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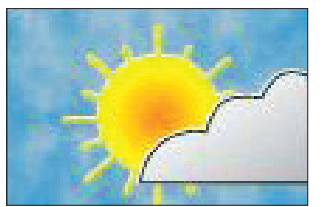


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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

JANUARY 5, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 25

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Frost covers mounds of road construction material in the 1800 block of Scurry this morning. A cold front is forecast to move through the area Wednesday evening, dropping temperatures into the teens.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

## Lots of choices for March primaries

County commissioner, district judge seats among races to be contested

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County voters will have plenty of choices to make when they go to the polls March 2 for the political party primaries, as approximately 17 local residents have thrown their hats into both the Republican and Democratic contests.

On the Republican ticket, the Precinct 2 seat on the county commissioners court will feature a trio of political

hopefuls, including incumbent candidate Jerry Kilgore, who has held the seat for more than a decade now. In the Republican primary, Kilgore will face challengers Donnie Baker and Melanie Gambrell.

The race for the Precinct 2 seat on the Commissioners Court has also drawn a contest on the Democratic ticket, as Alon USA employee Richard Belew takes on business owner Jim Sinclair.

The Precinct 4 seat on the

commissioners court drew fewer competitors this year, as Democratic incumbent Gary Simer will go unopposed in the party primaries in March. On the Republican ticket, however, business owners John Cline and Roy Beauchamp will battle it out to see who will challenge Simer in the November contest.

The seat of Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2 will also be up for grabs in March, as incumbent Kathryn Wise-

man will take on challenger David Baird in the Republican primary. On the Democratic ticket, business owner Ricky Hughes will go unopposed in March, and will face the winner of the Republican race in November.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Quail Dobbs will be running unopposed on the Republican ticket, as will District Clerk Colleen Barton and County Treasurer Teresa Thomas. The trio failed to draw opponents from the Dem side of

the fence. Incumbent County Surveyor Michael McDrayer, who is running unopposed on the Democratic ticket, is also running unopposed, along with County Judge Mark Barr and County Clerk Donna Wright.

Also facing off in the Republican primary will be local attorneys Mike Thomas and Tim Yeats, who are running for the seat of 118<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge. Robert H.

See **FILINGS**, Page 3

### WHO FILED?

**County Commissioner, Pct. 2**  
Democrat: Richard Belew, Jim Sinclair.  
Republican: Jerry Kilgore (i), Donnie Baker, Melanie Gambrell.

**County Commissioner, Pct. 4**  
Democrat: Gary Simer (i).  
Republican: Roy Beauchamp, John Cline.

**Peace Justice, Pct. 1, Pl. 2**  
Democrat: Ricky Hughes.  
Republican: Kathryn Wiseman (i), David Baird.

**Peace Justice, Pct. 2**  
Democrat: none.  
Republican: Quail Dobbs (i)

**County Surveyor**  
Democrat: Michael McDrayer.  
Republican: none.

**County Judge**  
Democrat: Mark Barr (i).  
Republican: none.

**County Clerk**  
Democrat: Donna Wright (i).  
Republican: none.

**County Treasurer**  
Democrat: none.  
Republican: Teresa Thomas (i).

**118th District Court Judge**  
Democrat: none.  
Republican: Mike Thomas, Tim Yeats.

**District Clerk**  
Democrat: none.  
Republican: Colleen Barton (i).

**State Rep. District 85**  
Democrat: Joe Heflin (i).  
Republican: David Andrew, Jim Landtroop.  
Libertarian: Robyn L. Burwell.

**U.S. Rep. 19th District**  
Democrat: Andy Wilson.  
Republican: Randy Neu8gebauer (i).  
Libertarian: Richard "Chip" Peterson.

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## Officials: New state laws impact appraisal process

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A number of new laws concerning the state's appraisal process went into effect Jan. 1, laws Gov. Rick Perry is heralding as reforms to help property taxpayers in the Lone Star State.

HB 8 and 3612 by Rep. John Otto



McKibben

and SB 771 by Sen. Tommy Williams are among several bills that will improve the appraisal process, and include provisions that impose limits on what is considered a comparable sale for appraisal purposes; create

an expedited arbitration process; and require substantial evidence to increase an appraisal after a successful appeal.

According to officials with Perry's office, the changes will improve the fairness and accuracy of the

See **APPRAISAL**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Robert Gayle 'Bob' Worthy

Robert Gayle "Bob" Worthy, 82, passed away peacefully at Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center on Oct. 12, 2009, in Big Spring.

He was born Dec. 19, 1926, in Donie to Roy and Violet Needham Worthy.

Bob graduated from Donie High School and then attended Baylor University. He played basketball at Baylor 1944 through 1945. However, before graduation and during the last months of World War II he joined the Merchant Marines and crossed the Atlantic Ocean many times, ferrying supplies to our forces in Europe. On return trips his ship sometimes carried captured Germans to camps in the U.S.

After discharge he joined his father, Roy Worthy, in the lumber and drilling mud business out of Donie and Buffalo. Later he joined friends in Australia and formed and operated an oil company. After that he lived in Rockport and Houston, marketing and selling homes he had bought and improved on.

Nearly three years ago he moved to Big Spring to be near his brother, Jerry, and his nephew, Roy Bishop Worthy. Others in Big Spring include Roy's wife, Michelle, and their six-year-old son, Jeb Worthy. His niece, Ann Worthy-Stephenson, and her husband, Tim, live near Christchurch, New Zealand.

Since Ann and Tim returned to the United States from New Zealand in late December, Bob's memorial services were held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Columbarium on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010.

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

*Paid obituary*

### Dale Ray Merrifield

Dale Ray Merrifield, 70, of Midland died Friday, Jan. 1, 2010, at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Dale was born July 26, 1939, in Burleson to Spencer and Sarah Merrifield. He was raised in Big Spring. He married Joan Derington on Feb. 14, 1962. They lived in various cities before settling in Midland in 1976. Until his illness in 2002, he had worked for First Service AC and Heating for many years.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Joan Merrifield of Midland; son, Dale Wayne Merrifield of Midland; daughters, Lori Garza and husband, Oscar, of Colorado City, and Amanda Evans of Midland; brother, Doug Merrifield and wife, Terrie, also of Midland; five grandchildren, two nephews and one niece.

A memorial service will be held today at 4 p.m. at the Church in the Wind, 2612 W. Front St. in Midland.

Funeral services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net.

## Support Groups

### TUESDAY

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

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

### Jim Bell

Jim Bell, 61, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, in Slaton. There will be a gathering from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Thursday at his home at the Whip-In RV Park.

He was born July 6, 1948, in North Platte, Neb., to Doris and Arthur Bell. He was a Vietnam veteran, having served in the Navy. He married Joan Metcalf on Dec. 11, 1971, in Denver. They moved to Big Spring in 2004. He was the owner of the Whip-In RV Park.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Bell of Big Spring; son, Ronnie Bell of Augusta, Kan.; four grandchildren; one sister, Donna McKim of Big Spring; and two brothers, Robert Bell of Arapaho, Neb., and William Bell of Denver.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Michael Bell.

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

### Leonard Schafer

Leonard Schafer, 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010, at the Hospice House of Odessa. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Richard Morris

Richard Morris, 74, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 4, 2009, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- JEANNIE MARIE RUSHING, 34, of Brady, was arrested Monday on an Ector County warrant.
- EDWARD URESTI, 37, of Midland, was arrested Monday on a warrant from Tom Green County.
- SHAWN PERCY FISHER, 36, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 120, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1300 block of Madison.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 600 block of Steakly.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. in the 500 block of Lamesa.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

- WILLIAM GILBERT AGUILAR, 20, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- CELESTINO ALVAREZ, 51, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- VICTOR TREVINO ANAYA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice — intentionally giving false information and driving while license invalid.
- TOMMY WREN CAMBELL, 54, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL WILLIAM CARNAHAN, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• GUADALUPE RIOS CASTILLO, 66, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a protective order and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 69, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• RODNEY LYNN COX, 52, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a revoked bond charge of theft by check and charges of no driver's license and no seat belt.

• SHAWN PERCY FISHER, 36, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license.

• STANLEY FRALEY, 45, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and hindering official duties.

• FABIAN HECTOR GOMEZ, 36, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• RAFAEL GOMEZ, 45, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• ROMAN MIGUEL GOMEZ, 23, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• ALEXANDER EUGENE HERNANDEZ, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of interfering with an emergency phone call and criminal mischief.

• OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 48, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole.

• RANDY HERNANDEZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under the age of 15, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

• KEITH HILARIO, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• FRANK LEE JACKSON, 51, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOHN CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ, 36, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of assault Class C — family violence.

• JOSE HILARIO MARTINEZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• TAIWAN BORSHAY MUNSON, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• JOSE PEREZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• KENNETH ALAN POTTER, 40, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of disorderly conduct — offensive gesture.

• JEREMY DON RAINEY, 20, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• ROSENDO SUBIA ROBLES, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated — open container.

• JEANNIE RUSHING, 34, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a contempt charge for theft by check.

• MARK HOLLIS RYERSON, 21, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• MARK ANTHONY SALAZAR, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — language.

• JOHNNY TREVINO, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of assault Class C — family violence.

• EDWARD URESTI, 37, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft — more than \$1,500, less than \$20,000.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported 14 miles east of Big Spring on Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2700 block of Navajo.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 1900 block of S. Gregg Street.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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## Take Note

- There will be a blood drive at the Eastside Baptist Church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The address is 1108 E. Sixth in the fellowship hall.
- Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.
- T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 2-9-19-32. Bonus Ball: 34.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-16-22-35.  
Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: \$8,384.  
Winning ticket purchased in: Mount Pleasant, Houston, Fort Worth.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-8-0-3. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-1-2. Sum It Up: 11.

## APPRAISAL

Continued from Page 1

appraisal process and increase the oversight of appraisal districts to ensure they are following uniform appraisal practices and procedures. HB 1038 by Rep. Ken Paxton ensures appraisers continue to consider all comparable properties when appraising a home, including those recently sold at foreclosure or that have decreased in value.

"We implemented measures that will provide greater protection for property owners by adding transparency and fairness to the appraisal process," Gov. Perry said in a recent press release.

According to Howard County Chief Appraiser Brett McKibben, other changes implemented

will impact how taxable values set by the appraisal district's board are carried over from year to year, as well as how the state comptroller keeps an eye on individual districts.

"When the ARB (appraisal review board) sets a value, I can't go back next year and go above that value just because I feel it's too low," said McKibben. "The new law requires me to present solid evidence as to why the previous value from the ARB is too low. That's one of the major changes this year.

"Another big change is the way we are reviewed by the comptroller's office. Before, the comptroller's office would go in each year and check to make sure we were within 5 percent — either under or above — the valuation they've determined.

That has changed to every other year. This year there won't be a property study. However, we will participate in a MAP (methods and procedures), where they will come in and audit our office."

Additional measures Perry said will strengthen the appraisal process include the passage of Propositions 2 and 3 by Texas voters in November. Proposition 2 will ensure that residential property is appraised only based on its use as a homestead, instead of being appraised based on a hypothetical alternate use. Proposition 3 will allow the Legislature to adopt uniform statewide appraisal standards in the future. Both of these measures will increase transparency and accountability in the appraisal process.

And while the legisla-

ture certainly addressed the appraisal process in Texas, McKibben said the one thing it didn't address is one of the biggest concerns in Howard County: the appraisal of oil refineries.

"An oil refinery is a unique property, and they generally don't test unique facilities," said McKibben.

The refinery's owner, Alon USA, and the Howard County Appraisal District have been at odds for several years, with the oil giant contesting several appraisal values over the past few years, including litigation in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court.

Alon USA disputed its 2009 taxes before the end of the year, but withdrew its petition to have the matter go to court soon after.

However, McKibben said the appraisal district will be doing ev-

erything it can to avoid further tax disputes with the oil company.

"We're going to strive not to go through this again," said McKibben. "No one wants to have to go through all of this again."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## FILINGS

Continued from Page 1

Moore III announced in November he would not seek re-election after serving more than 20 years as district judge.

Also up for election in local races will be the U.S. Representative 19<sup>th</sup> District seat, currently held by Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock), and the District 85 Texas Representative seat held by Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton).

Both Neugebauer and Heflin announced in December they are running for re-election. Heflin, who is unopposed on the Democratic ticket, will have to face either Jim Landtroop or David Andrew — both of whom are running on the Republican ticket — in the November election.

Heflin has also drawn a Libertarian challenger, as Robyn L. Burwell of Abilene has filed his candidacy, as well.

Neugebauer drew a pair of challengers. Lubbock's Andy Wilson will run unopposed on the Democratic ticket, as will Lubbock's Rich-

ard "Chip" Peterson on the Libertarian ticket, sending the contest to the November election.

According to Howard County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom, the deadline for area residents to register to vote is Feb. 1, with early voting set to begin Feb. 16.

"It sounds like we have plenty of time between the end of filing and the election, but it comes a lot sooner than you re-

alize," said Bloom. "We have to get the ballots ready and proofed, then programmed into the voting booths, and all of that has to be done before the beginning of early voting in the middle of February. Needless to say, January will be pretty busy for us."

Early voting will run from Feb. 16 until Feb. 26 at the elections office, located on the third floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

For more information on the election or voter registration, contact the Howard County Elections Office at 264-2273.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## World briefs

### U.S. embassy says it is reopening in Yemen, following two-day closure

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — The U.S. Embassy in Yemen reopened its doors Tuesday after a two-day closure, saying successful Yemeni counterterrorism operations have addressed the threat that prompted the measure.

The embassy shut down because of an imminent al-Qaida attack. In an announcement on its Web site, the embassy said Yemeni actions "have addressed a specific area of concern, and have contributed to the Embassy's decision to resume operations."

The reopening comes a day after Yemeni security forces clashed with al-Qaida fighters, killing two, in the latest sign the embattled, longtime president is making good on vows that his country will cooperate with the United States in fighting the terror network.

The Yemeni Interior Ministry said Tuesday it had increased security measures around embassies.

"There is nothing to fear from any threats of terror attack," the ministry said in a statement. "Security is good in the capital and the provinces, and there is no fear for the lives of any foreigner or foreign embassy."

Washington is embracing Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the battle against al-Qaida's offshoot here. With an injection of U.S. counterterror aid and help for its security forces, Yemen's government has vowed in recent weeks to work with the U.S. in stamping out the estimated hundreds of al-Qaida fighters who have built up

strongholds in the country's remote regions.

### Obama to announce new airline safety measures after meeting with national security team

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is announcing new measures Tuesday to beef up airline security after an alleged terrorist attempt to destroy a Detroit-bound U.S. airliner on Christmas Day.

Fresh off a Hawaiian vacation dominated by news of the incident, Obama scheduled a meeting Tuesday afternoon with high-ranking government officials charged with carrying out two reviews he ordered after the botched attack — on screening for airline passengers and on the U.S. terror watch-list system.

After the meeting, to which 20 officials were invited, Obama will talk to the public about his findings, as well as a series of new steps to improve the watch lists and thwart future terrorist attacks, the White House said.

The Transportation Security Administration already has directed airlines, effective Monday, to give full-body, pat-down searches to U.S.-bound travelers from Yemen, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and 11 other countries.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, CIA Director Leon Panetta and FBI Director Robert Mueller were among those expected to meet with Obama in the White House

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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. 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. A gathering will be from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 PM Thursday at his home at the Whip-In R. V. Park.

Richard Morris, 74, of Big Spring died Monday, January 4, 2009, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jean Lancaster, 86, died Thursday. A Memorial Service will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel in Tyler.

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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 *Due to construction, please enter at South or West entrances.</p>

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
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**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Deadline nears for Man, Woman of Year award nominations

There's little time left. That's right, you only have a couple of weeks left to make nominations for Man and Woman of the Year. So take a few minutes and think back on the past year and the things people here in Big Spring and Howard County have done.

There's no question that there have been plenty of special projects, volunteer opportunities and times when we've seen others do things that make this a better world for others. Some of us even have first-hand experience along those lines.

Sometimes such work is done in ways a great many of us don't know. Other times, the work of others is visible for all the world to see.

Here's your chance to maybe say a thank you because here's a chance to get the recognition these people deserve.

There are, of course, a couple of stipulations: Only a chamber can nominate someone for the honors, and people who hold political office should not be nominated.

So if you have nominee in mind but aren't a chamber member, perhaps you consider becoming one, or at least approach a chamber member and seek their endorsement of the person or persons you'd like to honor.

But you have to act fast. The chamber will only accept nominations until 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15.

The two awards will be handed out at the chamber's annual banquet — set this year for Feb. 11 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Nomination forms to fill out and the list of criteria are available at the chamber.

The chamber office are located at 215 W. Third St. To request nomination forms, or for more information, call 263-7641.

Once the deadline is past, a group of past recipients will be asked to look over the list of nominees and choose a new Man and Woman of the Year.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we enjoy this world that You created for us,  
Lord.

Amen

# It's not economy, it's national survival

The Washington Post's Dan Balz thinks that "with new priorities, Obama and Democrats can recover in 2010." Sorry, Dan; it's about more than priorities. It's a matter of their worldview.

Balz dutifully cites "the size of the problems President Obama inherited" and "the battles he chose to take on during his first year" as mitigating factors that may lead to the public's understanding and allow Obama an opportunity to hit "the reset button."

Balz says Obama's advisers believe he can "pivot" in the first few months of 2010 and restore his standing with the American people. Balz offers four "elements" that "might allow that to happen": refocus on the economy; move Congress offstage; get serious about the deficit and spending; and avoid overloading the circuits.

Let's briefly examine Balz's analysis — an analysis that is doubtlessly typical for Beltway media elites.

First, Obama's free-falling approval ratings are not a result of problems he inherited. How long are he and his liberal media shills going to milk this "blame Bush" mantra like a bunch of reprobate school kids? Balz is onto something, however, in citing "the battles he chose to take on during his first year." But he's wrong that it is a mitigating factor.

Let me throw out something that's a bit counterintuitive. I don't believe the public has lost faith in Obama over the economy. And the public's angst is about more than just its losing

faith in him.

The public is scared to death — not about the ebbs and flows of the economy in the short term, but about the very survival of the country — because of the reckless spending policies Obama is deliberately pursuing and the other "elements" of his destructive agenda to remake America in his image — including going soft on terrorism.

What Balz needs to get through his head — and then share with his impervious colleagues — is that Obama didn't undertake his radical agenda to turn America into a full-blown socialist state because of "the size of the problems (he) inherited." That was just a convenient excuse.

He has been groomed, mentored and polished for this very task since he was a little boy. He is taking out his grudge against America, an America he views as fundamentally unfair, inequitable, imperialistic and exploitive, but as a powerful resource for change — if only he can fundamentally transform it.

I might remind Mr. Balz that Obama's agenda didn't significantly change with the unfolding of the financial crisis that led to TARP. He has had his sights on a single-payer health care system for years. He had plans to "spread the wealth around" long before TARP became an acronym. He and his wife were trashing America as arrogant and dismissive long before this economic crisis fell into their laps just months before the 2008 election.

So, yes, Obama's standing with the American people is related to "the battles he chose to take on during his first year," but not in a positive way. Those battles don't qualify as mitigating factors, Mr. Balz, because they were undertaken not to improve the economy, but to consummate, in

substance, a Cold War victory for the communists after they had otherwise been defeated.

The fainthearted among us can blanch at the suggestion that Obama is a Marxist — and accuse me of name-calling or incivility — but my intention is not to inflame. It is to communicate the truth in accurate terms to help people understand the magnitude of the threat we face by this assault on our liberties.

Obama didn't impose his Draconian stimulus bill or omnibus spending bills to jump-start the economy. He did it to transfer wealth and establish slush funds for re-election. He didn't push cap and trade to reduce "global warming," but to bring America down to size with the "underdeveloped" nations of the world. He didn't obsessively promote Obamacare to improve the economy, "bend the cost curve" (what a joke!), achieve universal coverage or improve the quality of health care. He did it to amplify the federal government's power over all aspects of our lives.

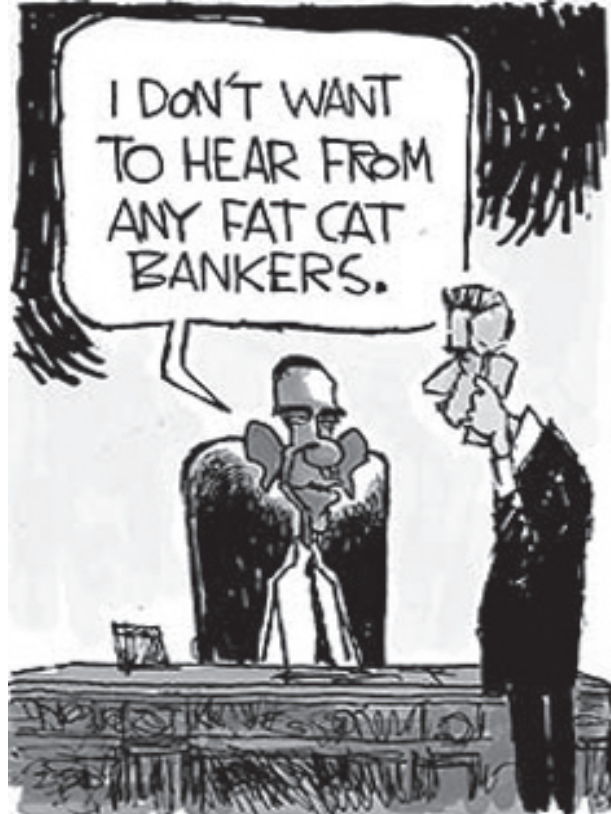
Mr. Balz, wake up. Obama isn't even trying to "get serious about the deficit and spending." That's a cruel ruse. Look at his projected deficits in the out-years. He is planning on deficits in excess of a trillion dollars from here forward, even after the economy fully recovers.

The country cannot sustain this. The public knows it and is outraged and horrified by it. Our children cannot live in freedom if this insane recklessness is not stopped.

It's not about the economy, stupid! It's about the survival of this great nation.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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# Let house prices do what they must

To paraphrase Yogi Berra, the bubble's not over till the last drop splatters. That is certainly the case with the housing bubble. Home prices that seemed to be strengthening over the summer have again slipped, according to the S&P Case-Shiller index. Neither low interest rates nor a fat tax credit for homebuyers has changed this reality.

For the record, the city that took the biggest hit in 2009 was Las Vegas, where prices fell 27 percent. Denver took the smallest hit — prices there slid a tiny tenth of one percent.

Some worry that home prices are headed for a double dip and want Washington to do something about it. We should worry that Washington takes their advice.

First off, falling prices are not all bad. They obviously make housing more affordable. The bubble sent prices so high that people who refused to borrow recklessly couldn't purchase a home. Every now and then, the prudent deserve a reward.

The crash in house prices has helped struggling industrial states in the Midwest and Northeast to retain some of their

population. New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Michigan are among the states that probably would have lost more people to the Sunbelt had their residents been able to sell their homes at acceptable prices. (The industry's unromantic term for the phenomenon is "house arrest.")

This could have some political consequences: The 2010 census will be used to reapportion membership in the House of Representatives. It won't prevent the Northern states and Louisiana from losing seats — or the Sunbelt and Washington state from gaining them. But it could slow the transfer of political power across regions.

The bubble's not over till it's over, and there's no way to slow its disintegration that doesn't involve innocent taxpayers.

The federal government may have had a valid role in stabilizing prices in the middle of the near-financial collapse of over a year ago. But those days of panic are well past.

True, one in four mortgages is underwater — it's higher than the value of the house. Further drops in house prices undoubtedly will send more mortgages into the drink. But stocks have staged a big recovery, job losses have slowed, and consumers are more confident that the economy will improve. The good news can counter the bad.

Tighter lending standards at Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Adminis-

tration will work against higher house prices, but what should we do about that? Insist that they continue backing the sort of risky mortgages that got us into this trouble?

If Washington wants to bring buyers into the market, the simplest thing would be to announce that the hefty tax credit for homebuyers will not be renewed when it expires next spring. Everyone should also be reminded that the Federal Reserve Bank has vowed to end its program to keep mortgage rates low by March 31. That interest rates have already started climbing should stand as a warning to laid-back house shoppers of what lies ahead.

A change in consumer mentality can somewhat cushion the economy from additional slips in house prices. Much of the public has stopped regarding a house as a no-fail investment and the equity in it as mad money to be blown on every whim. The home is again a place to live, so a rise or fall in its value is chiefly the concern of those who plan to move.

The federal government's job now is to put in force new financial regulations that will prevent future sorrow. While it can't stop a bubble that's bursting, it can stop one from forming.

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DAVID LIMBAUGH



FROMA HARROP

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### Computer Word Find

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

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

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

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

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



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

ANSWER: HOARDERS

### Computer Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

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

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



**DATA**

pieces of information

### How they SAY that in...

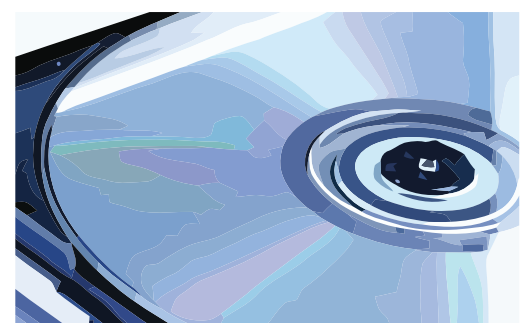
- ENGLISH:** Computer
- SPANISH:** Ordenator
- ITALIAN:** Computer
- FRENCH:** Ordinateur
- GERMAN:** Computer

### Did You Know?

EARLY COMPUTERS WERE SO LARGE THAT THEY WEIGHED SEVERAL TONS AND TOOK UP AN ENTIRE ROOM IN A BUILDING.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CD-ROM

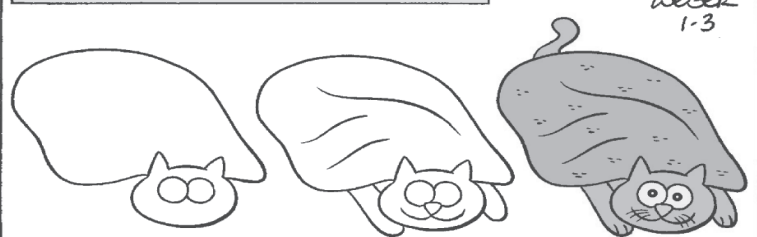
### SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

### BY BOB WEBER JR.

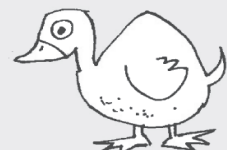
The foreman says Cassandra Cat pressed her gloved hands into wet cement. Cassandra insists she has been falsely accused. She says the absence of cement on her gloves proves her innocence. Slylock Fox doesn't trust the tricky kitty. What did he ask Cassandra to do that exposed her guilt?



### HOW TO DRAW a cat snug under a rug



**YOUR DRAWING**  
Today's terrific artist is Amber Shipley, age 12, of Seattle, WA

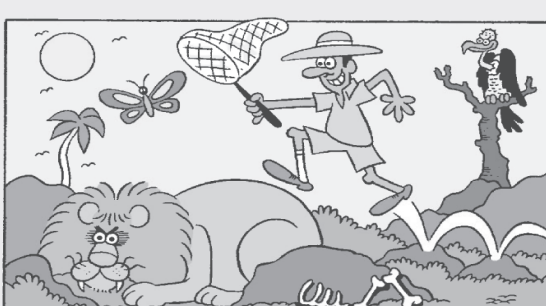
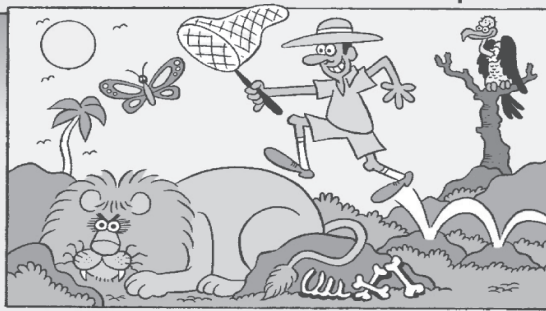


Submit your drawings at [www.kidcartoonists.com](http://www.kidcartoonists.com)

The scrambled words are animals that live in Africa. How many can you unscramble?  
 1) PETHALNE  
 2) FEGIARF  
 3) ANYHE  
 4) LAORGLI

Answer -- 1) Elephant  
 2) Giraffe 3) Hyena  
 4) Gonna

### Find six differences between these panels.



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## Bird Poop:

Good Samaritan helps  
save blinded horned owl

Although winter had not officially been declared, the day's forecast had suggested at least a sweater against the northeast wind. After making sure she had everything for a visit with her aunt, the woman headed for the interstate and the drive west.

Accustomed to the monotonous miles of pavement and trucks, she used the time to think about the upcoming holidays. Interrupted by an unusual shape standing in the withered, roadside grasses, her planning would have to wait.

Braking as safely as possible, she stopped on the shoulder. Slowly backing her car, she approached whatever it was she had seen.

Not far from the pavement's edge was a large owl. As her car drew closer, the bird started half-walking, half-waddling away from the highway.

The sound of her shutting the door and opening the one behind seemed to make the raptor flee even faster. Barreling into thick clumps of dried growth, the owl stumbled but then continued its escape.

Finally realizing the raptor wouldn't fly, and fearing for its safety, the woman pulled a long, rectangular box from the rear seat. Running after the owl, she was determined to try to catch the bird if possible.

With each step she took, the owl seemed to change its direction. When she paused to catch her breath, the bird stopped also. With her next movement, she realized the noise she was making in pursuit of it was causing the creature to veer and crash into the next

obstacle in its path.

By this time, others had decided to join in the chase. While appreciating the man who had stopped to help, she was becoming very apprehensive of two, large white dogs that were running toward the commotion from a different direction.

With both hands securely on the sides of the box, she hurriedly extended her arms and stretched forward enough to place the box over the owl. Slowly tilting the cardboard container, she was able to allow the owl to slide to the opposite end.

Calling ahead, the woman and her aunt soon arrived in my driveway. When I saw the box, I thought it was a miracle the woman had escaped any injury. Inside, a magnificent great horned owl stood quietly in the bottom of its makeshift carrier.

After listening to the woman's story, I reached inside for the familiar tussle to come. As my gloved hands pressed the bird's wings to its body, it "came unglued."

In a second, the raptor had managed to slip free and grab one hand with the usual strength of such a large bird of prey.

Fortunately, the Kevlar lining for such work had lived up to its reputation. Preventing the talons from piercing the leather, the inner glove still allowed me to feel the extreme pressure these birds can inflict with their feet.

While the owl was preoccupied with what it thought it held, I was able to slip the fingers of my other hand between and around its legs. Lifting it out of the box, I could then extract the captured fingers as the bird finally relaxed.

Holding the great



Courtesy photo

With a four-foot wingspan, a great horned owl sets out from a daytime roost to hunt for rabbits, rats, skunks, raccoons and even other owls during the night. Coupled with phenomenal eyesight and hearing, its silent flight enables it to drop quickly upon unsuspecting prey.

horned so the women could see its beautifully barred chest and belly, ear tufts, facial discs rimmed with black, white throat and large black bill, I turned the owl so they could appreciate the mottled appearance of its wings. The only aspect missing were typical yellow eyes.

As the raptor stared ahead, it was obvious, to me, that the bird had suffered head trauma.

One eye was completely dilated, while the other was nearly swollen shut. Turbulence created by a truck could have slammed the owl to the ground.

Blind, the great horned owl would require anti-inflammatory and eye medications, hand feeding and lots of time for possible recovery. Having dealt with similar hawks and owls, we knew how dangerous they could

be without sight. Any noise or movement would prompt rapid foot strikes with sharp talons.

Two days later, a volunteer from South Plains in Lubbock met us in Lamesa for a transfer. Several hours later, a call from Gail Barnes said their veterinarian had put the great horned owl in an oxygen chamber to prompt healing.

Telling me of another owl that had suffered a similar injury, she said after months of rehab, the bird had regained sight in one eye. As time passed, it had started to kill its food, was flying and ultimately released.

Twelve days after arriving in Lubbock, our great horned owl started eating on its own. By placing dark mice on white platters and white mice on dark dishes, the volunteers

could determine if the raptor was capable of distinguishing shadows and contrast. Another encouraging aspect was the return of color in its eyes.

Four days later, a call from Gail confirmed that, according to the veterinarian, the owl was definitely seeing some out of one eye. To anticipate that it might be as fortunate as the other owl was encouraging.

When informed of the owl's progress after Christmas, the woman from Abilene said her aunt thought we probably laughed at her chasing an owl through an open field.

"Not hardly," I answered, "We were laughing with you."

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

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)

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Little Strokes Fell Great Oaks

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 9 3  
♥ 10 6  
♦ A K Q 7 2  
♣ A K 8 5

**WEST**

♠ Q 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ J 9 6 4 3  
♣ J 10 7 4

**EAST**

♠ K 7 4  
♥ A K Q 7 4 2  
♦ 10 5  
♣ 9 2

**SOUTH**

♠ A J 10 8 6 5  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ 8  
♣ Q 6 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠

Opening lead — five of hearts.

As a general rule, if you're a defender and have the opportunity to win a trick for your side, you win it. However, there are times when — for tactical reasons — it is better to refuse a trick that you can win.

There is no magic rule that tells you when to do one or the other. It all depends on the circumstances, and these vary so much from one deal to the next that your decision basically becomes a matter of exercising good judgment.

Let's say you're West in this deal and lead a heart against four spades. Your partner wins with the queen, continues with the ace and then plays the king. South follows to all three rounds of hearts, and the question is whether or not you should win the third trick by ruffing with your queen of trumps.

Let's see what happens if you ruff. Declarer discards a club or a diamond from dummy and wins the rest of the tricks. He takes your diamond or club return in dummy, leads the nine of spades, which wins, then repeats the trump finesse to land the contract.

But if you discard a club or a diamond at trick three, you defeat the contract. Declarer must ruff the third heart lead in dummy and is then sure to lose two trump tricks regardless of how he continues.

How would you know that you should discard rather than ruff at trick three? That's a fair question, and it's entitled to a fair answer.

You should reason that there's very little chance of beating the contract unless your partner has a trump holding as good as the K-x-x or J-8-x-x, and you should shape your defense to cater to that possibility. Refusing to ruff enables you to defeat the contract in these cases, while ruffing allows declarer to get home safely.

Tomorrow: The educated guess.

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## Dallas police aim to help, not jail, prostitutes

DALLAS (AP) — It was nearly midnight in a cramped mobile courtroom in the back of an 18-wheeler, and a prostitute in a Tweety Bird shirt was apologizing to a judge for falling asleep during her hearing.

She hadn't slept for three days and was coming down from a crack high, she explained. The combination left her too impaired to make a choice that only Dallas offers prostitutes: Go to rehab or go to jail.

With those options, the city is taking a new approach to the world's oldest profession. Police treat prostitutes as sex crime victims, offering many a chance to clean up and get off the streets.

The program's advocates acknowledge its success has been limited — about half of the 375 women have chosen rehab, and just 21 have turned their lives around. But authorities say they're gaining the women's trust and have gotten leads on unsolved crimes.

The program could

soon spread beyond Dallas. More than 200 law enforcement agents from the U.S. and Canada attended the National Prostitution Diversion conference here in November. Since then, groups from Edmonton, Atlanta and Fort Worth have asked for more information about the program.

"We are the pioneers, I suppose," said Renee Breazeale, program director for Homeward Bound, a nonprofit detoxification and counseling center in Dallas. "It's the only police-led program and represents a change of culture for law enforcement."

The program starts with a monthly roundup of prostitutes in an area health officials consider the national epicenter of syphilis. Dallas vice police have identified more than 1,300 prostitutes working four truck stops serve that more than 2,000 big rigs a day.

"Truckers were conducting counter-surveillance for prostitutes," Dallas police Sgt. Louis Felini said.

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14th Annual

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# South chilled by Arctic winds, record snow in East

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Bitter cold and snow sweeping into the eastern U.S left part of New England under record snowfall and hit Southerners with subfreezing temperatures that farmers fear could destroy strawberries and other crops. The deep freeze was expected to last for at least the rest

of the week. The National Weather Service said the mercury could fall below zero in St. Louis later this week for the first time since 1999. The duration of the cold snap is unusual, especially in the South, where the weather is typically chilly for just a day or two before temperatures rebound into the 50s.

Waves of Arctic air pushed into central Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, where farmers were scrambling to save strawberries and tomatoes as temperatures dipped into the 20s and wind chills into the teens. Hard freeze warnings covered the region Tuesday, according to the National

Weather Service. Charleston, S.C., was expecting subfreezing overnight lows all week. Parts of West Virginia could see 4 to 8 inches of snow by Wednesday morning, and many counties canceled school Tuesday ahead of the storm. A dusting of snow fell in western and central Kentucky overnight,

heralding 3 to 5 inches expected in those areas, with some locally heavier amounts. Record snows were reported over the weekend in Vermont. In Burlington, a storm dumped more than 33 inches, breaking a single-storm record of nearly 30 inches set in 1969.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Virgo moon and Capricorn sun emphasize self-discipline, though not in a harsh way. These planets prefer a manner that's less like a drill sergeant and more like an encouraging life coach. The emphasis is on consistent and doable steps. Backbreaking efforts might succeed in the short run, but gentle efforts will be sustainable.



HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your ideas about the direction in which a relationship should go will not completely match up with the ideas of another. But there is enough common ground upon which to build something that will be mutually agreeable.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll have a stylistic choice to make between what is cool and what is functional. Only you can know whether it's more important for you to be cutting edge or practical in this matter.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your vigilant efforts prove that you are energetic, vital and relevant. But it's your stillness that will count for more today. Constant activity is immature. Knowing when not to act is the true test of wisdom.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Is it possible that you have an aversion to fun? Your recent decision to forgo your whims in favor of working (and working and working...) suggests that "fun" is low on the priority list. Consider whether it should be.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Though of course you know that you are responsible for your own life, it certainly seems as if someone else is having more than his or her fair share of influence over it today. Draw the line.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you change your direction, others must adjust—or get run over. Honor their process. Some people take a long time to process change. Try to occupy yourself while you wait for them to come around.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be taking on the most challenging opponent of all—the one inside your own

head. It's optimistic you versus pessimistic you. Before optimistic you can win in this situation, you must believe that winning is possible.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will increase your involvement in a mostly thankless effort. It's not because the others you serve deserve more of you. It's because you like who you are becoming in this process regardless of the credit you receive for it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you don't currently feel like dancing, but turn up the tunes and get moving anyway — you won't want to stop. Nothing helps you forget your worries like letting a little rhythm flow through your body.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can be relentless. But today there's a moment of doubt in your resolve. It's actually a sign of strength. The highest achievers know that self-analysis is a hammer that fashions the strongest confidence.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are capable of greatness, but only when your heart's in it. Be open to inspiration. The spark that will ignite your next chapter of all-out effort is close at hand.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Generally, you like being busy, but you'll carve out the quiet time necessary to make sound decisions. Your pacing will be flexible today as you respond to your surroundings.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 5). The year will be paced beautifully. You get exactly the degree of intensity in love, personal challenge and work that you can gracefully handle. And a helping hand is always nearby. Your powers of analysis lead to success and money in February. Fitness is a priority in June, and you'll enjoy looking and feeling your best. Aries and Taurus people adore you. Lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 25 and 15.

**JANUARY MAKEOVER MADNESS — NEW YEAR, NEW YOU:** Is there a spring in our step even though it's the dead of winter? If so, you're catching on to the buoyant energy of the new decade. It practically stands up and demands a fresh

approach to living. Each astrological sign will have a different focus in this year of great improvements. For Taurus, the focus will be on the creative side of life. Taurus often associates being creative with drawing, writing or taking part in some sort of fine arts. But this year Taurus recognizes more fully the benefits of applying his or her powers of imagination to all kinds of tasks, from athletics

to logic to love. Life is simply better when we bring a fanciful and playful awareness to it. Through January, Taurus will find several ways to engage a sense of play in even the most clinical or serious tasks.

The result will be raised energy levels, an increase in favorable attention and quite possibly the start of a fun trend that lasts through the year and beyond. As one famous Taurus said: "There is only one you

in all of time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and it will be lost." —Martha Graham

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## STAR COUNT TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 2010

**ARIES** 3 1/2 stars  
**TAURUS** 3 stars  
**GEMINI** 4 stars  
**CANCER** 3 stars  
**LEO** 2 1/2 stars  
**VIRGO** 3 stars

**LIBRA** 3 stars  
**SCORPIO** 4 1/2 stars  
**SAGITTARIUS** 4 stars  
**CAPRICORN** 4 1/2 stars  
**AQUARIUS** 3 stars  
**PISCES** 3 1/2 stars

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### Expanded role significant for Wade Phillips



AP PHOTO/Erich Schlegel

Expanding his role with the Cowboys' defense may have saved Wade Phillips' job — for now.

#### Associated Press

IRVING — Maybe the most significant move for the Dallas Cowboys after the Dallas Cowboys after the playoffs last season — aside from ridding themselves of Terrell Owens — was when coach Wade Phillips officially took on the role of defensive coordinator.

That might also be what ensures him another season as head coach.

The NFC East champion Cowboys (11-5) head into the playoffs and a rematch against the Philadelphia Eagles (11-5) with consecutive shutouts for the first time in the team's 50 seasons — and the first NFL team to do so since Tennessee in 2000. The shutouts also came after a 24-17 victory at New Orleans, the league's most prolific offense which then had a 13-0 record.

"I've been fortunate to be around a lot of good defensive teams, and this team is right up there with them," Phillips said Monday, doing his best to defer any credit.

"It really is about the team. It's not about me," Phillips said. "It's not a personal deal with me. I believed in this team the whole time and I think everybody's known that. They've come through."

Phillips is in the final season of the three-year contract he signed when he replaced Bill Parcells, but his deal includes a team option for next season.

While Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has yet to definitively say Phillips will be back next season, the dominating surge into the playoffs has raised the likelihood of that happening.

See **DALLAS**, Page 12



AP PHOTO/Matt York

TCU quarterback Andy Dalton is sacked by Boise State's Kyle Wilson on Monday at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz. Boise State picked Dalton three times in a 17-10 win.

### Boise State frustrates Frog offense

#### Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — TCU's defense was supposed to make the difference against Boise State. Instead, a lack of offense did.

Andy Dalton was intercepted three times in the Horned Frogs' first leap onto the big stage. One was returned 51 yards for a touchdown, one set the stage for Boise State's game-winning drive and the third ended any TCU hopes with 18 seconds to play.

The result was a frustrating 17-10 loss to the Broncos in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday night.

"We did a lot of good things this year," Dalton said. "We'll understand that, but we also have a foul taste in the mouth after this game."

TCU was befuddled much of the night by a quirky Boise State defense that shifted players around unexpectedly.

"Early on in the game they were doing stuff we hadn't seen," Dalton said. "You know, all the looks in practice we were getting, that's not what we saw out there."

Dalton said the Broncos were "moving around a lot."

"They would be lined

up in one thing and then shift their front," the Horned Frogs junior quarterback said. "You know, I think early on we just, we didn't really know exactly what they were doing out there. But at times we would. We would know what was going on and that was when we were executing a little better. But they did a lot of different things."

The lack of head-phone communications to the coaches in the press box for a time in the first half added to the confusion.

It was the lowest-scoring game of the season for the Frogs, who had

scored no fewer than 42 points in their previous seven contests.

Boise State, the nation's highest-scoring team at 44.2 points per game, managed to get just 10 points on offense, and needed a stunning fake punt to keep the deciding drive alive. But the Frogs couldn't even keep up with that.

TCU ended its season 12-1, and the loss to the Western Athletic Conference champion Broncos in a matchup of non-BCS unbeatens was tough to swallow. But coach Gary

See **FIESTA**, Page 12

### Tech begins search to replace Leach

#### Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers said Monday that interim coach Ruffin McNeill will be strongly considered for the permanent job.

McNeill took over after Texas Tech suspended Mike Leach indefinitely on Dec. 28 while it investigated Adam James' allegations of mistreatment after he got a concussion. Leach was fired two days later, and McNeill led the Red Raiders to a 41-31 win over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl on Saturday.

Michigan State took a 28-7 lead into the fourth quarter, and appeared to get a break when Tech quarterback Taylor Potts left the game after injuring his non-throwing hand. He left with an Alamo Bowl-record 372 yards and two touchdowns.

With Tech down 31-27, backup quarterback Steven Sheffield marched the Red Raiders downfield in eight plays, the last an 11-yard touchdown pass to Detron Lewis. Baron Batch tacked on a 25-yard touchdown run to put it away.

The Red Raiders must find a successor to the winningest — and perhaps most popular — head coach in Texas

McNeill history.

McNeill wants the job, and this win might help. Players were unanimous in wanting McNeill back, too.

"With Coach Ruff, the sky's the limit," Batch said. "I love that guy." McNeill, 51, met informally with university president Guy Bailey on Monday.

"He's going to have strong consideration, no doubt about that," Myers said.

McNeill came to Tech with Leach in 2000. He was elevated to defensive coordinator in 2007.

Myers said he has started the search and doesn't have a big list of candidates. He could have a pick by the end of the week.

Myers declined to identify any candidates outside the program who could be interviewed in the next couple of days.

Leach has denied he mistreated James, son of former NFL player and ESPN analyst Craig James.

Leach also claims he was fired for financial reasons. He was in the first season of a five-year, \$12.7 million contract. His attorney said he has plans to file a lawsuit against the school.

The investigation into Adam James' allegations is ongoing, school officials said.

### Hawkeyes focused on stopping Georgia Tech's triple-option offense

#### Associated Press

MIAMI — It was breakfast time, and Iowa Hawkeyes defensive coordinator Norm Parker sat at a table trying to explain the challenge of stopping Georgia Tech's triple option.

Parker waved his cup of morning coffee.

"This is the quarterback," he said. He grabbed a jug of

orange juice. "That's the fullback," he said.

An empty glass became a defensive end, and a water bottle became a linebacker. Soon Parker was pushing the containers around, trying to contain the Yellow Jackets.

That will be the goal for Iowa in the Orange Bowl on Tuesday night.

"If you're a football purist, this thing is real-

ly sort of fun," said Parker, a coach for 45 years. "This triple-option stuff sort of started in the late '60s. Georgia Tech has taken this offense and made it better and better and better. And when a lot of people got away from the triple option, they stayed with it. So now what was very common is sort of new.

"I'm having fun preparing for it. But all the

fun I'm having now might not be that much fun the night of the game."

For opponents, playing the No. 9-ranked Yellow Jackets (11-2) can be no fun at all. Tech ranks second in the nation in rushing yards per game at 307.2, 11th in total offense at 442.7 yards and 11th in scoring at 35.3 points.

See **ORANGE**, Page 12



AP PHOTO/Lynne Sladky

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz, left, and Georgia Tech man Paul Johnson will battle in the Orange Bowl.

### Sports in brief

#### Tuesday's area hoops action

See Wednesday's Herald for results

Big Spring boys vs. Estacado, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys at Sands, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan vs. Grady, 6:30/8 p.m.

Stanton vs. Seagraves, 6:30/8 p.m.

Garden City boys vs. Midessa, 7:00 p.m.

#### 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.

#### Big Spring Fall Sports Banquet to be held Saturday

The Big Spring High School fall sports banquet date has been changed from Thursday to Saturday.

The event will be held in the high school cafeteria at 7 p.m.

Awards will be given for Big Spring's successful fall sports season, including the football team's 10-3 campaign.



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5 :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias CBS	News NBC	Seinfeld	Scrivner	BBC	Dirty Jobs	League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Around	SportsCenter
6 :30	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy! Wheel	Gancho	Two Men Pregame	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Name Harris	Dr. Young	PBS News-Hour	Dirty Jobs	UFC Un-leashed	Bones			Wizards	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7 :30	Better Off Scrubs	Better Off Scrubs	Nombre-Amor	(15) College Football: FedEx Orange Bowl -- Georgia Tech vs. Iowa.	NCIS: Los Angeles	Más Sabe el Diabolo	The Biggest Loser	Office Victory	Upd	Nova	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Pitch Black, Cole Hauser	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Don't Be a Menace to South Central	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	NBA Coast-to-Coast	Homecoming
8 :30	Better Off the forgotten	Better Off the forgotten	Aquí y Ahora		The Good Wife	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Office	Office		Howe & Howe Tech	MAN	Law & Order		Monica	Phineas		SportsNation
9 :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero		News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Lopez	Lopez	Upd Cortes	Charlie Rose	Terminator 2: Judgment Day, Edward Furlong	MAN	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards	Homecoming	SportsCenter
10 :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Postgame TMZ	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Seinfeld	Ministerio-Vida	BBC	Howe & Howe Tech	MAN	CSI: NY	W. Williams	Suite Life	Fastbreak	Football	
11 :30	News Wall St	News Wall St	Tormenta, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Church	Upd	Church	Overhaul'n'	Movie: Pitch Black, Cole Hauser	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: NY	Movie: Double Take	Cory		SportsCenter
1 :30	News Paid	News Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Ent. Ton. Paid	Pagado Empresa	News Poker After Dark	Lopez	Lopez	Light of the Southwest		Star Trek: Voyager	Saving Grace		Kim	Wtr. X-Games	SportsCenter	

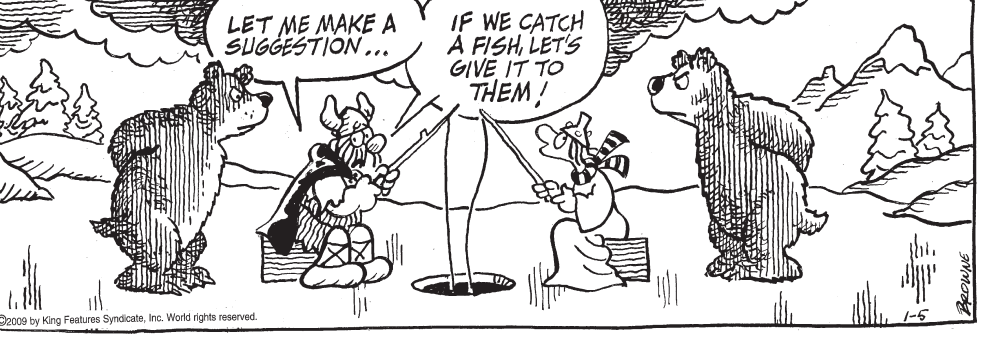
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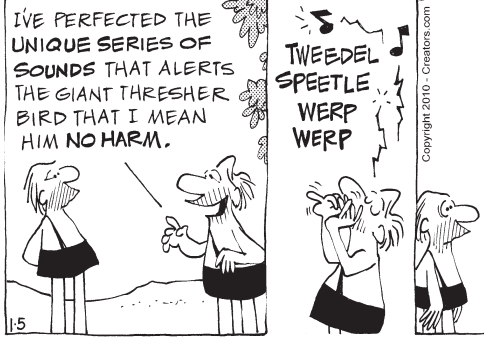
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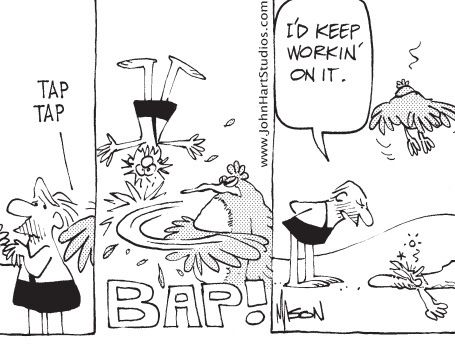
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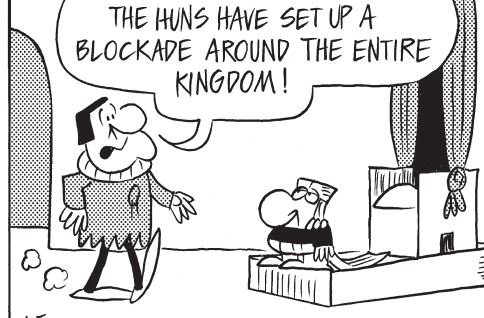
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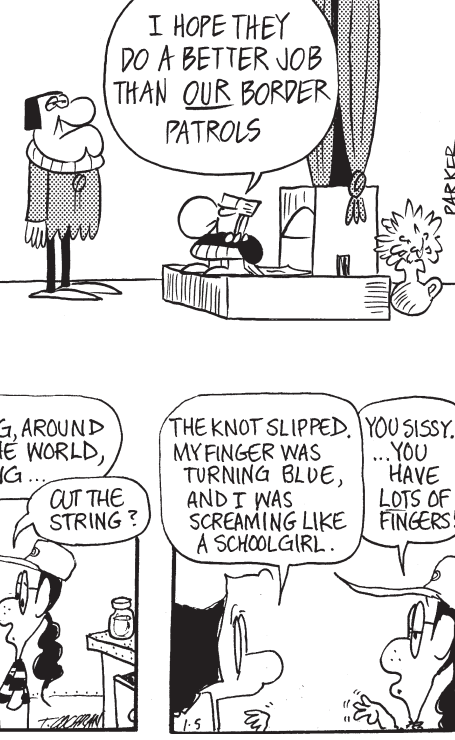
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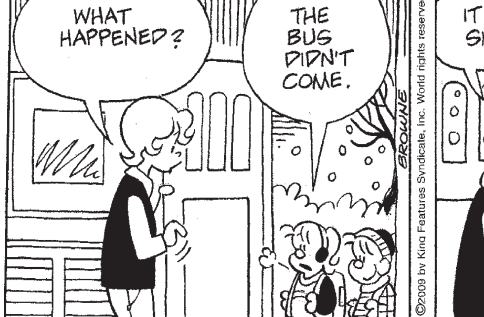
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2010. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1925, Nellie T. Ross became governor of Wyoming; she was the first female governor in U.S. history. (She succeeded Frank E. Lucas, who had served as acting governor following the death of Ross' husband, William B. Ross.)

On this date:

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

In 1809, the Treaty of the Dardanelles, which ended the Anglo-Turkish War, was concluded by the United Kingdom and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1896, an Austrian newspaper (Wiener Presse) reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as "X-rays."

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression; this became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home (UMWA President Tony Boyle and three others were later convicted of the killings). The soap opera "All My Children" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing at the

Heavenly Ski Resort on the Nevada-California state line; he was 62.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 82. Actor Robert Duvall is 79. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Chuck Noll is 78. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 72. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 68. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 64. Actor Ted Lange is 62. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 61. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 60. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 57. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 57. Actor Clancy Brown is 51. Singer Iris Dement is 49. Actor Ricky Paull Goldin is 45.

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Answer to previous puzzle

C	A	P	O	N	R	A	T	E	T	R	A	M
A	S	I	D	E	I	C	O	N	Y	L	E	
K	I	N	D	W	I	S	H	E	S	P	E	O
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E	Y	E	S									
E	W	E	R	S	P	E	N	T				

Newsday Crossword

DECADE STARTERS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

- www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS
- 1 Out of danger
  - 5 Slender
  - 9 Go with the flow
  - 14 "Not guilty," for one
  - 15 "Look what I did!"
  - 16 Extinguish, as a fire
  - 17 Software buyer
  - 18 Make the first bet
  - 19 African nation
  - 20 Store's sales event
  - 23 Invoice
  - 24 Colo. neighbor
  - 25 Self-assurance
  - 27 Test score
  - 31 Hockey position
  - 34 Mechanical men
  - 36 Leaves high and dry
  - 40 Prayer ender
  - 41 Couldn't stand
  - 43 Opera solo
  - 44 Keep for later
  - 46 Glossy fabrics
  - 48 They don't mingle
  - 50 Casino city, for short
  - 51 Jockey's seat
  - 54 Baba
  - 56 Matured
  - 57 Acts like a gossip
  - 64 Think highly of
  - 66 Reach across
  - 67 Neighborhood
  - 68 Heroic tales
  - 69 Frying medium
  - 70 Sharp taste
- DOWN
- 71 Schoolroom furnishings
  - 72 Historical periods
  - 73 Pantry pests
  - 12 Biblical song
  - 13 Flour sack wt., maybe
  - 21 Mad as \_\_\_ hen
  - 22 Soup alternatives
  - 26 Fraternity jewelry
  - 27 Mardi \_\_\_
  - 28 City around the Vatican
  - 29 Aid in a crime
  - 30 Mickey Mouse colleague
  - 32 Western film
  - 33 Lincoln's nickname
  - 35 Polished
  - 37 Not a duplicate: Abbr.
  - 38 Ship of 1492
  - 39 Back talk
  - 42 Citrus drink
  - 45 Fa, \_\_, la, ti ...
  - 47 Hertz competitor
  - 49 Egypt's desert
  - 51 Didn't throw out
  - 52 With wide-open mouth
  - 53 Sandwich shops
  - 55 Emulates a library
  - 58 Maui or Tahiti
  - 59 Practice boxing
  - 60 Numerical info
  - 61 Tehran's land
  - 62 Tenant's payment
  - 63 Price stickers
  - 65 Double-curve letter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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71								72				73	

FIESTA

Continued from Page 8

Patterson would not call the loss a setback to his program.

"For me, I don't think that we backed down the mountain at all," he said. "It would have been nice for us to win. That was our intention. But for me to say that we fell, that we stumbled and fell down — that football team there (Boise State) has only lost one ball game in two seasons."

That was TCU's 17-16 victory over Boise State in last season's Poinsettia Bowl.

The ground game virtually didn't exist, with the Frogs gaining 36 yards on 20 carries. TCU was 1 of 12 on third-down conversions and made it

to the red zone once.

Dalton completed 25 of 44 passes for 272 yards, including a 30-yarder to Curtis Clay for a touchdown that cut Boise State's lead to 10-7 just before halftime.

But TCU fell in trouble early on Brandyn Thompson 51-yard interception returned for a score. Dalton called it "a miscommunication" between him and intended receiver Antoine Hicks. When they were down 10-0, it was the Frogs' biggest deficit of the season.

Boise State coach Chris Petersen and his staff are known for their gadget plays, and they stunned the Horned Frogs with one called "Riddler" — a gutsy fake punt with game tied 10-10 in the fourth quar-



AP PHOTO/ Ross D. Franklin

Boise State needed a fake punt to get past the No.4-ranked Horned Frogs in the Fiesta Bowl.

ter and the Broncos facing fourth-and-9 on their own 33-yard line.

Punter Kyle Brotzman hit wide-open Kyle Efaw with a 30-yard strike, and four plays later, Doug Martin scored the decisive touchdown on a 2-yard run.

For the second time in

practice, but they were caught flat-footed.

"The fake punt was a great call," Patterson said. "They outcoached us on that play."

The trickery evoked memories of Boise State's BCS debut three years ago, when it pulled out a passel of gadget plays to defeat Oklahoma on the same field.

Twice TCU threatened late. But Dalton threw incomplete on fourth-and-6 at the Boise State 27, then the Broncos pinned the Frogs at their 1-yard line.

It all ended when Dalton threw to the sideline at the Boise State 30, where Thomas went up with receiver Antoine Hicks, the ball was tipped and Wiston Venable intercepted it. It was a big night for Thomas, who

was beaten on the TCU touchdown pass but had the first two interceptions and was named the game's outstanding defensive player.

TCU had entered the game ranked fourth and a seven-point favorite. Boise State was No. 6.

It's the end of a standout college career for All-American defensive end Jerry Hughes, who as usual faced constant double teams but forced a fumble and recovered it on a play that eventually led to TCU's game-tying field goal.

"This really just puts the TCU program out on the map," he said. "There's no setback or anything like that. It just lets the nation know who TCU is, where we're at and how we're going to play football."

DALLAS

Continued from Page 8

pening.

"It's always been about that arrow going up," Jones said after the Cowboys beat Philadelphia 24-0 on Sunday to clinch the division title. "At this particular time, he's looking good."

That wasn't exactly the case only weeks ago, after the Cowboys began December with consecutive losses and dropped out of first place in the NFC East. Or at the end of last season, when the Cowboys lost at Philadelphia

44-6 in a regular-season finale that determined who went to the playoffs.

During the previous two seasons, the Cowboys' defensive coordinator was Brian Stewart, who was on San Diego's staff when Phillips was defensive coordinator there. When Stewart was dumped last year, Phillips made himself the only NFL head coach who is also the defensive coordinator.

Jones calls that the most significant offseason move that led to success this season.

"The decision for him to just completely

take over the defensive coordinator's role, both technically and perception-wise," Jones said. "He said it best to me when we visited in February. He said, 'I really know that, I feel strongly that, I'm a good defensive coordinator, now give this head coach a good defensive coordinator.' That was big."

There is still that 0-4 playoff record for Phillips, who is 33-15 in the regular season for Dallas and 81-54 overall including his stops in New Orleans, Denver, Buffalo and Atlanta.

"If you keep getting in it, good things

will happen for you," Phillips said. "I've seen about everything happen, and each year's different, and that's what's exciting about this team."

Two years ago, the Cowboys got off to a 12-1 start, earning a first-round bye and home-field advantage. But they lost two of their last three regular season games and lost in the playoffs to the New York Giants, who Dallas had already beaten twice.

The Cowboys again face a division rival in the playoffs that they beat twice in the regular season.

"I'd rather be playing them at home the way we are and having won the last game, and that's where we are," Phillips said. "It's not a negative for us, I don't believe, that you're playing a team a third time."

The departure of Owens, cut after three seasons in Dallas, hasn't hurt. Miles Austin emerged as a Pro Bowl pick with 81 catches for 1,320 yards and 11 touchdowns, though Roy Williams (38 catches for 596 yards and seven TDs) hasn't yet become the top receiver as expected.

"Miles Austin has shown he's an outstanding receiver," Phillips said. "He's hard to stop. He makes plays after he catches it. He makes tough catches."

Williams hasn't tried to create problems because of his lack of involvement in the offense. He instead has publicly accepted the blame for his less-than-stellar play.

"We're better off than we were last year. There's no doubt about that," Phillips said. "This team is itself. They're very cohesive. They stick up for each other. They're very accountable."

ORANGE

Continued from Page 8

No. 10-ranked Iowa (10-2) relied on a stingy defense to earn a Bowl Championship Series berth for the first time in seven years. The Hawkeyes rank 10th in scoring defense at 15.5 points per game, and 11th in total defense at 286.7 yards.

But this is the first time in Kirk Ferentz's 11 years as head coach that the Hawkeyes have faced a triple option. It may help that they've had a month to prepare for the Yellow Jackets.

"The good news is

we've had time," Ferentz said. "The bad news is we can't come close to simulating what they do with the precision, speed and the expertise. We're getting a lot of looks at it, I guess; it's just not the look we'll be seeing on the 5th, that's for sure."

For the Hawkeyes, other bowl results are ominous. Navy and Air Force also run the triple option, and both won New Year's Eve games, scoring a combined 82 points.

Why don't more teams run the triple option?

"I think the reason people got away from it

is because it wasn't fancy enough for the public," Parker said. "They didn't want to see the fullback run up the middle with the ball. The public wants to see the ball in the air and whoop-de-doo and all that kind of stuff."

To prepare for Georgia Tech, Iowa's defense practiced against a scout team that ran the option with quarterback Dakota Getz, a freshman who played that position in high school but is now a tight end. It'll be a bit different when the Hawkeyes try to stop Yellow Jackets quarterback Josh Nesbitt, who ran

for 991 yards and 18 touchdowns this season.

In the triple option, Nesbitt keeps, hands off on a dive play or pitches wide. Tech's biggest threat is junior Jonathan Dwyer, who topped 1,300 yards rushing for the second consecutive season and has 36 career touchdowns.

"Words can't describe how exciting the offense is to be a part of — to know in any part of the game a big play is going to happen," Dwyer said.

Not all of Tech's big plays come on the ground. They're averaging 23.2 yards per

completion and have gained at least 50 yards on passes 11 times.

"They don't throw the ball much," Iowa safety Tyler Sash said. "But every other time that they do, it seems like it's a touchdown or big play."

Tech's Demaryius Thomas, who has totaled 1,154 yards on only 46 receptions, frowned when asked what it's like to play on a team known for its ground game.

"You get used to it," Thomas said. Then he smiled. "When I get my chances, I take advantage of them."

The Yellow Jackets were held below 200 yards on the ground only once — on the same field where they'll play Tuesday. They netted 95 yards rushing in a 33-17 loss to the Miami Hurricanes in September.

"That was our third game in 12 days, and we were just worn out," Nesbitt said.

In the weeks since,

they've topped 40 points four times, and beat Clemson 39-34 in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Unstoppable? Center Sean Bedford said it feels that way.

"There are times we feel like with this offense, it doesn't matter what you throw at us — we're going to be able to put it in the end zone," Bedford said.

While the Hawkeyes haven't faced a team like Tech, the Yellow Jackets haven't faced a team like Iowa. Nesbitt said the Hawkeyes will be by far the most physical defense he has gone against.

The Hawkeyes shut out Minnesota in their regular-season finale and held three other bowl-bound teams to 10 points or less.

"They're big," Nesbitt said. "I think they intimidate their opponents just by how hard they hit you and their size. Also they can move. So we're going to have our hands full."

Nesbitt said the Yellow Jackets didn't add any wrinkles to the playbook during the December layoff, and will rely on what worked during the regular season. They ran the ball 83 percent of the time, which helped them lead the nation in time of possession at more than 34 minutes per game. They had only 14 three-and-outs, fewest in the nation.

The Yellow Jackets won by such scores as 42-31, 49-44, 56-31 and 30-27 twice. The result: Their biggest bowl berth since 1967.

"Everybody says they want to run the ball, but everybody doesn't have the patience to do it, and we do," offensive coordinator Brian Bohannon said. "That's who we are. We're going to live and die by running the football."

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