Lady Steers come up short with Slaton. Page 1B



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WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 30, 2009



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Most local agencies closing on New Year's Day

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

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

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

Howard County employees will also be afforded time to enjoy the new year, with offices also expected to be closed Friday. According to County

Judge Mark Barr, some county offices may be closing as early as 3 p.m. Thursday.

"It's up to the elected officials, so your best bet is to contact them individually and find out if they will close early Thursday if you have business to take care of that day," said Barr. County operations are expected to

resume Monday morning. The Big Spring Post Office will also be following the city and county, clos-

ing its offices Thursday afternoon and all day Friday for the holiday. Thursday hours will be from 8 a.m. until noon, with the office set to reopen Saturday from 9 a.m. Until noon.

As many people prepare to enjoy a day off for Friday, area emergency personnel will be bracing themselves for the inevitable holiday onslaught.

Local agencies, including the Big Spring Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Howard County Sheriff's Office, all report the special day will be busier for them, as they pay special attention to motorists and party-

The police department's main office will be closed Friday, and will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday. Those looking for party supplies at

the last minute will be relieved to No mail delivery is expected know the local Wal-Mart Supercenter, Friday, reopening at 8 a.m. Monday.

which is open 24-hours, will be open throughout the holiday. HEB will also be taking the holiday in stride, adhering to its normal 6 a.m. until midnight schedule on both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Keeping with their 24-hour, 365-day image, local 7-11 convenience stores will also be open throughout the New Year holiday.

The Spring City Senior Citizens Center will close its doors Friday in observance of the New Year, resuming activities Monday morning. The facility will be holding a New Years dance, however, from 9 p.m. until midnight Thursday night.

The Herald office will be closed

<u>Hot seat</u>

Obama wants answers after botched attack

LOLITA C. BALDOR

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writers

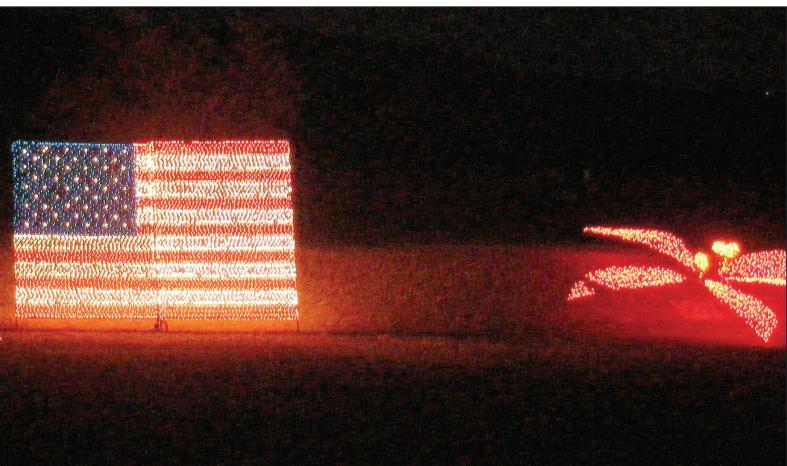
HONOLULU — President Barack Obama is demanding answers on why information was never pieced together by the U.S. intelligence community to trigger red flags about an alleged terrorist and possibly prevent his botched Christmas Day attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound air-

Administration officials are poring over reams of data, looking for failings that Umar Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian with suspected ties to al-Qaida, to board the Northwest Airlines flight from Nigeria by way of Amsterdam.

Obama's criticism came as

See **OBAMA**, Page 3A

JUST TWO MORE DAYS LEFT



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A U.S. flag and poinsettia are just two of the many lighted attractions awaiting visitors to the Festival of Lights. There are only a couple of nights left to view the show. The 13th annual attraction runs through Thursday at Comanche Trail Park. Admission is free.

Hutchison lays out transportation plan

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Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



JAY ROOT

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Kav Bailey Hutchison vowed Tuesday to "clean up" the Texas Department Transportation, reduce traffic congestion and

start building a high-speed rail network connect-Dallas, Houston and San Antonio if she is elected Texas governor. Hutchison laid Hutchison

out her transportation plan Tuesday at cam-

paign swings in Tyler, Waco and Dallas, with more stops scheduled Wednesday. The senator proposed a series of reforms, including

new restrictions on toll road

on spending, while linking roads with railroads, airports and waterways. She also wants to make the Texas Transportation Commission a nine-member panel.

The senior U.S. senator from Texas gave little detail on how to pay for it all, saying she'll focus first on eliminating wasteful spending and inefficiencies in management. After that, if her proposed special transportation committee recommends new taxes or fees, she would put the issue before voters in regional referendums.

"Texans are tired of the traffic and congestion in our cities. They are frustrated with the arrogance and inefficiencies of the leadership at the Texas Department

construction and more checks Transportation that have failed to produce results," Hutchison said. "One of my top priorities as governor will be to clean up TxDOT and solve the transportation problems that have plagued Texas for the last decade."

Hutchison, who hopes to oust Gov. Rick Perry in the March Republican primary, has been a vocal critic of TxDOT, calling it the "most arrogant" agency in state government. In her remarks Tuesday, she called for more transparency and enhanced financial controls, taking note of TxDOT's embarrassing admission last year that it had made a \$1 billion budgeting error by counting income twice.

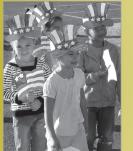
Hutchison said she'd eventually like to see a high-speed rail network in the "Texas Triangle," linking the Dallas-Fort Worth area with Houston and San Antonio. The cities make up the most populous areas of the state.

The Perry campaign, which has portrayed Hutchison as a free-spending Washington insider, said she failed to spell out where the money would come from to pay for her proposals. "After

years 16 in Washington, it's no surprise the only thing Sen. Hutchison proposed today was a plan that will require billions of tax dollars and grow government bureaucracy," Perry spokesman Mark Miner said. "Creating a new committee and expanding the TxDOT commission will not build one new road in Texas."

A Look Back at 2009 "Year in Review" In Thursday's Edition of the **Big Spring Herald**











SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Joe Zigtema at 263-7331, Ext. 237. E-mail results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Wednesday, December 29, 2009

Steers drop two in Kerrville

Herald Staff Report

KERRVILLE — The Big Spring Steers took their time at the Tivy Tournament as a learning experience.

The Steers dropped two more games Tuesday at the tournament, losing to host school Tivy 56-29 and 5A school Cedar Park

Head coach Marcus Morris said the team learned from playing bigger, more athletic teams — attributes he hopes his team will take on as the season con-

"They were just relentless," Morris said. "They sent big bodies at us, and they were just polished. I think it was an eye opener for the kids too to see. If we want to be as good as we think we can be, we have to get to work on some stuff."

Though Big Spring was outmatched physically, Morris said his team competed well.

"The kids played hard, and that's exactly what we needed. There's plenty we can fix, and there are a lot of ways we can get better," he said. "I'd like to go back to that tournament with about two weeks of practice to see the progress we've made."

Jerrell Williams shouldered the scoring load for the Steers, scoring 15 points in both games.

"He's going to have to have some help scoring from somebody, but they tried as hard as they could," Morris said.

The Steers dropped to 7-7 on the season. Tivy went 4-0 in the tournament and improved its record to 15-4.

Big Spring will be in action again Saturday when they take on Lubbock Cooper on the road. Tipoff is at 1 p.m.

Colorado City downs Bulldogs in tourney

Herald Staff Report

BIG LAKE -A runaway third quarter doomed the Coahoma Bulldogs on Tuesday night as they fell to the Colorado City Wolves 66-47 at the Mary Tatum Reagan County Holiday Classic.

In a preview of district 7-2A action to begin in three weeks, the Wolves outpaced the Bulldogs 21-4 in the third quarter totakethelead.Coahoma had a 31-24 advantage going into the locker room.

The Wolves were led by senior Eli Farrell, who finished with 18 points. Coahoma leading scorer Martin Leija scored all of his 18 points in the first half as he was eliminated in the second half by the Colorado City defense.

"They turned up their intensity a little bit on defense in the third quarter, we had a hard time getting (Leija) the ball and they did a good job on him," head coach Kim Nichols said. "We came out flat (in the third quarter)."

Nichols said the team was rusty coming out of the holiday break.

"They extended their pressure a little bit, but it really didn't bother us. We missed several layups and free throws," he said. "We've got to get consistent and play four quarters."

Kirk Hahn scored 10 points off the bench for the Bulldogs, one of his best performances of the season thus far.

"We found him on the block a couple times against their press, and Leija made a couple good passes to him," Leija said.

Nichols said his team will be ready when the two teams face off again in district play Jan. 15.

"They were I'm sure playing vanilla, and we were too, since we're both set to play in district," Nichols said. "We weren't trying to show each other much. But we've got them on film, and we'll be more prepared for them than we were this time.'

Colorado City 66, Coahoma 47 CC 15 9 21 11 --66 CHS 47 17 4 12 -- 47

Coahoma (11-5)- Leija 18 Hahn 10, Garcia 7, Williams 4 Paniagua 2, Ruiz 2, Douglass 2

C-City- Farrell 18, Stoves 9 Reyna 9, Ganey 5, Johnson 4 Rodriguez 3, Lorenz 3, Nunoz 3



Big Spring's Charlee Fletcher goes up for a shot Tuesday in Slaton. Fletcher started for Valerie Ross, who missed the game. Slaton beat the Lady Steers 44-38 in the tournament's first round.

Lady Steers falter in second half

By JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

SLATON — The Big Spring Lady Steers looked like they had been off for a week as they fell 44-38 to the Slaton Tigerettes in tournament action in Slaton.

The Lady Steers the played with Tigerettes early, but their offense grinded to a halt midway through the third quarter.

quit scoring," head coach Warren said. Mike "Defensively we played good, offensively we turned the ball over and

didn't shoot well. That's a recipe for disaster."

Bridgette Tuitt shouldered most of the load offensively, putting in 18 points. For Slaton, post Uniqua Wilson was effective inside, scoring most of her 15 points in the second half. She also blocked several shots in the paint.

Big Spring tallied 13 offensive rebounds on the night, but could not turn them into points on putbacks.

"Nobody stepped up and put the ball in the hole," Warren said, "but we had opportunities, I thought."

The Lady Steers had

an 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, as Tuitt proved effective driving to the basket or pulling up from the elbow. But Slaton's Charli Heinrich answered with three 3-pointers on the way to 11 first-half points, and the Tigerettes had a

23-19 lead at the half. After Slaton scored four straight points to open the third quarter, the Lady Steers responded with a 6-0 run to cut the lead to two, but that would be as close as they got. Slaton ended the third quarter on an 11-3 run and kept Big Spring at a distance in the fourth to preserve

"It was a typical game coming off the holidays, but we played a team that we could have competed with and beat, I thought," Warren said. "We're very much out of shape."

The Lady Steers will be in action today at 5 p.m. as they take on the Lubbock Warriors. They will have one more game Thursday.

Slaton 44, Big Spring 38 BSHS 11 8 9 10 --38 Slaton 10 13 15 6 -- 44

Big Spring- Tuitt 18, Linzee Yarbar 5, Cerbi Ritchey 5, Diamond Mayes 4, Taylor Seaton

2, Logan Yarbar 1 Slaton- Wilson 15, Heinrich 11, Felton 7, Polk 5, Staudenraus 2, Rodriguez 2, King 2

Bulldogettes lose rematch with Tahoka

By JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

SLATON Coahoma Bulldogettes looked like they were in holiday mode Tuesday night in Slaton.

Before break, Bulldogettes played the Tahoka Lady Bulldogs — ranked No. 6 in 1A to a 40-32 loss at home. Tuesday's matchup was different.

The Lady Bulldogs ran away from Coahoma early, outscoring the Bulldogettes 16-2 in the first quarter, and never looked back to a 64-37

Kyra Helm was a force in the paint for the Lady Bulldogs, blocking shots



Kylie Gee is blocked by **Kyra Helm on Tuesday** in Slaton. Coahoma lost the game

See **TOURNEY**, Page 2B

Lubbock judge to hear Leach's restraining order motion today

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Who will coach Texas Tech in the Alamo Bowl may be decided in a Lubbock court Wednesday morning.

Mike Leach, suspended this week by the university, is asking for a temporary restraining order that would allow him to coach the Red Raiders against Michigan State on

In an affidavit included in the court filing Tuesday, Leach said he "would never intentionally harm or endanger a player" and that he has been "forced into this situation without being afforded any process." He also said "absolutely" no evidence had

been given to him that showed he had violated any university rules or standards.

University officials suspended Leach on Monday while the school investigates a complaint from receiver Adam James and his family regarding a concussion. James is the son of former NFL player Craig James, now an analyst for ESPN.

A person close to James with direct knowledge of the situation alleges the player was twice forced to stand in a small, dark place while the team practiced. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition on anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the complaint.

An in-chambers hearing in Lubbock See **LEACH**, Page 2B

on the restraining order motion will be in the 99th District Court. If the court rules against Leach, defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill will lead the Red Raiders in their 10th-straight bowl appearance.

The attorney for Leach says the suspended Texas Tech coach did nothing wrong in how he treated a player with a "mild" concussion.

Leach was "begged to work something out to avoid a confrontation," said a person familiar with the inquiry who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

That person also said Leach late last week postponed a meeting relat-



Tech receiver Adam James complaint against Mike Leach prompted Leach's suspension.

Sports in brief

Cotton Classic begins in Grady

Lenorah Grady's annual Cotton Classic basketball got underway today at Grady High School and Klondike High School. Stanton and Grady's boys and girls teams played in the morning, and will have one more game in the evening. Girls games are at 3 p.m. or 6 p.m., boys games are at 4:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Stanton is playing at Klondike High School. Grady is playing in its own gym.

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

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 tonight as they travel to Arizona for a two-game

The team will play the College of Southern Idaho tonight and Luke Air Force Base on 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.

53/24

Plenty of sun. Highs in

the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.

7:48 AM

47/26

Partly cloudy. Highs in

the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s

Today's Weather

59/29

Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

5:53 PM

Texas At A Glance

Abundant sunshine

Sunset:

Local 3-Day Forecast

Obituaries

Andres Gamboa

Andres Gamboa, 76, of Big Spring died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at his son's residence in Farmers Branch. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m.



Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Memorial Park. 2009, at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Memorial Park.

He was born Oct. 16, 1933, in Big Spring. Mr. Gamboa served in the United States Army, where he played baseball. He also played for

the Big Spring Tigers, a semi-professional team. He worked as a machinist and crafted dentures as a certified dental assistant, owning Gamboa Dental. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include five sons, Frank Gamboa and wife, Angie, of Dallas, Richard Gamboa of Forney, Andy Gamboa Jr. of Fort Worth, and Ruben Gamboa and David Gamboa, both of Big Spring; three daughters, Grace Gamboa and husband, Rick Hernandez, of Weatherford, Margie Gamboa and Sylvia Gamboa of San Antonio; one sister, Lucy Hernandez of Austin; one brother, Mike Gamboa of San Antonio; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grand-

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Cecil Gamboa.

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

Mildred L. McMahon

Mildred L. McMahon, 82, of San Angelo died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, in a San Angelo nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with Royce Clay officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 5, 1927, in Texarkana and married W.A. "Bill" McMahon on June 14, 1946, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Nov. 8, 1997.

Mrs. McMahon was a longtime resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and a member of 14th & Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include two sons, Tommy McMahon and wife, Billie, of San Angelo, and Jerry McMahon of Mason; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Josephine Lewis Massey of Big Spring, and Brenda Kiker of Midland.

The family suggests memorials be made to San Angelo Christian Academy, 518 Country Club Rd., San Angelo 76904.

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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

Sylvia Prescott

Sylvia Prescott, 89, of Albany, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at Bluebonnet Nursing Home in Albany. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Ralph Anderson of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity

She was born Nov. 10, 1920, in Abilene to Jewell Interment will follow at Mt. Olive and Katy Lewis. She married Everett Wilkins in 1939 in Roscoe. He died in 1968.

She married Roy Prescott in 1971 in Big Spring. He died in 1975. She lived most of her life in Forsan and Sand Springs, moving to Albany in 1998. She was a homemaker and member of the Church of Christ.

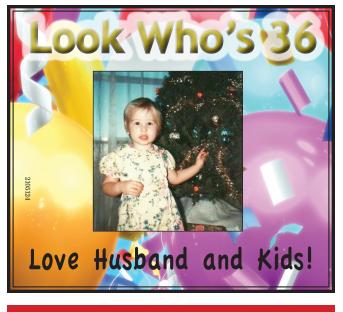
and wife, Lahonda, Lynn Wilkins and wife, Diane, all of Albany, and Gary Wilkins of Breckenridge; five grandchildren; one sister, Sybil Gilmore of Big Spring; and one brother, Chuck Lewis of Shallowater.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by one son, Norvin "Shorty" Wilkins; one grandson; and one sister, Margie

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

Take Note

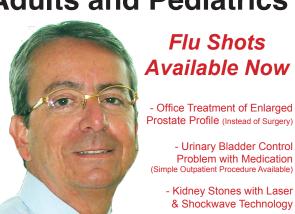
- mote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming 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.
- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's



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She is survived by three sons, Ronnie Wilkins

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to pro-

life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

 Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreci-

Big Spring 59/34 56/42 San Antonio **Area Cities** sunny 41 sunny 39 mst sunny Amarillo 48 24 pt sunny Livingston Longview Beaumont 58 43 sunny Lubbock 24 mst sunny Brownsville 67 55 cloudy Lufkin 40 sunny Midland 33 sunny Brownwood 39 sunny 62 Corpus Christi Corsicana Dallas Raymondville Rosenberg San Antonio 62 51 cloudy 51 cloudy 40 mst sunny 40 sunny 48 mst sunny 45 mst sunny Del Rio 59 41 sunny San Marcos 42 mst sunny

Howard County Feed & Supply

Sulphur Springs

Sweetwater

Veatherford

Tyler

20% Range Cube \$7.50 per Bag

34 sunny 37 sunny

34 mst sunny 35 mst sunny

67



38 sunny 32 sunny

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Clay, Wisconsin bully way past Miami for 20-14 win

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) – All that Miami speed was no match for the big, bad Badgers.

John Clay had 121 yards rushing and two touchdowns, powering No. 24 Wisconsin past 14th-ranked Miami 20-14 in the Champs Sports Bowl on Tuesday night. Clay ran through, over and around the Hurricanes to help the

Badgers (10-3) their first victory over a ranked opponent this season and claim a big win for the Big Ten.

"That's Wisconsin football, just wearing a defense down," said Clay, who was selected bowl MVP. "The third quarter, fourth quarter, I could just see them sucking wind and holding their waists."

260 yards, and Montee Ball added 61 yards rushing for a Wisconsin team touted as too big and too slow for the dynamic Hurricanes. None of that seemed to matter when the Badgers were

Scott Tolzien threw for

powering the ball down the field.

"The way we were running the ball, I had it pretty easy," Tolzien said. "I just had to find a way to get a few passes to our receivers."

Miami's Jacory Harris struggled before throwing a touchdown pass to Thearon Collier with 1:22 remaining. Hurricanes recovered the onside kick, but Harris threw incomplete on fourth down to end any hope of a comeback.

Harris, who threw for 188 yards, was slowed by an injured right thumb, a brace around his left leg and a Badgers team that smothered him with five sacks. Wisconsin's running game helped it hold the ball for nearly 40 minutes, leaving little time for Miami to work.

"Against this type of team, you got to put up points and put them up fast, because they can hold the ball for so long," Harris said. "They had a lot of defensive pressure, but at the same time, I

got to get the ball out quicker."

Miami also lost Graig Cooper to a right knee injury in the second quarter, a big reason why the Hurricanes (9-4) will have to wait at least another year to end their drought of 10-win

The Badgers made sure of that. Even if they didn't show it at the

Sam Shields took a reverse from Cooper on the opening kickoff, zipped up the middle, then cut down the left sideline for a touchdown. But an illegal block in the back on the play returned the ball to the Wisconsin 16-yard line.

Shields was credited with an 84-yard return, a Hurricanes bowl record. Cooper had a 16-yard touchdown run on the next play that gave Miami the lead 23 seconds into the game.

That was about the only thing that went wrong for the Badgers.



John Clay bruised his way to 121 yards rushing.

Their big and bulky lines bullied the fleet Hurricanes, whose all white jerseys — almost all complete with long sleeves on the brisk 50-degree night — parted to a sea of Wisconsin red on both sides of the ball.

Clay had all sorts of seams to run through, and he bulldozed his way to the rest of his yards.

The Big Ten offensive player of the year ripped through a hole for a 52-yard run, and followed that with his second 3-yard TD run of the

game to put Wisconsin ahead 14-7 in the second quarter. Phillip Welch added a

37-yard field goal with 12 seconds left in the half and a 29-yarder with 4:01 remaining in the game that made it 20-7. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out if you got the ball longer

than they do, you have a better chance of scoring more points," Badgers coach Bret Bielema said. But they blew a chance

to send Miami home early.

caught a 20-yard pass at the Hurricanes 5, fumbled after a hard hit by Brandon Harris and the ball was recovered by Miami's Randy Phillips in the end zone.

The Hurricanes never could take advantage.

Harris later fumbled after being sacked by O'Brien Schofield with 7:49 remaining. The ball was recovered by J.J. Watt.

The Hurricanes tried to rally late, but Harris' errant pass to Collier on fourth down ended Miami's hopes of its first 10-win season since

"We just couldn't get in a rhythm up front like we thought we should have and we thought we were going to be able to," Miami coach Randy Shannon said. "We had negative plays. You can't take negative plays. When we were trying to run the football, we had miscues up front. The communication factor finally got us."

LEACH

ed to the inquiry and refused to sign a letter saying "no one injured would be returned to work out without doctors' permission.' The school's attorney

left a voice mail message with Leach's attorney that the university needed a letter of apology by noon Monday, the person said.

It did not arrive. "That's when they

made the decision to suspend (Leach), thinking that would bring him to his senses," the person said.

Jerry Turner, vice chairman of the university system's board of regents, declined to comment on whether, if true, the incidents might lead to Leach's departure.

"We haven't gotten to that point, of course," Turner said. "This is an ongoing inquiry, and I certainly do not want to prejudice the results of the inquiry."

Leach led Texas Tech to the best season in program history last year, going 11-2 and garnering him Big 12 Coach of the Year hon-

ors. But he and the university were at odds for months over negotiations for a contract extension. In February, Leach and the school agreed to a five-year, \$12.7 million deal that could keep him there through 2013.

The clock is ticking on a portion of that contract. If Leach is the coach as of Thursday, the school owes him an \$800,000 bonus.

Texas Tech is the second Big 12 school to launch an internal investigation into a coach's treatment of his players.

On Nov. 16, Kansas investigated Mark Mangino, who was the national coach of the year and got a big raise when he went 12-1 in 2007. Players said Mangino was insensitive, though others defended him. Mangino resigned Dec. 3 after reaching a settlement with the school that was later disclosed as a

\$3 million buyout. James was injured Dec. 16 and the next day was diagnosed with a concussion by team doctors, the person close to

James said. The person alleged James was sequestered

consecutive at two practices:

On Dec. 17, James said Leach told trainers to put him "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 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 street clothes, was put in an electrical closet inside the football stadium for hours, again monitored by a member of the athletic

staff. The person close to the inquiry said James spent two hours on Dec. 17 in a shed the size of a one-car garage that was filled with coolers and that the player was "caught" sitting down on one. All the coolers were removed, the person said, and James

was shut inside. On Dec. 19, James about the specific alle-

cal room but the buzz was too loud, so he was taken to a press room where the furniture was removed, the person said.

was taken to an electri-

Craig James called to report the allegations on Dec. 19; a university attorney interviewed him and his son Dec. 20; Leach was questioned Dec. 20 or 21; and trainers, student trainers and the doctor who examined Adam James also were interviewed, the person close to the inquiry said.

Liggett said he has a letter from the doctor who examined James Leach's supporting actions.

"He was not hurt by what happened in the equipment room," the lawyer said. "And Mike did not do anything to worsen the situation, in fact he put him in a safer environment by being inside."

Liggett said Leach did not postpone or blow off a meeting about the inquiry.

"Nope, didn't happen," the Lubbock attorney said. "I've been denying that all day."

He said Leach learned

gations against him when he talked with the school attorney Dec. 20 or 21, but he was not told of "any rule he broke." Liggett also denied a

voice mail message was left for him demanding an apology by Monday. "Nobody did that,"

Liggett said. Turner said the inves-

tigation is being handled by the school president's office, with the assistance of its general counsel and athletic director Gerald Myers.

The NCAA is letting Texas Tech conduct its investigation and has not gotten involved, NCAA spokesman Cameron Schuh said. The Big 12 has no authority to investigate what the conference labeled an "institutional matter," Big 12 spokesman Bob Burda said.

Texas Tech players,

speaking to reporters Tuesday for the first time since Leach was suspended, declined to discuss the incident. Cornerback LaRon Moore called Leach "different" but said the coach only wants the best from his players.

"He goes about it an unconventional way," Moore said. "But all he wants to do is push us, and we've talked about it with the coaches. That's just his way of doing it. He tries to push us, tries to make us better and tries to make us men and get the best of our ability out of us."

James was with the team in San Antonio as it prepares for the bowl

game. Asked if it was awk-

ward for James to be around the team, McNeill said, "I hope not."



Continued from 1B

on defense and using her tall frame inside to drop 18 points. She held Coahoma leading scorer Kylie Gee to just four points on a tough night.

The Bulldogettes were also without guard K'Leigh Fowler, usually Coahoma's press-break-

"We didn't come out ready to play, we had no intensity, and they put it on us pretty good," head coach Derek Faught said.

After a rough first quarter, Coahoma came back to cut the lead to 11 by halftime at 22-11, but Tahoka outscored the Bulldogettes 29-11 in the third quarter to put the game away for good.

Tahoka 64, Coahoma 37 Coahoma 2 9 11 15 -- 37 Tahoka 16 6 29 13 -- 64

Coahoma- Gonzales 9, Neff 7, Stone 7, Buske 5, Gee 4, Castilaw

Tahoka- Helm 18, Martin 9, Weusche 8, Bishop 6, Munoz 5, Rivas 4, Lockaby 2

Embarrass you with bad Tell you you're a bad parent or names and put-downs? threaten to take away or hurt your children? Look at you or act in ways Act like the abuse is no big deal, that scare you?

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Mother, baby revived after Christmas Eve birth

DAN ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer DENVER — Mike Hermanstorfer was clutching his pregnant wife's hand in a Colorado hospital on Christmas Eve when she stopped breathing, her life apparently slipping away. Then he cradled his newborn son's limp body seconds after a medical team delivered the baby by Cesarean

Minutes later he saw his son show signs of life in his arms under the feverish attention of doctors, and soon he learned his wife had inexplicably breathing again.

"My legs went out from underneath me," Hermanstorfer Tuesday. "I had everything in the world taken from me, and in an hour and a half I had everything given to me."

Hermanstorfer's wife, Tracy, went into cardiac arrest and stopped breathing during labor on Thursday, said Dr. Stephanie Martin, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, where the Hermanstorfers had gone for the birth of their

"She had no signs of life. No heartbeat, no blood pressure, she wasn't breathing," said Martin, who had rushed Hermanstorfer's room to help. "The baby was, it was basically



AP photo/Mariah Tauger/The Colorado Springs Gazette

Tracy Hermanstorfer kisses her newborn son, Coltyn, after a news conference Monday at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. Hermanstorfer went into a seemingly normal labor on Christmas Eve, but within hours suffered from severe cardiac arrest causing both she and Coltyn to die. Doctors performed an emergency Cesarean section and were miraculously able to resuscitate both mother and baby. Although doctors are unable to explain the cause of Mrs. Hermanstorfer cardiac arrest, both she and Coltyn are doing well.

limp, with a very slow heart rate."

After their miraculous recovery, both mother and the baby, named

Coltyn, appear healthy with no signs of problems, Martin said.

She said she cannot explain the mother's

cardiac arrest or the recovery.

"We did a thorough evaluation and can't find anything that explains why this happened," she said.

Mike Hermanstorfer "the hand of credits God."

'We are both believers ... but this right here, even a nonbeliever you explain to me how this happened. There is no other explanation," he said.

Asked about divine intervention, Martin said, "Wherever I can get the help, I'll take it.'

Tracy Hermanstorfer, 33, was getting prepped for childbirth at the hospital Thursday morning and her 37-year-old husband was by her side when she began to feel sleepy and laid back in her bed. "She literally stopped

breathing and her heart stopped," her husband Pandemonium erupted as doctors and nurses tried to revive her with chest compressions and a breathing tube, but nothing worked.

"I was holding her hand when we realized she was gone," Hermanstorfer said. "My entire life just rolled out." Doctors told him,

"We're going to take your son out now. We have been unable to revive her and we're going to take your son out," he recalled. After the Cesarean sec-

tion, some of the team rushed his wife to the operating room while the others attended to

"They hand him to me,

he's absolutely lifeless," Hermanstorfer said. The doctors went to work on Coltyn as Hermanstorfer held him, and soon he began to breath.

"His life began in my hands," Hermanstorfer said. "That's a feeling like none other. Life actually began in the palm of my hands."

Martin said Tracy Hermanstorfer's pulse returned even before she was wheeled out of the room and into surgery. She estimates Hermanstorfer had no heartbeat for about four minutes.

Hermanstorfer members getting sleepy and closing her eyes in her hospital bed, then awakening in the intensive care unit.

Friends have asked if she saw a light or had other experiences described by others who have survived neardeath experiences, but she didn't.

"I just felt like I was asleep," she said.

When doctors told her what happened, "I'm like, 'Holy cow, was it that bad? Wow."

The Hermanstorfers returned Monday to their home in Security, just outside Colorado Springs about 65 miles south of Denver.

Both Mike and Tracy Hermanstorfer worry that she might have a recurrence. Martin said she can't offer the Hermanstorfers much advice because she doesn't know what caused the

original problem. to Friday's attack.

OBAMA

Continued from Page 1A

senior U.S. officials told The Associated Press that intelligence authorities now are looking at conversations between the suspect in the failed attack and at least one al-Qaida member. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, said the conversations were vague or coded, but the intelligence community believes that, in hindsight, the communications may have been referring to the Detroit attack. One official said a link between the suspect's planning and al-Qaida's goals was

becoming clearer. The New York Times reported in Wednesday's editions that the government had intelligence from Yemen before Christmas that leaders of a branch of al-Qaida there were talking about "a Nigerian" being prepared for a terrorist attack. The newspaper said the information did not include the name of

Obama's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, is due to present the president with an early report by Thursday, based on recommendations and summaries from across

the Nigerian.

the government.

"There were bits of information available within the intelligence community that could have — and should have — been pieced together," Obama said in a brief statement reporters Tuesday.

"Had this critical information been shared, it could have been compiled with other intelligence, and a fuller, clearer picture of the suspect would have emerged," Obama said. "The warning signs would have triggered red flags, and the suspect would have never been allowed to board plane America."

Senior administration officials said the system to protect the nation's skies was deeply flawed and, even then, the government failed to follow its own directives. They described a breakdown that would have been much worse had Abdulmutallab been successful; an angry Obama called the situation "totally unacceptable."

"It now appears that weeks ago this information was passed to a component of our intelligence community but was not effectively distributed so as to get the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, on a nofly list," Obama said.

Obama first spoke to reporters Monday after

three days of silence. On Tuesday, he chided officials for what he called a "potential catastrophic breach of security." Critics have questioned why Obama didn't talk sooner about the issue publicly.

Officials said Obama chose to make his second statement in as many days after a morning briefing offered him new information about the suspect's activities and thinking, along with al-Qaida's plans.

It will take weeks for a more comprehensive investigation into what allowed Abdulmutallab to board the airliner he is accused of trying to blow up with more than 300 people aboard. Law enforcement officials believe the suspect tried to ignite a two-part concoction of the high explosive PETN and possibly a glycol-based liquid explosive, setting off popping, smoke and some fire but no deadly detonation. Abdulmutallab, charged with trying to destroy an aircraft, is being held at the federal prison in Milan, Mich.

Abdulmutallab had been placed in one expansive database, but he never made it onto more restrictive lists that would have caught the attention of U.S.

207 Goliad

counterterrorist screeners, despite his father's warnings to Embassy officials in Nigeria last month. Those warnings also did result Abdulmutallab's U.S. visa being revoked.

Intelligence officials began laying blame on other agencies.

The CIA said it worked with embassy officials to make sure that Abdulmutallab's name made it into the government's database of suspected terrorists and his potential extremist connections in Yemen. The CIA said it forwarded that information to the National Counterterrorism Center.

Intelligence officials say they learned the suspect's name November, when his father came to the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria and sought help in finding him.

One U.S. intelligence official Abdulmutallab's father didn't provide sufficient information to earn him a spot on the no-fly list. "Abdulmutallab's

father didn't say his son was a terrorist, let alone planning an attack. Not at all," the official said on condition of anonymity in order to discuss sensitive intelligence matters. "I'm not aware of some magic piece of intelligence that sudwould have denly flagged this guy whose name nobody even had November — as a killer en route to America, let alone something that anybody withheld."

Officials in Yemen investigating whether Abdulmutallab spent time with al-Qaida militants leading up

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Ascencion "Chonita" Morales, 78, died Sunday. Funeral mass was at 1:00 PM Wednesday, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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

Sylvia Prescott, 89, died Tuesday, at Bluebonnet Nursing Home in Albany. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.



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SPORTS

Stoops vs. Pelini highlights San Diego's Holiday Bowl

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Nebraska coach Bo Pelini couldn't help but laugh when he heard his Cornhuskers were headed to the Holiday Bowl to play the Arizona Wildcats and his childfriend, hood Stoops.

"There's 100 some teams in the county and they found a way to put us together," Pelini said Tuesday, a day before the No. 20 Cornhuskers (9-4), led by Heisman finalist Ndamukong Suh, play the No. 22 Wildcats (8-4) at Qualcomm Stadium.

The implications of this matchup go way beyond San Diego, Tucson and Lincoln.

They'll certainly be watching in Youngstown, Ohio, where the Pelini boys grew up with the Stoops

"The people are just like, 'Why do you have to play Mike,'" said Pelini, who made a recruiting trip to his hometown a few days after the Holiday Bowl matchup was announced. "But you know, it's part of the deal. I have a tremendous amount of respect for him as a coach, as a person, our families, and everything else. It's been fun."

Taking the family connection a step further, Stoops' brother, Mark, is Arizona's defensive coordinator, although he'll be leaving after this game to take the same position with Florida State. They, of course, are brothers of Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops. Pelini's brother, Carl, is Nebraska's defensive coordinator.

The Stoops Pelini boys all played at Cardinal Mooney High in Youngstown. Ron Stoops Sr. was the school's defensive coordinator before dying of a massive heart attack at age 54.

Mike Stoops and Bo Pelini even share the same birthday, Dec. 13. Player of the Year.



Ndamukong Suh leads a hungry black-shirt defense tonight against Arizona.

Stoops is 48 and Pelini is 42.

"It's fun being here with Bo. We've talked many times," Stoops said. "We'll go our separate ways tomorrow for a few hours, but again, our friendship will go way beyond this game."

Stoops and Pelini spent the 1991 season together as graduate assistants at Iowa. The Hawkeyes played in the Holiday Bowl that season, earning a 13-13 tie with Brigham Young.

"I don't know if we can talk about that whole year, but we had a pretty fun year as GAs," Stoops said. "We had some good card parties and went out a few times. Again, it's like being with your brother. We enjoyed our time together."

Stoops said there are a lot of similarities between the teams.

One difference, though, is Suh. He'll play his final college game after winning numerous awards, including becoming the first defensive player voted The Associated Press College Football Suh had already won two defensive player of the year awards — the Nagurski and Bednarik — and two for best lineman — the Lombardi and Outland. He also finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy vot-

in any row, column or box.

8

6

"Nebraska is by far and away the most complete defense we've played, when you look at their physical style, when you look at their personnel and the way they're structured,"

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

said. "Ndamukong Suh is a great player but their defense goes way beyond one player. It's a system, it's the way they set it up, it's the way they play, it's an attitude. That will be our greatest challenge, playing all 11 of those guys."

Suh is coming off a monster Big 12 championship game against Texas, which Cornhuskers lost on a last-second field goal. He nearly led Nebraska to a stunning upset, with 12 tackles and $4\frac{1}{2}$ sacks. Overall, he had 12 sacks and was the leader of the nation's ninth-ranked defense.

While Nebraska was one second away from upsetting Texas for the Big 12 title, Arizona was in the hunt for a Rose Bowl berth until a 44-41, double-overtime loss to Oregon on Nov. 21.

Arizona's balanced offense is led by Nick Foles, who has completed 251 of 380 passes (66.1 percent) for 2,437 yards and 19 touchdowns, with eight interceptions. He threw for four touchdowns against Oregon and three apiece against Oregon State and Stanford.

"This is a very complete team that we bring here," Stoops said. "I don't know if we jump out at you at any one particular position."

Although one team will walk away the loser Wednesday night, "I think we're going to find out that both these programs are here to stay," Pelini said.

This is rematch of the 1998 Holiday Bowl, won by Arizona 23-20.



By Steve Becker

The One and Only Chance

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable

The bidding: South 2 NT Pass 3 NT Opening lead — jack of diamonds

A defender cannot allow himself to get so caught up in the rhythm of the play that he loses his overall perspective. West was guilty of such a lapse in today's deal, and as a result declarer made a contract that might easily have failed.

West led the jack of diamonds against three notrump, won by declarer with the queen as East followed with the discouraging deuce. South finessed the jack of clubs, los-

ing to East's queen, and won the diamond return with the ace. Declarer led a low club toward

dummy, taken by West's ace. West then returned a third diamond to establish his suit while he still had the ace of hearts as an entry. This defense might have worked

nicely on some other deal. But on this occasion, it was just what the doctor ordered for declarer, who ran off four spades and the rest of his clubs to finish with 10 tricks. Had West taken the time to count

declarer's tricks after winning the second club, he would have seen that a diamond return at trick five amounted to a concession. With South known to hold the king of diamonds from the earlier diamond plays, it was clear that declarer would collect at least nine tricks after a diamond return.

West should therefore shift to a low heart at trick five, reasoning that is to score three immediate heart tricks. This requires that East hold at least the Q-10-x of hearts, certainly not an impossibility even though South bid the suit.

Faced with a heart shift, declarer might well misguess by playing the jack from dummy and quickly find himself down one. Tomorrow: Variety, the spice of life.

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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."

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

Ron Midkiff

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

Our View

Don't miss out on Big Spring's **Festival of Lights**

f there was ever any doubt, Pat Simmons has proof that something magical has happened at Comanche Trail Park again this holiday season with the 13th annual Festival of Lights. "Things are going pretty well and we've had thou-

sands of visitors," said Pat Simmons, the founder and chairman of the Festival of Lights. "We're hoping to have 25,000 visitors this year, since we met our goal of 20,000 last year and have expanded the festival to include a western theme. We had Santa and Mrs. Claus here five times before Christmas and our gift shop has done quite well, too."

There's no doubt the Festival of Lights is now a tradition and a major attraction for Big Spring during the holiday season.

But if you haven't seen this year's display yet, or would just like to see it again this season, you'd better do so quickly. Only a couple of nights — tonight and Thursday — remain in the festival's run.

And Simmons said she'd like to see more visitors in the next few nights.

That's right, thousands of people have already toured the Festival of Lights, but Simmons says she won't be satisfied until that target of 25,000 visitors is reached.

And we're with her on this.

Let's face it, if people from 40 different states and more than a dozen other nations find it necessary to wind their way through the brilliant light display inside the park, as they have in some years, certainly we should do so as well.

The giant poinsettias, arranged around and reflected in the waters of the historic Big Spring and those lining the dam along U.S. 87 grab the eye, but they are just a few of the festival's attractions.

Did we tell you there is no admission? That's right, this show is free to all comers, although donations will be accepted and are most assuredly appreciated.

Those donations make it possible to not only maintain the displays, but expand them each <u>Hidden Hispanic Heritage</u>."

Be sure to take a few moments during the next two days, pack up the family or even a few friends and take a tour through the park and enjoy the almost magical display volunteers have created.

We've already said it this season, but we're still sure that you'll be pleased with what you see and glad you took the time.

How to contact us

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- offer several ways in which you may contact us: In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Amen

Today is an opportunity to move toward heavenly goals. Thank You, Lord.

Make yourself slightly better in 2010

or 2010, I resolve to always answer the question, "How are you?" (and its variants) honestly. I'm not sure that doing this will improve my life (it will likely make it worse) but I'm eager to spend the

year being brutally honest with people who were iust being polite. This follows

years in which I strived to "be a little nicer" (I was) and, my personal favorite, the year in which I devoted myself to eating more risotto (I did). For 2010, in addition



DANIEL

KLINE

improvement at a very slow pace making myself incrementally better on a vearly basis. If I stick to this plan (Operation Modest Expectations is the working title) then should I live to be 100, I will likely be an absolute delight to be around I've set this admittedly easily

attainable goal based on a theory my friend Jeff and I created in

college where we would always put some easy-to-do things on our to-do lists. If we added "take a shower" and "have lunch" next to "write paper for history class," we could, at the end of the day, say we had accomplished two thirds of our lists.

While I'm a decent enough fellow, the list of things that I might improve would not fit in this column. Though I'm sure my wife and my staff could fill more than a few columns listing my faults, my obvious ones are that I'm easily angered, I'm better at starting a project than finishing one and I'm unable to leave work at work.

Given my goal of only making myself incrementally better, I only plan to slightly work on these faults this year. Making huge changes is not only unrealistic, but it would be jarring for people used to the current me — like if I started coming to work in hip hop gear or adopted a British accent.

So, let's look at what I plan to do to make myself imperceptibly better. Since I have been easily angered my entire life and see no obvious way to find more patience. Instead, I plan to only get mad about stuff that's worth getting mad about. That means perhaps I will get angry when a hotel has lost my reservation,

but I will try not to get angry when Lady Gaga makes a yearend best-of list or somebody tells me they like Coldplay.

As for starting projects and not finishing them, I'm going to try to apply a reality check to any ideas I come up with. Is a Web site that houses the best work not appearing in major newspapers a good idea? Yes. Is it one I can pull of with a demanding job, a weekly column to write and a five-year-old at home? No.

When it comes to work. well, I'm not sure I'm going to be able to pull that one off. I may try to be at work a little less, but I can't promise to not obsessively watch our security cameras. I will try to turn my cell phone off a little more and maybe go away someplace during a slow week and actually put the Blackberry down for a few minutes.

It's not a whole new me for 2010, but it will be a slightly new mildly improved me.

I'm not going for New Coke different, more like when they slightly change Tide and you notice the sticker on the package but your clothes seem no more or less clean.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com



A Hispanic Christmas is important

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column, originally published in December 2004, is the 17th part of an ongoing series, "America's

e call it "Navidad," the Spanish word for Christmas. But literally, it means "Nativity" — and we have no qualms about the birth we are celebrating.

Christmas traditions unfortunately are becoming politically incorrect in many segments of American society, but in the overwhelmingly Christian Hispanic-American community, we still proudly display our faith in Jesus Christ.



Perez

Efforts to quash public Nativity displays and even censor references to the word "Christmas" are seen as ridiculous in a community where most homes still display Nativity scenes and other religious ornaments that remind us of the real meaning of Navidad. This is one area in which

Latinos, perhaps even more • Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a than most Americans, hold on to traditional family values. After all, more than a time for

shopping and gift giving, more than a time for commercialization and greed, Christmas is a time of religious and homeland traditions. And those are traditions that

Latinos have been able to preserve — thanks to the huge importance we place on Christmas We call it "Nochebuena,"

which simply means "Good Night." But in Hispanic homes throughout this country, Christmas Eve is by far the most cher-

ished night of the year. This is the time when we reach

into our souls and reflect on our lives, our faith in God, our heritage and our need to be with our

loved ones. Regardless of where we are, most Latinos long to be home for the traditional Dec. 24 dinner and family reunion — the Hispanic equivalent of Thanks-

That means that instead of "dreaming of a white Christmas," many of us long for a greener, tropical and, yes, religious Navidad, "just like the ones we used to know" back in our native homelands.

Other memorable times may fade with the years, but thanks to the Nochebuena family reunions, memories of Christmases past remain vivid in our minds.

This is the time we use to retell old family stories, mourn relatives who have passed, call family members who are far away and cherish the ones who are sharing our meals.

During dinner, the discussions usually take us back to other Nochebuenas. We laugh about the good times, share some tearful moments and give thanks for overcoming the obstacles. Last Thursday evening, in

most Hispanic homes throughout this country, you can bet there were people hugging, revisiting their lives and giving thanks for their blessings. That's what Nochebuena is all about. Celebrated throughout Latin

America and Spain, the Nochebuena tradition differs slightly from country to country, as it does among the 47 million U.S. Latinos, especially in the dishes served for the family feast.

But its significance doesn't change. We all see it as a time to dig out the roots of our faith and

our culture — and to pass them on to our children. Indeed, throughout the world, Hispanic families gathered

Thursday night for reunions

they considered even more important than Christmas Day. After all, most Latinos grew up receiving gifts not on Dec. 25, but on the Jan. 6 Feast of the Epiphany — and not from Santa Claus, but from the same three wise men who brought presents

to the child Jesus in Bethlehem. That's why among Latino Americans, the figurines in the manger still have a special significance. And that's why efforts to expurgate them from any pub lic square are seen as absurd.

Yet, desperate as it may seem, some public officials, misinterpreting the Constitution, are trying to diminish the religious significance Christmas.

Obviously, we live in a pluralistic society in which all religions should be embraced and celebrated. But in order to be politically correct, we are expected to wish one another "happy holidays" or "season's greetings" instead of "merry Christmas." It's idiotic.

I know. Only a small minority of misguided individuals, apparently lacking anything better to do with their lives, are fighting with Christmas every year. But they seem to be growing in numbers, especially those public officials who claim they are taking down religious Christmas ornaments because they don't want to offend anyone. In fact, though they may be

protecting a small minority of Americans who are offended, they are insulting the overwhelming majority who always will refuse to keep Christ out of Christmas. But that's not even a problem

in the Hispanic community, where the religious significance of Christmas is rekindled every Nochebuena and where Jesus Cristo is still the only reason we celebrate Navidad.

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HERALD

News in brief

Leader of presidential delegation:

Afghan civilians killed by foreign troops KABUL (AP) — The head of a presidential delegation investigating the deaths of 10 people in eastern Afghanistan concluded that civilians — including

schoolchildren — were killed in an attack involving foreign troops, disputing NATO reports that the dead were insurgents. Asadullah Wafa, a senior adviser to President

Hamid Karzai, told The Associated Press by telephone that eight schoolchildren between the ages of 12 and 14 were among the dead discovered in a village house in the Narang district of Kunar A NATO official has said initial reports from

troops involved in the fighting on Sunday indicated that those killed were insurgents — all young

Civilian deaths are one of the most sensitive issues for foreign troops in Afghanistan, especially now when some additional 37,000 U.S. and NATO troops are being deployed to the war-ravaged country. Although far more civilians are killed by the Taliban, those blamed on international forces spark widespread resentment and undermine the fight against the militants.

Several hundred Afghans protested the deaths Wednesday in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad and in the capital of Kabul. In Jalalabad, they burned President Barack Obama's effigy and an American flag, chanting "death" to Obama and

In Kabul, the protesters chanted, "Unity, unity, death to the enemy of Islam!" and a protester with a bullhorn called on Obama to "take your soldiers out of Afghanistan."

Wafa said that he was convinced that all those killed in the Kunar incident were innocent civil-

Officials: Bombs kill 21

in Irag's western Anbar province

BAGHDAD (AP) — Staggered explosions killed 21 people Wednesday and injured the governor of Anbar, Iraqi officials said, in the latest violence to roil a turbulent province that is still struggling to stamp out the remnants of the al-Qaida insur-

The western province of Anbar is strategically important because it was once the heartland of support for al-Qaida linked militants before American officials paid Iraqi fighters to join a progovernment force.

Police official Lt. Col. Imad al-Fahdawi said two bombs exploded in Anbar's capital of Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad. He says a suicide bomber in a car caused the first blast on the main road near the provincial administration

Gov. Qassim al-Fahdawi, the deputy police chief and other officials came to inspect the damage, the police official said, when a suicide bomber on foot detonated a vest full of explosives nearby.

The deputy police chief was killed and the governor and other officials wounded, al-Fahdawi said. Police have put a curfew in place, he added.

Intelligence report: Iran is seeking to smuggle 1,350 tons of uranium

VIENNA (AP) — Iran is close to clinching a deal to clandestinely import 1,350 tons of purified uranium ore from Kazakhstan, according to an intelligence report obtained by The Associated Press. The assessment is heightening international concern about Tehran's nuclear activities, diplomats

Such a deal would be significant because, according to an independent research group, Tehran appears to be running out of the material, which it needs to feed its uranium enrichment program.

Kazakh Foreign Ministry spokesman Yerzhan Ashikbayev denied Wednesday his government was involved, saying that the ex-Soviet nation has fully observed its international obligations. "All Kazakhstan's activities in the uranium sphere have been under the IAEA control," he told the

A spokesman for Kazatomprom, the Kazakh state uranium company, also denied involvement.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York described the report as "a fabrication and completely baseless," in a statement faxed to the

Yemen investigates Nigerian suspect's contacts with al-Qaida

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Officials in Yemen are investigating whether the Nigerian suspected in the attempted Christmas Day attack on a U.S. airliner spent time with al-Qaida militants in the country in the months leading up to the botched Administrators, teachers and fellow students at

the San'a Institute for the Arabic Language, where Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab had enrolled to study Arabic, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he attended school for only the month of Ramadan, which began in late August. That has raised questions about what he did during the rest of his stay, which continued into December.

Abdulmutallab, 23, told U.S. officials after his arrest he received training and instructions from al-Qaida operatives in Yemen, a law enforcement official has said.

According to Yemeni officials, Abdulmutallab spent another extended period in Yemen, from

People at the school who knew Abdulmutallab said he was not openly extremist, though he expressed anger over Israel's actions against Palestinians in

Obama issues order to limit number of classified records held from public

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 400 million pages of Cold War-era documents could be declassified as the federal government responds to President Barack Obama's order to rethink the way it protects the nation's secrets.

Among the changes announced Tuesday by Obama is a requirement that every record be released eventually and that federal agencies review how and why they mark documents classified or deny the release of historical records. A National Declassification Center at the National Archives will be established to assist them and help clear a backlog of the Cold War records by

Obama also reversed a decision by President George W. Bush that had allowed the intelligence community to block the release of a specific document, even if an interagency panel decided the information wouldn't harm national security.

Advocates for a more open government are cautiously cheering the move.

"Everything will depend on implementation," said Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists. But the order "has tremendous potential to reduce the level of secrecy throughout the government."

Colorado mother, baby revived after nearly dying during Christmas Eve birth

DENVER (AP) — Mike Hermanstorfer was clutching his pregnant wife's hand in a Colorado hospital on Christmas Eve when she stopped breathing, her life apparently slipping away. Then he cradled his newborn son's limp body seconds after a medical team delivered the baby by Cesarean section.

Minutes later he saw his son show signs of life in his arms under the feverish attention of doctors, and soon he learned his wife had inexplicably started breathing again.

"My legs went out from underneath me," Hermanstorfer said Tuesday.

"I had everything in the world taken from me, and in an hour and a half I had everything given

Hermanstorfer's wife, Tracy, went into cardiac arrest and stopped breathing during labor on Thursday, said Dr. Stephanie Martin, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, where the Hermanstorfers had gone for the birth of their son.

"She had no signs of life. No heartbeat, no blood pressure, she wasn't breathing," said Martin, who had rushed to Hermanstorfer's room to help. "The baby was, it was basically limp, with a very slow

Man with world's 'Best Job' survives deadly jellyfish sting ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Trouble struck

paradise this week when a British man who has the "Best Job in the World" as the caretaker of a tropical Australian island was stung by a potentially lethal jellyfish. Ben Southall — who won a contest to blog for six

months about life on Australia's Hamilton Island to promote tourism — wrote Tuesday that he was lucky to have survived his brush with the extremely venomous Irukandji jellyfish. Earlier this week, Southall was getting off a Jet

Ski in the ocean when he felt "a small bee-like sting" on his arm. When he later noticed a tingling in his hands and feet, island staff took Southall immediately to the doctor. Progressive symptoms of fever, headache, lower

back pain, chest tightness and high blood pressure led the doctor to diagnose that Southall had been stung by an Irukandji jellyfish. He was given pain medication and slept off the venom's effects over-"I thought I'd done particularly well at avoiding

any contact with any of the dangerous critters that consider this part of the world their home,'

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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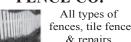
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News in brief

University's beloved oak tree being cut down

GALVESTON (AP) — A shady oak tree that served for decades as both a good luck charm for University of Texas Medical Branch students and an open-air study hall is being cut down this week after never recovering from Hurricane Ike.

For months after the September 2008 hurricane, signs of life were searched for in the oak that had been dedicated in memory of the medical branch's first president, Truman G. Blocker.

Mike Shriner, vice president of business operations and facilities at the school, says the experts called in agreed the tree would not recover.

The Galveston County Daily News reports that the medical branch is asking faculty, staff and students to suggest ways to immortalize the "Blocker

Texas jewelry store robbers make off with \$6M

LEWISVILLE (AP) — Authorities are searching for two men who got away with \$6 million worth of jewelry and coins in a suburban Dallas jewelry store robbery.

Lewisville Police Capt. Jay Powell said Harold's Jewelers was just about to open Monday morning when a man came to the door indicating he needed a battery for his watch.

When a store employee opened the door, the man brandished a weapon and, accompanied by another suspect, forced the employee to empty the contents of the safe into two black duffel bags. Powell said.

The store employee was not injured.

The employee says the men took the store's video recorder.

Rep. Frank Corte of San Antonio to retire

AUSTIN (AP) — State Rep. Frank Corte, R-San Antonio, is retiring from the Texas House of Representatives.

Corte, first elected in 1992, announced Tuesday he would not run for re-election in 2010. Dean of the Bexar County House delegation, Corte was known for his unabashed conservatism and opposition to

Corte had deployed to Iraq as a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve during his service in the

Corte will serve out his term, which ends in January 2011.

South Texas ban on dogs at beach lifted

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Officials have lifted their ban on dogs at the Padre Island National

But, officials warned in a news release Tuesday, people bring their dogs to the park at their own risk because the animals could get sick or die from eating fish killed by toxic red tide algae.

A dozen coyotes died and six pet dogs either died or got sick after eating dead fish in early December, officials said.

A red tide bloom nearly disappeared but was detected mid-December by field testers with the Texas Department of Health Services, which monitor oyster beds for red tide contamination. Concentrations of the algae, which can cause respiratory symptoms in humans, were spotted throughout the Coastal Bend.

2-year-old recovering from Christmas shooting

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 2-year-old Bandera County girl continues to recover after she was shot in the back of the head on Christmas Day as her father was cleaning his gun.

Kalia Wallace is out of University Hospital's intensive care unit and has been moved to the pediatric ward.

Her father was cleaning his gun when a bullet went through a kitchen cabinet and hit Kalia. who was on the other side. Her father, a former law enforcement officer, has not been charged. The Bandera County Sheriff's Office says the shooting appeared to be accidental.

Officials had called it a Christmas miracle that the girl survived. Her father told investigators he thought the gun was unloaded when he was clean-

Feds nab pot, other goods on Texas-Mexico border

EL PASO (AP) — Federal agents on the U.S.-Mexico border in and around El Paso were busy during Christmas week, confiscating everything from marijuana to tamales.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized 1,682 pounds of marijuana and several prohibited food products.

The largest seizure was on Christmas Eve at the Bridge of the Americas, where more than 600 pounds of pot were found hidden in wooden furni-

Agents working in El Paso, West Texas and New Mexico siezed food products including apples, oranges, sugarcane, guavas, sausage and pork tamales.

Houston judge resigns after oppression conviction HOUSTON (AP) — A Harris County criminal

court-at-law judge has resigned following his conviction of official oppression for trying to woo a woman facing a drunken-driving charge in his Judge Donald Jackson's resignation, delivered

Tuesday in a one-sentence letter to county commissioners, is effective Thursday. A 28-year-old woman accused Jackson of offering

her a better court-appointed attorney if she'd agree to a romantic relationship. A jury convicted Jackson of the misdemeanor

earlier this month.

The judge was sentenced to 30 days in jail and two years probation.



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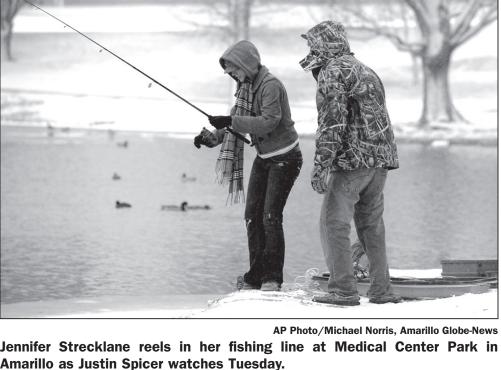
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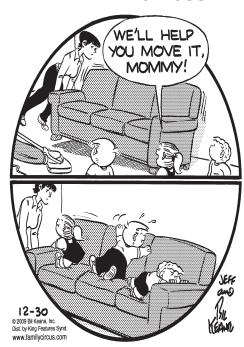
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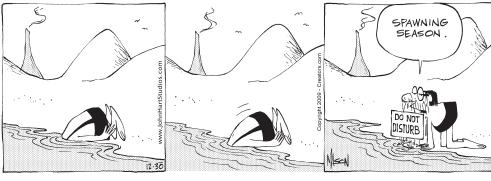




SORRY, DAG WAS AND OUR TRASH- (TALKIN' PING-PONG MATCHES, THE FISHING TRIP WHEN N AN EXTRA-NOSTALGIC THE SNOOK BIT MOOD YOUR NOSE! HA! AND DID I MENTION... HAR!HAR!

HE WANTS TO APJUST OUR
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HIGHER!

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AGNES







In History

This Date

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2009. There is 1 day left in the year.

Highlight Today's History:

On Dec. 30, 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

On this date:

In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1907, the Mills Commission issued its final report, concluding that Abner Doubleday had invented baseball, a view few sports historians, if any, agree with.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

DOES HE

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.

In 1948, the Cole Porter musical "Kiss Me, Kate" opened on Broadway.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10, which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extratight security. In 1994, a gunman walked

into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 75. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax is 74. Actor Jack Riley is 74. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 72. TV director James Burrows is 69. Actor Fred Ward is 67. Singer-musician Michael

Nesmith is 67. Singer Davy Jones is 64. Actress Concetta Tomei is 64. Singer Patti Smith is 63. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 62. TV host Meredith Vieira is 56. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 54. Actress Patricia Kalember is 53. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 53. "Today" show anchor Matt Lauer is 52. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 50. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 49. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 48. Track star Ben Johnson is 48. Actor George Newbern is 46. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 40. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 40. Actress Meredith Monroe is

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Answer to previous puzzle







HI AND LOIS

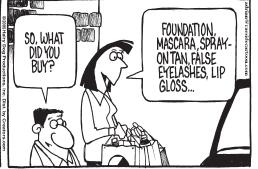






THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Have top billing 66 My Fair Lady **5** Ear cleaners

10 California

county

14 Smidgen 15 Airline

employee

16 Starting-date phrase

17 Golf-club handle

18 Join forces

19 Two cups

20 Leaving 23 Mork's home

planet 24 Online chuckle

25 Island near

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31 Train terminal

35 A single

36 Under a parasol, say

39 Predatory dolphin

40 Being frugal

43 And the rest: Abbr.

44 Flour or sugar

45 Jazz fan 46 Merchant's

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48 Hit show's sign **49** Peace

goddess

51 Members of mgmt. 53 Become more

mellow 54 Getting a

party going **62** Fifth-rate

63 Perfect **64** Libya neighbor

NO HARM DONE by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

65 Pickling herb

heroine

69 Monica of

tennis

DOWN

2 Spelling of

3 Quarreling

4 Bird of prey

90210

5 Mettle

6 Part of a

mansion

7 Got down

9 Pittsburgh

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8 This and that

10 Waterloo loser

67 Actress Davis

68 Friend in battle

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China **12** Frog hangout **13** Nautical

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22 Curtain

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25 Accepts

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26 Singer Baker

27 Of punishment **55** Get going

28 Part of a suit

29 Mystery writing award

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53 Legendary lifter

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56 Doing

nothing **57** Astronaut

Armstrong

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franchise

60 Matador gear 61 Paradise

11 12 13

62 Electronic organizer

10

Family global treks a real-world education

DALLAS Carla Fisher and her husband announced plans to travel the globe with their adolescent daughters for a year, some friends called them crazy.

Seven years later, with wonderful memories and a book documenting their world trek, the Fishers now seem like global trailblazers.

Despite a recession that may have limited the number of U.S. students traveling abroad in exchange programs, some parents are going out of their way to make sure their children have extended international experiences.

"It's really encouraging to hear that there are a lot of other people who want to educate their kids in that manner," said Fisher, an environmental biologist in suburban Houston.

Some parents are trying to raise enlightened "world citizens," young Americans who aren't caught up in the race to acquire more stuff. Others want to give their children the skills they'll need to compete globally.

"You always want your kids to be ahead of the crowd," said Christopher Holtby, who works in Dallas and commutes to Mexico where his family moved temporarily in August so their three sons could become bilingual.

Tuition for their private school in Mexico is \$200 a month, per child — a fraction of what it would cost them in the

"This is a global world," Holtby said. "My wife and I understand that if we can give our kids some exposure they'll have more options."

No one knows exactly how many American families are choosing the global education path — about 2,000 U.S. secondary school students studied abroad in exchange programs last year, according to the Council on Standards International

Educational Travel. But global education consultants say a growing number of parents are traveling for a year or more with their children, in part because technology makes it easy for them to work from anywhere.

"There is a tremen-

dous amount of interest in spending time abroad at all stages of lifeand increasingly, as a family with children," said Maya Frost, author of "The New Global Student: Skip the SAT, Save Thousands on Tuition and Get a Truly International Education." She knows American families in every corner of the globe who have made

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"This is a global world. My wife and I understand that if we can give our kids some exposure they'll have more options."

Christopher Holtby

that choice.

She and her husband left their Portland, Ore., suburb for adventures in Mexico and Argentina with their four teenage daughters in 2005.

"The old model of the expatriate family —corporate transfers and diplomats — is still an option, but the new global families are more likely to be moving abroad independently and creating their own work for themselves," said Frost.

Some families who opt for nomadic education are former Peace Corps volunteers, children of immigrants, have adopted a child from overseas or simply suffer from wanderlust.

Computers enable them to continue working while they're traveling, and homeschooling makes it easier to pluck children out of traditional schools for some real-world learning.

"There's so much more to education than school," said Tessa Hill, who recently returned to her Houston-area home, after driving her family across North America, Central America and Europe in a motor home for 13 months. "World travel is an education in people, cultures, in language, in travel skills, street smarts and in how lucky we are to live in the United States."

When Hill and her husband began considering extended global travel, their middle child, Charles, 13, was skeptical.

was 'well, are we real- and it was." ly going to do this?" Charles said. "But it did sound like great fun."

Charles said missing his buddies was the hardest part. He stayed in touch via e-mail and made some new friends along the way, play-

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ing soccer with kids in France and learning about rugby from youths in Ireland.

The tasty and varied cuisine of other lands was another unexpected joy the seventh-grader extols.

"I'd definitely recommend this to other kids," Charles said. "It was such a great opportunity to see different countries and learn geography a different way."

To make re-entry smoother, most school officials prefer that families work out an educational plan before they leave town. Sometimes tests are given to determine grade-level placement or subject mastery upon return.

"It sounds cliche, but it really opens up your mind and your eyes to the world," said Robbin Goodman, 17, a senior at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin who spent his junior year skateboarding across Beijing, China, when he wasn't studying Chinese history and other core subjects.

Had he not already taken a school-sponsored spring break trip with his mom to China in 2007, Robbin said he probably would not have been able to convince his parents to let him go alone for a year.

"I knew I would learn Chinese and all that, but my goal was to have a great time," Robbin

"That's what I was shooting for was to make "My first reaction every moment awesome

> While studying, living or traveling abroad for a year isn't for everyone, it is no longer limited to the rich. Fisher said she and her husband began saving for their trek when their two daughters were really young.

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While away, tenants covered their mortgage and the Fishers stayed in hostels and inexpensive apartments, shopped in local markets and prepared their own food. Fisher said their

13-month international sojourn cost about \$100,000 in 2001-02 with transportation. "The biggest obstacle

for those seriously considering going abroad is dealing with those who are against the idea," said Frost.

Parents say the benefits to their children outweigh inconvenienc-

"They gain the ability to take risks and to have confidence in themselves," said Liz Perelstein, founder of New York-based School Choice International, a global education con-

sulting firm. "When we came home (from being expatriates in London), my daughter, who had been painfully shy before we left, said 'Mom, now I know there's nothing I can't do.'"





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Hard-liners back Iran government in rallies

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

— Tens of thousands of hard-line government supporters turned out for state-sponsored rallies Wednesday, some of them calling for the execution of opposition leaders as Iran's police chief threatened to show "no mercy" in crushing any new protests by the pro-reform movement.

Pro-government rallies were staged in Shiraz, Arak, Qom, Tehran among other cities. Demonstrators at a rally in Tehran chanted "Death to Mousavi," a reference to opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi. Some shouted "Rioter hypocrites must be executed" and held up a banner that read: "We sacrifice our blood for supreme leader."

The government gave all civil servants and employees a day off to attend the rallies

and organized buses to transport groups of schoolchildren and supporters from outlying rural areas to the protests.

Hardline cleric Ahmad Alamolhoda called opponents of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei supporters of Satan.

"Enemies of the leader, according to the Quran, belong to the party of Satan," Alamolhoda told demonstrators in Tehran in comments broadcast on state TV. "Our war in the world is war against the opponents of the rule of the supreme leader."

Separately, police chief Gen. Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam warned protesters to stay off the streets or face harsh consequences. At least eight people were killed in street violence Sunday, the coun-

try's worst unrest since the aftermath of the disputed presidential election on June 12.

"In dealing with previous protests, police showed leniency. But given that these opponents are seeking to topple (the ruling system), there will be no mercy,' Moghaddam said, according to the official news agency IRNA. "We will take severe action. The era of tolerance is over. Anyone attending such rallies will be crushed."

One of those killed Sunday was the nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi. Iran's deputy police chief said Ali Mousavi was assasinated by unidentified assailants and not killed by security forces.

Ali Mousavi was buried Wednesday in a hastily organized ceremony. Authorities had

taken his body from the hospital earlier in the week in what was seen as an attempt to prevent the funeral from turning into another proopposition protest.

The opposition says Ali Mousavi was shot and killed by security forces.

But Iran's deputy

police chief, Ahmad Reza Radan, was quoted by IRNA as saying that the way he was killed suggests he was assassinated while walking. The New York Times has quoted a family friend as saying he was run over by a vehicle outside his home in an assassination.

The police chief said more than 500 protesters who took part in Sunday's demonstrations have been arrested but the number may be higher since hardline Basij militiamen and intelligence agents may have apprehended more people on their own, sources said.



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AP photo/Vahid Salemi
Pro-government Iranian
demonstrators gather
in a rally at Revolution
Square in Tehran,
Iran Wednesday.
Iran's police chief
threatened to show "no
mercy" to pro-reform
demonstrators.







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