

# The skin you're in

WINTER WEATHER WEARS ON BODY'S OUTER LAYER

HEALTH, 8B



CORPUS CHRISTI

# Caller Times



50 CENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010 ■ CITY EDITION

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68°/55°  
Cloudy, showers

## Quick Read



### PROOF IS IN THE PLAYOFFS

The fact the Cowboys are playing a second-round playoff game against Minnesota on Sunday is the first hint that changes to the defense have worked out quite well.

SPORTS, 1C



### LIFE AFTER COLISEUM VOTE

There may be clamor amid alterations; generally, progress prevails, columnist Leanne Libby writes.



LOCAL, 1B

### KANE FIRM TO GET FUNDS

Sam Kane Processors will be the beneficiary of a \$25 million loan guarantee given to Heritage Land Bank through stimulus funding.



BUSINESS, 7C



### WII, NETFLIX JOIN FORCES

Wii this spring will become the last of the three current video game consoles to get instant viewing of Netflix movies and TV shows over the Internet.

ENTERTAINMENT, 2A

### INDEX

BUSINESS 7C-8C  
COMICS 6B-7B  
CROSSWORD 7B  
LOTTERY 6C  
WEATHER 8A

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### LIVESTOCK SHOW CONTINUES

See more on the shop projects and poultry entries.

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## Appraisal district wants to explain actions

■ Unclear whether meeting will be open to public

SARA FOLEY  
foleys@caller.com / 886-3767

The Nueces County Appraisal District wants to hold what board member Bob Jones described as an open and frank discussion about

how it set aside \$2.8 million for a new building and what to do about taxing entities' requests for refunds.

All taxing entities in the county will be invited, but the public may not be. An open-government advocate who is a lawyer says closing the meeting would be illegal.

If the meeting is closed, it would exclude the public from hearing discussion of a topic that outraged government officials throughout the county and prompted County

### INSIDE

■ Appraisal district board agendas unclear. 3A

Judge Loyd Neal to accuse the appraisal district of deceit.

The appraisal district's board of directors voted 6-1 Wednesday, with board member Ed Lopez opposed, to call an executive session and send out certified invitations to taxing entities. Afterward, board members said the

meeting may or may not be held in closed session. It's set for either Jan. 27 or Feb. 2.

During that meeting the idea of a new building paid for jointly by county government agencies needing more office space may be considered.

Jones, who made the motion to have the meeting in executive session, said after the meeting that he intended for the meeting to be open

Please see DISTRICT, 3A

## TRAGEDY IN HAITI

500,000 FEARED DEAD 16 U.N. WORKERS KILLED 20 COUNTRIES PLEDGE AID



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Injured people sit along Delmas road Wednesday, the day after an earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

# Chilling chaos

■ Aid starts to pour in to Haitians

JONATHAN M. KATZ  
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after

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Keep up with the latest news from the earthquake.

the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

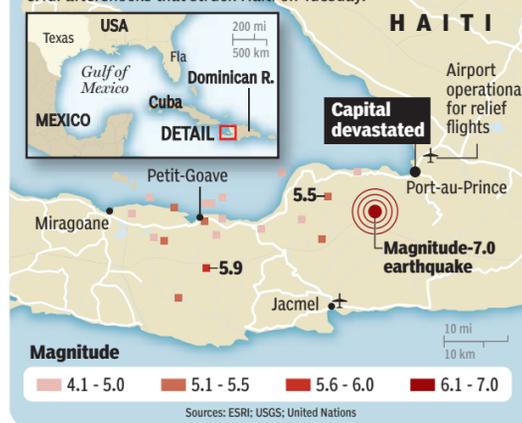
Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the

Please see CHAOS, 8A

## FULL EXTENT OF DAMAGE SLOW TO EMERGE

International governments and aid groups rushed to put relief plans in motion following the magnitude-7.0 earthquake and powerful aftershocks that struck Haiti on Tuesday.



Sources: ESRI; USGS; United Nations

Page 8A

■ Local groups begin efforts  
■ Contact national groups

■ Obama promises all-out response  
■ Ways you can help with donations

## Artificial pancreas possible

■ Diabetes patients will be first to try new technology

LINDA A. JOHNSON  
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — An experimental artificial pancreas soon will be tested in diabetes patients, potentially sparing them the hormonal disorder's most dangerous complications and frequent blood sugar checks and insulin injections.

If all goes well, a commercial model could be on the market in four years, said Aaron Kowalski, research director of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's artificial pancreas project.

The device, being developed by the foundation and health care giant Johnson & Johnson, potentially could help about 6 million diabetics in the U.S. alone who use

insulin, Kowalski said.

It could prevent the life-threatening seizures that can occur when blood sugar drops too low, as well as blindness, amputations and organ damage caused by years of too-high blood sugar. And it would end having to track carbohydrate intake and then calculate the insulin doses needed all day long. That's because the device would constantly measure blood sugar and its computer would decide when to give the patient more insulin.

The research partnership, which also includes glucose monitor maker DexCom Inc., was announced Wednesday.

"It's been a goal for 40 years" at the foundation, Kowalski said. "The pieces of the puzzle are in place ... I'm confident this is going to work."

The foundation has been working with

Please see PANCREAS, 5A

## Opinions fly on lesson content

■ Social studies hearing draws diverse group

APRIL CASTRO  
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Students, parents and lawmakers lobbied Wednesday for more diversity in Texas' social studies curriculum, before the state board of education adopts new classroom standards that will determine how history is taught for the next decade.

In more than six hours of public testimony, dozens of people took their chance to help shape the way millions of Texas school children learn topics from the Roman Empire to the entrepreneurial success of billionaire Bill Gates.

The public hearing sets up a tentative vote Thursday on the new standards. But, as usual in votes before the conservative-led board, the wide-reaching guidelines are full of potential ideological flashpoints.

Early quibbles over how much prominence to give civil rights leaders such as Cesar Chavez and the inclusion of Christmas seem to have been smoothed over. Board Chairman Gail Lowe said at the start of the hearing that Chavez and Christmas will not be removed from the standards.

But board members are crafting dozens of amendments to be raised for consideration before the tentative vote. The 15-member board won't adopt final standards until March.

Please see HISTORY, 3A

Friday

## Top dogs

More than 500 dogs will be in Sinton for Corpus Christi Kennel Club's annual show.



Weekend