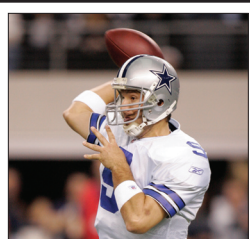




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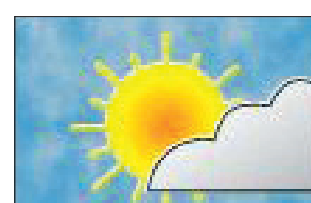


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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**MONDAY**

**JANUARY 4, 2010**



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## BSISD board to again eye facilities



By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Facility improvement will be much on the mind of Big Spring Independent School District trustees when they meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the high school board room.

It is becoming increasingly more likely that trustees will call for a bond election to finance facility upgrades sometime this year and Tuesday's meeting will be another step in that direction.

Trustees will look at several options during their meeting, but the No. 1 priority would appear to be upgrading or replacing elementary campuses.

"Our biggest needs are at the elementary level," BSISD Special Assistant Dr. Michael Stevens said in December. "Bauer is not fixable ... and Washington and Marcy need to be replaced."

Age and obsolete design are the main reasons officials want to close down Bauer and Washington, while Marcy — the district's largest elementary campus in terms of enrollment — is hopelessly overcrowded, they say.

Bauer and Washington have been targets for closure ever since a 2007 facility study described both as obsolete. Marcy instructors, meanwhile, have had to make generous use of portable classrooms to handle the overflow there.

As plans stand now, officials want to close those three campuses, build two new elementary schools, convert Goliad Intermediate to an elementary campus, have local elementaries house students in grades kindergarten through fifth and move sixth-graders to the junior high.

By adding 11 classrooms to the junior high — utilizing current available space — the building could comfortably house grades six through eight, Stevens noted.

The problem with renovating Goliad to house the full range of elementary students, however, is that officials would have to make the building comply with Americans With Disability Act requirements, which would hike upgrade costs considerably.

See **BSISD**, Page 3

Among the facility improvement ideas Big Spring Independent School District trustees are considering include closure and replacement of Washington Elementary. Trustees will discuss facility upgrades when they meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the high school board room.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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## Schools see more low-income students

### More than half of Texas' public school enrollment are poor children

AUSTIN (AP) — The number of students in Texas public schools from low-income families is increasing, according to a state report that also shows a rise in the number of minority students.

The report from the Texas Education Agency said the state is experiencing an enrollment boom in public schools, growing 20 percent over a decade to 4.7 million students last school year. Enrollment in all U.S. public schools increased 8.1 percent.

Last year, poor children made up 57 percent of Texas' enrollment, up from 48 percent in the 1998-99 academic year.

"Economically disadvantaged students have needs," Sarah Winkler, president of the Texas Association of School Boards and an Alief school district trustee, told the San Antonio Express-News. "The cost of education is going to go up. Every student has to meet the same standards, and some of those students have

never seen a book before."

Over the past decade, the racial and ethnic mix in schools also has changed, with enrollment increasing for every ethnic group except whites.

In the 2001-02 school year, the number of Hispanic students surpassed whites for the first time.

The newspaper reported that schools are educating many more children whose primary language isn't English.

Winkler said that to help at-risk students, districts' focuses need to include preschool programs, parent education, extra tutoring and smaller class sizes.

According to expert testimony in school funding trials, it costs about 40 percent more to educate low-income children.

For the report from the TEA, children were counted as poor if they qualified for free- or reduced-priced school lunches.

A special legislative committee is set

to study school funding before state lawmakers reconvene in 2011.

Rep. Rob Eissler, chairman of the House Public Education Committee, said he expects discussion on the cost of educating at-risk students.

"You have more and more kids that are less prepared to do well in school," said Eissler, R-The Woodlands. "Where the expense comes in, you need teachers that have more qualifications. Maybe we need more and better professional development for our teachers."

Steve Murdock, a former state demographer and previous director of the U.S. Census Bureau, has projected the average household income in Texas will drop in coming decades.

"It's going to require a greater effort on the part of the state to make those children competitive," said Murdock, who is now a sociology professor at Rice University.



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# Oil near \$81 on U.S. economy, demand optimism

**PABLO GORONDI**

Associated Press Writer

Oil prices climbed to near \$81 a barrel Monday on optimism that a gradual U.S. economic recovery in 2010 will boost demand for crude.

Cold weather in the eastern United States and gains by other currencies against the dollar also helped support prices.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for February delivery was up \$1.55 to \$80.91 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 8 cents to settle at \$79.36 on Thursday. Trading was closed Friday for the New Year holiday.

Oil has flirted with the \$80

level the last two trading days after jumping from \$69 a barrel last month on signs the U.S. economy may be improving.

The unemployment rate fell to 10 percent in November from 10.2 percent in October, and the government is scheduled to announce December's results later this week.

"Most people expect the economy to get better this year, and demand should follow," said Victor Shum, an analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "But traders so far lack the conviction to trade oil above \$80 for long simply because of there haven't been clear indications of growing demand yet."

Other analysts also under-

lined that there was still a way to go before thirst for oil returned to earlier levels.

"The bottom line is that demand is improving, but is still a far cry from what it once was," said a report from U.S. consultancy Cameron Hanover.

Uncertainties about demand, high stockpiles of crude and refined products and trading positions defined by the technical analysis of prices were also seen affecting the market.

"We do not think that the fundamental picture and the price structure will allow for the current crude oil prices to be sustained in 2010," said Olivier Jakob of Switzerland's Petromatrix.

Analysts were divided

about the impact of a dispute between Russia and Belarus, which is a transit country for oil shipments to Europe through the Druzhba pipeline.

Officials in Belarus said Monday that supplies of Russian oil to Belarus and transit shipments to Europe were continuing despite a dispute over prices.

"Russian crude flows via the northern leg of the Druzhba line are vital, especially for German and Polish refiners, and any uncertainties around feedstock supplies are supporting concerns around the future of the already strongly pressured refiners," said JBC Energy in Vienna.

Petromatrix's Jakob, however, was reminded of a simi-

lar dispute between Russia and Belarus in 2007, which was quickly resolved and led to a sharp fall of 7 percent in oil prices.

A weaker dollar also supported prices, making oil cheaper for investors holding other currencies.

Colder weather has also lifted crude prices recently by boosting demand for heating oil and natural gas.

In other Nymex trading in February contracts, heating oil rose 4.98 cents to \$2.1654 a gallon and gasoline gained 3.74 cents to \$2.0903 a gallon. Natural gas jumped 26.4 cents to \$5.836 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude for February delivery rose \$1.57 to \$79.50 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

# Cities, counties take back corporate tax breaks

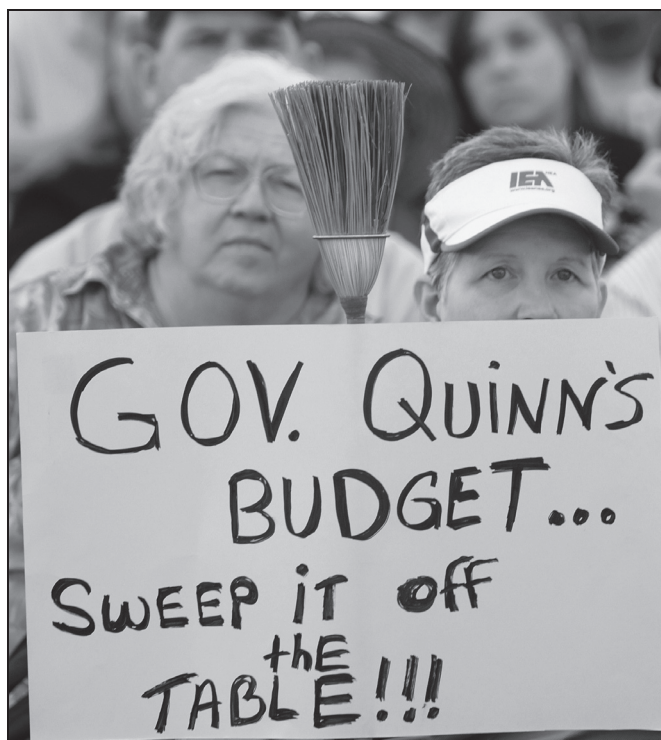
CHICAGO (AP) — Cash-strapped communities have a message for corporations that promised jobs in return for tax breaks: A deal's a deal.

As the recession drags on, municipalities struggling to fix roads, fund schools and pay bills increasingly are rescinding tax abatements to companies that don't hire enough workers, lay them off or close up shop. At the same time, they're sharpening new incentive deals, leaving no doubt what is expected of companies and what will happen if they don't deliver.

"We will roll out the red carpet as much as we can (but) they are going to honor the contract," said Brendon Gallagher, an alderman in DeKalb, Ill., where Target Corp. got abatements from the city, county, school district and other taxing bodies after promising at least 500 jobs at a local distribution center.

So when the company came up 66 workers short in 2009, Target got word its next tax bill would be jumping almost \$600,000 — more than half of which go to the local school district, where teachers and programs have been cut as coffers dried up.

The newfound boldness comes from communities and states that have long bent over backward to lure companies and jobs by offering abatements and other incentives — to the tune of an estimated \$60 billion a year in the United States, accord-



AP file photo/Seth Perlman

**In this May 6, 2009, file photo, teacher Carrie Cox from Andrew High School in Tinley Park, Ill., protests along with other teachers opposing Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's budget cuts and new pension plan during a rally across the street from the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. As the recession drags on, municipalities struggling to fix roads, fund schools and pay bills increasingly are rescinding tax abatements to companies that don't hire enough workers, lay them off or close up shop.**

AP file photo/Seth Perlman

In this May 6, 2009, file photo, teacher Carrie Cox from Andrew High School in Tinley Park, Ill., protests along with other teachers opposing Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's budget cuts and new pension plan during a rally across the street from the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. As the recession drags on, municipalities struggling to fix roads, fund schools and pay bills increasingly are rescinding tax abatements to companies

that don't hire enough workers, lay them off or close up shop. ing to the Washington-based economic development watchdog group Good Jobs First.

The willingness to write — and enforce — so-called "clawback" provisions comes even as companies across the country struggle and against a broader backdrop of governments getting tough on business practices.

What's more, the recession has communities thinking about how the tax breaks they dole

out will play with residents who have grown increasingly angry at the thought of anything that hints of corporate welfare.

"The public is a lot more aware of tax abatements and there's a climate of skepticism about what can be perceived as corporate handouts," said Geoff McKimm, a member of the Monroe County Council in Indiana.

With that in mind, county officials drew up an agreement with Printpack, a packaging company, that includes a provision requiring the company to refund either \$197,000 or that year's abatement, whichever is more, if the number of employees at a new factory falls below 140.

Another provision requires Printpack refund the entire abatement if it employs fewer than 75 people — a guarantee meant to prevent companies from leaving a "skeleton crew" at a location to avoid paying up.

"With so many businesses going to Mexico, communities are desperately trying to hold onto jobs," said Amy Gerstman, the county's auditor. "This was a carefully put-together abatement."

And companies increasingly are being forced to hold up their end of the bargain. In Texas, where companies can get money from the Texas Enterprise Fund if they promise to create a specific number of jobs, the num-

ber of clawbacks rose to nine in 2008, compared to a total of seven for the previous three years combined, the governor's office said.

In Illinois, the number of companies from which the state sought to "recapture" incentive money has steadily climbed, from 6 in 2005 to a total of 37 by 2008.

Meanwhile, more communities are contemplating similar action.

In St. Louis County, officials have told Pfizer that if it cuts 600 jobs, as planned, they'll rethink the \$7 million in tax breaks they promised to give the company for the next 10 years.

And in Detroit, while the state was approving expanded tax credits in exchange for General Motors Co.'s promise not to move its headquarters, the city council was talking about cracking down on tax breaks for GM and other major employers.

"We know that there are more clawbacks getting triggered because more deals are falling short," said Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, who has written extensively on clawbacks.

It's unclear exactly how much is being recovered because nobody collects comprehensive statistics on clawbacks, LeRoy and others say. States that keep do statistics only track their own deals, not those initiated by local governments. Communities also may revoke the entire abatement or only a

portion of it, while others sometimes simply rule out future abatements, LeRoy said.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ruby Pike, 74, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Hilbert William Treharn, 77, died December 21, 2009. Memorial services will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at Gateway Baptist Church.

Hermenegildo "Herman" Romero, 96, died Thursday. Vigil services will be at 8:00 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Eliazar "Charlie" Rodriguez, 77, died Friday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Jim Bell, 61, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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## BSISD

Continued from Page 1

"It looks like it might cost as much to replace Goliad as to fix it," Stevens said. "The building's on three different levels, it's not ADA compliant and to make it that way would cost about as much as a new building."

Renovation of any BSISD campus would have to include costs to make those buildings comply with ADA standards, he added.

Preliminary estimates for two new elementary

campuses, renovation or replacement of Goliad, renovation of Moss Elementary and upgrading the junior high to house sixth graders are about \$42 million.

The new elementary campuses would be designed for a capacity of 550 students with approximately 70,000 square feet per building. They would be built adjacent to the campuses they are replacing, Stevens said.

Other renovation projects (and estimated costs) trustees will consider include:

- Renovation of

Kentwood Elementary (\$1 million).

- Upgrading science labs and improving lighting, roofing and fire-suppression safety systems at the high school (\$12 million).
- Work on grounds,

parking lots and driveways (\$2.5 million).

Discussion of facility improvements is the only item on Tuesday's agenda.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331

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<p><b>Big Spring Travel Show</b> Thursday, January 7 2:00 PM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas</p>	<p><b>Abilene Travel Show</b> Saturday, January 9 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas <small>*Due to construction, please enter at South or West entrances.</small></p>

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Dangerous information overloads

There must be parents whose years of raising teenagers to adulthood are perfectly pleasant and without problems. And then there are the rest, perhaps most, who find the experience quite trying and filled with trouble.

Kids are a joy no matter what age, but teenagers have unique abilities to tax parental understanding.

Jim Joros, principal of Hillwood Middle School in the Keller district, sent letters to parents of seventh- and eighth-graders last week informing them that the practice of "sexting" has reached Hillwood.

For those who are happily ignorant of sexting, it refers to sending explicit images through text messages on cellphones. Girls and boys send nude photos of themselves and others. Researchers say there are indications that it may happen more often among middle school students, when teens are beginning to explore sexuality.

"Please spend time discussing with your child the seriousness of sending, receiving and/or forwarding inappropriate photos of fellow students or anyone for that matter," Joros wrote to parents. He warned that sexting could be a felony.

It's one more way that the digital age has presented whole new challenges. As if teaching your child to have a healthy view of sex weren't difficult enough already. Now their cellphones, which have fast become a staple of teen life, make it even harder.

Of course, parents have to talk to their sons and daughters about this. A survey released Dec. 15 by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project found that 4 percent of cell-owning teens 12-17 say they have sent "sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images or videos of themselves to someone else via text messaging."

Fifteen percent say they have received such images of someone they know.

Sexting typically takes place between people who are romantic partners or one of whom wants such a relationship, the Pew Center reported. The other typical scenario: One of those people shares the images with friends.

That last part is one more thing that teens and others must comprehend: Nothing that enters the digital world is private, and it can stay around forever. Ask Tiger Woods.

There is tremendous social pressure to participate in sexting, the Pew Center says. "My boyfriend or someone I really liked asked for" photos, one girl said. "And I felt like if I didn't do it, they wouldn't continue to talk to me."

Time after time, other teens told Pew that sexting is "no big deal." That's always been teen talk for "don't get mad at me/grownups don't understand."

The Pew Center also talked with the parents of teens in its survey. The really bad news is that even strong action like periodically looking through the contents of their child's cellphone doesn't help. Teens whose parents do so are no more or less likely to send or receive nude or nearly nude images on their phones.

Still, something else apparently helps, according to the Pew Center. Teens whose parents restrict the number of texts they can send in a given period are less likely to use their limited texts for sending sexy images. Apparently, finding out who will be at the mall or at the party or other such valuable information is more important.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM  
FORT WORTH

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Your love for us, Lord, gives us extra strength.  
Amen

# Fear of flying ... another case

Now is the time for those of us on vacation to start talking ourselves back onto the planes we have to board to get home. Here I am in paradise — actually, the Grand Wailea in Maui, which looks like paradise to me — and around the pool and on the beaches, almost everyone is squinting into BlackBerry and iPhones trying to figure out exactly what is going wrong in the rest of the world. Actually, I was going to write a column making fun of all of us for our crackberry addictions, even on holiday, but it stopped being funny when the news we were getting was of terror in the sky. It's the last thing you want to think about, and the first thing on everyone's mind.

I know all the reassuring things. Flying is still safer than driving (especially with me, according to my kids). The Maui airport is not exactly a hotbed of al-Qaida activity. There's no reason — after all, this is vacation (my first in three years) — not to get to the airport early, be patient with security and be thankful that, as always after a major threat, security will be at its most stringent. It couldn't be a safer time to fly, we tell each other over our "Breaking News

Alerts" by the pool, and even if that's not really true, it certainly sounds good, especially to the children.

So how come I'm still nervous?

There's no way for many of us to live without airplanes. My daughter flies to get to school. I fly all the time for work. Vacations are actually a great thing, and getting away, seeing new places and meeting new people is part of what makes life fulfilling and exciting. Getting off airplanes is just not an option. Besides, trains and busses can be bombed even more easily, I suppose.

The problem with terror threats is not so much that they force us to live differently.

I'd be almost happy to live differently, if it would make a difference. No, it's the inability to do much of anything — other than get to the airport early and be patient in line — that makes living with the threat of terror so frightening. For those of us who crave control, crave the sense that we can make things better by doing something, nothing is harder than doing nothing.

Of course, awareness is important. Thank God the passengers on Flight 253 were aware and proactive. But should we all sit alert on each flight, watching for false moves by men who look Muslim? I'm sure some people are doing just that, and all I can think of is all my young male students who are dark complexioned or Muslim and are the

subject of hostile stares on their way back to school.

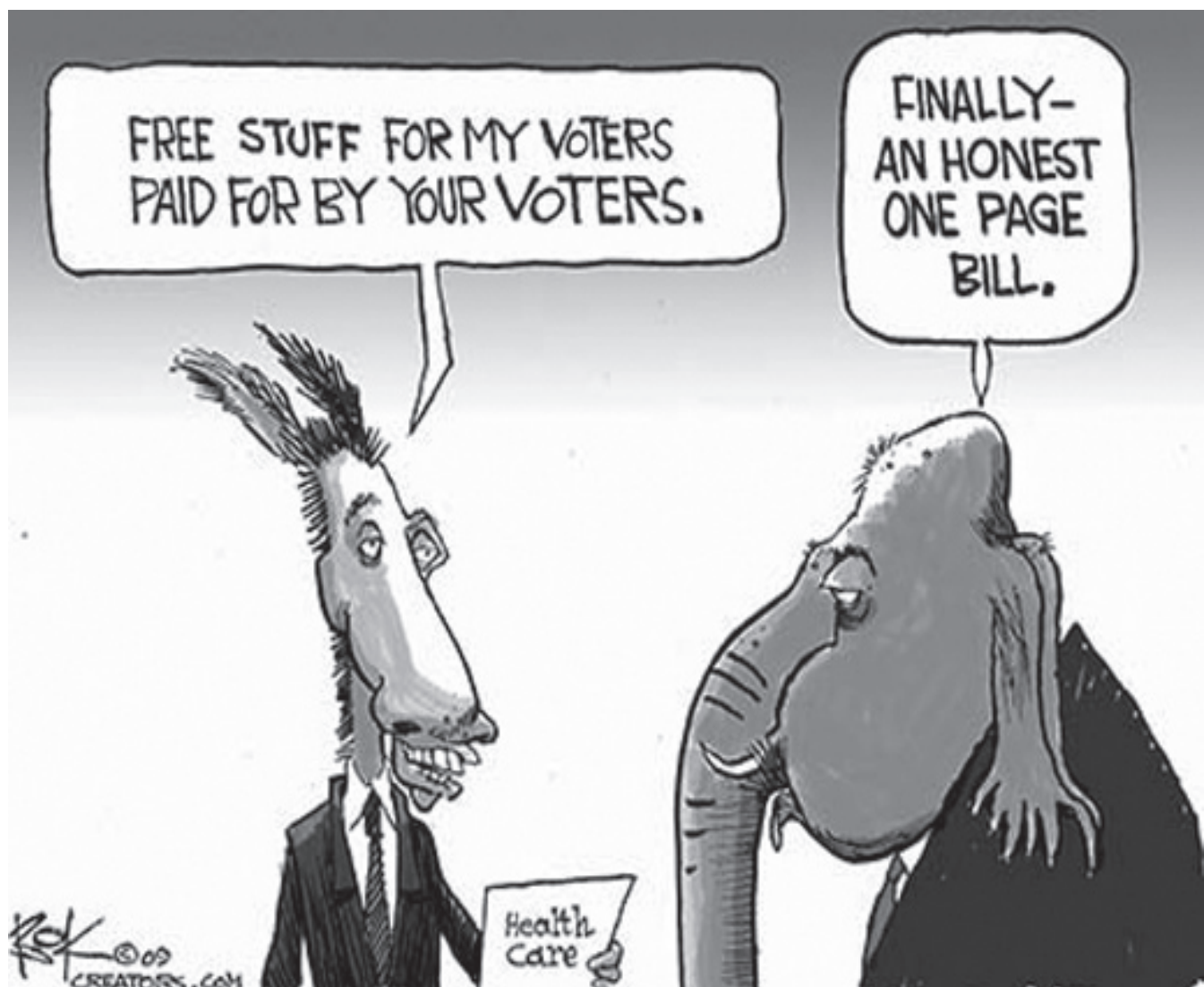
What makes it even worse, of course, is that terrorists aim for surprise. If we're all looking for Arab men, leave it to them to use a woman or a child. If we're focused on flights from Europe, leave it to them to find a flight from somewhere else. If we're looking on the plane, leave it to them to hit at the ticket counter. If you really want to be vigilant, you have to consider the unexpected, not the expected, which sounds a lot like walking around in a constant state of paranoia, knowing that even paranoids have real enemies, as America does.

So we must be vigilant but not vigilante, careful but not paralyzed, alert in situations where, by definition, we have almost no control.

This was not what any of us wanted to be thinking about on vacation, but terrorists don't take vacations. And because of that, Christmas holiday last year was not nearly as peaceful as I'd hoped.

So it goes. In a world facing terror, you take your rest where you can find it. I'm grateful for my days in paradise. And I'm ready to sit in my seat without moving if that's what it takes to get home safely. If only it were that easy. Happy new year. And a safe one.

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# Yes, someone has to pay for it

Most Americans already have health care insurance, but many middle-class Americans are afraid of losing what they have. The fear is especially profound when a person can work hard and steadily for years, only to find him- or herself suddenly out of a job and without the means to pay for a costly illness.

There have been too many horror stories about people who responsibly buy personal health plans, only to find out that the plans don't really cover large medical bills.

If a person gets a job that provides health care benefits, his or her current health problems may not be covered because they are pre-existing conditions.

Washington's catchphrase for the above situation has been, as the fiscal-watchdog group the Concord Coalition wrote in its recent report on health care reform, "doing nothing is not a responsible option."

The other half of the equation, however, is, as the report continued, "It does not follow, however, that doing anything would improve the situation." Alas, doing anything seems to be the one thing at which Washington

excels.

Now, I've got issues with the bills passed in the House and Senate when Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Harry Reid kept tossing in benefits while promising to reduce the country's health care tab.

But my new fear is that during conference committee, lawmakers will throw in even more goodies and then, to make everybody happy, reduce the tax increases necessary to fund the plan. The closer they come to President Obama's 2008 campaign rhetoric — universal health care that only rich people pay for — the more red ink they will pass on to the next generation.

The House proposes a 5.4 percent tax on workers earning more than \$500,000 annually, or \$1 million for couples.

The Senate relies heavily on what is called hide-the-tax — excise tax on so-called Cadillac health care plans. The Senate also would increase Medicare taxes on families earning more than \$250,000.

The problem with soaking the rich to pay for a health care plan? This is the fastest-shrinking tax imaginable when the economy sours. If California can serve any useful function in this debate, it should be as a warning to the dangers of over-relying on taxes on the rich.

Besides, as the Concord Coalition noted, broadly based taxes "spread the notion that all must

contribute something for government benefits — imposing an important breaker against 'free lunch' spending giveaways." Hence the coalition's support for the tax on so-called Cadillac health care.

While critics on the left complain that the Cadillac tax will squeeze union workers and the middle-class, I have issues with taxing those with health care benefits to pay for those who don't. Better to pass a value-added tax, but at least this excise eventually would make everyone pay for a universal benefit.

Concord Coalition Policy Director Josh Gordon believes, "Once people start feeling the cost of their insurance, they start getting concerned about premiums being too high."

He added that if negotiators remove the Senate excise-tax and cost-control measures, the Concord Coalition would have to brand a final bill as "irresponsible legislation."

Note to anti-tax Republicans: If Washington passes a bill, someone has to pay for it.

The only question is who, when and how much.

Note to soak-the-richers: You can't say that universal health care is a moral imperative, but only other people should pay for it.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@schronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@schronicle.com).

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# TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

## Cleanup questions are problem

### for Austin's Barton Springs Pool

AUSTIN (AP) — Experts say about 1,500 cubic yards of rocks and flood debris have accumulated in the deep end of Barton Springs Pool in Austin and need to be removed.

A flood-control tunnel is pocked with holes.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the city is finishing plans to repair the tunnel and remove the rocks in \$3.7 million projects that could take up to seven months.

The pool is habitat for endangered salamanders. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Austin City Council must approve the plans, which could mean pool closure during the cleaning.

The city council has scheduled a Jan. 14 public hearing.

Susan Bright with the Save Barton Creek Association wants the city to complete a planned study of the pool's water flow before extracting the rocks or repairing the tunnel.

## Vacuum trucks to clean Ike-filled storm drains in Galveston area

GALVESTON (AP) — About 70 miles of storm drains cluttered or clogged since Hurricane Ike will get the vacuum treatment.

Vacuum trucks were scheduled Monday to begin sucking out the silt, sand and trash from drains still affected by the September 2008 hurricane.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is paying to deep clean Galveston's storm drains.

The Galveston County Daily News reports work is expected to be completed by March 12.

The city plans to use the removed sand and silt to elevate Galveston's recycling center, in a plan endorsed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

City crews have been clearing hurricane-clogged drains in response to complaints about flooding, but the workers have been unable to clean the whole system.

## Annis Parker inaugurated today as Houston mayor

HOUSTON (AP) — Annis Parker is taking over publicly as Houston's mayor, making her city the nation's largest to be presided over by an openly gay person.

The 53-year-old Parker was sworn in over the weekend in a private ceremony as chief executive of America's fourth-biggest city. Public inaugural ceremonies and celebrations are planned throughout Monday.

Parker took almost 54 percent of the vote in a runoff last month, defeating former city attorney Gene Locke in a race to succeed term-limited Bill White.

The three-term former city controller has never made a secret or issue of her sexual orientation in any of her runs for office. Her lifestyle did draw

attention after anti-gay activists and some religious groups endorsed Locke and sent out mailers condemning her.

## Four-year-old girl drowns in neighbor's pool near Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities say a 4-year-old girl has died after wandering into a neighbor's pool near Houston.

Harris County Sheriff's Office spokesman Thomas Gilliland said the girl, who was deaf, disappeared Sunday morning.

Gilliland tells the Houston Chronicle that the girl's mother called 911 about 9 a.m. Sunday after she realized the girl was missing. He says the father found his daughter floating in the neighbor's pool just as deputies arrived and began administering CPR.

The girl died several hours later at a Houston-area hospital.

Gilliland says no charges are expected to be filed in the case.

## Scores arrested, some children, in North Texas cockfight raid

FORT WORTH (AP) — About 169 people have been arrested in a cockfight raid northwest of Fort Worth.

Authorities said sheriff's deputies also seized 114 roosters Saturday near Poolville in north Parker County. Sheriff Larry Fowler said Child Protective Services workers also took custody of 10 to 15 children ages 7 to 15.

Fowler says drugs and cash were seized and dead and injured roosters were found. He says the raid site had been under surveillance for two weeks.

The sheriff says those arrested will be charged with a gambling offense, and that organized crime charges may be considered against some.

John Goodwin of the Humane Society of the United States says cockfighting is a lucrative business.

## FAA watching American Airlines closer after mishaps in December

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is increasing oversight of American Airlines after three mishaps during landings last month.

Jetliners' wingtips touched the ground during landings during two landings — Dec. 13 in Charlotte, N.C., and Dec. 24 in Austin. And in Jamaica, a plane overshot the runway in a rainstorm on Dec. 22.

FAA officials said in a statement Friday that they'll also conduct a review of the events to see if there might be a larger issue.

The statement says that if needed, the FAA will work with Fort Worth-based American on corrective action.

An American spokesman told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Friday that they are cooperating with the FAA and conducting their own investiga-

tion.

## Waco police fatally shoot man after high-speed auto chase

WACO (AP) — Waco police say a man suspected of breaking into cars was shot and killed by officers after leading them on a high-speed chase and refusing to drop his gun.

Waco police say the 47-year-old man was fatally shot early Saturday. The victim's name has not been released.

The Waco Tribune-Herald reports that after trying to pull over the suspect's vehicle, he fled, leading officers on a chase.

A release from police says officers approached the vehicle after the suspect crashed into a traffic signal pole at an intersection.

# su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ K J 10 8 6 4  
 ♦ Q J 7 5 3  
 ♣ A 8

**WEST**  
 ♠ A K Q 10 8 2  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ K 10  
 ♣ K 10 9 4

**EAST**  
 ♠ 9 7 6  
 ♥ A Q 7 5 3  
 ♦ 8 6  
 ♣ J 7 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 5 4 3  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ A 9 4 2  
 ♣ Q 6 5 3

The bidding:  
 West North East South  
 1 ♠ Dble 1 NT 2 ♦  
 4 ♠ 5 ♦ 5 ♣ Pass  
 Pass 6 ♦ Dble

Opening lead — nine of spades.

In most circles, the players don't bother with enforcing the official laws of the game. If an irregularity occurs, they settle the matter in a fair and amicable way.

But in tournaments, the laws are strictly enforced, and the appropriate penalty is invariably applied when an irregularity takes place. For example, take this deal from a regional tournament, reported in Bridge World magazine some years ago.

South wound up in six diamonds doubled, intended as a sacrifice against five spades. However, declarer actually made the contract!

Tomorrow: Little strokes fell great oaks.  
 ©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc.

# Texas general store has century long tradition

NEW BADEN (AP) — This sturdy, 100-year-old red brick landmark just off U.S. 79 in Robertson County is testament to a family's entrepreneurship and the evolution of the consumer society.

In 1906, the Schultz family expanded its mercantile and grocery business by building a 10,000-square-foot rectangular building from bricks kilned across the street. Considering New Baden at that time had a population of about 150, this was a bold attempt to create a regional hub for an agrarian community.

Employing the slogan, "We buy and sell everything," four generations ran the family business from the dawn of the 20th century until 1984. They used the building for a post office, funeral home, feed store, shipping point and automobile dealership.

The Schultzes sold Studebakers, Star and Maxwell automobiles.

(Maxwell was one of the big three automobile manufacturers of the early 1900s, behind only Buick and Ford.)

When ranchers were still fencing large sections of Robertson County, the Schultzes bought barbed wire by the railroad car, marked it up and sold it to area ranchers.

During the Great Depression, the Schultzes brought local farmers products with store credit. They paid a couple of cents more per pound for chickens, or tomatoes or cotton than their competition. In return they built their customer base and saw increased sales.

The Schultz family shipped 2.25 million pounds of black-eyed peas in 1938, so says the Houston Chronicle in a 1940 feature story.

Before the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 brought electricity to New Baden, the Schultzes modified an automobile engine into a gener-

ator that supplied power to their store and home.

Hans Paul Schultz Jr., 79, now lives just a quarter mile from the old store. He remembers caskets stacked in a back room. But in the 1930s, a man died from anthrax and the senior Schultz had to bury him. That put an end to the funeral business.

The Schultz family also bought locally grown tomatoes and shipped them to the East Coast. For about a dozen years, using their brand Robco Pride, they sent out between 50 and 100 rail cars.

"We had a big warehouse down on the railroad. When it was real, real hot we would get truckloads of ice — 200-pound blocks. And we would winch it up into the top of those cars and drop it down in them, in the ends," Schultz said.

In 1984, 100 years after Charles Schultz opened the original wooden store, the family sold

the business. National retail chains could offer lower prices because they bought larger quantities from wholesalers.

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### Coahoma falls twice at home to big schools



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

Coahoma's Kylie Gee shoots against Tahoka earlier this year. She scored 15 points Saturday.

#### Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogettes were outmatched Saturday at home against Abilene Cooper.

The Cougars' Deprise Cravin, who stands at well over 6-feet tall, and her teammates used their size to score at will inside against Coahoma, powering past the Bulldogettes 60-32.

Cravin scored 14 points, and teammates Kelsey Barnes and Hailey Smith scored 12 apiece.

Kylie Gee battled inside for her 15 points, several of which came from the free throw line. She was the only Bulldogette in double figures.

Coahoma (12-6) has the week off to prepare for its district opener against Jim Ned on Friday. Tipoff is 6:30

p.m. in Tuscola.

#### Plains 55

#### Coahoma 46

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs ran out of gas Saturday.

The Bulldogs were outscored by the Plains Cowboys 14-7 in the fourth quarter as they fell 55-46 at home. Coahoma dropped to 12-6 on the season.

Coahoma was without point guard Josh Paniagua for the game, leaving the ball-han-

dling duties to freshman Tanner Ruiz and a shorthanded bench.

The Bulldogs' leading scorer, senior Martin Leija, was held to just six points in the game. Fellow senior Isaac Garcia led the team with 10, and Lane Douglass and Hunter Williams each chipped in eight points.

Coahoma will travel to Ackerly to play Sands on Tuesday. Game time is 6:30 p.m.



HERALD Photo/ Joe Zigtema

The Steers' Matt Ritchey goes up for a shot against a Lubbock Cooper defender Saturday in Lubbock. Ritchey scored 10 points, but the Steers dropped their fifth straight against tough teams.

### Lady Steers struggle to score in 40-30 loss

#### Herald Staff Report

GRAPE CREEK — The Big Spring Lady Steers could not manage to get their offense in gear Saturday as they fell 40-30 to Grape Creek.

Big Spring played admirable defense that kept it within two points through three quarters, but the Lady Steers could not stay with the Grape Creek Lady Eagles in the final period. They were outscored 15-7 in the fourth quarter.

Big Spring (8-12) shot 1-for-10 from the 3-point line and 7-for-17 from the free throw line in the game. Taylor Seaton led the Lady Steers with 11 points, shooting 5-of-6 from the field. The team's usual scoring duo of Bridgette Tuitt and Linzee Yarbar had an off night against

Grape Creek's zone defense, combining for only seven points.

"We need to make sure we're getting good shots, but when we do get them, we need to relax and just put the ball in the hole," head coach Mike Warren said.

Cerbi Ritchey and Diamond Mayes combined for 13 of the team's 25 rebounds. They finished with four points apiece.

The Lady Steers have this week off to prepare for district opponent Wolforth Frenship on Friday. Warren will use the week to get Big Spring ready for the perennially tough Lady Tigers.

"I'm really we're playing well," Warren said. "We need to get back in shape. We've got four practices to get our conditioning down."

### Steers drop fifth straight on road

By JOE ZIGTEMA  
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The Big Spring Steers have the first quarter to blame for their 58-54 loss to the Lubbock Cooper Pirates.

The Pirates' fast-break offense beat the Steers down the floor to the tune of a 20-2 run midway through the first quarter in Lubbock on Saturday, a lead that Big Spring threatened to overcome but ultimately could not.

After an opening period that had the Steers down 26-11, Big Spring chipped away at the

Pirates' lead, closing it to 13 at half before a 14-4 run in the third quarter got the Steers back in the game.

Back-to-back three-point plays from Tyler Tannehill and Matt Ritchey started the run, and Big Spring's full-court press forced some key turnovers make it a five-point game, 45-40, heading into the final quarter. Ritchey scored seven points in the third frame.

"We needed a play, so we had to do whatever we could to make it," Ritchey said. "We did as much as we could, but we just came up

short and ran out of time."

The Steers got as close as three points, 45-42, early in the fourth quarter, but a three-minute scoring drought let the Pirates push the lead to eight with a minute to play.

Big Spring mounted a comeback in the final minute to come within three with Cooper guard Chris Owens at the free-throw line, but Owens got his own rebound off the miss, the Steers fouled again and Cooper put the game out of reach.

Jerrell Williams led the Steers with 16 points and Ritchey fin-

ished with 10. Senior Pavel Plakhotny, earning his first start of the season, scored two points.

Big Spring fell to 9-10 on the season, its fifth straight loss in a tough nonconference stretch.

The team will host Estacado on Tuesday. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m.

Lbk Cooper 58, BSHS 54  
BSHS 11 11 18 14 -- 54  
Cooper 26 9 10 13 -- 58

Big Spring (9-10)- Williams 16, Ritchey 10, Tannehill 8, X. Parnell 6, Anderson 6, D. Segundo 4, Plakhotny 2, Lloyd 2

Lbk Cooper- Light 18, Owens 14, Broadstreet 12, Johnson 5, Whetuel 5, Schulte 2, Teter 2, Taylor 2  
FT- Big Spring 14-18; Cooper 14-21; 3-point- Cooper 4 (Owens 2, Whetuel, Johnson)

### Hawk men, women prevail in road games

#### Herald Staff Report

The Howard College men's and women's basketball teams capped off successful road week-ends in Kansas City, Mo., and Phoenix.

The men's team, playing in Kansas City, defeated Moberly 83-60 and Penn Valley 71-54.

Jae Crowder was 10-of-13 from the floor with 27

points against Moberly, and LaMont Austin added 17 points.

The women, after suffering their first loss of the season in overtime, responded with three wins to round out the weekend. The Hawks beat Luke Air Force base 67-66, South Mountain 65-60 and Glendale 80-52. Stats were not available.

### Area roundup: Garden City, Grady sweep games; Sands falls 62-58

#### Herald Staff Report

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Lady Bearkats basketball team won its second straight game Saturday with a 66-22 win over Eldorado.

The Lady Bearkats held Eldorado to single digit scoring in all quarters while lighting up the scoreboard on its end with five 3-pointers.

Morgan Schwartz scored 26 points, mostly inside, in the win. Paige Niehues also added 11 points.

Garden City is 15-1 on the season. It will play Klondike on Tuesday.

#### Garden City boys 60

Eldorado 56  
GARDEN CITY — Brett Chudej scored 28 points to lead the Garden City Bearkats past Eldorado 60-56 Saturday in Garden City.

The Bearkats outscored Eldorado 19-10 in the second quarter and held off a late charge for the victory. Garden City won the game at the free throw line, where it was 22-of-35 as compared with Eldorado's 4-for-8.

Hayden Halfmann scored 15 points for the Bearkats and Aaron Berg was in double digits as well with 10.

The Bearkats improved to 2-3 on the

season. They will play Klondike on Tuesday.

#### Wellman-Union 62

#### Sands 58

WELLMAN — The Sands Mustangs ran out of steam Saturday in a four-point loss on the road against the Wellman-Union Wildcats.

The Mustangs led by as many as 10 in the third quarter against the Wildcats, but they wore out down the

stretch with just seven men on the bench. Wellman-Union outscored Sands 21-11 in the fourth quarter to earn the win.

Johnny Rogers scored a season-high 30 points in the game. Rogers also had six assists, grabbed five rebounds and recorded four steals.

#### Grady 51, Rankin 34

RANKIN — Grady earned its 14th victory of the season Saturday

with a win at Rankin.

The Wildcats scored 20 points in the second quarter to build a lead they would not give up. Jacob Rodriguez went for 17 points on the night, the only Wildcat in double figures.

Rankin's Austin Dupriest scored 16 points and was called for a technical foul in the game.

Grady will play at Forsan on Tuesday.

### Sports in brief

#### Area basketball scoreboard

Lubbock Cooper 58, Big Spring 54  
Grape Creek 40, Big Spring girls 30  
Grady boys 51, Rankin 34  
Grady girls 32, Rankin 26  
Plains 55, Coahoma 46  
Garden City boys 60, Eldorado 56  
Garden City girls 66, Eldorado 22  
Abilene Cooper 60, Coahoma girls 32  
Wellman-Union 62, Sands 58

#### 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.

#### Cowboys win NFC East with blowout victory

DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys are NFC East Champions after they throttled the Philadelphia Eagles 24-0 at Cowboys Stadium on Sunday.

Tony Romo threw a pair of touchdown passes and the defense was dominant, setting up a rematch next week in the first round of the playoffs in Dallas.

The Cowboys will try to win their first playoff



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**JOURNEYMAN/ APPRENTICE** Electrician. Must have industrial and rigid pipe experience. Call (972)414-7028/ Fax resume to (903)327-8460.

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**THE COLORADO** River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring area.

**Meter Technician** - Responsible for calibrating and maintaining District's billing meters. Assists in repairing, and maintaining communication equipment including mobile radios and microwave communication equipment, supporting the District's SCADA system. Entry level position, basic understanding of electronic/electricity needed. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

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.

**BIG SPRING** State Hospital is hiring an Administrative Assistant II in the Quality Management Department. Experience in administrative support and in data collection required. Submit applications to https://accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us

**PRIMARY UTILITY** Services is accepting applications for the following positions: Experienced Lineman- Experienced Apprentice. Must pass physical and drug exam. Call (325)575-1782 or apply online www.primaryutilityservices.com

**SECRETARIAL POSITION.** Needing a friendly, outgoing person for small office. Duties to include greeting customers, answering phones, bookkeeping, and light secretarial skills. Organizational skills a must. Quickbooks a plus. Please send resumes to: Resumes, P.O. Box 2288, Big Spring TX 79721.

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### Legals

SEALED proposals will be received by the **Forsan ISD** on Thursday, January 14, 2009, at 2:00 PM in the Board Room of Forsan Junior/Senior High School, and then and there opened and read aloud for the furnishing of equipment and labor for **Lighting Renovation Project 2010** within the **Elbow Elementary and Forsan Junior and Senior High Schools.**

Contact Documents may be obtained at the Administrative Office of the School District and from the office of the project Engineer for a deposit of \$50, (checks made payable to Forsan ISD). Contract Documents may also be viewed at the F.W. Dodge plan room, 9155 Sterling Drive, Suite 160, Irving, Texas 75063.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on January 7, 2010 at 1:00pm at Forsan High School.

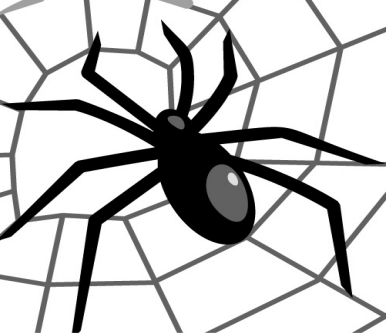
Please direct all communication to: Chris Carter ESA ENERGY SYSTEMS ASSOCIATES, Inc. 100 East Main, Suite 201, Round Rock, Texas 78664 Phone: 512-258-0547 Fax: 512-388-3312 #6374 December 28, 2009 and January 4, 2010

# The Spider

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

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

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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# Shine no more: Matte makeup gets its turn as trend

**SAMANTHA CRITCHELL**

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's no longer time for makeup to shine.

Top makeup artists say that matte makeup is an evolving beauty trend that should be good news for people of all skin types and tones. Matte doesn't necessarily mean flat — instead think of it as sheer or satiny — and it definitely tones down any dewiness or sparkle.

"I think it's going to be a matte world pretty soon," says Avon's global color creative director Jillian Dempsey.

For this look, which can have a retro vibe, play up the eyes, she suggests. "I think this is the look that works best: matte skin with a little bit of a lined eye, some eye-shadow contrast and maybe some mini-

mal black-brown, soft-lash look."

If you like a darker, vampier look, add a purple or red lip. A more moderate look is a smoky eye and nude matte lip. But, Dempsey warns, the matte skin will ramp up the effect of a heavily made up eye or lip exponentially.

There's also a risk of a matte foundation looking cakey or a lip looking chalky, so moisturizer or lip balm always comes first.

But don't let that scare you off, says Kayleen McAdams, celebrity makeup artist for Dior.

"Most people can wear this trend — it's harder for people to do dewy than matte because if you have oily skin, dewy

is too much," she says. "Just be taking care of your skin."



Medium Deep

Start off with an oil-free moisturizer and dab on with your finger a lip balm for a smooth surface. Then, McAdams says, try a lipstick that doesn't bleed.

There have been a lot of improvements in col-

or-cosmetics texture, Dempsey adds, so the products should both look good and feel good. To ease into a matte appearance, especially on the lips, she suggests using a stain or lip liner.

Since shine highlights imperfections, Dempsey thinks once people get used to using matte they'll grow to love it. "This is the secret to hiding a big pimple on your face: You match the color of a powder to the face, press the pow-

der and help it disappear."

Still, Jean Ford, co-founder of Benefit Cosmetics, says you shouldn't be too literal when it comes to matte in your beauty routine. "A matte complexion does not mean layering on a heavy base," Ford says. "We all have areas that need spot concealing and require fuller coverage, but not the entirety of the face. Wearing a heavy-solid color all over the skin, makes the complexion look lifeless and dull rather than youthful and fresh."

Benefit partner Jane Ford says a velvety, creamlike powder achieves the right balance. It will "glide over the skin effortlessly and appear as if you have not lifted a finger to your skin."

Oh, and that very tanned, took-a-lot-of-effort bronzed look? Forget it.

"We're moving away from bronze and tan, toward more porcelain or at least a pure look," says McAdams.

Dempsey agrees it is time for a new beauty routine. "The big bronze Gisele (Bundchen), we've been there done that. This is a new land of matte lips that hasn't surfaced in a while," she says. "I think people are wanting to change and this is definitely a change and a trend that's been knocking at the door for a while."

And, she adds, the beauty of makeup is, that trying something new is easy, inexpensive and easily removable.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

Do you have a business idea you've always wanted to pursue? A product or invention that you believe would be helpful to others and perhaps lucrative for you, as well? Your thoughts on the matter will be rather loud during this conjunction of the sun and Mercury. Take practical steps to investigate your ideas and give them voice.

### ARIES

(March 21-April 19). You have never doubted the power of beauty to inspire people to greater heights, so it's only a small surprise that someone else's loveliness has affected you so much. You'll be walking on air.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

### TAURUS

(April 20-May 20). Your presence refreshes and rejuvenates others. Your friends will be happy to see you — you always make them feel good. What's even better is that the feeling is mutual.

### GEMINI

(May 21-June 21). You are a modern wonder. You can handle the demands of multitasking your way through the day and yet maintain a perfect focus on what you are working on in any particular moment. Others watch and learn from you.

### CANCER

(June 22-July 22). Physical labor is one thing, but quantifying "thinking work" is subtle. Sometimes it's hard to tell whether you're getting anything done. The ambivalence you felt this morning gives way to a groove by the day's end.

### LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22). You are quick to compliment people where you see fit. You don't expect reciprocation, but it's nice when you get it. This afternoon you will be praised in exactly the way you want to be: subtly.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If today you had a personal sound effect, it would be the sound of tumultuous applause. Your work is met with overwhelming approval. A promotion beckons. Watch for ticker tape.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll feel like you're taking a leap into the dark, and in many ways you are. All growth is like this. Trust in the process, but also choose a mentor. Someone with experience will help you.

23). You'll feel like you're taking a leap into the dark, and in many ways you are. All growth is like this. Trust in the process, but also choose a mentor. Someone with experience will help you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though there is something you dearly want, the truth is that you'd keep going along this path even if you knew you would never achieve that milestone. The true reward is in who you become because you dared to go for it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You forgive someone, but that doesn't mean you'll go back to the way things were before the problem came up. You may not choose to continue your relationship with this person. However, it's still important to forgive.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will ask a lot of others and feel no guilt in doing so. It is perhaps because you will not ask anything of them that you would not gladly, proudly, do yourself.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have been able to slide through a sticky social situation without choosing sides. However, you will not be totally spared from the world of politics. A diplomatic mood will be the key to your success.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). An intimidating person inspires many around you to show a measure of reserve and self-preservation. But you're not in the mood to hang out in the shadows. You'll surprise all by choosing to stand out instead.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(Jan. 4). You'll find success with a team of people that operates along common lines of agreement. Your work is so fascinating that you'll find it hard to do anything else through February and March. In fact, it must be moderated to avoid burn out. Romantic get-aways happen in April and August.

**JANUARY MAKEOVER MADNESS — NEW YEAR, NEW YOU:** Go

ahead — let yourself get caught up in the fresh energy of the new decade.

What better way to celebrate who you are than to commit more fully to who you are becoming? And makeovers aren't just for faces, you know. Each sign will have a unique focus in the area of self-improvement in 2010.

Aries will be particularly drawn to sparkling up the domestic side of life. This could translate into something as extravagant as a bathroom remodel to something as simple as a new cereal bowl. Furthermore, Aries will be hard-pressed to say which of those two examples would have a cheerier effect on Aries'

mood — but it could very well be the bowl, since the small things make a huge difference and come without the hassle and headaches of larger projects. For the Aries who is daunted by matters of design, magazines will be enormously helpful in the process. Aries will enjoy learning more about what he or she likes. Aries should consider starting an "inspiration board," which is essentially a corkboard to be filled with images, text, fabric, etc., that excite and inspire the passionate ram.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Emmy-winning journalist Katie Couric is known for her charming and disarming style, which

serves her well when interviewing the world's most newsworthy individuals. Her natal sun and Mercury in Capricorn indicate a person of great discipline with a stellar sense of responsibility. A Pisces moon suggests terrific instincts and a sixth sense. She knows people and understands human nature.

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

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## STAR COUNT MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010

- ARIES 4 1/2 stars
- TAURUS 4 stars
- GEMINI 5 stars
- CANCER 3 stars
- LEO 4 stars
- VIRGO 5 stars
- LIBRA 3 stars
- SCORPIO 3 1/2 stars
- SAGITTARIUS 3 stars
- CAPRICORN 3 1/2 stars
- AQUARIUS 3 stars
- PISCES 4 stars

## Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** My wife decided to offer our young teenage daughter a trip to Japan because a friend of ours moved there last summer.

Our daughter would stay for a week with this friend. My wife agrees with me that the decision was impulsive, but we both know it offers an opportunity for our daughter to enjoy a great experience.

This friend is only in her 20s, but both she and my daughter are very responsible individuals.

My concern is with the potential dangers of a young girl traveling alone internationally. I have done some research and understand we can have an airline representative escort her through customs to meet our friend.

But this is where my trust begins to waver. There's too much of the unknown to make me comfortable. How would the airlines handle the trip when there are plane changes?

If something were to happen, whom could my daughter turn to who is trustworthy?

I realize I may be a little overprotective, but in this case there are good reasons.

Maybe I've read too much about human trafficking, but it worries me that someone may spot my daughter as a vulnerable target.

What is the real risk? How can we best ensure her safety? — *Protective Father*

**Dear Dad:** Call the airline about their policy regarding unaccompanied minors who must change planes.



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Find out whether they provide an escort, and if not, she should ask a flight attendant before leaving the aircraft which gate she is headed for and how to get there.

Tell her to watch her luggage when she gets on and off the plane, and to be alert when using airport bathrooms.

If she has to wait at the airport, she should stand near other women, preferably those with young families.

Make sure she has a cell phone that will work in Japan and is programmed with your friend's number and local emergency numbers. Most importantly, she should carry herself with confidence and pay close attention to her surroundings.

Chances are your daughter will be fine, but it never hurts to take precautions.

**Dear Annie:** Three years ago, my husband and I met "Elaine." She is now 78 years old and

is starting to irritate me by making racist remarks against foreigners.

For some reason she hates these people, although I'm sure she doesn't know any of them personally. She also doesn't seem to care who is

listening.

At times Elaine is great to be with and quite funny when she's not insulting people.

I'd like to keep her as a friend, but I want her to stop making bigoted remarks. Any suggestions? — *Canada*

**Dear Canada:** Has Elaine always expressed these opinions aloud, or is this a recent development?

Lack of inhibition can be a sign of early dementia, and sudden changes in mental capacity can be symptomatic of a small stroke.

If she's simply a bigot, you need to let her know you don't want to hear these comments.

Bigots and racists think they can get away with spreading their vile opinions because so few people will stand up to them. Don't be one of them.

**Dear Annie:** Please tell "J.D. in Connecticut" she is fortunate to have received condolences

after her sister's death, even via e-mail.

My 37-year-old son died suddenly six months ago, and some of my family members have not sent condolences in any form.

These are people who were brought up with monogrammed stationery specifically for these purposes.

I did, however, receive a touching handwritten note from my husband's new chiropractor, who had never met me.

That's class.

People claim they don't know what to say. I tell them the worst thing is to say nothing. That gives the message that your loss doesn't matter. For relatives to do that is inexcusable.

— *Patty in North Carolina*

**Dear Patty:** Our deepest condolences. Please know your letter will educate others.

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

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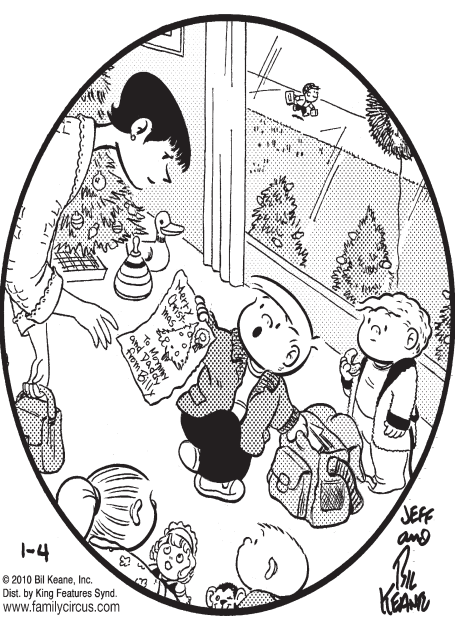
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5:PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Churney	BBC	MythBusters	Resurrection, Ron Perlman	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:PM	News	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News	12 Cora- zones	News	Name	Van Impe	PBS News- Hour	MythBusters	MythBusters	UFC Un- leashed	Bones	Wizards Montana	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball	
7:PM	The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love	Nombre- Amor	(:15) College Football: Tostitos Fiesta Bowl - Boise State vs. Texas Christian.	How I Met Purpose	Más Sabe el Diablo	Heroes	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	MythBusters	Movie: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	Movie: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	Bones	Game Game	Movie: State Property 2	Phineas Montana	World Series	SportsCenter Special
8:PM	Conveyor Belt	Conveyor Belt	Cristina	CSI: Miami	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Motor City Motors	MythBusters	Movie: Cutthroat Island, Frank Langella	UFC Un- leashed	The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Montana	World Series	SportsCenter	
9:PM	News	News	Impacto	News	Noticias	News	Lopez Tonight	Upd	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	UFC Un- leashed	The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Montana	World Series	SportsCenter		
10:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Letterman	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Lopez Tonight	Upd	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	UFC Un- leashed	The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Montana	World Series	SportsCenter		
11:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim- mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Postgame TMZ	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	Uri Harel	BBC	Motor City Motors	DEA	Law & Order	W. Williams	Suite Life	Football	SportsCenter	
12:AM	News	Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sex &	Upd	(Off Air)	MythBusters	Movie: Alien Resurrection, Ron Perlman	CSI: Crime Scn	Certain Age	Movie: State Property 2	Cory Kim	NFL Films	NFL Prime- Time
1:AM	Wall St	Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula:	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Overhaul'n'	Overhaul'n'	Star Trek: Voyager	Saving Grace	Repace	Emper	College Football	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



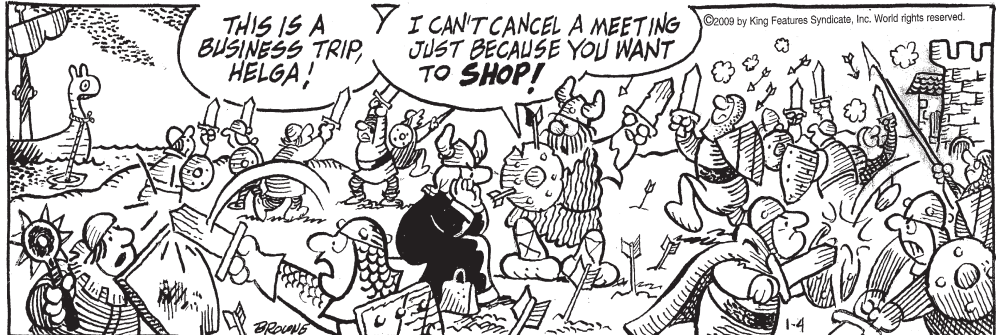
"TEACHER SAYS SHE WRITES TO YOU MORE THAN SHE DOES TO HER OWN MOM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I forgot to give this to you and Daddy. I made it at school before Christmas."

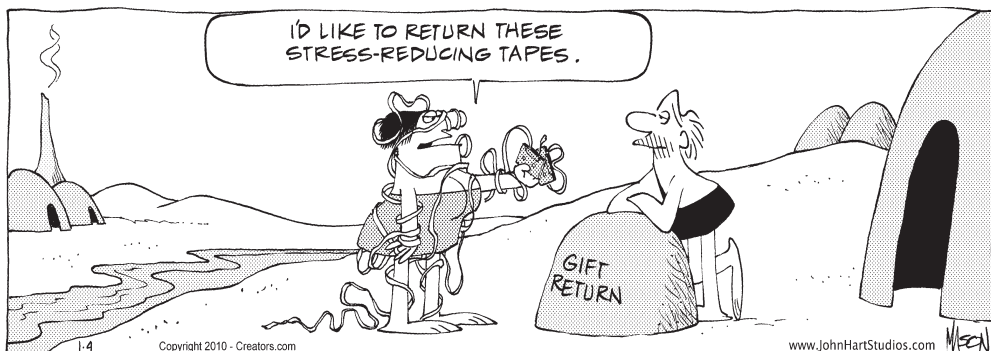
HAGAR



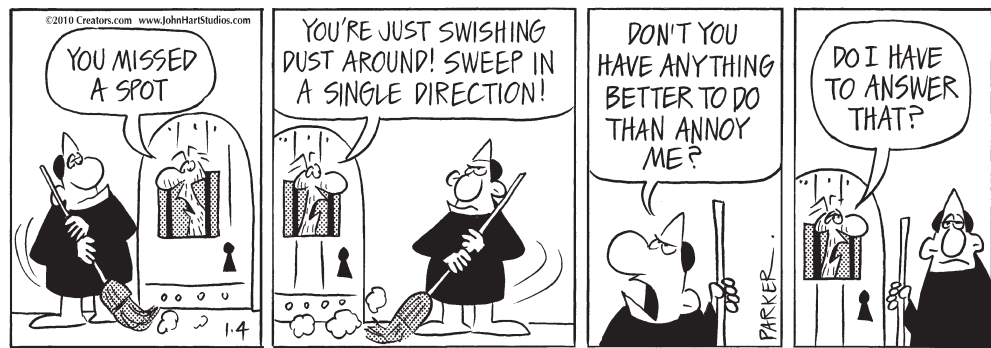
BLONDIE



BC



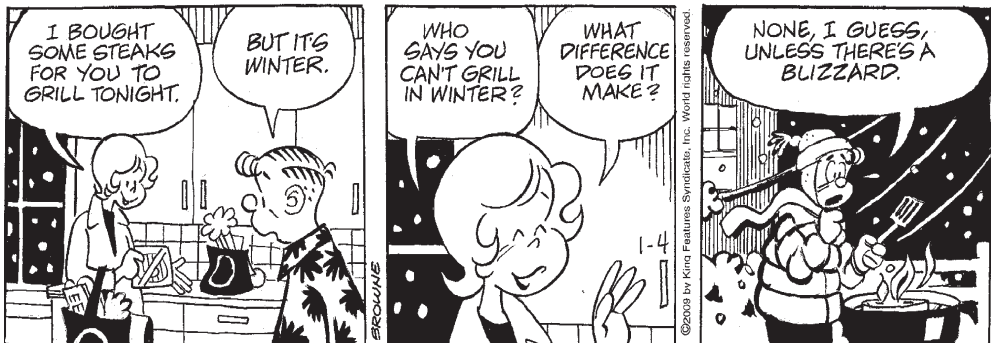
WIZARD OF ID



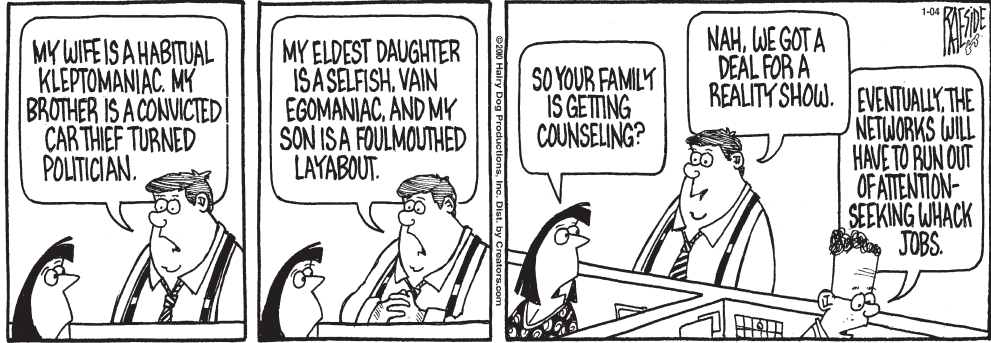
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2010. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1960, Algerian-born French author and philosopher Albert Camus died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France at age 46.

In 1809, Louis Braille, inventor of the Braille raised-dot reading system for the blind, was born in Coupvray, France.

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Md.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens.

In 1948, Burma (now called Myanmar) became indepen-

dent of British rule.

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson outlined the goals of his "Great Society" in his State of the Union Address. Poet T.S. Eliot died in London at age 76.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who'd claimed to have been wounded and his pregnant wife shot dead by a robber, leapt to his death off a Boston bridge after he himself became a suspect.

In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 83. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 80. Actress Dyan Cannon is 73. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 73. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 67. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 55. Actress Ann Magnuson is 54. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is

54. Country singer Patty Loveless is 53. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 48. Actor Dave Foley is 47. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 45. Actress Julia Ormond is 45. Tennis player Guy Forget is 45. Country singer Deana Carter is 44. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test Dummies) is 43. Alt-country singer Justin Townes Earle is 28. Christian rock singer Spencer Chamberlain (Underoath) is 27. Comedian-actress Charlyne Yi is 24.

Thought for Today: "You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life." — Albert Camus (1913-1960).

Answer to previous puzzle

SURPRISE	ME	PEGS
UNORIGINAL	RARE	CAMELOPARD
ERIN	CRATER	MAE
ATMS	EMITS	PETRUCHIO
EENY	JUL	SHEER
DDE	HUN	OHHENRY
BEER	SANK	BEER
PLAQUES	OAR	DOR
RERUN	GEL	HERO
EATAT	JOES	COLDS
SKIT	ALT	BOOTEK
TACT	DISCOMFORT	OGLE
EVIL	SPIRIT	NEER
SETL	INSTONE	

Newsday Crossword

VARIETY PACK by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Poultry purchase	1 Birthday dessert
6 Hotel price	2 Auction goods phrase
10 Disney World transport	3 Cone-bearing tree
14 "All kidding ..."	4 Strange State
15 Computer image	5 The Empire State
16 Christmas season	6 Takes a chance with feeling
17 Warm-hearted greetings	7 Post-workout feeling
19 Lowly worker	8 Tot's "little piggie"
20 Opposite of WNW	9 Catch in a trap
21 Oxen's harness	10 Do secretarial work
22 Required	11 Regretted
24 Male children	12 Moisturizer ingredient
25 Pull with effort	13 Make repairs to
26 Stage performers	18 Electrified particles
29 Remove errors from	23 Spain's continent: Abbr.
32 Avoid, as work	24 Do a pre-laundry task
33 Lacking color	25 Swiss-cheese features
34 Group of athletes	26 Part of AMA: Abbr.
36 Sofa or settee	27 Use crib notes
37 "___ you kidding?"	28 Pageant crown
38 Folk story	29 No-nos in some diets
39 Drug-fighting cop	30 Come to a halt
40 Spheres	31 Eagle's claw
41 Mexican coins	33 Auto store's stock
42 Natural abilities	35 Cluttered condition
44 Chase-scene sounds	40 House plot size, perhaps
45 Mine rocks	41 Captain Hook and associates
46 Armed conflicts	43 Get something wrong
47 Prayerful chant	44 Utters
50 Casual greeting	46 More sensible
51 Move like a rabbit	47 Remote-control button
54 "Now we're in trouble!"	48 Sailor's shout
55 School-year excursions	49 Brief letter
	50 Rabbit relative
	51 Honeybee's home
	52 Unwrap
	53 Attention-getting sound
	56 Attorney's expertise
	57 Sharp knock