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Thrush survives close encounter with dog, car.
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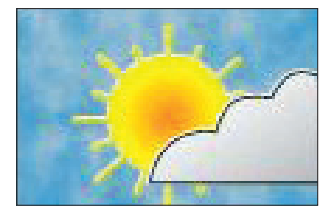


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
 DECEMBER 29, 2009



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Rollback effort comes up short

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

The petition expected to force a rollback tax election in the city fell short last week — approximately 1,200 signatures short.

City officials said they were prepared to begin the process of verifying the names and voter registration statuses of those who had signed the petition last week, but when a member of the local Concerned Citizens Council submitted the document Friday, Dec. 18, they were in for a surprise.

The petition, which was expected to



Thomason

contain approximately 1,200 signatures from local voters, contained only one signature, that of Concerned Citizens Council Chairman Shannon Thomason.

Thomason said the document submitted was a “token” the council arrived at after it became apparent the group had fallen short of the 1,200 signatures needed to force a special rollback tax election.

“We began the verification process shortly after I spoke to the Herald (on

Dec. 16). At that time we believed we had enough signatures, but when we began the process we came up short,” said Thomason. “So, instead of putting the city through the process of having to try to verify the signatures we had, we decided to submit a token petition.”

The city council adopted the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.013243 per \$100 property value in September, 6.246 cents above the effective rate — the rate that would bring in the same revenue as last year — of 95.0783 cents and 3.3 cents above the roll back rate of 97.9398 cents. The roll back rate produces an 8 percent increase in rev-

enue over the effective rate.

According to city officials, the adopted rate for the 2009-10 fiscal year is the same as the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Residents will not see an increase in the property taxes unless the appraised value of their property increased, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

At the heart of the issue for the Concerned Citizens Council is a proposal to replace the city pool, which was closed earlier this year because it didn't conform to federal standards. The revenue garnered from the

See **SHORT**, Page 3

Careful! Icy weather means roads are dangerous

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

As many Texas motorists get ready to return home following the Christmas holiday, forecasted icy weather has state and local law enforcement officials urging drivers to take extra precautions before hitting the roadways.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, one of the biggest concerns travelers should have before pulling out the driveway is the weather.

“One of the biggest factors to consider is the weather,” said Everett. “You can get road condition reports by calling the Texas Travel Information hotline at 800-452-9292, or pay close attention to the local weather channel. The Texas Department of Public Safety report all road closures to both.

“Pay close attention to bridges and overpasses during freezing weather as well. Another thing to remember is to allow extra time for travel because the high level of traffic is going to increase how long it takes to get where you're going.”

Motorists on Interstate 20 saw first hand what an effect icy weather can have on



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Firefighters with the Big Spring Fire Department search for the cause of a fire at a home in the 400 block of N. Aylford Monday morning. Damage appeared to be limited to smoke damage, according to officials at the scene.

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Christmas tree disposal effort two-fold

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

With the Christmas holiday officially in the books, many Crossroads residents are faced with the question of what to do with their live Christmas trees.

Luckily, the city of Big Spring will once again be stepping into the picture with its annual Christmas tree recycling program, giving area residents a chance to turn a holiday problem into something beneficial for the environment.



Davis

“The tree recycling program is going to be operated mainly out of the City Compost Facility this year,” said Davis. “If people want to leave their trees at the collection point at the Municipal landfill, we'll be glad to pick them up and transport them to the Compost facility. However, this year these two city facilities will be the only collection points.”

Davis said the seasonal effort is

two-fold.

“The compost facility will grind the trees up to be used in the compost,” he said. “That way we're recycling them and not just throwing them in the landfill. The other reason we do this is to keep people from putting the trees in their dumpsters. When people put them in their dumpsters they get stuck and cause a serious problem for us.”

For those that choose to dispose of their trees in dumpsters, Davis said

See **TREES**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Ascencion 'Chonita' Morales

Ascencion "Chonita" Morales, 78, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at her residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel led by Teresa Rocha. Funeral mass will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Monsignor Bernard L. Gully and Deacon Johnny Arguello of Holy Trinity Catholic Church officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born July 1, 1931, to Delfina and Antonio Villalobos in Barstow. She married T.M. "Hawaii" Morales Jan. 20, 1947, in Pecos. He preceded her in death April 14, 2008. She was a resident of Big Spring for more than 60 years. She was a homemaker and

had worked at College Heights Elementary, Big Spring State Hospital and Big Spring Care Center in the cafeteria.

She is survived by two sons, Alfredo Morales and his wife, Odila, of Midland and Daniel Morales and his wife, Frances, of Republic, Mo.; three daughters, Celia Ovalle and her husband, Joe, Ida Leyva and her husband, Joseph, and Cynthia Islas and her husband, Royce, all of Big Spring; 14 grandchildren, Alfonse, Amy and Rene Morales, Melinda Ruiz and her husband, Rene, Louisa Rangel and her husband, Jim, Veronica Stokes and her husband, Wylie, Amanda Ovalle, Danika Morales, Randy Morales and his wife, Mandy, Jeannette Acuna and her husband, Joe, Janelle Leyva, Matthew and Ashli Islas and Cecili Rodriguez and her husband, David; 19 great-grandchildren; one brother, Santana Villalobos and his wife, Millie, of Pecos; and one sister, Tula Huffman and her husband, Kenneth, of Wynnewood, Okla. She is also survived by her extended family, Karen Williams and David Williams, and her pet, Lola Bunny Islas, who was also her 24-hour nurse.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Islas, Joe Acuna, David Rodriguez, Matt Robles, Adam Rodriguez and Oscar Robles. Honorary pallbearer will be Luis Joe Villalobos.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Reymundo Gomez, and one sister, Alcarria Matta.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Home Hospice.

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

Paid obituary

Lillian Whipple Pijanowski

Lillian Whipple Pijanowski, 90, of New Haven, Conn., formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 19, 2009. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris officiating.

She was born Feb. 20, 1919, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Gladys Ella Read Whipple and Harold Whipple. She was the granddaughter of Lillie Heckman Read and H. Clay Read of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and a key punch operator for IBM for 25 years and was a member of First Christian Church of Big Spring.

She is survived by two sons, Harold Weenink and his wife, Jean, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, and Robert Weenink and his wife, Kelly, of Brooklyn, Mich.; one daughter, Virginia Weenink Eicher and her husband, Terry, of New Haven, Conn.; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two husbands, Virgil Weenink and John Pijanowski.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Road, Branford, Conn. 06405.

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

Jeanette Florence

Jeanette Florence, 78, of Big Spring died Friday, Dec. 25, 2009. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Texas, with Father Michael Wood officiating. Burial will follow in Linden Cemetery under the direction of Reeder-Davis-Schindler Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

She was born Aug. 8, 1931, in Lindale to R.B. Hall Sr. and Myrtle McCright Hall. She married Dr. Quinten "Jim" Florence July 29, 1967, in Midland. She was active in the Linden Hospital Auxiliary, was a member of the Eastern Star and devout member of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

Survivors include a son, Steven "Mike" Hull and wife, Beverly, of Big Spring; a daughter, Vicki LeClair and husband, Gerald, of Big Spring; a brother, R.B. Hall Jr. of Austin; two sisters, Phyllis Mitchell of San Angelo, Letress Tavaglione of Ft. Worth; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, one brother and two sisters.

An online guestbook may be signed at www.reeder-davis.com

Andres Gamboa

Andres Gamboa, 76, of Farmers Branch died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Mildred L. McMahon

Mildred L. McMahon, 82, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, in a San Angelo nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sylvia Prescott

Sylvia Prescott, 89, of Albany, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, in Albany. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- NOE SOLIZ III, 25, of 1206 Johnson, was arrested Monday on a charge of no driver's license.
- HENRY CASTILLO, 41, of Hobbs, N.M., was arrested Monday on a local warrant.
- FRANCES YANEZ, 21, of 1610 Cardinal, was arrested Monday on four local warrants.
- IRMALINDA YANEZ, 36, of 1610 Cardinal, was arrested Monday on six local warrants.
- CARL CLARK, 31, of 205 Merrick Rd., was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 300 block of Second Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of 13th Street.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 2500 block of Merrily.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- HENRY CASTILLO, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- CARL BRANDON CLARK, 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear.
- CYNTHIA MORELION, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- MARK ANDREW STARKEY, 45, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a fugitive warrant from out-of-state.
- FRANCES ELENA YANEZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, assault Class C, failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- IRMA YANEZ, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on revoked bond charges for no insurance, displaying an expired license plate, driving while license invalid and violation of a promise to appear, and charges of violation of a promise to appear (three counts), displaying an expired registration (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 400 block of N. Aylford.

Support Groups




TUESDAY

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

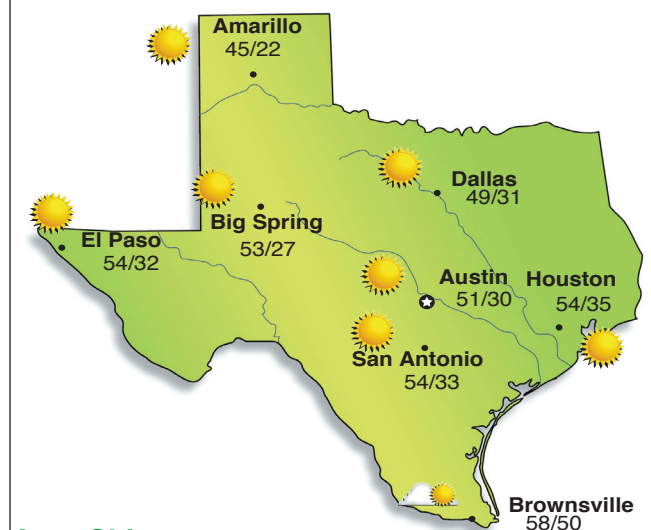
• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 1/1	Sat 1/2	Sun 1/3
 53/27 Sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	 57/30 More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 53/26 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise: 7:13 PM Sunset: 8:35 AM	Sunrise: 8:26 PM Sunset: 9:20 AM	Sunrise: 9:37 PM Sunset: 10:00 AM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	49	29	sunny	Kingsville	57	42	sunny
Amarillo	45	22	sunny	Livingston	54	29	sunny
Austin	51	30	sunny	Longview	51	30	sunny
Beaumont	54	34	sunny	Lubbock	50	24	sunny
Brownsville	58	50	pt sunny	Lufkin	53	29	sunny
Brownwood	52	31	sunny	Midland	56	32	sunny
Corpus Christi	53	42	sunny	Raymondville	59	46	pt sunny
Corsicana	49	30	sunny	Rosenberg	54	35	sunny
Dallas	49	31	sunny	San Antonio	54	33	sunny
Del Rio	56	36	sunny	San Marcos	52	30	sunny
El Paso	54	32	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	31	sunny
Fort Stockton	56	35	sunny	Sweetwater	51	30	sunny
Gainesville	45	26	sunny	Tyler	49	29	sunny
Greenville	46	27	sunny	Weatherford	47	27	sunny
Houston	54	35	sunny	Wichita Falls	43	24	sunny

Take Note

• 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.

• 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.

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

• 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 on Monday:	Pick 3 Day
Cash 5	5-8-6
12-16-18-23-27	
Daily 4 Day	Pick 3 Night
2-9-2-2	5-3-7
	Two Step
Daily 4 Night	25-26-27-33, Bonus: 24
7-3-3-5	

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Oil down to near \$78 a barrel after big surge

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press Writer

Oil prices fell to near \$78 a barrel Tuesday as the dollar recovered against the British pound and the yen. Expectations of falling U.S. stockpiles and gains on stock

markets helped contain the retreat.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for February delivery was down 37 cents to \$78.40 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the session, the

contract touched a high of \$79.01.

The contract settled up 72 cents at \$78.77 on Monday after surging above \$79 as an extended cold snap in the U.S. triggered an end-of-year rally in energy futures.

Futures contracts for oil,

natural gas and heating oil have all become more expensive this month as snow storms blanketed parts of the U.S. and a sharp drop in supplies of crude and other fuels surprised traders.

Analysts say oil could rise above \$80 before the end of

the year if U.S. inventories later this week show a drop in stockpiles, which would suggest improving demand in the world's largest economy. It would be the fourth consecutive week decline in

See **OIL**, Page 7

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Police probe possible hate crime in murder

LIBERTY (AP) — An alleged white supremacist accused of fatally shooting a convenience store owner in Southeast Texas is charged with capital murder.

Liberty police tell the Houston Chronicle they are trying to determine if 50-year-old Naushad Virani's death was a hate crime or if robbery was the only motive. A couple found Virani in a pool of blood on the floor of his store around 10:30 p.m. Christmas Day. He had been shot in the head.

Thirty-one-year-old Stevie "Bubba" Walder was arrested by Tyler County Sheriff's deputies Saturday in the fatal shooting.

His bond was set at more than \$2 million. No attorney information was immediately available.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations has asked the FBI to investigate.

Police, DA investigators conduct sting

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities have arrested three people accused of producing fake docu-

ments apparently destined for use in identity theft and fraud in Houston.

Harris County District Attorney Patricia Lykos said Monday that the suspects ran four fraudulent document businesses, including two operated out of a flea market.

Houston police and officials from the identity theft section of the district attorney's office conducted the two-week operation. Undercover officers posing as customers were able to obtain IDs using real and fictitious names.

They confiscated Social Security cards and ID cards from Texas and other states.

Fifty-seven-year-old Patrick Mark Desantos, 21-year-old Jasmine Marie Batiste, and 23-year-old Carleton Desmond Batiste are charged with manufacturing a counterfeit instrument. Online records did not show attorney information for them.

Governor reappoints Polunsky

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed Allan Polunsky to the Texas Public Safety Commission,

which oversees the state's top law enforcement agency.

The governor's office announced Monday that Polunsky was reappointed to a term that expires on Dec. 31, 2015.

He has been chairman of the commission since 2008.

Polunsky previously served as chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

The Public Safety Commission formulates and oversees policies of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Dallas officers put on leave after shooting

DALLAS (AP) — More than a dozen Dallas police officers have been placed on leave after the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old man following a robbery at a pizzeria, police said Monday.

The officers were placed on leave the same day that an Austin man was shot and killed by authorities responding to a domestic disturbance call.

The Dallas shooting started with police chasing a vehicle whose occupants were suspected of robbing a pizzeria.

The Sunday night chase moved from suburban Mesquite into Dallas and ended with police confronting the 19-year-old as he stood on a porch of a home

holding a gun to his head while he spoke to his mother on a cell phone, Dallas police said in a statement.

More than two dozen officers took cover with their weapons trained on the man.

"As the officers stood in their positions the suspect continued to talk on the phone and move the pistol from the side of his head to under his chin," the statement said. "As he moved the gun from under his chin in a downward motion while moving it back to the side of his head the officers felt in fear for their lives and shot (the suspect) multiple times."

Thirteen Dallas officers were placed on leave while the shooting is investigated.

The Austin shooting early Monday morning occurred after authorities received an emergency call about domestic violence from the man's girlfriend. The woman told the dispatcher she was locked in a bathroom and feared her boyfriend. She also said there was a rifle in the home, officials said.

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo told the Austin American-Statesman that authorities contacted the man and tried to persuade him to leave the home. The man came out at about 3:20 a.m. and pointed the gun at the

law enforcement agents. Travis County Sheriff's Deputy Theodore Ramsey and Austin Police Officer Justin Lee Berry feared for their safety and opened fire, Acevedo said.

Berry missed, while Ramsey fired a round that struck 38-year-old Roger James in the chest, Acevedo told the newspaper.

Austin police, the Travis County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Rangers will investigate the shooting.

Both Ramsey and Berry were placed on leave during the investigation.

Man pleads guilty to charge of kidnapping

AMARILLO (AP) — A 58-year-old Texas man pleaded guilty to kidnapping his ex-girlfriend, who twice jumped from his moving pickup truck in an attempt to escape, the U.S. attorney's office announced Monday.

Ronnie Joe Stowers of Tulia faces up to life in prison at sentencing scheduled for Feb. 12. He pleaded guilty Dec. 18 in federal court in Amarillo.

According to plea documents, Stowers kidnapped his ex-girlfriend at gunpoint in October by ramming her car, forcing her off the road and dragging her from

the vehicle.

The 54-year-old woman from Castro County twice jumped from his moving pickup in an attempt to escape. On her first attempt, a passing motorist stopped to offer aid but left when Stowers aimed a shotgun at the motorist, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office.

Court documents give the following account:

The woman, who was not identified, made a second jump from the moving truck. Stowers again forced her back inside and threatened to kill her if she tried another escape.

Stowers drove the truck into New Mexico near Clovis, then headed north to Tucumcari. Along the way, deciding he needed to stop for gas, Stowers pulled over in a deserted area, removed the woman from the truck, tied her up and left her there until he returned from the gas station.

The ordeal eventually ended near Lovington.

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Lillian Whipple Pijanowski, 90, died December 19, 2009. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Ascencion "Chonita" Morales, 78, died Sunday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Sylvia Prescott, 89, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

TRAVEL

Continued from Page 1

travel last week, as icy road conditions cut off travel on the highway during the Christmas holiday, stranding countless motorists.

Everett said planning your trip — as well as your route — ahead of time can really pay off in the event of an emergency.

"If you're traveling to see family, be sure to tell them what your

route will be," said Everett. "That makes it a lot easier when we have to go out and look for someone. Also, be sure to keep emergency items in the vehicle, such as first-aid kits and blankets. No one wants to think about what can go wrong out on the road, but it's always a good idea to be prepared."

Officials with the Texas Department of Safety are also urging motorists to be prepared when taking to the roadways, whether driving

across town or across the state.

"Please drive carefully. Crashes can happen in just a second, so pay attention," said David Baker, assistant director for the Texas Highway Patrol. "We want everyone to arrive safely this weekend. Be patient, slow down and drive sober."

DPS expects a large number of travelers on the road and encourages drivers to leave themselves plenty of time to get where they're going. Baker said driver's

should avoid bad driving habits that lead to road rage, such as:

- Not using turn signals
- Driving in the passing lane
- Tailgating, flashing lights or honking
- Using high beams in traffic
- Not allowing adequate time for a given trip.

When confronted with aggressive drivers, the DPS recommends that you:

- Put your pride in the back seat and move

aside.

- Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities when the incident occurs.
- Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.
- Make sure everyone is buckled up.

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

SHORT

Continued from Page 1

adopted tax rate will bring an estimated \$331,400 above the effective rate. The bulk of that money — \$243,579 — would be ear-marked for the pool project.

Had the rollback petition been successful, the tax rate would have fallen back to 97.9398 cents per \$100 property value — the roll back rate set by the state of Texas. The rollback would have left the city's current budget with a shortfall of about \$180,000, according to officials.

The city council has

discussed a number of different remedies for its swimming pool problems, ranging from the renovation of the existing pool to the design and construction of a water park. However, the council has not yet made a definitive decision on the matter.

Although the petition has failed, Thomason

said he and other Concerned Citizens Council members still feel strongly about the pool issue.

"We still believe an expenditure of that magnitude should go before the voters," said

Thomason.

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

TREES

Continued from Page 1

the results could get serious — and expensive.

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

Davis said dropping your tree off is free of charge, and there are only a

few, simple guidelines to follow.

"We need people to make sure all of the lights and ornaments are off the tree," he explained. "We also can't take it if it's still wrapped in plastic or anything like that. You also need to make sure the tree stand has been taken off. Once they drop it off, we'll take it from there."

For more information, contact Davis at 264-2505.

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

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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

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OTHER VIEWS

Bush deserves kudos for not being meddler

We're almost a year into the ex-presidency of George W. Bush and, so far, we like what we hear from him, which has been very little.

This is not a snide assessment of the post-White House years of an unpopular ex-president.

What we like is Bush sticking to his vow to not critique or heckle from the bench, an approach even more crucial while we are a nation at war and facing a tricky matrix of foreign policy challenges.

And while Bush has remained publicly mum this year, another ex-president and Bush's vice president have offered lessons in the pitfalls of meddling.

For many years, Jimmy Carter was a popular ex-president. Tossed from office after one term, Carter left Washington with low approval numbers. But through his work on charitable causes, he earned new respect. He was awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for "his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

The citation made specific mention of the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel while he was in office.

Last week, however, Carter acknowledged the problems an ex-president can cause. In a letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Carter apologized to American Jews for his post-presidency comments likening Israel's policy in the West Bank to apartheid.

In the letter, Carter apologized for any of his comments that might "stigmatize Israel."

"As I would have noted at (the Jewish high holy days of) Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, but which is appropriate at any time of the year, I offer an Al Het (a plea for forgiveness) for any words or deeds of mine that may have done so," Carter wrote.

We've also seen a how-not-to-do-it from former Vice President Dick Cheney, who also gave us some how-not-to-do-it lessons while he was in office.

Cheney's comments this year have included a ringing defense of "enhanced-interrogation techniques," the value of keeping the Guantanamo Bay prison open for suspected terrorist detainees and his recent comment charging President Barack Obama with "dithering" on the Afghanistan troop level decision.

Cheney also didn't help the nation's cause in an August interview when he expressed "serious doubts especially about the extent to which (Obama) understands and is prepared to do what needs to be done to defend the nation."

Cheney has as much right as the next guy to weigh in on issues of the day. But, as an ex-vice president, he also has far more responsibility than the next guy when it comes to questioning our national defense.

Bush understands that. The next we will hear from him in a substantive way will come late in 2010 with the publication of his "Decision Points" memoir. The book will focus on 12 key decisions he made in his life. Most observers would be surprised if Bush delves into critiques of the Obama administration.

So far, in his relatively few speeches, Bush has stuck with talking about his years in office and refrained from critiquing his successor. It is the proper and honorable approach, and one Bush promised to adhere to during an Oval Office interview during his final days in office.

"The ex-president needs to get off the stage. ... And I will be respectful of the president. I'm sure there will be some moments when I don't agree with what he's done. But I don't plan on grabbing the mic and having the klieg lights shine on me," he said.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
AUSTIN

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we focus on our future with You, Lord.
Amen

Amnesty to end all amnesties

No one expects it to pass in its present form. Legislation on controversial matters inevitably is subject to a series of amendments. But the current bill, introduced in the House of Representatives last week, aiming to repair our broken immigration system lays a solid foundation for restoring our proud tradition as a nation of immigrants.

Naysayers on both ends of the political spectrum already are knocking it as either "too liberal" or "too conservative," which is an indication that the bill — introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., and co-sponsored by more than 90 other House Democrats — is indeed fairly balanced.

Undocumented immigrants would have to pay an application fee, a \$500 fine for those who entered the country after turning 16, and demonstrate that they have contributed to U.S. society through work, school, the military or community service. But then each would be given a six-year conditional visa and a path to a green card and to eventually obtain U.S. citizenship.

And that has the conservative naysayers asking how anyone could be offering amnesty to millions of lawbreakers who are taking American jobs at a time when so many U.S. citizens are out of work.

Yet to stop illegal immigration in the future, the bill also supports strong border security and immigration enforcement. And to make sure that future hires are legally in the country, the bill also creates an employment verification system.

And that has the liberal naysayers complaining that this bill should be more lenient and less

focused on enforcement. They say immigration should not be treated as a national security issue.

But just as the conservatives are wrong for opposing any form of amnesty, the liberals are wrong for opposing any form of enforcement.

The conservatives need to accept the fact that we would not be giving new jobs to millions of undocumented immigrants; we merely would be legalizing about 5 percent of our current work force. Most of these people have well-planted roots in this country. In spite of the obstacles, many have managed to survive and eventually thrive while making significant contributions to our society — by taking care of our kids and elderly, washing our restaurant dishes, cleaning our bathrooms, mowing our lawns, harvesting our crops and doing all the other menial jobs most Americans reject. The fact that more U.S. citizens now have to accept those jobs is a reflection of our troubled economy, but it does not deny the fact that undocumented immigrants were needed here and that many still are essential to our economic recovery. Booting them out of the country would be not only inhumane but also counterproductive to our own national interests.

On the other extreme, the liberals need to learn how to live with the fact that immigration is indeed a huge national security problem; in this age of terrorism, an open-borders policy is a terrible idea.

In fact, perhaps the strongest argument for an amnesty program is our need to identify everyone who is living in this country for the sake of our national security.

The liberals must understand that this comprehensive reform legislation would have to be the amnesty to end all amnesties, that after the current undocumented immigrants were

legalized, we would have zero tolerance for future illegal immigration. When we gave amnesty to undocumented immigrants in 1986, the legislation failed to reduce illegal immigration. In fact, some people believe it actually encouraged more immigrants to come here illegally.

And that's the reason that this time, no immigration reform bill is likely to pass without solid provisions to ensure that future illegal immigration would be reduced dramatically.

Gutierrez's bill, called the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009, tries to establish a realistic balance between the liberal and conservative extremes to create an immigration system that would actually work!

However, because it was introduced by a group of mostly liberal Democrats to pressure President Barack Obama to keep his word on immigration reform, even Obama administration officials are reportedly dismissing it as "too liberal."

It's not! There is no question that Gutierrez's bill takes a pro-immigrant approach, but it's the fair, balanced and realistic way to finally fix our broken immigration system.

Nevertheless, the White House and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano have indicated that the Obama administration is assisting in the creation of a more moderate and bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that will be introduced in the Senate early next year by Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

The question now is: How much further to the right will the Schumer-Graham bill take us, and will it truly fix our immigration problems with the compassion that Obama promised?

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'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
not a creature was stirring...but over in the Senate...



Here comes the New Year

The New Year is fast approaching. A Facebook friend recently commented, "I'll be happy to see 2009 in my rearview mirror." I suspect she is not the only one who feels this way.

Yet even though some may be ready for their year to end, others are having some trepidation about the New Year and the changes it promises.

New beginnings sometimes bring both an excitement and an uncertainty. And sometimes the uncertainty leads to fear that can thwart our forward momentum and progress.

Indeed, fear can freeze us in our tracks and stop us from making decisions and taking steps that are good for us. Perhaps we're afraid of making the same mistakes we made last year. Or perhaps we're simply not sure which next step is the best one to take. So we do nothing!

There's a song that often comes to my mind when I think about making a new beginning. It's based upon an Old Testament story. (Genesis Chapter 26)

Once upon a time Isaac and his wife Rebekah were forced to move several times. Moving in those days meant digging a new well of water each time in their new habitat. Again and again, they settled in a location where they were unwelcomed. And their "enemy" filled their well with dirt in an attempt to make them move.

And so they would. Isaac and his family would simply pick up camp and move to a new place and dig another well.

Paul Overstreet wrote a song about "Ike" — as he calls him — titled "Dig another well." The chorus pretty much sums up his main point and why this song has often come to my mind when thinking about making a new start.

"So when the rains don't fall and the crops all fail,

And the cows ain't puttin' any milk in the pail,

Don't sit around waitin' for a check in the mail,

Just pick up the shovel and dig another well,

Pick up the shovel and dig another well."

The solution is pretty simple, my friends. So you need to start over somewhere? Things have not worked out where you are now? Don't hesitate. Don't sit around in dismay and disap-

pointment. Don't ruminate over what could have been. "Just pick up the shovel and dig another well."

I love this advice, and there have been many times when I've had to give heed to it!

And here's the good news. Every time Isaac's servants dug a new well, they found water. And so will we all when we begin anew. There will always be new opportunities and possibilities available to us. New ideas and discoveries await everyone who takes on a new adventure.

Recognize that God's wisdom and care is at work in your life. Affirm that God wants only good for His children. Acknowledge His presence and power as the guiding influence each day — each moment — of your life today and tomorrow.

Trust His direction to lead you to the perfect home, job, relationship. The promise of 2010 brings a happy anticipation. This is a time to rejoice. We can expect a better year.

So come in New Year!
We're ready for you!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com



ANNETTE BRIDGES

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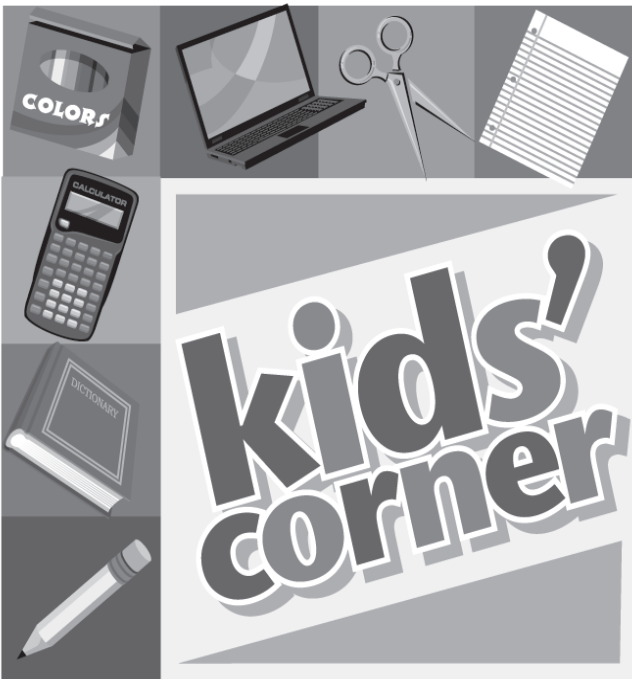
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Computer Word Find

Just in time for Nat'l Clean-Up Your Computer Month, see how many related words you can find and circle.

BACKUP	GAMES	SCHOOL
COMPUTER	KEYBOARD	STORAGE
DATA	LAPTOP	TYPE
DIGITAL	MOUSE	WORK

A D K Q K K L L R J E S
 F B A M X A E E R S S Q
 W K A T P Q T X K T U B
 D U P T A U Z V Z O O K
 X I O U P V V S W R M K
 W P G M K E Y B O A R D
 O V O I W C G D N G S I
 R C L E T W A J J E I N
 K A X T P A A B M N K M
 L O O H C S L A F M B B
 D A P Z V X G M J X A F
 U W T T Y P E Q G S V V

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1918: U.S. PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON OUTLINED HIS FOURTEEN POINTS PEACE PLAN.
- 1964: PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON DECLARES A "WAR ON POVERTY" IN THE U.S.
- 1998: RAMZI YOUSEF, THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE 1993 WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING, WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON.



MANY PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE CLUTTER AROUND THE HOUSE. BUT SOME PEOPLE CANNOT BEAR TO THROW THINGS AWAY. THESE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN AS ...?

ANSWER: HORDERS

Computer Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. Computers can **V R E E T E I R** stored files.
2. The **R M O O N T I** is like a TV screen.
3. Purchase a **N P R R I E T** to print out materials.
4. A **P P O T L A** is smaller than a desktop computer.

Answers: 1. retrieve 2. monitor 3. print 4. laptop



DATA

pieces of information

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Computer

SPANISH: Ordenator

ITALIAN: Computer

FRENCH: Ordinateur

GERMAN: Computer

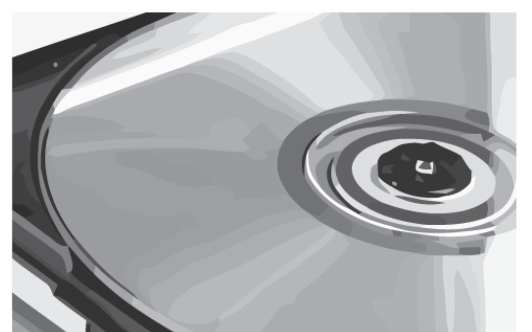
Did you know?

EARLY COMPUTERS WERE SO LARGE THAT THEY WEIGHED SEVERAL TONS



AND TOOK UP AN ENTIRE ROOM IN A BUILDING.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CD-ROM

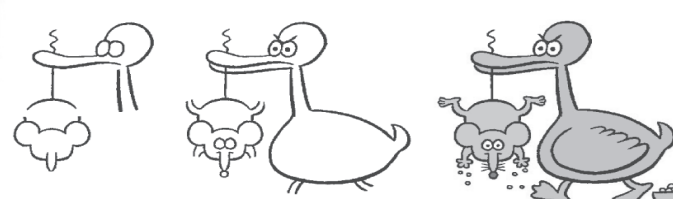
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slylock Fox received a tip that Count Weirdly is planning to release his monster into the forest during a month with 28 days. Slylock is determined to stop the count. What month fits Weirdly's planned release of the beast?



HOW TO DRAW an unwelcome dinner guest



YOUR DRAWING

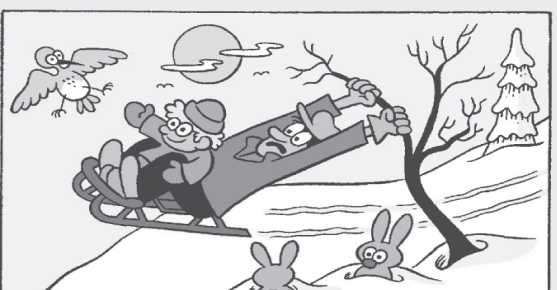
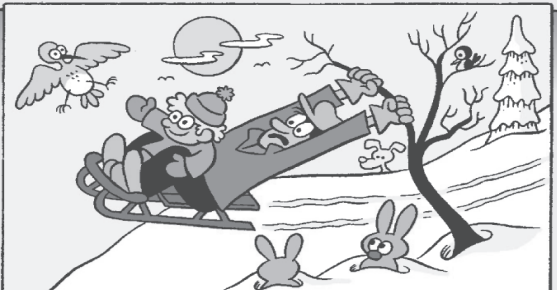
Today's terrific artist is Steven Summers, age 13, of Utica, NY



The scrambled words are things in the Slylock Fox scene. How many can you unscramble?

- 1) ACNHI
- 2) EPSRID
- 3) KESAN
- 4) RSKAESN

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Dog, bird, rabbit, sled, hat and glove.

The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King of the Hill) to: King of the Hill, P.O. Box 1000, New York, NY 10001.

Bird Poop:

Swainson's thrush survives encounter with dog, car

Throughout the night, its sustained, swift flight had brought it to dense junipers, interspersed with buckeye, mesquites, cactus and desert scrub. Hiding in the undergrowth, it rested from its arduous journey.

As the mid-morning sun shown upon its back, the bird awakened. Surrounded by native vegetation, it could easily find sustenance among the dried leaves and grasses of summer.

Although the end of the year was extremely late for this migrant to be arriving, the warm December weather had encouraged a new hatch of insects. In search of beetles, flies, ants, sow bugs and wasps, it investigated decaying debris by hurriedly flipping aside the dregs of nature. Once satisfied with abundant fuel, the bird would continue toward the tropics.

Eager to "walk the mountain," a couple had parked at the entrance to the state park. As they climbed the winding, steep ascent and neared the top, their dog suddenly strained against its leash. Having been contented just to sniff the roadway, the pet now kept trying to lunge into a dense thicket.

Controlling the large animal was becoming a problem for the woman. eaping forward as her husband reached for the leash, the dog bolted with such force that only a leather burn was left in the palm of her hand.

Disappearing into the brush, the canine hurried in its quest to find the mysterious looking creature it had seen among the leaves. Clumsily pursuing his pet through the unforgiving growth was slow and painful for the man.

When the leash finally tangled in the twisted stalks of an old buckeye, the dog abruptly stopped with an ensuing jerk to its neck. Excited, pant-

ing and waiting on its owner to free it, the pet could only watch as a small bird flushed from the undergrowth.

With their attention on capturing the wayward animal, the couple had been unaware of an approaching vehicle. Although slowly traveling the park's road, the driver had caught glimpses of the man trying to retrieve his dog. What he had not anticipated was the fleeing bird slamming into the side of his car.

Lying on the pavement, the olive-gray bird reminded the driver of a young robin. Although smaller, it had blackish spots down the sides of its buff-colored throat and on its breast. Most noticeable were the rings around its eyes.

As he carefully eased his hand under the panting bird, the man thought to himself that the bird weighed "next to nothing." With its eyes closed, the driver feared the worse.

Holding their dog's collar, the couple slowly approached the man. Regretting that their pet had caused the bird's flight into the car, the man and woman offered their help. Since the driver knew someone who cares for wild birds, they thanked him for being there.

When the doorbell rang, I could see through the front window that a man held a bird no longer than his hand. Even though it was a member of the thrush family, we were not familiar with the specie.

Aside from the spotted breast and olive-gray back, the most outstanding, identifying feature was what appeared to be nature's sense of humor. The bird appeared to be wearing buff-colored eyeglasses.

Telling the man I would call with the identification, we made the thrush as comfortable as possible. After read-



Courtesy photo

Weighing a little more than an ounce, the Swainson's thrush migrates at night during September through November. During its return in the spring, the bird may be seen in April or May.

ing several books, I was disappointed at how little was written about the Swainson's thrush.

While this specie had two distinct colorations, russet-backed and olive-backed, I found its song was of the most interest. As it lent its music to spring migration, one ornithologist described its tune as high pitched and flutelike. Telling of the bird's love for mulberries, he added that if near one of those trees, you might hear its spiraling notes.

It had taken this small migrant, an insect/fruit eater to help me identify a specie I had seen flitting about in a huge mulberry tree at a friend's house

several years in a row. Missing had been the description of its voice.

As the Swainson's thrush responded to care and feeding, I felt it had an opportunity once again to participate in the lengthy migration from as far north as Canada to South America in the future.

The difficulty I had had in positively naming it had reminded me of a rehabber's advice years ago: "The hardest bird to identify is the one you hold in your hand."

Federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds, Bebe McCasland is author of *The Scoop from Bird Poop*.

Power plant an exercise in sustainability

PATRICK GEORGE

Austin American-Statesman

SAN MARCOS — Everything has to be bigger in Texas. That's why it's fitting that Texas State University is now home to the world's largest human power plant.

The university has unveiled equipment at the Student Recreation Center that will generate electricity when students use it for exercise. The equipment, produced by a Florida company called ReRev, was placed on 30 elliptical machines that are now feeding electricity back into the campus power grid.

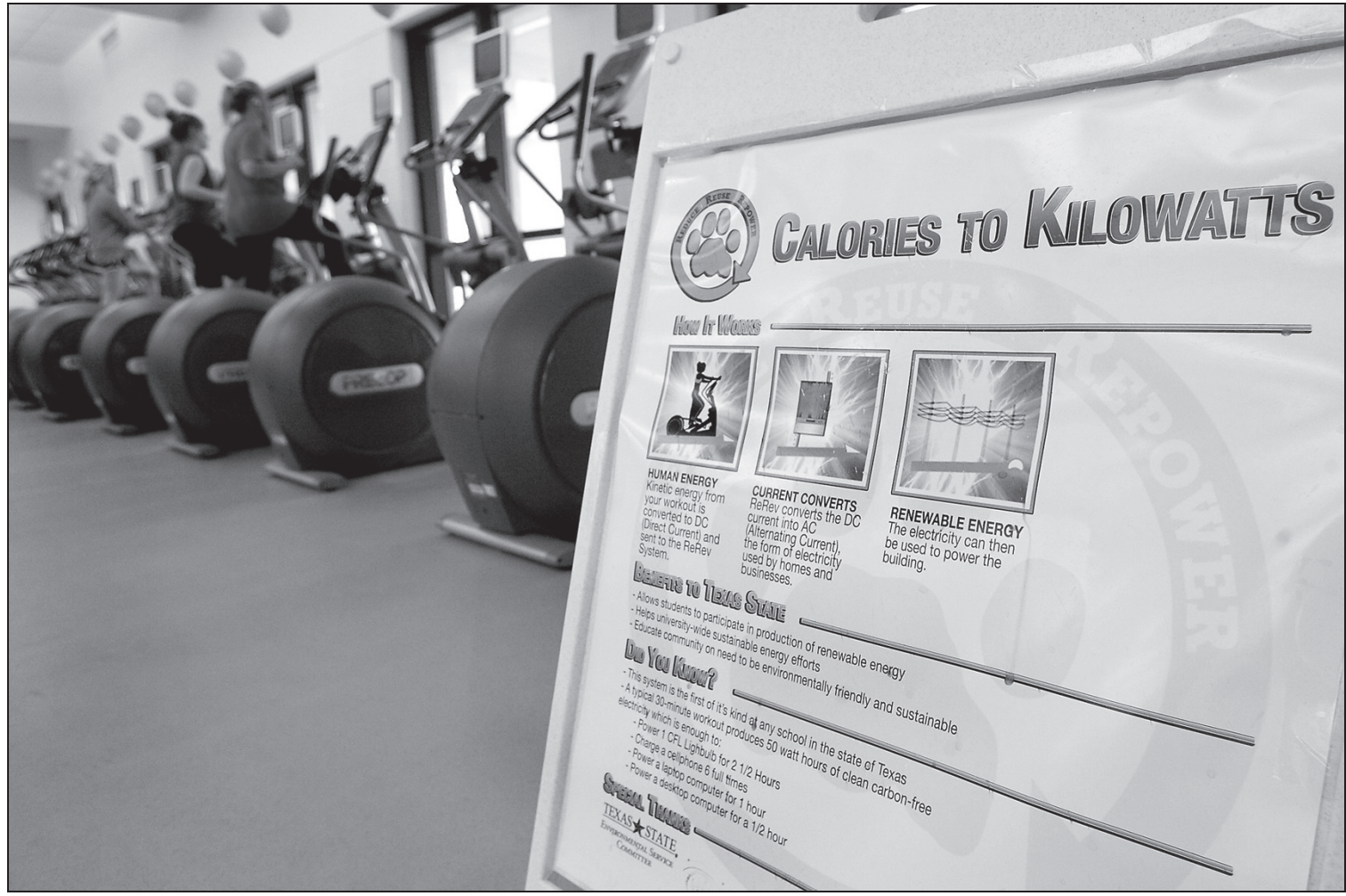
A number of other universities have installed the system, but Texas State's rec center is using more Re-Rev machines than any other gym, making it the top producer of human power in the world.

"With 30 machines, we have more than anyone else in the world, and we're the first in Texas" to install the system, said Glenn Hanley, the director of campus recreation.

Hanley said each elliptical marked with a green balloon has a device that captures kinetic energy generated by the user. It's then converted into direct current and sent to a gray box on the wall of the gym, which converts the energy into alternating current the kind that runs in U.S. electrical outlets and is used to power the devices in our homes.

A typical 30-minute workout on the elliptical produces 50 watt-hours of electricity enough to power a light bulb for 2 1/2 hours and a desktop computer for 30 minutes.

The entire system cost about \$20,000 to install, Hanley said, and was paid for by Texas State's environmental service committee and the Department of Campus Recreation with support from the Associated Student



This photo shows a sign for the Calories to Kilowatts program that was unveiled at Texas State University in the Student Recreation Center on campus in San Marcos. The university has unveiled equipment at the Student Recreation Center that will generate electricity when students use it for exercise. The equipment, produced by a Florida company called ReRev, was placed on 30 elliptical machines that are now feeding electricity back into the campus power grid.

Government.

The system could pay for itself in about seven or eight years, Hanley said.

But Blair Hartley, a recreation management graduate student in charge of the project, said powering the university grid isn't really the point. It's trying to make students more aware

of how much power it takes to run their devices and to encourage them to use less electricity when they can.

"It's more about changing the mindset of the 30,000-plus students on campus," Hartley said. "When you realize, 'I just worked out for 30 minutes, and it's only enough to power a light bulb for about two hours,' it gives you

some perspective."

If you left the lights on in your dorm room for three hours, it would take about a week's worth of regular workouts to recoup that, Hartley said.

Chris Covo, Texas State's student body president, said he's looking forward to working out on the elliptical machines when finals are over.

AP photo/Austin American-Statesman/Laura Skelding

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OIL

Continued from Page 3

U.S. inventories.

Some analysts, however, said that the end-of-year thin trading was distorting the market.

"We continue to be of the opinion that real driver of the oil market last week and this week is the lack of trading volume in the futures market and not really the lack of oil supplies," said Olivier Jakob of Petromatrix in Switzerland. "We do not want to draw hard conclusions on the balance of the oil markets in such a holiday

environment."

Providing a positive cue for oil were small gains in most Asian and European stock markets.

The dollar's exchange rate also continued to influence oil prices. Oil, which is traded in dollars, often moves in the opposite direction to the currency.

While the euro was up to \$1.4443 from \$1.4376 in New York late Monday, the British pound dropped to \$1.5997 from \$1.6003 and the dollar edged up to 91.68 Japanese yen from 91.59 yen.

In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil rose 0.30 cent to \$2.0765 gallon while gasoline fell 0.35 cent to \$2.0149 a gallon. Natural gas fell to \$5.959 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Gemini moon is a talkative friend, filled with bright ideas, opinions and good advice. There's a conversational buzz wherever people congregate, even in the places that are supposed to be quiet, like the library. The social energy carries into the evening, when lively discussions will facilitate connection, even among disagreeing parties.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're happy to witness other people's growth, especially if you had something to do with it. Someone may finally come clean about an issue you already knew about — a relief for everyone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Change can be scary, even when the change is undeniably for the best. So don't be surprised when your friends voice concern at the new direction in which you're heading. You know in your own heart that it's right for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A new opportunity at work means less time

at home. You have a difficult decision to make. Talk to a partner about it. If you take the opportunity to do so, your partner will feel invested in it, as well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will be a shining example of perseverance. You won't be the first one out of the gate, but you will still manage to beat out the competition by sheer tenacity. And this time, the victory will be all yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have made attempts before to work out regularly, but a routine is actually beginning to take root. Vigorous physical exercise will flush out the toxins of body and mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A simple wholesome act raises your mood — like eating fruit, walking or smiling. From this new, more energetic space, you'll accomplish all that needs doing. Tonight features a special connection with someone older.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A born diplomat, you always seem to be bringing feuding parties toward reconciliation. Be it arguing friends or angry co-workers, you have the gift of mediation, and you use it often and to great effect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Brainstorm about your next step. Open up the floodgates. There are no bad ideas — take note of even the strange ones. There is probably a germ of greatness in the mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just when you thought you couldn't get any more charming, you'll meet the person who causes you to step up your game. You'll enjoy honing that wonderful personality of yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll make some budgeting changes. Upon close examination, you'll find things that you're paying for but not using. Also, you'll discover ways to do things cheaply.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be an important addition to a group. Your input is part of what makes the dynamic work so well. Your personal anecdotes will help someone open up and share.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being

effective takes energy. Take steps to enliven your attitude. A lack of enthusiasm is not just a little problem. It can damage your relationships and hurt your work. Make it a priority to find your joy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). Your opinions change, and you'll conduct yourself differently. January brings key knowledge, and life improves as you act on it. You'll know what is the right decision, because it's the path you would choose whether it led to success or failure. There is someone who needs your care and nurturing in March. Leo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 29, 15, 33 and 18.

PISCES FORECAST 2010: You are through rushing around and trying to force life to comply with your wishes. You long for a new approach in this fresh decade, and life answers your longing by showing you a different method of achievement.

The move you make in January will help you cut out the confusion and riffraff and move to a state of stillness. You'll grow more patient and wiser, seeing more options than before.

Money and Career: A sale in January helps you get the favorable attention you need to go to the next stage of your business. A mentor shows up in March. Invest in yourself and in your education in June. Taurus and Libra individuals will be instrumental in your success.

Love: New habits serve you well. A physical change will increase the energy and excitement around your personal relationships. Your confidence shines through the attitudes you take about your love life. For starters, you will be lighthearted in your pursuit of love. Also, you will be courageous and playful when it comes to your look and manner.

Personal Development: Learning an instrument or a dif-

ferent language will be lucky.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Capricorn is a sign of hard work, tradition and inheritance. In the case of actor Jude Law, the inheritance includes loads of talent. Born to a family of artists, he learned early on the value of committing to one's craft and has been honing his acting skills since childhood. His natal moon and Mars in passionate Scorpio lend an intensity and magnetism to this compelling movie star's mix.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

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.

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



By Steve Becker

Exactly the Right Medicine

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 9 4
♥ —
♦ K Q J
♣ 10 9 8 6 3 2
WEST
♠ 7
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 7 5
EAST
♠ 5 3 2
♥ K 8 6 5 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 4
SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 8 6
♥ Q J 7 4
♦ 7
♣ A K J

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 6♣

The value of a 4-3-3 hand is usually not hard to judge. The high-card point count generally tells the story. The real difficulty in evaluating a hand correctly rises in proportion to its freakishness. Those with wild distribution do not lend themselves well to accurate evaluation. The excellence of the fit with partner's hand, or the absence of it, becomes the determining factor.

For example, North's hand, with only 11 high-card points, has a very imprecise value when the auction begins. But its value increases

tremendously when partner responds one spade. Whether it's worth a jump to three spades is debatable, but the slam contract turns out to be quite reasonable.

East won the diamond lead and returned a trump, taken by South. One possible line of play was to ruff three hearts in dummy and discard a heart and the jack of clubs on dummy's two high diamonds. But this would require a 2-2 club division.

Alternatively, South could draw the missing trumps and, if they did not break 2-2, rely on the clubs to be divided favorably. But another method of play, the one chosen by South, had a much better chance to succeed.

He cashed the ace of clubs, led a spade to the nine and then discarded the J-K of clubs on the K-Q of diamonds! Next he ruffed a club, led a third round of trumps to the jack and ruffed another club with his last trump.

By this time, dummy had the only remaining trump together with three good clubs, so South easily scored the rest of the tricks.

Just about all declarer's plan required for success was a normal 3-1 or 2-2 trump division, together with a normal 3-1 or 2-2 club division. Discarding the K-J of clubs may appear to be overly fancy, but it was the right thing to do under the circumstances.

Tomorrow: The one and only chance.
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Steers drop two in Kerrville

Herald Staff Report

KERRVILLE — The Big Spring Steers basketball team fell to two tough opponents Monday at the start of the Kerrville Tivy Classic.

Its first opponent, St. Michael's Academy in Austin, was ranked No. 15 in the Texas Press Association's large private school division. The Crusaders downed the Steers 68-55.

Lake Travis, ranked No. 5 in 4A, beat the Steers 58-39.

Head coach Marcus Morris said he wanted his team to play

against higher competition. He got it Monday.

"They're all bigger schools, and to reach our full potential, we've got to go out and play better teams," Morris said.

The Steers were outmatched in both games and were a little rusty coming off Christmas break, Morris said.

"It was a typical Christmas game," he said. "It looked like we had not played in six or seven days, and really we had not."

Jerrell Williams paced the team against Lake Travis with 13 points. Tyler Tannehill scored

seven points in the game, and Jacob Falcon had five.

Morris said the team had trouble putting the ball in the hoop against Lake Travis' bigger lineup.

"We're just not scoring right now," Morris said. "But there aren't a lot of holes in these defenses, either."

The Steers played host school Kerrville Tivy at 9 a.m. and another opponent at 10:30 a.m. Results will be posted in Wednesday's Herald.

Box scores were unavailable for the game.

Coahoma runs past Fort Stockton 77-56

Herald Staff Report

BIG LAKE — The Coahoma Bulldogs lit up the scoreboard Monday night on the way to a 77-56 win over Fort Stockton.

Coahoma allowed just seven points in the first quarter and outpaced the Panthers 48-33 in the second and third periods to run away with the ball game. Marin Leija scored 21 points for the Bulldogs, fellow senior Isaac Garcia added 19 and freshman forward Tanner Ruiz put in 11.

"We played better considering we've been off for five days," head coach Kim Nichols said. "Our deal today was we wanted to start out today like we finished against Tahoka last Friday, and

not lose any momentum gained there."

Fort Stockton's Trey Cantu scored 23 points for the Panthers. He was their only player in double figures.

"Even though he scored 23, I thought we did a good job on him," Nichols said.

The Bulldogs are now 11-1 on the season and will play Colorado City at 1:30 p.m. today.

Coahoma 77, Ft. Stockton 56
Coahoma 14 23 25 15 -- 77
Ft. Stockton 7 19 14 15 -- 56

Coahoma (11-4) - Leija 23, Garcia 19, Ruiz 11, Josh Paniagua 9, Kirk Hahn 8, Lane Douglass 5, Hunter Williams 2, Alex Crabtree 2
Ft. Stockton - Cantu 23, Galvan 9, Leyva 8, Gossett 4, Milan 4, Howard 3, Jaquez 3, Ramirez 2
Free throws - CHS 18-26, FS 13-24; 3-point - CHS 3 (Leija 2, Ruiz), FS 5 (Cantu 4, Galvan); Fouls - CHS 20, FS 23; Fouled out - Douglass, Leyva



AP FILE PHOTO/Mike Fuentes

Questions swirl around the suspension of Mike Leach as Tech investigates a complaint from receiver Adam James, son of SMU great Craig James, concerning post-concussion treatment.

Leach suspended for Alamo Bowl

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech is preparing for the Alamo Bowl without its quirky coach.

University officials on Monday suspended Mike Leach while the school investigates complaints from receiver Adam James and his family about how the player was treated after a concussion in practice earlier this month.

James is the son of former NFL player Craig James, now an analyst for ESPN.

Defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill will be the interim coach

with the Red Raiders play Michigan State in San Antonio on Jan. 2.

McNeill, who will remain in charge of the team until the investigation is complete, declined to answer questions about the complaints after Monday night's practice in San Antonio. Players were not made available to the media.

"Mike's my friend. We've been friends for a long time, and I don't think right now is the right time to go into that," said McNeill, who Leach brought to Texas Tech in 2000.

He said Leach arrived

with the team in San Antonio and that Adam James also was with the team, but not practicing. School officials declined to identify the player, but James' family released a statement to The Associated Press saying it was him.

A person with direct knowledge of the complaints told the AP that James, while unable to practice with a concussion, twice was forced to stand in a small, dark place for hours while the team practiced. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the complaint

and the ongoing investigation.

James was hurt Dec. 16 and the next day was diagnosed with a concussion, the person said.

According to the person, James was sequestered at two consecutive practices:

— On Dec. 17, James said Leach told trainers to put him in "the darkest place you can find." James was sent to an equipment shed near the practice field, where a member of the athletic staff checked on James to make sure

See **LEACH**, Page 12

Bearkats still rusty; Lady Kats win again

Herald Staff Report

BIG LAKE — The Garden City Bearkats are playing catch up.

After a thrilling post-season football run to a state championship, the Bearkats are behind the curve on the hardwood, as was evident in a 36-31 loss to Grape Creek Monday at the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic.

Garden City was up one point heading into the fourth quarter, but it managed just three points in the final frame and couldn't keep up with the Eagles.

"We had a hundred open looks, we just missed them," head coach Kory Abney said. "We're not ready to be playing yet from football."

Brett Chudej scored 20 points for the Bearkats but fouled out in the fourth quarter, and Garden City's offense grinded to a halt.

"We played great defense," Abney said. "We held a 2A high school to 36 points, but our shot just isn't where it needs to be."

The Bearkats played

at 10:30 a.m. and will play again at either 1:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. today. Check tomorrow's Herald for results.

Garden City 37
Grape Creek 23

BIG LAKE — The Garden City Lady Bearkats rolled on Monday to a win over Grape Creek in the opening round of the Mary Tatum Holiday Classic.

The post duo of Paige Nihues and Morgan Schwartz controlled the offense for the Lady Bearkats, as Nihues dropped 12 and Schwartz put in 11 of her own. Nihues showed her range from the outside as well as she hit two 3-pointers.

The Garden City defense stiffened in the second half, allowing just nine points in the final two quarters. The team was 6-8 from the free throw line as well. The Lady Bearkats are now 14-0 on the season. They played Ballinger in the second round of the tournament at noon today. Check tomorrow's Herald for results.

See **SCORES**, Page 12

Wisconsin, Miami share common goal for Champs Sports Bowl

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The first time Miami coach Randy Shannon watched film on Wisconsin, he thought he was watching another team run his playbook.

"You look at a team that resembles what you can do," Shannon said.

The more he studied the more similarities he saw.

Shannon and Badgers coach Brett Bielema are former defensive coordinators who run the same scheme. Each rely on the run to setup the play-action pass and both have improved on last season's lowly 7-6 records.

When the 14th-ranked Hurricanes face No. 24 Wisconsin in the Champs

Sports Bowl on Tuesday night, the schools will also will be chasing an even bigger goal: a 10-win season to help propel their programs back to national prominence.

"It's one win," Bielema said. "But 10-win seasons are special, because not very many people get it done."

This game might be an even bigger hurdle for Miami.

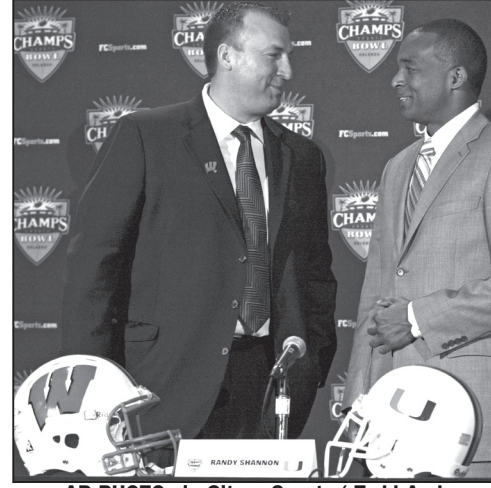
After dipping into mediocrity, the Hurricanes have a chance for their first 10-win season since 2003 and can position themselves for a big run next year. The milestone would be a big step on the road back for a program that was dominant at times earlier this decade, won five national titles between 1983-2001 and captured

the eyes of college football fans with so much speed and swagger.

Miami has improved in each of the first three seasons under Shannon — with regular seasons of 5-7, 7-5 and 9-3 — and made perhaps the biggest jump this year. The Hurricanes went 3-1 to start the season in a brutal stretch against four ranked teams, jumped back into the top 10 briefly before fizzling out and again missing the Atlantic Coach Conference title game.

By Miami standards, any bowl that doesn't start with BCS is a disappointment. Still, the Hurricanes believe they have more at stake in

See **BOWL**, Page 12



AP PHOTO via Citrus Sports/ Todd Anderson
Wisconsin's Brett Bielema, left, and Miami's Randy Shannon, right, will meet in tonight's bowl game.

Sports in brief

Basketball tournaments postponed one day

Lenorah Grady's annual Cotton Classic basketball tournament has been postponed one day due to weather concerns.

The tournament will keep the same schedule, but will start Wednesday instead of today. Stanton high school is also competing in the event.

The Sterling City tournament, which involves Sands and Forsan high schools, among others, has also been postponed until Wednesday.

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.

Howard College Hawks to start Arizona road trip

The Howard College Hawks will be in action tomorrow night as they travel to Arizona for a two-game road trip.

The team will play the College of Southern Idaho on Wednesday and Luke Air Force Base Thursday as part of the Phoenix College Classic.

Before returning home, the Hawks will play South Mountain College and Glendale Community College, both in the Phoenix area.

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Applications are required and available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org.

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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Seinfeld	Scrivner	BBC	Dirty Jobs		DEA	Law & Order	Fam. Mat.	Phineas	SportsCenter	-- temple vs. UCLA.
6:PM :30	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora-zones	News Name	Office Harris	Dr. Young	Business	Dirty Jobs		DEA	Bones	Fam. Mat.	Wizards	College Basketball: Hartford at Kentucky.	
7:PM :30	Rudolph's New Year	Rudolph's New Year	Nombre-Amor	Movie: The Benchwarmers	NCIS	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Parks Office	Office Harris	Upd	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Ghost, Whoopi Goldberg	DEA	Bones	To Be Announced	Movie: The Parent Trap, Natasha Richardson	College Football: Champs Sports Bowl -- Miami vs. Wisconsin.	
8:PM :30	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sortilegio	The 32nd Annual Kennedy Center Honors	Pobres	Parks Office	Parks Office	Office Light of the Southwest	Victory		Dirty Jobs		DEA	Law & Order		College Basketball		
9:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Aquí y Ahora	Simpsons Friends	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Office	Office	Independent Lens		Ghost Lab		DEA	Law & Order	Monica	Montana		
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez Tonight Show	Upd Cortes		Dirty Jobs	Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy	UFC 108 Countdown	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards So Raven	SportsCtr.	
11:PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	Seinfeld	Ministerio-Vida	BBC	Dirty Jobs		CSI: NY	W. Williams	Life De	Fastbreak		
12:AM :30	News	Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Church	Upd		Ghost Lab	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	CSI: Crime Scn	NUMB3RS	Movie: Beauty Shop	Replace Kim	SportsNation	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Wall St	Paid	Mujer...	Ent. Ton.	Pagado	Pagado	News	Lopez	Light of the Southwest		Dirty Jobs		Star Trek: Voyager	Cold Case	Emperor Dragon	College Football: ...	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-29
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"MY MOM GAINED FIVE POUNDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS, SO EVERYBODY AT MY HOUSE IS ON A DIET."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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"Mommy's dressin' up her ears. That means we're not going."

HAGAR

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WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING, STRANGER?
MY NAME IS ROBIN HOOD...
I ROB FROM THE RICH AND GIVE TO THE POOR!
HOW DO YOU LIVE IF YOU GIVE ALL THE MONEY TO THE POOR?
I WORK ON A 20 PERCENT COMMISSION!

BC

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MY FEET ARE FREEZING!
MY FRESH BREWED HOT CHOCOLATE IS THE PERFECT CURE!
AAAAHHH...
THANKS.

WIZARD OF ID

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FIRE!
FWANG
YOU'VE GOT TO WORK ON THAT SLICE, JIM

BLONDIE

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I'D LIKE TO RETURN THIS SWEATER, BECAUSE NOBODY IN MY FAMILY LIKES THE WAY I LOOK IN IT.
DO YOU LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK IN IT?
WELL, SURE... I THINK I LOOK GREAT IN IT!
BUT OBVIOUSLY MY OPINION DOESN'T MATTER
OBVIOUSLY

AGNES

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NOW... YOU TALLY UP ALL THE PEOPLE THAT YOU THINK WILL COME TO OUR PARTY, I WILL ADD IT TO MY TALLY, AND THAT'S HOW MANY CUPS WE WILL NEED TO COME UP WITH.
THANK YOU.
OK... WE WILL NEED TWO CUPS.
I HOPE WE HAVE ENOUGH CHAIRS.

HI AND LOIS

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MOM! DITTO IS MISBEHAVING AGAIN!
COME NOW, DOT. HE'S JUST BUILDING SOMETHING WITH HIS CONSTRUCTION SET.
HE SAYS IT'S A DEATH-RAY LASER TO ZAP MY BARBIES.

THE OTHER COAST

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SIMON, IT'S PROBABLY TIME YOU TOOK DOWN YOUR LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE.
BZZZZZZ...
I CHIPPED IT IN THE PENCIL SHARPENER.

SNUFFY SMITH

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GALS NOWADAYS ARE GETTIN' THAR SITES A MITE HIGHER THAN WE DID, LOWEEZY !!
SAID THAR NOT PLAYIN' "HOUSE," THAR PLAYIN' "MANSION"!!

BEETLE BAILEY

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WHAT? WELL, WHY CAN'T YOU GOAT THAT TREE?
YES, I KNOW THERE MIGHT BE WOMEN AROUND
BUT IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO START WEARING THAT UNIFORM LIKE MINE!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 29, the 363rd day of 2009. There are 2 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On Dec. 29, 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by knights loyal to King Henry II.
- On this date: In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.
- In 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.
- In 1851, the first YMCA in the U.S. was organized, in Boston.
- In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.
- In 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who'd wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was murdered by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- In 1934, Japan formally renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922.
- In 1940, during World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."
- In 1957, singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were wed in Las Vegas.
- In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.
- In 1986, former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died at his home in Sussex, England, at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Inga Swenson is 77. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 75. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 73. Actor Jon Voight is 71. Country singer Ed Bruce is 70. Rock musician Ray Thomas is 68. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 63. Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 63. Actor Ted Danson is 62. Actor Jon Polito is 59. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 58. Actress Patricia Clarkson is 50. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 50. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 48. Actor Michael Cudlitz is 45. Rock singer Dexter Holland (The Offspring) is 44. Actor-comedian Mystro Clark is 43. Actor Jason Gould is 43. Movie director Andy Wachowski is 42. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 40. Actor Patrick Fischler is 40. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 39. Actor Kevin Weisman is 39. Actor Jude Law is 37. Actor Mekhi Phifer is 35. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 34. Actress Katherine Moennig is 32. Actor Diego Luna is 30. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 26.

Thought for Today: "The wise man must be wise before, not after." — Epicharmus, Sicilian Greek comic poet (? - c.450 B.C.)

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Answer to previous puzzle

PEISTS	SITS	ACRE
SATIN	TRUE	CLAY
SCALE	ROTE	STONE
THREEMINUTE	EGGS	
ZAP	HID	
ATONES	ISEE	SST
RENO	OATH	IRATE
INSTANT	COCO	AMIX
SPEED	THOR	COLT
EMT	MANY	IDEALS
WIT	GEE	
SHORT	ORDER	COOKS
LIME	MERE	INANE
AKIN	IDOS	DETER
BETS	COPE	ESSES

Newsday Crossword

IN MOTION by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Heron relative
- Was untruthful
- Get ready, casually
- Look angrily (at)
- Border
- Volcanic flow
- Hop to it
- Prof.'s employer
- Take notice of
- "Not guilty," for one
- Hair knot
- Elk kin
- Perform with a choir
- How to write this answer
- Party planner
- Pirate's treasure holder
- __ moss (gardening material)
- Gorillas, for example
- Italian "Toodle-oo!"
- Corn portion
- Roll-call response
- Quick haircut
- Golfers' goals
- Get out of town
- Foretell
- Closer (to)
- Handy bag
- Touch down
- Shoves
- Drinks slowly
- Patient-care grp.
- Prefix for freeze
- Hop to it
- Call __ evening
- Baking appliance

DOWN

- Omelet ingredients
- Happy feeling
- Evaluate
- Historical period
- Violent windstorm
- Prying tool
- Creative thought
- Self-opinion
- Flossing recommender
- Hop to it
- Pushed, as a doorbell
- Wicked
- Cover with concrete
- Bulling cheers
- Hill-building insect
- Hop to it
- Flies high
- S&L customer
- Cricket sound
- Broadcast again
- Valentine symbol
- Asparagus unit
- Start a tennis game
- Treaty topic
- Crystal-ball user
- Auto-race break
- Camera accessory
- John __ (anonymous one)
- California wine valley
- Property claims
- Jack and Jill's container
- "Do __ others..."
- Getz of jazz
- Distort
- Snake's sound
- Lose feathers
- Change for a five
- City map abbr.
- Suit accessory

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Gooden, Dallas holds off Nuggets, snap 5-game skid

Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets bumped and bullied Dallas right out of the playoffs last season.

This is no longer that team. Not by a long shot.

Drew Gooden scored 19 points and Dirk Nowitzki hit a clutch 3-pointer late in the game, lifting the Mavericks to a 104-96 win Sunday night over a Denver squad missing All-Star guard Chauncey Billups.

Dallas handed the league's best home team a rare loss as the Nuggets fell to 13-2 at the Pepsi Center.

The Mavericks also snapped a five-game regular-season slide against Denver, a team that dispatched them in five games during the Western Conference semifinals last season.

"I think they're on a mission to have a great year," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "They

took one from us. We're going to have to figure out how to take one from them."

The Mavericks displayed their depth Sunday as seven different players scored in double figures.

"It's a lot of weapons," said Gooden, who went 8 for 8 from the field. "That's a big plus when you've got everybody on the court at the same time that can score."

Coming into the contest, Gooden was questionable to suit up. He missed the Mavericks' win over Memphis on Saturday with back spasms and didn't think there was any way he'd be in uniform Sunday.

He underestimated the healing power of pain relievers.

"I probably ate a whole bottle of Advil in the last 34 hours," Gooden said, smiling. "I'm all right and ready to go."

The Nuggets missed Billups' leadership, and he will miss at least one more game as he gives



AP Photo/ David Zubolowski

Jose Juan Barea, right, goes to the hoop against Nuggets rookie Ty Lawson.

his strained left groin extra time to heal.

Billups injured the groin on Dec. 16 against Houston and sat out three straight games. He returned on Christmas Day at Portland, but didn't play in the second half.

No Billups meant the Mavericks could double up on Carmelo Anthony and J.R. Smith. It made for a long evening for both.

Anthony was held to 16 points, well below his league-leading average of 30.4 entering the game. Anthony also finished with a season-high 12 rebounds, before fouling out with 2:47 left.

The sharp-shooting Smith had 11 points on 3-of-12 shooting.

"When (Billups) is not there, it's a sigh of relief for the other team," said Anthony, who was just

5 of 19 from the floor.

That's why the Mavericks weren't reading too much into this win.

All right, maybe a little. It's been nearly three years since the Mavericks won in Denver.

"Obviously, they were missing Chauncey, who is the head of the snake," Nowitzki said. "But it is still a good win."

The Mavs weren't pushed around in this game, holding their ground. It's a style they know they have to grow accustomed to.

"When you come into this building, you know they're going to play physical and if you want a chance you have to adjust to that kind of style," Nowitzki said. "They're a strong and athletic team. It happened to us in the playoffs last year, kind of hanging around for three quarters and they picked their defensive pressure up, we turned the ball over a bunch

and next thing you know we're down 20."

Not this time.

Leading by 14 midway through the final quarter, the Mavericks saw their lead trimmed to four, 98-94, with 2:34 remaining.

But Gooden hit a free throw and a layup to give the Mavericks some breathing room. Nowitzki sealed the contest with a deep 3-pointer with less than a minute remaining.

"I liked the way we played," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

Karl thought his team's emotion, which usually works in their favor, was a hindrance against Dallas.

"I think we got too emotional at times and too frustrated at times with the refereeing, with the ball not going in, not shooting the ball very well, missing layups," Karl said. "It seems like our emotional balance at times was too out of control."

BOWL

Continued from page 8

This year's bowl than any time in recent memory.

"A win and we're going to be all set for next season," Hurricanes quarterback Jacory Harris said. "To finish the regular season 9-3, we feel like there's no point not finishing with a victory. To get 10 wins, I don't see how we wouldn't start next year in the top 10."

Wisconsin is looking to make its own statements.

Even with all the similarities the coaches outlined, there is a big contrast with how these teams get things done. It's a classic matchup of speed vs. power.

The Hurricanes rely so much on their quickness, and the Badgers have had success this season bullying teams around with big and bulky lines. But Wisconsin has not beaten a ranked oppo-

nent this year.

"Don't think we don't know that," said Badgers running back John Clay, the Big Ten offensive player of the year. "That's why we were really glad to not only being playing a ranked team, but to play a team ranked higher than us."

It's also another chance for the Big Ten to show it can hang with a team from the South.

Since 2004, the Big Ten has the worst bowl record (12-23) among the six BCS conferences, including two blowout losses by Ohio State in the national title game. The defeats have led to the perception, fair or not, that the league can no longer compete with programs from warmer climates who rely more on speed and less on power.

"The one thing you can't argue with is facts. We weren't very good in bowl games

last year, with us being included in that," said Bielema, whose Badgers were routed 42-13 by Florida State in the same bowl a year ago. "The only way you can change perception is to change results. So for us to gain respect as a conference, we need to win football games. Plain and simple."

Shannon has preached similarly to his players how much a win would mean, too.

The Hurricanes have a young core that is still

developing, and with a somewhat softer schedule next season, expectations will be even higher. A loss wouldn't diminish those goals, but it would make things easier preparing for next year.

"The end of the season is the key," Shannon said. "You win your last football game, you go into next season, you go into spring football with some excitement and a lot of enthusiasm. And especially when you get 10 wins."

LEACH

Continued from page 8

he did not lean against anything or sit on the floor. James said Leach told him that if he came out he would be kicked off the team.

— When the team returned to practice two days later, on Dec.

19, James said Leach told trainers to "find the tightest, darkest place" for the player. James, in his street clothes, was put in an electrical closet inside the football stadium for hours, again monitored by a member of the athletic staff.

The James family con-

tacted the university after the second practice, the person said.

Leach's attorney, Ted Liggett, disputed the account.

Adam James "claimed to have been hurt," was examined and diagnosed with a "mild concussion," Liggett told the AP. "I believe that (Adam James) was a disgruntled student athlete that like many were not happy with their playing time."

Liggett told ESPN.com that James "was placed in an equipment room as it was much cooler and darker" than the practice field. The second time, Liggett told ESPN.com, James was placed in a "press room with air conditioning and a stationary bike he could use."

McNeill said he was told Monday afternoon

that he was taking over for Leach, then told the players shortly afterward.

"They were probably a little shocked, but at the same time, they did a good job of coming on the field and doing what I asked them to do. I was proud of that," McNeill said.

Craig James had been scheduled to announce the Alamo Bowl. ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said that was no longer the case.

The James family issued a statement Monday saying their "son had been subjected to actions and treatment not consistent with common sense rules for safety and health."

"Over the past year, there has been a greatly enhanced recognition of the dangers of con-

cussions and the potential for long term physical damage to players. At virtually every level of football coaching, cases where children and young men have sustained concussions have generated serious discussion of the importance of correct treatment and diagnosis."

There's been internal strife this season with the Red Raiders (8-4).

Leach chastised players after a loss to Texas A&M in October for listening to "their fat little girlfriends" and thinking the Aggies were a pushover. After the Red Raiders' loss at then-No. 12 Houston in September, Leach sus-

pended starting offensive lineman Brandon Carter indefinitely for violating team rules.

That week, Leach also banned his players from having Twitter pages after linebacker Marlon Williams posted a tweet that asked why he was still in a meeting room when "the head coach can't even be on time."

Leach led Texas Tech to the best season in program history last year, going 11-2. He and the university were at odds for months over a contract extension. In February, Leach and the school agreed to a five-year, \$12.7 million deal that could keep him in Lubbock through 2013.

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SCORES

Grape Creek 36, Bearkats 31 Grape Creek 8 9 10 9 -- 36 G-City 11 9 8 3 -- 31	Lake Bearkats 37, GCHS 23 Grape Creek 4 10 3 6 -- 23 G-City 8 13 8 8 -- 37
Grape Creek- Doss 13, Broadway 9, Dotson 7, Younts 5 GCHS- Chudej 20, Haden Halfmann 6, Jesse Montes 3, Brian Hirt 2 Free throws- Grape Creek 5-15, GC 6-12; Fouled out- Chudej	Grape Creek- Doss 7, Rodriguez 6, Burner 6, Waffer 2, Buner 2 G-City- Niehues 12, Schwartz 11, Amber Halfmann 8, Kate Halfmann 3, Britni Cook 3 Free throws: G-City 6-8, Grape 5-7; 3-point- G-City 5 (Niehues 2, A. Halfmann 2, Cook 1); Grape 2

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