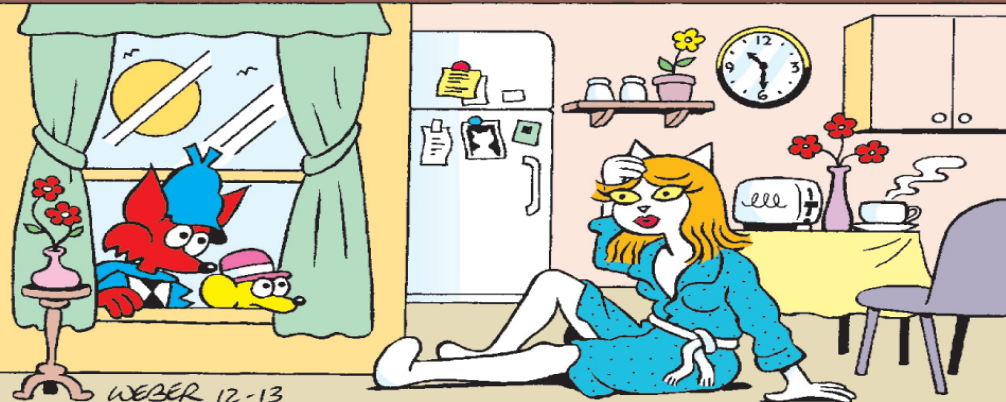


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

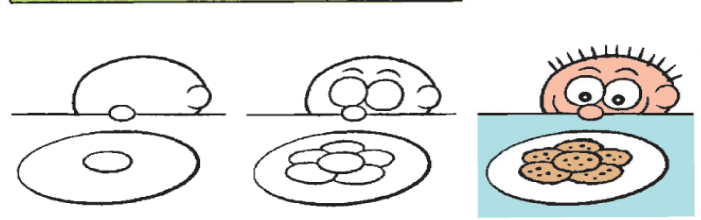
ANSWER: MISTLETOE

Cassandra Cat says that at 7:30 this morning, an intruder clunked her on the head and stole a very valuable diamond ring from her finger. She claims she has been unconscious until just moments ago. Why does Slylock Fox suspect Cassandra is lying and may be planning to file a false insurance claim?

Slylock noticed steam rising from a cup of coffee in the room. The clock reads 10:30. If Cassandra had been unconscious since 7:30, the coffee would be cold.



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## Bird Poop:

**Grounded kestrel  
gets rescued by  
oil field worker**

Standing above the dried grasses and scrubby, leafless mesquites, the metal sentinels were a constant reminder of man's presence in the lonely, open plains. As his truck slowly rolled over the ruts in a low spot, the worker did not see his winter companion.



BEBE  
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For whatever reason it usually hung around the vessels and separator. The man enjoyed watching it hunt. In early fall, its quickness of pursuit had been rewarded with the last of summer's grasshoppers. Several frosty mornings, however, had finally ended the cycle of insects.

Occasionally, the man had seen the little rascal rise up from among the weeds with a small mouse tightly gripped

in its talons. To the top of the nearest tank it flew with the day's prize. Somehow, the small, blue-gray and rusty flier persisted in calling this portion of the oilfield home.

Having started late on his rounds, the worker hurried through the mid-December day as he worked each unit. Suddenly, overtaken by a punishing cold front, withered stalks and remnants of grass joined frenzied dust-devils as he approached his favorite area.

Nothing, he thought, would be flying in the howling, pelting swirls of an angry norther. He'd have to wait a few days before seeing the bird again.

After checking gauges and his customary walk-around, the man welcomed the warmth of the pick-up's cab. Having completed his entries, he reached toward the car pocket for a forgotten candy bar. As he glanced through the windshield, he noticed



Just as a scissor-tailed flycatcher announces spring and summer, the American kestrel heralds the approach of fall and winter. Perched atop utility wires, the roadside hunter pumps its tail not only for balance but also seemingly in anticipation of nature's bounty.

a familiar color among the weeds near the base of a vessel.

"What's it doing there?" he wondered. Waiting for it to move, he was sur-

prised that it remained partially hidden and still. Sensing something was wrong, he decided to check on his friend.

With the noise of the wind and debris hitting

the tank, the huddled creature did not hear him approaching from the rear. Feeling that the bird would have found a safer place to weather the storm, the man thought it might be hurt.

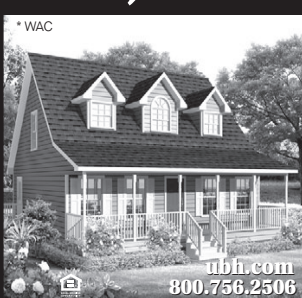
Removing his jacket, he took another few steps before quickly placing it over the bird. Startled by the sudden darkness and material pressing against its wings, it struggled violently as its talons fought the unknown captor.

Above the gusts of wind, the worker could hear the protests of a wild being. After placing his bundle in the passenger seat and securing the edges with his thermos and log-book, the man called us. "Must have blown into something. Don't know if the impact broke anything. It may just be addled."

When we slowly opened the jacket, an American kestrel stared back at us before

See **KESTREL**, Page 7

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# Study: Decade drop in teen pot use stalls

DETROIT (AP) — A decade-long decline in teens' use of pot has stalled and some teen attitudes on how harmful marijuana can be may be softening, according to a federal survey on teen drug use released Monday.

The findings were based on a survey of roughly 47,000 eighth, 10th and 12th-graders conducted by the University of Michigan.

The national debate over medical use of marijuana could be making the drugs

seem safer to teenagers, researchers said. In addition to marijuana, fewer teens also view prescription drugs and Ecstasy as dangerous, which often means more could use them in the future, said White House drug czar Gil Kerlikowske.

"These latest data confirm that we must redouble our efforts to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to preventing and treating drug use," Kerlikowske, the director

of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said in remarks prepared for his Monday speech at the National Press Club in Washington.

Marijuana use across the three grades showed a consistent downward trend starting in the late 1990s. But the decline has since stopped, and use rates for the three grades showed a slight uptick between 2007 and 2009, from about 12.9 percent to about 14.3 percent, lead researcher

Lloyd Johnston said Monday night.

In the 2009 survey, reported past-year marijuana use was 32.8 percent of 12th graders, 26.7 percent of 10th graders and 11.8 percent of eighth graders, generally not much changed from 2008.

Marijuana was at its recent peak in 1997, when 17.7 percent of eighth-grade students, 34.8 percent of 10th-grade students and 38.5 percent of 12th-grade reported using the drug at least once within a year of

being interviewed.

Students were asked how much people risk harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally or smoke marijuana regularly. Fewer eighth-grade students said that people who smoked pot put themselves at great risk than a year ago.

"When the perception of the danger goes down, in the following years you see an increase in use," said National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow.

## KESTREL

Continued from Page 6

screaming its displeasure. While it is the smallest of falcons known to frequent Texas, it is the most colorful.

With the top of its head a blue-gray topped by a russet cap, and its white cheeks accented with two vertical, black stripes, the raptor had distinctive blue gray wings with blackish primaries.

Its reddish back was barred with black. Ending in a broad black band tipped with white, its tail was the

same rusty hue.

Finding no broken bones, we did feel puffiness on the leading edge of one wing. As we examined the raptor, its mentor, for the first time, noticed the faint orange hue of the breast that blended into a soft buff-colored belly.

He was surprised to see the black spots that accented the area. Although the man would miss his avian companion, he realized its coloration had helped him realize its injured condition.

After four days of dining on mice and crickets, the kestrel accompanied us on a trip to South Plains in

Lubbock. Confirming the swelling but no fractures in the wing, manager Debbie Tennyson called two weeks later. In a mew in the barn, the falcon was exercising. After mastering the flight cage, it would be released.

To know that once again the kestrel would hunt near roadways, just as the ones we noticed driving back on U.S. Highway 87, was gratifying. Often on our trips we had seen the little falcons stop their forward flight to hover with rapidly beating wings. Then suddenly they would dive toward their intended prey.

Witnessing this called to mind an old bird book given to us by a

friend. Descriptions of the British heath and West Texas had a common thread. Extensive tracts of open, raw land invited insects and small mammals, and the birds that hunted them.

Over time, changes in word usage had left behind the word, "wind-hover," in reference to the flight characteristics of a kestrel. To our way of thinking, the smallest of falcons was carrying on an ageless tradition.

*Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

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# Wade Phillips still has confidence in 'Boys

Associated Press

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys have gone from the NFC East lead to chasing Philadelphia.

Their kicker has missed in five consecutive games, Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware is recovering from a strained neck sustained in a scary headfirst collision, and a trip to undefeated New Orleans comes next.

Yet despite consecutive losses to start December that have knocked out the Cowboys (8-5) out of first place and intensified concerns about another late-season slump, coach Wade Phillips insists he is still confident his team will do what it needs to do to make the playoffs.

"I think we can, I think we will. I don't wonder about that," Phillips said Monday. "I think of a lot of confidence in these guys. This is part of a long season. Coming down the stretch, we need to finish."

Before losing back-to-back games for the first time this season, at the New York Giants and then Sunday's 20-17 loss to San Diego, the Cowboys were alone atop the NFC East. Now they are a game behind Philadelphia (9-4), which beat the Giants (7-6) on

Sunday night to prevent a three-way tie for the division lead. The Cowboys have a one-game lead over New York for the final NFC wild-card spot.

"I know that we have a team that is capable of winning against any opponent," owner Jerry Jones said after the Chargers game, describing his mood as frustrated, not angry.

Dallas now has games at the Saints and Washington before the regular-season finale Jan. 3 at home against Philadelphia.

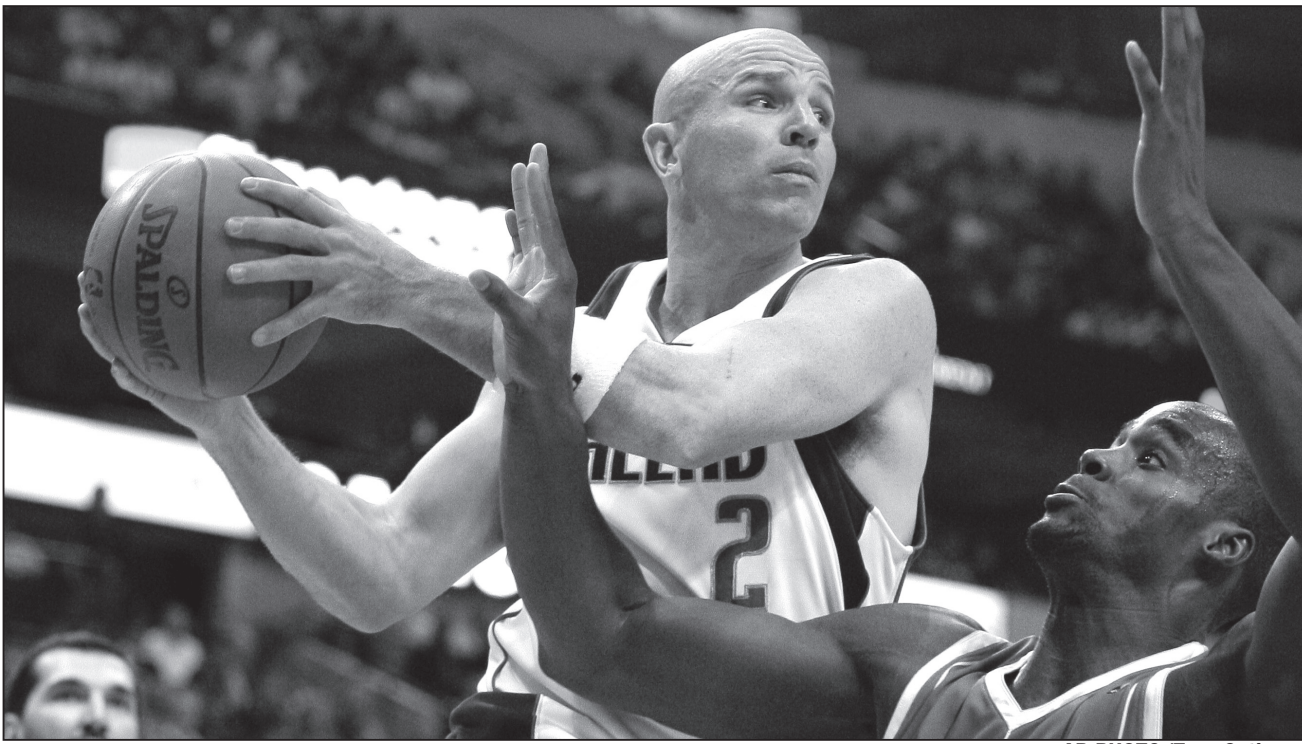
"We lost a game. We haven't lost a season. The only way you lose is to give up or quit," Phillips said. "I

don't think it's doom and gloom. It's opportunity, and that's what we have to go for."

The really good news Monday was the status of Ware, who a day after being strapped to a stretcher and taken off the field isn't being ruled out for Saturday night against the Saints.

Ware went to the hospital after getting hurt in the fourth quarter Sunday when he slammed headfirst into the upper leg of Chargers lineman Brandyn Dombrowski while

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13



AP PHOTO/Tony Gutierrez

The Mavs' Jason Kidd goes up against the Hornets' Emeka Okafor on Monday in Dallas. Kidd's 13 points and 13 assists helped lead the Mavs to a 94-90 win despite just 10 points from Dirk Nowitzki.

## Mavs win despite Dirk's off night

Associated Press

DALLAS — When Dirk Nowitzki is rolling, the Dallas Mavericks are tough to beat. They can be pretty good when he's not much of a factor, too.

J.J. Barea scored a season-high 23 points and Jason Kidd had 13 points and 13 assists to help offset a season-low 10 from Nowitzki, sending the Mavericks to a 94-90 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday night.

Thanks mostly to Barea, the Mavs jumped ahead by 21 points early in the second quarter. Nowitzki had a single basket in that stretch — then didn't score again until two free throws at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Hornets had tightened things up by then and kept the game close until the final min-

ute, when Nowitzki still managed a 20-footer, then a tough left-handed layup off an inbounds pass with 20.3 seconds left.

Dallas still needed two free throws from Jason Terry with 12.9 seconds left to seal its fourth straight victory and a second straight loss for New Orleans.

"Obviously we had a lot of attention on Dirk; you might say we paid too much attention to him," Hornets star Chris Paul said. "But we had a game plan and we had a chance to win at the end. We just didn't."

Paul guided New Orleans' rally, putting up 20 points, 16 assists and five steals. Darius Songaila tied a season high with 12 points and he played only the fourth quarter.

Although eight other Hornets

played longer than Songaila, none had more than 11 points.

Dallas let New Orleans back into the game by committing 23 turnovers, five more than its previous worst. Nine came in the second quarter, when New Orleans' bench took turned a potential rout into a tight game.

The Mavs hung in with a little bit from a lot of guys. In addition to Barea and Kidd, Josh Howard scored 14 points, Terry had 12 and Shawn Marion 10. Erick Dampier had eight points and eight rebounds.

The turnovers, however, explain why the Mavericks had to eke out a victory on a night when they shot 55 percent. All those giveaways resulted in 20 fewer shots than the Hornets.

See **MAVS**, Page 13

## Big 12 basketball off to strong start

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sitting in front of the TV last season, coaches around the Big 12 anxiously waited to see if the conference would sneak six teams into the NCAA tournament. You know, the perception that the Big 12 is a football conference.

That could finally change this season.

Led by Kansas and Texas at the top of the polls, the Big 12 has three of the nation's 11 unbeaten teams, including surprising Texas Tech. The conference has five ranked teams, a winning percentage of 82 percent and is 5-1 against Top 25 teams.

If the preseason is any indication, the Big 12 is bigger and badder than ever.

"We've always had one of the top two leagues in the country every year and sometimes we get overlooked," Texas Tech coach Pat Knight said Monday. "We shouldn't be sitting there on Selection Sunday worried if we're going to get six teams in. We should always get six teams in and maybe a seventh ... I think hands down you can really argue this is the best league in the country."

It starts with Kansas.

The Jayhawks (9-0) have made it look easy so far, a near-unanimous choice at No. 1 most of

the season.

Freshman Xavier Henry has lived up to his phenom billing, pre-season All-American Sherron Collins and Cole Aldrich have been predictably steady, and the deep bench has rotated in like hockey players pouring over the boards.

And, hard as it is to believe, Kansas could get better this week.

Guard Brady Morningstar, the team's best perimeter defender, returns this week after being suspended for the fall semester for a DUI charge. Athletic 7-foot center Jeff Withey also joins the team after waiting out his transfer from Arizona, though he has a nagging knee injury.

"I'm probably not happy, but I'm not displeased," Kansas coach Bill Self said of his team's early progress. "I still think there's a big step for us to take and Brady can help us take a step."

The only team that might be able to match Kansas' depth is Texas.

Even as coach Rick Barnes tries to set his rotation, the Longhorns (8-0) have won their first eight games by 15 points or more for the first time in school history. Seniors Damion James and Dexter Pittman are perhaps the best frontcourt duo in the country, speedy freshman point guard Avery Bradley has

See **BIG 12**, Page 13

## San Francisco takes advantage of sloppy Cardinals in 24-9 win

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — After watching his defense knock the ball out, take the ball away and thoroughly dominate the NFC West-leading Arizona Cardinals, San Francisco coach Mike Singletary summed up his feelings rather succinctly.

"I would just say, 'Wow!'" Singletary said. "That's all that I could say. They just kept coming up with plays. It's great when you see that because our defense is a defense that's capable of being a great defense."

The 49ers showed that Monday night by forcing Kurt Warner and the Cardinals into seven turnovers

on the way to a 24-9 victory that kept their slim playoff hopes alive.

Alex Smith threw touchdown passes after two of Arizona's miscues and Frank Gore ran for 167 yards and another score as the 49ers (6-7) denied Arizona (8-5) a chance to clinch the division.

The Cardinals can still clinch the NFC West with two wins in its final three games, which includes matchups with a pair of last-place teams in Detroit and St. Louis. But the 49ers are happy that any clinching celebration won't happen on their home field.

"It's all we can ask for at this point to just continue to be in the hunt,"

Smith said. "I don't know what the math is. It doesn't matter at this point. We have to win."

The 49ers put together perhaps their most complete game of the season in completing a season sweep against the defending NFC champions. Gore had his most productive game since gaining 207 yards in Week 2 against Seattle, Smith made sure the Niners capitalized on Arizona's mistakes, and the defense was flat-out dominating.

San Francisco held the high-powered Cardinals to season-lows in points and yards (245), while recov-

See **49ERS**, Page 13



AP Photo/Paul Sakuma

San Francisco tight end Vernon Davis celebrates with teammates after scoring a touchdown Monday.

## Sports in brief

### Steers, Lady Steers at home against Snyder tonight

The Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers will be at home tonight as they take on Snyder.

The Lady Steers were beaten handily by Snyder earlier this season, but they have won four of their last five games. This is the first matchup between the two boys teams.

The girls will tipoff at 6:30, followed by the boys at 8 p.m. at Steer Gym.

The Lady Steers are 6-8 on the season. The boys are 7-4.

### Area Scoreboard

Check tomorrow's Herald for results:

Forsan at Garden City, 6:30/8 p.m.

Post at Coahoma (boys only), 6:30 p.m.

Grady at Wink, 6:30/8 p.m.

Southland at Sands, 6:30/8 p.m.

Borden County at Stanton, 6/7:30 p.m.

### Big Spring softball meeting scheduled

The Big Spring softball club will hold a meeting Wednesday for all parents of Lady Steer softball players.

The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents are encouraged to attend to help plan the softball tournament Big Spring will be hosting in March.

For more information, call Leslie Whitten at 816-6754 or coach Sparks at 270-2711.





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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

The future and what it holds is a question riding on the darkness of the waning moon. There is much room for speculation. Your answers will tell the story of where you are emotionally. Maintain a harmonious and pleasing tone. Invite happiness in. On the eve of the new moon in Sagittarius, optimism will prevail if you'll only let it win.



HOLIDAY  
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**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). There's nothing better than a strong challenge to snap you out of the boredom that had been threatening your world. You'll get a new rush of strength and vitality, spun from the considerable task that lies before you.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Boisterous people sometimes annoy you, but today your quiet wit will win out over even the loudest loudmouth. Without

being mean or hasty, you get right to the point with perfect timing. You are the hero of the day.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You are good at hiding your emotions, but today you will have an opportunity to open up to someone. If you don't take it, the universe will keep sending you opportunities. Eventually you will, because you need to.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Maintaining high standards over time is exceptionally difficult, but you make it look easy. Your good habits make the most of your given talents, so it's only natural that you would consistently produce high-caliber work.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You may have a strong desire to do something that your friends think is unwise. Taking a step back, this is an opportunity to hone your intuition. If you feel you really should, then you must.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You should go out tonight because you are looking fine! It's like the universe has wrapped you up with a bow and

is looking for someone to introduce you to. Everything about you is perfect right now.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are hardwired a certain way. Struggling against your nature is one approach to self-improvement, but it's far easier to simply accept the way you are, find the positive aspects of those tendencies and then build from there.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't feel compelled to advertise your every change of mood, as some do. You'll witness an embarrassing case of oversharing and remember why you like being quiet.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your ambitions are lofty. That doesn't mean they are unreachable, though. And anyone who tells you you're not likely to make your goal is thinking too small. Stick with the winning types who think big.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do whatever it takes to get in a better mood, even if it's not on your schedule as written. When you're sending out good vibes, the

whole world will respond to make your way easy.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the right words on the tip of your tongue, but is this the perfect time to express them? Wait until you know for sure that it is. You need the undivided attention of your audience.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You woke up this morning feeling extraordinarily self-confident. Take advantage of this by doing something that requires a special boldness. Success is imminent.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Dec. 15). Your courage breeds success. The uncertainty keeps things interesting. Your versatility will be highlighted over the next 10 weeks, and you'll perform in ways you didn't know you could. January gives you something to be proud of. February brings a romantic pledge. Finances improve in March. Virgo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 14, 29 and 16.  
**TAURUS FORECAST**

2010: The year is marked by your increased mobility. You're able to go places you couldn't before. It's as though you discover a key in your pocket that opens all the doors that were previously closed to you. February is particularly eventful, as you'll be surrounded by new friends and influences. Stay grounded in who you are and where you come from and you'll be a breath of fresh air to all you meet.

**Highlights:**  
**Money and Career:** You'll capture interest with the way you present things. You'll be a leader in sales and other measures of performance in January and April. There's a shift in the hierarchy in August. Many Taurus natives find new work in April.

**Love:** Your social life gets an energy boost, and you'll enjoy the increased attention and excitement. However, you will need to be careful that your activities don't infringe upon your ability to handle your responsibilities. A relationship advances to the next level in March.  
**Personal**

Development: Take formal lessons to develop your talent. You'll learn best by the books.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Adam Brody created a compelling screen persona as Seth Cohen on the television series "The O.C." This multitasking Sagittarius channels his artistic energy into many different forms. He's also a musician, songwriter, screenwriter and comic book creator. His sun, communicative Mercury and Neptune, the planet of inspiration and dreams, are all in broad-minded, sophisticated Sagittarius.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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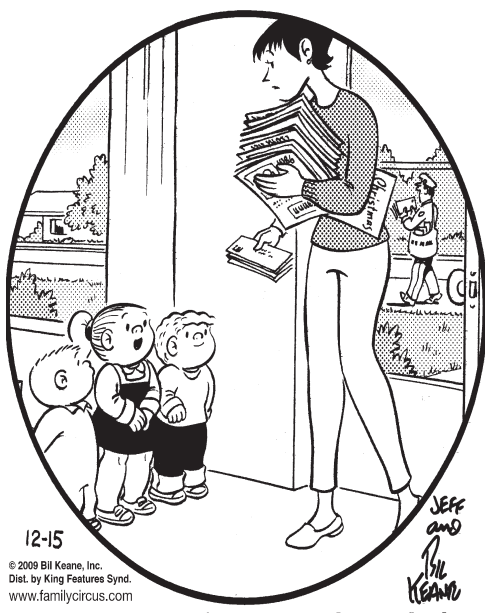
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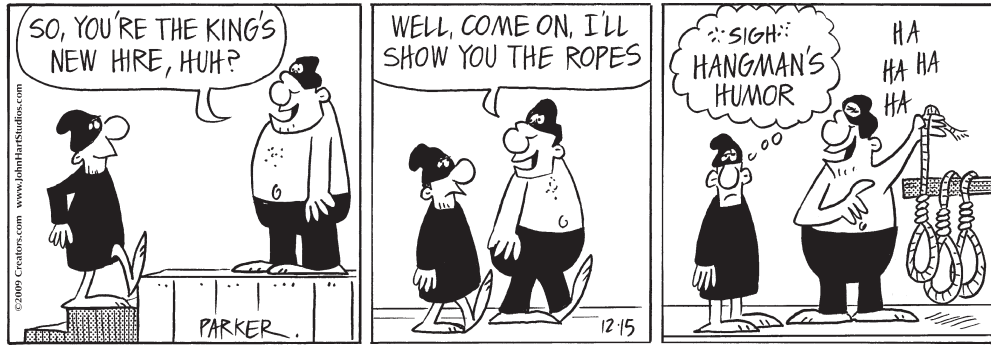
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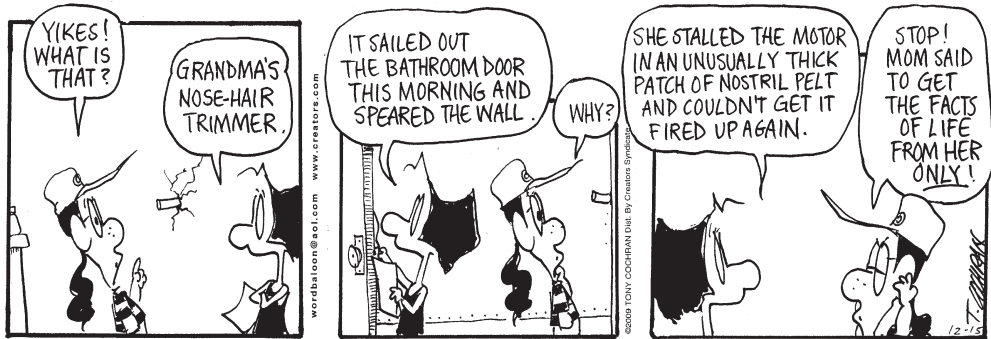
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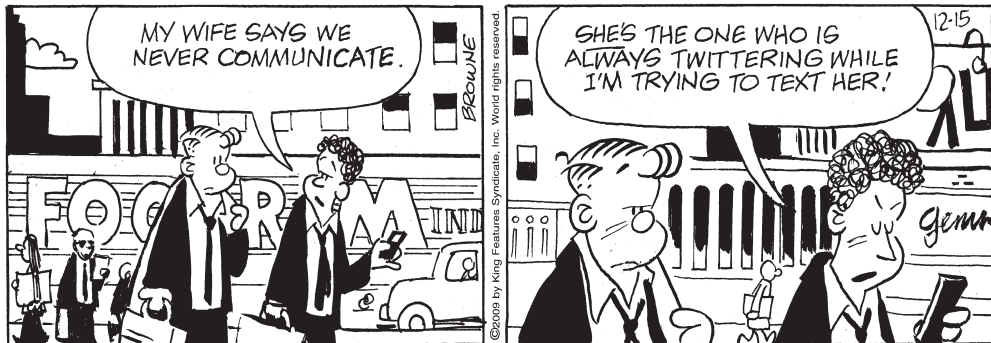
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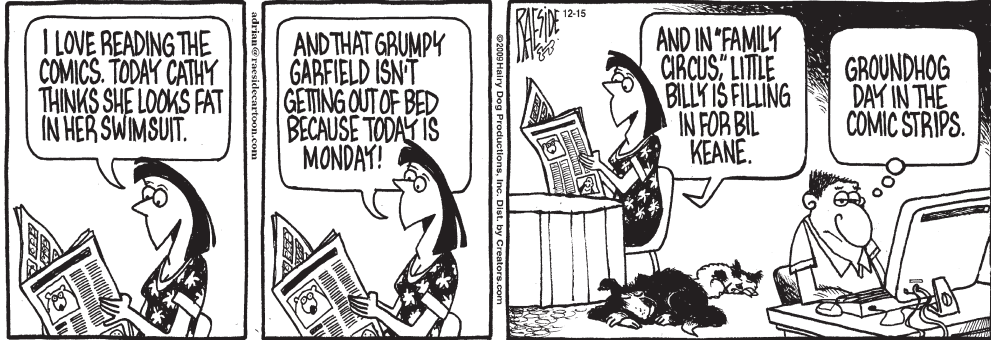
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2009. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

On this date: In 1890, Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1893, Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, "From the New World," was rehearsed before the public at New York's Carnegie Hall (the official world premiere was held the next day).

In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson Memorial took place in Washington, D.C., with President Franklin D. Roosevelt taking part.

In 1939, the motion picture "Gone With the Wind" had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller, a major in the U.S. Army Air Forces, disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris. American forces invaded Mindoro Island in the Philippines.

In 1948, former State Department official Alger Hiss was indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on charges of perjury. (He was convicted in 1950.)

In 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court.

In 1964, Canada's House of Commons approved dropping the "Red Ensign" flag in favor of a new design.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6A and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

In 1979, the deposed Shah of Iran left the United States for Panama, the same day the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, issued a provisional order for Iran to release all its American hostages.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Tim Conway is 76. Singer Cindy Birdsong (The

Supremes) is 70. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 67. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 63. Actor Don Johnson is 60. Actress Melanie Chartoff is 59. Movie director Julie Taymor is 57. Movie director Alex Cox is 55. Actor Justin Ross is 55. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 54. Political strategist Donna Brazile is 50. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 49. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 48. Actress Helen Slater is 46. Actress Molly Price is 44. Actor Michael Shanks is 39. Actor Stuart Townsend is 37. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 36.

Answer to previous puzzle

Grid of crossword puzzle answers.

Newsday Crossword

LET'S BE HONEST by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Film legend Greta, 6 Far from shore, 10 Tools with teeth, 14 Atlantic or Pacific, 15 Large tubs, 16 Resign, 17 New York city, 18 Historic periods, 19 Reverse, as a decision, 20 One of four in a rectangle, 22 Business envelope abbr., 23 Annoying noise, 24 Rim, 25 Like wetlands, 27 Green gemstone, 28 Up to the job, 29 Happen again, 32 Quandaries, 36 Police dept. alerts, 37 Impolite look, 39 British nobleman, 40 Hurried, 42 Hamburger serving, 43 Religious image, 44 Prison room, 46 "Some other time", 49 Ballerina's skirt, 50 Distress signal, 53 Oil cartel initials, 54 Substantial bit, 57 See 55 Down, 58 "Woe is me", 59 Wonderland girl, 60 Equips for combat, 61 Folk wisdom, 62 Hop out of bed, 63 Manuscript encl., 64 Starring role, 65 Double curves, DOWN: 1 Squash or pumpkin, 2 Intermission follower, 3 Rule the kingdom, 4 Composer Johann Sebastian, 5 Rampaging, 6 Get even for, 7 Nickname for an NCO, 8 And others: Abbr., 9 Gather together, 10 Nourishing repast, 11 Mom's sisters, 12 Side-to-side measurement, 13 Covered with rocks, 21 Toss in, 26 Pub pint, 27 To be safe, 28 Balloon filler, 29 Stadium shout, 30 Pollution watchdog grp., 31 60 Minutes network, 32 Mom's mate, 33 Small rug, 34 Gallery display, 35 Sneaky, 37 Winter weather measure, 38 Hamilton's bill, 41 Earth-friendly prefix, 42 Bird's feathers, 44 Placed a hex on, 45 Plane landing stat., 46 Bright stars, 47 Soprano's gig, 48 School semesters, 49 Princess' crown, 50 Diamonds and spades, 51 At just the right time, 52 Dance moves, 55 With 57 Across, lotion ingredient, 56 Bullfight shouts

Grid for the Newsday Crossword puzzle.

**MAVS**

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"We gave it away a lot tonight," said Kidd, who had only three turnovers. "That kept them in the ballgame."

Nowitzki came in fifth in the NBA at 27.3 points per game and was averaging 31.5 over his last four. But David West and the Hornets seem to have him figured out; Nowitzki's previous low of 12 points came in an overtime loss to New Orleans in early November.

"They're just running at me aggressive," said Nowitzki, who was 4 of 11. "Every time I faced (the basket), I was looking at two, three guys on my side. Sometimes I spun and then another

guy or two guys were there. So I just passed the ball and let other guys make plays."

New Orleans was coming off a home loss to the New York Knicks in which they blew a lead by giving up an 18-0, game-ending run. Despite some extra work on defense during their morning shootaround, they barely protected the lane in the first 14 minutes, giving up runs of 10-0 and 11-0 to fall behind 39-18.

The Hornets essentially dared Barea to beat them, so he did. He scored 19 in 16 first-half minutes.

"I don't think we gave Barea enough respect in terms of his ability to impact the game," West said. "He was getting layup after layup and we didn't have an answer."

**49ERS**

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ing five fumbles and intercepting two passes. Warner had thrown 130 straight passes without an interception before running into Dashon Goldson and the Niners.

"All week we harped on getting turnovers and being physical with this team," said Goldson, who intercepted a pass and forced two fumbles. "When people are physical with this team they do a lot of damage and we did a lot tonight."

The Cardinals came into this game on a high, having won four of five games, including a 30-17 victory over Minnesota

last week that started talk that this year's team may be better than the one that went to the Super Bowl last season. Then came their worst performance of the season.

"Unfortunately we've had a few of these around here," Warner said. "That's the most disappointing part. You keep hoping we're over these games where we're on a big high, we played great and kind of set the tone for ourselves and then come back and play a game like we did tonight."

Warner followed the best four-game stretch of his career with a dud — going 16 of 29 for 178 yards and failing to throw a TD pass for the first time all year.

**COWBOYS**

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ing quarterback Philip Rivers. The Cowboys described his injury Monday as a strained muscle in his neck.

Phillips said Ware had "really bounced back strong. That's encouraging for him and us." The coach said the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker is day to day.

As for struggling kicker Nick Folk, Phillips

would only say the team is looking at all options.

Folk has made only 3 of 9 field goals the past five games. His nine misses this year are two more than he had combined his first two seasons, and Folk was a Pro Bowl pick as a rookie.

With a short week of preparation before playing the Saints, the players were off Monday and unavailable for comment. They return to practice Tuesday.

Even with a change

in holders, with quarterback Tony Romo taking over for punter Mat McBriar on Sunday, Folk missed a 42-yard attempt just before halftime. He made a 31-yarder on the Cowboys' opening possession.

"I don't believe we've got a holder problem," Jones said. "The bottom line is we need to make our field goals."

If the Cowboys decide to make a kicking change, one possibility is rookie kickoff specialist David

Buehler. They could also look outside, though Phillips acknowledged that could be difficult at this time of the season.

"Most of them that are out there have probably done worse, and certainly haven't done as well as (Folk) has in a lot of the situations here," Phillips said. "So that's why you want him to get back somehow. And how to do that, we haven't solved that yet, but we're going to keep working on it."

**BIG 12**

Continued from Page 8

been like trying to catch a sneeze and fellow freshman J'Covan Brown quietly averaged double figures before injuring his ankle over the weekend.

Texas, too, is getting reinforcements this week; Jai Lucas, a transfer from Florida, is eligible to play Saturday

against No. 10 North Carolina.

Even now, with a couple of recent injuries, Barnes still finds himself trying to find enough minutes for everyone — a dilemma most coaches only dream of.

"They know they've got a job to do and if they don't do it, they're not going to get the minutes," Barnes said. "They're going to do

what we want done or they're not going to play."

It drops off after the Jayhawks and Longhorns, but not much.

Texas Tech has been the surprise of the early season, opening 9-0 for the first time in 80 years. In the polls for the first time since the end of 2004-05, the Red Raiders won a nationally televised game over then-

No. 12 Washington two weeks ago and moved up to No. 16 in the polls this week after beating TCU.

Texas A&M (8-2), despite losing to New Mexico on Saturday, remained in the polls at No. 23. Oklahoma State (8-1) beat Utah and is off to its best start since 2006-07. Oklahoma (7-3) overcame a three-game losing streak to win four straight.



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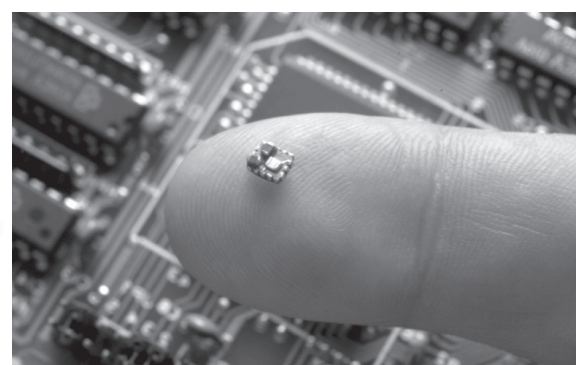


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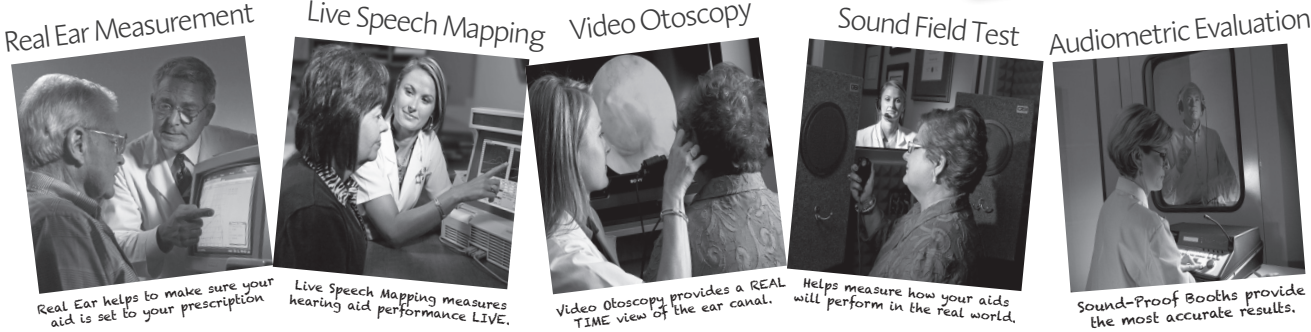
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