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Cowboys blank Redskins, earn playoff berth
 Page 6

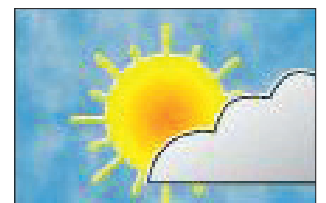


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MONDAY

DECEMBER 28, 2009



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 18

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Top US official concedes security system failed



AP photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

Holiday travelers wait in a long line at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Sunday in Romulus, Mich. The U.S. government tightened airline security as it searches for answers to how a 23-year-old Nigerian man eluded extensive systems intended to prevent attacks like his botched Christmas Day effort to blow up a Northwest flight from overseas.

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano conceded Monday that the aviation security system failed when a young man on a watchlist with a U.S. visa in his pocket and a powerful explosive hidden on his body was allowed to board a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit.

The Obama administration has ordered investigations into the two areas of aviation security — how travelers are placed on watch lists and how passengers are screened — as critics questioned how the 23-year-old Nigerian man charged in the airliner attack was allowed to board the Dec. 25 flight.

A day after saying the system worked, Napolitano backtracked, saying her words had been taken out of context.

“Our system did not work in this instance,” she said on NBC television’s “Today” show. “No one is happy or satisfied with that. An

extensive review is under way.”

The White House press office, traveling with President Barack Obama in Hawaii, said early Monday that the president would make a statement. White House spokesman Bill Burton did not elaborate.

Billions of dollars have been spent on aviation security since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when commercial airliners were hijacked and used as weapons. Much of that money has gone toward training and equipment that some security experts say could have detected the explosive device that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab is accused of hiding on his body on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit.

Abdulmutallab has been charged in federal court with trying to detonate the device as the plane approached Detroit. The device burst into flames instead, according to authorities, and he was subdued by passengers. The plane landed safely.

See **ATTACK**, Page 3

CASA has real need for more volunteers

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

If you’re looking for a unique New Year’s resolution, how about resolving to help abused children?

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of West Texas is in need of volunteers for the coming year, officials said.

The mission of CASA is to promote and support quality volunteers who are trained to speak for the best interest of abused or neglected children in court, as well as find those children a safe, nurturing and permanent home.

Special advocates are appointed by judges to serve the best interest of the child. In doing so, officials said, the job of CASA is to become acquainted with every aspect of the child’s life, including talking to parents, teachers, physicians and counselors to determine the best long-term placement for the child.

Currently, the organization has more

See **CASA**, Page 3

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CONTINUING



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Christmas may be over, but the Festival of Lights continues to light up the holidays at Comanche Trail Park. The 13th annual exhibit continues at 6 p.m. nightly through Thursday. Admission is free, although donations, which help fund future events, are appreciated.

Shoppers spend a little more this season

ANNE D’INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — Holiday shoppers spent a little more this season, according to data released Monday, giving merchants some reason for cheer.

The spending bounce means retailers managed to avoid a repeat of last year’s disaster even amid tight credit and double-digit unemployment. Profits should be healthier, too, be-

cause stores had a year to plan their inventories to match consumer demand and never needed to resort to fire-sale clearances.

Retail sales rose 3.6 percent from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, compared with a 2.3 percent drop in the year-ago period, according to figures from MasterCard Advisors’ SpendingPulse, which track all forms of payment, including cash.

Adjusting for an extra shopping day between Thanksgiving and

Christmas, the number was closer to a 1 percent gain.

Last year, the economy was in “critical condition,” said Michael McNamara, vice president at MasterCard Advisors’ SpendingPulse. “This year, it’s in stable condition.”

A major winter storm that slammed the Northeast and shut in shoppers on the Saturday before Christmas derailed sales. But consumers

See **SHOPPERS**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Elizabeth (Betty) Josephine McClellan

Elizabeth (Betty) Josephine McClellan, 82, of Kerrville died Christmas morning, Friday, Dec. 25, 2009, in a local care facility.



She was born March 8, 1927, to Robert F. And Violeta Tanner Mahood in Stamford. She married Alton F. McClellan Jr. Oct. 8, 1945, in Stamford.

She attended Texas Tech University, the University of Texas and received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Houston in 1974.

She grew up in Stamford and lived there until 1963 when she and her husband moved to Austin. As a young woman in Stamford, she was a stringer for the Abilene Reporter News, Fort Worth Star Telegram and Dallas Morning News.

The family moved to Houston in 1969, where she worked for the Houston Public Library. In addition to family, Betty embraced her faith and fervently focused on prayer, missions and the library. After retiring to Kerrville in 1976, she and her husband were active members of Trinity Baptist Church. She faithfully designed the display windows for the church library for more than 30 years.

Throughout her life, she led and participated in youth and adult groups through the church and through secular interests such as Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts. She loved learning and had a lifelong desire to make sure others had the opportunity to read.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, "Mac," in February 1996, and her parents.

Survivors include a daughter, Susan Parker and husband, Don, of Kerrville; sons, Bob McClellan and wife, Aiko, of Houston, and Bill McClellan and wife, Dixie, of Big Spring; grandchildren Cole Henderson and wife, Tracy, of Austin, Craig Henderson and wife, Toni, of Austin, Jeanette Hill of Spring, David Miller and wife, Tammy, of Mexia, and Corey Miller and wife, Mary Jane, of Bayview; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert H. Mahood and wife, Sue, of Odessa; a sister, Margaret Wendeborn and husband, Wendy, of Sageton; a sister-in-law, Martha Shannon of Butte, Mont.; her faithful dog Peanut; and many relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at the Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville with the Rev. Dr. Bill Blackburn officiating. Interment to follow at Garden of Memories Cemetery.

Charitable contributions should be made to Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water, Kerrville 78028, or to Partners in Ministry, 301 Junction Highway, Kerrville 78028.

The family invites you to send condolences at www.grimesfuneralchapels.com by selecting the "Send Condolences" link.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Paid obituary

Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

3-18-31-40-42-49

Estimated jackpot: \$26 million

Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:

13-18-19-26-36

Next Cash Five drawing: Tonight.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

6-2-0-5. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

9-9-5. Sum It Up: 23.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order:

3-5-0-5. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order:

5-0-2. Sum It Up: 7.

Helen (Granny) Caudill

Helen (Granny) Caudill died Friday, Dec. 25, 2009, at a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel with Gary Phillips and Mike Moates officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, 2009.

Helen was born July 19, 1922, in Tye. She married Elvis Caudill April 8, 1944, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Nov. 26, 1979.

Helen graduated from Big Spring High School in 1940. She worked at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as a PBX operator and Hemphill-Wells Department Store as a bookkeeper. She also had worked as a church secretary at Westside Baptist Church and in food service at Kentwood Elementary School. She was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

She is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Claudia and Don Stabeno of Big Spring; one son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Kathy Caudill of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Lisa Mack and husband, Joe, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., Tresa Hull and husband, Danny, of Lubbock, and Clint Caudill and wife, Cassie, and Josh Caudill and wife, Alexis, all of Big Spring; and 13 great-grandchildren, Eden, Taylor, Kadon, Karlee, Kenzli, Aaliyah, Morgan, Colin, Devin, Maizy, Megan, Hunter and Ethan.

She was also preceded in death by her mother, Hazel Griffith, and one sister, Beulah Saunders.

The family suggests memorials be made to Make A Wish Foundation, 4413 82nd Street, Suite 203, Lubbock 79424.

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

Paid obituary

Maria (Trini) Cochran

Maria (Trini) Cochran, 87, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009, in a local nursing home. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec.



29, 2009, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Msgr. Bernard Gully, with Holy Trinity Catholic Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 19, 1922, in Marfa.

She came to Big Spring as a small child with her parents, Juan and Luz Subia. Trini grew up in Big Spring and married Robert DeLeon Nov. 17, 1941, and he preceded her in death Dec. 13, 1970. She then married Ennis Cochran in 1972 and he preceded her in death Oct. 30, 2000. She had worked for Malone-Hogan Hospital as a cook for a number of years and then later moved to Midland and worked as a cook for the Midland Independent School District. Mrs. Cochran lived in Midland for 30 years until returning to Big Spring after Mr. Cochran's death. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Yolanda Escanuela and husband, Alex, and Margie Rios and husband, Chon, all of Big Spring; one son, Robert DeLeon Jr. and wife, Christina, of Big Spring; five sisters, Olivia Porras, Helen Martinez and Concha DeLeon, all of Big Spring, Anselma Mata of Fort Worth and Cruz Barrera of Lubbock; four brothers, Johnny Subia of Big Spring, Sixto "Sam" Subia and Raymond Subia, both of Austin, and Lalo Subia of California; 10 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Geneva Castillo, in 1995.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

Patricia (Patti) Abrams

Patricia (Patti) Abrams passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009, in Dallas.

She was born Nov. 26, 1932, in Shreveport, La., to O.D. and Thelma Young. She graduated from Big Spring High School and attended Howard College. Patti graduated from Texas Women's University with a Bachelor of Education, Specialty in Remedial Reading. She then went on to receive a Master of Education, graduating magna cum laude in 1981. She served for 14 years as a volunteer Docent Tour Coordinator at the Algor H. Meadows Museum of Spanish Art. She was a member of the DAR and Daughters of the Mayflower.

Patti loved to travel with her husband and they visited many countries around the world. Her family remembers her love of poetry which she would recite by memory to her grandchildren. She was a precious mother, wife, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved her family and never forgot anyone's birthday. We will miss her.

Patti is survived by her husband, Dr. Raymond Abrams of Dallas; three daughters, Debbie Rutherford and husband, Johnny, of Albuquerque, N.M., Charla Lewis and husband, Charlie, of Big Spring, and Renee Wash and husband, Steve King, of Kerrville; six grandchildren, Dr. Will Rutherford of Houston, Laura Denbar and husband, Hal, of Austin, Cpl. Dustin Lewis, USMC, of Big Spring, Hayley Lewis of Big Spring, Blake King of Kerrville and Collyn King of Kerrville; one great-grandchild, Ella Ann Denbar of Austin; one brother, David Young and wife, Jean, of Burleson; two nieces, Jeanene Russell and husband, Rex, and Janet Yarborough and husband, Mike; two step-sons, Jaron Abrams and wife, Karen, and Loryn Abrams and wife, Shelly; two step-grandsons; and three great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant son, Charles David Wash.

A private family service was held Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009. The family requests memorial donations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Lone Star Chapter, P.O. Box 816148, Dallas 75381.

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

Paid obituary

Evangelina (Helen) Arismendez

Evangelina (Helen) Arismendez, 73, of Ackerly died Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Rudi Crasta and the Rev. Joseph Kurumbel officiating. Burial will follow at the Ackerly Cemetery under the direction of Gonzales Funeral Home of Lamesa. A rosary is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at Gonzales Funeral Home.

Mrs. Arismendez was born Sept. 10, 1936, in Sinton. She married Paul Arismendez Aug. 20, 1960, in Lamesa. She was a lifelong member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lucio and Concepcion Lopez, and two brothers, Eugenio Lopez and Efraim Lopez.

Survivors include her husband, Paul Arismendez of Ackerly; a daughter, Elva Rodriguez and husband, Victor Jr., of Big Spring; a son, Ricardo Arismendez and wife, Linda, of Lamesa; a sister, Lydia Arismendez of Ackerly; a brother, Manuel Lopez of Sparenburg; and four grandchildren.

Ascencion 'Chonita' Morales

Ascencion "Chonita" Morales, 78, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lillian Pijanowski

Lillian Pijanowski, 90, of New Haven, Conn., died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009, in Connecticut. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Don't forget the Howard County Humane Society Christmas dog and cat food drive. Drop dry or canned dog or cat food off at the Herald from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday to participate.

• Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- DONALD BRYANT, 46, of 447 Armstrong, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.
- FLOYD MCKENZIE, 65, of 1101 Jefferey, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL VIERA, 41, of 4009 Piper, was arrested Saturday on a local warrant.
- MICHAEL SEAY, 31, of 204 Runnels, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- DANIEL FLORES, 41, of 908 E. 15th St., was arrested Sunday on local warrants.
- DANIELLE FREITAG, 20, of 1003 N. Runnels, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LAURA VANOUS, 24, of 1503 Sycamore, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while

- license invalid.
- JAMERE COOPER, 21, of 1211 Wood, was arrested Sunday on local warrants.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 1500 block of Chickasaw.
In the 1100 block of Lamesa.
In the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
In the 1100 block of Lamesa.
In the 900 block of Willia.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
In the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
In the 600 block of 16th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
In the 2600 block of Fairchild.
In the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
In the 1500 block of Wood.
In the 1000 block of Stadium.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.

- ALFONSO BACA, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on probation revocation charges for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less (two counts) and a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- DONALD WILLIAM BRYANT, 46, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on contempt charges for traffic violation — turning from wrong lane and traffic violation — violation of a promise to appear.
- DEVON LEE BUTLER, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated — open container second offense and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JAIME ELISHA CASTILLO, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and criminal mischief.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 69, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMERE RAYSHAD COOPER, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear, driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear and hindering security creditor — failure to pay.
- JASON DEON DAVIS, 29, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of assault Class C — family violence.
- MARTY RAY EVANS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- DANIEL VIERA FLORES, 41, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on contempt charges for failure to appear, assault Class C — family violence and failure to maintain financial responsibility and a charge of criminal mischief.
- DANIELLE AMBER FREITAG, 20, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUAN GONZALES, 39, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying an expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- RONNY RENE GONZALES, 18, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of consumption of alcohol by a minor and minor in possession of alcohol.
- RAMON VASQUEZ GUTIERREZ, 41, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.
- ABEL HERNANDEZ HINOJOS, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.
- SANDY BERNICE HINOJOSA, 42, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JACK HUNT, 49, was arrested Thursday by the

HCSO on charges of assault causing bodily injury — family violence and theft.

- TINA LYNNE JUNKIN, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- ELWAYNE KELLY, 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of speeding, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and failure to appear.
- SABRINA MADRID, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- CHRISTOPHER MASON, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- ROSS LLOYD MCCORD, 42, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — vulgar language.
- FLOYD BYRON MCKENZIE, 65, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- LARRYDALE MYERS, 25, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — open container.
- TANESHAY TIERRA NEWSOME, 17, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.
- DENNIS JAMES PAGE, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOANN PAREDEZ, 39, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and issuance of a bad check.
- DAVID LYNN PROCTOR, 47, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a probation revocation for driving while intoxicated.
- VIRGINIA YVETTE RODRIGUEZ, 20, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of consumption of alcohol by a minor and minor in possession of alcohol.
- MICHAEL ALLEN SEAY, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- NOE SOLIZ, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license.
- RAMON PATRICK TALAMANTEZ, 24, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of a firearm.
- JARRON DAWAN VANDERBILT, 26, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- LAURA VANOUS, 24, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- MICHAEL VIERA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of permitting unlicensed person to drive.
- ANGELICA MICHELLE ZAMUDIO, 30, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.

ATTACK

Continued from Page 1

A federal judge in Detroit was expected to decide Monday whether to grant a request by the government to obtain a DNA sample from Abdulmutallab.

His court-appointed attorney, Detroit's chief federal defender, Miriam Siefer, said Abdulmutallab would not be present at the hearing.

Harold Demuren, the head of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, said Abdulmutallab

paid cash on Dec. 16 for the \$2,831 round-trip ticket from Lagos, Nigeria, to Detroit via Amsterdam. He said Abdulmutallab's ticket came from a KLM office in Accra, Ghana.

Demuren said Abdulmutallab checked into his flight with only a

small carryon bag.

On Sunday, Napolitano said, "One thing I'd like to point out is that the system worked." On Monday, she said she was referring to the system of notifying other flights as well as law enforcement on the ground.

CASA

Continued from Page 1

than 90 volunteers who serve 205 children in Howard, Midland, Andrews, Gaines, Dawson, Martin and Glasscock counties. In Howard County alone, CASA

oversees 13 volunteers who serve 75 children in foster care. But more volunteers are needed, officials said.

"We are currently organizing a class in Howard County and we need 20 volunteers," said CASA representative Robyn LaForge.

LaForge said. "We are asking that members of the community become a volunteer for CASA and help the children of Howard County."




For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, contact LaForge at (432) 683-1114 or toll free at (877) 316-8346.

You may also find information online at casawtx.org or send an email to robyn1@casawtx.org.

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

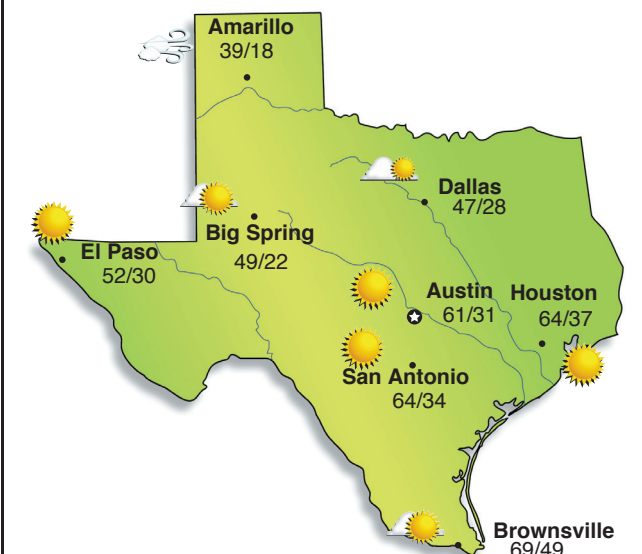
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

| Thu 12/31 | Fri 1/1 | Sat 1/2 |
|---|--|--|
|  49/22 Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 20s. |  50/26 Sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s. |  55/31 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s. |
| Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 5:52 PM | Sunrise: 7:13 PM Sunset: 8:35 AM | Sunrise: 8:26 PM Sunset: 9:20 AM |

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Texas At A Glance



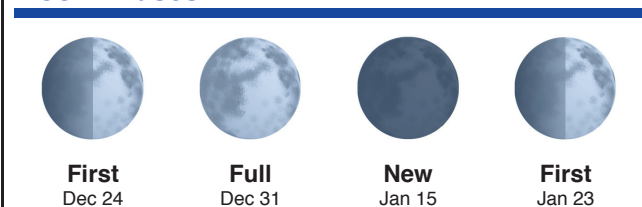
Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 42 | 21 | mst sunny | Kingsville | 68 | 41 | mst sunny |
| Amarillo | 39 | 18 | windy | Livingston | 61 | 32 | mst sunny |
| Austin | 61 | 31 | sunny | Longview | 54 | 30 | cloudy |
| Beaumont | 63 | 38 | sunny | Lubbock | 43 | 20 | pt sunny |
| Brownsville | 69 | 49 | mst sunny | Lufkin | 60 | 33 | mst sunny |
| Brownwood | 53 | 27 | mst sunny | Midland | 53 | 28 | sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 65 | 41 | mst sunny | Raymondville | 70 | 44 | sunny |
| Corsicana | 50 | 28 | pt sunny | Rosenberg | 64 | 37 | sunny |
| Dallas | 47 | 28 | pt sunny | San Antonio | 64 | 34 | sunny |
| Del Rio | 63 | 34 | sunny | San Marcos | 62 | 31 | sunny |
| El Paso | 52 | 30 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 48 | 28 | rain |
| Fort Stockton | 56 | 30 | sunny | Sweetwater | 46 | 23 | mst sunny |
| Gainesville | 41 | 22 | mixed | Tyler | 52 | 28 | pt sunny |
| Greenville | 46 | 24 | rain | Weatherford | 45 | 24 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 64 | 37 | sunny | Wichita Falls | 38 | 17 | mixed |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 49 | 36 | rain | Minneapolis | 16 | 2 | cloudy |
| Boston | 36 | 30 | cloudy | New York | 38 | 33 | sn shower |
| Chicago | 30 | 18 | sn shower | Phoenix | 62 | 39 | sunny |
| Dallas | 47 | 28 | pt sunny | San Francisco | 55 | 46 | cloudy |
| Denver | 33 | 16 | pt sunny | Seattle | 43 | 42 | cloudy |
| Houston | 64 | 37 | sunny | St. Louis | 32 | 16 | cloudy |
| Los Angeles | 69 | 46 | mst sunny | Washington, DC | 40 | 32 | mixed |
| Miami | 79 | 68 | pt sunny | | | | |

Moon Phases



UV Index

| Thu 12/31 | Fri 1/1 | Sat 1/2 |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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SHOPPERS

Continued from Page 1

appeared to have made up for the loss by shopping in advance of the storm and the days leading up to Christmas.

"We had a pretty decent surge," McNamara said.

Online sales were a particular hot spot.

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Ascencion "Chonita" Morales, 78, died Sunday, December 27, 2009. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Lillian Pijanowski, 90, died Saturday, December 19, 2009. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

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Managing Editor

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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

GOP's political statement may be very costly

In discussing his outlook for 2011, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said Texas could get along just fine without any federal stimulus money.

Dewhurst suggested that cuts in the range of 2.5 percent in state agency spending would do the trick but was careful to list some exemptions for the cost cutting: Medicare, social services and public education.

Whether the lieutenant governor can sell his idea to 31 senators and 150 house members remains to be seen, but his reluctance to cut public education spending is realistic if not downright admirable. Enrollment growth alone would make it difficult to cut public expenditures much.

That doesn't mean school trustees and administrators should breathe easy. Challenges posed by declining local tax revenue and more demands on what money comes through the door will force a focus on generating revenue.

Higher education administrators, meanwhile, are wondering about what's in store for their budgets when the Legislature reconvenes. As the American Statesman reported earlier this week, Texas college and university administrators are apprehensive about the uncertainty of future appropriations juxtaposed on the certainty of increased demand for post-secondary education.

For now, Texas has been spared the draconian budget cuts imposed on college and university systems around the country. Indeed, the Texas Legislature raised the higher education appropriation by \$1.2 billion this spring for the two-year budget. Financial aid increased by 35 percent, to \$1 billion. But that would not have been possible without the infusion of \$327 million in federal stimulus money.

That money isn't likely to be reallocated. If stimulus money is offered but refused by Texas' Republican leadership, that political statement will be made at the expense of future Texas employers and taxpayers.

In 2001, Anthony P. Carnevale and Richard A. Fry of the Educational Testing Service reported on a surge of college students putting pressure on appropriations in California, Florida, Georgia, New York and Texas.

"Governors will confront urgent demands for spending scarce public dollars on crucial priorities all along an expanded education pipeline — to make prekindergarten universal, to institute standards-based reform of elementary and secondary education, and to increase the capacity of post-secondary education institutions to accommodate all potential students," the scholars wrote, warning that the price tag would be steep.

"Universal prekindergarten, for example, could cost as much as \$40 billion. The additional 1.6 million post-secondary students anticipated by 2015 could cost higher education \$19 billion. States, which currently pick up 35 percent of the post-secondary education bill, would have to come up with more than \$6 billion at a time when they have been reducing their share of higher education spending."

Most of the growth in enrollment will be minority students, many of whom will need financial assistance. That makes the option of raising tuition a risky one.

"Higher tuition will discourage enrollments, especially among low-income and minority students, the bulk of the potential new student population. Moreover, tight budgets will discourage the maintenance of quality improvements already in place and delay new investments in educational quality. Thus, the market response to this decision could be a classic case of market failure for higher education," wrote Carnevale and Fry.

Denying access to higher education for minorities isn't the answer either — morally or economically. Keeping the Texas economy vibrant so that future political leaders can brag about it will require an educated work force.

Confronting the challenge today may cause some political discomfort now. Putting off a decision guarantees economic trouble later.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
AUSTIN

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, today may be full of wonderful surprises.

Amen

Cool win braces hot-air crowd

For years, global warming alarmists have pointed to every drought and heat wave as proof that global warming was a real environmental threat. They had few qualms about blurring the line between weather and climate to make a PR point. Perhaps, then, it was karma that brought a blizzard and freezing temperatures to the U.N. climate change Conference of Parties confab in Copenhagen (or COP-15 for short) last week.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

You may have read about the 1,200 limos and 140 private planes commissioned to transport COP-15 dignitaries in style. Critics love to point to the hypocrisy of world leaders — such as Prince Charles and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown — touching down in separate private planes to a conference ostensibly dedicated to curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

But it's the Flying High Lords of Greendom's air of unreality that concerns me. If world leaders truly believed that global warming will lead to famine, rising sea levels and melting of

the North Pole ice — along with countless deaths — surely they would want to set an example by flying commercial.

Instead, they travel like pooh-bahs of the stratosphere, then justify their excesses by tossing \$100 or so into a carbon-offset fund.

In that godlike spirit, President Obama lauded the COP-15's pact to limit global warming to a rise of only 2 degrees Celsius by 2050 as "an unprecedented breakthrough."

What's the next trick? An eclipse? Now I am fairly skeptical about global warming alarmism — largely because it's hard to heed true believers when they fail to behave in a way that addresses their big issue.

My advice to true believers: If you really believe global warming is caused by man and threatens Earth, stop supporting treaties that don't mandate greenhouse-gas reductions.

For too long, the issue of global warming has hinged on whether politicians said they believed in global warming, not whether they worked to reduce their nation's greenhouse-gas emissions.

If the alarmists are correct, then it doesn't matter what people believe if they don't act on those beliefs.

Instead of pretending that critics don't exist, debate them.

Stop pretending that consumers can fight global warming simply by using politically correct light bulbs, and recycling. Environmentalists have argued that developed nations will have to cut emissions by 80 percent — and that requires bigger changes than sorting your trash.

Don't support treaties with untenable goals that are to be met decades into the future. Enough with the worst-case scenarios. Al Gore has a penchant for repeating the most dire predictions on global warming — and not always accurately. As the Times of London reported last week, Gore told a Copenhagen audience, that according to a Dr. Wieslaw Maslowski, "there is a 75 percent chance that the entire north polar ice cap, during the summer months, could be completely ice-free within five to seven years."

Except Maslowski told the Times he had no idea where Gore got that idea. "I would never try to estimate likelihood at anything as exact as this."

Polls show Americans are cooling on global warming. It could be that voters don't buy into the all-bad scenarios predicted by Gore and company.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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Tiger's true test still coming

It's not exactly surprising to read major news organizations confirming that Elin Nordegren, the No. 1 search name on Google of late, is planning to divorce Tiger Woods. Based on what we know (And who knows what we don't know?), any sane person would have to conclude that marriage to this guy is going to bring you a lifetime of heartache, no matter how many houses and trophies surround that heartache.



SUSAN ESTRICH

Elin is young, stunningly beautiful and from a prominent family in Sweden. Why would she want to be married to a guy who can't keep his hands off waitresses, hookers, self-styled "party girls" and who knows who else?

As for Tiger, well, he'll be just fine. Once he's single again, he can do anything he wants. Elin disappears; Tiger reemerges. Thank God Oprah is still on. And Barbara. It will all work out. Maybe he'll start dating movie stars instead of sneaking around with waitresses. By next year, he could be on everybody's list of the most eligible bachelors in the world.

Dandy.

It's the kids I can't help but think about. A 2-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old boy, who probably won't remember any of this, which means they won't remember living with their dad.

No one ever said divorce is good for kids. I know, it's better than a bad marriage, better than one parent getting sick, mentally or physically, and better than being abused, mentally or physically. It's better to live in a peaceful one-parent home than in a dangerous two-parent home. I know all that stuff. Besides, dads like Tiger are on the road all the time anyway, traveling much of the year, and even if the kids would go with him sometimes, once they start school, that ends.

But it's still different.

We all know that, all of us who are children of divorce, all of us who are divorced parents. The kids lose something. I did. My children did. You try to minimize it, make up for it. You do what you can.

That is Tiger's next challenge.

I can probably count on one hand — certainly two would be plenty — the number of times I saw my father in the five years between my parents' divorce and his death. It wasn't that he lived far away. He just never called, never said let's have lunch. I

don't think I ever had dinner just with him. He was busy, working, a new wife, new kids, all that. Divorce doesn't have to cost kids their father, but very, very often, it does.

The moving vans have already pulled up in front of Tiger's house. It has been reported for weeks that Elin bought a remote farmhouse in Sweden. This is not likely to be one of those cases where the parents live walking-distance apart and the kids go back and forth on their own as they get older.

Tiger will come back as a golfer. I have no doubt of that.

He has shown, over and over, the talent and determination and pure genius.

But will he come back as a father? Will he do what it takes to build a relationship with children who may live far, far away, who will not even remember waking in the night and having both their parents there to comfort them?

Will he make as much effort to be a father as he has to be a golfer?

Or will he be like one of those guys you see on Christmas Eve in the only drugstore that's open buying the last bedraggled toy for a child he barely knows?

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RIGHT AT HOME: Pet-friendly and stylish too



AP Photo/CSN Stores,Moderno

At left, this product image released by CSN Stores shows the Moderno dog bed. At Right, his product image released by CSN Stores shows the Merry Products Atmosphere bamboo/polycushion pet bed.

KIM COOK
For The Associated Press

Writer Jean Cocteau once mused, "I love cats because I enjoy my home; little by little, they become its visible soul." Dog owners feel the same way.

The downside of sharing our homes with pets, of course, is dirt, hair and odors. How to keep things chic and clean and still have room for Spot?

Designers and manufacturers offer some ideas.

Liz Levin's experience with her own menagerie of kids and pets led her to launch a design service, Liz Levin Nesting. Her advice? Color-coordinate with your pets.

"Flying fur's a reality. Unless you're prepared to stand guard with your vacuum 24/7, choose a color that blends with your pet. If you have a

black Lab, for the sake of your sanity, don't pick a cream-colored sofa," she says.

Cats' independent streak makes them difficult to train; better to just work around them. "Floor lamps with heavy bases. Glass tops for fragile finishes. And a good scratching post!" she counsels.

Pets sleep a lot during the day — dogs about 13 hours, cats several more — so bedding is key.

"Most dogs like to stretch out on rectangular beds that keep their shape, with defined edges for hanging one's head over," says Julia Szabo, author of "Pretty Pet-Friendly: Easy Ways to Keep Spot's Digs Stylish and Spotless" (Howell, 2009).

She recommends a polar-fleece, futon-style bed by Bowser "that's tufted, so the insides don't shift. Burrowing dogs, such as dach-

hunds, should have a small blanket they can snuggle under. Cats prefer a round concave nest."

Pet beds should be placed away from drafty, high-traffic zones, which can disrupt rest and lead to health problems.

William Wegman, the photographer best known for Weimaraner portraits, has designed a fun line of illustrated fabrics for pet beds. The Crypton material is resistant to stains and odor.

Crypton carpeting is in the works, too.

TempurPedic makes a great bed for older, arthritic dogs. Put a Throver over the top to protect the cover; it's a stain-repellent, two-sided blanket that doubles as a furniture cover.

Cool Bed III is a refillable waterbed for dogs. Bowser's Buttercup microfiber and fleece

cat nest has a drawstring to close it up snugly.

Want your pet's bed to blend into your decor? Consider the Hardwood Hideaway, a side table with a door that opens to a sleeping spot. Place it next to your bed or the living-room sofa; the door can be adjusted to allow pets independent access, and the piece is available in several finishes.

Bowser's Moderno chair is a contemporary, upholstered chair that looks like a miniature Corbusier. Max Comfort's Gustavo pet sofa is a stylish lounge complete with memory foam mattress.

Cats, privacy seekers always, might love one of the chic, spacey looking "pods" from Hepper Home. And Merry Products' "Atmosphere" is a groovy bamboo sphere cradling a polyester cushion.

Szabo says floor maintenance is another priority. Elevate your pets' food dishes if you can, for easier eating and less mess. ModernTails.com has a number of contemporary and classic dish styles. They also stock rubber mats in different styles and sizes.

Cats tend to prefer a wide, shallow dish that accommodates sensitive whiskers; OnlyNaturalPet.com has a smart recycled glass one.

Moppable surfaces like wood, bamboo and tile work best — stick to light-toned woods to hide scratches. Carpet is necessary if you live in an apartment where the clicking of claws may disturb neighbors. Try Flor's carpet tiles: They're easy to vacuum, lift up to wash or replace, and won't damage the floor. Choose vinyl flooring that doesn't off-gas VOCs; some pets, and people, are chemically sensitive.

Indeed, it's best to stay away from highly perfumed pet products altogether. Remember that animals have keen smell receptors. Clean pet areas with green products that have little or no scent (such as Sun & Earth or Earth Friendly Products), and for fabrics, try Get Serious, a stain and odor extractor that many pet owners swear by.

Get creative about where you store the treats and gear. Look

for clear jars (so you can track contents) with locking lids; attractive baskets; and washable storage totes that coordinate with room decor.

Szabo, who writes a Pets column for The New York Post, notes several new technologies to help keep pets safe. General Motors is developing an alarm that will sound if you leave a pet or child in the car, she says. She also likes the PetFinder, from FinderProducts: "It's a high-tech ID tag system that could help reunite you with Spot if s/he ever becomes lost."

Sourcebook:

www.moderntails.com - pet place mats, \$27.95-99.95; acrylic, smoke gray raised water dish, \$64.95; Max Utility dog bowl 42.95

www.OnlyNaturalPet.com - recycled glass, whisker-wide, gray or green bowl, \$22.49

www.heartofmyheart-pets.com - Bowser Buttercup drawstring pet bed, \$48; Hardwood Hideaway Table/Pet \$399; Bowser raised dog feeder, wood/ceramic, from \$48.

www.allmodernpet.com - Bowser Moderno bed, \$749.99

www.simplydogbeds.com - MaxComfort BioMedic Gustavo Pet Bed Sofa, \$164.99

www.petsbycsn.com - Merry Products Atmosphere cat bed, \$69.99

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus and Saturn are at odds, though the goddess of love is getting along famously with her old friend Pluto. Relationships change with the seasons. Time can be kind to our ties, or it can be rough on them, but it will have an effect either way.

Befriend the idea that things change and they will be more likely to change in your favor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are experiencing some turmoil in your relationship. As Shakespeare said, "The course of true love never did run smooth." The journey is most of the joy and all of the challenge.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This will be a quiet day and an ideal time to do an inventory check on your emotions. You have been giving a lot lately — to your work, to your friends — and that kind of effort can only go on so long without a recharge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Few things are more valuable to you than a promise.

Unfortunately, not everyone is into keeping his word sacred. But don't worry. If you are let down, someone will make it up to you very shortly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are often the funniest person in your group, but when you get with another funny type, that's when the real magic happens. You'll play well off of each other's wit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've come a long way, and you still have a long way to go. Fortunately, you know how to pace yourself. Keep steady. Your association with an earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn) will help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In times of crisis or extreme business, you tend to take on extra work in order to make it easier for other people. Sometimes you are recognized for this self-sacrifice, and sometimes not. This time you will be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a wool-sweater-and-herbal-tea sort of day for you. You feel cozy inside, and connecting with people will add to the mood. A long conversation with a friend will be particularly pleasant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some view the world as an epic competition; some see it as an enormous cooperative effort. You see it as both today, and this helps you make a new victory and also win a victory at work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The routine is nice but not quite enough to fulfill you. Add something creative to the mix — write a journal entry or make a batch of homemade cookies. You'll be extremely pleased with the results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your business acumen is usually sharp, but today it feels a little off. Avoid making any big decisions with lasting consequences, and if you can, take the day off. You're due for some personal time anyway.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Where children gather, fun is soon to be had. This explains your love of little people and your anticipation of an up-and-coming engagement where you'll see many of them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is an undeniable spark of mischief dancing in your eyes. You are capa-

ble of anything today. Let loose, being sure that the trouble you stir up is strictly purposed to entertain and amuse.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28). This year you will be so brave that you will be willing to take several risks in order to honor your heart's desire. Start right away. The next four weeks present the chance to provide a needed service and make money while you help others. You'll get around in style thanks to friends and lifestyle upgrades in the spring. Scorpio and Taurus people adore you. Lucky numbers are: 27, 4, 33, 15 and 17.

A Q U A R I U S FORECAST 2010: You will go into the new decade with a winning attitude. You will be centered, serene and content to accept what you can't control. You also recognize that there is much that you do have power over, and your influence will cause the changes you desire. February and April are important months for shaking things up. You'll know what you want and will go for it at full force.

Money and Career: In January, your ability to give constructive feedback will earn you a

position of trust and respect. Leverage your relationships and you'll be earning more in March. Give a great deal of thought to what others need and want from you. You can deliver above what's expected of you, and when you do, you'll be promoted as others drop by the wayside.

Love: Stay involved with friends and activities you enjoy even when loved ones need your attention. You'll recover a version of yourself that has a tendency to get lost when relationships become intensely consuming. A commitment is featured in July.

P E R S O N A L P E R S O N A L P E R S O N A L Persement: The project you've been procrastinating on gets done in May, and you'll have a blast in the process.

C E L E B R I T Y P R O F I L E S: Sienna Miller identifies so strongly with her date

of birth that she named her fashion line "Twenty8Twelve." Working with her sister, the talented English actress and style icon, she has combined her Capricorn business savvy with the bohemian aesthetic of her natal moon and Venus in Aquarius to create an eclectic fashion line that's somewhere in the middle of grunge and glam.

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Despite leave, UF's Meyer to be back in 2010

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Florida coach Urban Meyer tried it his way for years. Long days, late nights, seemingly endless recruiting trips and little time for his health and family.

After countless headaches, four years of chest pain and an alarming trip to hospital three weeks ago, it was time for a different approach.

How much Meyer's routine varies remains to be seen. But with his well-being still a major concern, Meyer withdrew his brief resignation and decided to take an indefinite leave of absence from Florida. He will coach

the fifth-ranked Gators in the Sugar Bowl against No. 4 Cincinnati on Jan. 1, then take some time off in hopes of alleviating recurring chest pains.

How will he handle being away from football?

"We're going to find out," said his wife, Shelley. "We've just got to see how he handles his leisure time. I've never seen him handle leisure time. That's like an oxymoron."

Meyer's announcement Sunday capped a wild weekend for Florida. He stunned college football twice in a 20-hour span, first by saying he planned to walk away from coaching and then by revealing he expects to be

back on the sideline next season.

"I do in my gut believe that will happen," Meyer said.

Flanked by athletic director Jeremy Foley and quarterback Tim Tebow, the 45-year-old Meyer stoically responded to repeated questions about his health, his heart and his head. With his wife and three children seated a few feet in front of him, Meyer declined to reveal much detail about his condition.

He acknowledged the possibility he might need a procedure to alleviate chest pains that started four years ago, but would not say if he had a

See **MEYER**, Page 7



AP PHOTO/Patrick Semansky
Florida coach Urban Meyer, center, will coach in the Sugar Bowl.



AP PHOTO/Nick Wass

Cowboys running back Marion Barber slides out of bounds past the Redskins' LaRon Landry in the first quarter Sunday night. Barber and the Cowboys dominated the Redskins 17-0.

NFL Roundup: Colts OK without perfection

Associated Press

Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts are perfect no more, and that's just fine with them. They've got their sights set on making post-season history — even if that means taking a break in the regular season.

Coach Jim Caldwell pulled Manning and a handful of starters — avoiding potential injuries — for the previously unbeaten Colts in the third quarter, and the Jets took advantage by rallying for a 29-15 victory that ended the NFL's longest regular-season winning streak at 23 games.

Caldwell, players and team president Bill Polian, however, said perfection was never the goal; winning the Super Bowl was. And on Sunday, they showed exactly what they meant.

"Until any player in here is the head coach, you follow orders and you follow them with all of your heart," Manning said. "That's what we've done as players. We follow orders."

The Colts (14-1) lost for the first time since Oct. 27, 2008, at Tennessee, ending a franchise-record 13-game winning streak at home. Meanwhile, the Jets (8-7) took control of their playoff destiny with the

victory, and would make the postseason for the first time since 2006 with a win next week at home against AFC North champion Cincinnati.

It was a busy Sunday around the NFL, with the postseason picture clearing up just a bit.

New England is back in the playoffs after routing Jacksonville and winning the AFC East. Also returning to the postseason after a one-year absence is Green Bay, which secured an NFC wild-card berth with a big victory over Seattle.

Cincinnati clinched the AFC North with its 17-10 win over Kansas City. Dallas also secured a playoff spot with a win over Washington, setting up a showdown next week against Philadelphia for the NFC East title.

At Indianapolis, Brad Smith opened the second half with a 106-yard kickoff return to give New York a 10-9 lead. The Colts went ahead at 15-10 when Donald Brown scored on a 1-yard run, but after Manning left, Marques Douglas returned a fumble from Manning's replacement, Curtis Painter, for a score.

The Jets sealed it with a 43-yard field goal and Thomas Jones' 1-yard TD run.

See **NFL**, Page 7

'Boys beat Redskins, deny Giants

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Wade Phillips' pregame speech lasted all of one sentence.

"Wade said one thing and he said it real quick: 'This game's about the world championship,'" Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "And that's all he said and walked out."

If it sounded a bit premature, remember the Cowboys' plight. They were trying to shed the label of December chokers, trying to win back-to-back games in the month for the first time in six years, try-

ing to clinch a playoff spot, trying to put themselves in position to win the NFC East next week — when they'll be trying to win a January game for the first time since 2000.

So much was accomplished when the Cowboys beat the Redskins 17-0 on Monday night.

In addition to the team's playoff ramifications, Dallas also got bragging rights in the 100th game of one of the NFL's top rivalries and posted the first shutout in the series since 2003. As a bonus, the win also knocked the New

York Giants out of the postseason picture.

But there's more to come. Next week, coach Phillips' team hosts the Eagles (11-4) in a regular-season finale with the division crown on the line. The loser will have to settle for a wild card berth. The NFL has moved the kickoff time from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

"We didn't achieve any sort of something that's going to stand the test of time," quarterback Tony Romo said. "This is an important step in the process, but our real goals still lay ahead of us. That's why

this is rewarding to get. We don't look at this (a reason) to jump up and holler."

Romo completed 25 of 38 passes with a touchdown, and a tipped pass turned into his first interception in five games — a reversal from his turnover sprees of Decembers past. He threw a 4-yard scoring pass to Roy Williams in the first quarter after Terence Newman's interception, and his 69-yard completion to Jason Witten — a career-long for the tight end — set

See **DALLAS**, Page 7

Defense key for Georgia, Aggies in tonight's Independence Bowl

Associated Press

SHREVEPORT, La. — Texas A&M defensive back Jordan Pugh is sick of hearing about it.

On TV, in the paper, at his favorite restaurant, all anyone wants to talk about is all the points that will be scored when the Aggies play Georgia in Monday's Independence Bowl.

"That's all you hear," Pugh said Sunday. "They talk about the offense every day. As a defense, we're going to be out on the field, too."

Of course, there's a good reason for all that talk of a high-scoring affair.

Texas A&M (6-6) has given up 30 or more points eight times this season and more than 60 points twice.

The Aggies' opponents averaged 32.7 points per game, 104th out of 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

Georgia (7-5) was a touchdown better, giving up 26.4 ppg. But that ranked the Bulldogs an unaccustomed 10th in the Southeastern Conference and led to the firing of three defensive assistants, including defensive coordinator Willie Martinez.

The Independence Bowl gives each defense a chance to prove it's no pushover.

"You've got to look forward to that," Pugh said.

Neither Georgia coach Mark Richt nor Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman expects 10 touchdowns Monday. Each

team has had the chance to prepare for the opponent over several weeks and those extra practices mean more experience. And Sherman's been part of plenty of games where big numbers were predicted yet never happened.

"My experience has been when people talk about offensive matchups it's always been kind of a disappointment because the defense usually rises to the occasion in those games," Sherman said. "I don't know how many times you guys have written about an offensive matchup and it turns out to be a defensive battle."

The Aggies' defensive troubles can

See **A&M**, Page 7



AP PHOTO via Shreveport Times/Douglas Collier
Texas A&M's Jerrod Johnson, right, hopes to score enough points to lead the Aggies past Georgia.

Sports in brief

Steers to begin Kerrville tourney today

The Big Spring Steers are getting an early start to the post-Christmas basketball season today as they take on St. Michaels at 2 p.m. and Lake Travis at 4:30 p.m. in the Tivy Tournament in Kerrville.

Coahoma will begin the Reagan County tournament today at 4:30 p.m. against either Fort Stockton or Christoval in Big Lake.

The Lady Steers and Bulldogettes will play in the Slaton Tournament rescheduled to Tuesday.

Big Spring softball clinic to be held Jan. 16

Big Spring softball coach John Sparks will hold a winter skills softball clinic coming up.

The clinic will teach basic softball skills and will be held Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls in grades three through eight are welcome. The cost is \$25.

Contact John Sparks for more information or to sign up at 432-270-2711.

Area teams to begin post-Christmas tournaments

Area teams will be back in action Tuesday as several tournaments are set to begin.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes will play Tahoka at 5 p.m. Tuesday, and the Big Spring Lady Steers will play Slaton at 6:30 p.m. Both games are in Slaton.

Forsan and Sands will play in the Sterling City Tournament, and Grady and Stanton will take part in Grady's Cotton Classic Tournament. Garden City will play in the Mary Tatum Invitational Tuesday.

MEYER

Continued from Page 6

heart condition. He insisted he didn't have a heart attack and refused to say whether doctors told him he needed to step away.

"I'd rather not get into that," he said.

This much he made clear: Players prompted his about-face.

First, he witnessed their tearful reaction to his resignation Saturday evening. Then he spent a few hours with them during a "spirited practice" Sunday morning.

"It's very simple," Meyer said. "The love that I have for these players, I think that's well documented. Maybe one of the issues that I deal with

is that I care so deeply about each individual. ... We've had a heck of a run, a run that we're very proud of. And when I sat back and watched those young guys go at it today and our coaching staff and the program we've built, to not try would be not the right thing to do."

Meyer called Foley from the practice field and told him he wanted to talk about a leave of absence — something school president Bernie Machen first mentioned a week earlier. Foley and several assistant coaches also tried to persuade Meyer to take an extended break, but the coach thought it would be better for the program, his health and his family to get away for good.

Meyer changed his mind in a hurry, even quicker than Florida basketball coach Billy Donovan did when he went through a similar ordeal in 2007. Donovan resigned to coach the NBA's Orlando Magic only to have a change of heart and return to Gainesville, Fla., a few days later.

Meyer and Foley settled on a rough plan after practice. Meyer told his family as they arrived for the charter flight to New Orleans, then informed the team of his possible return.

"He just didn't want this program to fail," his oldest daughter, Nicki, said.

Offensive coordinator Steve Addazio will run the team during Meyer's absence, however long that may be.

A&M

Continued from Page 6

be explained away by youth and inexperience. Sherman played 18 freshmen this season — the second most in the nation — and 14 of the 22 players on the defense's two-deep depth chart are underclassmen.

The Bulldogs' plight is a little harder to get a handle on and just how they'll respond to the loss of Martinez and the other assistants remains to be seen.

The trio of fired coaches turned down Richt's invitation to remain with the team through the bowl, leaving just one full-time assistant and two graduate assistants to help prepare a gameplan and run practices.

"My main role on the defense was to try to set some parameters with the defensive staff," Richt said, "to say, 'Look, let's not reinvent the wheel, let's try not to do some things that our guys aren't comfortable with. Let's do what we do, let's get a plan that is sound and hopefully as simple as possible, so we can put our players in position to make the plays.'"

Richt, a former offensive coordinator, sat in on defensive meetings, mostly to keep an eye on morale and attitude. He even relied on injured senior defensive end Roderick Battle to step into a coaching role from time to time.

"He worked some with the defensive ends," Richt said. "But I think a lot of our guys stepped

up and made sure everybody was hustling, made sure everybody was paying attention, made sure we kept our attention on what's important."

And what's important when it comes to defending Texas A&M is stopping Jerrod Johnson, who set 11 school records in a breakthrough season he'd love to crown with Texas A&M's first bowl win since 2001.

Johnson completed 60 percent of his passes for 3,217 yards with 28 touchdowns against just six interceptions. He added another 455 yards rushing and eight scores.

"That's just fantastic production," Richt said.

Johnson displayed his ability in a 49-39 loss to Texas on Thanksgiving, when he threw for 342 yards and four TDs.

DALLAS

Continued from Page 6

up Marion Barber's 3-yard TD run in the second quarter.

"I think we showed the December jinx is not here," Williams said. "Last year we were in the same situation and didn't get it done. 2009's a different year."

Dallas holds a commanding 59-39-2 lead in the 50-year-old rivalry with the Redskins. The Cowboys didn't allow Washington (4-11) to score a touchdown this

year — the other meeting was a 7-6 win on Nov. 22 — and they played their part in the Redskins' first winless season in NFC East play since 1994.

After the game, Washington coach Jim Zorn — widely seen as a lame duck — uttered sentences containing the same adjectives, over and over: "frustrating," "hard," "frustrating," "hard," "frustrating," "hard," "very hard," "devastating," "very hard" and "awful."

"I want to get to five wins," he finally said. "It seems frivolous, doesn't

it?"

The Redskins put on their second embarrassing performance against a rival in prime time in less than a week, and there were more distractions in between. After a 45-12 pasting by the Giants on Monday night, Washington endured a week in which assistant coach Jerry Gray gave confusing answers when asked if had interviewed for the head coaching job. Then came some noisy Christmas Day tardiness from defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, who was sent home by

Zorn for being late to a meeting.

Haynesworth used that occasion to again complain about the coaching staff — particularly defensive coordinator Greg Blache — but he nevertheless remained in the starting lineup Sunday night.

The Redskins, by the way, are 0-2 and have been outscored 62-12 since front office chief Vinny Cerrato resigned and Bruce Allen was named general manager on Dec. 17.

"I don't think there were any more distrac-

tions than we've had the past six or seven weeks," Zorn said. "If it was a distraction, we got it handled and moved forward."

Except for Witten's big play, the Cowboys nickel-and-dimed their way through the game. The margin of victory might have been greater if Barber had not been stopped on fourth-and-1 on back-to-back possessions in the third quarter.

Barber also couldn't convert a third-and-1 at the 5-yard line in the fourth quarter, but this

time Phillips sent on former Redskins kicker Shaun Suisham. To a hearty round of boos, Suisham made a 23-yarder — from the same spot where he missed for Washington against New Orleans on Dec. 6, denying the Redskins a huge upset win and costing Suisham his job two days later.

It was no surprise, therefore, that Suisham was booed every time he took the field.

"How do you get booed for extra point kicking?" he said. "Yeah, that was different."

NFL

Continued from Page 6

"Football logic has to come into play, and that logic is it makes no sense to have guys out there with the potential for injuries," Polian said. "We played for 16 weeks, sharp as any team in football. The good thing is that none of this mattered in the standings."

Patriots 35, Jaguars 7
At Foxborough, Mass., Tom Brady threw four touchdown passes, three to Randy Moss, and New England's young defense put together its third straight solid game.

The Patriots (10-5) took the division after missing the playoffs last season for the first time since 2002 despite an 11-5 record. Brady bounced back after throwing for just 307 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions in his previous two games.

Jacksonville dropped its third straight, and fourth in its last five after going 6-4.

Bengals 17, Chiefs 10
At Cincinnati, Carson Palmer's touchdown pass to Chad Ochocinco completed a 98-yard drive in the closing minutes, sending the Bengals to the AFC North championship.

The Bengals (10-5) moved into the playoffs for only the second time in the past 19 years after dealing with the death of receiver Chris Henry. The teary practices and locker-room grief seemed to show against the Chiefs (3-12), who stayed close in a mistake-filled game.

Palmer threw for a pair of touchdowns, and Cedric Benson ran for 133 yards in an offense that managed only two drives all day.

Packers 48, Seattle 10
At Green Bay, Wis., the Packers clinched a playoff spot by forcing four interceptions by Matt Hasselbeck, then getting a big boost from the Carolina Panthers. The victory, combined

with the Giants' blow-out loss to Carolina, put the Packers (10-5) back in the postseason after going 6-10 last season and getting off to a 4-4 start this year.

It was Hasselbeck's second straight four-interception game for the Seahawks (5-10), who have scored a total of 24 points in three straight losses.

Panthers 41, Giants 9
At East Rutherford, N.J., Matt Moore and the Panthers turned the Giants' farewell to Giants Stadium into one of their ugliest moments in franchise history.

The Giants (8-7) embarrassed themselves against a Panthers team with nothing at stake.

Moore threw three touchdown passes, Jonathan Stewart rushed for a career-best 206 yards and the Panthers (7-8) shredded New York's defense with scores on six of their first seven possessions before a disgusted final sellout crowd Sunday.

Eagles 30, Broncos 27
At Philadelphia, David Akers kicked a 28-yard field goal with 4 seconds left for the win.

Kyle Orton rallied the Broncos from a 27-10 deficit in the third quarter, but Donovan McNabb led the Eagles (11-4) on a winning drive in the final minutes. The Broncos (8-7) are trying to avoid a major collapse after starting 6-0. They are tied with four other teams for the final two wild-card spots and do not control their chances.

Steelers 23, Ravens 20
At Pittsburgh, Jeff Reed's 38-yard field goal put the Steelers ahead with 5:25 left and they held a fourth-quarter lead to remain in playoff contention and further jumble the AFC race.

The Steelers (8-7), their season seemingly ended by a late-season five-game losing streak, won their second in a row.

Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes to Todd Heap, but the Ravens (8-7) now face a win-or-else game at

Oakland next Sunday, although they retain the tiebreaker against the Steelers.

Bucs 20, Saints 17
At New Orleans, Carnell Williams had 129 yards rushing and Connor Barth kicked a 47-yard field goal in overtime, lifting the Buccaneers to a stunning victory that prevented the Saints (13-2) from securing home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

The Saints had a chance to win in the final seconds of regulation, but Garrett Hartley missed a 37-yard field goal. Tampa Bay (3-12) then won the coin toss to open overtime and scored soon after.

Texans 27, Miami 20
At Miami, Houston raced to an early 27-point lead and held on to remain in the AFC race. The Texans (8-7) scored on their first five possessions and won despite being outscored 20-0 in the final 31 minutes. Houston kept alive its slim hopes of making the playoffs for the first time, while defending

AFC East champion Miami (7-8) was all but eliminated.

Cardinals 31, Rams 10
At Glendale, Ariz., Kurt Warner threw for 196 of his 313 yards in the second quarter and the Cardinals beat the Rams for the seventh time in a row.

The Cardinals (10-5) reached 10 regular-season wins for the first time since 1976.

The Rams (1-14), ravaged by injuries all season, were without the league's second-leading rusher Steven Jackson because of a sore lower back.

49ers 20, Lions 6
At San Francisco, Frank Gore scored on a 1-yard run and topped the 1,000-yard mark for the fourth straight year. Alex Smith threw a touchdown pass to Vernon Davis and the Niners (7-8) forced six turnovers to close out the home season with a victory.

Drew Stanton struggled in his first start for the Lions (2-13), throwing for just 130 yards and three interceptions

before being pulled for Daunte Culpepper. Detroit lost its fifth straight and 20th in a row on the road, failing to score after the first drive of the game.

Falcons 31, Bills 3
At Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes, including a 42-yarder to Roddy White on the Falcons' first play from scrimmage. The victory left the Falcons (8-7) in position to post back-to-back winning records for the first time in franchise history. The Falcons, in their 44th season and eliminated from the playoff chase last week, close at Tampa Bay.

Buffalo's Terrell Owens became the sixth player in NFL history with 1,000 receptions, catching an 8-yard pass in the second quarter

for the Bills (5-10).

Browns 23, Raiders 9
At Cleveland, Jerome Harrison had 148 yards rushing and the Browns won their third straight, extending a surprising streak that Eric Mangini can use to strengthen his case to Mike Holmgren that he deserves to remain Cleveland's coach.

The Browns (4-11) have their first three-game winning streak since 2007 and only their third since 1999. Holmgren is expected to be introduced as Cleveland's team president this week.

The Raiders (5-10) committed 13 penalties for 126 yards, had two players ejected and failed for the fifth time to win two straight.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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



By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ 8 3
♦ A K J 10 9 8 4 2
♣ 10

WEST EAST
♠ 8 6 4 3 2 ♠ A K J 10
♥ 8 3 ♥ A 10 7
♦ Q 7 6 ♦ —
♣ A 8 5 ♣ Q J 9 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 7
♥ Q 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K 7

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♦ 2♣ Pass
Pass 3♣ Pass 4♥
Pass 4NT Pass 5♦
Pass 5♥ Dble
Opening lead — six diamonds.

Wooldridge of the U.S. reached five hearts as shown. Italy's Bernardo Biondo correctly diagnosed the double by Riccardo Intonti as requesting a lead of dummy's first-bid suit — diamonds. Intonti ruffed the lead, cashed the spade king and returned a club to Biondo to secure another diamond ruff — +300 for Italy.

At the other table, the bidding went:
West North East South
Pass 2♦ 4♣ 4♥
5♣ 6♦ Dble

The opening two-diamond bid by North (Andrea Mallardi) showed one of several types of hands — in this case, a strong one-suiter. When Eric Greco and Chris Willenken of the U.S. then barreled into five clubs before Mallardi could use Blackwood, the Italian gambled that his partner (Mario D'Avossa) had an ace and leaped to six diamonds.

After doubling, Greco led the spade king, on which Willenken played the eight. This supposedly showed an odd number of spades in the partnership's methods. However, Greco miscalculated by continuing with the spade ace, and it was all downhill for Mallardi from there.

He ruffed the spade, cashed the diamond ace, overtook the heart jack with the queen, discarded his club on the spade queen and took the marked diamond finesse to bring in the slam. Plus 1,090 added to the 300 gained at the other table gave Italy a 16-IMP pickup on the deal.

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Legals

SEALED proposals will be received by the Forsan ISD on Thursday, January 14, 2009, at 2:00 PM in the Board Room of Forsan Junior/Senior High School, and then and there opened and read aloud for the furnishing of equipment and labor for Lighting Renovation Project 2010 within the Elbow Elementary and Forsan Junior and Senior High Schools. Contact Documents may be obtained at the Administrative Office of the School District and from the office of the project Engineer for a deposit of \$50, (checks made payable to Forsan ISD). Contract Documents may also be viewed at the F.W. Dodge plan room, 9155 Sterling Drive, Suite 160, Irving, Texas 75063. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on January 7, 2010 at 1:00pm at Forsan High School. Please direct all communication to: Chris Carter ESA ENERGY SYSTEMS ASSOCIATES, Inc. 100 East Main, Suite 201, Round Rock, Texas 78664 Phone: 512-258-0547 Fax: 512-388-3312 #6374 December 28, 2009 and January 4, 2010

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

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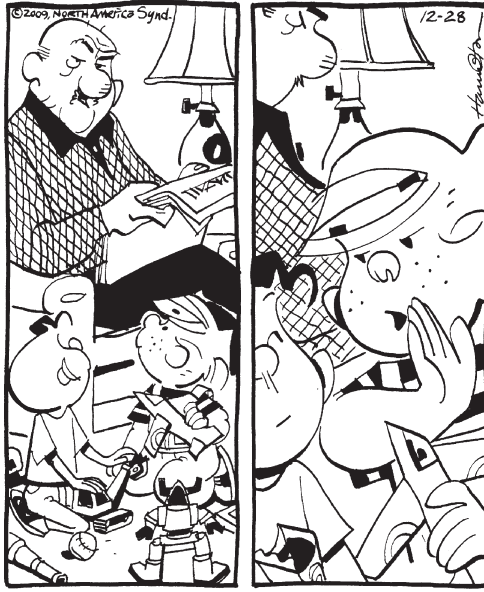
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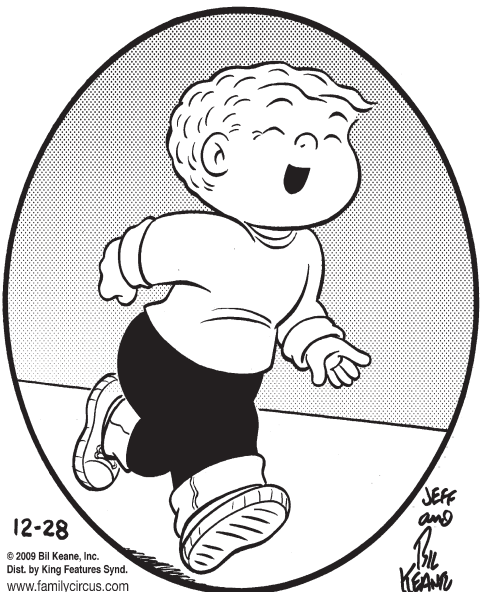
HERALD

| | 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 | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|--------------|---|---|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 5:PM :30 | News ABC | News ABC | Locura Noticiero | Lopez Lopez | News CBS | Noticias Noticiero | News NBC | Seinfeld Office Granger | Chumney | BBC Business | MythBusters | emiah Johnson, Stefan Gierasch | Nitro Cir Nitro Cir | Law & Order | Fam. Mat. Fam. Mat. | Phineas Suite Life | AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM :30 | News Ent. Ton. | Jeopardy! Wheel | Gancho | Two Men Two Men | News Ent. Ton. | 12 Cora-zones Millionaire | News Name Holmes | Van Impe | PBS News-Hour | MythBusters | MythBusters | MythBusters | Circus Circus | Bones | Fam. Mat. Fam. Mat. | Montana | Monday Night Countdown | |
| 7:PM :30 | Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End | Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End | Nombre-Amor Sortilegio | House | How I Met Purpose | Más Sabe el Diabolo | Commun Fam. Guy | Upd Hansen | Antiques Roadshow | MythBusters | MythBusters | Movie: The Green Mile, Michael Clarke Duncan | Circus Circus | Bones | To Be Announced | Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement | College Basketball | NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. |
| 8:PM :30 | Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End | Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End | Sortilegio | House | (01) Lie to Me | Pobres | Commun Fam. Guy | Light of the Southwest | American Masters | MythBusters | MythBusters | Movie: Die Another Day, Toby Stephens | Circus Circus | Bones | To Be Announced | Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement | College Basketball | NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. |
| 9:PM :30 | News | News | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticias | News | Lopez Tonight | Upd Sala | MythBusters | MythBusters | Motor City Motors | Circus Circus | Bones | To Be Announced | Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement | College Basketball | NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. |
| 10:PM :30 | Nightline | Nightline | Noticiero | TMZ | Letterman | Decisiones | Tonight Show | King | Uri Harel | BBC | Motor City Motors | Movie: The Hunt for Red October, Scott Glenn | DEA | Law & Order | W. Williams | Derek | Football | SportsCenter |
| 11:PM :30 | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | La Casa de la Risa | Law & Order: SVU | Late Late Show | Decisiones | Late Night | King | Mark | (Off Air) | MythBusters | Movie: The Hunt for Red October, Scott Glenn | DEA | Law & Order | W. Williams | Derek | Football | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM :30 | News | News | Torrente, un Torbel | Paid | King-Hill | Insider | Pagado | News | Sex & Sex & Cortes | MythBusters | MythBusters | Star Trek: Voyager | Cold Case | To Be Announced | Replace Kim | NFL Films Poker | NFL Prime-Time | |
| 1:AM :30 | Wall St | Wall St | Mujer... | King | Ent. Ton. | Pagado | Poker After Dark | Lopez Tonight | Light of the Southwest | MythBusters | MythBusters | Star Trek: Voyager | Cold Case | To Be Announced | Replace Kim | NFL Films Poker | NFL Prime-Time | |
| 1:AM :30 | Paid | Paid | Cero | RENO 911 | Paid | Pelicula: | | | | | | | | | | | | |

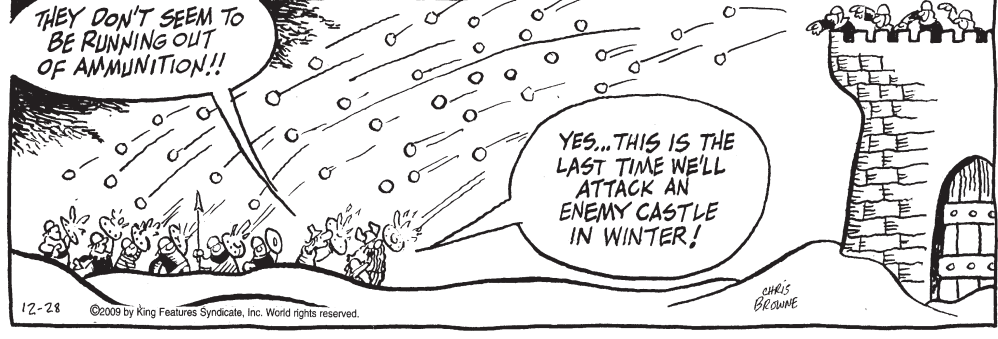
DENNIS THE MENACE



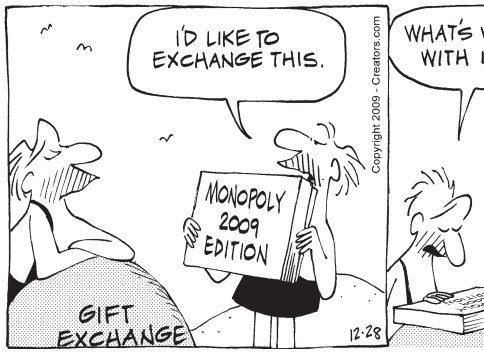
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



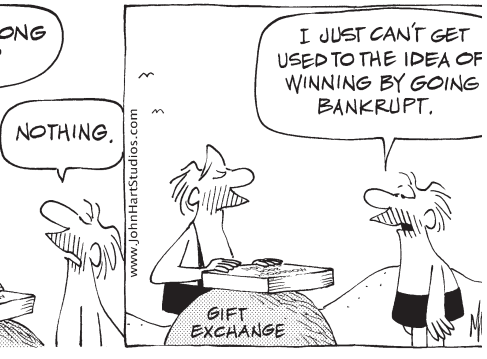
HAGAR



BC



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2009. There are 3 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

On this date:

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton, Va.

In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian city of Messina, killing at least 70,000 people.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious, as well as fictitious, essay by H.L. Mencken recounting the history of bathtubs in America.

In 1944, the musical "On the Town," with music by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, opened on Broadway.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

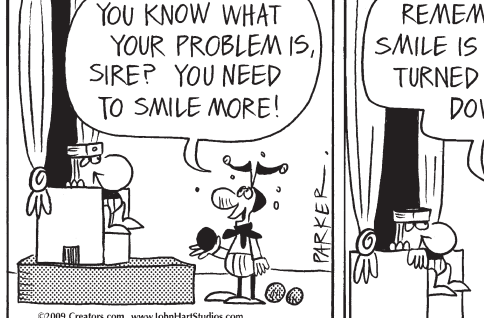
In 1989, Alexander Dubcek, the former Czechoslovak Communist leader who was deposed in a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, was named president of the country's parliament.

Today's Birthdays: Comic book creator Stan Lee is 87. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 80. Actor Martin Milner is 78. Actress Nichelle Nichols is 77. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 75. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 71. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is 65. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., is 63.

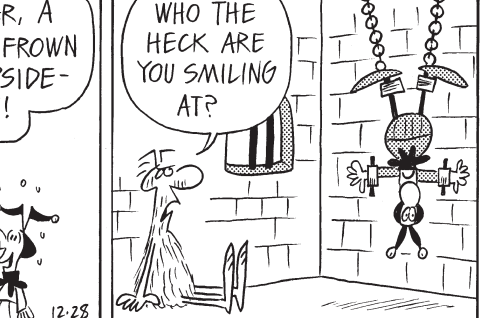
Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 63. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 59. Actor Denzel Washington is 55. Country singer Joe Diffie is 51. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 51. Actor Chad McQueen is 49. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 49. Actor Malcolm Gets is 45. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 40. Comedian Seth Meyers is 36. Actor Brendan Hines is 33. R&B singer John Legend is 31. Actress Sienna Miller is 28. Actor Thomas Dekker is 22. Actress Mackenzie Rosman is 20. Pop singer David Archuleta ("American Idol") is 19.

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WIZARD OF ID



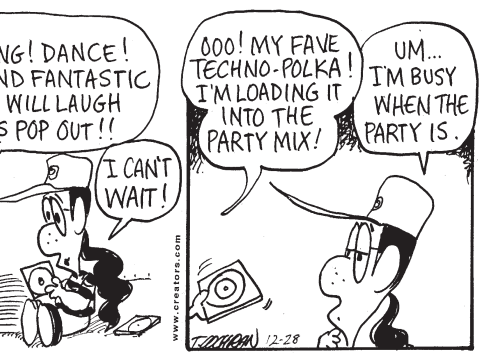
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Nuisances
6 Occupies a chair
10 Farmland unit
14 Fine fabric
15 Factual
16 Sculptor's material
17 Post-office machine
18 Repetitive learning method
19 Answering-machine sound
20 "Fast" breakfast orders
23 Use a microwave on
24 Kept out of sight
25 Makes amends
29 Phrase of understanding
31 Former fast plane: Abbr.
34 Nevada city
35 Hand-on-Bible ritual
37 Angry
39 "Fast" drink ingredient
42 Ability to move fast
43 Explorer Heyerdahl
44 Stallion's son
45 Paramedic: Abbr.
46 More than a few
48 Noble principles
50 Comical quality
51 "That's amazing!"
52 "Fast" food preparers

DOWN

1 "Hey, you!"
2 Apiece
3 Marquee name
4 Ceramic square
5 React to ragweed
6 Piece of bacon
7 Metal that rusts
8 Ballerina garb
9 Get ready to rage
10 Behaved
11 Drain problem
12 Pressed a doorbell
13 Hurricane centers
21 Brick worker
22 "... had a farm, ..."
25 Stand up
26 Evening hour
27 Beginning
28 Pay attention to
29 Wanting to scratch
30 "Scram!"
31 Where Pago Pago is
32 Not moving
33 Schoolbooks
36 Business-envelope abbr.
38 Marathon, for one
40 Allow to enter
41 Colonial news source
47 ___ energy (nuclear power)
49 Make a choice
50 Small songbirds
51 Honking birds
52 Thick slice
53 Long walk
54 Leave out
55 Make over
56 Bit of water
57 Change for \$5
58 Horse's meal
59 Leg joint
60 Church speeches: Abbr.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | 32 | 33 | | |
| 34 | | | | | | 35 | 36 | | | 37 | 38 | | | | |
| 39 | | | | 40 | | | | | | 41 | | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | | 43 | | | | 44 | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | 46 | 47 | | | | 48 | 49 | | | | |
| | | | | | 50 | | | | | 51 | | | | | |
| 52 | 53 | 54 | | | | | 55 | 56 | | | | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | | | | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | | | |
| 64 | | | | | | | 65 | | | | 66 | | | | |
| 67 | | | | | | | 68 | | | | 69 | | | | |

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Answer to previous puzzle

| | |
|------------|----------|
| MAUNAKEA | COSTCO |
| INFERNAL | AUTEUR |
| SNOWIEST | PIRATE |
| TESS | AYES |
| JAMES | |
| RADAR | TRAPS |
| STRESS | NRA |
| SPAR | |
| CHEEP | CAUSE |
| OBI | |
| REDLIGHT | CAMERAS |
| ARE | CREEK |
| BITTE | |
| MEMO | IRE |
| SENSES | |
| POPSINGERS | |
| TITLE | EDOM |
| TILE | |
| UNIONS | INPIECES |
| BRONCO | NERVEIST |
| BINGED | GREENTEA |