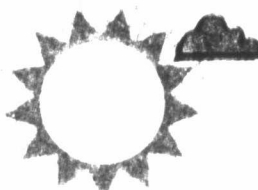


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LOCAL

Furr's Cafeteria will close here

Furr's Manager Andy Garcia confirmed Friday afternoon Furr's Cafeteria in Pampa will soon be closing.

Garcia said he was notified of the closure by the area manager who will be in Pampa Monday. He said the area manager will be meeting with him about the closing date. Garcia said it is possible the local restaurant could be closed as early as next week.

The local manager said several other Furr's facilities have been closed in the area.

DEATHS

- Carol Ann Adams Flippo, 62, nurses' aide.
- Ruby Pauline Prather, 94, nurses' aide.
- Beatrice "Bea" Turk Ritchhart, 90, business owner.
- Hazel Wilson, 101, teacher, artist.

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Grand jury hands up 12 indictments

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

Twelve criminal indictments were returned by the Gray County Grand Jury Thursday at the conclusion of its session, according to 31st District Attorney Rick Roach.

William Keith Langley, 24, 430 Rider, was indicted for indecency with a child. The charge is a third degree felony. The indictment is the result of an incident with a minor child which occurred in August.

Other indictments were as follows:

Jeffery Mearl Findley, 35, 804 N. West, for burglary of a building - enhanced, a second degree felony. The indictment

stated he knowingly and intentionally entered a building without permission of the owner with the intent to commit theft. Prior felony convictions include escape and aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer in the 47th District Court in Potter County on Sept. 17, 1990. On Oct. 1, 1990, he was convicted of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the 181st District Court of Randall County. Additionally, he was convicted of forgery by passing, enhanced, on Oct. 18, 1993, in an Amarillo district court.

Bobby Joe Remy, 61, 321 N. Dwight, was indicted for theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000, enhanced. It is a sec-

ond degree felony. The indictment stated he did then and there unlawfully appropriate, by acquiring or otherwise exercising control over, property which included automobile parts and tires, of the value over \$1,500, but under \$20,000. Remy had a prior conviction of felony theft on March 13 in Gray County.

He also was convicted of the felony offense of passing a forged check on Feb. 8, 1980, in 35th Judicial District of Coleman County, Texas.

On July 28, 1997, he was convicted of the felony offense of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in Blaine County, Okla.

Douglas Walter Hassell,

35, 1821 N. Dwight, was indicted on two counts of burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony. The indictment stated he entered a habitation without the effective consent of the owner.

Traci Lynn Gilliam, 32, of Milwaukee, Wis., was indicted for possession of marijuana, a second degree felony.

Gilliam was named in the indictment as intentionally or knowingly possessing a usable quantity of marijuana in an amount of 2,000 pounds or less but more than 50 pounds.

Steve Orlando Simmonds, 36, Bronx, N.Y., was indicted for possession of marijuana, second degree felony. The

indictment stated he intentionally or knowingly possessed a usable quantity of marijuana in an amount of 2,000 pounds or less but more than 50 pounds.

Terrence O'Neil Stephens, 19, Invgton, Va., was indicted for possession of marijuana, a second degree felony. He is alleged in the indictment of intentionally or knowingly possessing a usable quantity of marijuana in an amount of 2,000 pounds or less but more than 50 pounds.

Kyle B. Hogue, 32, White Deer, was indicted for driving while intoxicated - subsequent offense, enhanced. He was previously convicted of three (See JURY, Page 3)

Arab regimes' needs outweigh sympathy for Saddam Hussein

By HAMZA HENDAWI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Despite America's sagging image in the region, many Arab regimes know they have little choice but to stay friends with the United States if Washington goes to war with Iraq, political analysts say.

For Kuwait, friendship with the United States made the difference between independence and becoming a province of Iraq. For Egypt, it has meant billions of dollars to build schools and power stations. For Saudi Arabia, the link with America has provided support for the royal family and protected its oil wealth from avaricious neighbors.

For those reasons and a multitude of others, the United States likely will find many Arab rulers offering everything from discreet logistical support to unfettered use of territory and airspace should Washington go to war with Iraq.

Yet among the Arab people, anti-U.S. sentiment runs high these days because of Washington's strong sup-

port for Israel and a perceived crusade against Muslim countries after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"People are emotional," said Jamal Khashoggi, deputy editor-in-chief of the Saudi daily Arab News. "Governments are more realistic because they have to deal with such things as budgets and meeting people's needs."

Arab leaders have allowed noisy street protests, but many have taken a more moderate official stance.

One such leader is Egypt's Hosni Mubarak. The country has received some \$25 billion in U.S. aid since 1975 as a reward for assassinated President Anwar Sadat's 1979 signature on a peace treaty with Israel. Mubarak has built on that by acting as a peace broker and a force of moderation in the region.

He has visited the White House at least once a year since taking office 21 years ago and speaks confidently about Washington's politics. His trips to Washington are big news for Egypt's state-run media, which often refer to the warm reception he gets there and the respect accorded to his views on

regional issues.

Elsewhere in the Arab world — from Saudi Arabia to Jordan and even hard-line Syria — a phone call from a U.S. president or a secretary of state is guaranteed to make the front page of the next day's paper.

Last summer, every news publication in Saudi Arabia used a picture of the kingdom's flamboyant ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, casually seated on the arm of a sofa with the U.S. president at Bush's ranch in Texas.

The photo was seen as confirmation that the two nations remain close despite the tension after the Sept. 11 attacks. Fifteen of the 19 suicide hijackers were Saudis.

"There is such a thing as prestige in international relations," said Jehad Auda, a political scientist from Egypt. "It's important that nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia are seen to be listened to in the United States regardless of which way the United States decides at the end."

Befriending the United States also means that Israel, which remains a



(Courtesy photo)

Jason Soukup, 1994 PHS graduate, will be featured in a special episode of "Emergency Vets" on Dec. 17.

TV program will feature Pampa grad

A 1994 graduate of Pampa High School, Jason Soukup, is scheduled to be the subject of a program on cable Channel 50's Animal Planet Tuesday night.

Mike Soukup of Pampa, Jason's father, said his son is to appear on a two-hour episode of "Emergency Vets."

"Emergency Vets" on Animal Planet will air at 7 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17. It will also be shown at 4 p.m. on Dec. 22.

Currently doing a one-year internship at Alameda East Animal Hospital in Denver, Colo., the Pampa native is working on his residency in small animal internal medicine.

The subject of the program is a rookie doctor facing his critical first test in the emergency room of the 24-hour emergency hospital. It will describe how the after hours rotation is critical to hospital's staffing needs and an important test of a doctor's skill under pressure.

Soukup graduated magna cum laude from Texas Tech University in 1998 with a bachelors degree in biology. He is a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M's School of Veterinary Medicine.

He is the son of Mike and Lawaine Soukup of Pampa. His grandparents are Al and Peggy Soukup and Ralph and Winnie Jackson, all of Pampa.

It's Christmas party time



Pampa News photos by Dee Dee Laramore

Debbie Ellis, a client in at the Pampa Sheltered Workshop shows a present she received at the workshop's annual Christmas Party to Executive Director Eva Isbell and Stacey Brown, day program supervisor. The clients and their families enjoyed snacks and desserts brought by volunteers, but the highlight of the party was a visit from Santa Claus.

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OBITUARIES

HAZEL WILSON
1901-2002

Hazel Wilson, 101, passed away Dec. 12, 2002, at Canadian.
Services will be at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 16, 2002, in Carmichael-Whateley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Bill Sparks, pastor of Union Church in Spearman, and the Rev. Lonny Robbins, pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whateley Funeral Directors of Pampa.
Mrs. Wilson was born May 19, 1901, in Indian Territory at Lamont, Okla., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Campbell. She spent her childhood and early adult years in Oklahoma, graduating from high school at Fairfax, Okla. She later attended Phillips University at Enid, Okla. She became a Christian at age 14, and a member of the First Christian Church in Fairfax, Okla.
Mrs. Wilson came to Pampa in 1926, and became well known as a piano teacher, teaching here for more than 40 years. She also was pianist at First Christian Church and Community Christian Center for many years. She was a member of Trinity Fellowship in Pampa. She was married to Ramon C. Wilson, Gray County Auditor, on June 7, 1929, in Pampa. He preceded her in death in 1988.
After retiring from teaching, Mrs. Wilson began studying oil painting and continued to

paint until nearly 90 years of age.
Survivors include one daughter, Kay Wilson of Scottsdale, Ariz.; one son, Jerry Wilson and wife Susie of Pampa; one sister, Colleen Mihoover of Tulsa, Okla.; three grandchildren, Kim Wilson Stevens and husband Kenny of Waco, Chris Wilson and wife Erin of Lubbock, and Greg Wilson and wife Michele of Round Rock; and five great-grandchildren, Benjamin Stevens, Nicholas Stevens, Matthew Stevens, and Elizabeth Stevens, all of Waco, and Dax Wilson of Lubbock.
The family suggests memorials be to Trinity Fellowship Church in Pampa or to a favorite charity.
The family will receive friends from 6 to 9 Sunday evening at 1701 N. Russell.
www.carmichael-whatley.com



RUBY PAULINE PRATHER
1908-2002

Ruby Pauline Prather, 94, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2002. Services will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday in Carmichael-Whateley Colonial Chapel with Glen Walton, of Bell Avenue Church of Christ in Amarillo, officiating. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m., Tuesday in Oak Grove Cemetery at Fort Cobb, Okla.
Mrs. Prather was born Dec. 5, 1908, at Altus, Okla. She married Edward Samuel Prather on Dec. 29, 1927, at Chickasha, Okla.; he died Sept. 28, 1956.
She came to Pampa in 1957 and was a nurs-

es' aide at Highland General Hospital for 26 years, retiring in 1982.
She was a member of Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ.
Survivors include three sisters, Martha Doss, Nellie Larkin, and Betty Crable, all of Pampa; a brother, Julian Claunch of Oakland, Tenn.; and 15 nieces and nephews.
The family requests memorials be to Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, 1342 Mary Ellen, Pampa, TX 79065.
www.carmichael-whatley.com

SERVICES TOMORROW

WILSON, Hazel — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whateley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

CAROL ANN ADAMS FLIPPO
1939-2002

COLUMBIA, La. — Carol Ann Adams Flippo, 62, a former Skellytown resident, died Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002, at Columbia. Graveside services were Saturday in Columbia. Arrangements were under the direction of Riser Funeral Home of Columbia.
A nurses' aide, Mrs. Flippo was born Dec. 13, 1939, at Beaumont, to Robert and Helen Adams.
She was preceded in death by her husband, James; her parents; a brother, Bobby Jr.; and a

son, Joe Haywood.
Survivors include two sons, Kenneth Haywood of New Orleans, La., and Bobby Haywood of Shreveport, La.; four sisters, Beatrice Pabst of Johnson City, Joyce Prater of Pampa, and Ella Mae Tucker and Helen Marie Ainsworth, both of Columbia; a brother, Nathan Adams of Shreveport; and 15 grandchildren.
The family requests memorials be to a hospice of choice.

BEATRICE 'BEA' TURK RITCHHART
1912-2002

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Beatrice "Bea" Ritchhart, 90, a former Pampa resident and businesswoman, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2002, at Mount Vernon, Mo. Services were Dec. 11 at Ulmer Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Fasken Cemetery at Carthage.
Mrs. Ritchhart was born June 9, 1912, at Carthage. She married Glenn Ritchhart on June 19, 1937; he died Aug. 22, 1966.
She also was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Lois; and a brother, Leonard.
She was a longtime active member of First Presbyterian Church of Pampa.
In partnership with Jean Stewart, she

opened The Gift Box in February of 1961. The early home for the business was in the Brunow Building behind Levine's. It moved to its present location in 1963. Mrs. Ritchhart retired from the business in 1981 and relocated to Forsyth, Mo., then a few years later to Anderson, Mo., to be nearer her family.
At Anderson, she led an active life until her health failed. She spent the last several years in a nursing home.
Memorials should be to The Book of Remembrance of First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite charity.

ON RECORD

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance Service responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, Friday, Dec. 13
12:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Coffee. No transport.
12:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) and transferred one to BSA-West, Amarillo.
1:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to the 100 block of South Wells.
3:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo and transferred one to PRMC.
4:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Coffee and transported one to PRMC.
5 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of West Brown. No transport.
5:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to BSA-West, Amarillo.
5:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to CHC.
7:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the prison and transported one to PRMC.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department made the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, according to Gray County Jail records.
Friday, Dec. 13
Darlene Linda McQuire, 57, 1200 N. Wells, was arrested on two municipal warrants for issuing bad checks.
Mary Turner, 49, Rosco, was arrested for driving while intoxicated-second offense.
Tammie Bennett, 42, 104 S. Wells, was arrested on municipal warrants for no driver's license, ran stop sign, and failure to appear.
George Nichols, 22, 509 N. Nelson, was arrested for public intoxication.
Bryan Fernandez, 23, 509 N. Dwight, was arrested for simple assault.

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WEATHER

PAMPA - Sunday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the upper 30s. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds 10 to 20 mph. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 60s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
if so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
as any friend could say,
perhaps you were not there at all,
just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
we thank you so much whatever the part.
The family of Malenda Kinslow.
Belinda Nolte, Vickie Long, Jerry Kinslow

The family of Eva Cash would like to express their thanks and gratitude to:
Dr. Laxmichand Kammani and staff
The wonderful staff of the extended care unit of PRMC
The caring staff of the rehab unit of PRMC
Shepard's Crook nursing agency, especially Susie, Melanie and Maria
BSA Hospice staff, especially Tiffany
Carmichael-Whateley Funeral directors for their concern and professionalism
Our First Christian Church family and the Rev. Barry Loving
and all our friends who brought food, sent flowers, cards, memorials, visited and kept us in their prayers during our time of need. God bless each and every one of you.
Duane Cash, Ingrid Froebel, David Cash, Evelyn and Curt Farmer, Heidi and Joe Williams, Dixie, Joe, Kory and Kenzi Nickell

To all the family and friends who brought food, flowers, hugs, or just remembered us in their prayers we extend our heartfelt THANKS, To Bro. Jim, Gayle, and Betty, and the ladies at Hobart Baptist Church. Very special thanks. We could not have made it through this most difficult time without your love and support.
The family of Junior Sikes, Jo, Terry, David, Janna, Rhonda and the Grandkids

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Bush hopes to move quickly to replace Kissinger

By **KEN GUGGENHEIM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is expected to move swiftly to find a replacement for Henry Kissinger as chairman of a commission investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks after the former secretary of state abruptly resigned because of conflict-of-interest concerns.

Kissinger's resignation Friday came two weeks after his appointment and two days after the panel's vice chairman, former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, stepped down. The twin resignations came as the commission hoped to begin its work next month and after disputes about its organization and its authority to issue subpoenas.

White House aides said the resignation was Kissinger's idea and that

the president accepted it with regret. While no replacement was announced, Bush plans to fill the position soon, the aides said.

The 10-member commission will investigate events surrounding the attacks, examining issues including aviation security, immigration and U.S. diplomacy. It will build on a congressional inquiry, completed this week, into intelligence failures.

Kissinger cited concerns that had been raised about possible conflicts of interests involving his business clients and demands by some Democratic lawmakers that he make public the names of all of his clients. The White House had argued he was not required to make such disclosures because the chairmanship was an unpaid position.

In a letter to Bush, Kissinger said he was willing to submit "all relevant financial information" to the

White House and to an independent review to counter allegations of conflict of interest. But he said he feared critics would demand he liquidate his international consulting firm, Kissinger Associates — something he was not prepared to do.

Kissinger's resignation came one day after he tried to assure victims' relatives that his business interests would not conflict with his duties as chairman. On Wednesday, Mitchell, the former Democratic senator from Maine, submitted his resignation because he said the job would conflict with his responsibilities to his law firm.

The resignations were greeted with favor by some relatives of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Kristen Breitweiser, a leader of September 11th Advocates, said departure of Kissinger and Mitchell "reaffirms my belief that the com-

mission needs to be pure, transparent and purely independent."

Stephen Push of Families of Sept. 11 said the resignation gives Bush "a second chance to appoint someone who will be a thorough and competent investigator."

The relatives' groups have been skeptical about whether Bush wants a full investigation of the attacks, with a potentially embarrassing report due less than six months before the 2004 election.

Although it has yet to begin its work, the commission already has been mired in controversy.

It became bogged down over disputes about its makeup — five Republicans and five Democrats with the chairman named by Bush — and how many votes should be required to issue subpoenas. The White House insisted at least a majority of six votes be required.

That would prevent the five Democrats from issuing subpoenas on their own.

Republicans have yet to choose four of their five members.

In addition to Bush, who will select the new chairman, the GOP leaders of both the House and Senate each must pick two members.

Senate GOP leader Trent Lott of Mississippi already has selected former Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., but has not announced his second choice. House Majority Leader Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., has yet to name his two selections, but is believed to be considering former U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and former Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson.

Democrats have named five members, including former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., who replaced Mitchell as vice chairman.

ON RECORD, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m., Saturday, **Friday, Dec. 13**

Anthony Phillis, 49, New Hampton, Iowa, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for possession of marijuana over two ounces and under four ounces.

Theodore Zakaryan, 44, Skellytown, was arrested for public intoxication.

Dennis Davis, 47, 1329 Terrace, was arrested by the DPS for driving while intoxicated - first offense and breath test refusal, and Carson County warrants for no seat belt and failure to appear.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Rafael Cortez, 22, Henry & 9th St., was arrested for public intoxication, disorderly conduct and five counts of issuing a bad check.

David Fields, 31, 1073 Prairie Dr., was arrested for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and four municipal warrants.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, **Friday, Dec. 13**

3:10 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to the 1300 block of North Hobart to clean up a small anti-freeze spill from a motor vehicle collision.

Saturday, Dec. 14

2:58 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a report of smoke odor in the 300 block of Miami. No source of the odor was found.

ACCIDENTS

The Pampa Police Department reported the following accident, **Thursday, Dec. 12**

No citations were reported in a collision in the 1300 block of North Hobart between a 1989 Ford Crown Victoria driven by Verlme Boydston Currie, 54, 2123 N. Hamilton, and a 1997 Ford Thunderbird driven by Henry Spencer, 18, 2119 Lea.

The vehicle driven by Currie stopped westbound at stop sign in the 600 block of West Harvester when Spencer, who was traveling northbound in the 1300 block of North Hobart with turn signal on. Currie failed to turn, according to the police report, and the two vehicles collided.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

JURY

previous alcohol-related offenses. Two convictions, both in Carson County, related to the operating of a motor vehicle while intoxicated. They were on Feb. 10, 1992, and Feb. 22, 1994. Another conviction on Oct. 17, 1994, was for felony driving while intoxicated. It was also in Carson County.

John Louis Sullins, 23, 413 Powell, was indicted for

delivery of a controlled substance, second degree felony. The indictment stated he intentionally or knowingly delivered by actual transfer, constructive transfer, or offer to sell a controlled substance, namely methamphetamine, in an amount of one gram or more but less than four grams.

Elizabeth Diane Lang, 29, 309 Jean, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to

deliver, second degree felony. She was indicted for possessing with intent to deliver a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in an amount of one gram or more but less than four grams.

Silvia Carrillo Vaquera Camacho, 37, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, a first degree felony.

The indictment states he had the intention of possessing, with intent to deliver, a con-

trolled substance, cocaine, in the amount of four grams or more, but less than 200 grams.

Jermaine Mansfield White, 31, Hawthorne, Calif., was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, first degree felony. In the indictment, it states he intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, codeine, in an amount of 200 grams or more, but less than 400 grams.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ARABS

sworn enemy to virtually every Arab country 54 years after its founding, does not have a monopoly on Washington's ear.

Over the decades, the United States has repeatedly been able to draw Arab leaders close.

King Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's first monarch, pledged his nation's friendship to Washington in the 1940s as World War

II drew to a close. Jordan's King Hussein forged ties with the United States nearly 40 years ago, and they have strengthened since.

Even Egypt's Gamal Abdel-Nasser, Sadat's predecessor, flirted with the United States for years despite his anti-Western rhetoric and before turning to the Soviet Union for economic and military help.

Against that backdrop, say experts,

there unlikely to be much official support for Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi leader alienated many governments in the region by invading Kuwait in 1990, and many moderate leaders have since kept their distance.

"There is a silent majority among Arabs that says the region without Saddam would be a much better place," said Dawood al-Shirian, regional director of the Saudi-owned Al-Hayat newspaper.



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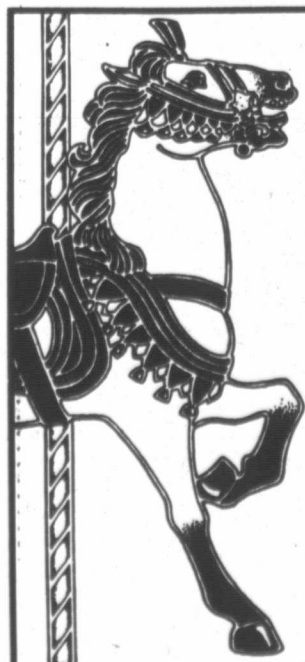
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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Pampa News*.

TEXAS EDITORIALS

State budget: Let's talk ...

From the Austin American-Statesman:
A cartoon that ran in the New Yorker a number of years ago during an economic downturn shows a father, mother and two or three kids seated around the kitchen table for a family meeting. The father solemnly announces something like, "I'm sorry, but due to poor economic conditions, we're going to have to let one of you go."

Any number of human service advocates are afraid the Legislature soon will play the role of the father in that cartoon when it comes to cutting the budget. Will fewer poor children have health insurance? Will there be fewer inspectors of nursing homes? Less money for public education?

With a revenue shortage estimated between \$5 billion and \$12 billion, many expect the new Republican majorities in the House and Senate to consider serious cuts in state human service programs to avoid tax increases. Many in the GOP ranks promised no new taxes to get elected, and they don't want to start the era of GOP rule in Texas with a broken promise.

So when the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a nonprofit group dedicated to representing the interests of the poor in legislative affairs, says it wants to start a conversation with the Legislature about the need to raise state tax revenue, one can reasonably wonder: Who will listen?

Former state district judge Scott McCown, in his public debut as executive director of the center, exceeded a news conference Wednesday to gently insist that reason and logic could make headway in the upcoming legislative session. And he released a new center study, *The Texas Revenue Primer: Finding A Way To Pay*, that details just how the Legislature could raise revenue.

The biggest single change suggested by the center was to expand the sales tax to most business and professional services, but not medical care, while reducing the overall sales tax rate by 0.25 percent. That would raise an additional \$3.4 billion over a two-year budget cycle. So buyers would pay more for a haircut, a lawyer's services or getting a computer fixed, but slightly less for clothes, eating out, furniture and other goods.

Other possible changes: Close loopholes in the franchise tax (\$286 million), raise the cigarette tax by \$1 a pack (\$1.5 billion) and improve property tax collections (\$1 billion). But McCown argued against selling the state's rights to tobacco settlement money.

Sooner or later, the Legislature must deal with an economic reality McCown highlighted: The state's sales tax structure each year gets a little less in tune with the state's economy. As more of the economy shifts to the purchase of services rather than goods, sales tax collections increasingly reflect just one part of the economy, not all of it.

McCown offered no quick-hit solutions. Mostly, he said, the center is trying to start the conversation. The center is not a neutral party, but its data is solid. Anyone looking for clear, straightforward explanations of how the state raises and spends its money would do well to get copies of his publications or go to its Web site at www.cppp.org. Here's hoping legislators will take a look, even if they disagree. Let's talk.

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JIM DAVIDSON
COLUMNIST

Since the beginning of recorded history, the family unit has always been one of the essential building blocks in the success of an empire or a nation. The late William Thayer expressed it this way: "If well ordered, they are the springs from which go forth the streams of national greatness and prosperity, of civil order and public happiness." As leaders in the homes of America, our decisions will often affect our family for years to come.

According to the Bible I've been reading for the past several years, not one of us is perfect. For example, in Romans 3:23 it says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God", and I know this is true. While I'm not perfect and certainly not a preacher, it's my heart's desire to share something with you that will help you become a happier, richer and more successful person. To do this, sometimes all we need is to be reminded of those things most important to us.

Some time ago I heard a true story that I believe can have a tremendous bearing on the traditional family in the years to come: In the 17th century there were two families in America by the names of Edwards and Jukes. As the head of the Edwards family, Mr. Edwards was a Godly man and he did his best to provide spiritual leadership and also be a productive and law abiding member of society. Mr. Jukes, on the other hand, was more or

less a common criminal, spending much of his time in jail, and was anything but a good example for others to follow.

Several years ago, someone did a study on the history of these two families, and here is what they found: the Edwards family produced the famous minister, Jonathan Edwards, who entered Yale University at the age of 13 and later became a great theologian, as well as an author of several books. Further research revealed the Edwards' family tree contained a long list of ministers, college presidents and other prominent members of society.

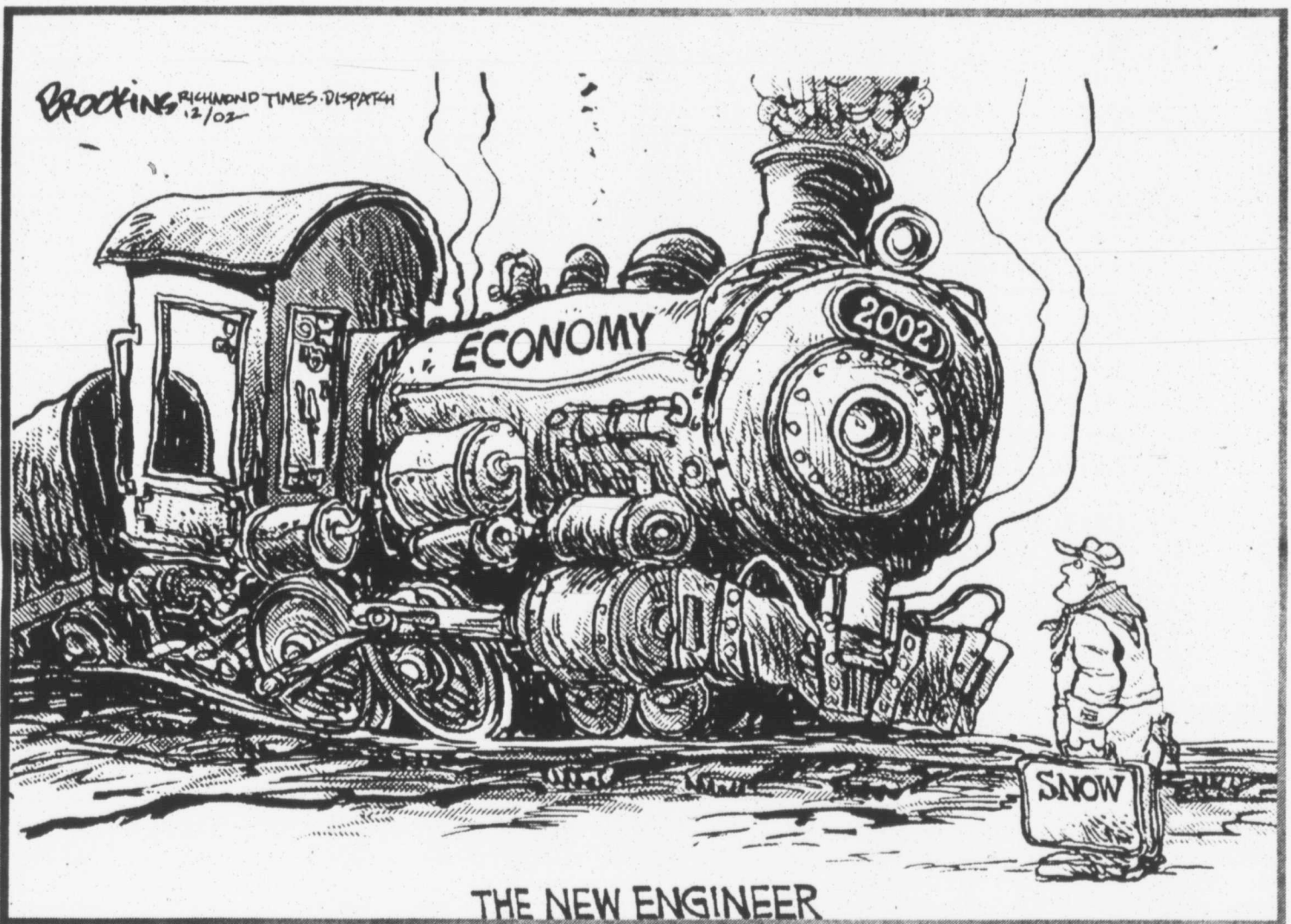
Research on the Jukes family revealed the virtues of the original Mr. Jukes were also passed on to his offspring. The Jukes' family consisted of many criminals and others of unsavory character. The point here should be clear: if you are the leader of your home, the kind of person you are and the decisions you make will affect your family. If you are living the kind of life, however, of which you are not proud

and have personal vices and habits that would keep you from being a good role model, it doesn't necessarily mean that your children will turn out the same way. People with this kind of background have risen above their circumstances to become outstanding successes. In no way do I want you to take what I'm saying too personally, because we all have problems, burdens and challenges, but there is a principle we should all consider. "What's true in the root will be seen in the fruit." There is a lot of truth in the saying, "Like father, like son."

The one thing our children want from us more than anything else is our approval and they will often go to great lengths to get it. This is a free country where we have the opportunities to make our own choices and decisions that affect our lives. Keep in mind, however, your decisions will affect your family and they will often have consequences for many years to come.

A good example is the two young men who killed 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. I'm sure if their parents had the chance they would like to do it all over again. This is something that will haunt them for the rest of their days. Hopefully we can all learn from this tragedy.

(Write to Jim Davidson at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72034.)



Environment central issue of our times

How can six billion people sustain themselves without destroying the planet? That's the central issue of our times.

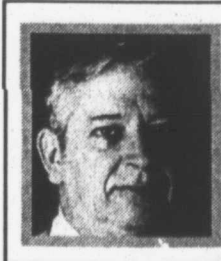
For some reason, many ideological conservatives are scornful of environmental issues, assuming they are the province of leftists or liberals. In fact, they are the province of all of us and are non-ideological. Only a fool will view the continued degradation of the planet as something that doesn't concern him.

Well, I suppose if you're planning on dying within the next five years, it really doesn't concern you. But if you plan to live beyond that time period and care anything about your loved ones who will live after you, you have to be concerned about environmental matters.

Don't believe in the magic of technology to solve all problems. It can't. And don't fall for infantile sophistry such as "all six billion humans would fit in the state of Texas." The fact that as a mathematical abstraction they could is pointless. They could fit, but not survive, in the space delimited by the boundaries of Texas.

So far as we know, our planet is the only one in the solar system that can sustain life. That is because it is exactly the right distance from the sun and because it has a thin atmosphere and water. To screw up the atmosphere, to pollute the potable water and to allow the topsoil to erode is to commit suicide.

Whether global warming is taking



CHARLEY REESE
COLUMNIST

place and, if it is, whether it's natural or man-caused is beside the point. Pollution is occurring on a daily basis. Underground water supplies in the three greatest food-producing countries - India, China and United States - are being used up. The atmosphere is being polluted.

Politicians in the pockets of big business continue to proclaim that unlimited growth in a finite environment with finite resources is possible. It is not. As fossil fuels and minerals are depleted, competition for the remaining supplies will intensify to the point of war.

The carrying capacity of land is real, and we are already seeing large migrations beginning to build up as people flee from areas that cannot sustain them to the areas they hope will - but, if too many come, won't.

Every human being on Earth has a selfish interest in protecting the environment from abuse by corporations and political entities blinded by rapacity. If we have learned anything in the past century it is that laissez faire won't cut it. Only the power of government can match

the power of big business, and only then if an alert, intelligent and ethical people put in public office men and women who won't be bought. Concern for the environment should cut across all ideological, political, sectional, national, racial and ethnic lines.

The Bible says somewhere, and I'm paraphrasing, what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his soul? What does it profit a man to make a lot of money and in the process lose the only world in which he can live? Earth is all there is for us. There is no place else to go. The other planets are unlivable, and the nearest star is so far away it is unreachable, science-fiction fantasies notwithstanding.

It's here that we will either survive as a species or die out. Rather than take a gloom-and-doom approach, we should see it as the great and exciting challenge of our times. Every generation has had to face problems and meet challenges. Ours is to preserve those conditions that sustain life on Earth.

We have to make this the top news story and the No. 1 political issue. There are a lot of positive things we can do, but of course we won't know what they are until we think more about the environment than we do about entertainment or politics. Let's put our minds to it before it's too late.

(Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802)

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Sunday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2002. There are 16 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

On this date:
In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police.

In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the WWI Battle of Verdun.

In 1938, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Jefferson

Memorial took place in Washington D.C.

In 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1948, former State Department official Alger Hiss was indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on

charges of perjury. (He was convicted in 1950.)

In 1961, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death by an Israeli court.

In 1965, two U.S. manned spacecraft, Gemini 6 and Gemini 7, maneuvered to within 10 feet of each other while in orbit.

Do you have a **Recovery Plan** for your investments?

If not, here are 5 of the many reasons we think you should:

- 1 The recent decline in the value of various investments may have created an opportunity for tax savings on your tax return this year.*
- 2 Interest rates are very low. However, certain income strategies and investments could help increase your investment income.
- 3 Many investment portfolios are out of balance at a time when proper investment diversification may be most critical.
- 4 Review your portfolio to consider replacing lower quality investments with higher quality investments that may be at attractive prices.
- 5 If you want to reduce your tax bill, consider tax-free and tax-advantaged investments. Some of these investments are free from federal income tax and others offer an income tax deduction.

*Review your specific situation with your tax adviser for information regarding or issues concerning the tax implications of making a particular investment or taking any other action.

If any of these reasons are relevant to your current situation, we think it's important to schedule an appointment to develop a personalized investment strategy.



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OHS/WIC: Tips to keep it healthy

Many Americans welcome the holidays as a time to indulge in high-calorie, high-fat food and beverages. Our holiday tables positively groan with pies offering fat-rich crusts and egg-laden fillings, dressing made with turkey drippings, and sweet potatoes swimming in butter and brown sugar and topped with marshmallows. And of course there's plenty of eggnog for everyone!

The result of this overindulgence is a holiday weight gain of from one- to seven pounds for most adults. But according to staff of Outreach Health Services (OHS) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, there are ways to lower calorie and fat intake without compromising flavor.

"Today's society offers low-fat versions of virtually every product," said Ann Latham, registered licensed dietitian and assistant director for OHS/WIC. "If we take advantage of those items, watch our portion sizes and control the tendency to graze at parties, we can avoid weight gain during the holidays."

Here are some ideas for making your holiday meal less fattening:

Pecan pie. Make a reduced-fat version by cutting the butter in half and using two large eggs plus two large egg whites instead of three large eggs. Rather than using two cups of pecans, use 1/2 cup of pecans plus 1-1/2 cups of walnuts, hazelnuts or almonds, which are lower in fat content. Recipes also exist for reduced-fat pie crusts.

Mashed potatoes. Use evaporated skim milk (which is very rich and creamy) instead of cream and replace the butter with butter flakes.

Sweet potatoes. Rather than serving candied yams, bake sweet potatoes in the jackets and add a small amount of reduced-fat margarine and just a sprinkling of brown sugar.

Pumpkin pie. Use evaporated skim milk and egg substitutes instead of whole milk and eggs.

Additional tips to help you cut down on your food intake

during the holidays.

—Don't go to a holiday party hungry. Eat a light meal such as fruit and yogurt, beforehand.

—Avoid high-fat hors d'oeuvres such as cheese and nuts. Instead nibble on veggies without dip.

—Don't hover around the area where the food is displayed.

—Bring your favorite low-fat dish to a party or dinner and eat a lot of it. Limit yourself to a small bite of fattening treats.

—At a holiday dinner where lots of different items are being served, take only small portions.

—Choose only the foods that you really enjoy. Do not waste calories on food you can consume any time of the year.

—Don't eat the skin from the turkey or chicken.

—Start with vegetables, but watch out for the starchy ones.

—Avoid seconds. The food (or more like it) will be around the next day.

—Eat more slowly.

—Exercise after eating. Take a walk around the block to burn some of those calories.

OHS/WIC would also like to suggest the following safety tips:

■ **Wash hands and surfaces often.**

—Wash hands with hot, soapy water before preparing food and after using the bathroom, changing diapers, sneezing, or touching pets.

—Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils and counter tops with hot, soapy water after preparing each food item.

—Use paper towels to clean up kitchen surfaces or wash kitchen towels in the hot cycle of the washing machine before using again.

■ **Separate foods to keep bacteria from spreading.**

—Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood and their juices away from other foods in your shopping cart and refrigerator.

—Put cooked meat, fish, and poultry on a clean plate and never back on an unwashed cutting board.

—If possible, use a different cutting board for preparing raw meat. If not, wash it in hot, soapy water before preparing another food item.

■ **Refrigerate well.**

—Do not crowd the refrigerator. Cool air must be able to move around to keep food safe.

—Do not leave food on the counter to thaw or marinate. Thaw food in the refrigerator or in cold running water. Marinate food in the refrigerator.

—Set your refrigerator at 40° F or lower and your freezer at 0° F or lower.

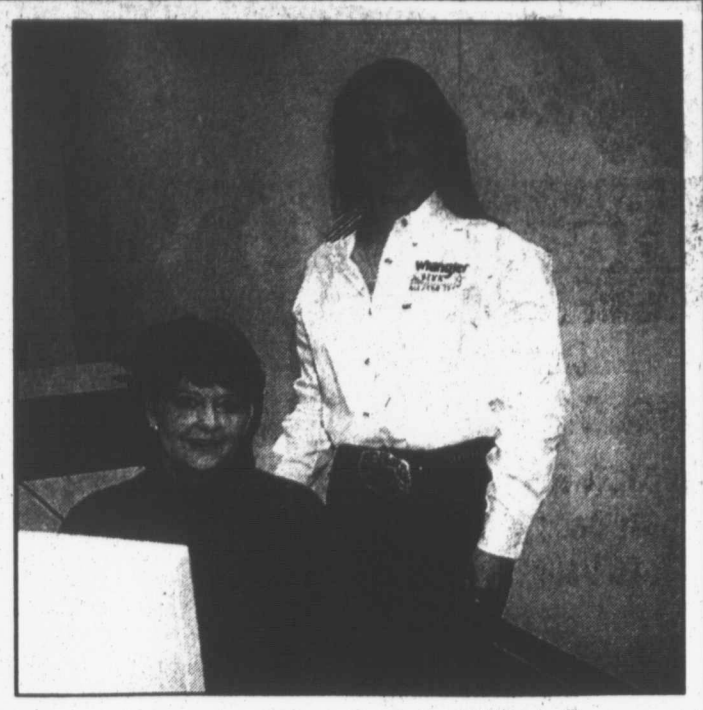
■ **Cook to proper temperatures.**

—When cooking in a microwave oven, cover, stir, and rotate food for even cooking.

—Use a meat thermometer to make sure meats, poultry, and other foods are cooked to a safe temperature all the way through: Ground beef, veal, lamb, and pork — 160°F; ground chicken and turkey — 165°F; beef, veal, and lamb, steak or roasts — 145°F; pork, pork chops, roasts, and ribs — 160° F; fresh ham and sausage — 160°F; Chicken, turkey, and duck — 180°F; and casseroles, sauces, and custards — 160°F.

■ **Dressing and gravy.**

—Use fat-free chicken broth instead of stock from the turkey. To keep turkey fat out of the dressing, cook it in a separate dish rather than stuffing it into the bird.



(Courtesy photo)

Betty Ruth Chapman, left, and Mandy Poole each earned Clarendon College-Pampa Center scholarships in the amount of \$500 for the fall 2002 semester at CCPC. The scholarship deadline for the 2003 spring semester is January. For more information, contact CCPC at 665-8801.

CCPC scholarships available for spring

Betty Ruth Chapman and Mandy Poole were recipients of the \$500 scholarships to attend Clarendon College-Pampa Center (CCPC) the fall semester of 2002.

Scholarships in the amount \$500 are now available for qualifying students at CCPC for the spring 2003 semester. Applications may be obtained at the College at 1601 W. Harvester or by calling 665-8801.

A freshman office technology student from Wheeler, Chapman chose to attend Pampa Center because it was close enough to commute, and she could attend college and still be at home.

"This is a nice, new facility," Chapman stated. "I can stay home rather

than going away and get my basics," said Poole.

Active in rodeos, Poole said she could keep her four horses, and that would not be possible if she attended college elsewhere.

Students must be enrolled for 12 hours at CCPC or be a student at the ApTech Center. The applications require a 2.5 GPA for the previous semester in college or high school.

Deadline for the spring semester application is January. Classes begin Jan. 15.

The scholarships are made possible through a grant from Amarillo Area Foundation, administered through Pampa Center Foundation.

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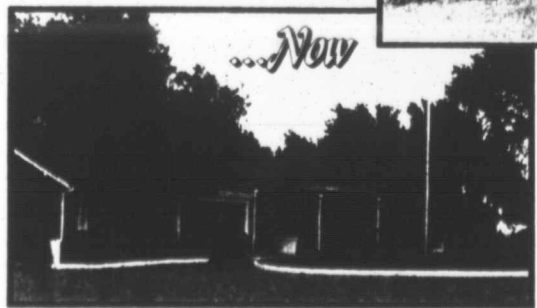
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If you have resigned a membership at PCC in 2002 you are not eligible for this offer

Safety important consideration when choosing Christmas gifts

AUSTIN — Thinking about getting a portable basketball hoop for the athlete in your family? Does your 10-year-old want to learn soap making? Considering a baby walker or swing for your newest family member?

It is the time of year for thinking about giving and receiving presents. But some of these gifts, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH), have hidden hazards.

A few simple precautions can help people buying gifts for children make the best decisions, according to Annabelle Dillard with TDH's Product Safety Division.

"Parents should not buy toys with small parts for children under 3," Dillard said.

"In addition, some toys can break, exposing young children to the hazards of choking on small internal parts. For example, recent product recalls have included plastic toys that can easily break and stuffed toys with parts or seams that can be detached during normal use, exposing parts that are small enough to become lodged in a child's windpipe."

To find out if a small part on a

toy is a choking hazard, parents can use a simple test. Take the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper. If the part can pass through the tube, it could choke a child.

In addition to safeguarding children from obvious hazards such as small parts and sharp edges, parents need to train their children to be aware of safety issues, Dillard said. Most adults know that electronics and water don't mix, but children may not recognize the dangers of electrical shock.

Many model and art kits contain paint and glue that require knowing about proper use and adequate ventilation. Parents also should train older children to keep their toys away from younger siblings who may not know how to use them.

When selecting toys, pay attention to labels.

"Keep in mind the age and skill level of the child you're shopping for," Dillard said. "Look for age recommendations on the label such as 'Not recommended for children under 3' to guide you in finding a safe, age-appropriate toy. And keep in mind also that a few months can make a huge difference in the skill level of a small

child, so it's best not to give an 18-month-old child a toy designed for a 2-year-old."

This year, Nov. 18 to Nov. 22 is "Toy Sweep 2002," when TDH inspectors go out looking for recalled toys and other children's items on retail store shelves.

"When we find recalled items on the shelves, we notify the retailer to remove the item and send it to the manufacturer for replacement and refund," Dillard said. "We also educate retailers about the importance of posting the recall notice so that consumers who already have purchased the item can stop using it, fix it or return it."


This year, inspectors are concentrating on baby walkers, baby swings, stuffed toys, children's toys, ride-on toys and cars, bicycles and portable basketball hoops.

Recalls can occur for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, as can be the case with basketball hoops and bicycles, sharp edges can injure a child. Some items can be fixed using instructions from the manufacturer; others will need to be returned for repair or replacement.

Sometimes design flaws or inadequate assembly instructions can cause problems as in the case of some baby swings that malfunction when assembled incorrectly. Some toys or craft kits such as a soap-making kit have packaging that melts when heated. Toys that require heating or microwaving can burn a child if not used properly.

Information on recalls and safe gift giving is available on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Web site at www.cpsc.gov or by calling the TDH Product Safety Division at 512-834-6773.


"The last thing people want to do when giving a gift is harm a child," Dillard said. "Awareness of dangers and prompt action protects buyers, sellers and children."



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Farm Scene: Nebraska only state with ban on corporate farms

By SCOTT BAUER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska may be best known for its beef, but the state has something else that sets it apart: the nation's only constitutional ban on corporate farming.

In the 20 years since a citizen's initiative led to the ban, it has withstood court challenges and, supporters say, helped protect Nebraska farmers.

"It's helped keep grain and livestock production in the hands of family farmers and independent producers in our state," said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union. "We're a more diverse and economically beneficial state because of it."

Nebraska has avoided becoming the home to large agribusiness operations, mega-hog farms and livestock feeding lots, in large part thanks to the ban, known as Initiative 300, Hansen said.

Lobbyist Walt Radcliffe opposed the initiative on behalf of Prudential Insurance Co., which invested heavily in Nebraska agricultural land in 1982. Radcliffe argued then — and continues to argue — that it unfairly restricts the marketplace.

"We have driven away any large out-of-state dollars," he said. "We have restricted buyers, we have kept profits down and furthermore, we have kept capital out of the state of Nebraska."

In the mid-1970s, many Midwestern states moved to restrict corporate farming. Eight states — Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin — passed laws.

But none of those states

have a ban in their constitution or laws as restrictive as the Nebraska ban, according to a study last year by researchers at Clarkson University and Cornell University.

South Dakota voters approved a ban in 1998, but it was struck down by a federal judge as unconstitutional. Appeals are pending.

The failure of other states to follow Nebraska's lead may have resulted from difficulty in amending state constitutions, satisfaction with existing laws and the lack of groups advocating for the change, said Jon Bailey, director of the rural policy program for the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb.

Getting Nebraska's ban passed wasn't easy.

After more than a decade of lobbying the Legislature for an anti-corporate farming law, supporters led a petition drive to get the ban on the state's ballot.

In some ways the unwillingness of lawmakers to act helped the cause because the constitutional amendment approved by voters was much stronger than any compromise that would have made it through the Legislature, said Chuck Hassebrook, executive director of the Walthill center and one of those who helped write Initiative 300.

Initiative 300 generally prohibits corporations and certain other business entities from owning farmland or engaging in agricultural activity, although there are exceptions.

The exceptions include farms that are family-owned and operated, nonprofit corporations, American Indian tribal corporations, land used for seed or nursery purposes, and land used for research or experimental purposes.

Hundreds of non-family corporate farm operations were grandfathered in when the amendment took effect in 1982. The farms were not permitted to get any larger, and only about half of them still exist, Hansen said.

Advocates for small farms say that even with the ban, the number of family farms in Nebraska continues to decline. The number of such farms in the state has dropped from 65,000 in 1980 to 54,000 in 2000,

according to the U.S. Census.

The farms are largely being bought up by neighbors and urban dwellers seeking land to live on, Hansen said.

"They're not being bought by non-family farm corporations," he said. "That's the big difference between Nebraska and other states."

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MEDICAL

Study: Gene Therapy eases untreatable heart disease

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP MEDICAL EDITOR

CHICAGO (AP) — The largest study yet of gene therapy for heart disease shows the approach can significantly relieve severe chest pain, though the improvements may take months to become apparent.

Researchers have been working for several years on the idea of injecting genes directly into the heart to improve blood flow. Several smaller studies have suggested a benefit, but the latest experiment is the first to subject the approach to a careful comparison with standard treatment.

"This is the first trial to provide a clear indication of

efficacy of gene therapy," said Dr. Duncan Stewart, cardiology chief at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

Several teams around the world are competing to prove the benefits of various combinations of genes for people with severe chest pain that cannot be treated with drugs, angioplasty or bypass surgery. All involve delivering genes to the heart to promote the growth of new blood vessels to carry nutrition and oxygen to starved heart muscle.

Stewart's study was financed by GenVac Inc. of Gaithersburg, Md. He presented the results Wednesday at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association.

Unlike earlier studies reported so far, Stewart's experiment randomly assigned 71 volunteers to have either gene therapy or receive the usual medical treatment. After three months, there was no difference. However, by six months, people who got the gene therapy could walk sig-

'It was surprising how much better the patients felt. One man was so sick he could not play with his grandchildren. After the treatment, he could enjoy his family and was just thrilled by that.'

— Dr. Duncan Stewart

nificantly farther on a treadmill.

"It was surprising how much better the patients felt," Stewart said. One man was so sick he could not play with his grandchildren. After the treatment, "he could enjoy his family and was just thrilled by that."

To deliver the therapy, doctors opened the patients' chests and injected the growth hormone genes 30 times into the patients' hearts. The operation itself was fatal to two of the volunteers.

After they recovered, the patients walked on treadmills until their electrocardiograms showed clear signs of oxygen deprivation. The treadmill time improved by one minute

in the gene therapy patients but was unchanged in the comparison group. The gene patients could also walk 25 percent longer before getting intolerable chest pain.

The doctors also took nuclear scans of the patients' hearts, intended to show changes in their blood flow. Some earlier experiments have shown this improves after gene therapy, and those data will be available soon in the Canadian experiment.

One drawback of the study is that patients knew, because of the operations, whether or not they received the genes, and this could have affected their sense of improvement. A new study will deliver the genes with a catheter thread-

ed into the heart, and a sham procedure will be done on the comparison group, so no one will know who actually got the genes.

"It shows feasibility," Dr. Augustus Grant of Duke University, president-elect of the heart association, said of the latest study. "The increase they saw in treadmill time is significant."

Among other studies at the conference:

— Doctors from the University of Leipzig in Germany compared the effects of balloon angioplasty against an exercise program in 101 people with stable heart disease. They found that after a year, 88 percent of people trained to ride an exercise bike 20 minutes a day were free of major complications, such as heart attacks and repeat hospitalization, compared with 70 percent of those who got angioplasty.

Dr. Stephan Gielen said a larger study will test whether the approach is safe. "I would not advise patients to go home from an angiogram" — a common diagnostic pro-

cedure — "buy a bicycle and start training. We're not at that point yet," he said.

— Dr. Russell V. Luepker of the University of Minnesota looked at the effect of exercise on medical costs on Medicare patients. Healthy people who did nothing ran up average bills of \$11,300 during five years in the early 1990s, while those who got even modest exercise had bills of \$6,800.

— A study from the Hellenic Heart Foundation in Glyfada, Greece, shows that exercise significantly lowers C-reactive protein, a sign of inflammation that increases the risk of heart attacks. Men who worked out three times a week had levels 10 percent lower than sedentary people, and women's were 17 percent lower.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Medical Editor Daniel Q. Haney is a special correspondent for The Associated Press.

Heart meeting: <http://www.scificsessions.org>

OB/GYN Update

by Otoniel Huertas, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

ANCIENT PERSPECTIVE ON BIRTH

In this modern day of birthing classes and labor coaches, there is a new reminder that there is nothing new about the hard work of giving birth. Archaeologists have discovered an ancient birthing brick, measuring 14 by 7 inches, in an Egyptian excavation. In ancient times, laboring women used the birthing bricks to help them gain their footing as they squatted to deliver their children. The women were believed to stand on two or four of the unbaked mud bricks during childbirth. The bricks were decorated with colorful scenes and figures, including a woman placing her hand on the back of a new mother. The brick provides us with a universal link to the past.



Dr. Huertas

While there is nothing new about birth, there are many choices to be made regarding birthing options. When you select your obstetrician, you will discuss your choices regarding anesthesia and other matters so your doctor understands your expectations. To schedule an appointment for your obstetrical or gynecological care, please call my office at 806-273-7771. We are located at 106 S. Bryan, Borger. New patients are welcome.

P.S. Aside from providing Egyptian women with physical support, birthing bricks were believed to lend psychological and spiritual support as well.

Scientists discover genes' role in cholesterol

DALLAS — Two specific genes involved in cholesterol transport are required for the most common way excess cholesterol is expelled from our bodies, according to scientists at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

The genes, the researchers report, are essential for efficient secretion of cholesterol into the bile, which is the major route that cholesterol exits the body. The discovery sheds new light on potential therapies that could play an important role in reducing high cholesterol, a major risk factor of atherosclerotic diseases, such as coronary heart disease and stroke.

The new findings are reported in a recent issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"The disruption of the two genes, Abcg5 and Abcg8, reveals their crucial role in biliary cholesterol secretion," said Dr. Liqing Yu, an instructor in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and in molecular genetics and lead author of the study.

"In humans and mice, the secretion of cholesterol into the

bile is essential for maintaining cholesterol homeostasis and constitutes a major defense against the accumulation of dietary cholesterol in blood and tissues."

Dr. Helen Hobbs, senior author of the study, said, "By activating or upregulating Abcg5 and Abcg8 you could theoretically reduce cholesterol in the body by increasing cholesterol transport into the bile and limiting cholesterol absorption. This may also reduce cholesterol in the blood." Hobbs directs the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development and the Donald W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center. She also is an investigator in UT Southwestern's Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The researchers uncovered this critical pathway by studying mice that lacked the genes.

When researchers fed the mice high cholesterol diets, "We discovered that the fatty liver was developed due to a massive accumulation of cholesterol," Yu said. "We think this happens because the dietary cholesterol cannot be efficiently secreted into the bile, but it is accumulated in the liver and plasma when Abcg5 and Abcg8 are disrupted."

Liver and plasma cholesterol levels were increased by as much as 18-fold and 2.4-fold, respectively, in the mice after they ate a cholesterol-rich diet. Disruption of the two genes

also resulted in a 30-fold increase in plasma levels of sitosterol, the major plant sterol, and a two- to threefold increase in fractional absorption of dietary plant sterols.

"Plant sterols are similar to cholesterol, structurally, and in the absence of Abcg5 and Abcg8 the compounds accumulate in the body, which leads to a rare inherited disease called sitosterolemia," Yu said. "Individuals with this disease have dramatically increased plasma plant sterol levels, which is associated with premature atherosclerotic coronary heart disease."

UT Southwestern researchers, in conjunction with researchers at Tularek Inc., discovered the two genes in 2000.

Before scientists identified the genes, the molecular mechanism by which dietary cholesterol is absorbed and the mechanisms by which cholesterol and other sterols are secreted into the bile were not known, Hobbs said.

"The actual discovery of the two genes in 2000 led to a better understanding of two important pathways of cholesterol metabolism," she said.

Other UT Southwestern researchers involved in the study were Dr. Jonathan Cohen, associate professor of internal medicine; Dr. Robert Hammer, professor of biochemistry; and Dr. Jia Li-Hawkins, now with Pfizer. Researchers from the University of Bonn in Germany also contributed.

Study: Regenerating fish heart may lead to new heart therapy

WASHINGTON (AP) — A small black-and-white-striped fish common in aquariums and laboratories may lead the way to helping ailing human hearts repair themselves. A new study shows the zebrafish grows new cells and totally restores its heart after 20 percent of the muscle has been cut away.

Experts said the discovery is an important advance in the new field of "regenerative medicine," the research effort to learn how to restore diseased organs with healthy, new cells. Most researchers are trying to grow new heart cells by causing stem cells to transform into fresh cardiac tissue.

But a team led by Dr. Mark T. Keating of Harvard University is taking a different approach: The scientists are looking for genetic secrets that enable some animals, such as the zebrafish, to grow new body parts.

Once the regeneration genes are found in zebrafish, he said, "it is likely that there are corresponding genes in the human genome."

"Is it possible that this could lead to human cardiac regeneration? The answer is yes, it could," said Keating, the senior author of a study appearing Friday in the journal Science.

Keating, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher at Harvard Medical School, chose the zebrafish, a much-studied laboratory animal, because it was known that the one-inch long fish could regenerate fins and eye parts. Nobody had ever before tested to see if it could grow new heart cells.

In the study, the researchers anesthetized the fish and quickly cut into their abdomens to scissor away about 20 percent of their two-chambered hearts. The incisions were blotted, to stop bleeding, and the fish were returned to the water. Eight out of 10 of the test animals survived the radical procedure, said Keating.

"They're not happy for a while," he said. "They sort of hang out at the bottom of the tank."

But within 10 days, something remarkable happened: The test fish began swimming normally and soon were as active as their healthy schoolmates.

After two months, Keating said the test fish totally regenerated their hearts, replacing all the lost tissue with new cells that vigorously pumped blood. And, most notably, there was little or no scarring.

"The whole 20 percent of the excised heart regrows and it actually overshoots a little bit," said Keating. "We have looked microscopically at the heart and it is beating and all aspects of it seem to be contracting."

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CALENDAR ITEMS

COMMUNITY, CHURCHES

ACCORD. Gray County Chapter of Active Citizens Concerned Over Resource Development in Agriculture, Inc. (ACCORD INC.), meet the first and third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Lovett Memorial Library. For information, call 665-8516 or 665-7659.

Boy Scouts. Boy Scout leaders meet at 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at First Presbyterian Church of Pampa. The Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is open to boys between the ages of 6 and 18 and includes a 27-county area in the Texas Panhandle. The BSA program includes Club Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing, a new program for 14- to 20-year-old boys and girls. For more information, call (806) 358-6500.

Celebration of Lights. The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at 822 E. Foster. Anyone wishing to help with the project is invited to attend any work session.

Clean Pampa, Inc. Clean Pampa, Inc., holds its monthly membership meeting at 12 noon on the second Tuesday of each month at Clint and Sons, 1421 N. Hobart. The public is welcome. No fee to join. For more information, call 665-2514. Office hours are 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Eastern Star. Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

Fellowship of Christian Cowboys. The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Jim Greene at 665-8067 and Bill Kidwell at 669-6347. For memorials or donations write Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, P.O. Box 91, Pampa, TX 79065.

Girl Scouts. Pampa Girl Scouts meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pampa Girl Scout House on Kingsmill.

Gospel Singing. First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

Highland Baptist. Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, will host prayer time from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., each Thursday with a special time of prayer from 12:15-12:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at 669-6509.

Macedonia Baptist Church. Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, will hold daily prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. for the citizens of Pampa — churches, schools, etc. The prayer services are open to everyone. For more information, call 665-4926.

Pampa Area Literacy Council. Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

Pampa Masonic Lodge #966. Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 420 W. Kingsmill.

Pampa Ministerial Alliance. Pampa Area Ministerial Alliance meets the first Monday of every month. Location changes monthly.

Pampa Prison Ministry. The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call or J.B. Walker at 669-2266.

RCIA. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church hosts Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) beginning at 7:15 p.m., Wednesdays at 2004 Williston. For more information, call Aloise Martin at 883-4901 or Peggy Rodriguez at 669-2683.

Red Cross. Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers from the community to respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. As well as personal satisfaction, volunteers learn how to protect themselves and cope with disaster by planning ahead, particularly essential during tomoado season. In addition, ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

St. Mark CME Church. St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

Story Hour. Lovett Memorial Library will offer a story hour at 10 a.m., every Tuesday. The free program is open to children 18 months to 6 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

Veterans. To recognize the contributions Texas veterans have made to the liberty we enjoy, Memory Gardens Cemetery is assigning grave spaces to honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. If you are a veteran, you may be qualified for free burial space. However, you must register to obtain the free plot and you must show proof of honorable discharge. A number of veterans' spaces are available. Certificates will be issued on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call (806) 665-8921.

VFW Bingo. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

Butterfly Garden Club. The Butterfly Garden Club of America offers free butterfly garden seeds (with growing instructions). To receive a packet, send a long SASE with two stamps to: The Butterfly Garden Club of America, P.O. Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household. Additional packets are available for \$1 each.

Golden Spread Coin Club. Golden Spread Coin Club, originally Amarillo Coin Club, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month. GSCC is a member of American Numismatic Association. For more information, call (806) 352-8281 or (806) 342-9536.

Gray Co. Ass'n for Retarded Citizens. Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

Gray Co. Extension Education. Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.

Gray Co. Genealogical Society. Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.

Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society. Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Building in the Pampa Mall. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Loyd Waters 665-6466.

Magic Plains ABWA. Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at The Coffee Shop, 220 N. Cuyler. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

Pampa Citizens on Patrol Ass'n. Pampa Citizens on Patrol Association meets at 8 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at 824 S. Cuyler.

Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club. The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Carol Carpenter at 669-7940.

Pampa Fine Arts Ass'n. Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building (Chamber building).

Pampa Garden Club. Pampa Garden Club meets at 2 p.m. the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meeting location changes monthly.

Pampa Pilots Ass'n. Pampa Pilots Association meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Airport Lounge.

Pampa Rotary Club. Pampa Rotary Club meets at 12 noon every Wednesday at Pampa Country Club.

Pampa Takedown Club. Pampa Takedown Club Wrestling for youth 5-15 years of age. Practice is at 900 N. Frost. Season starts Sept. 25 through February. For more information, call Rick Uguhart at 665-8321.

Pampa Woodcarving Club. Pampa Woodcarving Club meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson. Meetings are open to any individuals interested in woodcarving from beginners to all experience. Projects and instructors are available. For more information, call 669-3008.

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild. Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Shrine Club. Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 7 p.m. every third Friday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

Top O' Texas Rodeo Ass'n. Top O' Texas Rodeo Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month in the Nona S. Payne Room of Pampa Community Building.

EDUCATION, PSAs

ACT, ACT, Inc., education and career planning organization has announced the following do-it-yourself college planning resources on the Internet: www.act.org, www.c3apply.org.

www.collegenet.com, www.finaid.org, www.ed.gov/finaid.html and www.fafsa.ed.gov (financial aid sites), and www.bls.gov/ocohome.htm (career planning).

ANIMALPRINTS.COM. AnimalPrints.com has dedicated \$1 from each sale of a newly released series of artist's prints to benefit animals in need. For more information or to view the prints, go to AnimalPrints.com on the Internet.

AIYSE. American International Youth Student Exchange Program is seeking American high school students, ages 15-19, to participate in its foreign exchange program. Students will spend a semester or year with an European family or participate in a 4- to 6-week family stay abroad in the summer. Students are screened by AIYSEP school counselors and educators in local schools. To qualify, students must have evidence of maturity, superior character and knowledge of English and a foreign language. For more information, call 1-800-347-7575 or visit www.aise.com on the World Wide Web.

Arbor Day Foundation. The National Arbor Day Foundation offers a "Tree Planting Resource Kit for Volunteers." The kit is available for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling and includes a leadership guide, a Celebrate Arbor Day guidebook, and a video to help motivate volunteers. For more information, call (402) 474-5655, go on-line to www.arborday.org, or write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.

AYA. Academic Year in America program is seeking host families for international exchange students between the ages of 15-18 1/2. For more information, call Danielle Carpino at 1-800-322-4678 ext. 5146.

BBB RESOURCE GUIDE. The Better Business Bureau is offering "The Spring BBB Membership Directory and Resource Guide." The publication is available free of charge and includes a listing of BBB member companies as well as businesses who qualify as members and who uphold BBB's standards of ethical practices. The guide also provides tips on how to better shoppers along with information on current scams. For more information or to obtain the guide, call (806) 379-7133.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGES

On December 6, 2002 Atmos Energy filed a Statement of Intent to change its service charges with the Railroad Commission of Texas and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

The proposed increase will not effect the Company's other gas rate schedules. The change will apply to Residential, Commercial, Small Industrial, and Public Authority customers. The Company proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$32.00	\$48.00
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.00	\$22.50
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	\$37.50	\$56.25
Miscellaneous service calls	\$11.25	\$16.88

The proposed service charge changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately 4% and therefore do not constitute a "major change." The proposed changes could affect approximately 215,000 gas customers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Lamesa	Quitaque
Amherst	Levelland	Ralls
Anton	Littlefield	Ransom Canyon
Big Spring	Lockney	Ropesville
Bovina	Lorenz	Seagraves
Brownfield	Los Ybenez	Seminole
Buffalo Springs Lake Canyon	Lubbock	Shallowater
Coahoma	Meadow	Silverton
Crosbyton	Midland	Slaton
Dimmitt	Muleshoe	Smyer
Earth	Nazareth	Springlake
Edmonson	New Deal	Stanton
Floydada	New Home	Sudan
Forsan	Odessa	Tahoka
Frona	O'Donnell	Timbercreek Canyon
Hale Center	Oton	Tulia
Happy	Opdyke West	Turkey
Hart	Palisades	Vega
Hereford	Pampa	Wellman
Idalou	Panhandle	Wilson
Kress	Petersburg	Wolforth
Lake Tanglewood	Plainview	
	Post	

*unincorporated: Southland, Welch, Whitharrall

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th Lubbock, TX 79408-1121 or at an Atmos Energy Office nearest to you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.

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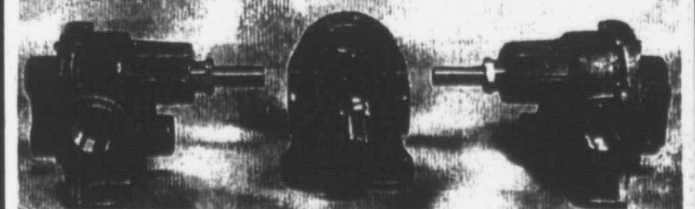
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Master Marketer Program coming to Lubbock

Master Marketers learn from top industry and university professionals who apply case study examples and simulation exercises in the classroom. The 64-hour curriculum is offered in four, two-day sessions held every two weeks.

LUBBOCK — Some ag producers believe the new farm bill will simplify their marketing options, choices, and decisions. That may not be the case, according to Jackie Smith, a Texas A&M economist.

The first of four 2003 Master Marketer Program sessions begins on January 22, 2003. The registration deadline for this in-depth, intensive marketing and risk management education program is Jan. 7, 2003. Participants will learn how to identify and evaluate marketing opportunities, and then design and follow through with sound marketing plans.

"The new farm bill does provide an enhanced income safety net. But that doesn't mean your marketing decisions will be any easier ... in fact, marketing may become more complicated," said Smith, Texas Cooperative Extension economist based in Lubbock. "The methods we use to attain the best cash price haven't changed, but a portion of our income safety net is now market dependent."

The new farm bill includes a counter cyclical producer payment that is directly tied to market prices. That payment will be highest when market prices are lowest, but may not

be there at all when market prices improve.

"That's what makes marketing plans and methods so important to producers operating under the new farm bill. Learning how to manage farm bill provisions/options such as the counter cyclical payment should be an integral part of your marketing plan," Smith added. "Educating producers on these options and helping them develop strategies to reduce price risk is a key goal of the instructors in our next series of Master Marketer classes."

Master Marketer training pays direct dividends to the bottom line. A recent survey suggests past participants were able to increase their average annual gross revenues from three to 10 percent, or about \$30,000 each, simply by applying their new-found marketing skills and knowledge, Smith said.

Master Marketers learn from top industry and university professionals who apply case study examples and simulation exercises in the classroom. The 64-hour curriculum is offered in four, two-day sessions held every two weeks.

"Our doctors this year include several Texas A&M and Kansas State University economists, and industry experts/consultants who specialize in technical analysis, charting, weather, and marketing management," Smith added. "Master Marketer graduates will take their new-found expertise and knowledge home and work as volunteers with county marketing clubs."

"This master volunteer approach has proven an effective way for Extension and our program sponsors to spread the training across a large group of participants. Statewide demand for this type of training continues to grow, which is why we

are bringing the program back to Lubbock for the third time. We have more than 120 Master Marketer graduates in the Lubbock area alone."

Registration costs \$250 per person, plus a commitment to work with your county agent back home to try to start a marketing club. Anyone interested should register as soon as possible. The first two times the class was offered in Lubbock it filled up before the deadline, Smith said.

Checks or money orders for registration should be payable to the Texas Extension Education Foundation. Enrollment for the 2003 Master Marketer Program in Lubbock may be limited, so prompt registration is recommended, Smith said.

Registration fees pay only a small portion of the program's cost. Grants from Extension partners such as the Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Wheat

Producers Association, Texas Farm Bureau, the Cotton State Support Committee, and agribusiness also helps fund the training.

Texans can get registration forms or more information on the 2003 Master Markets program in Lubbock by calling Smith at (806) 746-6101, or their local county Extension office. More information on the Master Marketer Program is also available on the Internet at <http://mastermarketer.tamu.edu>.

Toys for Tots drive



(Pampa News photo by ReDonn Woods)

Culberson-Stowers is rounding up gifts for Toys for Tots. Bring an unwrapped gift to the dealership by Dec. 18 and The Salvation Army will distribute the items to needy children throughout the county. Above: Loyd Waters, Chris Pope, Mark Langford, Victoria Parsons, James Orona, Chad Quarles, and Jim Braddock.



Resistol 20X Hats 20%

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Texas beef producers eligible for 706 course

AUSTIN — Texas beef producers seeking a guide to navigate their rapidly changing industry should attend Texas' unique beef quality program called Beef 706.

Sponsored by the Texas Beef Council and Texas A&M University, the next two Beef 706 programs will take place Jan. 20-22 and Jan. 22-24 on the Texas

A&M University campus in College Station. Producers can register for either of these classes on a first-come, first-serve basis by calling toll-free 1-800-846-4113.

Registrants must provide their own transportation to and from College Station and their hotel for two nights. Registration and all meals are free for Texas beef producers through the \$1 beef checkoff program.

For more than a decade, Beef 706 has helped Texas beef producers adapt their management and production practices to changing consumer needs. Its objective is to teach management techniques that allow producers to reach for higher profits.

The Beef 706 topics — all taught by nationally renowned Texas A&M University animal science professors — will include quality and consistency, total quality management principles and consumer eating experiences.

In a typical session, participants learn what industry segments require changes and why. The program is widely acclaimed for giving producers a rare perspective of the beef production chain from genetics to consumer.

Of the producers who attend Beef 706, 85 percent say they learned about beef industry issues of which they were unaware. Eighty-one percent say they will make different beef industry business decisions based on what they learned.

Beef 706 begins at 3:30 p.m. on the opening day of each class session. The program takes up the entire second day. It concludes about noon on the third day.

To receive more information or to register, contact Dr. Mike De La Zerda at 1-800-846-4113.

The best gas leak detector is *you*.

You were born with the best equipment for detecting a natural gas pipeline emergency—your eyes, ears and nose.



Your Nose

Unusual aromas around your property resembling rotten eggs, skunk or sulfur could indicate a natural gas leak.



Your Ears

Don't ignore a shrill hissing, blowing or roaring noise on your property. All of these could be signals of a high-pressure natural gas emergency.



Your Eyes

Visible warning signs of a gas emergency include water or dirt blowing in the air, discoloration of vegetation or continuous bubbling from standing water.



Take the Time to Call.

If you discover any or all of these warning signs, leave the area immediately. Do not operate motor vehicles or equipment nearby, and forego any activity that could generate a spark. You should immediately contact your local emergency authorities and ONEOK Texas Field Services at 1-888-675-3302, or the operator of the pipeline.

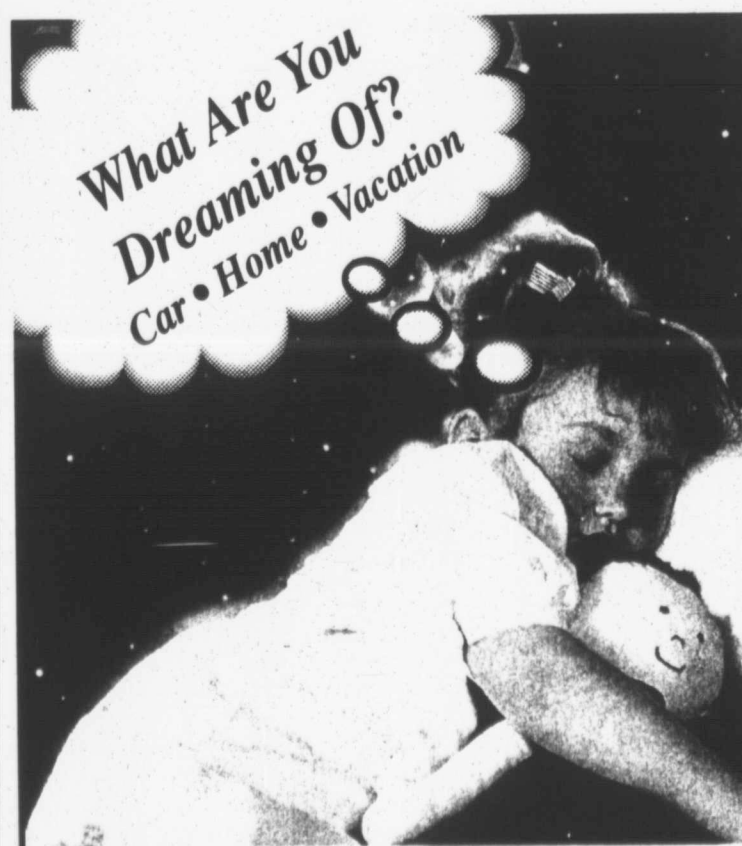
By using your built-in detection devices, you can prevent any disasters associated with random natural gas pipeline leaks.



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SANTA LETTERS

To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921
Dear Santa,
Please bring me the following items:

1. A talking girl - A.K.A. "A Magic Talking Girl"
2. Cowboy boots
3. A big, big gun
4. Screwdriver like Papa's
5. No. 8 race car
6. "Treasure Island" the movie

I would appreciate it if you could deliver these toys first thing in the morning on Dec. 25, 2002.
Thank you,
—Braydon Weatherly, 2

Dear Santa,
How are you?
My name is Lindsey, and I am 2-years-old. I have been a good girl most of the time. Christmas is neat to me this year. I like to see you everywhere in town.

Would you please bring me a pretty baby and a tricycle and some clothes and most of all let my daddy come home to spend Christmas with me and my mommy.

I miss him playing with me and taking me to the park.

Thank you, Santa Clause, for every thing you bring to my house. I will have cookies on a plate and some milk waiting on you when you come to my house.

Love,
—Lindsey Carpenter, 2

Dear Santa,
My name is Joshua. I am only 20-months-old, so my dad, mom and big brother Bryson are helping me write my letter.

This year I love to see all the pretty lights, so please bring me anything that lights up and makes music.

My favorite things are Bob the Builder, Blues Clues and Teletubbies. I also like SpongeBob Square-Pants.

I have been a sweet baby this past year. Please bring my mamaw, Lannie, Landaddy and Aunt Kendra something nice, too.

My Christmas lights will be on all night for you.

Love,
—Joshua Fuller, 20-months

Dear Santa,
My name is Bryson. I am 6-years-old. I have been very good this year. For Christmas, please bring me a Liger Zero Zoid, a Star Wars light saber, a race car track with two cars, so I can play with my dad.

I also would like a Power Ranger Wild Force Megazord.

How do your reindeer fly? I will leave you some cookies that me and mom make. Oh, I also want a microphone and a guitar. I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Love,
—Bryson Fuller, 6

Dear Santa,
My name is Miles Colton Cook. I am 1-year-old and have tried very hard to be a good boy (Mom and Dad said I have been most of the time.)

For Christmas, I would like to have a battery-powered car, little tikes work bench, and whatever else you think that I might like.

Please have a safe trip.
Love,
—Colton, 1

Please help me this year. I been a nice little girl. I am 5. Mom can't help me. She is sick. She has depression, and she is always sick. Please tell God to help her. This is my list.

1. Dora Explore Doll shoes
 - That's all.
- Vertalicia Renteria, 3

Dear Santa,
1. I need a cover of Spongebob
2. I need clothes, 7 size

3. I need school supplies
 4. I wish I had a doll
 5. Barbye talking townhouse
- Selena Renteria, 7

Dear Santa,
1. Downhill Tech Dech
2. School supplie
3. Paints and sherats
4. GiJo soliders
5. Army man-soliders
6. Game Boy Advance
7. Hotwheels Octoblats
—Jose Renteria, 9

Dear Santa,
1. GI*Joe rangers and corps
2. remote control big Foot.
3. Penciles Pens led pencils
4. really bagy-pants. Shirts.
5. Mini Skatboards. and mini bikes.
6. Down Hill racers.
7. no
—Victor Renteria, 11

Dear Santa,
1. School supplis
2. Remote car or Big Foot.
3. Paints 30 22
4. Sock
5. Under wear
6. Food for my family
7. GI-Joe Action
8. Shirts XLarge or Large
9. Book bag
10. Three Teck Deck Dades
—Micheal Renteria, 12

Dear Santa,
I wish I could have this year:
1. School supplis
2. Clothes size 9-10 pants, shoes 7 1/2, shirt middle maybe in women
3. Covers for my twin bed.
4. Inhalation solation
5. Make up
6. Socks, under wear, Brails
7. Icee maker or CD player
8. B2K CD and S club 7
9. Backpack
—Erica Renteria, 13

Dear Santa,
My name is Stephany Van Buskirk and I am 8 1/2 yrs old.
I have been a good girl this year.
I would like for you to get me a Bratz doll and cloth's and some video's I will leave some cookie's and milk by the tree.
Thank you.
Love,
—Stephany Van Buskirk

Dear Santa,
My name is Ashley

VanBuskirk and I am 6 yrs old.

I have been a good girl this year.
I would like for you to get me a horse and barbie and a Mary-Kate-Ashley video. I will leave cookies and milk by the tree.

Thank you.
Love,
—Ashley VanBuskirk

Dear Santa,
My name is Cody Epperson, and I am 2-years-old.
I have been a good boy this year.

I would like for you to get me a Barney video and clothes and a big truck.

I will leave cookies and milk by the tree.
Thank you.
Love,
—Cody Epperson

Dear Santa,
I hope the pore kids get what the want thess Christmas and I hope you do to Merry Christmas Santa

Do you no what i want this year Santa. Some clouse for daniel my babby. And if I am still good could i have a barbie Please

Thank you,
—Meganne Longo, 8

Dear Santa,
My name is Austin Robinson. I am 1 1/2-years-old.

I would like to have a tool set so I can help my daddy fix the house. I would also like to have a car that I can fix, so I can drive in it.

Wrote by my brother Jonathan Robinson.
—Austin Robinson, 1 1/2

Dear Santa,
My name is Kaylee

Robinson. I am 4 1/2-years-old. I would like a doll and doll house for Christmas and a motorcycle for me to ride in the snow, so I can play in it.

And doll cloths and Swiss Row's, so I can eat. They are the best snacks ever. And my brother to get not so sick.

—Kaylee Robinson, 4 1/2
P.S. My brother Jonathan Robinson had to write this for me.

Dear Santa,
My name is Jonathan Robinson. I am 11-years-old.
I would like to have a three willer so me and my dad can have fun on it when it snows or rains.

I would like it a lot if you would help my baby brother Austin Robinson get well.

Thank you for your time,
Santa,
—Jonathan Robinson, 11

Dear Santa,
My name is Megan Robinson and I am 13-years-old.

Here is my Christmas list or you can say my Christmas wish.

My baby brother Austin Robinson is 22-months-old and is very sick. He has problems with his lung and his immune system and is sick all the time and is always at the doctor's office and in and out of the hospital.

He has three doctors now and in January he has to start seeing three more doctors in Dallas. I wish the doctor could find out what is wrong with my baby brother and he could get well.

I know he will not get well but maybe with your help, Santa, they can tell us what is going on with him because it

really hurts my baby sister and my other brother and me and dad and mom when he is in the hospital. We have almost lost him too many times.

And I would like some little thing for Christmas. Maybe a ring or two of my kind of CDs. You should know what they are, some clothes, and that is it.

Well, good-bye for now. See you Christmas.
Love always,
—Megan Robinson, 13

Dear Santa,
I would like a go cart for Christmas, please.
Say hello to Mrs. Claus.
—Mitchell Killgo

Dear Santa,
I would like for Christmas a spalding speed trap pitching trainer, a club chame golfer's putter pool game, some cool head covers, and a putt and hazard putting green.

Also I would like a Texas Rangers locker, an NFL micro helmet set, a Dallas Cowboys football, a cool Dallas Cowboys chair.
Thank you very much!!!
—Collin Killgo

Dear Santa,
I am writing to see if you would bring me a big, fast, jeep or truck. I have been a

very good boy this yaer. I have atp my food, and I have been good to my mommy. I am a special 3-year-old.

Thank you, Santa.
Love,
—Antonio Emidio Moreno, 3

Dear Santa,
I was hoping to get a bicycle or a doll house this year. I have been a good girl. I am just 2-years-old, and I am a very good girl. Thanks Santa!
Love always,
—Erica Michelle Moreno, 2

The following letters are from Mrs. McGills pre-K class at St. Matthews Episcopal Day School:

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I want a barbie and a Lilo and Stitch movie and a coloring book. Please bring lots of toys to McKinley. I will leave you a Christmas card. I love you very much.
—Dacie, 5

Dear Santa,
I would like a barbie house. I have been good. I will leave you a present. Bring my sister a crayon misters.

Love,
—Corby, 4
(See 'LETTERS,' Page 13).

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Your Ears

Don't ignore a shrill hissing, blowing or roaring noise on your property. All of these could be signals of a high-pressure natural gas emergency.



Your Eyes

Visible warning signs of a gas emergency include water or dirt blowing in the air, discoloration of vegetation or continuous bubbling from standing water.



Take the Time to Call.

If you discover any or all of these warning signs, leave the area immediately. Do not operate motor vehicles or equipment nearby, and forego any activity that could generate a spark. You should immediately contact your local emergency authorities and ONEOK WestTex Transmission at 1-800-562-5879, or the operator of the pipeline.

By using your built-in detection devices, you can prevent any disasters associated with random natural gas pipeline leaks.

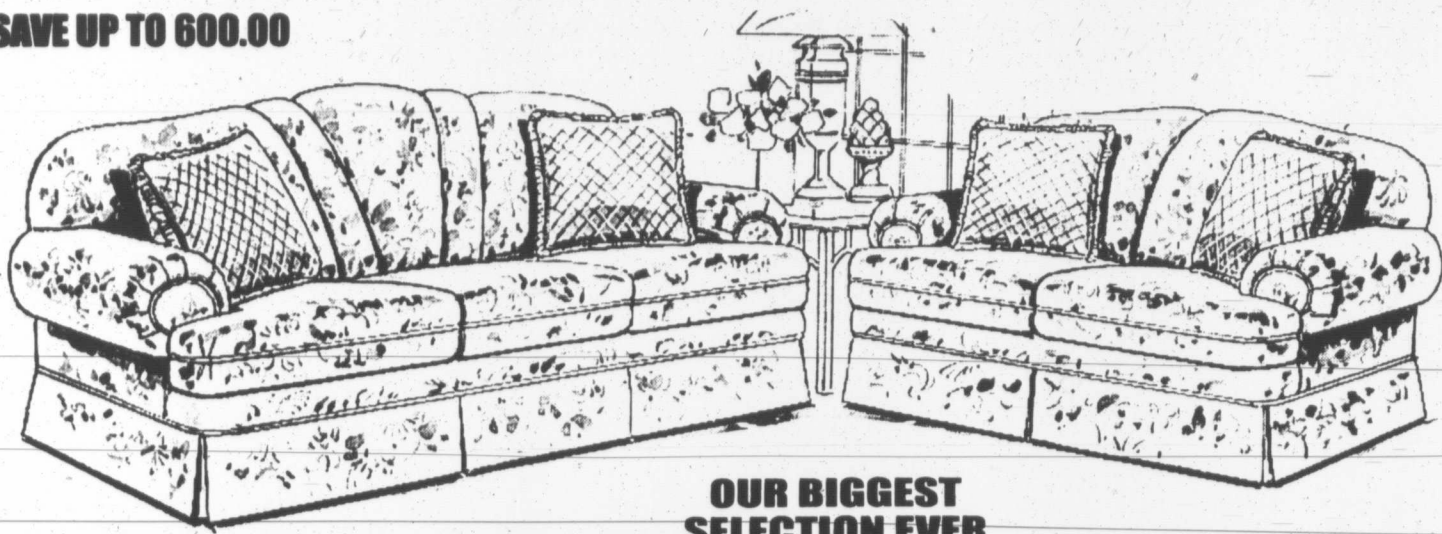


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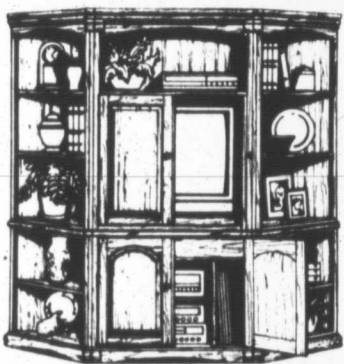
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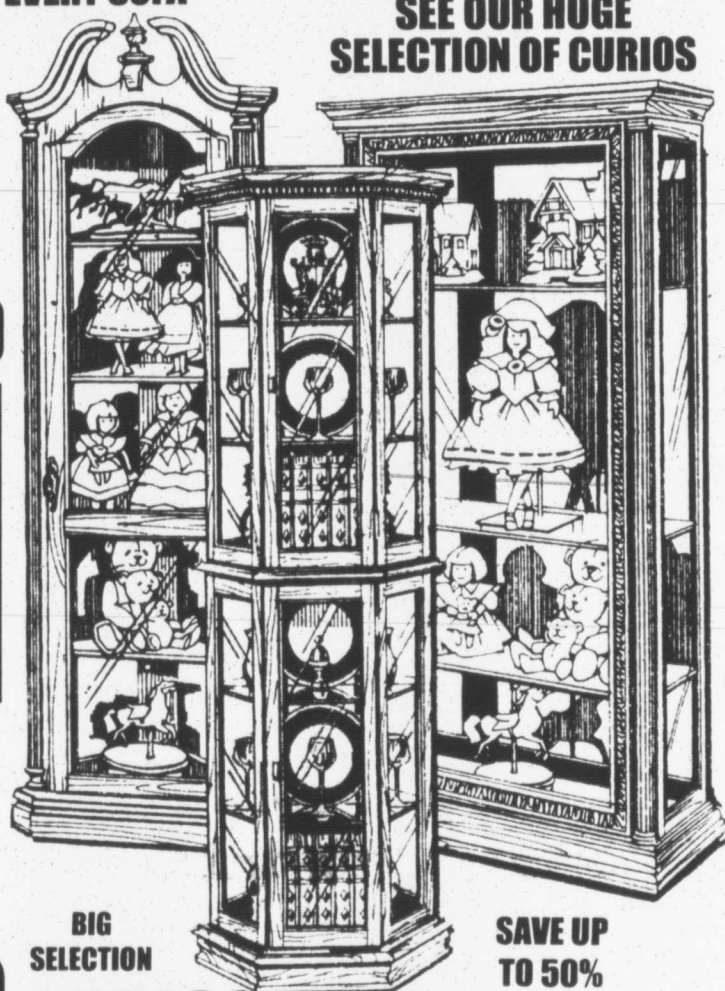
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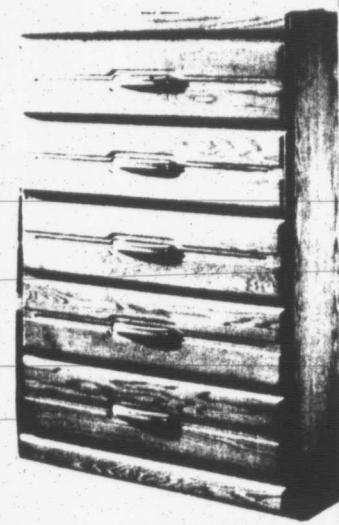
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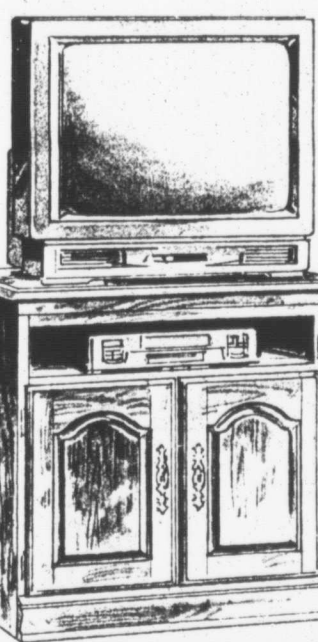
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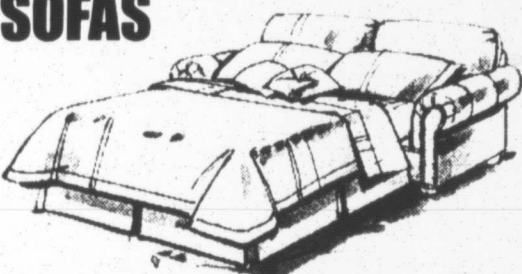
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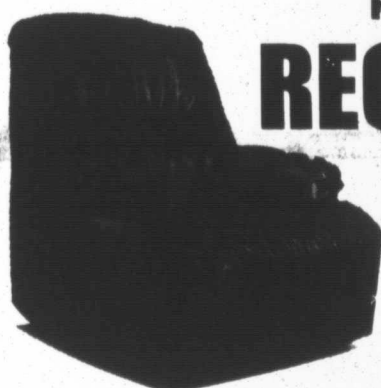


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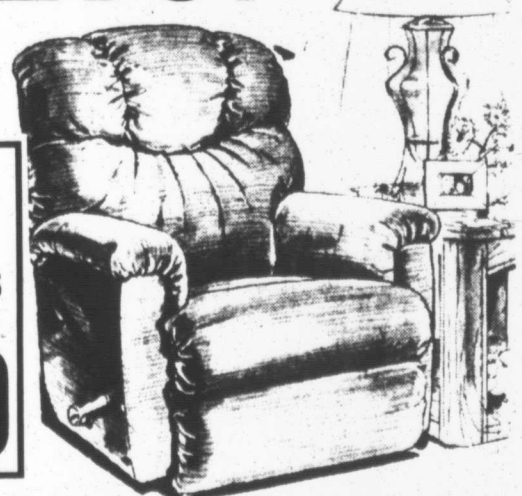
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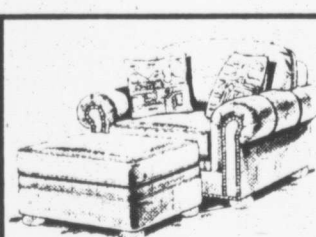
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Still

In January saving more other forgotten contributions individuals a way 2003 approach Both traditional tunity to establish money for the to 100 percent bution limit fo The annual \$3,000. Addi those IRA h year. Contribution ing deadline) ous tax year. "This flexit

LETTER

Dear Santa, Please bring cycle. I will cookies and n a good boy al Love, —Clay, 4

Dear Santa, Please bring and movies. I some snacks. Love, —Josie, 5

Dear Santa, Please bring and a baby d you some coo have been a year. Love, —Michaela

Dear Santa, Please bring Man Blaster. some cookie have been a g Love, —Shelby, 4

Dear Santa, I will leav and your elfs. bring me a re

Xcel av

Pampa Association Old Mob Association Amarillo-are ture groups t funding from Foundation. tributing a to in grant mon Other reci Amarillo Bot Amarillo L Amarillo M Amarillo O Symphony, A Citizens Fo Youth Cho County Mus Center for Arts, Texa Heritage Fo Wolf Cre Museum (Lip

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Still time to meet 2002 retirement resolutions

In January 2002, many Americans made resolutions to start saving more for retirement. Many of those resolutions, like other forgotten New Year's promises, went unfulfilled. Late contributions to traditional and Roth IRAs may provide individuals a way to keep 2002 retirement resolutions, even as 2003 approaches.

Both traditional and Roth IRAs give pre-retirees the opportunity to establish their own retirement plans by setting aside money for the future. Each year individuals can contribute up to 100 percent of their earned income or the annual IRS contribution limit for that tax year, whichever is less, to an IRA.

The annual contribution limit for tax years 2002-04 is \$3,000. Additional catch-up contributions are available for those IRA holders turning age 50 or older in the current tax year.

Contributions made between Jan. 1 and April 15 (the tax-filing deadline) can be designated for either the current or previous tax year.

"This flexibility gives pre-retirees the opportunity to keep

their 2002 resolutions or get a jump start on next year's retirement savings," explained local Modern Woodmen of American representative Grant Thompson.

"Now more than ever our future financial security rests on our own shoulders. We can no longer solely depend on Social Security and company pension plans for retirement savings," Thompson said. "Both traditional and Roth IRAs are excellent ways to supplement retirement income. However, one type may better fit an individual's needs."

According to Thompson, the main difference between the two types is the way contributions are taxed. The entire value of a traditional IRA is usually comprised of untaxed dollars.

The contributions are usually tax-deductible, and the earnings accumulate tax deferred. When a distribution is taken at retirement, the entire value (principal and earnings) is taxed as ordinary income.

Roth IRAs are funded with after-tax dollars that cannot be deducted from the individual's adjusted gross income.

Roth IRA owners pay federal income taxes on the principal now, as they contribute, instead of later when they take a distribution. Earnings on Roth IRAs grow tax-deferred and can be distributed tax-free provided certain qualifications are met.

Adjusted gross income limits and other eligibility requirements may affect an individual's ability to contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA. To learn more or to schedule an individual needs assessment, contact Thompson at 1-800-687-8345 or via e-mail at getgranthompson@hotmail.com.

Texas Golf Passes available for Christmas

The American Cancer Society's (ACS's) 2003 Texas Golf Pass is available in time for Christmas!

The new Texas Golf Pass offers free green fees at 218 participating courses throughout Texas.

The 2003 Texas Golf Pass is only a contribution of \$35 and will benefit the cancer research, education, and patient services pro-

grams of ACS — so, not only is the Texas Golf Pass a good gift, it's a good investment in the fight against cancer.

For more information or to order the 2003 Texas Golf Pass, contact your local American Cancer Society office or call 1-800-ACS-2345. For your convenience, you can now also order on-line at www.texas.golfpass.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

LETTERS

Love,
—Anthony, 4

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a motor cycle. I will leave you some cookies and milk. I have been a good boy all the time.

Love,
—Clay, 4

Dear Santa,
Please bring me some toys, and movies. I will leave you some snacks.

Love,
—Josie, 5

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a puppy, and a baby doll. I will leave you some cookies and milk. I have been a good girl all year.

Love,
—Michaela, 4

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Spider Man Blaster. I will leave you some cookies and milk. I have been a good boy.

Love,
—Shelby, 4

Dear Santa,
I will leave food for you and your elfs. Can you please bring me a red motorcycle.

Dear Santa,
I will leave food for you and your reindeers. Please bring me some hero's.

Love,
—Conner, 4

Dear Santa,
I want a fluffy pillow and a teddy bear. I have been good. Bring my mom perfume and Dad a toolbox.

Love,
—Kaitlyn, 4

P.S. Can I have a club house?

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Spider Man skateboard. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love,
—Brendon, 4

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Spider Man Blaster. I will leave you something good to eat. I have been a good boy.

Love,
—Cotton, 4

Dear Santa,
I would like a sonic toy. I have been good all the time. Please bring a hot shot.

—Cade, 5

Xcel awards area culture grants

Pampa Fine Arts Association (PFAA) and Old Mobeetic Texas Association are among 13 Amarillo-area arts and culture groups to receive grant funding from Xcel Energy Foundation. Xcel is contributing a total of \$89,224 in grant money.


Other recipients include Amarillo Botanical Gardens, Amarillo Little Theatre, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo Opera, Amarillo Symphony, Amarillo United Citizens Forum, Amarillo Youth Choirs, Armstrong County Museum, Southwest Center for the Performing Arts, Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, and Wolf Creek Heritage Museum (Lipscomb).

Three-thousand-five-hundred dollars is set aside for PFAA. The monies will be used to cover expenses of several outreach programs such as an annual Pampa High School scholarship, summer arts and crafts classes, Chautauqua, an October arts and crafts festival, and much more.

Old Mobeetic Texas Association will receive \$5,000 towards its annual music festival.

For more details, log onto www.xcelenergy.com on the Internet. Foundation programs are located at the "community and environment" link accessible on the home page. Organizations may also contact Wes Reeves (806) 378-2714.

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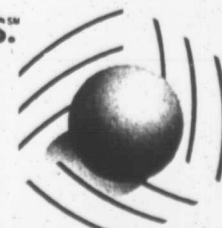
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SPORTS

Braddock, coach Parker to guide Team Texas

First 7 on 7 National Championship is Dec. 19-22 in Louisiana

HAMMOND, La. — John Braddock, Pampa's record-setting quarterback, has been invited to play in the first 7 on 7 National Championship. The 7 on 7 Championship, the first of its kind to be played in the United States, will be held Dec. 19-22 on the Southeastern Louisiana University campus in Hammond, La.

"One of the major themes of this 7 on 7 Championship is to have fun. It will also give the top players in the country a chance to compete against other top players in a tremendous one-on-one competition. I have evaluated many of these All-American football players and most of them are on my National Top 25 at their respective position," said National 7 on 7 chairman Max Emfinger, who also publishes a Blue Chip recruiting magazine for college

scouts.

Emfinger says he plans to invite almost 100 college recruiters to the 7 on 7 Championship, which will be held at 10,000-seat Strawberry Stadium.

Braddock will be accompanied to Louisiana by Pampa offensive coordinator Heath Parker. The two will have to pay their own way and sponsors who would like to help with expenses can contact Sandy Clark at the high school athletic office (669-4830).

Braddock will play for Team Texas, one of 13 teams entered in the competition, and Parker will be the head coach. Parker, a Pampa native, has been on the Harvesters' coaching staff for the past six years.

"This is a game that John can really thrive at, to show his skills," coach Parker said. "It's all dropback passing and he throws such a pretty ball."

Other teams entered include Team California, Team Louisiana, Team Georgia, Team Florida, Team

Georgia, Team West, Team Red River, Team Super Dixie, Team Northeast, Team Capital, Team New England, Team Midlands and Team Gulf Coast. Only high school seniors

are on the 20-player rosters. Also listed on the Team Texas squad is Perryton quarterback-defensive back Caleb Campbell.

Each team will play seven games in a pre-championship round-robin tournament Dec. 20. All the team will then be seeded for the double-elimination national tournament, which begins Dec. 21. The championship games will be held the next day.

In 7 on 7 football, players don't wear pads and there is no contact. Each team consists of two quarterbacks, four receivers, one tight end and one running back for the offense. On defense, there will be two outside linebackers, one middle linebacker, two cornerbacks, two safeties and a kicker. Special rules will be in place for the kickers.

Braddock set school single-season passing records in yards passing (2,857 yards) and touchdown passes (23) in quarterbacking the Harvesters to the regional semifinals this year.



John Braddock

NOTEBOOK

GOLF

Hidden Hills Seniors 4-Man Scramble
 1. Bill King, Harley Knutson, Waldon Haynes and Bill Brown, 64.
 2. Gerry McCabe, Jess Mathis, Callans George and Bill Abernathy, 65.
 3. Buddy Epperson, Morris Driver and OK Lee, 67.
 4. Leroy Morris, Joe Mabry, Jack Davis and James Lee, 67.
 Closest to pin: Waldon Haynes, No. 15.

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — First Bank of Miami lost to Team Three in the Optimist 5th grade girls' basketball league. It was the first loss for the Bankers after three victories.

Point guard Bailey Adcock had four points and six rebounds for Miami. Ashley Schroeder and Tanya Derr had two points each, while Rochelle Graue had one point. Adcock also seven steals.

FOOTBALL

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas receiver Roy Williams said Friday night that he plans to play another year for the Longhorns instead of leaving early for the NFL.

Williams said earlier he would not announce a decision until after Texas' bowl game, which turned out to be a Jan. 1 date with Louisiana State in the Cotton Bowl. But on Friday night, he provided a surprise for about 500 people at the Longhorns' football banquet.

"It's been great playing here and I've learned a lot, and I love it here," the junior said as much of the crowd held its breath. "But I think I'm going to take my abilities ... to the University of Texas and have a great year here."

Williams said in Saturday editions of the Austin American-Statesman that he was returning because he hadn't fulfilled his goals.

Williams, among the nation's most talented receivers, caught 60 passes for 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns for Texas (10-2) this season.

Texans' rookie going for painful sack record

HOUSTON (AP) — He was a baby-faced kid from Fresno State with gaudy passing stats and a powerful right arm when the Houston Texans made David Carr the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft.

They chose Carr over Joey Harrington and Julius Peppers and expected him to step in and eventually set offensive records in the pros, just as he had done in college.

He's setting records, all right. But painfully for Carr, he'll likely go into the books on Sunday as the most sacked quarterback in NFL history for a single season. He's been dumped 68 times, four short of the record 72 set by Randall Cunningham in 1986.

"I see some guys that have only been sacked seven times, 10 times, and I wonder what would have happened if I'd been able to stand up a little longer," Carr said. "I wonder about that, but that's all you get for wondering."

Carr was sacked only four times in Sunday's offensive disaster that netted the Texans only 47 total yards — another NFL record, for fewest yards gained in a victory. The defense scored three touchdowns in a 24-6 upset of the

Pittsburgh Steelers.

Carr is averaging five-plus sacks per game, with a season-high nine in the second game against the San Diego Chargers. Sunday's game against the Baltimore Ravens could easily put him past Cunningham.

"I don't like to see David's rookie year performance be overshadowed by that because he's playing great football," running back James Allen said. "People are going to say what they want, but the kid is playing great."

"He hasn't had time to throw the ball, we all know that. That falls on my shoulders, the offensive line and the wide receivers and tight ends."

If the Texans weren't aware of Carr's courage before the sacks started mounting, they are now.

"I haven't had a backup quarterback since the fourth grade," Carr said. "When I was playing then, my dad told me I had to stay in the game."

Carr has been the starter since the first day of training camp and he's taken every snap in the regular season, with Tony Banks and Mike Quinn in reserve.

Coach Dom Capers has been questioned about allowing Carr to take more punishment by remaining in games that seem out of reach. Capers wants Carr to have such tough experiences on the field to develop his leadership qualities and earn the team's trust.

"What he's been through I've already seen it benefit

him," Capers said. "He's gained respect in the locker room and that's always a big step. He's been able to do it because of his toughness and competitiveness."

Carr has responded by getting up every time, although he admits "sometimes I don't remember getting up."

Carr certainly isn't accustomed to spending most of his

games on the turf. At Fresno State, he passed for 7,849 yards and threw 70 touchdown passes. He led the nation with 4,308 yards and 42 touchdown passes last season.

He became the sixth quarterback in NCAA history to reach 4,000 yards passing and 40 touchdown passes in the same season.

Five White Deer players are first-team All-District 1-1A

Five White Deer players have been named to the All-District 1-1A first team this season.

Brian Knocke was named to the first team defensive unit at linebacker and punter. Rufus Estrada was also named to first-team defense.

All-district players on offense were center Aaron Urbanczyk, Cody Owens and Bryon Norton.

All-District 1-1A Team

First Team Offense
Quarterbacks: Josh King, soph., Stratford; Kyron Trussell, sr. Sunray.
Center: Aaron Urbanczyk, sr.,

White Deer.

Linemen: Cody Owens, jr., White Deer; Dylon Everett, sr., Stratford; Tyson Harper, sr., Sunray; Chris Woodall, sr., Sunray; Aaron Boyd, sr., Gruver; Clint Adams, sr., Stratford.

Tight ends: Byron Norton, sr. White Deer; Chris Ortega, soph., Stratford.

Receivers: Tyler Haynes, soph., Stratford; Jason Ashley, jr., Stratford.

Running backs: Jody Ferguson, jr., Booker; Baniel Acosta, jr., Sunray.

Kicker: Kyron Trussell, sr., Sunray.

First Team Defense

Linemen: Tyson Harper, sr., Sunray; C.J. Williamson, sr., Sunray; Dylon Everett, sr., Stratford.

Ends: Carson Buckles, jr., Stratford; Jared Lawler, jr., Sunray.

Linebackers: Brian Knocke, sr., White Deer; Chance Broxson, sr., Sunray; Carlos Jacques, jr., Stratford.

Secondary: Rufus Estrada, jr., White Deer; Denton Crabtree, sr., Stratford; John Ritcheson, sr., Sunray; Josh Sonen, sr., Sunray.

Punter: Brian Knocke, sr., White Deer.

Lots of talk, little action on first day of winter meetings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The only swapping taking place on the opening day of baseball's winter meetings was of stories about inactivity.

General managers wandered between lobbies at the vast Opryland Hotel asking each other if anything was going on. As of early Friday night, not a single trade had been made.

"Montreal is stagnating things because they have so many players that might be attractive," New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The Expos, owned by the other 29 teams, have been told their payroll can't accommodate all the players on their current roster. General manager Omar Minaya, easy to spot in a bright red shirt, was surrounded by reporters and cameramen as soon as he entered the lobby following a morning flight from New York.

"It's early in the process right now," Minaya said Friday night. "The objective is to be able to trim payroll. If there's a trade that I think makes sense, I'm going to make that trade."

Minaya met with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies and St. Louis Cardinals, and planned late-night meetings with the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.

He said some teams were "aggressive" in their pursuit and some proposals were "pretty interesting."

"I want to listen to as many clubs as possible and have as many options as possible. There is not a specific date," Minaya said. "We may not speak to 29 teams. We may wind up speaking to 15 teams or 20 teams."

Among Minaya's players are outfielder Vladimir Guerrero, pitchers Bartolo Colon, Javier

Vazquez, second baseman Jose Vidro, shortstop Orlando Cabrera, third baseman Fernando Tatis and catcher Michael Barrett.

"I hope to be able to do something here, but I don't feel I have to do something here," Minaya said. "I don't have to get down to payroll by Tuesday. I have to get down to payroll by opening day."

Baseball executives kept walking through this sprawling hotel, with 2,881 rooms in huge atriums over seven acres — there's even a fake river running through it. The hotel is famous for its Christmas shows, and people who came to be entertained — there even was a midget Elvis lookalike wandering around —

mingled among the baseball types.

"Just the normal routine," Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said. "Road trips and home games, our suite or theirs."

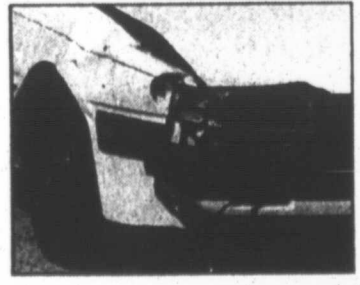
The free-agent market, which has driven many winter meetings in recent years, slowed to a near standstill. The only free agent to sign was right-hander Chris Carpenter, who agreed to a one-year contract with St. Louis that guarantees him \$500,000.

"It's early still," said New York Mets general manager Steve Phillips, who was searching for a third baseman and talking to the agents for reliever Mike Stanton. "It's been a slow-developing market at this point in the offseason. There are still teams sorting out what they want to do."

Teams did reach agreements with several players eligible for salary arbitration, with Philadelphia left-hander Randy Wolf getting a \$22.5 million, four-year contract.

Cleveland outfielder Karim Garcia got a \$900,000, one-year deal, New York Mets utilityman Joe Mauer \$600,000, Colorado infielder Greg Norton \$600,000 and Atlanta first baseman Wes Helms \$575,000. The Rockies also agreed to a one-year deal with catcher Bobby Estallela.



Teams have taken a more aggressive approach to non-stars eligible for arbitration, threatening to not offer contracts by the Dec. 20 deadline. The threat of putting more free agents on the market has also slowed trade talks and free-agent signings, according to team executives and agents.



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Top-ranked Plainview victorious over Pampa

PAMPA — No. 1 ranked Plainview went away with a 63-22 victory over Pampa in a District 3-4A girls' game Friday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

Tojtinay Thompson led Plainview in scoring with 14 points. She was followed by Addi Lees, who had 12.

Plainview has a 13-1 record for the season and is 2-0 in district play.

Abbi Covalt was Pampa's high scorer with 7 points, followed by Callie Cobb with 5, Mariza Scott 5, Jaclyn Spearman 4 and Tara Jordan 1.

Plainview has won state Class 4A titles the last two seasons.

The Pampa girls are 3-9 for the season and 0-2 in district. Their next

SUNRAY — The Lefors Lady Pirates slipped by Hartley 38-35 in the consolation bracket Friday at the Sunray Tournament.

Lindsay Duckworth led Lefors scorers with 14 points. Savannah Smith followed with 12.

Lefors held a 24-20 lead at halftime.

Hartley's Wendy Osborne had 17 points.

In the boys' division, Lefors fell to Boys Ranch 56-33 in the consolation bracket.

Boys Ranch was led in scoring by Justin Daniels with 13 points.

Joshua Garcia had 18 points and Ricky Vaughn 8 for the Pirates.



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Pampa freshman Mariza Scott tries to control the basketball while a Plainview player grabs her arm. Also pictured are Jennie Waggoner (24) and Jaclyn Spearman (34).

2002-2003 Bowl Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST
Tuesday, Dec. 17
New Orleans Bowl
\$750,000

North Texas (7-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Wednesday, Dec. 18
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
\$750,000

Marshall (10-2) vs. Louisville (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN2)

Monday, Dec. 23
Tangerine Bowl
At Orlando, Fla. \$750,000

Clemson (7-5) vs. Texas Tech (8-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Las Vegas Bowl
\$800,000

UCLA (7-5) vs. New Mexico (7-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
\$750,000

Tulane (7-5) vs. Hawaii (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 26
Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
\$780,000

Toledo (9-4) vs. Boston College (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 27
Houston Bowl
\$750,000

Southern Mississippi (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
\$1.2 million

Nebraska (7-6) vs. Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
\$2 million

Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arizona State (8-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio

Nebraska (7-6) vs. Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday's Game
New England at Tennessee, 9 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Miami at Minnesota, 1:30 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22
Detroit at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Houston at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Carolina, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 9 p.m.

\$1.35 million
Colorado (9-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
\$750,000

West Virginia (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

Monday, Dec. 30
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
\$750,000

Minnesota (7-5) vs. Arkansas (9-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Seattle Bowl
\$1 million

Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Oregon (7-5), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 31
Humanitarian Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
\$750,000

Iowa State (7-6) vs. Boise State (11-1), Noon (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
\$1.35 million

Washington (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn.
\$1.3 million

Colorado State (10-3) vs. TCU (9-2), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
\$750,000

Fresno State (8-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
\$1.6 million

Maryland (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

San Francisco Bowl
\$800,000

Air Force (8-4) vs. Virginia Tech (9-4), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
\$2 million

Michigan (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
\$3 million

LSU (8-4) vs. Texas (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)

Gator Bowl

At Jacksonville, Fla.
\$1.6 million

Notre Dame (10-2) vs. North Carolina State (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
\$5.125 million

Penn State (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
\$11-13 million

Washington State (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 5 p.m. (ABC)

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
\$11-13 million

Washington State (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 5 p.m. (ABC)

Georgia (12-1) vs. Florida State (9-4), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
\$11-13 million

Southern California (10-2) vs. Iowa (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Friday, Jan. 3
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
\$11-13 million

Miami (12-0) vs. Ohio State (13-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)



Harvester Sports Calendar

Week of December 15

Basketball
Friday
Pampa vs. Hereford varsity-jr. varsity boys, 6pm away
Pampa vs. Hereford varsity-jr. varsity girls, 6pm away

Wrestling
Thursday
Pampa vs. Dumas varsity-jr. varsity away
Friday
Pampa vs. Carlsbad varsity, at Tascosa



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NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	8	5	0	.615	314	237
New England	8	5	0	.615	330	268
N.Y. Jets	7	6	0	.538	274	282
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	332	365

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615	302	304
Indianapolis	8	5	0	.615	274	233
Jacksonville	5	8	0	.385	276	252
Houston	4	9	0	.308	181	294

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	5	1	.577	309	293
Cleveland	6	6	0	.538	283	263
Baltimore	6	7	0	.462	249	287
Cincinnati	1	12	0	.077	235	387

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	9	4	0	.692	381	265
San Diego	8	5	0	.615	270	292
Denver	7	6	0	.538	308	285
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	419	322

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	3	0	.769	347	207
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	229	238
Dallas	5	8	0	.385	193	245
Washington	5	8	0	.385	240	307

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	10	3	0	.769	301	159
New Orleans	9	4	0	.692	382	326
Atlanta	8	4	1	.654	326	245
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	210	252

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	351	272
Chicago	3	10	0	.231	247	327
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	235	354
Minnesota	3	10	0	.231	300	358

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Francisco	9	4	0	.692	316	286
Arizona	5	8	0	.385	213	333
St. Louis	5	8	0	.385	245	291
Seattle	4	9	0	.308	264	307

x-clinched division

Sunday's Games
Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Houston, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

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COMMUNITY

NEWSMAKERS

PLAINVIEW — Tandi Morton Laos was recently inducted into Kappa Delta Pi honor society at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must rank in the top 10 percent of students in the field of education at WBU. KDP is the only all-disciplinary honor society for education that provides support throughout each member's career.

Laos will be a senior in the spring and participates in track and volleyball at Wayland. She is the mother of Gavin Grant, born Nov. 15, 2002.

Camp Lejeune, N.C. — Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Josh B. Acuna, son of Debbie A. and Antonio Acuna of McLean, is currently on six-month deployment while assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), based in Camp Lejeune.

Acuna is one of more than 4,000 Atlantic Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard the ships of the USS Nassau Amphibious Ready Group.

Acuna — a 1995 graduate of McLean High School of McLean — joined the Marine Corps in March 1999.

CANYON — Sandra Reyes, a freshman education major from Canadian, was among seven West Texas A&M University students named Texas A&M University System's Blue Chip Teacher Recruits for the 2002-03 school year. They join 95 other outstanding students from universities throughout the A&M System.

The Blue Chip Teacher Recruits are part of a recognition program associated with the System's Regents' Initiative for Excellence in Education. The 102 students entered the A&M System universities during the 2002-03 school year to become teachers.

The A&M System's universities are committed to increasing the number of teachers graduated and certified by 33 percent by 2004.

The System universities are actively recruiting potential teachers in several "high need" fields such as science, math, special education, bilingual/English as a Second Language, technology and foreign language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'LEGACY'

The M.K. Brown "Legacy" book is currently on sale at White Deer Land Museum, Hastings and the Chamber of Commerce.

GOP HEADQUARTERS

The Republican Party is headquartered locally at 1621 N. Hobart next to the Sears store. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. For more information, phone 886-4967.

PCCA

Pampa Community Concert Association's 2002-03 season will kick-off with "Swingerhead" scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, at Borger High School Auditorium. Borger's CCA will co-sponsor. Other upcoming PCCA presentations include: "Quintet of the Americas," Nov. 19; "The Ennis Sisters," Jan. 11; and "Dancing on Common Ground," March 18. All will be staged at 7:30 p.m., at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. For tickets or more information, contact Ruth Richart, PCCA president, at 665-3362.

MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY

A H.O. Scale Model Railroad will be on display at Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum from Dec. 14 through the 22nd. The exhibit will also include posters, coloring books, and other materials from Santa Fe Railroad, Burlington Railroad, Amtrak, Lionel, and others. Exhibit hours will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, and 1-5 p.m., Sunday-Friday at the museum in Fritch. Admission is \$2. Children under 3 get in free. All proceeds will benefit the Aquatic Rehab Project.

GCAP MOMS&BABIES

Gray County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies will not meet during the month of December.

PACSG

Pampa Area Cancer Support Group voted at its last meeting not to convene during the month of December. The next meeting will be an "After the Holidays" party on Jan. 16.

TOP O' TEXAS

REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Top O' Texas Republican Women will meet from 11:30-1 p.m., Dec. 18, at Furr's Family Dining. Visitors are welcome.

More 'EVENTS' on Page 30



Holiday decorating ideas

By SKYLA BRYANT
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Looking for easy and attractive decorating ideas or quick, useful crafts that are not a drain on the pocket-book? Something to dress up your table for that holiday party or family feast or something more basic and homey to give as a Christmas present? Joan Gray, Texas Cooperative Extension agent for Gray County, recently gave of her time and expertise to help answer these questions, offering a couple of fast and creative ideas to make the season a bit more jolly and fun!

First, Joan demonstrated a novel and inexpensive Christmas centerpiece suitable for any occasion — whether it be an intimate gathering of family and friends or a more formal situation. This project requires only a handful of ingredients and can be completed within 10 minutes.

She concluded her presentation by exhibiting a unique crafts item, perfect for the person on your list who has everything!

She concluded her presentation by exhibiting a unique crafts item, perfect for the person on your list who has everything!

Cranberry Christmas Centerpiece

- Supplies:
- see-through glass container (size may vary)
 - 1-pound of cranberries (depending on size of container)
 - tablecloth (optional)
 - pillar candle(s)
 - water

Directions: Choose a clear glass bowl or other similar container (Joan said a glass pie-plate would suffice), and place your candle or

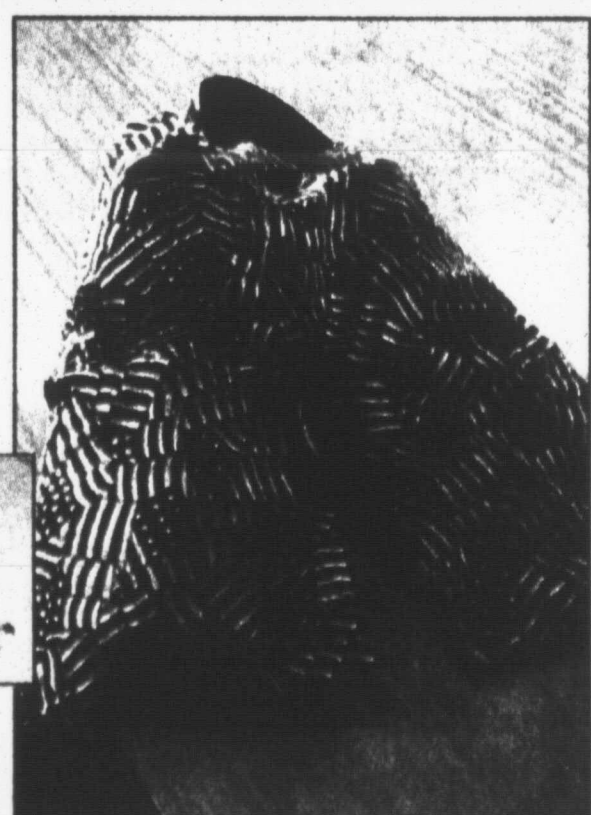
candles inside. Select candles that will enhance your color scheme or off-set your tablecloth if you decide to use one.

"Usually you want to do an odd number of candles," Joan said or the piece will lack a sense of balance. If using more than one candle, she suggests fastening them together with a rubber band and hiding this with a festive ribbon or bow, but be careful to remove any possible fire-hazards before you light the candles or your centerpiece could turn into something dreadful!

After situating your candles in the container, surround with cranberries in whatever amount best suits your taste. Add water. Again, the amount is not preset. Do what you feel is sufficient. We used a simple, glass bowl with room for only



one candle. To take the look a bit farther, Joan recommends buying some colorful beaded tinsel or purchasing items found among seasonal displays. We used a pliable wire length of glittery gold garland. (See 'CRAFTS,' Page 30)



■ (Above) Joan Gray poses here with her Slipper Slacks which she fashioned from a colorful, patriotic fabric. Below we have a close-up of this unique project.

■ (Left) You can use a variety of bowls or clear glass containers to make your Cranberry Christmas Centerpiece. We also purchased several pillar candles in varying colors.

■ (Inset) For this centerpiece, we used a plate and bowl set shown in the far left of the picture at right. We turned the plate over and placed our glitter gold garland underneath. To finish, we stacked the bowl on top of the plate.



■ Photos by ReDonn Woods and Skyla Bryant

WEDDINGS

Adams-Keelin

Doris Adams and Jerry D. Keelin, both of Pampa, were wed Nov. 30, 2002, at the home of the bride in Pampa with President Robert Barton, of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Amarillo, officiating.

A reception was held at the residence following the service with Julie Lange, daughter of the bride, and Jerilyn Ragan, daughter of the groom, both of Amarillo, serving the guests.

The bride is self-employed with Home Interiors Inc.

The groom, son of Rosalie Keelin of Briscoe, is employed with Incentric Corp.



Jerry D. Keelin and Doris Adams

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Taos, N.M., and intend to make their home in Pampa.

MENUS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-20

Pampa Schools
MONDAY
 Breakfast: French toast sticks.
 Lunch: Egg rolls or chicken nuggets, carrots, broccoli/cheese, applesauce.
TUESDAY
 Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy.
 Lunch: Pizza dippers or burritos, green beans, salad, fresh fruit.
WEDNESDAY
 Breakfast: Donuts.
 Lunch: Popcorn shrimp or cheese nachos, French fries, baked beans, pineapple.
THURSDAY
 Breakfast: Pancake-and-sausage-on-a-stick.
 Lunch: Bean/cheese burritos or hamburgers, tator tots, corn, peaches.
FRIDAY
 Breakfast: Cereal, toast, sausage.
 Lunch: Mini corn dogs or pizza, English peas, macaroni/cheese, apricots.

Lefors Schools
MONDAY
 Breakfast: Breakfast pock-ets, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Ravioli, mini corn dogs, peas, salad, fruit, milk.

Tuesday
 Breakfast: Muffins, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Roast beef, chicken patties, potatoes, corn, gravy, rolls, salad, fruit, milk.
Wednesday
 Breakfast: Waffles, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Stew, chicken nuggets, cornbread, potatoes, salad, fruit, milk.
Thursday
 Breakfast: Hot cereal, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Pizza, mini burritos, hominy, salad, fruit, milk.
Friday
 Breakfast: Cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Sack lunch.

Senior Citizens
MONDAY
 Chicken fried steak or chicken enchiladas, mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, beets, beans, chocolate marble cake or blueberry cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
TUESDAY
 Ham salad or Salisbury steak, criss-cross potatoes, brussels sprouts, macaroni/cheese, beans, French vanilla cake or chocolate icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
WEDNESDAY
 Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, beans, strawberry cake or bread pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
THURSDAY
 Chicken strips or stew, tator tots, California blend, beans, devilsfood cake or pineapple squares, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
FRIDAY
 Baked turkey/dressing, giblet gravy, yams, Italian green beans, tossed or jello salad, pumpkin cake, cherry cobbler, or fruit cups, cranberry sauce, deviled eggs, stuffed celery, olives/pickles, rolls.

Meals On Wheels
MONDAY
 Oven-fried chicken, black-eyed-peas, zucchini/tomatoes, pears.
TUESDAY
 Steak fingers, gravy, broccoli/rice casserole, carrots, pineapple.
WEDNESDAY
 Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, green beans, bananas.
THURSDAY
 Swiss steak, potato casserole, peas/carrots, jello.
FRIDAY
 Chili bake, pinto beans, cornbread, graham crackers.

CRADLE CALL



Sydney Joy Mosby

Sydney Mosby

Sydney Joy Mosby was born Oct. 2, 2002, at Grand Junction, Colo., to Denise and Don Mosby of Grand Junction. Sydney weighed 8-pounds, 1.50-ounces at birth and was 19 1/2-inches long.

She is the granddaughter of John and Sandi Adcox of Grand Junction and Betty and Mike Mosby of Rifle, Colo., and is the great-granddaughter of Bob and Aileen Childers of Pampa.

PPHM exhibit spotlights new acquisitions

CANYON — "New Stuff: Recent Acquisitions of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society," an exhibit of selected items donated to the Society during the past five years, open at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (PPHM) on Dec. 19.

The various objects displayed will include what is believed to be the large oak desk used by the first President of West Texas State Normal School, Dr. R.B. Cousins.

The late Dr. Jack Hughes, long-time professor of archeology and geology at WT, purchased the roll-top desk during the 1950s at a WT surplus property sale. Papers found by Hughes in the desk indicated that Dr. Cousins and his successor, Dr. Joseph A. Hill, probably had used it.

The exhibit also will feature several items donated from the estate of Marshall Cator, the 99-year-old Sunray ranchman who died in January 2002. Objects on display will include Cator's handmade oak bedroom suite as well as a broeze portrait statue of the veteran rancher by sculptor Edd Hayes. (See 'PPHM,' Page 25)

CLUB NEWS

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m., (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Altrusa

Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met Dec. 10, at Pampa Country Club with President Anne Stobbe presiding. Elia Smith, Stephanie Lowe, Shari Morrison, Virginia Gray, and Penni Pfizner attended as guests. DeLynn Gordzelik introduced her new baby, Kyle Austin, born Nov. 4. Billie Dixon and Joan Gray served as greeters.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Plans are under way for a reception in honor of newly-

weds Glyndene (Shelton) and W.T. Seitz.

—The Accent was delivered by Pat Johnson who read "The W in Christmas."

—Janet Bilyeu was approved for membership.

—Betty King was granted a four-month leave of absence.

—Johnson, Career Clinic coordinator, reported on the event held recently at Pampa High.

Despite the snowy conditions that day, the clinic was held as planned with 65 consultants present. PHS faculty and a student filled in for the 20 consultants who were unable to attend due to the weather.

—Gray discussed plans for the Angel Tree Shopping Project.

—Myrna Orr reported 51 Thanksgiving bags were delivered to Schneider House over the holiday.

—Members were reminded of the gift-wrapping project for Salvation Army on Dec. 16-17.

—The membership voted to contribute \$500 toward Christmas gifts for children enrolled in Shining Star Day Care.

—Rochelle Lacy and Dixon, ASTRA co-chairs, announced the charter and installation ceremony will be Jan. 19 in the M.K. Brown Room. The ASTRA members have begun working on several community service projects including the Children's Shopping Tour, the Salvation Army gift-wrapping project, Celebration of Lights, and Special Olympics.

—Judy Warner said the Lamar Health Fair will be Jan. 23. Members will meet the day before to prepare food to serve.

(See 'CLUB,' Page 25)

LIFESTYLES POLICY

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.

2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.

3. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.

4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.

5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.

6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date.

7. Birth announcements will only be published for 0- to 3-month-olds. (See form for more details.)

8. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

9. Two anniversary pictures may be placed for a \$25 charge or four extra lines may be added to announcements for \$25 (\$50 for both).

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At

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JAYCEE carries on the tradition of beading. Her family has always been beadwork artisans for generations and Jaycee continues the tradition by creating her own designs in fashionable bracelets and necklaces in a wide array of colors.

JAYCEE'S BEADWORK contains Vintage & New Glass Beads. Each design is a "Unique".

Now 'Til Christmas

Buy any item from Fall & Winter Fashions & get a 2nd item of equal or lessor value for 1/2 PRICE

Buy 2 & SAVE!!

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Downtown Pampa

Free Gift Wrap

(Sale includes fall & winter clothing only)

No gifts or accessories



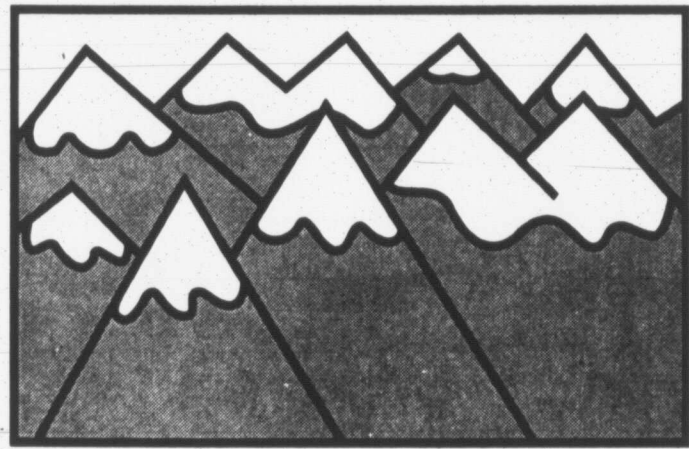
WINTER RIDDING

Learn Some French

les montagnes



de la neige



The mountains are covered with snow.
Les montagnes sont couvertes de neige.

SEEK ■■■ FIND

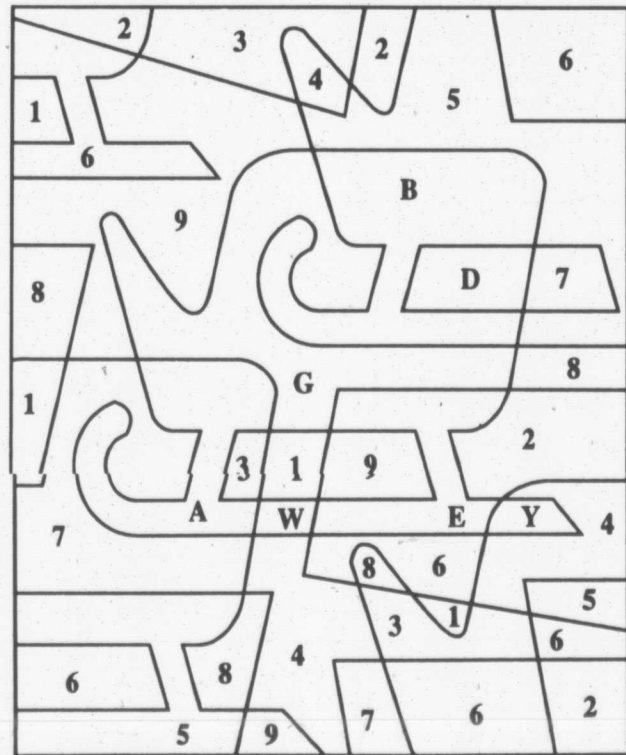
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

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| CHIMNEY | LIST | SLEIGH |
| COOKIES | MILK | SNOW |
| ELVES | REINDEER | STOCKING |
| GIFTS | SANTA | TOYS |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

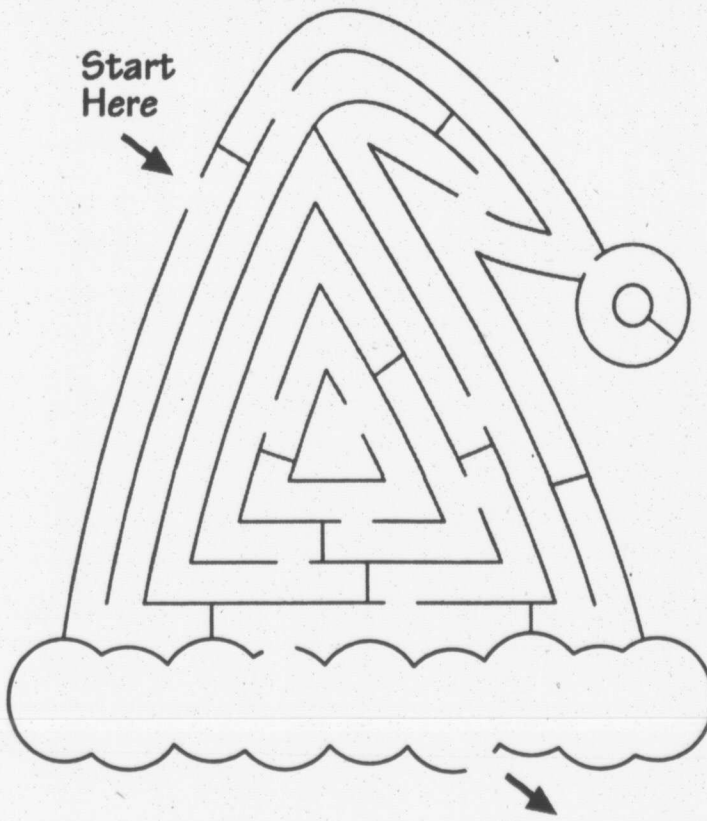
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K O S A N T A I O P
G H C H I M N E Y L
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T E R A R S D N P I

HIDDEN



Color in each space that contains a letter.

MAZE



Santa Across The World

Here in the United States, he is known as Santa Claus. He comes in a sleigh pulled by reindeer and brings gifts. But in other countries, he's known by other names, and he arrives at houses in different ways. Read on to find out how Santa Claus visits other countries around the world.

Germany

In Germany, Santa is known as St. Nicholas, and he travels around the country on December 6. Instead of reindeer, he travels with a white pony that carries bags. One bag is filled with presents for those who have been good; the other has switches for those who have been bad.

Bad guys follow St. Nicholas around as he delivers gifts. Some of them bring presents, some bring a lump of coal and some take presents.

France

December 6 is the feast day of St. Nicholas in France. Children receive gifts of candy and other goodies. December 25 is known as Noël in France. Children may receive a visit from Père Noël. They write letters to Père Noël at the North Pole and try to be very good so he will visit them.

Spain and Mexico

Santa is not as popular in Spain and Mexico as the Three Kings are. From December 25 to January 5, families shop so the children can pick out what they want the Three Kings to bring them. Then they write letters to the Three Kings, asking for the gifts they want and gifts for their families.

The night of January 5, children set out their shoes so the Three Kings can fill them with candy and treats and surround them with presents.

Russia

In the 1800s, D'yed Moroz, or Grandfather Frost, lived deep in the woods. He came to town in a sleigh to deliver toys and gifts door-to-door. He had a red coat and hat with white fur trim, and his beard was white and bushy.

Italy

December 6 is St. Nicholas' feast day. That's when he visits children in the towns along the Adriatic coast of Italy.

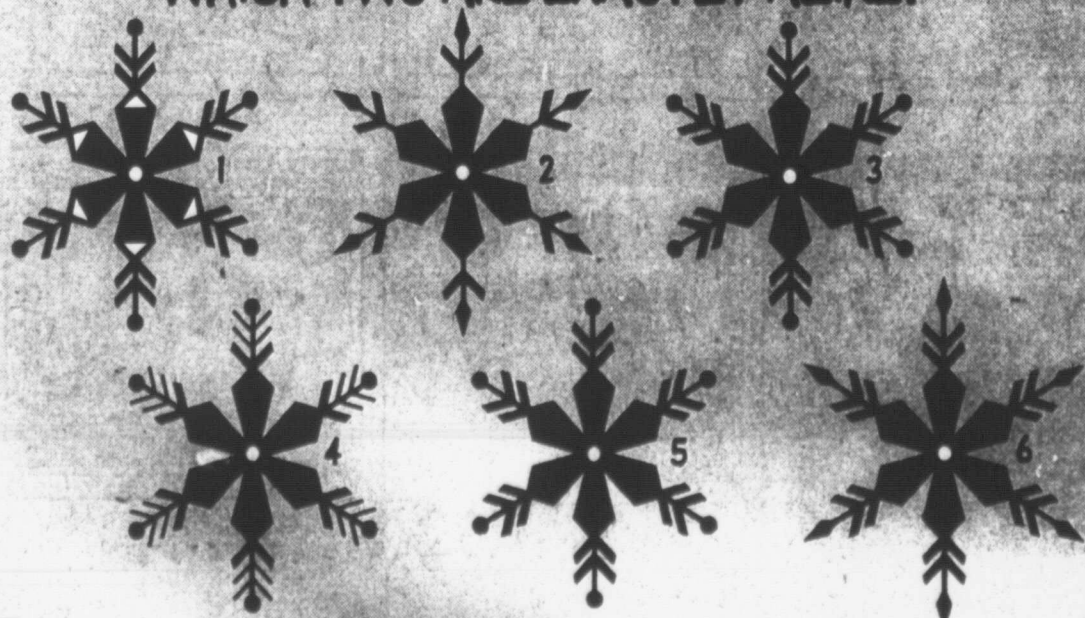
In Sicily, Santa Lucia delivers presents on December 13. Santa Lucia has a donkey that carries baskets of gifts. His blue cloak has stars all over it. Children throughout Sicily place their shoes outside and hope to find them filled with gifts in the morning. Sometimes they even put out food for the donkey.



Scottish

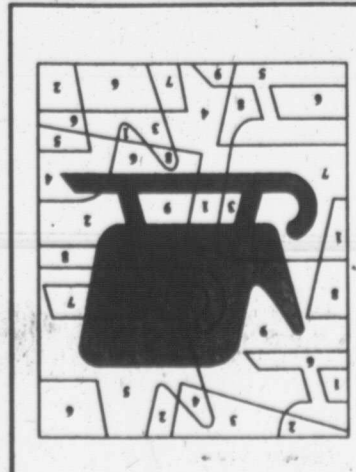
FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

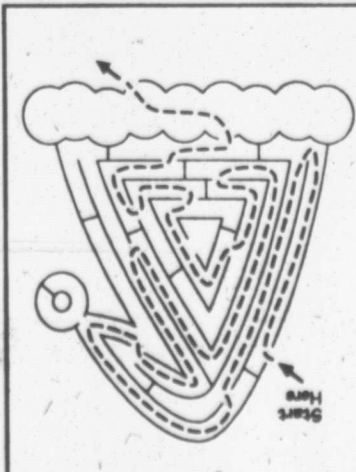


ANSWER: THREE AND FIVE

ANSWERS



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



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Sunday, December 14, 2002

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Woman Loses Daughter Second Time After Missed Phone Call

DEAR ABBY: Thirty-six years ago, I gave birth and placed my baby girl for adoption. The father was going away to school and had no interest in me or the child. My parents were about to divorce, and my brother was in trouble with the law. I knew there was no way I could keep my daughter, so with a heavy heart I signed away my parental rights and tried to go on with my life. Eventually I married and had a son, who is now 32.

My mother has since moved in with my husband and me. Two weeks ago, a call came to the house while I was at work. Mom answered the phone. The woman calling was looking for her birth mother, and had information that I was, indeed, that woman!

Mother explained all this to me when I got home. As I was becoming more and more excited, she gave me the devastating news that she had told the woman that I had only one child — a son — and that I was not the person she was looking for. The caller continued to ask questions, but Mother denied all of the facts, and finally ended the call by hanging up on her.

I am crushed. For years, I have hoped for a call like that, but had not searched for my child because I did not want to invade her life or the lives of her adoptive parents. My mother was extremely judgmental and non-supportive when I was pregnant that first time, and the day my daughter was born, she pointed at my baby and said, "She

is not coming home with us. I am not raising any more children." Now I am desperate for my daughter to call again. I must find her! I have filed with the state adoption registry and private bureaus, called an attorney, and searched online. I pray that she will call back, so I can assure her that I love her and have thought about her every day since her birth.

My husband is anxious to welcome her into our lives. We are both heartbroken we may never have the chance. Mother has since come to understand what a grave injustice she performed — for a second time.

Abby, please help. What more can I do?

HEARTBROKEN IN EAST KANSAS

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Unfortunately, there is nothing more you can do. I hope your daughter sees this letter, puts two and two together and calls you again.

DEAR ABBY: Every year as the holidays roll around, my husband and I get the same speech from certain elderly relatives: "You have to spend the holidays with us because it might be our last." I am so tired of this guilt trip being laid on us — and I'm sure a lot of other people are, too.

Just because someone is old doesn't mean he or she is next in line to kick the bucket. When I explain to relatives that my hus-

band and I wish to stay home and make only short visits to them during the holidays, someone always guilt-trips us and we cave in. What can be done?

TRAPPED IN BRANDON, FLA.

DEAR TRAPPED: I have a response for the people you feel are manipulating you, but before I offer it, I should remind you that what they are saying will at some point be true. When that happens, can you handle the guilt? If the answer to that is yes, then proceed:

The response to the statement, "You have to spend the holidays with us because it might be our last," is:

"Then it's all the more important that we start now to establish our own holiday traditions, because it will lessen our heart-break when that happens. Please join us at our home."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Tater
- 5 Striped mammal
- 10 Jobs for gumshoes
- 12 Tottering
- 13 Not hidden
- 14 Cambridge coins
- 15 Archaic
- 16 Fool
- 18 Yonder lass
- 19 Packing a punch
- 21 Quest
- 22 Harry Potter's foe
- 24 Deep pink
- 25 Swim naturally
- 29 Bill stamp
- 30 Result
- 32 Shade source
- 33 Rx payer
- 34 Blond shade
- 35 Wed in secret
- 37 Tattooed lady of song
- 39 Solitary sort
- 40 Consumed
- 41 Cussed
- 42 Do some modeling

DOWN

- 1 Reporter's coup
- 2 Reflex studier
- 3 Familiar with
- 4 German article
- 5 Uses a ray-gun on
- 6 Before, to
- 7 Heaton film
- 8 Late staff
- 9 Wide-awake
- 11 Demand
- 17 Breast-bone
- 20 Heaton film
- 21 Main-tains
- 23 Ribbon-strewn
- 25 Sickly yellow
- 26 Oriental robe
- 27 Response to "Why?"
- 28 Flowers
- 29 Strips
- 31 Macbeth, for one
- 33 On this spot
- 36 Apiece
- 38 Puppy sound

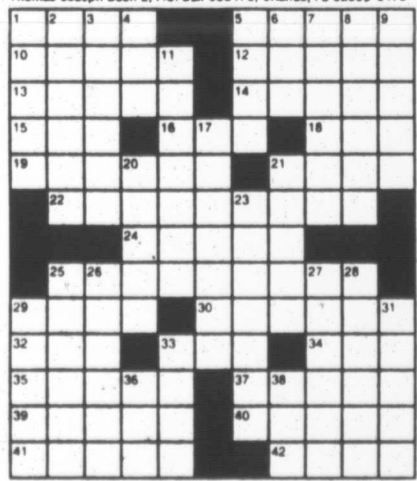
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GRINS LOIN
 TAM TAR UNO
 TRUENR GALAS
 LETME AGILE
 ETHOS LOPES

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Heaton
- 21 Main-tains
- 23 Ribbon-strewn
- 25 Sickly yellow
- 26 Oriental robe
- 27 Response to "Why?"
- 28 Flowers
- 29 Strips
- 31 Macbeth, for one
- 33 On this spot
- 36 Apiece
- 38 Puppy sound

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STUMPED?

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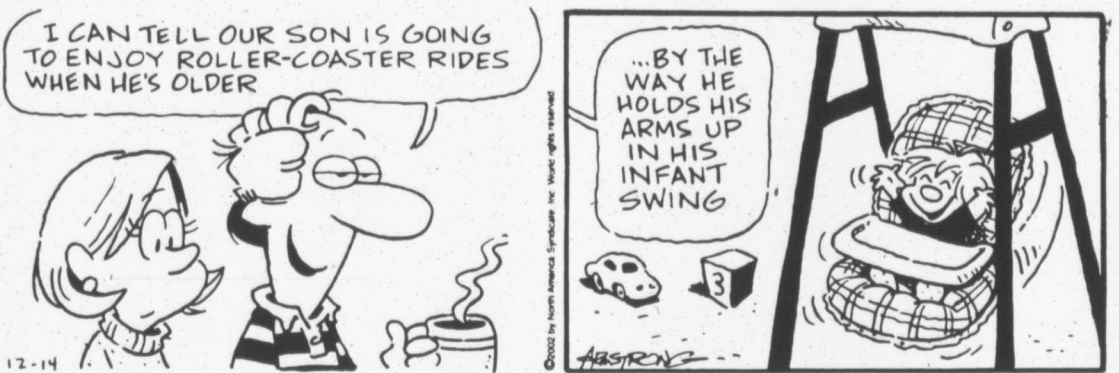
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



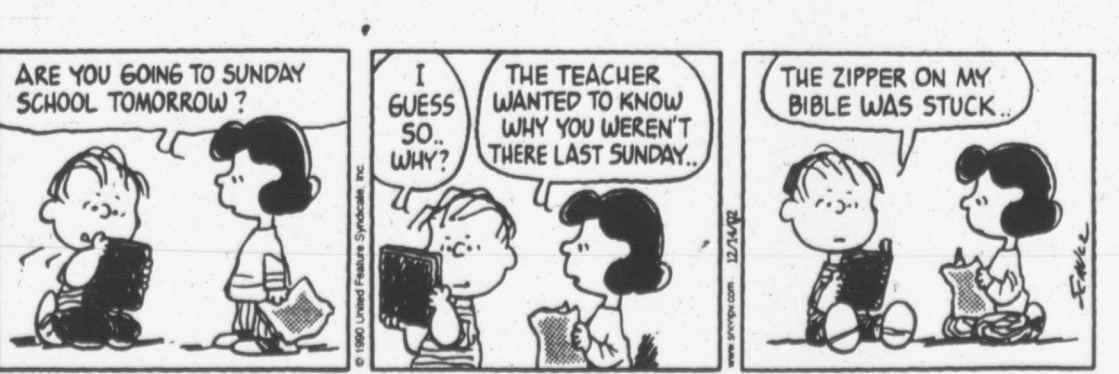
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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



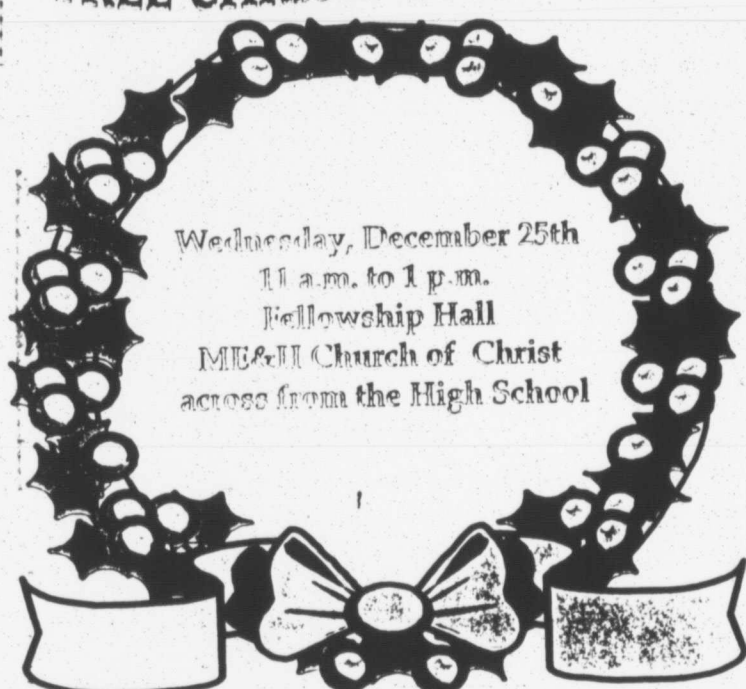
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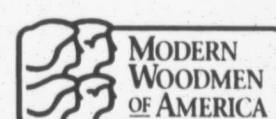
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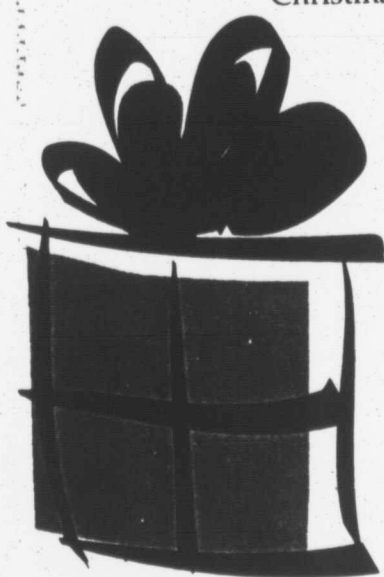
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ENTERTAINMENT

BILLBOARD MUSIC CHARTS

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission. (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.)

Billboard Hot 100: Top 20

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)
- "Lose Yourself," Eminem. Shady.
 - "Work It," Missy "Missdemeanor" Elliott. The Gold Mind.
 - "Jenny From The Block," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Jadakiss & Styles). Epic.
 - "Air Force Ones," Nelly feat. Kyjuan, Ali & Murphy Lee. Fo' Reel.
 - "'03 Bonnie & Clyde," Jay-Z (feat. Beyonce Knowles). Roc-A-Fella.
 - "Undeath It All," No Doubt (feat. Lady Saw). Interscope.
 - "The Game Of Love," Santana (feat. Michelle Branch). Arista.
 - "Don't Mess With My Man," Nivea (feat. Brian & Brandon Casey). Jive.
 - "Gimme The Light," Sean Paul. Black Shadow.
 - "Beautiful," Christina Aguilera. RCA.
- Copyright 2002, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan, Inc.

The Billboard 200 Top Albums: Top 20

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
- "Up!", Shania Twain. Mercury (Nashville).
 - "Tim McGraw And The Dancehall Doctors," Tim McGraw. Curb.
 - "Charmbracelet," Mariah Carey. MonarC.
 - "Now 11," Various Artists. Universal/EMI/Zomba/Sony/UME.
 - Soundtrack: "8 Mile." Shady. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
 - "Let Go," Avril Lavigne. Arista. (Platinum)
 - "This Is Me... Then," Jennifer Lopez. Epic.
 - "Better Dayz," 2Pac. Amaru.

9. "Home," Dixie Chicks. Monument. (Platinum)

- "Cry," Faith Hill. Warner Bros. (Platinum)
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Hot Adult Contemporary

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
- "Cry," Faith Hill. Warner Bros.
 - "The Game Of Love," Santana (feat. Michelle Branch). Arista.
 - "Can't Stop Loving You," Phil Collins. Atlantic.
 - "A Thousand Miles," Vanessa Carlton. A&M.
 - "O Holy Night," Josh Groban. 143.
 - "A Moment Like This," Kelly Clarkson. RCA. (Gold)
 - "You," Jim Brickman (feat. Jane Krakowski). Windham Hill.
 - "Soak Up The Sun," Sheryl Crow. A&M.
 - "Landslide," Dixie Chicks. Monument.
 - "I'm Gonna Getcha Good!" Shania Twain. Mercury.

Top Gospel Albums

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)
- "Incredible," Mary Mary. Columbia.
 - "The Rebirth Of Kirk Franklin," Kirk Franklin. Gospo Centric. (Gold)
 - "Bishop T.D. Jakes Presents: God's Leading Ladies," Various Artists. Dexterity Sounds.
 - "Blessed By Association," John P. Kee & New Life. Verity.
 - "Speak Those Things: POL Chapter 3," Fred Hammond. Verity.
 - "Believe," Yolanda Adams. Elektra. (Gold)
 - "Family Affair II: Live At Radio City Music Hall," Hazekiah Walker & The Love Fellowship Crusade Choir. Verity.
 - "The Kiss," Trin-i-tee 5:7. B-Rite.
 - "Higher Ground," The Blind Boys Of Alabama. Real World.
 - "I Owe You The Praise," Georgia Mass Choir. Savoy.

Mainstream Rock Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
- "When I'm Gone," 2 Doors Down. Republic.

- "Cochise," Audioslave. Interscope.
- "Bother," Stone Sour (feat. Corey Taylor). Roadrunner.
- "You Know You're Right," Nirvana. DGC.
- "All My Life," Foo Fighters. Roswell.
- "She Hates Me," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless.
- "Prayer," Disturbed. Reprise.
- "The Red," Chevelle. Epic.
- "Always," Saliva. Island.
- "Poem," Taproot. Velvet Hammer.

Modern Rock Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)
- "All My Life," Foo Fighters. Roswell.
 - "You Know You're Right," Nirvana. DGC.
 - "Always," Saliva. Island.
 - "The Red," Chevelle. Epic.
 - "She Hates Me," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless.
 - "No One Knows," Queens Of The Stone Age. Interscope.
 - "Bother," Stone Sour (feat. Corey Taylor). Roadrunner.
 - "When I'm Gone," 3 Doors Down. Republic.
 - "Prayer," Disturbed. Reprise.
 - "Fine Again," Seether. Wind-up.

Hot Country Singles and Tracks

- (Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by Broadcast Data Systems)
- "Who's Your Daddy?" Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 - "She'll Leave You With A Smile," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
 - "These Days," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street.
 - "19 Somethin'," Mark Wills. Mercury.
 - "Red Rag Top," Tim McGraw. Curb.
 - "Somebody Like You," Keith Urban. Capitol.
 - "Landslide," Dixie Chicks. Monument.
 - "Fall Into Me," Emerson Drive. DreamWorks.
 - "A Lot Of Things Different," Kenny Chesney. BNA.
 - "I Just Wanna Be Mad," Terri Clark. Mercury.
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BEST SELLERS-VIDEO

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's most popular videos as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission:

Top Music Video Sales

- (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)
- "Josh Groban In Concert," Josh Groban.
 - "Back In The U.S. — Live 2002," Paul McCartney.
 - "Collection Of Video Hits," Shania Twain.
 - "Disasterpieces," Slipknot.
 - "Live At Folsom Field, Boulder,

Colorado," Dave Matthews Band.

- "Pull Over," James Taylor.
- "Let Freedom Ring," Bill & Gloria Gaither And Their Homecoming Friends.
- "Live," Korn.
- "Hell Freezes Over," Eagles.
- "God Bless America," Bill & Gloria Gaither And Their Homecoming Friends.

Top Video Rentals

- (Compiled from a national sample of rental reports)
- "Men In Black II," Columbia Tristar Home Entertainment.
 - "Ice Age," Fox Video.
 - "Divine Secrets Of The Ya-Ya

Sisterhood," Warner Home Video.

- "Mr. Deeds," Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment.
 - "The Sum Of All Fears," Paramount Home Entertainment.
 - "Reign Of Fire," Touchstone Home Video.
 - "Spider-Man," Columbia Tristar Home Entertainment.
 - "Bad Company," Touchstone Home Video.
 - "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack Of The Clones," Fox Video.
 - "Spirit: Stallion Of The Cimarron," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.
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Priceless art treasures find home in East Texas

By ANTHONY DAVIS
TEXARKANA GAZETTE

MARSHALL, Texas — The international art community is still probably scratching its collective head at the decision of the Leo Michelson family to permanently exhibit the Russian-American artist's lifelong collection of work in an East Texas venue.

But it makes perfect sense when one understands the nature of the artist's intentions and a twist-of-fate friendship with a piney-woods debutante.

Michelson, whose art has been described by art scholars as similar to Chagall and Picasso, was once described by critics as the "eternal immigrant, eternal student."

Throughout his long and eventful career, he never stopped studying and moving about. He was a prolific artist who worked in many media, but he was not fond of parting with his work to patrons.

Michelson subsequently produced more than 1,000 paintings, drawings and prints over his 70-year career and he did not wish to bequeath them to a major metropolitan museum or gallery, which would likely place the vast amount of his work in storage.

Therein lies the connection to lil' ol' Marshall, Texas.

Wendy Russel Reves is a native of Marshall who found success on the fashion runways of Paris and New York as a professional model.

Wendy's friendship with Janine and Leo Michelson set the proverbial wheels in motion to submit Marshall's bid for the artist's body of work.

"Leo and Wendy Russel Reves and her husband were friends in Paris, and Leo and Janine had discussed the fact that after he passed away, they wanted to donate his collection of thousands of pieces to an art museum," said Susan Spears, museum director. "There were several in the world that had expressed interest in them."

"He knew if he gave them to a big art museum, it would be down in the archives and never see the light of day, so they discussed a museum in a small town."

He also had concerns that the metropolitan areas would become so overcrowded and crime-ridden that people would hesitate to vacation there. So they looked for a small town near a major metropolitan area which is easy to get to. Wendy said she knew of such a place—Marshall, Texas.

And the community has confirmed that choice many times over the years since its opening in 1985. The museum's first location was in a lovely space provided by a law firm.

In April 1990, the museum moved to its current location on the first floor of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in downtown Marshall. The architectural firm of John Flowers and Associates adapted the space to include two exhibit

galleries, auditorium, kitchen, offices, classroom, Discovery Room and work areas.

"The good news—bad news situation with Leo is that his family was wealthy. He had lots of family money, so he didn't have to sell art so he painted whatever he liked and whatever he wanted. He didn't paint what was commercially viable, so, therefore, he is not as well-known as some of his contemporaries," said Spears. "On the occasion that he would sell a piece, he would find some way to get it back by saying it needed a little touching up or something and they'd never see it again."

"Chagall was one of his contemporaries and best friends, and he always thought Leo was one of the best colorists he'd ever seen. He really did have a way of making his paintings almost seem iridescent. Leo lived for 90 years and painted all the phases and stages. Michelson would have these fits of painting. He just had to paint, so he would carry crayons or something in his pocket, and I have a piece back there that the medium is done in lipstick, mascara, an eyebrow pencil and an orange peel, so he used whatever he could find," Spears said.

Michelson's works of art are not all that is to be found on exhibit at the modest museum with the world-class art. The museum is also fortunate to have the art of collector Bernard Kronenberg.

Kronenberg was an ophthalmologist from New York who, besides being a great lover of art, assisted many famous artists with their vision problems later in life, Spears said.

"When Bernard died, his widow was wondering what to do with his collection. He had about 160 pieces. She called us and we then received the bulk of his collection, which were contemporaries of Leo's," Spears said. "It took us out of the one-artist classification and brought additional recognition."

A third internationally recognized and valued collection came to the Michelson in 2000 when Ramona Ward, who was the widow of Jay Ward, asked if the Michelson would be interested in his world-class collection of African ceremonial masks.

Jay was the cartoonist who created "Rocky and Bullwinkle," "George of the Jungle," "Dudley DoRight" and other cartoon characters.

In addition to the museum's three attractive drawing cards, the Michelson also features from four to five traveling exhibits per year.

Currently on exhibit for the duration of the holiday season are two touring collections, quite different in their themes, yet each has timely import.

A collection of 20 handmade Father Christmas Dolls by Lynn Haney of Lubbock, Texas, on loan from Anne and Doyle Curry, depict

the old man of Christmas lore in a variety of settings and costumed themes.

Dolls such as "The Forester," "The Shell Collector," "Santa of the Piney Woods," "The Wizard of Light," "Timberland Santa," and, of course, "Kris Kringle" are bedecked in finely detailed, handcrafted costumes and accoutrements.

Black and white photojournalism at its best is also featured through the lenses of Shreveport Times and Shreveport Journal newspaper photographers Langston McEachern and Jack Barham.

The subject: Elvis Presley in 45 images shot by the pair of photo peeps during a 1956 appearance of "The King" at the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, La.

Despite the artistic attractions of the Michelson, only about 6,000 visitors took the time and opportunity this year to darken the threshold of a hidden artistic treasure.

The museum is privately supported by memberships and donations, so admission is always free.

Sitting in Marshall near the intersection of two major interstate thoroughfares, it's certainly not hard to get to or find upon arrival in the East Texas burg.

And if you take your family soon, you can also enjoy the more than 10 million lights that guide your way in Marshall.

Distributed by The Associated Press

Harligen woman oversees out of the ordinary farm

By KATHRYN WALSON
VALLEY MORNING STAR

HARLINGEN — "Here, Wanda," 72-year-old Helen Girault called, waving a compressed corn cylinder over her head.

When the 2-year-old, 18-foot giraffe looming above her stayed put, Girault tried a more auditory approach.

She hit the treat against the metal fencing and called, this time a few decibels louder, "C'mon, Wanda, get your cake."

The brown-spotted animal responded with grace, dipping its neck toward the treat and pausing a few feet from it. After a few pensive moments, the giraffe straightened itself out again.

Girault's light eyes squinted up at the indecisive creature with knowing patience.

"She has to smell it first. It

will take her awhile," she said.

Of Giraults hundreds of common and exotic animals, the two giraffes Wanda and 8-year-old Winston are her favorites.

"They're majestic looking," she said.

Wanda's mother, Winnie, valued at \$30,000, made local headlines in January, when she disappeared.

During a helicopter search, Girault's husband, Howard Girault, found Winnie in an irrigation ditch. The giraffe had apparently leaned too hard on a fence, fallen in the ditch and drowned.

The loss saddened the Giraults, but Helen keeps it in perspective.

"Animals are animals, and people are people," she said.

Helen knows about losing people. In July, she lost Howard, her husband of almost 45 years, following a stroke.

For most of his life, Howard, a career rancher, dealt in relatively common Texas animals and crops, such as Texas Longhorn, sugarcane and grapefruit.

In the early 1990s, however, he took a turn toward the exotic. He devoted about 50 acres of

his Girault Farms located off highway 100 in Bayview to animals from India, China and Africa that he purchased from wildlife ranches in the Hill Country.

A sign at the entrance to Girault Farms lists the property's 30-plus species, which range from the common goats, sheep and donkeys to the rare.

Several of the animals in the exotic collection are critically endangered or even extinct in the wild. They are: the Scimitar-horned Oryx, an animal that can go nine months without drinking water; Pere Davids Deer, a swimming deer that's found only in China; the Addax, a horse-like antelope that goes most of its life without drinking; the Dama Gazelle, the world's largest gazelle.

"You name it and we've probably got it. We have a lot of things that the zoo doesn't have," Helen Girault said.

One animal that's listed on the sign, but is no longer in the farm, is the Nyalala, a horned mammal native to Southeastern Africa. Girault got rid of him because "he was mean," she explained.

"He killed his wives."

That wasn't the only animal loss the Giraults endured. Three of their beasts — a longhorn steer, buffalo and miniature mare were shot to death from the nearby road.

Tragedies like those pained Howard Girault, who treasured his animals, Helen explained.

"He liked them all. He was an animal lover," she said.

Four years ago, Howard started taking Winter Texans on tours in a 20-passenger bus.

"He told them great stories. They'd holler and go on," she said.

Helen Girault has no intention of continuing the tours or keeping the animals. She plans on selling them as soon as possible to the highest bidders.

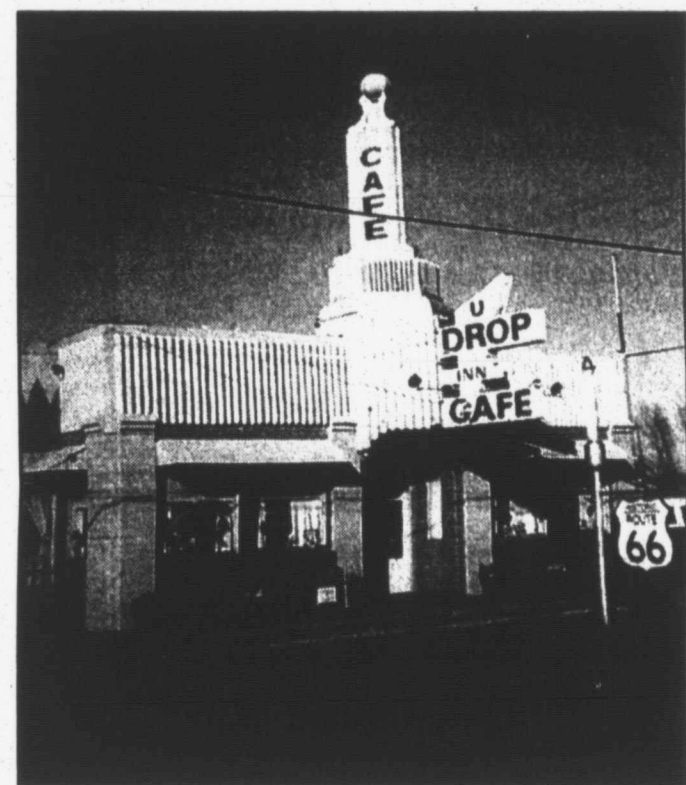
In the meantime, she continues to fund her late husband's project, paying two wildlife biologists to stop by twice a week and a ranch hand to feed the animals daily.

Feeding the animals costs her \$4,000 a month.

"It was a hobby, but an expensive one," she said.

Distributed by The Associated Press

PPHM exhibit



(Courtesy photo)

Maps and colorful postcards as well as photographic images take the viewer on a scenic journey across Route 66 in an exhibit opening Jan. 15 through Nov. 15 in the Alexander Photo Gallery at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. Photographer Jim Jordan's "Edge of the Mother Road," "West of Here," and "X'ing the Panhandle" will highlight the show.

CONT. FROM PG. 18

PPHM

Other items to be exhibited are a Movieola film editing machine, the first costume by the Kwahadi Indian Dancers in 1947, a large prehistoric water jar, a Casas Grandes effigy vessel, a bronze cast of the reconstructed head of a prehistoric Buried City woman, several quilts, a pageant dress, and other textiles.

The exhibit also will display a number of works of art, including paintings by Joseph Fleck, A.W. Mack, and Charles Berninghaus.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

CLUB

—Birthday greetings went to Kadda Schale, Warner, Karen Bridges, and Stobbe.

—Cleo Worley was recognized for hosting the Christmas reception recently in her home.

The next meeting will be at

12 noon, Jan. 14 at Pampa Country Club.

20th Century Club

Twentieth Century Club met Dec. 10 at the home of hostess Phyllis White. Mildred Laycock assisted her. Eleven members were present.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Minutes from the previous meeting were approved and correspondence read.

—Committee meeting reports were delivered.

—Billie Dixon presented the program "Greece and How Christmas is Celebrated."

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 7 at the home of Adelaide Colwell, 2000 Charles.

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Kirby Corporation now sets bar for barging

By BILL HENSEL JR.
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — The vessel Mustang shuddered as its 800-horsepower engines roared, churning the brownish water near the Houston Ship Channel while maneuvering a barge weighing more than 3,000 tons.

Surveying the immediate vicinity from behind dark glasses, Relief Capt. Eric Cox, 34, switched gears and navigated the towboat and barge around a bend, succeeding in his fight to keep the barge from sliding, a constant threat when turning. The bright white towboat with the signature sharp blue lines and its barge surged through the harbor toward the San Jacinto Monument.

Kirby Corp., the nation's largest inland barge operator, owns the vessels. The man at the helm, who has worked for Kirby for seven years, is a product of Kirby's training program.

This in-house effort, unique in the industry, shows the attention to operations that is a hallmark of the company.

"I would say Kirby is to barging what Microsoft is to software," analyst Natasha Boyden of equities research firm Sidoti & Co. said. "They

kind of are the barge industry in terms of the inland river system."

In a business where the challenges include economic slowdowns, turnover and accidents, it has steadily produced growing revenues and profits.

From his position high in the wheelhouse of the vessel, Cox slowed the vessels and steered them into the Channel Lynchburg Shipyard while maintaining constant radio contact with deckhands Dexter Black and Ronald Dietz.

"Three wide on the stern," Black reported from the deck, just before the barge was moved into place and secured.

On the other side, Dietz used a hand winch to tighten the wires, or cable holding the vessel in place. Job complete, the men departed and the towboat went back to work.

Chemical powerhouse
The loads on adjacent barges showed the company's energy industry roots. Nearby, a barge containing thousands of pounds of styrene waited for transport to a plant, where it will be used to make polystyrene for medical products, housewares and furniture. Kirby moves a majority of the nation's chemicals along inland waterways.

Safety is a major focus of the company in a business that is considered high-risk because of the nature of the cargoes, which in some cases could easily wipe out a significant swath of a good-sized city. Beyond that, traversing the waterways adds its own layer of hazard.

At the control room at its main offices on Waugh Drive, employees monitor computers that can pinpoint the locations of its vessels at any given time. Their attention to detail meant that when the U.S. Coast Guard wanted to get a handle immediately after last year's terrorist attacks on where the more dangerous chemicals were, it contacted Kirby.

Safety is a major focus of the company in a business that is considered high-risk because of the nature of the cargoes, which in some cases could easily wipe out a significant swath of a good-sized city. Beyond that, traversing the waterways adds its own layer of hazard.

Earlier this month, an accident is believed to have claimed the life of a Kirby employee when a barge sank in the San Jacinto River near Interstate 10. Three other employees jumped to safety by clinging to a barge; the fourth, Steven Counts, remains missing.

For Kirby, a quintessential Houston company with deeply ingrained Gulf Coast roots, the focus on safety is a constant. The other constant is expansion.

The company has a fleet of 219 towing vessels and 937 inland tank barges that ply the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the Mississippi River, as well as on the Ohio and Illinois rivers. One of its biggest steps came in 1999.

Kirby already was top dog in the barge industry when it acquired Houston-based Hollywood Marine, then the industry's third-largest inland tank barge company. That move showed a company that could become stronger as it grew.

"What the larger fleet brought to them was a lot more flexibility to move barges closer to the customer, with more backhaul opportunities," said analyst David Yuschak of Sanders Morris Harris. "It was a pretty important acquisition." But Kirby in recent years has regularly been doing smaller deals, like the recent purchase of seven barges and 13 towboats from Coastal Towing.

The company plans to continue growing as it comes across attractive opportunities to buy tank barges, vessels designed to carry liquid bulk cargoes, said President and CEO Joe Pyne, who has been on the board of directors of Kirby since 1988.

Those deals could happen sooner rather than later.

"There is going to be a lot more consolidation in this business," said William Baldwin, an analyst with Dallas-based Baldwin Anthony McIntyre. "There are a lot of independent captive fleets operated by oil and gas and chemical companies, and Kirby can operate them more efficiently."

Analysts have been watching for the company to make another acquisition, Boyden said, particularly since Kirby and Coastal have been talking about some sort of deal for several years. Analysts describe Kirby as leading its competitors, the closest of which is troubled American Commercial Lines, better known as ACL, which continues to carry a high debt load.

Other competitors lag far behind, they say.

A familiar name
Although the Kirby name is familiar to many

Houstonians, the company itself operates largely out of sight of many citizens.

Its beginnings date to 1921, when John Henry Kirby formed Kirby Petroleum Co. The oil company, a predecessor of sorts to the current incarnation, was founded a few years after he founded Kirby Lumber Co.

Kirby Drive is his namesake, and residents also are familiar with the famed Kirby Mansion, built in 1925, that occupies a full city block at 2000 Smith St.

The petroleum company operated as an independent oil and gas exploration and development company until 1956, when it sold its three producing properties and merged the remaining nonproducing acreage with three other independent oil and gas companies to form Kirby VenSyn Petroleum Co.

After that merger, the Murchison family of Dallas, which later would own the Cowboys football team, had about 35 percent of Kirby. Murchison family members still are shareholders. The largest shareholder today is C. Berdon Lawrence, who was head of Hollywood Marine when it merged with Kirby.

Well-known shareholders in Hollywood Marine included former President Bush and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III. Lawrence is both the chairman of Kirby's board and of a national trade organization formed several years ago: Waterways Work. That group was created to work toward strengthening the infrastructure of inland waterways in the United States. His time spent lobbying for issues crucial to the barging business makes sense for a company that has staked its future on shipping along inland waterways.

It slid into this business slowly, beginning in 1948. A group of investors including George Peterkin Sr., father of Kirby's chairman emeritus, George Peterkin Jr., bought River Terminals Corp. That put them in the business of transporting petroleum products between Houston and New Orleans and moving cotton down the Mississippi.

Kirby VenSyn Petroleum changed its name to Kirby Petroleum Co. in 1957 and then to Kirby Industries in 1967. It had many different operations, including marine transportation through Dixie Carriers, which it acquired in 1969, and was to become Kirby Inland Marine.

It wasn't until 1987 that the board of directors decided that Kirby's future should be fully concentrated on marine transportation and related businesses, like rebuilding big engines, that supported the petroleum industry. The company's oil and gas assets were sold in

1988, and the company began to focus on a series of acquisitions that have been the engine to fuel its growth. Sense of loyalty Holding on to good people in inland barging is difficult for every operator.

With jobs that often mean long trips away from home and sometimes harsh working conditions, turnover is a fact of life. But Kirby says there is payoff for its work in this area. David E. Kelly, general manager of vessel personnel for Kirby Inland Marine, noted that Kirby's turnover rate of 38 percent is the lowest in the industry.

Many of its people who work on the water are trained at Kirby facilities near the Houston Ship Channel. It sports dormitory rooms for trainees, classrooms and a fully staffed cafeteria. Kirby also was a major force behind the new pilot training facility at the Seamen's Church Institute at the Port of Houston. Cox, 34, who received all his maritime training from the company, said the job provides good pay, good benefits and a retirement program.

"I really like my job," said the Dallas native who now lives in Pasadena.

However, the time the job demands can be tough on families, as crew members often work two weeks or even as much as a month straight through. Cox acknowledged. A camaraderie develops between crew members, who often are the only ones to understand problems faced by fellow workers.

Although Cox heard about Kirby and contacted the company about a job, Kirby actively recruits promising candidates. For example, company recruiters who know local officials in some areas of South Texas and Louisiana will ask for their help in finding prospective employees and nudging them Kirby's way.

Other companies use contractors to provide training for employees.

The bottom line
One simple attraction the company holds for investors is its bottom line. Earnings per share have risen from 92 cents in 1997 to \$1.63 in 2001. And from 1994 through 2001, Kirby's earnings per share from continuing operations and before unusual charges grew at a 15.6 percent compounded growth rate. In the past year, its revenues slipped, which shows the company is hardly immune to the slowdown in refining and the chemical business.

Still, the company reported a 5 percent increase in third-quarter earnings. Analysts seem unconcerned about the company's debt-to-equity ratio.

"The debt load right now is probably the lowest it has been in five years," Yuschak said.

The barge business generates a substantial cash flow, and Kirby already has paid for a large amount of debt incurred with the Hollywood Marine acquisition, Yuschak said. The company still has enough cash to buy back stock as a way of increasing its earnings per share, he said.

However, 2002 has been difficult in some ways for Kirby, as it has for many other businesses. "This is a tougher year this year in the barge business; and what we are focusing on is controlling costs and working hard on efficiencies and positioning our company to do well when times get better," Pyne said.

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Road to meaningful career tough for military spouses

By JENIFER PUTNAM
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

KILLEEN — Expectations of Army spouses have changed dramatically in the last 40 years.

Killeen Municipal Court Judge Barbara Weaver, whose husband Rex Weaver was in the Army for 30 years, remembers in 1959 that a man's grading was partially based on his wife's participation in social and community service events. This discouraged women from working, she said.

But 40 years later, in August 2000, 120 people gathered in Phoenix to identify challenges to employing military spouses and brainstorm ideas for improvement. The Department of Defense recognized enhanced spousal careers as a major factor in improving the military family's income and retaining high-quality military personnel.

Gradually, attitudes toward Army wives have softened from the attitude expressed in the old saying, "If the Army wanted you to have a wife, it would have issued you one."

Weaver, 61, did not start working until 1976. She said women started thinking differently after the Vietnam War. Suddenly there were many widows who had no idea how to support themselves. Weaver had three small children at the time.

Many of the women, she said, went back to school, including Weaver, who finished an associate's degree at Central Texas College in 1970. She received her bachelor's in 1982 from the University of Central Texas, now Tarleton State University-Central Texas.

Weaver joined the civil service, a common choice for military spouses because of its availability at military installations. Bob Pierce, chief of the services section at the civilian personnel advisory center, said that

of the 956 total non-appropriated fund employees who work at clubs and recreational facilities on post, 334 are military spouses, who receive preference. However, spouses are not guaranteed the same job nor the same grade level or pay.

Weaver worked in Washington, D.C., for four years before returning to Fort Hood and working for another six years. When her husband deployed to Beirut, Lebanon, Weaver went to law school to start a career and ensure job security.

"Everyone wants to be something when they grow up," she said. "There's nothing wrong with being a mommy, but kids grow up at some point."

Now Weaver is teaching other Army wives mobile job skills.

Olivia Madden, 25, and her husband have been stationed at Fort Hood for five years. She has worked as a paralegal at Weaver's office for three years and said Weaver taught her everything she knows.

Although lawyers need new licenses for each state they work in, a paralegal can work in any state, Weaver said.

Meeting requirements
Other common professions for military wives are teachers and nurses or other hospital-related professions because of their general availability. But both professions require recertification in most states.

Mary Ann Perry, 49, who now teaches special education and resource math at Reeces Creek Elementary, has been a military spouse for 27 years and has moved 15 times. Perry graduated from college in Texas when the state was still issuing lifetime teaching certificates.

When her husband was stationed in California, Perry took a break from teaching because California was charging too much for a teaching certificate, Perry said. She also

didn't work for two years in Canada while her husband was an exchange officer because she would have needed a foreign work permit. Instead she tutored students at her daughter's middle school.

Renee Bostick, assistant principal at Live Oakridge Middle School in Killeen, keeps her Virginia and Department of Defense teaching certificates current because her husband has worked in those areas so often. She spent 12 of her 21 years as a military spouse working for DoD and five of her 16, moves working in Virginia.

Bostick said as a working military spouse she must have a good filing system complete with addresses and telephone numbers of previous bosses and state agencies. In every state Bostick adds certifications so she will have more options when she moves.

Bostick is certified as a Spanish teacher, a special education teacher, a curriculum specialist and an administrator. She has taught in 19 school buildings in seven states, three places in Germany and in Turkey.

Preparing to move
Bostick said career mobility has become easier since the inception of the Internet. Now she can look at a school district's Web site and find job openings. Often she can send her resume electronically as she did with the Killeen Independent School District.

Before the Internet, Bostick would call the school district and have an application mailed to her when she found out she was moving. Bostick would check the state's certification requirements and often meet them by the time she arrived in the state.

Most states will hire teachers on a temporary basis for a year until they certify, said Diana Durbin, assistant principal at Palo Alto

Middle School and an Army spouse for 27 years. Most states will count up to 10 years of experience, Durbin said, but new teachers often won't have their first choice of classes regardless of their experience until the school district is familiar with their work.

Durbin has moved 14 times during her husband's military career. She started as a substitute teacher, then worked as a classroom teacher and Talented and Gifted program facilitator and counselor and then entered administration.

In her group of friends Durbin said it was

not common for women, to work, but she thinks more spouses work now.

Career challenges

Bostick said it is hard for some Army wives to find jobs that match their educations. One of her friends is an epidemiologist — someone who studies epidemics — a position few hospitals need. Another is a civil engineer who has found that employers want engineers who will stay long enough to see projects through. Another friend is a lawyer working as a paralegal because no one would take the chance to add her to a firm.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., January 7, 2003, for Electrical Upgrades at PHS & PMS Auditoriums.

A pre-bid meeting will be held December 12, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., in the Pampa High School Auditorium, 111 E. Harvester, Pampa, Texas.

For specifications or additional information please call Anita Patterson, Purchasing Director, or Tim Powers, Assistant Superintendent, at (806)669-4700. B-67 Dec. 8, 15, 2002

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

District: Amarillo
Contract 6086-27-001 for LOOP DETECTOR REPAIR AND / OR REPLACE IN GRAY COUNTY will be opened on January 29, 2003 at 2:00 pm at the District Office, for an estimate of \$172,190.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's web site at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 8437

State Office
Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Offices
Amarillo District
District Engineer
5715 Canyon Dr.
Amarillo, Texas 79110

Public Notice

Phone: 806-356-3283
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. B-70 Dec. 13, 15, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 3:00 p.m., January 7, 2003, for Refinishing of Elementary Gymnasium Floors. A pre-bid meeting will be held December 19, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., in the Lamar Elementary Gym located at 1234 South Nelson, Pampa, Texas.

For specifications or additional information please call Anita Patterson, Purchasing Director, or Tim Powers, Assistant Superintendent, at (806)669-4700. B-71 Dec. 13, 15, 2002

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The City of Pampa, Texas will receive bids for the following until 5:00 p.m. December 19, 2002:
SALE OF RAISED COMPUTER FLOORING
Specifications may be obtained from the Office of the City Purchasing Agent, City Hall, Pampa, Texas, Phone 806/669-5730.

Bids may be delivered to the City Purchasing Agent's Office, 200 W. Foster, City Hall of Pampa, Texas, 79066-2499. Bids may also be faxed to 806/669-5712. Envelopes or coversheets shall be plainly marked "RAISED FLOORING BID NO. 02-04-1".

The City of Pampa reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids submitted and to waive any formalities or technicalities.

/s/ Susan Crane
Purchasing Agent
B-72 Dec. 15, 2002

Public Sale Notice
Date of Sale 12-16-02
Place- 210 E. Brown, Pampa, TX
Time 10:30 am-5:00 p.m.

Be advised that the vehicles listed below have been accepted for storage in accordance with the provisions of the Vehicle Storage Facility Act (V.C.S. 6687-9A). This vehicle was towed in Pampa Texas by the authority of the Gray County Law Enforcement. This letter is to inform you that these vehicles are presently being stored at MA'S AUTO TOWING & RECOVERY, 210 E. Brown, Pampa, Texas, 79065. If the lien holders of this vehicle fail to pay the charges accumulated from the date the vehicle was placed in storage, the vehicle will be deemed abandoned and will be sold for charges incurred by the storage facility.
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1984 Ford P/U 6-25-02 VIN# IFTEX15G2EKA1334
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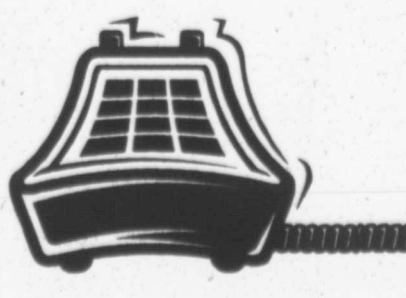
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Keith Taylor, 665-0328
BACKHOE & Loader Work, demolition, topsoil, sand, gravel. Snow Removal. Ron Schwoppe, 669-0606.

19 Situations
STACY'S Housekeeping & Ironing. References furnished. Call 669-2969.
21 Help Wanted
NOTICE: All ads that contain phone numbers or give reference to a number with an area code of 809 or a prefix of 011 are international toll numbers and you will be charged international long distance rates. For more information and assistance regarding the investigation of work at home opportunities and job lists, The Pampa News urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau of South Texas, 609 S. International Blvd., Weslaco, Tx. 78596, (210) 968-3678.

REGISTERED NURSES
Pampa Nursing Center has an opening for a REGISTERED NURSE in the position of Charge Nurse. Starting pay is \$24.00 an hour plus we offer a \$2000 Sign-On Bonus
Please contact Vickie Hutton, Administrator or Mitzi Devoll, R.N. Director of Nurses To set-up an interview call (806)669-2551

TEXAS PANHANDLE MHRM
is requesting applications for enrollment into the Network of Providers for Contracted Spanish Translation Services in the Pampa and/or Borger area @ \$15 per hour + out of town mileage. Call (806)349-5655 for an application & leave name and number. All certified and eligible HUBs are encouraged to apply.

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 6, 2002:
Your ability to make waves comes through this year. You become unusually creative and innovative in your thinking, often grasping different perspectives and ideas. Take a risk. Try something totally different this year. Travel and education could play into your spiritual growth and development. You also might meet a foreigner who opens many doors for you. Work and day-to-day life need to be a high priority. You will gain professionally next fall. If you are single, someone quite different and/or exotic could enter your life. Know that anything is possible here. If you're attached, not triggering as much with an individual could make a significant difference. TAURUS respects your mindset.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Your efforts make a difference, especially concerning new information, deadlines and/or distant folk. You surprise yourself. There might be no popping you as you tear through calls, paperwork and bottom-line issues for others. Tonight: You could go to the wee hours.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Consider your options surrounding your family and loved ones who might be way too demanding. Nevertheless, the unexpected does occur with a boss, who might be tightening his or her attitude, if not his or her purse strings, at the most unexpected time. Tonight: Smile, and the world is your oyster.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Take your time, especially if you

don't feel as steady as you normally do. Consider options that you normally wouldn't if you felt up to snuff. Delegate. Ask for help. Sort through what must get done. Stay on top of your needs. Tonight: Step back.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Groups will be unusually successful if you work with a tendency toward being a little too buoyant for the moment. Understanding more of what you need and want helps a partner respond. Ask, and expect to receive. Think positively. Tonight: Where the groups are.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Others look to you for advice. You have a strong sense of what might work, depending on your needs and desires. Others surprise you with their decisions and actions. Work with strong directives, whether you like it or not. Tonight: Work as late as need be.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Keep your eye on the big picture, even with a difficult boss or associate. You cannot change this person, but learning to work with him or her could be important. Try to imagine what it is like being him or her. Suddenly, a new approach evolves. Tonight: Get into some holiday music.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Build on your relationship with associates and loved ones. Reach out for others. All your actions create waves, some of which you might not be ready to handle. Deal with each person in the most caring way possible. Tonight: Go for togetherness.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Others storm your office as your popularity builds to a new level. A partner or colleague could be threatened by what is going on. Learn how to juggle your many different demands with sensi-

tivity to others and your priorities.
Tonight: Don't get too carried away.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Others drop a lot in your lap, and you're left holding the bag. Know when to say you have had enough. Reactions could be strong, but you do need to follow through on what you believe is a priority. New perspectives knock on your door. Tonight: Spontaneity rules.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Where others might be floored by information and a related situation, you find that your ingenuity solves the problem. Recognize when your buttons have been pushed. Schedule special time for a child or loved one. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Deal with others. You might not exactly like what you hear, but you understand what is expected of others. A child or loved one could be unusually demanding. Express more interest in family and domestic patterns. Tonight: Order in.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Say what you feel, no longer holding back. Your understanding can and will make a considerable difference in your dealings, especially as you might hear something that could be a bit shocking. Loosen up with a family member. Tonight: Stop at a favorite spot.
BORN TODAY
Musician Ludwig van Beethoven (1770), playwright and composer Noel Coward (1899), anthropologist Margaret Mead (1901)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Direct Sales
Cable One offers opportunity and success in 2003. We are launching new products that include new Hispanic, children's and family channels. Have a protected territory selling the best packages far greater than when prospects simply call the office wanting to connect to cable television. We're looking for someone with sales experience, self-motivated, honest and takes pride in their work. Bi-lingual a plus. We offer a complete benefit package including a base salary, commission, major medical, dental, 401k plus free cable service and gas allowance. Paid training program in Phoenix, Arizona. Submit resume to 201 E. 10th St. Borger/EOE 79007 attn. Donna Litterell
Must be willing to travel to all Panhandle Cable One areas

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints Each day the code letters are different.
CRYPTOQUOTE
R U S B O I J X O D Y R P U O L R
U S L X R H O X I Q V T X R B S X O
H I L O P X K N V X R S H X I I N V P K
X U R D F R D C S N I V X H K P O T J .
— L S H O O L R X U P R X Y O T T
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS WORTH A THOUSAND POUNDS A YEAR TO HAVE THE HABIT OF LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS. — JOHNSON

50 Building Suppl.
White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291
HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881
60 Household
JOHNSON HOME FURNISHINGS
Rent 1 piece or house full Washer-Dryer-Ranges Bedroom-Dining Room Livingroom 801 W. Francis 665-3361
69 Misc.
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.
OAK Firewood Delivered, stacked, \$175 cord, mostly split 779-3284, 779-2255.
Memory Gardens of Pampa is assigning FREE Cemetery Spaces to local VETERANS that qualify and do not own cemetery property SPACES are limited Call today to receive yours 665-8921
MESQUITE Firewood \$145 Cord 664-7157
FOR Sale: Desk-top computer with monitor, 2 Lap-Top computers, Computer monitor, Light fixtures, Sony digital camera. 806-234-4165
2 Lots and 1 Vault in Memory Gardens. Their price \$2650, sell for \$1700. 665-8925.
NEED to Lease 35-5500 Sq. Ft. building w/wash Sump in one area. Need yard space 1-2 acres. Call 915-677-5555 24 hrs.
FOR sale White Murphy bed wall unit w/2 attachable shelving units. Ideal spacersaver for office, kid's rm, etc. 669-3742
75 Feeds/Seeds
FOR sale Blue Stem big round hay bales \$35. Call 806-930-8708.
80 Pets & Suppl.
CANINE and Feline grooming Boarding. Science diets. Roysse Animal Hospital, 665-2223.
PET Patch, 866 W. Foster, 665-5504. Grooming by Mona, fresh, salt fish, sm. animals, supplies. In-nova dog & cat food.
GREAT Christmas present! Male Black Lab for sale, \$150. Call 669-1030.
PUPPIES, Puppies, Puppies - Chihuahua's, Dalmatians, & St. Bernards. Ready for X-mas, 699-6081, 662-8487.
BLACK Lab puppies, ready 12-21-02. Taking deposit to hold your puppy til Xmas. We help Santa! 669-9993.
95 Furn. Apts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec. 6, 2002:
Though many think of you as an extrovert, your alone time allows you to process your feelings. You especially need these periods of solitude, as your feelings and emotions will run very high. You will deal with strong anger and sometimes extreme vulnerability. Exercise and other means of focusing help you get past rough moments. Concentrating is key to your success. You might not always understand where others are coming from. Worry less about impressions, and focus on results, especially at work. You will gain professionally as a result, especially after August 2003. You will also see events differently as a result of this focus. If you are single, someone most special enters your life through your day-to-day travels. You won't need to make any major decisions around this time of the year. If you're attached, the two of you will benefit from not only weekends away together but also perhaps a class in communication. As TAURUS to pitch in. You can count on this sign.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Confusion surrounds your efforts, whether dealing with friends or trying to do some Santa errands. Your temper could be unleashed before you even expect it. Excess marks every action or happening. Just kick back. Tonight: Head on home.
This Week: You could experience a jolt to how you think things are. Open your big baby blues or browns and start up talks. Now, that's more like it!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You mean well, though you might have difficulty making others understand your limits. Others might not be able to identify with your dismay and intentions. Realize what you want from a partner or loved one. Allow others to clear the air as well. Tonight: It's your call.
This Week: You roar into the week, but events point to a problem. Deal with this issue immediately, as it could have a long-term impact.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Slow down. Consider vanishing, if need be. Pressure builds around plans and having others agree. You might be happier just doing what you do well on your own. Another person's apology means a lot. Thank this person for his or

her graciousness. Tonight: How 'bout a good night's sleep?
This Week: Scratch Monday, especially if you don't like what happens. On Tuesday, you're in your glory once more. Now isn't that better? Zoom in on what you want.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You don't always need to understand what motivates someone. Right now you need to grasp what is happening, if you wish to calm down a situation. Conflict between a significant other and friends proves uncomfortable. Tonight: Aim for what you want.
This Week: On Monday, regroup with an eye to the long term. Think as much as you need to this week. You don't do anything decisive just now.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Take the lead when others back down. After you try to pull together a project or event, you might be surprised at how complicated the situation is. Start from scratch after clearing the air. Be emotionally generous and understanding. Tonight: A must show.
This Week: You know that when a certain someone starts an uproar, you can't change him or her. You can decide not to play. The end results might be better.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might want to take off before your plans can change. You know what you want to do; now do it. You might not want to push a close friend or associate away. Understand, but still focus on your objectives. Tonight: Try a new spot.
This Week: You could find that a boss is difficult. Work seems to be heading in an unanticipated direction. Focus, and you'll be smiling by Friday.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Others want to chip in, especially someone you care a lot about. Ask this person to help you, whether you are just finishing off some gift wrapping or trying to envision a project. Teamwork allows greater bonding. Tonight: Add romance. Find the mistletoe.
This Week: You could be surprised by financial news involving someone at a distance. Strive to gain a better understanding of another's needs.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might be fiercer than you realize. While you want to get others moving, you could choose some harsh words. Be ready to make a caring gesture as a result. You wish the ball was in your court, but it isn't — really. Tonight: Where the crowds are.
This Week: Realize that you need to take action with an issue involving a partner-

ship. Keep listening to this person's side. By Thursday, you might be ready for a decision.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might feel as if you have to handle a lot of boring work. Consider your attitude. Perhaps another outlook could make a big difference in how you perceive a situation. Avoid taking your anger out on others. Do something that helps relieve stress. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.
This Week: Get errands and work done. The social nature of the season appears to take over. Let it be.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You find a positive where a friend might see a negative. What an interesting friendship you have! Gather with friends but make special time for a needy child or loved one. Let the child in you run rampant for a while. Tonight: Worry less about tomorrow.
This Week: Use your imagination when bucking against a difficult person or money issue. Once more, you're the workhorse of the zodiac, carrying more than your share.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could use some quiet downtime at home. Although you might be able to stay close to home, as far as getting any downtime, think again. Instead of fighting the inevitable, go with the flow. Invite an older relative over. Tonight: Order in.
This Week: You realize a lot because you're willing to do whatever it takes. Tap into your creativity. You've got the solution.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You might be negotiating more than you intended to. Consider tossing on your jacket and heading out for a meal and a friendly get-together. Give others the time to think. Share the holiday spirit with those around you. Tonight: At a favorite spot with a favorite person.
This Week: You need to get a project moving Monday. Unfortunately, this effort might cause a problem on the home front, where others want you. You'll be putting in long hours.
BORN TODAY
Business executive J. Paul Getty (1892), French engineer A. Gustave Eiffel (1832), portrait painter George Romney (1734)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and North West
1513 N. Dwight \$93,000 3 or 4/2/2 - 1598 SF/GCAD
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1432 N. Christy \$78,500 3/1.75/2 - 1515 SF/GCAD
1024 Sierra \$59,900 3/2/2 - 1274 SF/GCAD
510 Perry \$59,700 3/2/1 cp - 1680 SF/GCAD
1900 N. Wells \$55,000 3 or 4/1.75/1 cp - 1147 SF/GCAD
2713 Rosewood \$54,900 2/1.75/2 - 1322 SF/GCAD
1140 Willow Rd. \$52,500 3/2/2 - 1402 SF/GCAD
1605 N. Summer \$51,000 3/1.75/2 - 1277 SF/GCAD
1308 W. 22nd \$44,000 3/1/2 - 1311 SF/GCAD
1101 Sirocco \$42,500 2/1.75/1 - 1258 SF/GCAD
817 N. Wells \$38,500 3/2/1 - 1116 SF/GCAD
801 N. Dwight \$38,000 3/2/2 cp - 1464 SF/GCAD
1040 Cinderella \$37,500 3/1.75/2 - 1680 SF/GCAD
2224 N. Wells \$35,000 3/1/1 - 1210 SF/GCAD
2400 Rosewood \$35,000 3/1.75/none - 1487 SF/GCAD
8219 N. Dwight \$34,000 3/2/1 - 1452 SF/GCAD
2219 N. Neilson \$29,900 3/1/1 - 1092 SF/GCAD
408 Harvester \$29,500 3/1/1 - 1064 SF/GCAD
217 N. Faulkner \$26,200 3/1/1 - 1020 SF/GCAD
1124 Sandleywood \$25,000 2/1/1 cp - 943 SF/GCAD
2213 N. Wells \$24,500 3/1/1 - 1284 SF/GCAD
1132 Sirocco \$21,500 3/1/1 - 888 SF/GCAD
1049 Cinderella \$19,900 3/1.75/1 cp - 1125 SF/GCAD
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511 E. 2nd Lefors w/Shop...\$60,000
Rabbit Lane Lots.....\$37,500
1027 S. Hobart.....\$25,000
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*Lovely 2 & 3 bdr. apts.
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*Electric Range
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800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

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RENT BASED ON INCOME.
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98 Unfurn. Houses

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1 bdrms., duplexes, &
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Neighborhoods. 665-4274

PICK up rental list from
Gray Box on front porch
of Lakeview Apartments.
Update each Fri.

2-3 bedroom houses, 509
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cent. H/A, call 669-2080.

NICE 3 bedroom, washer
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Anne. 669-2139.

98 Unfurn. Houses

NICE 2 bd house in Lefors \$230 mo. references & deposit essential. Call 662-8771.

3 or 4 bedroom 1109 S. Hobart 662-7118

DUPLEX on N. Dwight, \$475 mo., \$400 dep., 2 bdr., 2 ba. Contact Quentin Williams, 669-2522.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in city. Downtown locations - stores, warehouses, rec. facilities. Call 665-4274!!

103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher
Century 21 Pampa Realty
665-3560, 663-1442
669-0007

2 bedroom
210 N. Nelson
662-7118

3 bd house new central h/a, 1 1/2 block from Travis School, 665-8427.

103 Homes For Sale

3 bdr. on Wells st. New carpet, cent. heat & air, garage, fence. C-21 Realtor, 665-5436, 665-4180.

3 bedroom, garage, carpet. Small down, owner carry. 665-4842.

HOME FOR SALE

1020 Charles
669-2266
669-6007

400 N. NELSON
2 bedroom, den, extra lrg. garage, washer & dryer
Good Price!!
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OWNER Will Finance.
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103 Homes For Sale

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WE are moving & need to sell our neat & spacious 2 story, 4 bdr., 2 full ba., 2 liv. areas home. Must see to appreciate. 901 E. Francis. Call 665-7815.

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114 Recre. Veh.
'98 Wanderer 27' 5th wheel, can be pulled w/ 1/2 ton. Loaded. Like new! 669-1484, 662-8713 leave message.

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96 Cavalier Conv., 4 cyl., a/t, ac, CD, .pw, ps, pb, ABS, cc, AB 101K, \$4150. 669-2715.

120 Autos
Quality Sales
1300 N. Hobart 669-0433
Make your next car a Quality Car

120 Autos
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2000 Dodge Sport Quad Cab swb, 4 wd, at, ps, pw, 5.9 l, grill guard, bedlin., Flow Mstr dual ex., 75k. 806-323-9811 hadaway@yft.net

121 Trucks
84 GMC 4WD PU, new front end, exhaust, trans. Worth \$1900. 665-8522 after 5 p.m. #
1987 and 1988 pickups for sale call 669-7196.
122 Motorcycles
FOR Sale 1982 Kawasaki Spectra 750 motorcycle, \$1000. Call 669-7872 leave message.

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N. NELSON - Nice two bedroom home with central heat and air. Single garage. MLS
MCLEAN - LEFORS - All brick three bedroom. Large lot with storage building, corner fireplace, beamed ceiling. Has a front kitchen. Central heat and air. 1 3/4 baths, double garage. MLS 5803.
N. ZIMMERS - Nicely arranged home with an extra large garage/workshop on 2nd lot. Three bedrooms, storm cellar, corner fireplace with bookcases, kitchen has center island. Master has shower and separate tub. MLS 5641.
N. WEST STREET - Beautiful old historic home. Pampa's only bed & breakfast. Could also be used as home for large family ... retreat, etc. Main floor, has 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, three living areas and formal dining room. Three bedrooms, 3 baths plus large loft room is located on second floor. Large rec/den in basement has old billiards table and lots of storage. Sets of 4 city lots w/very nice landscaping. Near downtown area. MLS 5959.
1507 N. SUMNER - Nice three bedroom home with large living area. New dishwasher, 1 3/4 baths, central heat and air, patio, ceiling fans, new interior and exterior, single garage. MLS 5787.
SIERRA - Very neat and clean three bedroom home. 2 baths, central heat and air, patio, wood deck, large storage building, woodburning fireplace. MLS 5922.
MORA - Three bedroom brick home in good condition. New ceramic tile in kitchen & baths. Central heat and air, dining room, utility room, had had some up-dating done. Single garage. MLS 5934.
NAIDA - Nice well kept 2 bedroom home with extra lot. Large kitchen has built-ins. Completely fenced with chain link. Attic is floored for extra storage. 2 baths, oversized double garage. MLS 5792.
505 GRAY - Beautiful restored historic home. Four large bedrooms, 2 living areas, breakfast room, formal dining room has china cabinet with leaded glass. Kitchen has new cabinets and appliances. New yard and sprinkler system, new wiring, new sewer and gas. Has 1 3/4 plus two 1/2 baths. Basement. Sunroom, office, new oversized double garage plus another double garage both with heat. MLS 5941.
1709 HAMILTON - This three bedroom home has central heat and air. Woodburning fireplace. Water softener, vinyl sliding, covered patio, single garage. MLS 5960.
1916 GRAPE - This three bedroom home has been completely redone. two living areas, two baths, fireplace, new floors, new cabinets, new tile, breakfast area, double garage. MLS.
820 N. GRAY - Cozy home located on corner lots. Kitchen has been remodeled. Hardwood floors in bedrooms. French doors in den open to huge backyard. Central heat and air, utility room, 2 living areas, double detached garage. MLS 5952.

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Darryl Schorn.....669-6284 Lois Strate Bkr.....665-7650
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Baby's First Christmas 2002
The First Christmas Is A Special One
On December 24th, The Pampa News will have a special space just for babies celebrating their first Christmas. The cost to have a picture and brief information about your little one is \$25 paid in advance. The Pampa News must have picture and information by noon, Wednesday, December 18th.

EXAMPLE

Greyson Harmon Heiskell
Born... March 31, 2002
Amarillo, Texas

Parents...Kevin & Chantelle Heiskell
Big Sister... Krissy & Big Brother...Taylor

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