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Tech players unite, focus on bowl game

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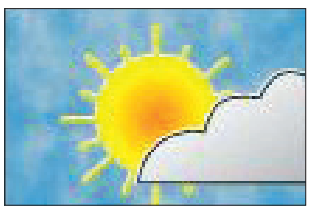


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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

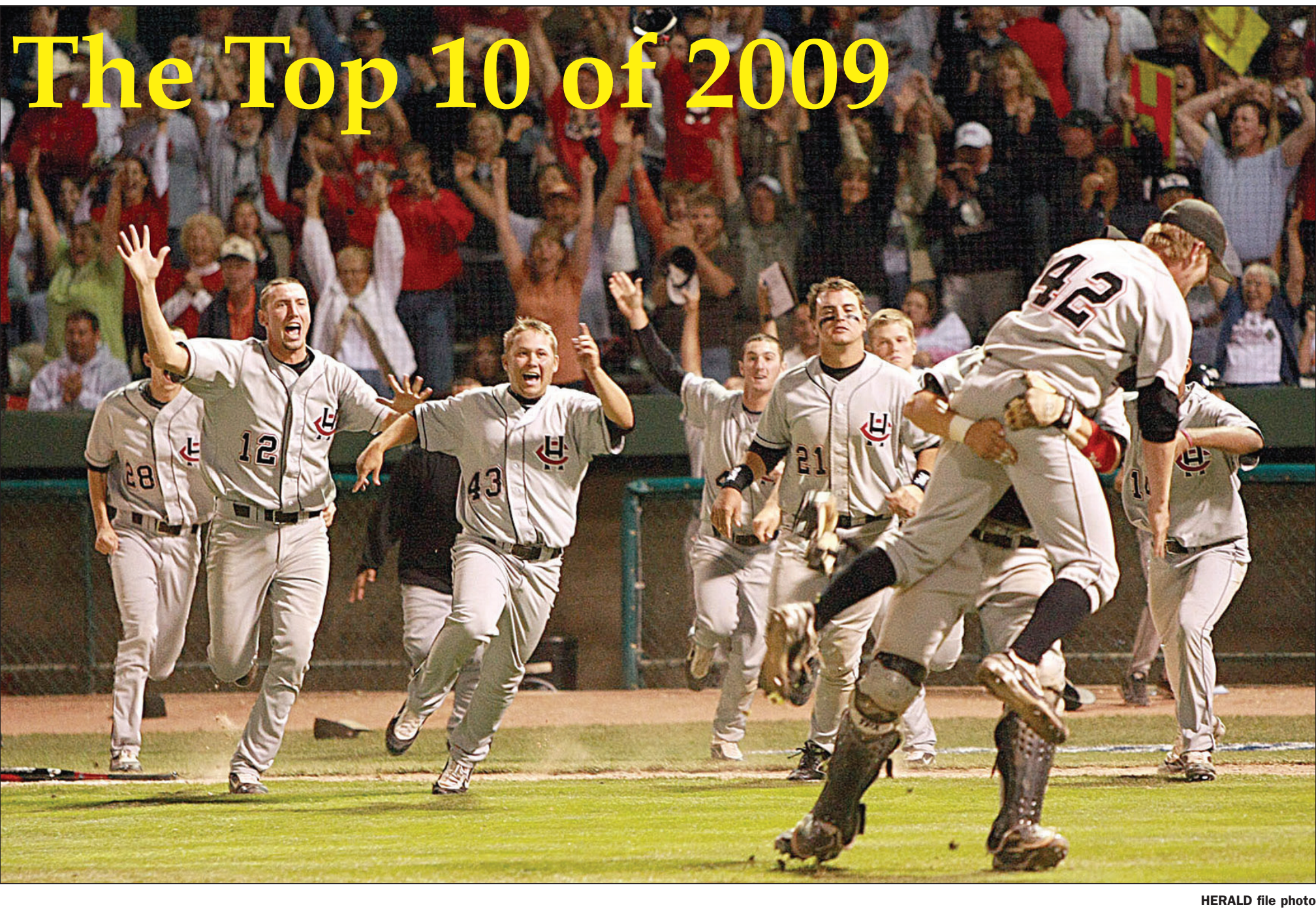
JANUARY 1, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 22

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HERALD file photo

Members of the Howard College baseball team rush the field after the Hawks defeated Santa Fe (Fla.) College in the championship game of the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament in Grand Junction, Colo.

Construction, celebration highlight year

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The year just past had a little bit of everything for Big Spring and surrounding area.

You want cheers? How about four state or national championship teams. Tears? There were plenty of those, as well, mostly because of an increase in the crime rate.

Needless to say, there was plenty of news, both good and bad, in 2009. Following are the top 10 news stories for this area, as determined by the Herald editorial staff:

No. 1: Construction projects

It seemed that Howard County was just one big hard hat zone in 2009 as taxpayer-funded construction projects abounded in the area.

The top construction project, of course, was the long-awaited completion of the new Howard County Jail, which opened its doors last April.

Replacing the existing jail had been a subject of controversy and multiple bond elections for the past few decades, but finally became reality after voters approved an $11 million bond in 2008. Construction began later that year and was completed by mid-2009.

While the jail was the major construction project of the year, it had lots of company.

Most notable for Big Spring motorists, of course, was the work on Gregg, Scurry, Lancaster and Main streets, which were ongoing at year's end.

The renovation of Scurry, Lancaster and Main was funded by $5.86 million bond approved by Big Spring voters in 2006, but work did not begin in earnest until mid-2009. Renovation of Gregg Street was overseen by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Also undergoing extensive renovation was Howard College. The Birdwell Lane campus underwent a major facelift thanks to a $21 million bond approved by voters in 2007.

Almost every building will be renovated during the project, which is expected to continue until 2011. Also, extensive upgrades to the college's sewer, electrical, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems are scheduled.

While Big Spring projects gained a full head of steam in 2009, renovation of Coahoma Independent School District campuses reached completion last year.

CISD renovations, approved by voters in 2007, included two new classroom wings at the high school, a new athletic field house, fire suppression upgrades at the elementary school and major upgrades of sewer, electrical, heating and air-conditioning systems at all campuses.

No. 2: Banner year in sports

The cry of "We're Number One" was heard across the Crossroads area in 2009, as area sports teams brought home championship trophies.

First up on the winner's platform was the Howard College Hawks baseball team, which captured the school's second-ever national championship with a 7-4 victory over Sante Fe (Fla.) College in the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament in Grand Junction, Colo. last May.

The championship capped an unforgettable season for the Hawks, who set a national JUCO record for consecutive wins and were ranked No. 1 in the country for most of the season.

Tournament most valuable player Andrew Collazo put the championship game out of reach for Howard (which finished the season with a 63-1 won-loss record) by driving in two runs in the 10th inning. Collazo also was named outstanding defensive player

See **YEAR**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

Visitors take a look at the new Howard County Jail during an open house at the facility in April.

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Friday, January 1, 2010

NEW YEAR BOWL PREVIEW EDITION

Buckeyes, Ducks converge in Rose Bowl

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Green jerseys with silver feathers on the shoulders, topped by white helmets.

That appears to be the answer to perhaps the most-asked question of Rose Bowl week: Just what will the fashion-forward Oregon Ducks wear for their first post-season trip to Pasadena in 15 years?

"We expected them to do something wild and crazy for coming back to the Rose Bowl," said a vaguely disappointed Ohio State defensive lineman Doug Worthington. "We'll go out there and look at it for about 30 seconds, and then we'll forget it."

There's no such mystery around Ohio State, which will wear the latest version of the white-and-gray ensemble that has suited the Buckeyes since well before their last Rose Bowl 13 years ago.

"But we care about this part the most, and I think they do, too," Ohio State safety Kurt Coleman said Wednesday, pointing to the Rose Bowl emblem on his jersey's shoulder.

Beyond that patch, the ever-evolving Ducks (10-2) and the tradition-rich Buckeyes (10-2) seem to have little in common in their approaches to offenses, uniforms and everything in between. Their many contrasts could make for a compelling game Friday in two powerful programs' overdue returns to the Rose Bowl.

"We've all heard about how much being in this particular game means to our fans and our alumni," Ohio State receiver Dane Sanzenbacher said. "Everybody knows this is your real goal every season when you're a Big Ten or a Pac-10 team. It feels good to be part of that tradition coming back."

Oregon has its well-deserved reputation as

See **ROSE**, Page 2B

Bearcats appreciate Florida's fame

Associated Press



APPhoto/ Bill Haber

Cincinnati interim head coach and offensive coordinator Jeff Quinn talks to receiver Mardy Gilyard. The Bearcats are undefeated underdogs.

NEW ORLEANS — There's only one unbeaten team in the Sugar Bowl, and it's not the one everybody's talking about.

Although Cincinnati is 12-0 and the champion of the Big East, the Bearcats have been largely overshadowed by the focus on Tim Tebow's last college game and Urban Meyer's resignation-turned-indefinite leave.

"All the focus should be on Florida," Cincinnati defensive end Alex Daniels said. "They have one of the greatest players to ever play the game and they've got an awesome coach who's going through a problem right now."

"We just feel like it doesn't matter. It's always been like that. We always get overlooked and we don't feel like it's a problem," Daniels added. "There's all this stuff outside of football right now that's the focus anyway. It's not even the game that's being talked about right now. It's health issues, coaching issues."

Indeed, Cincinnati has coaching issues, too, though the Bearcats have had a couple weeks to digest Brian Kelly's departure for Notre Dame and the arrival of new coach Butch Jones, who intends to linger in the background until after the bowl game.

The announcement of Meyer's short-lived resignation from Florida came last Saturday, drowning out Cincinnati's arrival in New Orleans that same day. The Gators (12-1) traveled to the Big Easy the following day, and Meyer said he'd changed his mind and had instead decided to take an indefinite leave of absence while dealing with unspecified health issues.

Cincinnati's leading receiver, Florida native Mardy Gilyard, was not at all bothered by all the fawning over the Gators.

"We only have two BCS appearances in our history, this being the second one," Gilyard said Tuesday. "I mean, Florida ... I can name for days all the great backs that went there, all the great receivers that went there, all the great QBs, the great coaches that have been there. They just have this history that's forever-and-a-day long. It's 100 miles long. So you have to respect that. If you're a fan of football, you have to respect the greats."

Rather than worry about getting their due, Cincinnati players seem to be relishing how all the emerging story lines surrounding this game are generating additional hype.

"There's nowhere to hide from this game and we're just excited to be a part of this," quarterback Tony Pike said. "A lot of the talk has been about Florida and our season's kind of been overshadowed by the coaching changes and everything. This team knows what we've done on the field and that

See **SUGAR**, Page 3B

Tech players unite, focus on bowl game

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Hours after Texas Tech fired coach Mike Leach on Wednesday, the Red Raiders tried projecting a message of family, solidarity and optimism.

No pirate talk. No bizarre tangents. No remarks about "fat little girlfriends."

"When I heard it was a little bit of shock, but at the same time in the business, you learn that anything can happen," Texas Tech interim coach Ruffin McNeill said.

McNeill's first public words following Leach's firing were mostly serious and by-the-book — the antithesis of Leach's usual quirkiness that he exhibited over the past 10 years while becoming the winningest football coach in school history.

McNeill sought to begin a new era in the wake of the turmoil wrought by allegations Leach mistreated wide receiver Adam James after the sophomore was diagnosed with a concussion this month. James alleges he was twice confined to a small, dark place while the rest of the team practiced.

McNeill declined to answer whether he felt Leach deserved to be fired, and instead tried to turn the focus back to Saturday's game against Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl.

McNeill said players handled the news of the dismissal mostly well.

"I broke it to them, and I felt it best that a family member broke it to the next family member," McNeill said. "It was tough, but at the same time, I know that in that situation that I showed the professionalism that was needed. I keep going back to that word."

Professionalism is not how Texas Tech described Leach's tumultuous end with the Red Raiders.

Leach, who earlier this season chastised his players for listening to their "fat little girlfriends," was called defiant and insubordinate by Texas Tech for his handling of James' complaint.

Leach left his hotel Wednesday in San Antonio while McNeill held his news conference several blocks away. Approached by a reporter, Leach said no comment before being asked a question. Asked how he felt Texas Tech treated him throughout the last two weeks, Leach responded, "I think that's apparent."

Nittany Lions, QB Daryll Clark ready for another big bowl game

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — His hands cocked back with the football, Daryll Clark weaved around practice field obstacles as if he were getting ready to fire another touchdown pass.

It was the start of the last practice before the last game of his record-setting Penn State career, yet a nagging question hovers over the charismatic star quarterback.

Does Clark need to perform well and lead the No. 11 Nittany Lions to a win over No. 13 LSU in Friday's Capital One Bowl to quiet critics who say he doesn't produce in big games?

"It's not getting to me, but it's an unfair statement to the rest of the team. It's to the point where the team has been talking about it ... seeing it on the Internet," Clark said after Wednesday's practice. "That's not why we're down here ... we're not here to cement my so-called legacy."

Clark and linebacker Sean Lee met with reporters one final time as Penn State captains, role models for players who want to learn how to lead a football team.

Lee, a fifth-year senior, is the last player on the roster to have played in the Orange Bowl win over Florida State that capped the program's comeback 2005 season.

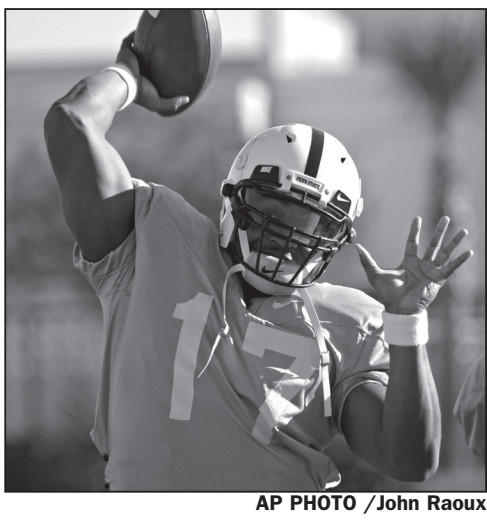
Clark already has left a lasting imprint on the record books, holding school marks for most touchdown passes in a season (23 in 2009) and a career (42). He also owns the Penn State record for career rushing scores by a quarterback (22).

Though not as experienced or polished as Clark, LSU has a similar run-pass threat at QB with sophomore Jordan Jefferson.

"They're both very talented, both run well, throw well," said Tigers defensive coordinator John Chavis. "Personally I'd prefer to play a quarterback who can't run or throw, but we won't get a chance to do that."

A communications major, Clark is well aware of the attention that

See **PENN ST**, Page 2B



AP PHOTO /John Raoux

Penn St. quarterback Daryll Clark will lead the Nittany Lions against LSU in the Capital One Bowl.

Sports in brief

Check online for Thursday's hoops action

See how your local team did in Thurdsay's hoops action at www.bigspringherald.com.

There you will find out how Coahoma's Bulldogettes fared against the Big Spring Lady Steers, who won the Gray Cotton Classic and where Forsan finished in the Sterling City Holiday Tournament.

The Herald's Web site is updated daily to include all stories in the paper and more.

Big Spring softball clinic to be held Jan. 16

Big Spring softball coach John Sparks will hold a winter skills softball clinic coming up.

The clinic will teach basic softball skills and will be held Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls in grades three through eight are welcome. The cost is $25.

Contact John Sparks for more information or to sign up at 432-270-2711.

Howard College men travel to Kansas City

The Howard College Hawks will be in action today in Kansas City, Mo., for the start of a two-game slate.

Howard will play Moberly Area Community College today and Penn Valley on Saturday, their first games since beating Chipola College 52-50 in Florida over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Hawks are 11-1 on the season.

Heflin appointed to study agriculture, rural policy

Special to the Herald

CROSBYTON — State Rep.Joe Heflin was appointed to study national agriculture and rural policy for the Agriculture and Energy Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) at its winter meeting in San Diego, Calif., earlier this month.



Heflin

In the Texas Legislature, Heflin is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock and serves as vice-chair of the Rural Caucus.

Heflin expressed his gratitude for the appointment, saying, "This provides a great opportunity for me to bring the interests of rural West Texas to the forefront by helping to craft policies that will benefit our rural economic development and agriculture industry. The challenges we face can best be resolved when state and national governments are on the same page and working together. I look forward to helping that happen."

Heflin is one of three members of the NCSL Agriculture and Energy Committee appointed to study national agriculture and rural policy by Committee Chair Sally Young, a Maryland House delegate. Heflin, along with State Reps. Sue Wallis of Wyoming and Maralyn Chase of Washington, will study and make recommendations concerning NCSL's national agriculture and rural policy before the organization's spring conference in Washington, D.C. The current policies, adopted in 2007, are scheduled to sunset in 2010 unless renewed.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is one of the country's premiere national legislative organizations and works to enhance the role of states and state legislatures in the federal system. NCSL opposes unfunded federal mandates and pre-emption of state authority and seeks to provide state legislatures with the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of the residents of each state.

The Agriculture and Energy Committee on which Heflin serves is one of 13 standing NCSL committees and oversees state and federal agriculture and rural development legislation along with natural resources, energy and electric utilities legislation. The committee seeks to ensure that Congress and federal agencies are sensitive to the impact of proposed laws and regulations on rural areas and communities.

More information about NCSL and its committees can be found at www.ncsl.org.

Heflin encourages interested individuals to express their views about any issue by calling him at his district office in Crosbyton at 806-675-0017; at his Capitol office in Austin, 512-463-0604; or in Big Spring at 432-213-2897.

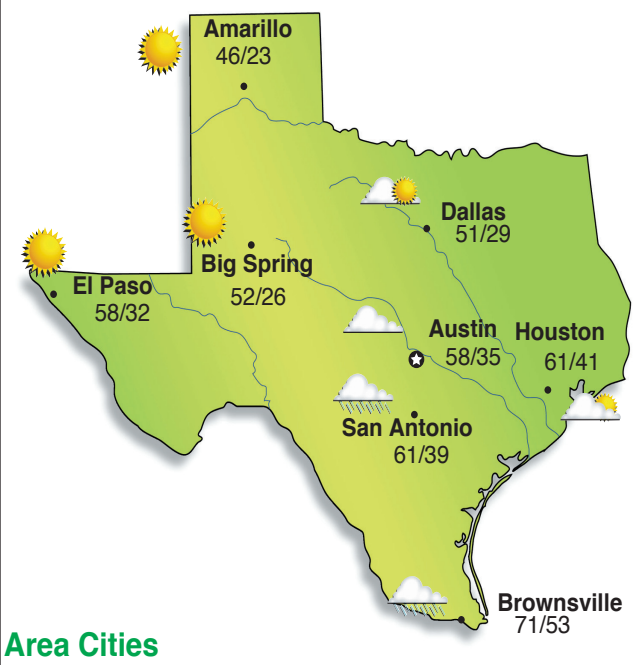
He represents Texas House District 85, which includes Borden, Glasscock and Howard counties.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 1/3	Mon 1/4	Tue 1/5
52/26	50/28	53/29
Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:55 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	48	26	mst sunny	Kingsville	69	46	rain
Amarillo	46	23	sunny	Livingston	57	36	cloudy
Austin	58	35	cloudy	Longview	49	31	cloudy
Beaumont	57	41	pt sunny	Lubbock	50	24	sunny
Brownsville	71	53	rain	Lufkin	55	37	cloudy
Brownwood	54	31	pt sunny	Midland	56	31	sunny
Corpus Christi	64	46	rain	Raymondville	72	51	rain
Corsicana	52	29	pt sunny	Rosenberg	61	41	rain
Dallas	51	29	pt sunny	San Antonio	61	39	rain
Del Rio	60	38	mst sunny	San Marcos	59	35	rain
El Paso	58	32	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	30	cloudy
Fort Stockton	58	32	sunny	Sweetwater	51	27	mst sunny
Gainesville	47	23	pt sunny	Tyler	48	30	cloudy
Greenville	47	25	cloudy	Weatherford	50	25	pt sunny
Houston	61	41	cloudy	Wichita Falls	42	18	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	41	23	mst sunny	Minneapolis	5	-7	pt sunny
Boston	32	29	sn shower	New York	30	26	sn shower
Chicago	18	10	pt sunny	Phoenix	66	42	mst sunny
Dallas	51	29	pt sunny	San Francisco	58	45	cloudy
Denver	40	18	sunny	Seattle	44	38	rain
Houston	61	41	cloudy	St. Louis	23	11	cloudy
Los Angeles	71	48	pt sunny	Washington, DC	35	27	windy
Miami	65	49	cloudy				

Take note

• Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

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

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. $130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for $10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

Support

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 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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ROSE

Continued from 1B

Nike's laboratory, with its innovative fashion sense and impressive facilities. Most of the No. 7 Ducks, who largely hail from California, cite that connection as a reason for choosing the school.

"Our tradition is no tradition," Oregon left tackle Bo Thran said. "We're always changing things up, trying new approaches. We want to make our own, and that's what we're doing this season."

The approach couldn't be much more different in Columbus. Ohio State places a heavy emphasis on its decades of football tradition enjoying a revival under Jim Tressel, the genteel coach who wears ties on the sideline and shepherds his players' every move.

"Everybody who comes to Ohio State knows what we stand for and what we try to accomplish," Coleman said. "Coach Tressel has a vision for what he wants to happen in this program, and we respect everything that got us to this point, all the guys who came before us."

Several Ducks were surprised this week to learn that for all the Buckeyes' success in recent years under Tressel, No. 8 Ohio State hasn't been to the Rose Bowl since 1997.

The Buckeyes have played for bigger prizes during that time, winning a national championship along the way — but they were in the Granddaddy of Them All only two years more recently than Oregon, which never made it during just-departed coach Mike Bellotti's successful tenure.

With rookie coach Chip Kelly leading a high-scoring offense, the Ducks rebounded from their season-opening loss at Boise State to win the Pac-10 title and a second trip to Pasadena, where they beat UCLA 24-10 in October without injured quarterback Jeremiah Masoli. Kelly claims he never once mentioned the Rose Bowl to his Ducks until they beat Oregon State in the Civil War to qualify.



AP Photo/Paul Sancya

Ohio State quarterback Terrell Pryor will lead a conservative Buckeye offense against Oregon's explosive rushing attack in the Rose Bowl.

"We knew if we just won the Pac-10, everything else would come together," Oregon safety T.J. Ward said. "Coach Kelly didn't have to tell us what we were playing for."

Every player on both Rose Bowl teams crowded into a conference room at a downtown hotel on Wednesday morning — except Oregon tailback LeGarrette Blount, who stayed back at the team hotel in Beverly Hills. Blount has barely spoken to the media since punching a Boise State player after the Ducks' season-opening loss, leading to an eight-game suspension.

"He believes in actions, not words," Kelly said in explaining Blount's absence. "He wants to finish the season, and I respect him. It's his choice. He can talk to anybody, but he chose not to."

If the Buckeyes are tired of talking about anything, it's their three straight postseason losses in BCS bowl games, including last year's Fiesta Bowl following national championship games in the previous two seasons. Ohio State's senior class could go out as the winningest in school history with a victory — but a loss would leave those seniors with four Big Ten titles, but no postseason wins.

And though Ohio State might lean on its past more than Oregon, both schools are well aware of the history in the game they're playing Friday.

"You just feel the tradition," Tressel said. "I don't care how old you are."

Seminole kick return man will test WVU Mountaineers

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE. Fla. — Given that his football team is again one of the nation's worst in kickoff return defense, West Virginia Coach Bill Stewart has good reason to be fearful of whoever the other team puts deep to test the Mountaineers.

When the opponent features one of the best in the game, Stewart is apt to say something like this: "If you haven't seen Mr. Reid, No. 5, let me tell you he is a thrill," Stewart said of Florida State true freshman Greg Reid. "Every time he touches the ball on a kickoff or a punt return, he can take it to the house. Really take it the distance. That's no coach speak. It's an absolute fact."

WVU (9-3), which last year finished No. 117 in kickoff return defense, ranks No. 101 of 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in kickoff return defense and allows 24.1 yards per attempt this season. It encounters Reid and the Seminoles (6-6) on Friday in the Gator Bowl at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium. Kickoff at 1 p.m. is on CBS.

Reid, who a year ago was one of the nation's top high school recruits, leads the nation in punt returns and averages 18.4 yards per attempt. He had a 68-yard touchdown against Wake Forest.

The Seminoles are No. 2 nationally with an average of 16.8 yards per return.

"To be honest, I'm going to try to kick it where I'm told to kick it and most of the time I'll aim for the sideline as best as I can," said WVU senior punter Scott Kozlowski, who is No. 6 nationally with a 44.8-yard average. "I feel like they can just set up their blocks and push their guys to the side of the field to create a wall. Once they get the wall established, he can hit it. Even if it's a crease only a couple feet big, he'll cut through and make things happen."

Reid is a 5-foot-9, 175-pound backup cornerback. At Lowndes High in Valdosta, Ga., last year he ran 117 times for 1,242 yards and 16 touchdowns and added eight receptions for 234 yards and two scores. He also had nine interceptions as a corner and was on All-America teams for Parade Magazine, Under Armour, EA Sports and SuperPrep.

Although his skill is returns, he played in 12 games this season and has 21 tackles, two interceptions and a 62-yard interception return score against BYU. In addition to his punt return prowess, he's also No. 69 in kickoff returns and averages 23.8 yards per return.

"Oh, man, he's good," WVU senior kicker Josh Lider said. "He's quick, shifty, tough, just a really good returner. I respect him a lot. He's fast and he'll make someone miss, which is huge for what he does. He's probably the best one we'll see this season."

Lider is WVU's backup on kickoffs behind placekicker Tyler Bitancurt, but gets called upon for strategic kicks and has been working on deep kickoffs this week.

Stewart said Lider was part of the coach's plans for the game and probably because everyone is wary of the wind they hear will affect the game.

"Placement is the key as is hangtime to make sure our guys get down there, but it depends on the conditions," Kozlowski said. "I'm hearing 11 mile per hour wind. If it's pretty windy I might not be able to hang it up. I'll have to drive it to get the yardage rather than hang it up and have it go 30 yards."

Lider could be used for squib, directional and sky kicks to handle the wind or force someone other than Reid get the ball.

Lider said the Seminoles space out their return men and WVU can kick away from Reid if needed.

"I think it's going to be a kick-by-kick deal with me or Tyler and we'll see how he responds," Lider said. "I have confidence in our coverage team. We've been watching their film and I think we've got a good plan for it. We'll kick it to him and we're going to kick it away from him and we'll see what they do to respond. They do a good job getting their blocks, but we've seen that before."

PENN

Continued from 1B

comes with playing quarterback at Penn State — one of the most high-profile and high-pressure jobs in Pennsylvania.

So it's little surprise that some fans and columnists have been parsing over a career in which he is 21-4 as starting quarterback.

But it's his performances in those four losses — all big games — that irk detractors.

He completed 45 percent of his passes in those four losses, with more than twice as many interceptions (seven) as touchdowns (three). For his career, though, he's a 61 percent passer with 16 picks to go with his 42 TD throws.

Clark has played well in other high-profile games. He has thrown for eight touchdown passes in his two games against Michigan State, including four in the regular season-ending victory in 2008 to clinch the Big Ten title.

He ran for two touchdowns and threw for one in last season's prime-time blowout win at Wisconsin, and threw for four scores this season at Michigan — ending Penn State's five-game losing skid at the Big House.

"The media, they determine what's a big game and what's not," Clark said. "I feel like, and the team feels like, we've won a lot of tough games and big games. Maybe not all of them, but a lot of them."

In a sense, the "big-game" question nagging Clark is similar to the criticism about Penn State's season. The Nittany Lions are an impressive 10-2, though their two losses came against the only ranked foes they faced all season — Iowa and Ohio State in close matchups.

Clark said the team doesn't buy talk that Penn State needs a signature win over LSU to put a bow on an otherwise nice season.

He did allow himself to say, "We wanted a big-time team, preferably like an SEC team like LSU ... We have that, now we have a chance to go out and get a big win for the program."

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YEAR

Continued from Page 1A

in the tournament.

Next to claim a championship was the Forsan High School softball team, which won the Class 1A softball title with a 2-1 victory over Alto in June.

The Lady Buffs were led by junior pitcher Amanda Longorio, who won both games at the state tournament for Forsan, including a six-hit performance in the title game. Other Forsan players earning all-tournament team honors were Shelby Jones, Kevy O'Brien and Ambra Hill. Hill was named most valuable player in the championship game.

The championship came in the program's fifth year of existence.

The area also claimed a pair of state football crowns in 2009.

The Garden City Bearkats earned their first-ever title with a mind-boggling 122-88 victory over Strawn in the Six-Man Division I championship.

The title game set a state record for most points scored in a championship game.

Garden City was led by running back Josh Colunga, who ran for for 432 yards and scored seven touchdowns that night.

The Bearkats lost their first game of the season to Throckmorton, then reeled off 14 straight wins to claim the state title.

In the Six-Man Division II title game, Borden County won its second consecutive state championship with a 28-14 victory over Highland. The Coyotes finished the season undefeated.

The Big Spring Steers also had a successful football season, starting the season7-0 and earning a spot in the Class 4A Top 10 rankings. The Steers advanced to the third round of the state playoffs before being defeated by Everman.

No. 3: Crime rate rises

Sociologists will tell you that a downturn in the economy will usually lead to an increase in the crime rate and Big Spring was not immune to that trend in 2009.

Murders, robberies, assaults ... pick a crime and chances are it showed an uptick in this area last year.

The high point — or, more appropriately, low point — came in May, when a rash of robberies and other crimes led city and county officials to announce an increase effort to stave off the crime wave.

During a May 27 news conference, Big spring Mayor Russ McEwen, Howard County Judge Mark Barr, Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith and County Sheriff Stan Parker vowed their agencies would work together to find a way to fight back against the criminal element in this area

Two murders seized the spotlight in 2009 — the late May killing of 16-year-old Justin Hernandez and the mid-June slaying of Patricia Gutierrez.

Both killings were closed by guilty pleas later in the year. Chirstopher Olivares received a 30-year prison term for murdering Hernandez, while Gutierrez's husband, Tommy, was sentenced to 35 years in prison for her killing.

No. 4: Auditorium, swimming pool closed

Accessibility issues forced the closure of two local landmarks in 2009. The municipal auditorium and city park swimming pool were both shuttered by city officials because the structures did not comply with standards set forth by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Non-compliant restrooms, inadequate parking and inaccessible seating were just a few of the problems facing city officials in bringing Municipal Auditorium up to federal guidelines, according to City Attorney Linda Sjogren. Those problems led the Big Spring City Council to vote in February to close the building, which was built during the Great Depression.

Accessibility issues also forced the city council to shut down the municipal swimming pool at Comanche Trail Park later in 2009.

The ultimate fate of both buildings remained uncertain at year's end.

No. 5: BSISD moves toward bond issue

If at first you don't succeed ...

Despite a 2008 setback at the polls, Big Spring Independent School District officials began laying the groundwork for another bond issue to finance needed facility improvements in 2009.

Officials point to an aging infrastructure — most school buildings in the district are at least 60 years old — as a major reason for the bond.

While the bill for these improvements won't be cheap — top end estimates range near $60 million — BSISD officials insist they are necessary.

Preliminary plans call for construction of at least two new elementary campuses, renovation of the junior high to add sixth-grade classes there, the addition of science labs and improved lighting, roofing and fire suppression at the high school and the closure of Washington, Marcy and Bauer elementaries.

Trustees are expected to call for a bond election by early March.

No. 6: Kids' Zone rebuilt

When the Kids' Zone playground at Comanche Trail Park fell victim to arson in December 2008, area residents expressed a deal of outrage at the senseless act.

Out of that rage, however, came a determination to rebuild the structure.

Donations for the rebuilding came from literally all quarters — from private individuals, civic organizations and governmental bodies.

The same was true when the call went out for volunteers to help with reconstruction. Although city work crews contributed much to the effort, private individuals also pitched in with hammers, nails, saws and the like.

The result? A better-than-ever Kids' Zone was reopened to the public in June.

"Make no mistake, this was a community effort. It was made by everyone, especially the volunteers," said Assistant City Manager Todd Darden. "I don't want to name any because I'd miss someone. But with projects like this, it always seems to bring out our community's heart. We talk about 'Big Sky, Big Hearts, that's Big Spring,' and that heart is a big part of this."

The only down note on this episode was that the perpetrator of the Kids' Zone arson remained at large, despite rewards that totaled $10,000 for information leading to the person's arrest.

No. 7: Another successful Relay

Another year, another record haul for the Howard-Glasscock Relay for Life.

The American Cancer Society fundraiser, which has been a model for similar events across the country, proved that a weakened economy — and unexpected rain storms — don't necessarily preclude success in raising money.

More than $200,000, a new record, was raised during the 2009 Relay, held at Blankenship Field.

"Despite the rain, it was a great success," Angela Kennedy said. "I hated to have to call it (because of the rain) ... but it had a great ending."

No. 8: Big Spring invades Austin

More than 200 Big Spring residents — ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens — stormed the state capitol with a single, united message: Big Spring cares.

Both the Texas House of Representatives and Senate honored the show of solidarity by adopting resolutions proclaiming March 25 Big Spring Day in the Lone Star State, with legislative representatives Joe Heflin, Kel Seliger and Big Spring native Troy Frazier showing their support.

No. 9: United Way falls short

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County had ambitious goals in 2009, but those goals fell victim to uncertainty caused by a flat economy.

At year's end, the United Way goal for 2009 was more than $100,000 short of its goal of $300,000.

"Right now, we're at around $180,000," said Eve Nieto of the UW board of directors.

Big Spring is in good company, as many United Way campaigns across the country have suffered shortfalls. The major culprit, Nieto believes, is the economy.

"I just think that people are afraid and unsure what's going to happen with our economy," she said. "they're just unsure about the future. I don't think Texas has been hit as hard as other areas, but I do think people are more unsure about things right now."

No. 10: Alon sues, then doesn't

County taxing entities held their collective breath earlier this year when Alon USA, parent company of the Big Spring Refinery, announced it was filing a lawsuit to contest valuations assessed on the facility.

This marked the second time in recent years that Alon had filed suit against the county tax appraisal district and caused concern that tax payments to the city, county and Big Spring school district, would be in limbo as the litigation worked its way through the legal system.

But those concerns proved to be unfounded, as Alon officials announced later in the year they were dropping the lawsuit.

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

Sylvia Prescott, 89, died Tuesday. Funeral services were at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Jean Lancaster, 86, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruby Pike, 74, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

James E. Cenchitz, 89, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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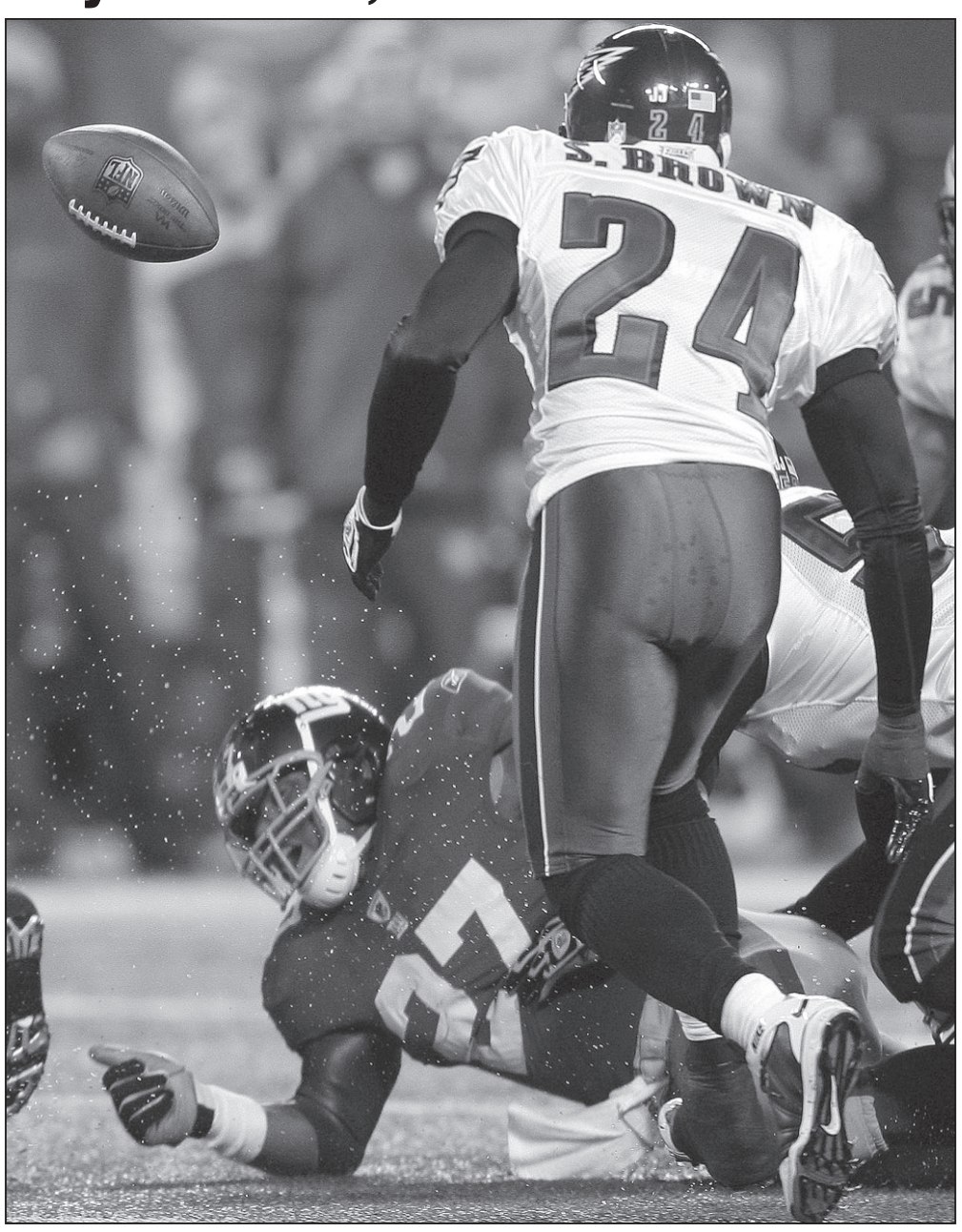
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It's not how you start, but finish in NFL



AP file photo

New York Giants running back Brandon Jacobs (27) fumbles the ball in action against the Philadelphia Eagles earlier this season.

NEW YORK (AP) — That gaudy 6-0 record the Denver Broncos held in October has faded under an avalanche of weak performances. Unless they win Sunday and get some help, the Broncos will be watching the postseason, not participating in it.

When the Giants stormed to a 5-0 mark, talk of winning a second Super Bowl in three years dominated the New York football scene. Two months later, the Giants are 8-7 and out of contention.

Never has it been more clear in the NFL that it's how you finish that matters. The Giants learned that lesson painfully and are also-rans. The Broncos could be joining them, along with the Bears (3-1 to 5-9), 49ers (3-1 to 7-8), Falcons (4-1 to 8-7), and possibly the defending champion Steelers (6-2 to 8-7) .

Baltimore and the New York Jets each began 3-0. They are 8-7, but unlike Denver and Pittsburgh, victories on Sunday against Oakland and Cincinnati, respectively, earn them wild-card spots.

"We have a great opportunity in front of us," Jets running back Thomas Jones said. "It's so funny how things can change in a week in this league."

Not so funny to the Broncos, who could become the third team since the 1970 merger to go from 6-0 to not making the playoffs, joining the 1978 Redskins and the 2003 Vikings.

"I'm frustrated because I think we've done some great things this year, but we didn't finish off well," said Broncos defensive end Elvis Dumervil, the NFL sacks leader. "To be able to win in the NFL, you have to be consistent for 60 minutes, times 17 weeks. It's like growing pains, we've just got to continue to fight through it.

"If we're more consistent, we start fast and finish strong instead of slumping again at the end like this."

Meanwhile, the fast closers are quickly becoming part of the Super Bowl conversation, from San Diego, which has won 10 in a row, to Philadelphia (six straight) to Green Bay (six of seven). Not that anyone is dismissing Indianapolis, which just took its first loss after 14 victories — and led the Jets before pulling many starters — New Orleans or Minnesota from the conversation.

But there's no denying the Chargers, Eagles and Packers are surging. The Saints, Vikings and Bengals are not.

"There's really no explanation for the way we played over the past couple of weeks," Vikings safety Madieu Williams said after his team was beaten by the Bears on Monday night. "We have to go back to the drawing board."

And conjure up something, quickly.

Like their division rivals, the Packers, have done.

Green Bay slipped to 4-4 before a mid-November victory over Dallas. In that game, the 3-4 defense the Packers switched to this season began taking hold. The offensive line was solidified when tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher got healthier.

"We had a sense of urgency and minor desperation, I think, starting with the Dallas game, and got on a roll," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "Defensively, those guys started believing in each other, believing even more in Dom (Capers, the coordinator) and his strategy, and we've got an MVP candidate (Charles Woodson) on defense. Charles has really taken over games at different points during this run we've been making. And offensively, I think we've figured out some things as well."

Figuring out why some teams fade and others soar heading toward the playoffs is no simple matter.

Looking at this season, though, here are some critical factors in the rise of some and the fall of others.

—Health. As noted, the Packers got back two key ingredients on their offensive line. San Diego star running back LaDainian Tomlinson recovered from an ankle problem.

But the Giants lost middle linebacker Antonio Pierce, their defensive leader, and their secondary has been ravaged. Powerful running back Brandon Jacobs has been nicked up all year and never ran with typical abandon.

The Steelers' seven losses all came with wrecking ball safety Troy Polamalu either hobbled or sidelined. Atlanta couldn't survive injuries to Matt Ryan and Michael Turner, the core of the offense. Of course, some teams have prospered despite injuries, particularly Philadelphia.

SUGAR

Continued from 1B

we're a pretty special group."

Gilyard added that he understands why a typical fan would struggle to see Cincinnati in the same league as a Florida team that has won a pair of national titles in the past four years and came within one victory of another trip to the BCS title game this season.

For their part, Florida players say they may be giving Cincinnati more respect than anyone. It starts with Meyer, a Cincinnati graduate and Bearcats fan. Meyer said he watches the Bearcats whenever he can catch them on TV and his players are all familiar with how good Cincinnati has been this season.

Nonetheless, Gators linebacker Ryan Stamper said he can sense the general public still views Florida as a prohibitive favorite.

"I definitely feel like we have more to lose than Cincinnati, because a lot of guys expect us to just kill them," he said.

Both teams remember what happened here a year ago, when Utah came in undefeated and ripped Alabama in a convincing victory that seemed to surprise everyone but the Utes.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Partner bids One Club, next player passes, neither side vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ K92 ♥ AQ94 ♦ A104 ♣ 832
2. ♠ AKQ9762 ♥ 83 ♦ J5 ♣ 92
3. ♠ AJ94 ♥ 8 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ Q872
4. ♠ AQ7 ♥ AQ5 ♦ KJ86 ♣ 983

* * *

1. One heart. Although the hand may seemingly qualify for a jump to two notrump (13 to 15 points, balanced distribution, stoppers in the three unbid suits), it is better to bid one heart. This is in keeping with the general principle that it is easier to make game in a major suit than in notrump when the contracting side has at least eight trumps. Partner could easily have four hearts, and this possibility should be explored by responding one heart initially.

If partner does not support hearts, you can jump in notrump at your next turn.

2. Four spades. It is hardly likely that you'd settle for playing at less than game or in any suit but spades, and the best way to convey this message to partner is to bid a game in spades at once.

The jump to four spades is not a strong bid — it merely shows that your spade holding is such that 10 tricks can probably be made in that suit opposite a normal opening bid. No slam implications are attached to the bid; if the hand offered slam possibilities, a jump-shift to two spades, indicating 17 or more points and a powerful suit, would be used to alert partner to the potential of the hand.

3. One diamond. Some thought might be given to responding one spade in the hope of finding a fit in that suit, but nothing can be lost — and something might be gained — by bidding one diamond first. This leaves room for partner to bid spades next if he has them, and for you to bid one spade over a one-heart rebid by partner. In this way, a fit in any of the four suits can be explored at the one-level.

If the bidding does go one club-one diamond-one heart-one spade, you will next bid three clubs (forcing) to pinpoint your singleton heart, which will put partner in position to judge where the best game (or slam) may be.

4. Three notrump. This shows 16 or 17 points, balanced distribution and stoppers in the three unbid suits — in effect, the values for an opening one-notrump bid.

There is not much point in responding one diamond when another bid is available that describes your distribution and high-card strength so perfectly. The opening bidder is free to go on toward a slam if he has values in excess of a minimum opening bid. The response of three notrump is treated as a mild slam try.

Tomorrow: Playing the percentages.

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sudoku

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

We wish you all a happy New Year now that it's 2010

As we enter a new year, it is time to take a few minutes to take stock of where we want to go both individually and collectively during the next 12 months. It's a point we've made before in this space and it remains as true as ever.

If we haven't already taken personal stock, now is the time to ask ourselves what we want to change in our lives and what needs to be done to effect those changes.

Certainly, many of us seek better health and will make resolutions to change our diets and exercise routines. The important thing is to follow through — to make lifestyle changes.

And many more of us will seek to improve our spiritual lives. That is an area in each of our lives in which there is always room for improvement.

Others will more than likely seek to be more loving or caring with regard to family members and friends.

Community-wide, we believe the outlook for Big Spring remains a positive one. And, although it seems as if we're somewhat challenged as a nation right now, we're convinced the same holds true for both our state and nation for the long run.

And we're very excited about the renovation of the Settles Hotel building which will soon get under way downtown.

There are encouraging signs in many areas. Yes, we're all challenged to some extent, but it's good to see the ongoing Settles project making progress, there's been a little building in the past year and the ongoing street and highway improvement projects are certainly progress.

What's more, the price of oil is still at a point where the industry can thrive.

Once again this year, we feel our city's appeal as a regional center for arts and recreation continues to grow, as evidenced by exhibitions at the Heritage Museum, the Big Spring Symphony's concert schedule for the current year and the United States Hang Gliding Association's continuing commitment to hold competitions here.

All of those projects, events and activities translate to jobs, income from visitors and — perhaps even more important — a better quality of life for all of us.

Several announcements about the year's upcoming events will be made soon and we can't help but look forward to what's on tap in 2010.

As we delve into the new year, we do admit feeling a bit tentative about some things less under our overall control. That's simply human nature.

One thing we can say with certainty though. We continue to be blessed by the "can-do" spirit of our fellow citizens — men and women who work together to get things done. And so, it's time to look ahead again and look ahead with optimism.

Happy New Year, Big Spring.

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

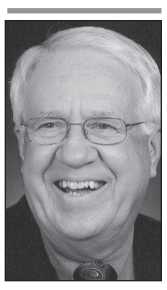
by K. Rae Anderson

When temporary conditions get in our way of enjoying the life You have given us, Lord, may we trust in You with all our heart.

Amen

Wait a minute, hold the phone...

It was a scene likely repeated in dens and living rooms across America on Christmas morning. Moments after gift opening, tons of discarded wrapping, ribbons and boxes are asunder. Had tiny tornados gained entry, they could have caused millions of dollars worth of improvement.



DR. DON NEWBURY

In one Texas home, a phone rang at dead center of the debris.

The family took a collective "time-out." Members of five generations joined the search, all fuming, fumbling and floundering in their futile forage for the phone.

Ringing seemed endless and grew louder.

A 10-year-old summed it up: "You'd think with so many great minds, someone would invent a telephone that attaches to the wall, with a wire connected to the hand set." And he was as serious as a funeral.

Children shrieked with delight about highly-technical toys and games that either had to "plug in" or were marked "batteries not included."

A children's stocking stuffer, lodged way in the toe of the sock, was a show-stopper.

The youngsters had never seen the tiny trick dogs, black and white Scotties, packaged in a tiny match box. Each glued to magnet bases, the dogs zigged, zagged and whirled about.

Grandparents, and "greats," too, got misty-eyed, remembering their own delight when the novelty toys were major presents under Christmas trees upwards of a century ago. "Maybe next Christmas we can re-introduce hula-hoops," one of the old-timers said.

I digress. The subject was phones a hundred or so words ago.

With cell phones now as common as wearing apparel for hundreds of millions of people, we are more talkative than any previous generation.

One fact is unchanging: Money talks.

Exhibit "A" is New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

He received 50.6 percent of some 1.1 million votes cast, and his re-election campaign cost topped $110 million.

Now that kind of money buys a gargantuan phone bank.

Uncle Mort, my 96-year-old kin who lives down in the thicket, is the only person I know who's spent much of his life saying "whoa" to most technological progress, including phones.

Oh, he sometimes borrows one, usually muttering that his phone's "battery is down," but it's very much a once-in-a-while deal. He claims that one of his most embarrassing moments some 50 years ago involved a phone at a farm house down the road.

"The neighbors were cutting a watermelon, so when the phone rang, I answered it," Mort explained. "The operator said, 'long distance from Chicago.' I agreed with her that it shore-nuff is, and hung up."

My friend Melinda, editor of the Albany News, can identify with Mort "back then" and cell phone users now who wind up red-faced.

She will never forget when she fumbled what could have been a golden moment of spontaneity worthy of note in the newspaper. Zoned in to hear a guest preacher, she heard his admission of envying some congregants who "heard the voice of God." He said he'd never had such an experience, and that there had been long, dry periods in his life when he was uncertain of God's direction for his life.

At that precise moment, Melinda's cell phone rang.

She scrambled to turn it off, then immediately regretted doing so.

"I so wish that I had handed the phone to the preacher, saying: 'I think it's for you.'"

My uncle is predicting a big up-tick in church membership for 2010. If President Obama's health care package is enacted, that is.

"It's as plain as the nose on your face," Mort said. "Lots of folks are pessimistic about the whole tangled mess," he added. "They figure that chances of getting doctors' appointments in the future may be 'slim and none.' Then, they'll get on prayer lines to the Great Physician."

Before you hang up on me, Happy New Year!

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



Relating with home appliances

I have a kind of love/hate relationship with my refrigerator. Some of you may wonder why I'm nurturing any kind of a relationship at all with my appliances.

Well, if it's got to be in your house, you must have at least a working relationship with it, because if not, you have no influence over it when it goes on the fritz. Not that my reasoning with an appliance has ever fixed it, but I believe the repair bills could cost substantially more if my appliances couldn't tolerate me.



LAURA SNYDER

My refrigerator is the one I'm closest to. It shares everything with me even if I have just committed to a diet. Opening the door is like an invitation to Valhalla. Maybe I shouldn't open the door, but it beckons me: "Come on, Laura, just this once. I promise I won't make you do anything you don't want to."

So I grab the door and a world of possibilities opens before me: cheesecake, chocolate pudding, leftover lasagna. The refrigerator whispers sweet nothings in my ear: "Go on, Laura. You lost 3 pounds this week. You owe yourself a piece of cheesecake."

It makes perfect sense, which you wouldn't normally expect from a refrigerator. Maybe mine went to an Ivy League school for major appliances.

After I gorge myself on cheesecake, I hate my refrigerator, which doesn't make any sense at all, but I was only an average student.

The worst time of the day is when I have to determine what to have for dinner. I go to my refrigerator and peer inside. Nothing jumps out at me so I close that door and open the freezer.

There's that box of Swedish meatballs that's been in there for almost a year. They were buy one, get one free, but after we ate one box, my husband left half of them on his plate and asked me if the cat had eaten yet — a sure sign he didn't like them.

I don't know why I'm saving them. Perhaps for the day we run out of cat food. I'll have a back-up.

There is a crusted-over Kielbasa that was never put in a freezer bag. If not for the guilt I feel about starving people in third world countries, I would probably throw that out.

The various boxes of Hot Pockets, Bagel Bites, and Pizza Rolls are not enough for an entire meal, but the kids love them. Don't think I haven't thought about plopping a Hot Pocket in the toaster oven and serving it for dinner. However, my husband would be looking around for the rest of the meal.

There are about six bags, one-quarter full, of frozen vegetables that I have saved in case I make soup or in the eventuality that a random body part becomes swollen. After a looking around in there for few minutes, I've finally determined something: I need to go shopping. My refrigerator agrees.

So, Pizza Hut it is!

My husband is an after-dinner snacker, so he'll be visiting my refrigerator later tonight. Unfortunately, he'll be stuck with a few partly shriveled seedless grapes and four-day old Hamburger Helper, because I already ate the cheesecake.

He'll probably be having a little talk with my refrigerator to try to secure its loyalty. He won't win, though. You have to spend a lot of time with your appliance to develop the kind of relationship I have with my refrigerator. He's not even close.

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker. You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more information.

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Help Wanted

AMERICAN STATE bank is seeking a self-motivated employee with excellent sales, communications, and customer service skills to work a flexible part-time teller schedule. Credit and criminal checks are part of our application process. Apply at 1411 Gregg Street.

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:
* Crew Tech
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test & background check.

CITY OF BIG SPRING
Communications Officer
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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

COASTAL TRANSPORT
We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around surrounding areas of the Permian Basin.
Qualifications:
*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
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Please contact our office M-F 8am/5pm for more information 1-888-527-7221.

DELL'S CAFE is looking for a Waitress. Come by 1608 East 4th Street. Please No Phone Calls.

DUE TO Market Expansion Cleartalk is hiring Retail Sales Representatives to service the Big Spring & Lamesa Market. Retail Experience, outstanding customer service skills and ability to work in fast environment required. Please e-mail bhigginbotham@flat wireless.com

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PERSONAL CARE assistant needed for the Big Spring area. Must be 18 yrs. old and have dependable transportation. Come by SUCASA Home Health, 1311 West Florida, Midland or fax resume to (432)620-8250.

PIZZA INN
KNOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MAKE UP TO $12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring area.
Meter Technician – Responsible for calibrating and maintaining District's billing meters. Assists in repairing, and maintaining communication equipment including mobile radios and microwave communication equipment, supporting the District's SCADA system. Entry level position, basic understanding of electronic/electricity needed.
CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.
Applications are required and available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org.

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

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

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NEW 5PC Micro Fiber Living Room set with warranty. $565. 432-664-8980.

……

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NEW CANOPY bed with Mattress Set New from factory $295. 432-664-8980.

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Leather Living Room Set with tables, brand New in boxes $675. 432-664-8980.

Items for Sale

QUEEN MATTRESS Set. New. In plastic with warranty. $155. 432-664-8980

……

Cherry Sleigh Bed with Mattress Set. Brand New $397. 432-664-8980.

Lost and Found

FOUND LOST Puppy- Male, terrier puppy in Parkhill & West 16th Street area, wearing collar- no tags. Please call (432)263-0240 to claim.

Miscellaneous

LOVELY CHERRY finish 5 pc. bedroom suite, for holidays, brand new, fits full/queen, $600. Must see!! 806-549-3110.....
Two mattress sets for sale. One full size set $120. One twin size set $100.-Both brand new. 806-549-3110.....

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FREE TO good home large female dog. Very friendly and loves children. Call (432)816-9039.

FREE to good home female puppy 7-8 week old found abandoned at Wal-Mart on Christmas Eve. Call (432)816-9039.

RESCUED BORDER Collie Free to good home- male, about 10 months old (will be large dog), current on all shots. Call (432)393-5833.

Real Estate for Rent

1303 STANFORD, 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A, no pets. $500.00 month, $500.00 deposit. Call (432)816-5570.

1504 B Wood. 2 bdrm, 1 bath Duplex. All bills paid. $600.00 month, $500.00 deposit. Call (432)212-3646.

2 SMALL Houses- 3 Bdrm & 2 Bdrm. $475. each. Call Diane 951-797-3752.

2606 CHANUTE Drive, 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, fenced yard, CH/A. $785. month, $500. deposit. One Year Lease Required. No indoor pets. Call (432)770-5656 Owner/ Broker.

3621 CONNALLY- 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, tile floors, carpeted bedrooms, No pets, No HUD. $700.00 month, $400.00 deposit. Call (432)816-1464.

All **BILLS PAID**
2 Bdrm, 1 bath
Apartment
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$699/month
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No application fees
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Free Application Fee
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Large 1 Bdrm $350 month
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

We don't know it all, but we're learning. As individuals, our vantage is limited, but being connected to others gives us a better breadth of vision. When you feel nudged in a certain direction, consider whether the impulse may be a divine suggestion. The nurturing Cancer moon leads us into the new decade like a mother guiding her children.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As the first sign of the zodiac, the first day of the decade is extremely lucky for you. Furthermore, you are a part of something that is urgent and portentous. What has to happen must happen today, and you're the one to do it.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone is almost ready to give you what you want. You don't have to do all of the convincing yourself. Call in the reinforcements. Let others testify for you. You've built your reputation; now let it work for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Take the extra time, effort and expense to look good. Your polish is what will make you feel comfortable in a situation. And your comfort level will be the ingredient that allows for your success.

Real Estate for Sale

RENEE'S RESALES Manufactured Home Specialist Licensed & Insured Mobile Home Broker. Listings in 13 Communities in East Polk County Florida. 863-514-3425 or 863-852-3623 www.reneesresales.com

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Legals

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APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR OFF-PREMISE LICENSE/ PERMIT (LIQUOR STORE) WITH 10AM-9PM MON.-SAT. BY ELAINE MOORE DBA SAM'S PACKAGE STORE TO BE LOCATED AT 2409 GREGG ST., BIG SPRING, HOWARD, TX.
#6394 January 1 & 3, 2010

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not the big complicated decisions that jeopardize your integrity. It's the little ones — the tone you take with your family, how you treat the cashier, the size of your tip. You'll find a million ways to show your grace and class.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be involved in a delicious game. You know how this one works — you've played it before. Your opponents were different, but the rules are still the same. And now you have the confidence that comes with experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It may be the first of the year, but it's not all fresh. A certain project feels to you a bit tiresome about now. Still, this isn't a time to zigzag. Stay on purpose, and stick with your plan.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whatever you think you deserve, think it twice as often today. Staying centered on the ideas that make you feel good about yourself makes you a magnet for the most delectable rewards.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your team sees you as a valued member. Is the feeling mutual? Focus on the unique strengths each person brings to the equation. Believe the best in others and that's what they'll show you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's easy and pleasant for people to deal with you, and that's why they keep coming back for more. You'll make sales, win colleagues to your team and get some interesting invitations, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Lady Luck is slow to the game today. The fates will smile on you only after you ignite your own passion. If you want things to come out a certain way, you simply have to make them come out that way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're looking forward to an exciting new year, and today will set the tone. That's why a shakeup is in order. Throw an unexpected twist into the routine. Your altered approach sends a message that you're ready for change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is essential that you place yourself around people you can admire and emulate over the next 10 days. It's the single most important thing you can do to enhance your motivation and improve your performance.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 1). You will decide on a few changes you wish to make in the world and get straight to work. Through the next six weeks, a challenge will grow into a quest. Socialize often through February and March and you'll make the contacts to support you through your mission. What you do for love makes a difference in April. Leo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 12, 49 and 16.

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

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Church News

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

We pray everyone had a Merry Christmas. Our New Year's Eve Fellowship will begin at 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite snacks. There will be singing, a worship service and games. Fun for all.

The New Year's Eve Youth Lock-in, Resolution 2010, begins at 9 p.m. until 6:30 a.m. at First Baptist Family Life Center. Cost is $10 per person for food and a T-shirt.

If you are seeking a church home, we at East Fourth invite you to visit with us at any of our services. Our Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship service is at 11; and evening services are at 6.

Wednesdays we have Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting (Fellowship Hall), Youth Bible Study and Children's Back Door Bible Study, all start at 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study is Saturday mornings at 7.

For more information, call the church office at 267-2291.

First United Methodist Church

Happy New Year from all the friendly folks at First Methodist Church. We wish for you and yours a healthy, happy and spirit-filled 2010.

This first Sunday of the new year, which is Epiphany Sunday, our pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese, will conclude her Advent sermon series with a message entitled, "A Gift Worth Giving," with Bible readings from Isaiah, Psalms, Ephesians, and Matthew. Services of worship are at 8:30 and 10:50 on Sunday mornings with Sunday school classes for all ages in between at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday afternoon at 4, we will meet in the sanctuary for the first of monthly Compline Prayer Services. This is to be a truly prayerful service in which there is time for meditation, as well as sharing both praises and concerns. Everyone is urged to start this new year by participating in this very meaningful service.

Next week we begin to get back on schedule; offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Midweek Bible Study and Luncheon will be held at noon on Wednesday in Garrett Hall. Our Children's Day Out program will also be back on schedule beginning Wednesday and will continue to meet Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

The Pathmaker's Sunday School Class is planning a new recipe book for the church as a fund raiser for our Relay For Life teams. With at least two cancer survivors and another in active treatment, this cause is very personal to this class. Please help them with this large project by bringing your favorite recipes to the church office.

We ask that you go prayerfully into this New Year and invite you to any and all of

the activities down at Fourth and Scurry. If your resolutions for this year include searching for a church home we hope you will give us a try. We are First Methodist, located in the heart of downtown Big Spring, where families grow in Christ.

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Chapel of Faith church, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad Streets, as we learn more about God's Word and His love for each of us. Consider this quote from Gen. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, on the release of the English Revised Version of the Bible in 1885. "I am most interested now in a further translation… It is of no use making correct translations of words if we cannot get the words translated into life. In the living translation every person who bears the name of Christ says thereby, 'My life is a representation of Christianity.' "

Pastor Joel Miller will be preaching this Sunday, and will lead in the celebration of Holy Communion. His message will be "Alive in Christ," based on scripture from Revelations 22: 1-7. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. each week.

Remember, God loves each of us with a love so great He sent His son to die for our sins that we might live for Him now and with Him eternally. We encourage you to attend the church of your choice. However, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit the Chapel of Faith. You will be warmly welcomed.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

Our motto is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and grace in our lives." We are located at 2805 Lynn Street in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. Our church phone number is 264-7818. Our website is www.lutheransonline.com/aliveinchristbstx. We would love to have you join us for church on Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday School following around 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Don Rosentreter will be preaching this Sunday.

Angela Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be Jonathan Byrd. Our elders for this week are Bobby Roever and Darren Byrd. This week, the liturgy will be read by Bo Vizcaino. Epiphany is usually celebrated on Jan. 6; this date represents the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) from the East. The readings for Epiphany are Isaiah 60:1–6, Psalms 119:97-104, Ephesians 3:1–12, and Matthew 2:1–12. Anyone interested in reading, please contact Dolline Budke. This is a small gift to God that is very important to our service.

Our traditional Christmas Children and Congregational Service, Away In A Manger, was a huge success. The solos and beautiful music were indeed a celebration of God's love. The solos sung by Larry Thibeault, Dana Byrd and Breanna Conner were so special. Thank you, Alex Byrd, Alex Franco and Alyssa Byrd, for adding your instrumental expertise of trombones and flute to the service. The pianist for the evening was Karen Thibeault. n additional thank you goes to all the readers: Abby Saucedo, Bo Vizcaino, Jill Alsobrooks, Haley Walker, Alan Abel, Bobby Roever and Kent Ivey. Pastor Carroll Kohl was the officiant.

The children: Hannah Alsobrooks, McKenna Alsobrooks, Alex Byrd, Jonathan Byrd, Alex Franco, Karissa Franco, Sydnie Gilbert, MaKayla Overton, MaKynlee Overton, Analysia Rodriguez, Mateo Rodriguez, Abby Saucedo, Kenra Thibeault, Luke Thibeault, John von Hassell, Haley Walker and Nathan did a wonderful job with their recitations and acting.

Thank you to all the parents and older teens for helping with the costumes and practices. Christmas goody bags containing candy and fruit were given to all children. Thank you Cindy Carlisle, DeAnna Carlisle, Daniel Budke and Dolline Budke for making them.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight service was so beautiful and the Christmas Day Service was very inspiring; both were both heart warming and touching.

Mid Week School is being held Wednesday evenings with a light meal to be served at 5:30 p.m. with both Mid Week School classes and confirmation classes at 6 p.m. Thank you, Bobby and Judy Roever, for preparing our last meal on Dec. 16. Meals and Mid Week School will resume Jan. 6. The meal this week will be prepared by Jaunell Roever.

If interested in attending/teaching a Mid Week School class, please contact the church or a member of the Board of Education. We will need a count for the meal preparation as well as curriculum supplies. If you would like to help prepare a light meal on Wednesday evenings, please contact Jaunell Roever. A free-will offering is helping offset the cost of the meal.

Learn how to make banners for our church. This opportunity will be offered after the first of the year. Get out your sewing machines and glue guns.

If you are interested in beginning or attending a new men's or women's Bible study, contact any member of the Board of Education. These Bible studies could be any day or evening of the week and could be held either at church or in a home.

A Bible study at church during the noon hour on Thursdays is being well attended and enjoyed by all participants; a new Bible study will begin in January. If you have a particular Bible study in mind, please contact Shyrlee Reid. The next meeting will be on Jan. 14. A light meal will be available. You do not need to be a member of our congregation in order to attend any of our Bible studies.

A new website offered by The Lutheran Hour Ministries is available. The site, www.jcplayzone.com, promises fun and Christian educational based games and videos. Fun for all ages and offered in several languages, this safe internet site is something you might want to

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

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(Romans 5:8)

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May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.

Ephesians 3:17-18

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	WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
5 :PM :30	Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Oregon.	Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Oregon.	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	In Touch-Dr	BBC	MythBusters	Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss		(:11) **Movie:** Resident Evil: Extinction	Notarized: Top 100 Video Countdown of 2009	Sonny	30 for 30	SportsCtr.
			Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Office		Business						Sonny		NFL Live
6 :PM :30			Un Gancho al Corazón	Two Men	News	**Pelicula:** *El Profe, Victor Alcocer*	News	Name	Scrivner	PBS News-Hour	MythBusters		**Movie:** Die Hard, Bonnie Bedelia			Sonny	30 for 30	SportsCenter
				Two Men	Ent. Ton.		Millionaire	Name	House							Sonny		
7 :PM :30	Better Off	Better Off		Pregame	Ghost Whisperer		The Biggest Loser	Seinfeld	Door-Wisdom	Wash Wk	MythBusters	**Movie:** The Matrix, Carrie-Anne Moss		**Movie:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Liv Tyler		Sonny	30 for 30	
				College Football: Allstate Sugar Bowl -- Cincinnati vs. Florida.				Seinfeld		NOW						Sonny		SportsCenter Special
8 :PM :30	Scrubs	Scrubs	En Nombre del Amor		Medium	**Pelicula:** *El Ministro y Yo, Lucia Mendez*		**Movie:** The Nutty Professor	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances	MythBusters					Sonny	High School Football	
	Better Off	Better Off														Sonny		
9 :PM :30	20/20	20/20			NUMB3RS		The Jay Leno Show				MythBusters		**Movie:** Die Hard With a Vengeance, Samuel L. Jackson		BET Hip-Hop Awards 2009	Sonny	2009 World Series of Poker	
										Parks						Sonny		
10 :PM :30	News	News	Impacto		News	Noticias	News	Funny	Church	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	**Movie:** The Matrix Reloaded, Carrie-Anne Moss				Sonny		SportsCenter
	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero		Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show	**Movie:** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective	Cortes					(:45) **Movie:** Resident Evil: Extinction		Sonny		
11 :PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Desmadrugados	Postgame		Decisiones			Sanchez	BBC	MythBusters				Rip the Runway	Suite Life	Football	SportsCenter
	Jimmy Kimmel Live			TMZ	Late Late Show		Late Night		McGee	T. Smiley						So Raven	NFL Live	
12 :AM :30		Extra		Paid					Mark	(Off Air)	MythBusters		**Movie:** Die Hard, Bonnie Bedelia		**Movie:** Half Baked, Jim Breuer	Cory	Bassmasters	SportsCenter
	Cathedral	Paid	Madre	Faith	Insider	Pagado	News	American Pie Presents: Band Camp	CCM					(:45) **Movie:** Resident Evil: Apocalypse		Kim		
1 :AM :30	Wall St	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Ent. Ton.	Pagado	Poker After Dark		Best of Light of the Southwest		MythBusters	**Movie:** The Matrix Revolutions				Replace	Bassmasters	SportsCenter
	Paid	Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado										Emperor		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"NEW YEAR... SAME CORNER... BUMMER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Want some li'l sandwiches an' olives an' 'tato chips, Mommy? Just walk into Haney's — they're havin' open house!"

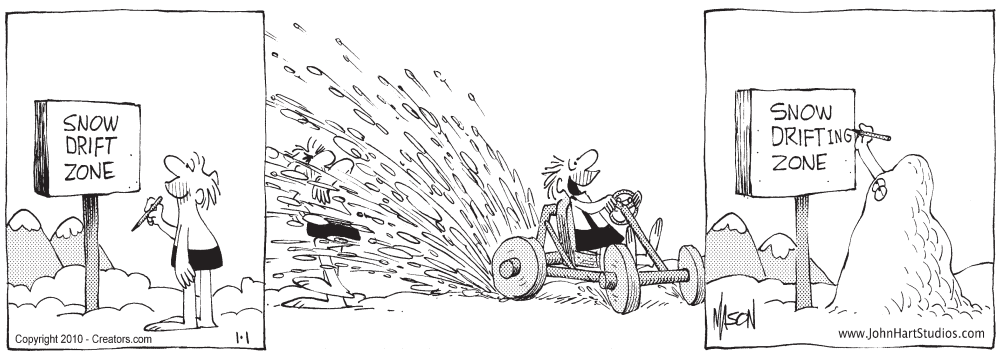
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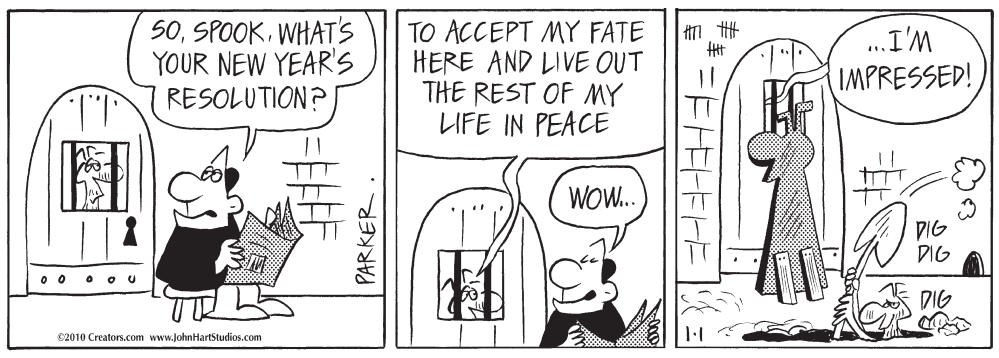
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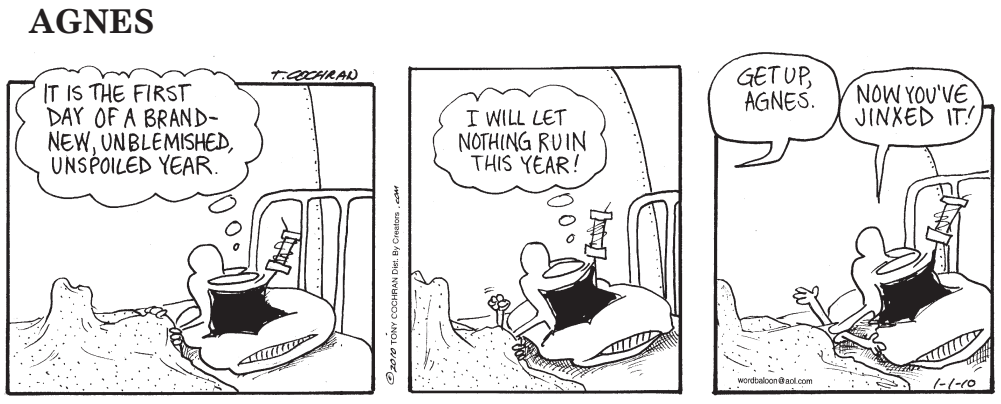
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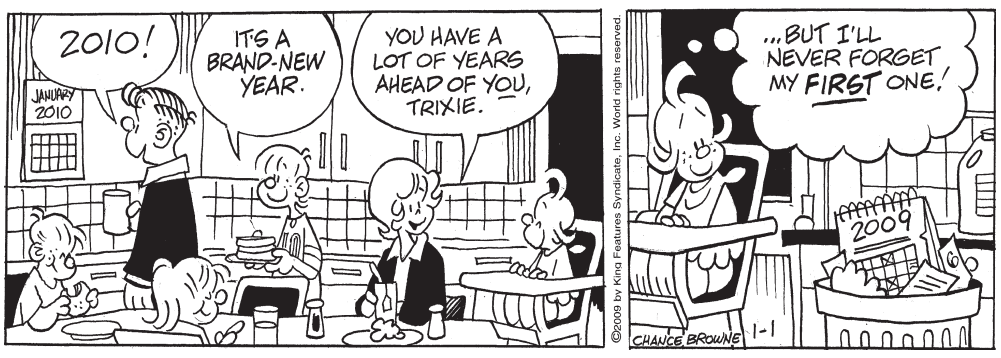
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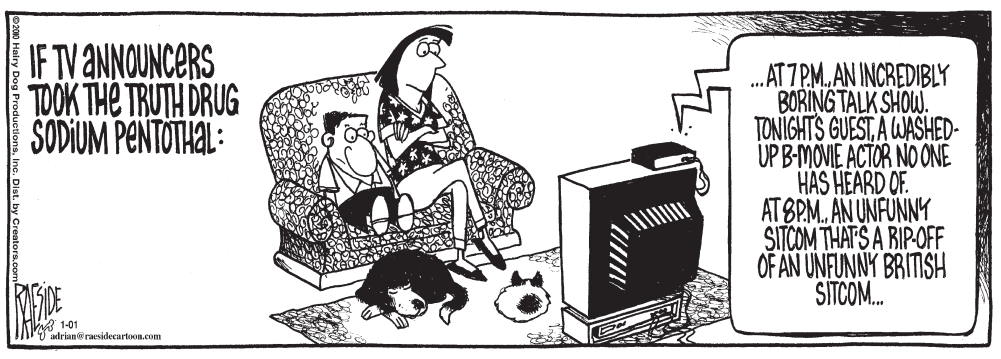
AGNES



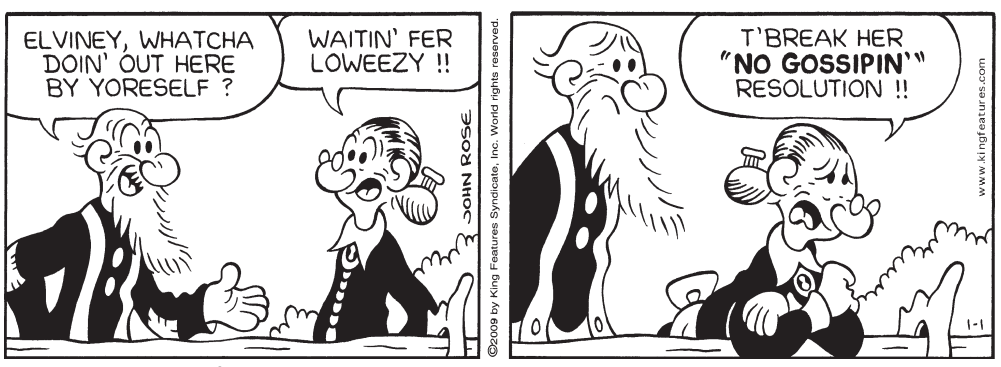
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 1, the 1st day of 2010. There are 364 days left in the year. Today is New Year's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.

On this date:

In 1760, the first two volumes of Laurence Sterne's novel "The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman" were published in London.

In 1808, a law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States went into effect.

In 1890, the first Tournament of Roses was held in Pasadena, Calif.

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, W.Va. while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1960, French Cameroun became an independent republic.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

In 1999, the euro, the new single currency of 11 European countries (later 16), officially came into existence with the start of the New Year. (The euro became legal tender on this date in 2002.)

Today's Birthdays: Author J.D. Salinger is 91. Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 88. Actor Ty Hardin is 80. Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 80. Actor Frank Langella is 72. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 68. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 67. Actor Rick Hurst is 64. Outgoing New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine is 63. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 60. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., is 56. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 52. Actress Ren Woods is 52. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 46. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 44. Country singer Brian Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 44. Actor Morris Chestnut is 41. Actor Verne Troyer is 41.

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Answer to previous puzzle

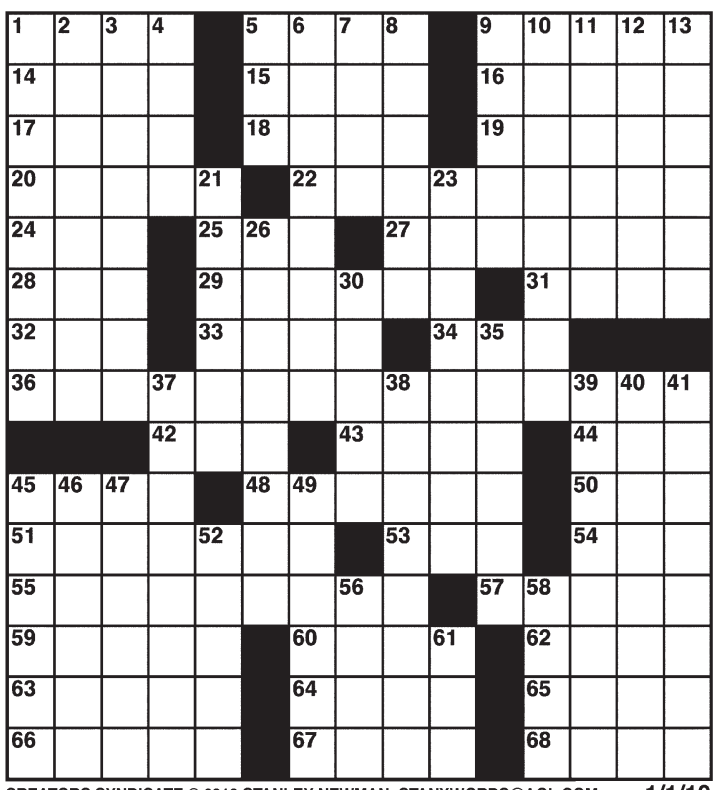
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S	C	O	O	P		H	A	N	G		R	E	A	D

Newsday Crossword

SPORTS BREAK by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Sign up
5 Just hanging out
9 Some Parliament members
14 Biblical preposition
15 Main point
16 Pass with flying colors
17 Act as a bridge
18 Door closer
19 Insistent exclamation
20 Mystic's reading
22 Horse-race sound
24 Creative talent
25 Not the usual thing
27 What's left
28 Transportation Dept. agency
29 Home worker
31 Noun suffix
32 *GQ* VIPs
33 John Wayne's birthplace
34 Charter NATO member
36 Dodgers/ Diamondbacks' NL group
42 WWII espionage org.
43 Oklahoma city
44 Powerful DC lobby
45 Costa __
48 New Zealand discoverer
50 Like some rts.
51 Consuming carefully
53 A
54 "Just a minute!"
55 Bowler's challenge
57 Opens wide
59 Internet commerce
60 Land east of the Suez
62 Spoil, with "on"
63 Dishwasher cycle
64 Specific location
65 General location
66 Works together
67 Newcastle's river
68 Ten times CCLV

DOWN
1 Not many
2 Marching to music, maybe
3 Russian news source
4 Emphatic denial
5 What Freud called "ego"
6 Deplete steadily
7 Luxurious
8 Run out
9 The unordained
10 Simple instruments
11 Filmed a new version of
12 Decathlon event
13 Fires up
21 Some Parliament members
23 Inca descendant
26 Threshold
30 Loses energy
35 Virgil in *In the Heat of the Night*
37 Slavish behavior
38 Not still
39 Leaf-eating insect
40 Directed (toward)
41 Certain commando
45 Parliamentary expert
46 Deadlocked
47 Changing room
49 After waiting awhile
52 Rhodes and Corfu
56 Kids' guessing game
58 First of all
61 Wore away



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2010 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/1/10

Texting while driving, smoking target of '10 laws



AP photo/Jim Cole

Tina Derby sends text messages while driving in Concord, N.H. It will be harder to legally text while driving, eat fatty foods and light up in bars and restaurants under new laws that take effect across the country this year.

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. — Texting while driving, smoking in public and cooking with artery-clogging trans fats will be that much harder under a bevy of state laws set to take effect around the country on Friday.

Faced with huge budget shortfalls and little extra money to throw around, state lawmakers exercised their (inexpensive) power to clamp down on impolite, unhealthy and sometimes dangerous behaviors in 2009.

Even toy guns were targeted.

Among the most surprising new laws set to take effect in 2010 is a smoking ban for bars and restaurants in North Carolina, the country's largest tobacco producer that has a history steeped in tradition around the golden leaf.

Starting Saturday — stragglers get a one-day reprieve to puff away after their New Year's Day meals — smokers will no longer be allowed to light up in North Carolina bars and restaurants. There are exceptions for country clubs, Elks lodges and the like, but the change is a dramatic one for North Carolina, whose tax coffers long depended on Big Tobacco.

Virginia approved a similar law that took effect Dec. 1, but it's more accommodating to smokers because it allows establishments to

See **LAWS**, Page 8A

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

check out

The Board of Evangelism is asking for help with recording short messages for our radio spots. If you are interested, please contact Kent Ivey. A short message from you about Alive in Christ or about our doctrine would be most beneficial. Remember, we are all ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

The Board of Evangelism is also beginning "visitation calls" on members, prospective members, etc. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of those wanting or needing a visit from this group should be given to Richard Knocke. If you would like to help this group with visitation, contact Richard. Remember, we are all witnesses for God and His grace and love through our daily lives and with those we come in contact.

Youth Ministry 2010 Synposium has been scheduled for Jan. 8-10 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel at the Galleria in Houston. Mark our calendars to attend this very challenging growth opportunity to help youth develop a Christian worldview.

Scheduled meetings for January include: Jan. 11, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the church. The LWML will also meet Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the church. The Elders meet Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the church. Other boards and groups are continuing to meet and make plans for the various activities of the church.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

For 65 plus years Birdwell Lane Baptist Church has been in the community to meet your spiritual needs. We pray you have a wonderful, prosperous and blessed New Year.

We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. for all ages. Children's church is during the morning worship for ages 4-12. There is a nursery provided for your little ones. Mideeek service is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. For a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

The Signal Mountain Emmaus Community meets at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane, on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Babe Chick meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Jan. 14. Please mark your calendar.

At this month's Community Gathering, we will honor Men's Walk 9, LD Gary Tucker from 1998; the 1999 Walks; Women's Walk 12, LD Kay Simpson, Men's Walk 13, LD Gary Reid, Women's Walk 14, LD Terry Tucker and Men's Walk 15, LD Mike Moates, WW16 LD Sammye Campbell and 17 LD George Franklin. Please plan to attend. Bring a dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a potluck fellowship.

On Feb. 11 will we honor the 2000 Walks; Women's Walk 18 LD Sheree Moates, Men's Walk 19 LD Jim Campbell, Women's Walk 20 LD Lynda Walker, Women's Walk 21 LD Marilyn Clark and Men's Walk 22 LD Steve Herren.

For more information see our website www.signal-emmaus.org

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study met on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. The choir did not practice on Wednesday. Nancy Koger will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday morning. Helen Glass is liturgist.

Communion servers for January are Todd Patterson, Jim Bill Little, Nancy Little and Danny Kennemur. Ushers for the month are Mark McLean, Vicky McLean, Jamie Walker and Jarle Boe.

The lectionary for the second Sunday after Christmas is Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 14:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; and John 1:1-9 and 10-18. The chancel choir will sing Hector Berlioz's "Born Among Us in a Manger" for the anthem. "The Beginning of Wisdom" by Austin Lovelace is the offertory anthem.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 on Sunday morning to share the Scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Tom, along with Big Spring's new pastor, Craig Holstedt, continues to lead a Bible study on the week's lectionary in the library of First Presbyterian, Big Spring, on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m.

The next Frolic will be on Saturday evening, Jan. 16, at 7.

The Session will meet at 5:57 p.m. in the church social hall on Thursday.

We will have our regular covered dish lunch after worship Sunday. Communion will be celebrated during the service. The lectionary for the second Sunday after Christmas is Jeremiah 31:7-14, 26; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; and John 1:1-18.

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Club News

TOPS

TOPS Club 0021 held its final meeting of 2009 on Dec. 28 in the fellowship hall of the First Christian Church. Leader Laura Sickles presided and called the members to give the TOPS cheer. The TOPS pledge was given with Carol Smith leading. The KOPS pledge was then given by Leola Newton and Ethel Cassady. The TOPS welcome song was then sung by all present.

Roll call was given by Hughetta Roberts with eight TOPS and two KOPS answering. The group totaled a 6.75-pound loss. Aimee Johnson was the best loser of the week with a 4.25-pound loss. She was also the month's top loser with 7 pounds.

The business portion of the meeting began with minutes being read by Mary Berry and approved by all members. Leola Newton was nominated and elected to be the new contest chairman for 2010.

Then a letter from Area Captain Clara Cleghorn was read to inform members of new weight chart rules and other changes for 2010 from the national headquarters. Programs for meeting in January were assigned to Olnee Menges, Linda Stapel, Frank Sickles and Carol Smith.

The program for the evening was presented by Carol Smith and entitled, "Fat-Free vs. Sugar-Free." Weight losers must learn to look at product labels to verify choices of calories per tablespoon to determine what is best for their weight loss program. They also need to determine the amount of fat and types of fats that are best for their plan. Beware if sugars or fats that are listed first on labels.

The final item of business reminded members that the next week's weigh-in will be a new beginning on the weight charts and no loss or gain will be noted.

Visitors are always welcome. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Monday. Come and meet with us and see for yourself. TOPS does help with weight loss.

LAWS

Continued from Page 7A

offer areas in which to light up as long as they have separate ventilating systems.

Not including Virginia and its partial ban, smoking will be banned in restaurants in 29 states and in bars in 25, according to the American Lung Association.

And 12 more states — including Florida, Michigan and Arkansas — have passed laws requiring manufacturers to make their cigarettes less likely to start fires, leaving Wyoming as the only state without such laws, according to the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes.

America's roads should be safer in 2010, as bans on texting while driving go into effect in New Hampshire, Oregon and Illinois. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, that will make 19 states that have outlawed the practice, not including six states that prohibit using hand-held cell phones while behind the wheel.

"This legislation is important and will make our roads safer. No driver has any business text messaging while they are driving," said Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White.

Tina Derby, 42, of Warner, N.H., said she has no intention to stop texting while driving, despite the possible $100 fine she could receive.

"I'd better start saving my money," Derby said.

A new Arkansas law prohibits retailers from selling toy guns that look like they real thing. But it may not have that big of an effect.

Imitation guns used for theater productions and other events are exempted, as are replicas of firearms produced before 1898, BB guns, paintball or pellet guns.



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Suggested Retail, $2,998
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Suggested Retail, $978
NOW $297

Corner Entertainment Unit
Oak or Black
Suggested Retail, $297
NOW $97

4 Drawer Chest
Nice Finish
Suggested Retail, $97
NOW $47

Queen Mattress Set
Camouflage
Suggested Retail, $499
NOW $297

Sofa & Love Set
Blue Microfiber
Suggested Retail, $799
NOW $577

Bean Bag Chair
Lots of Colors
NOW $27

Cowboy Candles
Great Selection
NOW $14

Living Room
Ashley Club Chair
Suggested Retail, $427
NOW $197
Ashley Press Black Recliner
Suggested Retail, $748
NOW $297
Mayo Blue Denium Sofa
Suggested Retail, $1,647
NOW $497
Mayo Merlot Sofa
Suggested Retail, $1,947
NOW $497
Mayo Club Chair
Suggested Retail, $1,198
NOW $297
Seafoam Love Seat
Suggested Retail, $777
NOW $297
Mayo Floral Tapestry
Suggested Retail, $1,947
NOW $497
Sage Sofa & Love Seat
NOW $647
Leather Lounge Sectional
Suggested Retail, $1,397
NOW $697

Bedroom
Twin Sleigh Bed
Cream Color
Suggested Retail, $498
NOW $197
6 pc. Bedroom Suite
Black
Suggested Retail, $1,497
NOW $797
Solid Oak Dresser
Suggested Retail, $1,698
NOW $497
Solid Maple Dresser
Suggested Retail, $1,748
NOW $497
Dresser Mirror & Night Stand
Suggested Retail, $1,798
NOW $497
Name Brands
- Lane
- Sealy
- Ashley
- Albany
- Bassett
- Sleeptronic
- Corsicana
- Best

Large Canvas Art
Suggested Retail, $199
NOW $47
Matress Sets
Plush Sets
Twin Sets $147
Full Sets $177
Queen Sets $247
Classic Delux
Twin Sets $147
Full Sets $247
Queen Sets $297
Premier
Full Sets $297
Queen Sets $347
Qeen Sets $497
All items Subject to prior Sale. Items sold on first-come, first serve basis, You haul-it and save!

Dining Room
Beautiful Glass Iron Table w/4 chairs
Suggested Retail, $1,025
NOW $397
Counter Pub Table w/6 chairs & Lazy Susan
Suggested Retail, $1,200
NOW $697
Ceramic Tile Table w/4 chairs
Suggested Retail, $1,097
NOW $597
Chocolate Brown Table w/4 chairs
Suggested Retail, $897
NOW $497
Romo Table w/4 chairs
Suggested Retail, $977
NOW $397

Chairs & Recliners
Electric Recliners
Suggested Retail, $778
NOW $397
Berkline leather Wall Hugger
Suggested Retail, $747
NOW $297
Navy Blue Land Recliner
Suggested Retail, $597
NOW $297
Ashley Burgundy Recliner
Suggested Retail, $548
NOW $297
Ashley Stone Recliner
Suggested Retail, $577
NOW $297

ODDS & ENDS
Ashley Sunburst End Table
Suggest Retail $379 Now $97
Ashley End Table
Suggest Retail $398 Now $97
5 Drawer Chest
Suggest Retail $698 Now $347
Marble Top Bombay Nightstand
Suggest $898 Now $297
All Lamps & Floral 50% OFF
Pine Night Stand
Suggest Retail $278 Now $97
Slate End Table
Suggest Retail $277 Now $77
Mission Night Stand
Suggest Retail $299 Now $97
Gun Cabinet
Suggest $648 Now $377
Floral Club Cair $197

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