



By Todd A. Buchanan for USA TODAY  
Seantrel Henderson: No. 1 on offense.

All-USA team

## Prep's best in football

Meet the standout players and coach on this year's high school squad, 1, 6C



NO. 1 IN THE USA



By Paul Sanchez, AP  
Jenny McCarthy: Focuses on autism.

## Should we take cues from stars on health?

When celebs discuss medical issues, we listen. Is that wise? 1-2, 8D

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

# Newsline

News Money Sports Life



By Haraz N. Chhabria, AP  
Opposed: Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

## Health bill nears Senate OK

Republican foes are unlikely to block passage in the Christmas Eve vote, 4A  
■ 'Barry from D.C.': Caller for Kaine, 4A

## Recession halts growth in boom states

Census Bureau's new population estimates show impact of economy on U.S. migration patterns, 3A.

## U.S. boy in Brazil to be returned to dad

The chief justice of the South American country sides with New Jersey father in custody battle, 5A.

## Money: Retailers in wooing frenzy

After a snowstorm slices needed sales, stores add hours, discounts to draw holiday shoppers, 1B.  
► Entrepreneurial flair runs in families, 1B.

## Sports: Football coach at intersection

Quinn takes over at University at Buffalo, also will guide University of Cincinnati in Sugar Bowl, 1C.

## Life: Pet rescues with happy endings

Sharon L. Peters recounts heartwarming true stories shared with her by Pet Smart Charities, 14D.  
► Rehab helps prevent repeat heart issues, 14D.

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Taylor Swift

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## USA TODAY Snapshots®

### No flu for the holiday

Percentage who will change holiday plans (avoid crowds, etc.).



By Anne R. Carey and Sam Ward, USA TODAY

52 Crossword, Sudoku 8D  
Editorial/Forum 13, 15A  
7C  
Marketplace Today 8D  
Market scoreboard 4B  
State-by-state 7A

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Michael Jackson  
1994-AP photo

# Passages

From the King of Pop to the Lion of the Senate, a look back at a year of loss, 9-10A



By Joel Salcido for USA TODAY  
Resuming routine: 1st Cavalry Division's Pfc. Brandon Albert escorts the Horse of the Fallen Soldier during the Killeen Christmas Parade on Dec. 12. Albert just returned from his first Iraq tour.

## At Fort Hood, a 'sense of sorrow' clouds holidays

Nov. 5 slayings redefine the season on Army post

By Donna Leinwand and Sharon Jayson  
USA TODAY

For the first time in 22 years, Sheryll Pearson won't put up a Christmas tree. Suddenly, the holiday she's always loved is "horrible."

Pearson's son, Mikey — Army Pfc. Michael Pearson, 22, who specialized in defusing bombs — is dead, gunned down last month in the rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that killed 13 people and wounded more than 30 others. Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, is charged with the slayings.

For families of the victims, for the injured and for the many who call the post at Fort Hood

home, the Nov. 5 tragedy remains a fresh, stinging wound in what should be a joyous holiday season. Injured soldiers are wrestling with rehab as their units deploy overseas. Soldiers who live at Fort Hood have put on a brave face as they regain their sense of security. Professional counselors and chaplains are trying to help everyone make sense of it all.

### Cover story

Many of the soldiers at Fort Hood are accustomed to witnessing death. The sprawling, 340-square-mile post between Dallas and Austin is one of the largest military installations in the world, home to about 50,000 soldiers. Among the units based there is the 1st Cavalry, which has sent troops for multiple tours of duty in Iraq.

Yet the deaths they've witnessed have been in combat, not at home — not in the place they

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

# Safety of food at airports spotty

Serious violations common in reports

By Alison Young  
USA TODAY

Airport restaurants packed with holiday travelers have been cited in the past year for hundreds of food safety violations, local health department reports show.

A USA TODAY review of inspection records for nearly 800 restaurants at 10 airports found items such as tuna salad and turkey sandwiches stored at dangerously warm temperatures, raw meat contaminating ready-to-eat foods, rat droppings and kitchens lacking soap for workers to wash hands.

Serious violations, which can increase the risk of illness, are common. On the most recent inspections available online, 42% of 57 restaurants reviewed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport had at least one "critical" violation. So did 77% of 35 restaurants reviewed at Reagan National Airport.

Grab-and-go coolers often don't keep sandwiches and salads cold enough to stop dangerous pathogens, reports show.

"The grab-and-go sandwich problem, it's a constant battle," said David Jefferson, of the Tarrant County, Texas, health department, which inspects Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

There are 76 million cases of food-borne illnesses annually in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Most aren't traced to the source and doing so is even harder with airport restaurants because customers scatter, the Food and Drug Administration's Dean Davidson said.

The National Restaurant Association's Sue Hensley said the industry "is committed to ensuring all prepared meals are safe."

Still, violations happen:  
► **Cold food above 41 degrees.** At Detroit's airport, chicken in salads was 60 degrees in a cooler Dec. 4 at the Fuddrucker's near Gate C25. Fuddrucker's in airports differ from its typical restaurants because they sell so much food from grab-and-go coolers, said spokeswoman Kelly Pascal Gould. The company is auditing airport franchise coolers.

► **Cross-contamination.** A worker handled raw chicken, then bread without changing gloves Aug. 27 at Cibo Bistro & Wine Bar at Reagan National Airport. "I'm sure it was an isolated incident," said Chris Trelora at Cibo's management firm.  
► **Vermin.** Inspectors found rat droppings or rodent issues at least 12 times from October 2008 through March at Atlanta's airport. At JFK International Airport in New York City, at least 11 citations were issued for mice from October 2008 through August.

Atlanta's airport has eliminated the rodents and uses private inspectors to supplement the health department's, spokesman John Kennedy said.

New York City's health department said, "Restaurants at JFK have had relatively few problems with rodents in comparison to restaurants citywide."

## Blood-alcohol self-tests spiking

\$215M industry a shortcut to safety?

By Katharine Lackey  
USA TODAY

A growing number of people are using personal breathalyzers to test themselves, family members and friends for alcohol impairment.

The personal breathalyzer market is valued at \$215.2 million, up from \$27.9 million in 2005, according to Susan Eustis, president and CEO of WinterGreen Research, which does market analysis for industries such as health care and telecommunications.

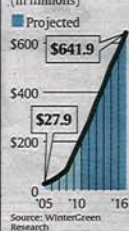
Both AAA and law enforcement officials question the accuracy of personal breathalyzers and discourage their use in making decisions about driving.

AAA national spokesman Troy Green says the devices are more likely to provide inaccurate readings than those police use because of less sophisticated technology and the fact a self-testing intoxicated person might not produce a good breath sample. But, he adds, the devices can be helpful for parents looking to enforce a zero-tolerance rule with their underage children.

Corinne Geller, spokeswoman for the Virginia State Police, says it can be hard to get an exact read-

### Personal breathalyzer sales

(in millions)



ing on a personal breath test because blood-alcohol content levels affect people differently.

John Waldo, 56, of Montpelier, Vt., says he purchased a breathalyzer last month. "You go out for dinner, you have a couple of drinks and you have no idea whether you're legal," he says.

Consumer breathalyzers range in price from around \$3 for a single, disposable unit to \$299 for a high-end digital device.

Patrice McMorrow, vice president of business development at Akers Biosciences, which manufactures the BreathScan test, says sales have increased to about 500,000 annually.

Q3 Innovations, which makes nine AlcoHawk consumer models, has seen a steady increase, marketing executive Jenny Yoder says.

Thomas Nicolette, CEO of Akers, says BreathScan also is used to test high-schoolers before they enter a dance or school event and says it is 99% as accurate as a blood draw.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved 21 of the devices, including BreathScan and AlcoHawk, meaning they each are at least as safe and effective as other devices, FDA spokeswoman Peper Long says.

Lackey works for The News Leader in Staunton, Va.