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# BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017



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## Museum uncovers gem in warehouse

**By LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

It's quite a nice feeling to rediscover a forgotten treasure in the bottom of a storage closet. That's just what happened at the Heritage Museum recently.

While straightening up the museum's warehouse, James Johnston, museum president, discovered eight, large wood panels painted with scenes of late 1800s/early 1900s Big Spring. The panels once hung in the old McDonald's restaurant which was located for years on North Gregg Street close to Interstate 20.

Museum Curator Tammy Schrecengost said she was aware of the panels but had never actually laid eyes on the artwork.

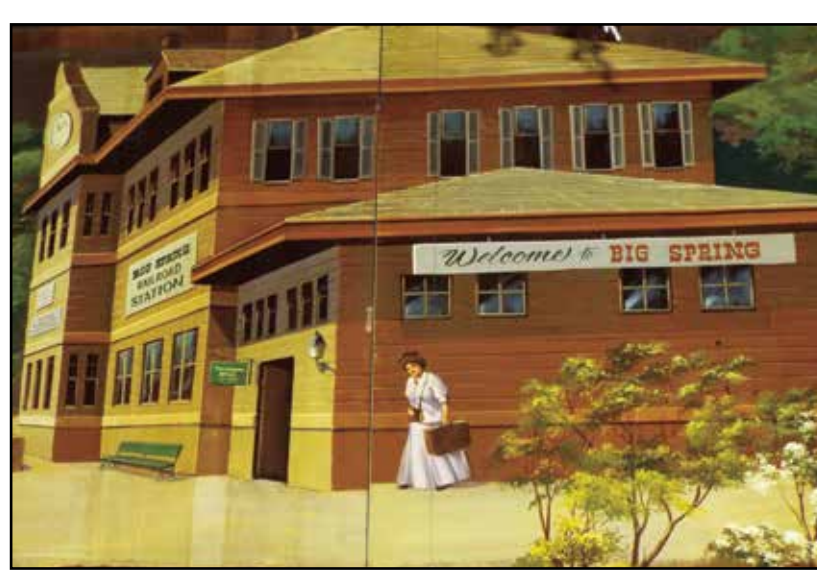
"The panels were donated to the museum back when the building was torn down," Schrecengost said. "It was a project done

before my time here at the museum. I don't really know the details of the original project. My guess is McDonald's commissioned an artist – and I don't know the name of the artist unfortunately – who used old photos of Big Spring we have in our collection. We still have the original photos."

One of the panels depicts the old city fountain.

"The fountain was there for a brief time in the city's history," Schrecengost said. "It's where all the young people went courting back in the day. It would have been where the Railroad Plaza is today. That was the center of activity back then."

A number is printed on the back of each of the panels. When the panels are placed sequentially, they create a mural of Big Spring in the late 1800s/early 1900s.



HERALD photo/LYNDEL MOODY  
 Pictured is just few of the eight wood panels that depict scenes from the early days of Big Spring.

## Community leaders sworn in



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
 Howard County officials were sworn into office today to begin their new term by County Clerk Donna Wright. Pictured from left are Josh Hamby, county attorney; Bennie Green, justice of the peace; Kneel Stallings, constable; Tiffany Fernandez, tax assessor/collector; Jodi Duck, election administrator; Jimmy Long, county commissioner; Stan Parker, sheriff; and Oscar Garcia, county commissioner.

## Gas prices on the rise

**Special to the Herald**

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 5.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.13/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas. This compares with the national average that has increased 5.6 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.34/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 39.1 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 19.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has during the last month and stands 35.4 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on January 3 in Texas have ranged widely over the last five years: \$1.74/g in 2016, \$1.98/g in 2015, \$3.14/g in 2014, \$3.12/g in 2013 and \$3.09/g in 2012.

Areas near Texas and their current gas price climate:

See **PRICES**, Page 3

## Republicans primed for push to dismantle Obama's policies

**By RICHARD LARDNER**  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the 115th Congress will be sworn in at noon Tuesday, setting off an aggressive campaign by Republicans who control the House and Senate to dismantle eight years of President Barack Obama's Demo-

cratic policies.

The first and biggest target is Obama's signature health care law, which Republicans have long sought to gut and blamed as a primary cause for a lackluster economic recovery. President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday encouraged a wholesale overhaul of the system, tweeting hours

before the new Congress convenes "Obamacare just doesn't work," is unaffordable "and, it is lousy health care."

Majority Republicans also are targeting decades-old programs that millions of Americans rely on every day, such as Social Security and Medicare as they seek to shrink both the size of the federal budget and the bureaucracy in Washington.

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"We have a lot to do — and a lot to undo," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said in a letter to fellow Republicans.

There were signs of Republican-on-Republican drama even

See **PUSH**, Page 3

## In action tonight

**Big Spring's Kiana Ramsey (14) attempts a shot during a basketball game earlier this season. The Lady Steers are in action at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Tuscola against Jim Ned High School. The BSHS boys are in Andrews for a 7:30 p.m. game.**

Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)



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## Obituaries

### Trinidad (Trini) Arsiaga

Trinidad (Trini) Arsiaga, 83, of Big Spring passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016. The viewing will be Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2016, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday. A vigil and rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2016, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Trini was a local business owner for 35 plus years.

Trini's Body Shop was located on the corner of Runnels and 4th in Big Spring, Texas.

### Rosalia Barraza

Rosalia Barraza, 97, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, evening at the funeral home.

Rosalia was born Aug. 13, 1919 in La Union, New Mexico and married Marcelo Barraza Nov. 2, 1936 in Ackerly, Texas where they made their home. She was a homemaker and also helped on the farm. He preceded her in death Jan.

### Linda Willadsen

Linda Willadsen, 71, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016 at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends starting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, just prior to services.

Linda was born June 4, 1945 in Louisville, Kentucky and married Richard Willadsen Jan. 11, 1976 at the KBST radio station in Big Spring, Texas.

She was Big Spring's first female disc-jockey. Later she became a bus driver for the Big Spring Independent School District and retired after 20

Trinidad was born on June 12, 1933 in Stanton, Texas to Thomas and Nicholasa Arsiaga.

He was preceded in death by his son, Arthur Arsiaga and his beloved wife, Elvira Nunez Arsiaga.

Survivors include Manuel Arsiaga, Diane Arsiaga, Beatrice Mendoza, Samuel Arsiaga, Margie Garcia, Rick Nunez, Christine Barrera, and Louise Garcia, 18 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Rick Nunez Jr., Jesse Hernandez, Alfonso Vera, Daniel Arsiaga, Phillip Mendoza Jr., and Santos Mendoza, Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid obituary*

16, 1999.

Rosalia is survived by two sons, Joaquin Barraza, and wife, Mary of Ackerly, and Eduardo Barraza, and wife, Barbara of Tula Rosa, New Mexico; four daughters, Celia Rehm of Jacksonville, Florida, Ofelia Estes and husband, Kenneth of Bovina, Texas, and Elia Cowley of Big Spring; nineteen grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Daniel Barraza; one daughter, Delia Lopez; her parents, Marcelino and Josefa (Uribe) Acosta; two brothers; and four sisters,

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

plus years.

Linda is survived by three daughters, Kimberly Beckham of Fort Worth, Texas, Deanna Beckham of Grapevine, Texas, and Paula Spielbauer and husband, Sean of Dumas, Texas; three sons, Richard "Rick" Willadsen and Lance Willadsen both of Dumas, and Michael Willadsen and wife, Brenda of Temple, Texas; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Carolyn King and husband Henry of Enid, Oklahoma; and one brother-in-law, Ron Jones of Seling, Oklahoma.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Ardelia (Frazier) Stevens; and one sister, Nola Jones.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

### Franklin Devaughn Morton

Franklin Devaughn Morton, 67, of Big Spring, Texas, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2016, in Lubbock, Texas. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.

He was born June 12, 1949, in Sweetwater, Texas. He grew up in Sweetwater and moved to Big Spring in 2003, moving from Colorado. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in Vietnam.

He is survived by his fiancé, Annie Rushing of Big Spring; one son, one daughter, and one sister.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **EDRION PATRICK HOUSTON**, 26, of 2504 Joann Drive was arrested on a warrant for no driver's license when unlicensed, failure to appear, and two warrants from other agencies.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1500 block of E 4th Street.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1900 block of E 25th Street.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 1600 block of S Gregg Street and the 2400 block of Cheyenne Drive.

- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 6400 block of Perimeter Road.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of 18th Street and Runnels.

## Support Groups

### TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### THURSDAY

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

- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

- A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (Note: 90 inmates were reported in the county jail):

- **BRANDON SEVERIANO BAIZA JR.**, 28, was jailed on charges of bail jumping and failure to appear.

- **JASON HARVEY BEDFORD**, 32, was jailed on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and soliciting/peddling without a permit.

- **RONALD EUGENE COX**, 50, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

- **ANGELA CELESTE DUGGER**, 39, was jailed on charges of failure to appear and theft under \$100.

- **LYNDON TRENT FRALEY**, 66, was jailed on a charge of evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.

- **LISA NICOLE GOMEZ**, 29, was jailed on a charge of theft of property over \$500/less than \$1,500.

- **ELIZABETH MURO GONZALES**, 37, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **PIERRE JEAN GORDON**, 26, was jailed on charges of no driver's license and failure to appear.

- **JESSE JAY HERNANDEZ**, 32, was jailed on charges of assault causing bodily injury/family, driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

- **EDRION PATRICK HOUSTON**, 26, was jailed on charges of no driver's license and failure to appear.

- **ANDRAQUE SEVON JONES**, 20, was jailed on a charge of possession of marijuana/less than 2 ounces.

- **TRACEY DAWN JUAREZ**, 25, was jailed on charges of driving while license invalid and violating promise to appear.

- **MARK MATTHEW LINDEM**, 39, was jailed on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **JESSE RENE LOPEZ**, 29, was jailed on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, no driver's license and open container in a motor vehicle.

- **RODNEY MARTINEZ**, 21, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

- **KHUN MAUNG**, 31, was jailed on a charge of

unlawful restraint.

- **TRAVIS IVERSON MCCOY**, 28, was jailed on charges of theft of property and failure to appear.

- **DONISHA MCGEE**, 21, was jailed on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

- **BOBBY RAY NEWTON**, 30, was jailed on a charge of driving while intoxicated/second offense.

- **ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ**, 25, was jailed on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

- **MARISSA YVETTE PHILLIPS**, 22, was jailed on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **FORRESST DEWAYNE PIERCE**, 51, was jailed on charges of no valid inspection certificate, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

- **RAUL OJINAGA REYES**, 60, was jailed on a charge of aggravated assault against a public servant.

- **PATRICK MATTHEW RIOS JR.**, 24, was jailed on charges of theft under \$100, evading arrest/detention with prior conviction and driving while license invalid.

- **MARCUS EMORY STURGILL**, 27, was jailed on charges of public intoxication, criminal trespass and assault/family violence.

- **JOAN MARIE TATUM**, 56, was jailed on a charge of assault against the elderly or disabled.

- **MARISA TORRES**, 29, was jailed on a charge of public intoxication.

- **DERRICK DAMOND WILBERT**, 36, was jailed on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

- **JOHN MICHAEL WILKINSON**, 31, was jailed on charges of violating promise to appear, defective stop lamps and theft of property/less than \$100.

- **FREDDIE LEE WILLIAMS JR.**, 39, was jailed on charges of evading arrest or detention and assault by contact.

- **CODY ALAN WINGO**, 28, was jailed on a charge of theft and a probation revocation warrant for assault.

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# MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

"I knew they were there, but I had never really seen them pulled out," Schrecengost said. "We both agreed they needed to come into the museum to be displayed, but the question was how to find a place to show them in sequence since we are limited on space. James found a perfect place, so it just stands out to you when you walk through the door."

The panels are displayed on the back wall of the downstairs gallery by the elevator. The space is just enough for all eight panels to be lined next to each other.

"I would love to give credit

to the artist," Schrecengost said. "I don't know if it was a corporation or what that did but it is just a great job they did."

The panels will be a permanent display at the museum and, Schrecengost added, are just one of the many gems the museum workers have discovered through their "spring cleaning" efforts at the warehouse.

"You never know what you can unearth out there," she said. "In fact, I think we can have exhibits for a year with what has been given to the museum just from what we have in storage. It's a very good thing. It's time to bring some of those out, so we will be doing some of those throughout the year."

# PRICES

Continued from Page 1

Midland Odessa- \$2.17/g, up 1.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.16/g; San Antonio- \$2.09/g, up 6.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.02/g; Austin- \$2.11/g, up 5.6 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.05/g.

"In 2016, motorists spent an average \$2.13 per gallon on gasoline, the cheapest yearly average since 2004, and 28 cents lower than 2015, but if motorists made a resolution to

pay less in 2017, they either broke it already or aren't planning on driving for a while. While nearly 100,000 gas stations in the country were selling for \$1.99 per gallon a year ago, fewer than 3,000 are today. Though we may see rising gas prices take a brief break in early February, we're unlikely to come anywhere close to last year's low levels," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

"Overall, the national average price of gas stands 35 cents

higher than where it was a year ago on this day and the gap is likely to continue widening. For the upcoming year, it's not a rosy picture at the pump: GasBuddy's 2017 Fuel Outlook will detail when motorists will be seeing the highest prices of the year and how many more billions we'll spend at the pump in the year ahead," DeHaan added.

GasBuddy Yearly National Averages

2016: \$2.13/gal.  
2015: \$2.40/gal.  
2014: \$3.34/gal.

2013: \$3.49/gal.  
2012: \$3.61/gal.  
2011: \$3.51/gal.  
2010: \$2.77/gal.  
2009: \$2.33/gal.  
2008: \$3.23/gal.  
2007: \$2.79/gal.  
2006: \$2.55/gal.  
2005: \$2.25/gal.  
2004: \$1.83/gal.

Data provided by GasBuddy.com

For live fuel price averages, visit [www.FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com](http://www.FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com).

# PUSH

Continued from Page 1

before the new Congress officially opened on Tuesday. House Republicans on Monday night voted to defy their leaders and gut the chamber's independent ethics panel created in 2008 to probe charges of lawmaker misconduct after several corruption scandals sent members to prison.

Lawmakers would have the final say on their colleagues under the change approved 199-74 over arguments from House Speaker Paul Ryan, McCarthy, and other GOP leaders. Some members said they have felt unfairly targeted by the independent panel, and Kellyanne Conway, a top adviser to President-elect Donald Trump, said Tuesday on ABC that there had been "overzealousness" under the old system. Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., told CNN Tuesday that the idea was to give accused lawmakers more information about who was making charges against them. Others complained that the move would clear a path to corruption.

Democrats will try to block the far-reaching conservative agenda by swaying public opinion and using the power they have in the Senate to filibuster legislation. But that strategy has its political limitations. Twenty-three Senate Democrats are up for re-election in 2018, including 10 from states won by President-elect Donald Trump, and they could break ranks and side with the GOP.

"What we will always do is hold the president-elect and his Republican colleagues in Congress accountable," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said in prepared remarks Tuesday. "We will be a caucus that works to make sure the president-elect keeps his commitment to truly make America great, in its finest sense and tradition."

Obama plans a rare trip to Capitol Hill on Wednesday to meet with congressional Demo-

crats and discuss strategy for saving the health care law. Vice President-elect Mike Pence will meet with Republicans.

The first week of the new Congress will be a preview of the hectic pace planned by Republicans.

The GOP's proposal to change the ethics process is part of a rules package to be voted Tuesday that also would give GOP leaders the tools to punish lawmakers if there is a repeat of the Democratic sit-in last summer over gun control.

Votes also are expected on resolutions to denounce the United Nations for condemning the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Republicans blasted the Obama administration for refusing to veto the decision. Ryan, R-Wis., pledged "to reverse the damage done by this administration, and rebuild our alliance with Israel."

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, is scheduled to testify Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee on an intelligence community assessment that Russia interfered in the U.S. election by hacking into Democratic email accounts. Allegations of Russian meddling in the U.S. political process will be examined by individual congressional committees, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has rejected a bipartisan call for a special, high-profile select panel to investigate.

Obama last week slapped Russia with sweeping penalties over the hacking allegations, yet Trump has not publicly accepted the conclusion Moscow was behind the election year intrusions. Incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Monday on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" that "there doesn't seem to be conclusive evidence" that the Russians were responsible.

The House is slated to vote Friday to certify Trump's victory in the

presidential election over Democrat Hillary Clinton. She is the fifth presidential candidate to win the popular vote and lose the Electoral College. She received nearly 2.9 million more votes than Trump, according to an Associated Press analysis, giving her the largest popular vote margin of any losing presidential candidate and bringing renewed calls to abolish the Electoral College.

Other must-do items on the GOP's agenda are an overhaul of the U.S. tax code. Conservatives also want to scuttle rules on the environment and undo financial regulations created in the aftermath of the 2008 economic meltdown, arguing they are too onerous for businesses to thrive.

The Senate plans to begin repealing Obama's health care law on Tues-

day, with consideration of a procedural measure that will shield the initiative from Democratic filibusters.

Lawmakers will then spend the next few months working on legislation canceling broad swaths of the law. Likely to go are its mandate that people buy health insurance or face IRS fines, and its expansion of Medicaid coverage to more lower-earning Americans. But several elements of the repeal likely wouldn't go into effect for two to four

years.

Amid the busy legislative schedule, the Senate will exercise its advice and consent role and consider Trump's picks for his Cabinet.

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Franklin DeVaughn Morton, 67, died Friday in Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.

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## 4 children die in Texas gas poisoning; others injured

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A poisonous gas believed to have been released when someone tried to wash away a pesticide that had been sprayed under a Texas home killed four children and left six other people hospitalized, officials said Monday.

Phosphine gas was likely released when water mixed with the pest control chemical, Amarillo fire officials said. A specific cause of death had not been released for the four children Monday afternoon. The other six people who were in the home are "not out of the woods yet," fire officials said.

Crews who responded to a 5 a.m. call to the home originally thought it was related to carbon monoxide poisoning, Amarillo fire Capt. Larry Davis said in a statement. One child died at the scene and three others died at a hospital.

Officials didn't release any identifying information, including the children's ages or whether they were related. Davis said all four people who died were residents of the home.

Davis told the Amarillo Globe-News he wasn't sure how long the residents had been exposed to the phosphine gas before a visitor arrived Monday and found everyone sick and called 911. Phosphine gas can cause respiratory failure and in severe cases can cause a pulmonary edema, which fills the lungs full of fluid, he said.

## South Texas fossil could be reptile that swam 90M years ago

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — A fossil found in limestone along a remote South Texas riverbed could be that of a dolphin-like reptile that swam in oceans 90 million years ago, according to paleontologists.

The discovery was made two years ago by petroleum geologist James Harcourt, who works for the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the state's oil and gas industry. It went largely unnoticed until a photo of the fossil appeared on the cover of the commission's 2016 annual report.

The find is unique because it appears to be a nearly complete fossil of an ichthyosaur, which grew to about 6 feet long and had the sleek body of a dolphin and long, toothy jaws of a dinosaur, the Houston Chronicle reports.

The fossil was found on private land near the border town of Del Rio as Harcourt and some colleagues were studying the Eagle Ford formation, which is one of the state's most productive shale oil basins. Harcourt spotted a row of bones imprinted on rock.

When the surface dirt was cleared away, Harcourt and his colleagues realized the limestone held a large skull, long spine and ribs.

"Very rarely do we get really complete skeletons out of the Eagle Ford," said Josh Lively, a doctoral candidate specializing in marine reptile fossils at the University of Texas. "Whenever you have an associated skeleton like this, when you have multiple parts of the animal, it's a really an important find."

Ichthyosaurs were disappearing from the seas when the Eagle Ford formed, some 88 million to 96 million years ago.

Lively said there's a chance it could be a plesiosaur, a much larger underwater reptile, and paleontologists won't know for sure until the bones are exhumed, which can only happen with the property owner's permission.

## Storms kill 4, damage buildings across Southern states



Emergency crews gather at the scene after a storm ripped through a mobile home killing several people in Rehobeth, Ala., Monday, Jan. 2, 2017.

By JEFF AMY

Associated Press

A powerful storm system that moved across the South on Monday killed four people in Alabama and left a trail of damage over several states, officials said.

The line of severe thunderstorms spawned several possible tornadoes, and the threat continued into early Tuesday for southern Alabama, southwest Georgia and the Florida Panhandle.

Four people were killed Monday evening when a tree fell on their mobile home in Rehobeth, Alabama, said Kris Ware, a spokeswoman for the Dothan Houston County Emergency Management Agency.

The National Weather Service had issued a tornado warning for Houston County in the southern part of the state Monday evening. Local media outlets reported that emergency officials advised residents to stay in their homes and assess damage in the morning.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said in a statement on social media that the Houston County sheriff had told him about the deaths and he offered "prayers for those impacted."

In Georgia, some of the heaviest rains were expected late Monday night and into the overnight hours of early Tuesday morning, forecasters said.

"There is a slight chance of damaging winds and tornadoes, however the highest probabilities are generally west of Interstate 75," said Sid King, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Peachtree City, Georgia, near Atlanta.

Parts of south Georgia could see as much as 3 inches of total rainfall from all the storms produced by the system now moving across southern states, King said.

State emergency officials reported no injuries or deaths in Louisiana and Mississippi, but a trip to Wal-Mart was memorable for some shoppers in Marksville, Louisiana, as severe weather blew out skylights in the store, sending water and glass cascading onto shoppers.

Marksville Fire Chief Jerry Bordelon said a fireworks stand in the Wal-Mart parking lot was tossed 30 or 40 yards and mangled. The storm also knocked

over 18-wheel truck trailers and punched holes in the Wal-Mart's roof. The fire department ordered shoppers to leave the store, but some didn't want to leave even as managers closed it.

"Believe it or not, we had some people in there who were still trying to shop," Bordelon said.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Erica Jones said the Arkansas-based company hopes to reopen the store Tuesday, but isn't sure that will happen, citing needed repairs to a natural gas line.

Storms in central Mississippi near Mendenhall and Mount Olive were preliminarily identified as tornadoes by the National Weather Service, based in part on radar signatures. Both storms damaged farm buildings and homes. Other possible tornadoes will be surveyed later.

In Louisiana, there was also relatively serious damage in the

See **STORM**, Page 5

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# Roof found competent for sentencing, gets extra prep day

By MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — After a judge ruled Monday that Dylann Roof is competent to represent himself, the same jury that last month unanimously found him guilty in the slayings of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church will return to court to begin contemplating his punishment.

With the 22-year-old representing himself, the process is sure to be unconventional. But even if Roof is sentenced to death, it's highly unlikely he'd be executed anytime soon.

While prosecutors plan to call up to 38 people related to the nine people killed and three who survived the June 2015 slaughter during Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, Roof said last week he plans on calling no witnesses and presenting no evidence.

Roof was found guilty last month on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion. A jury took less than three hours to return its verdict, and a judge dismissed the jury for a break over the holidays. That same jury returns to court Wednesday.

Typically in what's known as the sentencing phase, defense attorneys call relatives and other witnesses to testify about their client's unsteady state of mind before and during the crimes. Given that background, the defense hopes, a jury might be more likely to spare the defendant's life and opt against the death penalty.

But Roof, who is acting as his own attorney, has said he plans to do no such thing.

In his journal, which was read in court during his trial, Roof said he doesn't believe in psychology, which he called "a Jewish invention" that "does nothing but invent diseases and tell people they have problems when they don't."

Roof also seems determined to try to keep evidence embarrassing to him or his family out. Not only did he take over his own defense, but he asked the judge at a hearing last week if he could file a motion limiting what prosecutors can introduce.

Roof also was adamant that a transcript of a hearing where he was found mentally competent not be released to the public.

"I know this is not a legal argument, but the unsealing of the competency hearing defeats the purpose of me representing myself," Roof said at last week's hearing.

Neither Roof, nor U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel nor prosecutors have given specifics on the evidence Roof is objecting to.

On Thursday, Gergel ordered another competency evaluation of Roof "in an abundance of caution," after his standby counsel filed a sealed motion again questioning Roof's mental ability to proceed.

On Monday, over the objection of an attorney representing media outlets including The Associated Press, Gergel ordered the competency hearing to be closed to the public. Saying he'd have to sequester jurors if he opened up the proceedings, the judge promised to release a transcript after Roof is sentenced.

"This is an incredibly sensitive moment in this proceeding," Gergel said. "We are putting in the hands of 12 people the life and death of a person."

After a daylong hearing, Gergel ultimately ruled Roof is competent to stand trial and also to represent himself at sentencing. He also granted Roof's request for an extra day to prepare for his case.

Roof's lawyers tried repeatedly both to stop him from being his own lawyer and to work mental health-related evidence into the first phase of his trial, saying they feared Roof fired them because he feared the attorneys would present evidence that would embarrass him when trying to save his life. Prosecutors objected at every turn, and Gergel wouldn't allow any of it into court, ruling mitigation evidence is allowable during sentencing and not before.

Court papers show prosecutors are expected to present evidence showing Roof picked his victims because of their race, killed them to incite more violence, showed no remorse and killed three particularly vulnerable people who were 70 years old or older.

Evidence speaking to Roof's mental state, one expert argues, could make the difference between life and death.

"The Dylann Roof case is a classic example of the type of problem you can have when an obviously mentally ill or emotionally disturbed defendant is permitted to represent himself," said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. "There's a huge difference in the eyes of a jury between someone they perceive as evil or despicable and someone they perceive as being seriously mentally ill. ... If you take mental health out of it, you are putting a thumb



AP photo  
Charleston, S.C., shooting suspect Dylann Storm Roof is escorted from the Cleveland County Courthouse in Shelby, N.C.

on the scale of death."

Both the judge's decision to allow Roof to represent himself and waive the introduction of mental health evidence are sure to be raised in an inevitable appeal, Dunham argued.

## STORM

Continued from Page 4

southwestern parishes of Beauregard and Allen, including the town of Reeves. Some wind damage was also reported in Houston and throughout East Texas. Though Arkansas had also been included in warnings, there was only a stray report of hail in Jackson County in the northeast part of the state.

Tens of thousands lost power in Louisiana and Mississippi at the height of the storm, according to utilities.

Freddie Zeigler, a meteorologist in the Weather Service's New Orleans office, said heavy winds were preceding the squall line, possibly contributing to power outages.

It was the second episode of heavy rain within days for some areas. An area stretching from Biloxi, Mississippi, through Alabama and across Macon and Augusta, Georgia, received more than 4 inches of rain Monday, according to radar estimates. Parts of southern Mississippi and southwest Alabama have received more than 8 inches of rain since Saturday. Though rivers along the Gulf Coast were rising rapidly Monday, only minor flooding was predicted.



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### Steers back in action



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Jaiden Ludington, left, gets a shot off during a basketball game earlier this season. The Steers return to action tonight when they travel to Andrews. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

### Getting along

Jones: Cowboys counting on chemistry in playoffs

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott smiled widely and playfully shoved Tony Romo after the 10-year starter the Dallas rookie replaced finished his only drive of the regular season with a touchdown pass.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has been bragging all season about the chemistry in a delicate situation between his quarterbacks — along with the closeness of the rest of the locker room — and is counting on those bonds when Dallas opens the playoffs at home Jan. 15.

"You see a camaraderie," Jones said after the Cowboys lost to Philadelphia 27-13 despite the Romo TD while resting many regulars in the regular-season finale.

"You saw, just to start with, No. 9 and No. 4 and you saw really how genuine it is for them to be working together the way they are and really how exceptional that their situation is and how we're benefiting from it as a team."

The Cowboys (13-3) don't anticipate using Romo in the playoffs. Prescott and fellow first-year sensation Ezekiel Elliott will be the focal point regardless of the opponent in the first divisional game at AT&T Stadium, which opened in 2009.

Prescott played just two series and Elliott not at all against the Eagles. Linebacker Sean Lee sat from start to finish even though getting a few snaps would have allowed him to say he played all 16 games for the first time in an injury-filled career.

Elliott had to settle for third place on the NFL's rookie rushing list behind Eric Dickerson (Los Angeles Rams, 1983) and George Rogers (New Orleans, 1981).

See DALLAS, Page 12

### Texans unsure who'll be quarterback

HOUSTON (AP) — Coach Bill O'Brien said Monday he doesn't know who will start at quarterback for the Houston Texans in their wild-card playoff game against the Oakland Raiders on Saturday.

Tom Savage started Houston's last two games after Brock Osweiler was benched. But Savage's status for this week is in question after he suffered a concussion in the second quarter of a loss to Tennessee on Sunday.

"We gave the players a day off (Monday) so I haven't even seen the quar-

terbacks. So I'll have more for you on that (Tuesday)," O'Brien said.

He was then asked whether the decision will be based mostly on health.

"No I think there are a lot of different factors," he said. "Obviously health is part of it, no question about it ... (but) we moved the ball well — Brock did a nice job when he was in there, so there's a lot of different factors that go into it."

Osweiler struggled with consistency and turnovers in his 14 starts this season after signing a \$72 million contract in the offseason.

However, he looked better after taking over on Sunday and finished with 253 yards passing and a touchdown.

Savage played well when he took over for Osweiler in the second quarter against Jacksonville on Dec. 18, throwing for 260 yards to help Houston rally for the win. But he failed to move the offense consistently last week against Cincinnati and couldn't do much on Sunday before he was injured. He had just 25 yards passing.

While Houston waits to see whether Savage will be cleared to play, the Raid-

ers are also dealing with questions at quarterback after Matt McGloin left with a shoulder injury in his first start since Derek Carr broke his leg last week. Rookie Connor Cook took over and could have to make his first NFL start on Saturday if McGloin can't go.

The Texans' offense has underperformed this season after the team made a huge investment to upgrade that side of the ball. Houston's defense finished the regular season ranked

See TEXANS, Page 12

### Tech to be tested

Red Raiders face tough stretch of Big 12 games

AMES, Iowa (AP) — First-year coach Chris Beard got Texas Tech off to a fast start that engendered optimism in Lubbock.

The Red Raiders (11-2, 0-1 Big 12) were reminded in their Big 12 opener that life won't be nearly so easy in league play.

Texas Tech rolled off 11 wins out of 12 to open the season, including eight victories by at least 20 points. It looked like the Red Raiders might do the same to Iowa State on Friday, but a 7½-minute scoreless stretch doomed them to a 63-56 loss.

Tech hosts No. 7 West Virginia on Tuesday — and then must travel to face No. 3 Kansas on Saturday.

"I've got a lot of confidence and belief in our players. We've got a good team," Beard said after the loss to the Cyclones.

Despite the very real prospect of a 0-3 start to Big 12 play, Beard is probably right.

The Red Raiders had a tumultuous offseason after reaching the NCAA Tournament a year ago for the first time since 2007.

Coach Tubby Smith unexpectedly bolted for Memphis. Beard, a former longtime Tech assistant who coached last season at Arkansas-Little Rock, left UNLV after less than a month in Las Vegas to fill the void.

See TECH, Page 12

### News in brief

#### Evans scores 25, Rice puts Charlotte away in second half

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Marcus Evans scored 25 points and Rice pulled away from Charlotte in the second half to earn an 89-70 win on Monday night.

Evans finished 9 of 19 from the field in what was his eighth 20-plus point game of the season.

Egor Koulechov finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Owls (11-4, 1-1 Conference USA), while Marcus Jackson and Connor Cashaw each added 16 points.

Rice shot an even 50 percent from the field and won the rebounding battle by double digits (46-35).

Jon Davis finished with 23 points and Quentin Jackson added a season-high 19 to lead the 49ers (7-6, 1-1).

Charlotte had just seven total assists on its 27 made field goals. The Owls led 38-33 at the break and scored the first nine of the second half to seize a 14-point lead. An Evans 3-point play made it 82-64 with 3:38 left, and Rice cruised to the finish.

#### Lamar fends off Central Arkansas for 4th straight win

CONWAY, Ark. (AP) — Josh Nzeakor scored 22 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as Lamar held on to beat Central Arkansas for its fourth straight win on Monday night.

The game was the Southland Conference opener for both teams.

Joey Frenchwood added 14 points and seven assists while Colton Weisbrod had 13 points and 12 boards for the Cardinals (9-5, 1-0). Lamar hit 11 3-pointers while holding the Bears to just three on 27.3 percent shooting.

Jordan Howard finished with 21 points and Mathieu Kamba had 18 to lead Central Arkansas (2-13), which now has lost 10 of 11.

Lamar led the entire second half and 62-51 with 12:57 left. The Bears kept fighting, however, chipping their deficit to one (69-68) with 5:40 to go. But back-to-back baskets by Nzeakor and Frenchwood pushed the lead back to five, and a final layup by Nzeakor made it 78-72 with 1:24 left to ice it.

#### McCloud beats buzzer, Texas Southern upends Alcorn St. 67-65

LORMAN, Miss. (AP) — Jalan McCloud scored his only two points as time expired, lifting Texas Southern past Alcorn State 67-65 Monday night in the Southwestern Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Zach Lofton led the Tigers with 23 points and Kevin Scott added 15 points. Lofton made a pair of free throws with 42 seconds left for a 65-63 lead. Marquis Vance tied it with a layup 20 seconds later.

Texas Southern called timeout with 16 seconds left, and with two seconds on the clock, McCloud rebounded Demontrae Jefferson's missed shot and laid it in for the win.

Devon Brewer's layup with 13:03 before halftime put Alcorn State up 15-8 before the Tigers went on a 16-8 run and led 24-23 on Jefferson's layup with 6:44 remaining before the break. Texas Southern (5-9) led 39-35 at halftime. Regional Johnson scored 19 points and had nine rebounds for Alcorn State (3-9).

#### Nicholls holds off Texas A&M Corpus Christie, 68-64

THIBODAUX, La. (AP) — Ja'Dante Frye and DeAndre Harris combined to score 34 points and Nicholls held off Texas A&M Corpus Christie, 68-64 to win their second straight Southland Conference game Monday night.

Rashawn Thomas cut the Colonels' lead to three, 67-64 with 2:17 left, but Nicholls closed the game out when Johnathan Bell hit the first of two free throws with 15 seconds left.

Harris scored a career-high 42 points in the Colonels win over Incarnate Word in the conference opener and Frye added 23. Against the Islanders Frye scored 18 points while Harris knocked down 16 points. Nicholls (9-6, 2-0) shot 21 of 47 from the field (44.7 percent) and was 19 of 23 from the line.

#### Coastal Carolina slips past Texas State 60-53

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — Colton Ray-St Cyr scored 15 points, including the go-ahead 3-point play late in the second half, to lead Coastal Carolina to a 60-53 win over Texas State on Monday night.

Jaylen Shaw added 12 points and Demario Beck had nine rebounds to go with eight points for Coastal Carolina (6-9, 1-1 Sun Belt), which shot 50 percent from the field and controlled the boards 37-25.

The Chanticleers went cold in the first half, falling behind 17-10 during an eight-minute scoring drought, but fought back to trail by just three at the break.

The second half included six lead changes and Coastal Carolina edged on top for good with a 3-point play from Ray-St Cyr that made it 51-50 with 3:32 left, then pulled away at the free throw line in the final minute.

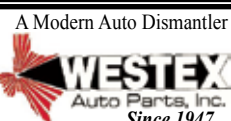


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**4**

By e-mail...  
classifieds@  
BigSpringHerald.com

**5**

By Mail...  
**P.O. Box 1431**



**HERALD**



HOLIDAY MATHIS

the world.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Some of the good questions have answers. But most of them just hang their, ripe, overhead and will continue to do so for many lifetimes, scenting the air with their sweetness, drawing our imaginations up and up and up.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Give yourself a wide margin for error. You won't need it, but this will keep you at the low stress level that allows for maximum poise and charisma to spare. You'll like whom this attracts.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Laughter usually bonds people, but be aware that it can also alienate people. Not everyone has your stellar sense of humor, especially when it comes to kidding that's a little too close for home. Sensitivity required.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** From Hitchcock to Shakespeare, the best storytellers know to leave the most intense scenes off the stage and let the audience fill in the blanks with imagination. You'll benefit from

Venus Transit Encourages Acting 'As If'

So you're unsure. No one else has ever lived this day, either. It's a fresh scenario: Everyone is equally clueless. So don't be like that reality game-show contestant who uses "I've never done anything like this before..." as a disclaimer for the results. The current Venus transit will help you imagine and act with confidence whether or not you feel it.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Feel scattered? Think of it as a prolonged state of brainstorming. You're searching for one small new thing to add to your life to brighten your mood and enhance the impression you make on

Tomorrow's Horoscope

doing the same. Say nothing. Let them fill in the blanks.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The social technology that is supposed to facilitate human connection often has the opposite effect, drawing us into a social fantasy while we ignore those who actually exist at an arm's length. Don't let it happen to you and yours.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Greatness and inner strength go hand in hand. You develop it the same way you do physical strength -- by doing hard things over and over. It's why you choose to stick to this job until it's done.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The animals have an effect on you, and you'll be more keenly aware of this. Whether you care for an animal or just admire the natural world, you'll be enriched by other lifeforms today.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Being in control of a small part of your environment will make you feel in control of your whole world. To extend the idea, what you do for your body,

you'll do for your life.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** When it comes to "getting over it," there's no time limit. Take as long as you need. Just know that until you're "over it," it will be hard to get "on with it," so it's in your own best interest not to wallow.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** The concept of one person not being good enough for another person is truly false. There are better matches and worse matches, but no one is inherently better than anyone else.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Life doesn't usually offer closure in any kind of neat form. Endings often aren't. And even when they are, they can be so long and drawn out, you might as well say "so long" instead of "goodbye."

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I was born on May 13, 1960. Yes, a Friday. The man I am dating was born on April 13th, 1973, also a Friday. We are 13 years apart in age and have other quirky '13' things surrounding our relationship. For example, we met on March 13, 2004. What is in store for us?"

Western culture has had negative associations with the number 13 for hundreds of years. There's even a name for the fear of 13: "triskaidekaphobia." Many modern elevators skip floor 13 all together, naming it 14 instead. In pop music history, John Mayer has 14 tracks on his debut album, although the unlisted 13th is 0.2 seconds of silence. There are other cultures in the world, in China and Italy for instance, who consider 13 to be lucky. In your case, the number 13 is not only lucky; it symbolizes an attitude

you have as a couple -- you and me against the world! The world is actually very much on your side, but the fierce loyalty you show one another provides protection from the harsher elements of reality. You stand up for one another and are not afraid to be different. You're envied because of this. I see you buying property together this year. Try to sign the contract on the 13th!

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** British author, poet and professor J.R.R. Tolkien saw many of his friends perish in World War I, and out of his firsthand knowledge of war's evils he created the epic mythological battles in "The Lord of the Rings" and other works. Tolkien was born when the sun and Mercury were in ambitious Capricorn, and the moon and Venus were in altruistic, philanthropic Aquarius.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit [www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis](http://www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis) and click "Contact."  
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Annie's Mailbox

Living Independently

**Dear Annie:** I moved out and started living on my own several years ago, and I have fallen in love with living independently. However, over the years, my parents' insistence that I move back near home has increased. Despite being only an hour away by plane (about 300 miles), they insist that I "need to be within driving distance in case anything happens."

My parents are both still working and by no means need to be cared for. If they do need to be cared for when they're older, I will probably move back closer to them. I'm an only child.

But right now, the guilt tripping is getting out of hand, and it makes me enjoy my phone calls with them less. Lately, I don't feel like calling them much, but that bums me out, too. How do I let my parents know that I need to be on my own without hurting their feelings? -- Child

Forever

**Dear Child:** As annoying as it might be, you will always be their little girl, and I'm sure they are just missing you. Don't let them make you feel guilty. You might point out to them that they did such a great job raising you that you have the self-confidence to live independently and start your own life. You're only 300 miles away -- which, by the way, is driving distance -- so perhaps plan a few more trips home this year. And who knows? If you decide to have kids someday, you might want to be close to home so Grandma and Grandpa can help with baby-sitting.

**Dear Annie:** This is in response to last month's letter from "Dog Lover," who wants to get another dog but can't because his wife has refused. I can understand the wife's position. I have been married for over 53 years and have had many cats and dogs as pets in the household. Granted, I have been the one to bring them home, but I have also been the one who has done all the caretaking. My animals have always been trained and well-treated. My husband has enjoyed them all but has never put the time in. I have to do the work necessary to have a healthy, happy pet.

A dog is like a child. Someone has to train it (which most people don't even know how to do) feed it, give it quality time, clean up after it, take it to see a doctor, be prepared to expend large amounts of money on it if necessary, groom it, keep it clean and, most of all, love it like a family member.

Many people get pets and then, after a while, totally drop the ball, ignoring or even abusing it. Then it's off to the pound or thrown out of a car on a back road.

I suggest that this man volunteer at a shelter. When the right animal comes along, he can invite his wife to meet it, and they

can decide together whether they want the responsibility of a pet and discuss who would be responsible for what. If they decide together it's the right thing to do for them, then they can give a needy furry friend a home.

All my pets have been rescue animals, and they have all been wonderful family pets. -- Mary

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com). To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
Brilliant defensive play

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 3 2  
♥ A 4  
♦ 5 4  
♣ A K Q 9 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ A 6 4  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 8 7 3 2  
♣ 7 6 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 9 8 5  
♥ K Q J 10 8 6 5  
♦ —  
♣ 10

**SOUTH**  
♠ J 7  
♥ 7 3  
♦ A K Q J 10 9 6  
♣ J 8

The bidding:  
South West North East  
3 NT Pass 6♦ (!) 6♥  
Pass Pass 6 NT

Opening lead — ?

Some top players prefer to treat an opening bid of three notrump as preemptive, indicating a long, solid minor suit with very few honor cards on the side. Their contention is that the balanced 25- to 27-point hand normally associated with a three-notrump opening occurs so infrequently that it is counterproductive to reserve a special bid for it.

Consider this deal from Victor Mollo's book "The Finer Arts of Bridge." South starts the proceedings

with a "gambling three notrump." North realizes immediately that his partner's long suit is diamonds and that a slam in diamonds is likely to be laydown with the North hand as declarer, so he bids six diamonds.

East, at favorable vulnerability, contests the vulnerable slam by bidding six hearts. Frustrated by this development, North decides to risk six notrump. Everybody passes, and West finds himself on lead.

West, no green hand at the game, carefully considers his lead and then chooses the six of spades as his opening salvo! It is hard to blame declarer for playing low from dummy; from his viewpoint, West is far more likely to have led from the queen of spades than the ace. And so, declarer quickly goes down one.

How can West be smart enough to underlead an ace against a slam? The answer is easy enough. West reasons that North almost surely has a long, powerful minor suit of his own, and that the reason he did not bid six notrump originally, instead of six diamonds, was because he wanted to guard against a spade lead through his king by making himself declarer.

West's only real hope, therefore, is that East has the queen of spades and dummy the king — either with or without the jack — and that declarer will misguess the situation.

Tomorrow: The bidding tells the tale.  
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sudoku

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

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

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to Life?

Tired of the same old routine at home? Look for an exciting new job in the classifieds!

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	The List Mod Fam	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Justice Called	Focus Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Movie: The Help, Bryce Dallas Howard (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Base Stars In.	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang ET	News	Caso Cerrado	News	J. McGee	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	College Basketball: Wisconsin at Indiana.	College Basketball	Big East UFC	NCIS (DVS)	Intervention	Moonshiners	
7:PM	Middle House	Despertar Contigo	New Girl The Mick	NCIS (DVS)	Silvana Sin Lana	The Wall	Upd M:25	American Masters	Griffith	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld			Mavs Pre. NBA Basketball: Wizards at Mavericks	WWE SmackDown!	Intervention	Moonshiners: Outlaw	
8:PM	Fresh O'Neals	Vino el Amor	(01) Bones	Bull	La Doña (SS)	Chicago Fire	Light of the Southwest		MacGyver	No Tomorrow	Big Bang	Good Behavior	College Basketball	College Basketball			Intervention	Moonshiners
9:PM	David Blaine	El color de la pasión	News TMZ	NCIS: New Orleans	El Chema (SS)	Chicago P.D.		Frontline (DVS)	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Good Behavior				Shooter (DVS)	Leah Remini Killing Fields	
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	The Last Ship	SportsCenter	NFL Live	Mavs Sportsday	Incorporated	Leah Remini	(02) Moonshiners
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men Cleveland	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios Vida	Newsline (Off Air)	Rules	Broke Girl	Conan	The Last Ship	SportsCenter	Basket 30 for 30	World Poker Tour	Law & Order: SVU	(03) Intervention	(02) Killing Fields
12:AM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	James Corden	La Doña (SS)	Seth Meyers	Upd	Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Raising Cheaters	Seinfeld		The Last Ship	SportsCenter	Sport Sci.	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Mavericks	Shooter (DVS)	(12:03) Intervention	Moonshiners
1:AM	Cowboys	Extra	La Mujer del Middle	Insider	El Chema (SS)	News	Chevalme	Mannix	Cheaters	Mr. 3000.	Movie: The Last Ship	The Last Ship	SportsCenter	30 for 30	Law Order: CI	Leah Remini	(04) Moonshiners	

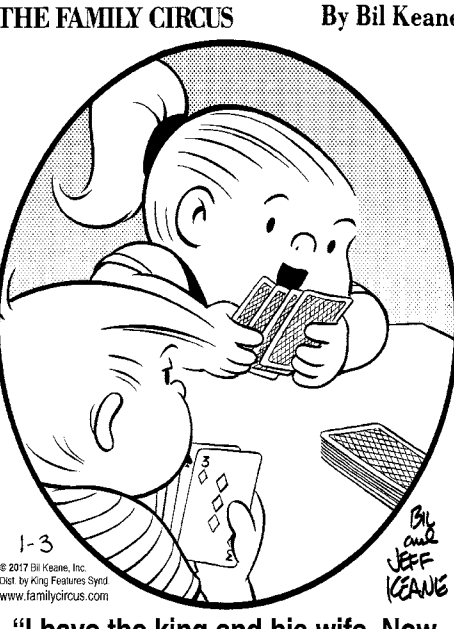
DENNIS THE MENACE



"IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LIFE, BUT IT SURE BEATS TRYING TO GO TO SLEEP."

BC

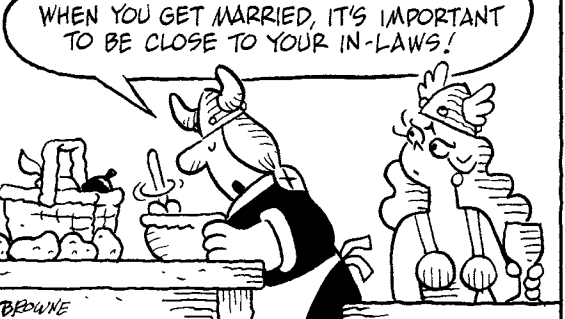
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I have the king and his wife. Now all I need is their son Jack."

By Bil Keane

HAGAR

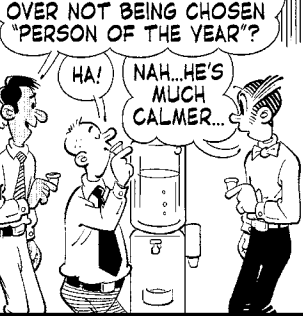


WHEN YOU GET MARRIED, IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE CLOSE TO YOUR IN-LAWS!

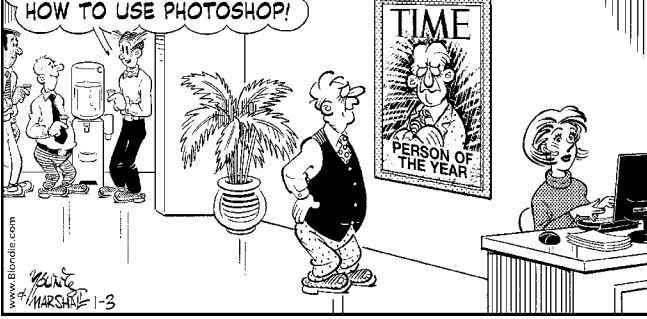


SO YOU CAN HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT YOU!

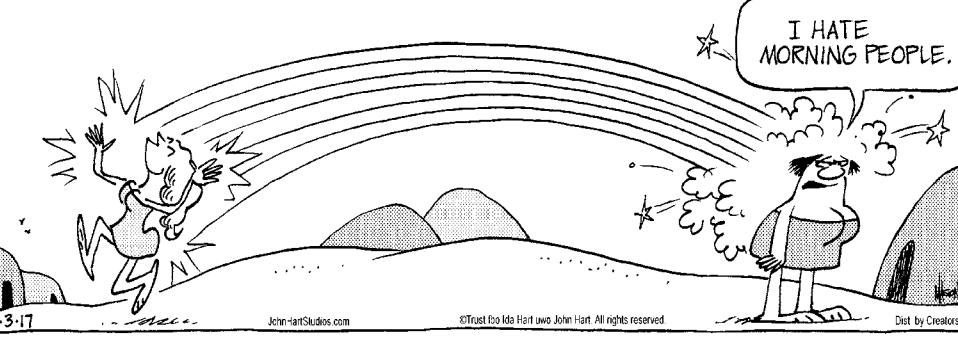
BLONDIE



SO...IS DITHERS OBSESSING OVER NOT BEING CHOSEN 'PERSON OF THE YEAR'?



SINCE MARLENE TAUGHT HIM HOW TO USE PHOTOSHOP!



I HATE MORNING PEOPLE.

WIZARD OF ID



UG... NOTHING BUT MISERABLE RAIN...



TRY THINKING POSITIVE

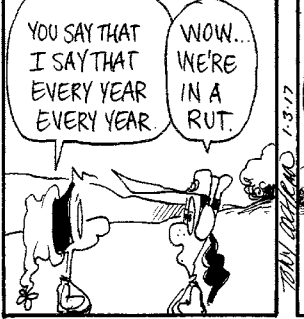


WOW, IT'S WORKING!

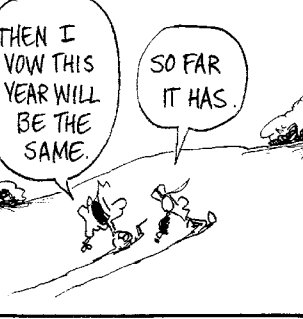
AGNES



I VOW THIS YEAR WILL BE DIFFERENT!

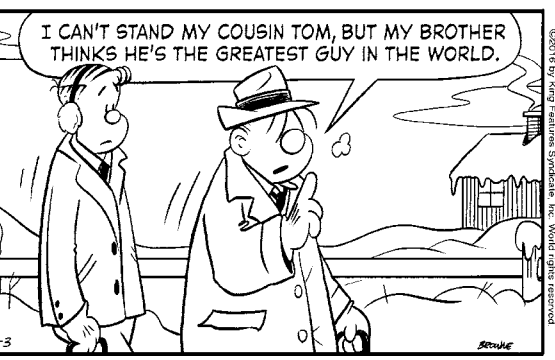


YOU SAY THAT EVERY YEAR

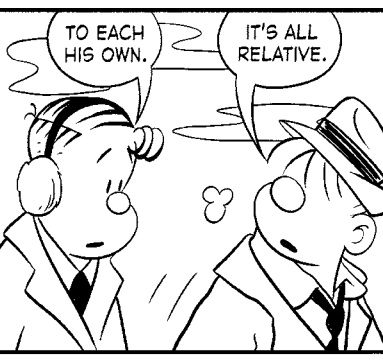


SO FAR IT HAS.

HI AND LOIS

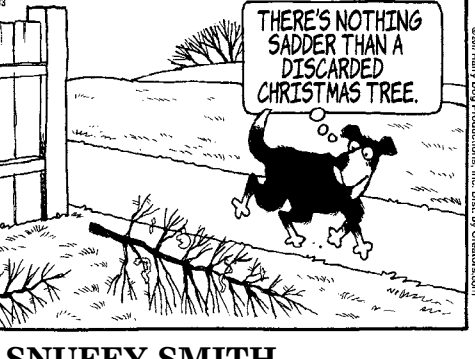


I CAN'T STAND MY COUSIN TOM, BUT MY BROTHER THINKS HE'S THE GREATEST GUY IN THE WORLD.



TO EACH HIS OWN. IT'S ALL RELATIVE.

THE OTHER COAST



THERE'S NOTHING Sadder THAN A DISCARDED CHRISTMAS TREE.

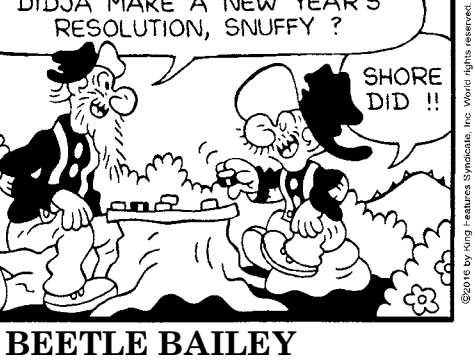


IT'S DREAMS OF GROWING UP TO BE A TOWERING FOREST GIANT DASHED.



WHAT'S Sadder IS IT NEVER EVEN GOT TO HAVE FIR CONES OF ITS OWN.

SNUFFY SMITH

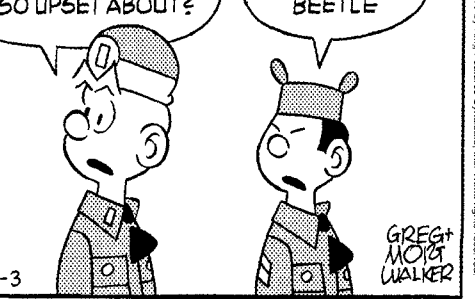


DIDJA MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, SNUFFY?



MADE IT !! BROKE IT !! ALREADY MULLIN' MY OPTIONS FER NEXT YEAR !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



WHAT'S SARGE SO UPSET ABOUT? USUALLY, IT'S THE BEETLE



GRRRR! TODAY, IT'S THE WORLD

GREG MOT WALKER

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2017. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 3, 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

On this date: In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1870, groundbreaking took place for the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1892, J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, was born in Bloemfontein (BLOOM'-fahn-tayn), South Africa.

In 1911, the first postal savings banks were opened by the U.S. Post Office. (The banks were abolished in 1966.)

In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who himself had been afflicted with the crippling disease.

In 1946, William Joyce, the

pro-Nazi radio propagandist known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was hanged at Wandsworth Prison in London for high treason.

In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Makkula Jr.

In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a former employee.

In 1997, Bryant Gumbel signed off for the last time as host of NBC's "Today" show.

Ten years ago: Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a ceremony watched by thousands of onlookers. Four Americans and an Austrian abducted in southern Iraq spoke briefly and appeared uninjured in a video delivered to The Associated Press. (The men, security contractors for the Crescent Security Group based in Kuwait, were later killed by their captors.)

Five years ago: The Iowa Republican Party held its caucuses; although Mitt Romney was originally considered the winner by an extremely narrow eight-vote margin, officials later said that Rick Santorum had in fact beaten Romney by 34 votes; in the Democratic caucuses, President Barack Obama ran unopposed. A gas pipeline in central Syria exploded; the government blamed "terrorists" while the opposition accused officials of playing on fears of religious extremism and terrorism to rally support behind President Bashar Assad.

One year ago: Republican presidential contender Donald Trump brushed off an African militant group's video that showed him calling for Muslims to be banned from coming to the U.S. saying what he thought. Saudi Arabia announced it was severing dip-

Answer to previous puzzle

DEAN	SLUG	SCARE
EXPO	PINE	TOWEL
CURB	EMIT	PLEAS
ODIE	NOTICE	ABLE
YELLED	STAT	
PASS	SENATE	
CHART	PIPE	OGRE
MINI	TUNES	VEAL
FOZ	TRKS	WASPS
NINEAM	TIES	
LESS	NECTAR	
NOSEAROUND	ORSO	
AREAS	NICE	TACO
REASK	ATON	IMOK
COTTA	REST	APTS

1/3/17

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Have a fainting spell
  - 6 Wholeness
  - 10 Church seats
  - 14 Spinet or baby grand
  - 15 "Uh-huh!"
  - 16 Feel sore
  - 17 Starts a poker pot
  - 18 Hard to find
  - 19 "My country, 'tis of"
  - 20 Doctors: Abbr.
  - 21 Horse-racing prize
  - 24 Neck of the woods
  - 25 Menagerie
  - 26 Pesto herb
  - 28 Overemphasize
  - 32 Coat of arms
  - 34 Dylan or Hope
  - 36 Quaint hotels
  - 37 Sailor's "yes"
  - 38 Honolulu's island
  - 39 Self-image
  - 40 Meeting of global leaders
  - 44 At a sharp vertical angle
  - 46 Bothered greatly
  - 47 Atlas page
  - 48 Barbell metal
  - 49 Reward for a great server
  - 54 "Be Prepared" org.
  - 57 Aroma
  - 58 Animal shelter org.
  - 59 "This \_\_\_ your fault!"
  - 61 Awestruck

- DOWN
- 1 Unwanted email
  - 2 \_\_\_-chill factor
  - 3 Grains in granola
  - 4 Dollar bill
  - 5 One of a facial pair
  - 6 Damascus' nation
  - 7 Jump
  - 8 \_\_\_ Grey tea
  - 9 Breathes noisily
  - 10 Sentry duty

- HIGH POINTS by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
- 11 Sound rebound
  - 12 "That's a relief!"
  - 13 Viewed
  - 22 Wended (on)
  - 23 Young stallion
  - 24 Without a guarantee
  - 26 Hair over the forehead
  - 27 "Are so!" response
  - 28 In an unemotional way
  - 29 Garden invader
  - 30 44th president
  - 31 \_\_\_ game (pitcher's dream)
  - 32 Preceder of "foe" and "fum"
  - 33 Astronomer Sagan
  - 35 Nothing \_\_\_ (totally)
  - 38 Prophetic sign
  - 40 Be dressed in
  - 41 Runs against
  - 42 Dress of India
  - 43 Highly idealistic
  - 45 Come forth
  - 48 Boot-shaped country
  - 49 Bearded farm animal
  - 50 Feeling nervous
  - 51 Cozy corner
  - 52 No later than
  - 53 Read electronically
  - 54 Taverns
  - 55 Narrow opening
  - 56 Partner in battle
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# Gordon, Harden lead Rockets to win

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had another triple-double, though this one wasn't record-setting like his last. Still, it was enough to help the Houston Rockets to their fifth straight win.

Harden had 23 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds and Eric Gordon scored 31 points to lead

the Rockets to a 101-91 win over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Harden's ninth triple-double of the season was a rocky follow-up to his brilliant New Year's Eve performance where he had 53 points, 17 assists and 16 rebounds against the Knicks and became the first player

in NBA history with a 50-15-15 game.

In this one, Harden committed six turnovers and was just 2 for 11 on 3-pointers after going 9 for 16 against New York.

Anderson scored eight points on 3-for-7 shooting from the field, including 2 for 5 on 3s) to help Houston start off

the new month with a win following a 15-2 December.

Bradley Beal had 27 points for the Wizards after missing Friday night's game against Brooklyn with a right ankle sprain.

Gordon hit a deep 3 to give Houston an eight-point lead with two minutes remaining and

later stretched the lead to 10 with a layup with a little more than a minute left.

Washington had a 53-41 lead at halftime, thanks in large part to Houston's eight turnovers and poor shooting from beyond the arc. The Rockets were just 2 of 17 on 3s in the first half but made 10 of 22 in

the second half to turn the game around.

"At the beginning of the game, they were dead — I felt like we were going to win the game by double digits just by the way we were flowing and they had no rhythm," Beal said. "In the second half, it was just a totally different game."

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 6

first in yards allowed despite losing J.J. Watt early on, but the revamped offense was among the worst in the league, ranking 29th by averaging just 314.7 yards a game.

O'Brien discussed his disappointment in the offense not living up to expectations.

"Obviously no it hasn't," he said. "We haven't coached good enough, haven't performed good enough on offense. Look in the mirror on that. We're going to work very hard to figure out what's the best way to move the ball

against Oakland. But look, what's happened happened and this is a new week and a new season, and I know our guys will come in ready to go."

Whoever starts at quarterback for Houston this week should get a boost with the return of running back Lamar Miller, who has missed the last two games with an ankle injury. Miller has 1,073 yards rushing and five touchdowns in his first year with the Texans after spending his first four years with the Dolphins.

"He's feeling better," O'Brien said. "He's been a very productive player for us this year, so we're looking forward to getting him back."

## TECH

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But Smith left Beard with the ingredients needed to compete in the Big 12.

The Red Raiders have size, depth and experience, with five veteran starters led by point guard Keenan Evans and forward Zach Smith. Tech also spreads the ball around — four players average at least 11.5 points per game — and it's among the best rebounding teams in the country, at over plus-11 per outing.

Still, the Red Raiders' 11-1 start was questioned because it came against one of the weakest nonconference schedules in the county. They split their two biggest challenges, losing 67-65 to Auburn on a neutral floor and beating Richmond 79-72.

"Even though we're an experienced team in a lot of ways, we do have some players that have never played in the Big 12. And as much as you try to explain it or as much as you try and challenge yourself with nonconference games ... it's not the Big 12 until you get here. So I think it's a great learning experience. It's an 18-round fight," Beard said.

For the first 30 minutes of the first round, Tech looked

like a Big 12 contender.

The Red Raiders flummoxed the Cyclones on their home floor, a rare sight at Hilton Coliseum, and jumped ahead by as many as 14. But with defeat looming, Iowa State coach Steve Prohm went to a four-guard lineup and the explosive Cyclones got rolling.

Iowa State got Tech out of the deliberate pace it prefers and the Red Raiders crumbled. Texas Tech shot just 26 percent from the floor and was outscored 38-21 in the second half.

It'll be up to the Red Raiders to prove whether their inability to close out the Cyclones was a fluke.

## DALLAS

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Prescott's short stint preserved the highest rookie passer rating in NFL history (104.9), but the loss left him tied with Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger for most wins by a rookie at 13.

Not that any of those numbers matter now.

"Eyes are all on the playoff game," Prescott said. "We will wait to see who our opponent is. But in the meantime, we will get better this week, makes ourselves better in every way

that we can. Then when we figure out who it is, continue to get better and ready for that opponent."

The Cowboys thought they had good chemistry the last time they were in this position nine years ago, with Romo leading the way to the same record after a loss to finish the regular season when the top seed in the NFC, home-field advantage in the playoffs, was already wrapped up.

Romo was criticized for making a side trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, with then-girlfriend

Jessica Simpson before Dallas lost the first playoff game to the New York Giants.

The crushing loss prompted receiver Terrell Owens to say, tearfully, "He's my quarterback," on a day Jones still calls perhaps his worst in 27 years as owner.

A year later, Owens was dumped in the offseason in a move that Jones labeled "Romo-friendly" after reports of a divided locker room following a 9-7 season that kept the Cowboys out of the playoffs.

Tight end Jason Wit-

ten was at the center of that controversy because of his close relationship with Romo. He just finished his 14th season, 17 yards from breaking Hall of Famer Michael's Irvin franchise record of 11,904 yards receiving.

"I think, specifically, this football team has a true identity in how it plays," Witten said. "You talk about family and togetherness and that is what this team is all about. The spirit of this group is really special. Now we have to recommit to that."

Coach Jason Garrett

was the offensive coordinator in 2007 and kept his job through 8-8 records in his first three full seasons after replacing Wade Phillips.

After guiding Dallas to the NFC East title at 12-4 two years ago, followed by 4-12 mostly without

Romo last season, he has the Cowboys back on top with the third 13-3 finish in franchise history.

"It's not really a time for reflection," Garrett said. "This is a time to get our eyes forward and get back to work."

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