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# THE Pampa

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2002

NEWS

Vol. 98 No. 534 • Pampa, Texas  
50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



**WEATHER WEATHER**

HIGH 31 LOW 17

**LOCAL**

**PAMPA** -- The Gray County Appraisal District will be closed today as will the administrative offices of the Pampa Police Department.

**STATE**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** -- The constant drumbeat of looming war with Iraq hasn't distracted a Central Texas businessman from another mission. Charles Jackson will leave Thursday on his first trip to the Middle East with 14 other members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams. The two-week visit is planned despite threat of a fine or imprisonment by the U.S. government.

**DEATHS**

**Laura Estall Bowman**, 69, a Pampa resident.  
**Alice Marie Gooding Gates**, 84, former Pampa business owner.  
**Ruth Gavin**, 67, former Coronado Community Hospital telephone operator.  
**Felix A. Gomez**, 87, former Pampa construction worker.  
**Mervin A. Snapp**, 74, retired district manager for Baker Oil Tools, Inc.

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**WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE**

**GIFT SHOP**

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## Texas Panhandle gets first major snowfall of winter

By HANNAH LOBEL  
Associated Press Writer

The first major snowfall of winter descended upon the Texas Panhandle on Monday causing a rash of accidents and thwarting Christmas travelers. Many travelers abandoned

hopes of making headway getting to their holiday destinations, pulling over at the nearest towns.

Vehicles filled the lot at the Flying J Travel Plaza truck stop at East Interstate 40 and Airport Road in Amarillo Monday night, customer ser-

vice manager Mary Moody said.

"It's horrible," Moody said. "They're stuck here, can't even get home for Christmas."

While travelers in recreational vehicles were able to keep warm, Moody said those

in cars were wandering in and out of the TV room and truck stop to keep warm.

"They're gonna keep on coming in all night, I'm sure," Moody said. She was also worried about her own trip home. Her normal 20-minute commute took 2 1/2 hours

Monday morning, she said.

About 5 1/2 inches of snow fell in Amarillo by Monday night, with about 2 more inches expected by morning, the National Weather Service said. Sunray was hit hardest with 10 inches of snow, followed by Dalhart with 8 inches.



Mark Bolton clears snow from parking areas around Pampa City Hall. City crews battled the snow all day Monday but it kept getting ahead of them. Weather officials said that at one time it was snowing at the rate of three inches an hour.

## Pampa has White Christmas

A Wheeler County official may have put it the best.

"We all talk about how much we want a White Christmas," she said, "but when it happens, we're ready for it to go away."

The official, who wanted to remain anonymous, most likely reflects the thoughts of travelers across the Texas Panhandle this holiday season.

The Texas Department of Transportation reports roads in the panhandle open but slick and hazardous with

packed snow and ice.

Oklahoma road officials report similar conditions in western and northeastern Oklahoma.

Pampa received eight inches of snow, which translates into about a quarter inch of moisture.

At dawn today, county officials in Gray and surrounding counties reported slick highways.

Shamrock authorities said they got about six to eight inches of snow. They estimated that the snowfall between

Shamrock and McLean higher than that.

Wheeler County officials said today that roads around Wheeler were very good considering the estimated six to eight inches of snow they got. They credited the highway department with the good road conditions.

Kay Dickey with the Hemphill County Sheriff's Office in Canadian said that at 7 a.m. today they had six to seven inches of snow on the ground and a temperature of 21 degrees.

Sgt. Gay Russ with the Carson County Sheriff's Office said today that the road in and out of Panhandle were very slick.

Weather authorities said today that skies should clear later this afternoon and temperatures should be in the upper 30 degree range, 10 degrees warmer than Monday's high of 28.

The warming trend is expected to continue through the rest of the week with Saturday's highs forecast to reach 55 degrees.

## Holiday season looks more grim for merchants

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- The holiday season is looking more grim for retailers, as merchants such as J.C. Penney and Federated Department Stores reported Monday that even with heavy discounting, the late sales rush they were hoping for failed to materialize.

With the critical final weekend before Christmas less robust than expected, merchants are under even more pressure to rope in last-minute shoppers before Christmas and bargain-hunters afterward to salvage the season. Last year, post-Christmas buyers helped boost sales results.

"Shoppers are outsmarting the stores even more this year, and waiting until the last minute to get the best deals," said

Burt Flickinger 3rd, managing director of Reach Marketing, a retail consulting group.

There weren't any bright spots in the figures retailers posted Monday.

Federated Department Stores Inc., which operates Bloomingdale's, Macy's and other stores, said that sales in the seven days ended Saturday did not strengthen as much as anticipated.

## Frist promises to heal GOP after being elected Republican Senate leader

By JESSE J. HOLLAND  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Newly elected Senate GOP leader Bill Frist of Tennessee and other Republicans say Congress must quickly address terrorism, the economy and prescription drug benefits. But Frist has indicated

he will also focus on repairing the damage former leader Trent Lott's racially charged remarks may have done to GOP efforts to recruit support from minority voters.

"I honestly believe this will transform what has occurred in the last few weeks, what has occurred at the moment in history, into a catalyst -- a cata-

lyst for unity and a catalyst for positive change," Frist said, elected unanimously Monday as the new GOP leader during an extraordinary telephone caucus.

The Republican Party has been distracted for the past two weeks by the uproar over Lott's remarks lauding Sen. Strom Thurmond's pro-segregationist presidential run of 1948.

Lott apologized to no avail, and the GOP felt it had to replace the Mississippi senator to get its focus back.

With Frist as the new face of the Senate Republican Caucus, GOP senators hope people will now pay attention to their legislative policies instead of Lott's two-week-old remarks.

## Businessman shares prosperity a dollar at a time

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) -- A downtown businessman has decided to share some of his good fortune with others a dollar at a time.

Mike Jeffcoat, 42, a corporate furnishings consultant, taped 300 \$1 dollar bills to his office window Friday along with a note: "Please take only what you need. Remember others."

Many in the crowd took nothing, while some took a few bucks for a cup of coffee, Christmas presents or a bus ticket. It was all gone in 35 minutes.

Jeffcoat said he believed wallpapering the window would allow people to grab what they needed without much hassle.

As he hung money, Jeffcoat said one stranger gave him \$20. The man didn't have singles and wanted to help. Others gave a few bucks.

Sharmel Shirley, 23, and Sadaka Kimble, 24, split the final \$41. Shirley needed to pay a power bill. Kimble's daughter needed diapers. Both women said they've been out of work for four months.

"Money just flapping in the wind," Shirley said. "It was like, 'Wow!'"

## Pope says Christmas' true meaning at risk of being lost because of rampant consumerism

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope John Paul II said Sunday that the true meaning of Christmas could be lost because of a "consumerist mentality" and he urged gift-givers to remember the poor and needy this holiday.

The 82-year-old pontiff made the comments in his weekly appearance in St. Peter's Square, already decorated with a towering Christmas tree and parts of the nativity scene, depicting the birth of Christ in a manger.

"The simplicity of the creche contrasts with the image of Christmas that sometimes is shown by insistent publicity messages," the pope said.

"Even the beautiful tradition of exchanging Christmas gifts among friends and family, under the impact of a certain consumerist mentality, risks losing its authentic sense of Christmas," he said.

He said the holiday season presents an opportunity for the faithful to turn gestures of gift-giving into symbols of "solidarity and welcoming toward the poor and needy."

The pope is to celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

Mary Ellen & Harvester Church Of Christ Free Dinner Christmas Day

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**OBITUARIES**

**SERVICES THURSDAY**

**GOMEZ, Felix A.** — Vigil services, 10 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Pampa, Mass. 2 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.  
**STOBBE, Paul Wilbur** — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

**RUTH GAVIN**  
1935-2002

**AMARILLO** — Ruth Gavin, 67, of Amarillo, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002, at Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Gavin was born March 11, 1935, in New York City where she lived until moving to Pampa in 1979. She married James T. Gavin on June 19, 1954. He preceded her in death on Dec. 20, 1983.

She was a telephone operator for New York Telephone Company, New York University Medical Center, New York Beth Israel Hospital, and Coronado Community Hospital in Pampa.

She attended the Lamar Full Gospel Assembly in Pampa.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret Gavin of Piscataway, N.J., and Janet Sheppard of Amarillo; two sisters, Elizabeth Canderan of Cape May, N.J., and Deborah Gross of Brick, N.J.; two brothers, Thomas McCann of Pampa and James McCann of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Barbara Jean Mendez of Amarillo, and Christopher Herrera, Kevin Herrera, James

Herrera, and Jeffrey Herrera, all of Piscataway; 11 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Jesse McCann, and her sister, Barbara Ciappa.

The body will lie-in-state from 10 a.m., Friday until service time.

The family wishes to add this special thank you: "We would like to thank the staff of Integrated Health Services (IHS) of Amarillo for all their caring help and support throughout mom's illness. A very special thank you to Uncle Jimmy, whose dedication, loyalty, support, and above all, his love, throughout the past five years will never be forgotten. May God bless you always, Uncle Jimmy."

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



**MERVIN A. SNAPP**  
1928-2002

Mervin A. Snapp, 74, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, at Pampa, Texas. Services will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, of the Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Snapp was born Oct. 30, 1928, on a farm near Barnard, Kan. He worked in the oil field in Kansas before moving to Pampa in 1956. He retired as district manager of Baker Oil Tools, Inc., in 1990, after 35 years of service. He was a member of the Highland Baptist Church and the Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM.

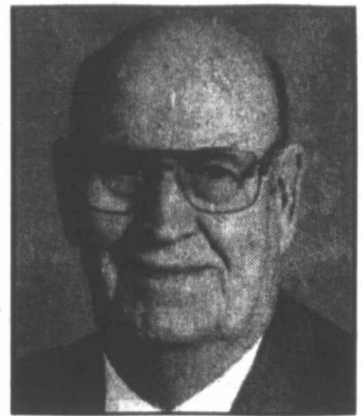
He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Ruth Marie Stewart Snapp; and a sister, Louise Hatfield.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Allen and Jan Snapp, Donnie and Rhonda Snapp, and Bill and Carol Snapp, all

of Pampa; two daughters and sons-in-law, Ginger and John Jones and Karen and George Mendoza, all of Pampa; a sister, Nola Gulden of Oregon City, Ore.; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 1806 N. Sumner in Pampa and requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX, 79065; or to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com) on the Internet.



**FELIX A. GOMEZ**  
1915-2002

Felix A. Gomez, 87, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, at Amarillo. Vigil Services will be at 10 a.m., Thursday followed by funeral mass at 2 p.m., in St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with the Rev. Mayorga, assistant pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Gomez was born Jan. 14, 1915, at El Mulato, Mexico. He married Heraclia Dominguez Madrid on Dec. 16, 1944, at El Mulato. He moved to Pampa in 1955. In 1989, he became a U.S. citizen.

He worked for Milliron Construction for 10 years and was a member of Knights of

Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Heraclia, of the home; three sons, Alfonso Gomez of Washington, D.C., Alonso Gomez of Atlanta, Texas, and Mike Gomez of Pampa; a brother, Matilde Gomez of Morton; three sisters, Concepcion Polanco of Presidio, Anita Carrasco of Bedford, and Petra Sotelo of Chihuahua, Mexico; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**PAUL WILBUR STOBBE**  
1947-2002

**MESQUITE** — Paul Wilbur Stobbe, 55, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m., Thursday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Thacker Haynes, of First Methodist Church of McLean, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Stobbe was born Nov. 5, 1947, at Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Cleveland

State University with a bachelor of science degree in business management in 1970 and moved to Mesquite eight years ago.

He was a self-employed accountant for many years.

Survivors include a sister, Anne Stobbe of Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**LAURA ESTELL BOWMAN**

Laura Estell Bowman, 69, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley

Funeral Directors of Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**ALICE MARIE GOODING GATES**  
1918-2002

**WOODWARD, Okla.** — Alice Marie Gooding Gates, 84, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002, at Grace Living Center. Services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday in Central Baptist Church in Pampa with the Revs. Darell Monday and Norman Rushing officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa. Arrangements are under the direction of Billings Funeral Home of Woodward.

Mrs. Gates was born Nov. 1, 1918, at Colbert, Okla., to William and Mimia Scott Gooding. She grew up and attended school in Quanah, graduating in 1937. She earned a degree from Draughn's Business School in Wichita Falls in 1940 and moved to Pampa in 1941.

She married her husband of 55-plus years, Gene Gates, on April 23, 1943, and the couple made their home in Pampa.

Mrs. Gates owned and operated One-Hour

Martinizing in Pampa from 1960-1988 with her husband, Gene.

She was an active member of Central Baptist Church for nearly 60 years and belonged to a knitting class. She had many hobbies.

She moved to Woodward in 2002.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gene; and two brothers, Bill and Everett Gooding.

Survivors include a daughter, Carol Miller of Woodward; four sisters, Hob Hamrick of Denton, Nancy Barbee of Rogers, Ark., Melveta Barnes of Quanah, and Frances Lam of Pampa; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund or to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, Travel Fund with the funeral home as custodian of the fund.

**Three dead in blaze that struck two-story house in Central Texas**

**AUSTIN (AP)** — Two teenagers and a 9-year-old died early Tuesday after the

two-story house they were in caught fire and part of the roof collapsed, authorities said.

The teens, ages 13 and 15, were found dead in the house, fire officials said. The 9-year-old died later at a hospital. A 30-year-old man was in critical condition at Brackenridge

Memorial Hospital.

Officials told News 8 Austin that there were at least five people in the house, one of them a child who escaped.

Flames broke out about 4 a.m. and were extinguished within 20 minutes of firefighters' arrival.

**Watch For Comics & Baby's First Christmas in Today's B Section**

**WEATHER FOCUS**

**WEATHER**

Today's forecast is calling for cloudy skies, 30 percent chance of snow, highs in the lower 30s, and northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should be mostly cloudy with lows around 19 and light winds. Christmas Day should be mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Light winds. Wednesday night, mostly cloudy. Lows around 19. West winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 50s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 40s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

**ON RECORD**

**SHERIFF**  
Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrest during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
 Levi Trevathan, 18, 1206 N. Russell, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of minor in possession of alcohol and failure to appear.

**FIRE**  
Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Monday, Dec. 23**  
 12:33 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a medical assistance call in the 700 block of Frost.  
 1:08 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to a medical assistance call in the 800 block of West Foster.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
 2:42 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a call for a carbon monoxide check in the 1100 block of East Foster.

**Air base personnel return for holiday**

**ABILENE, Texas (AP)** — After months of duty far from West Texas, more than a dozen Air Force officers and others returned to their families even as military personnel faced post-holiday deployment for possible war in Iraq.  
 The duty station of the 14 airmen, returning from a three-month deployment, was not disclosed. They flew into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Monday night and traveled by bus to Dyess Air Force Base.

**City Briefs**

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

**50% OFF** all Christmas items including Poinsettias. Lazy S Feed & Garden, 516 S. Russell.

**DUNLAPS EXTENDED** Holiday Hours: Today 8-5

**HARVESTER LANES** open X-mas at 4pm, 665-3422.

**COMICS, BABY'S** 1st Christmas are in the 2nd Section of today's, Pampa News. Have a Merry Christmas!!

**QUEEN CHIMNEY** Sweep, 665-9452 lv. msg.

**FREE HOLIDAY Feast** Wed. Dec. 25th 11a-1p Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ Fellowship Hall

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# Rumsfeld: U.S. military can handle North Koreans

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States could make war against North Korea even during a conflict with Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said. But he said diplomacy, not the threat of military action, guides the Bush administration's efforts to contain Pyongyang's resurgent nuclear ambitions.

The Bush administration demanded on Monday that North Korea halt plans to restart a dormant nuclear reactor that was critical to that country's nuclear weapons program.

It pressed the communist government in Pyongyang to restore U.N. surveillance gear that it dismantled at a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and not to restart the facility.

North Korea said the reactor will be used to generate electricity.

Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference that North Korea should not take the current focus on Iraq as tacit approval to go forward with its weapons programs.

"We are capable of fighting two major regional conflicts," Rumsfeld said. "We're capable of winning decisively in one and swiftly defeating in the case of the other, and let there be no doubt about it."

Rumsfeld said no military action was imminent to halt Pyongyang's nuclear efforts, and White House officials said the United States intends to pursue a diplomatic course to persuade North Korea to abandon efforts to expand its nuclear arsenal.

Discussions on the North Korean question are under way with China, Russia and other countries, the State Department said.

North Korea has said it needs the power the reactor

would produce, but officials said the reactor would provide negligible electricity to the country's grid. Instead, U.S. officials accused Pyongyang of planning to restart the facility to support weapons programs.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. monitoring agency, said Pyongyang unsealed a storage chamber at Yongbyon this weekend that holds 8,000 irradiated fuel rods. Plutonium in the rods could yield four or five nuclear weapons within months, experts say.

A senior administration official said the United States does not believe the North Koreans have opened the canisters containing the fuel rods.

North Korea said Monday the nuclear issue could be settled if Washington were to sign a nonaggression treaty.

But the United States, angry because North Korea resumed its nuclear efforts despite a 1994 agreement to abandon it, sees little reason to negotiate.

"We will not give in to blackmail," State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said Monday. "We're not going to bargain or offer inducements for North Korea to live up to the treaties and agreements that it has signed."

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., a senior Armed Services Committee member, said he is seeking visas to lead a congressional delegation to the North Korean capital for talks. "When you don't have dialogue, that is when the problems develop, and that's my concern with North Korea," Weldon said.

Asked whether the U.S. military has drawn up plans to make war on North Korea, Rumsfeld said, "One of the assignments of the department

is to prepare for a whole host of contingencies. We tend not to get into details as to what those contingencies might be."

The Clinton administration considered bombing the Yongbyon site in 1994 before North Korea agreed to shut it down. Under the 1994 agreement, North Korea pledged to freeze and eventually dismantle its nuclear weapons program in exchange for international aid to build two power-producing nuclear reactors.

Supposed to have been completed by 2003, the light-water reactors are far behind schedule.

"The situation today is somewhat different from then," Rumsfeld said, without elaborating.

Relations between the countries have deteriorated

Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference that North Korea should not take the current focus on Iraq as tacit approval to go forward with its weapons programs.

rapidly since President Bush took office. Shortly afterward, Bush suspended contacts between the governments and ordered a full review of relations. In his 2001 State of the Union address, he placed North Korea in an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

Rumsfeld rejected the notion that Bush administration statements had forced North Korea to renew its

nuclear efforts, saying the United States now believes Pyongyang has had a clandestine nuclear program for years.

"Do you think the idea that it's the rhetoric from the United States that's causing them to starve their people or to do these idiotic things or try to build a nuclear power plant?" he asked.

Rumsfeld also accused North Korea of operating con-

centration camps. Human rights groups say the camps hold political prisoners.

U.S. intelligence officials believe North Korea made one or two nuclear weapons in the 1990s with plutonium. They also are concerned that Kim's government could provide nuclear materials and expertise to other nations unfriendly to the United States.

Nuclear weapons also can be made with enriched uranium, and on Oct. 4, North Korea admitted to American diplomats having a program to enrich uranium to weapons grade.

In response, Bush halted oil shipments the United States had provided the energy-poor country under the Clinton-era agreement. The North Koreans then said they would restart nuclear energy facilities shut down as part of the pact.

## Economy: Durable-goods orders fall 1.4 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket goods fell 1.4 percent in November, dealing a setback to the nation's manufacturers, which have been struggling to get back on their feet after being knocked down by last year's recession.

The unexpected drop in new orders for costly manufactured goods came after a 1.7 percent rise in October and marked the weakest showing since September, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday.

November's decline surprised economists, who were forecasting an increase in orders of around 0.8 percent.

Manufacturing has been the weakest link in the national economy's recovery. After staging a decent comeback at the beginning of the year, factory activity has stumbled in recent months. Manufacturers continue to slash jobs.

The Federal Reserve earlier this month held a key interest rate steady at a 41-year low of 1.25 percent. Economists believe the Fed will leave short-term rates at that low level at its next meeting in late January.

Fed policy-makers hope that low rates will keep consumers spending and motivate businesses to boost investment.

While consumers have been carrying the economy all year, businesses' shoulders have been far less broad.

Companies haven't made big capital investments and haven't been in a rush to hire because their profits — which took a bit hit during last year's recession — haven't recovered and they face economic uncertainties, including a possible war with Iraq.

A sustained turnaround in capital investment is considered a necessary ingredient to the economy returning to full throttle, economists say.

In November, the weakness in orders for manufactured goods was fairly widespread, although demand was especially slack for transportation products.

Orders for transportation equipment fell 1.6 percent in November from the previous month, representing a turnaround from October's 1.9 percent increase.

For automobiles and parts, orders dropped by 4.5 percent in November, following a 3.7 percent advance in the previous month.

Airplanes for commercial use saw orders go down by 7.7 percent last month, after dipping 1.7 percent in October.

Excluding transportation products, which can swing widely from month to month, overall orders fell 1.3 percent in November.

Orders for primary metals, including steel, fell 4.6 percent in November, the biggest decline since October 2000. That came on top of a 1.2 percent drop recorded in October.

Machinery orders declined 3.2 percent last month, erasing October's 2.7 percent increase.

For computers, orders dropped 3.7 percent in November, after a 0.9 percent decline. Orders for electrical equipment and appliances dipped 0.6 percent in November, following a 1.9 percent drop.

Shipments, a barometer of current demand, fell 1.3 percent in November, after rising 1.4 percent in October.

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**DUNLAPS**

Coronado Center  
Tuesday 8:00-5:00

# Israel: Bethlehem celebrates subdued Christmas Eve

By IBRAHIM HAZBOUN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — The Israeli army pulled its troops back to the outskirts of Bethlehem on Tuesday, maintaining a low profile in the biblical city to allow pilgrims to celebrate the Christmas holiday.

Still, the city known as the traditional birthplace of Jesus was cheerless and subdued: The municipality refused to put a Christmas tree in Manger Square across from the Church of the Nativity to protest the Israeli troop presence. There were no glistening lights, no bells, no holly — and few if any tourists.

This year marks the first Christmas since 1994 that Bethlehem has been under Israeli occupation during the holiday, and Palestinian Christians — who make up nearly half the city's 27,000 population — said they could not recall a worse Christmas.

"The people of Bethlehem do not have the spirit of celebrating Christmas. There is no joy in people's hearts," said Raed Zarrouk, 26. "I see no decorations, no fireworks and no tourists."

The Israeli army said it redeployed troops to the outskirts of the city to allow celebrations to take place without hindrance. Israeli-Arab Christians will be allowed to enter the city on public transportation, and Christian residents of the West Bank will be allowed in with special permits.

"We will make every effort to facilitate the celebrations. There is now no curfew on Bethlehem and we hope to keep it that way. We shall facilitate efforts to allow anybody to enter who wants to worship," the army said. "Where we need not be — we will not be."

Israeli troops have raided Bethlehem repeatedly this year, and began their most recent stay on Nov. 22, after a suicide bomber from Bethlehem blew himself up on a Jerusalem bus, killing 11 Israelis.

Two years of Mideast violence has kept foreign visitors away, bankrupting many Bethlehem merchants who count on a busy Christmas season for their livelihood. Doors were open Tuesday at souvenir shops, but no customers were inside.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna

This year marks the first Christmas since 1994 that Bethlehem has been under Israeli occupation during the holiday, and Palestinian Christians — who make up nearly half the city's 27,000 population — said they could not recall a worse Christmas.

Nasser called it a "sad Christmas" and said the only way to end the suffering on both sides was with the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"Our message to the world is to restore peace to the town of Bethlehem and all the Palestinian territories and to give the Palestinians a chance to live as real humans," Nasser said. "We hope next year we'll have a better Christmas — and a real one."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a Muslim, was banned by Israel from attending Christmas Mass in Bethlehem for the second straight year. Speaking to a Christian delegation at his Ramallah headquarters on Monday, Arafat condemned Israel for its presence in Bethlehem but said he still holds out hope for peace.

"Our message on Christmas Eve is a message of love, peace and forgiveness, of Israeli and Palestinian coexistence and respect for all humanity," Arafat said. "We strongly condemn violence, killing, destruction and the prevention of others from exercising their rights

to celebrate their holy occasion."

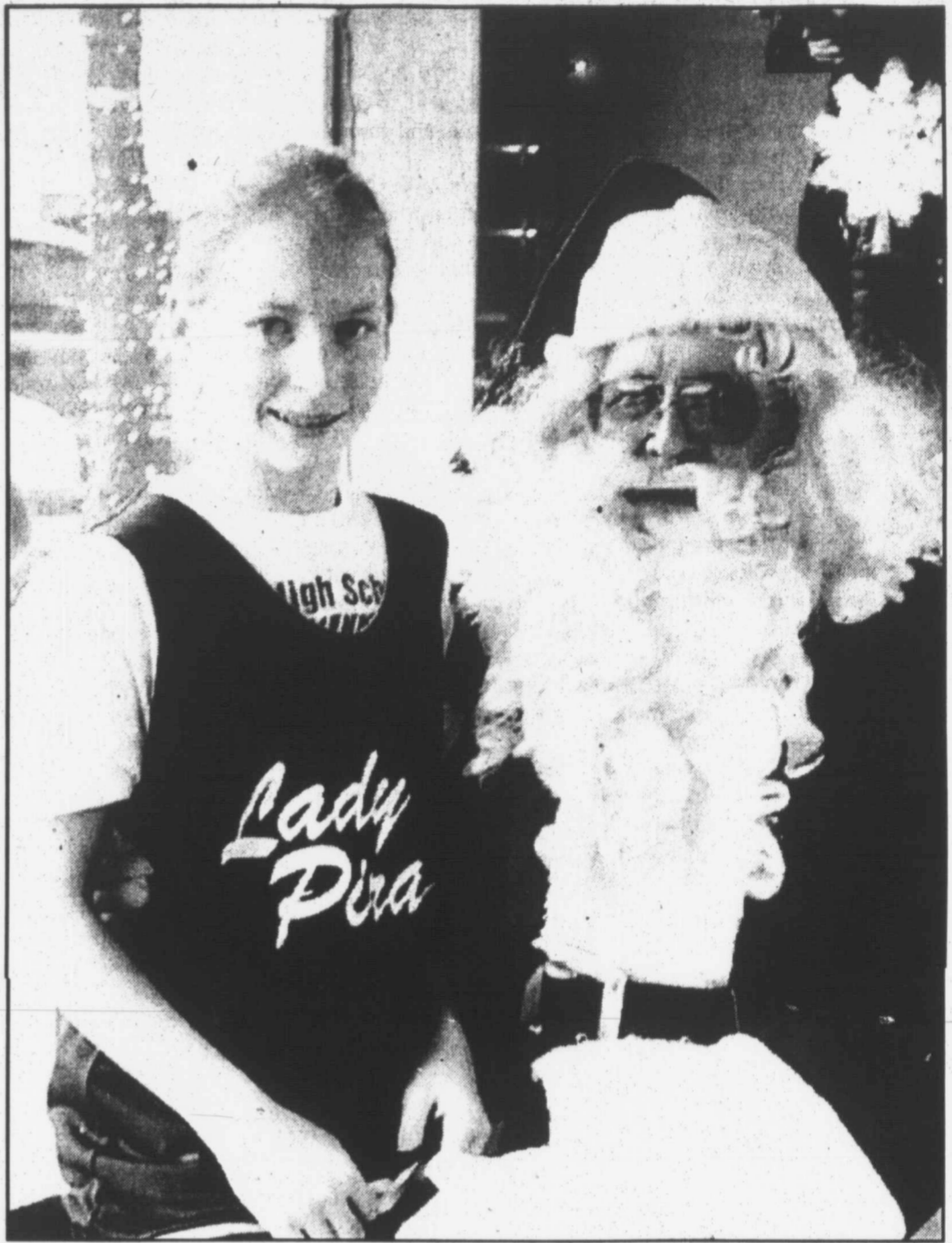
Fifty Israelis representing a group called "Tayush," or Coexistence, arrived in the city, some bringing wrapped gifts for Palestinian children.

"I am here to show solidarity with the innocent people who are living under occupation," said Shuli Hartman, 50, of Tel Aviv. "There is no way that one side can live in happiness while the others suffer."

An editorial in Haaretz newspaper on Monday criticized the Israeli government's handling of the holy day and said Israel's international reputation was being harmed as a result.

"Christians around the world are monitoring Israel's ability to allow free access to the Christian holy sites and freedom of religious worship during a difficult period of terror attacks," the newspaper said. "The (army) should be capable of taking appropriate steps to guarantee the safety of Israeli citizens during the holiday without overbearing displays of force."

## He's making a list ...



(Pampa News photo by ReDonn Woods)

Valerie Willis discussed her Christmas wish-list with Santa recently at Tarpley's Music in Pampa.

# Tens of thousands march in Venezuela to support strike

By STEPHEN IXER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Tens of thousands of Venezuelans waved flashlights and candles outside the headquarters of the state oil monopoly in support of managers staging a strike to oust President Hugo Chavez.

Twinkling lights surrounded the headquarters of Petroleos de Venezuela SA on Monday night as protesters sang, waved flags and chanted "He's leaving!"

Also Monday, a grenade exploded outside the offices of the Fedecamaras business

chamber, one of the groups leading a nationwide strike. There were no injuries, and police had no suspects.

Business, labor and opposition political parties called the strike on Dec. 2 to demand Chavez resign or submit to early elections. Many businesses have reopened, but the strike has closed down Venezuela's oil industry — the world's fifth-largest and a top supplier to the United States. Strike leaders say most of PDVSA's 40,000 employees have joined the stoppage.

PDVSA President Ali Rodriguez said the stoppage has cost the company more than \$1.3 billion. PDVSA will have to slash spending to make up for the losses, Rodriguez told state television station Venezolana de Television on Monday.

Rodriguez added that the government was gradually restoring production and gasoline distribution after replacing strikers at some refineries and seizing a

tanker carrying 11.5 million gallons of gasoline — enough to supply western Venezuela for two days. The tanker had been anchored offshore by its striking crew.

Strikers accuse Chavez of ruining the economy with leftist policies and running roughshod over democratic institutions.

"We have succeeded in removing this government's mask of democracy," said Juan Fernandez, an oil executive fired by Chavez.

Chavez has threatened more dismissals at PDVSA. Government officials have accused oil managers and the political opposition of trying to provoke a coup similar to one that briefly ousted the president in April.

Oil prices soared past \$31 a barrel Monday and hit two-year highs because of the crises in Venezuela and Iraq. Venezuelan oil production has dropped from 3 million barrels a day to less than 300,000. Gasoline is scarce, disrupting transport of non-oil goods.

Thousands of Venezuelans registered Monday for a vote on Chavez's presidency being organized by the National Elections Council.

The council opened its registration rolls after accepting an opposition petition signed by 2 million people for a nonbinding referendum asking Venezuelans whether Chavez should resign. After two weeks of intense registration at centers across the country and at consulates abroad, the booths finally closed Monday.

Many students spent the weekend before Christmas playing dominoes and card games on Caracas sidewalks as they passed the time in hours-long registration lines.

"We're Venezuelan — we always leave everything to the last minute," Gerardo Sanchez, a council employee, joked as he supervised a line of registrants at council headquarters under the watch of National Guard sol-

diers. The council set a Feb. 2 date for the vote but Chavez has refused to accept it. Venezuela's constitution says a binding recall vote may be held halfway into a six-year presidential term, or August 2003 in Chavez's case.

The Organization of American States is mediating negotiations, but OAS Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria said Monday a solution was not close. Talks will reconvene Thursday after a break for Christmas, Gaviria said.

In Washington, the State Department urged the sides to engage in a "very intense discussion" to resolve a situation "subject to rapid deterioration."

Former President Jimmy Carter, who tried to mediate negotiations in July, also warned that, "the current situation of scarcity of supplies and political confrontation increases the likelihood of imminent violence."

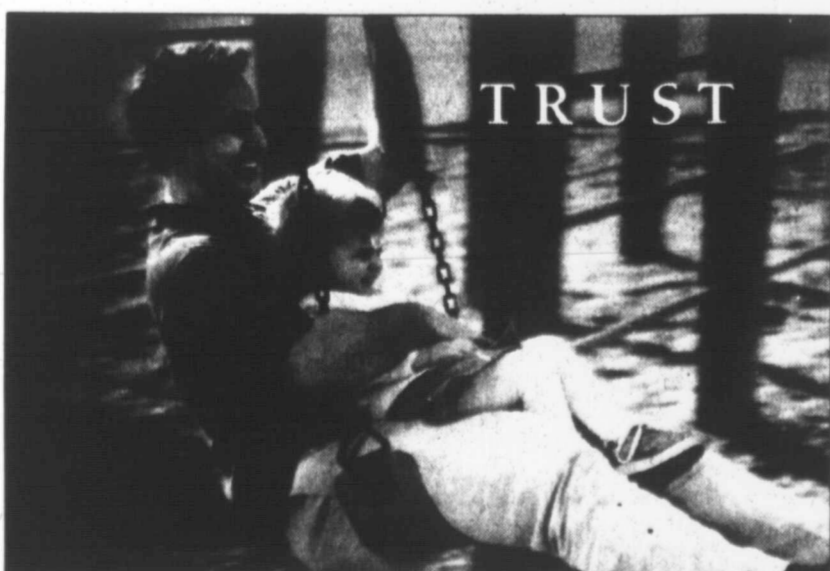
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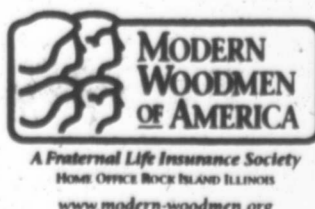




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# Government report praises IRS performance in Year 2002

By DAVID HO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service did a good job handling tax returns and refunds this year despite complications caused by tax law changes and the terrorist and anthrax attacks, a report commissioned by Congress finds.

The IRS, which should begin mailing next year's tax forms early next month, met most of its goals to provide better assistance to taxpayers on the phone, online and at walk-in offices, the General Accounting Office said Monday. The IRS processed about 131 million tax

returns and about 99 million refunds for the 2002 filing season.

The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, said extensive preparations, including updated computer systems and better trained staff, helped the IRS avoid major problems.

"A lot of taxpayers made mistakes and IRS managed to correct those mistakes in most cases without having to slow the processing down," said James White, the GAO's director of tax issues.

Also Monday, the IRS proposed a tax break on home sales for owners who divorce, become ill or are unemployed.

A homeowner now can avoid capital gains taxes on profits of up to \$250,000 — for couples, up to \$500,000 — in the sale of a primary residence. The homeowner must have lived in the home for two of the last five years.

The two-year residency requirement would be lifted for people who have encountered unforeseen circumstances, such as divorce, poor health, multiple births from a single pregnancy, job loss or damage to the home from disaster or terrorism.

Such homeowners would not be totally shielded from taxes, the IRS said. They still would have to pay a

portion of the tax on a home sale before the time lived in the home.

For example, a homeowner meeting one of the hardship requirements who has lived in the home for a year generally could qualify for half of the \$250,000 exclusion, the IRS said.

The GAO report found that changes on tax forms involving last year's rebate checks of up to \$600 led to errors on more than 8 million tax returns, accounting for 57 percent of all returns with mistakes. Most of those errors involved taxpayers failing to claim credits they were entitled to.

The report said 98 percent of tax

refunds were mailed in under 40 days, an improvement over the 95 percent mailed in that time in 2001. The proportion of refunds containing errors caused by the IRS declined from 9.8 percent to 8 percent.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, the IRS had to modify its procedures to give payment extensions to the families of the victims, the report said.

Last year's anthrax attacks-by-mail also placed burdens on the agency, which had to increase security in its mail-handling areas and provide staff with new training and equipment, the GAO said.

## New Jersey requiring smart guns

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Handgun buyers in New Jersey may eventually have another step to take to meet state regulations — getting their gun grips programmed at a shop or police firing range.

In an attempt to prevent accidental gun deaths and suicides, New Jersey is requiring handguns of the future to have a special mechanism that will allow only their owners to fire them.

It's the first law of its kind in the nation. Similar bills have been introduced in other states, including New York, Ohio, Tennessee and in Congress.

Although the state enacted the legislation Monday, the law will not go into effect immediately because the technology is still under development and it could be years before it becomes a reality.

It will be required in all new handguns sold three years after the state attorney general determines the so-called smart gun prototype is safe and commercially available. Weapons used by law enforcement officers would be exempt until a commission determines whether the requirement should apply to them.

Although the technology is not ready to be used yet, supporters hailed the law as an important milestone in the campaign to reduce handgun deaths.

"This is common sense legislation. There are safety regulations on cars, on toys. It's clearly time we have safety regulations on handguns," Gov. James E. McGreevey said the bill signing ceremony.

## New Hampshire bishop elaborates about work in Boston

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Previously undisclosed testimony by New Hampshire's bishop could provide fresh ammunition to critics of his response to allegations of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston in the 1980s and 1990s.

Bishop John B.

McCormack gave the testimony this fall in five closed sessions in civil lawsuits brought by alleged victims of the Rev. Paul Shanley, who is awaiting trial in Massachusetts on charges of child rape. The Associated Press obtained the hundreds of pages of transcripts from the depositions.

Highlights include:

— While he was a top aide to Cardinal Bernard Law, McCormack had trouble explaining delays in telling church officials in California about abuse allegations against Shanley in Massachusetts.

— When priests admitted sexual misconduct with minors, McCormack did not ask if there were other victims

and did not investigate to see if there were.

— McCormack said he believed a 1970 molestation accusation against the Rev. Joseph Birmingham, but does not recall volunteering the information when Birmingham was made pastor of a church in Gloucester, Mass.

McCormack spokesman Patrick McGee said he was disappointed the deposition had been disclosed early, and said the AP's use of it was one-sided and unfair. Among his reasons was that McCormack had not checked it and made any necessary corrections.

McCormack, who became New Hampshire's bishop in 1998, said that in 1993 he was handling about 30 cases of abuse allegations against priests. Asked whether he

attempted to determine whether the priests had additional victims who had not come forward, McCormack said he could not recall doing so.

McCormack said the church was "trying to deal with this on a pastoral way, and if we started making everything public about what we did, people who were afraid of confidentiality being broken wouldn't come to us."

Boston church files released earlier contain molestation allegations against Shanley dating from the 1960s. By 1990, he was on sick leave and living in California.

When he sought work as a priest in the Diocese of San Bernadino, a Boston church official wrote that Shanley was a priest "in good standing."

## Garden club



(Courtesy photo)

Mary Ann Bailey and Edie Hudson have been appointed to serve as officers of the Northern Zone of Texas State Garden Clubs. Hudson was asked to serve as president and Bailey as secretary for the coming year.

## Researchers find human, pig kidney cells develop in mice

WASHINGTON (AP) — A team of Israeli researchers transplanted human and pig kidney stem cells into mice, where they developed into small kidneys that appear to work.

Stem cells are parts of a developing embryo that can change into various organs as the baby grows. Harvesting stem cells causes the death of the embryo, which has made the process a focus of controversy.

In this case the cells destined to become human and pig kid-

neys were transplanted into mice by a team led by Yair Reisner of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

Their work, reported Monday in the online edition of the journal Nature Medicine, suggests that similar stem cells might also grow into functioning kidneys if transplanted into humans, the researchers said in their paper.

The work is in the pre-clinical stage only, the researchers noted, with potential human applica-

tions some years away.

They also established the best age of an embryo for the stem cells to be removed and used successfully. The human stem cells were obtained from an embryo age 7 to 8 weeks; for pigs the age was 3-1/2 to 4 weeks.

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## Months after shoe bomber, FBI says threat still exists

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after a passenger failed to blow up an airliner with a shoe bomb, the FBI is warning that terrorists remain interested in carrying out such an attack and that winter coats and shoes could be used to conceal explosives.

In an advisory sent out Monday night to law enforcement nationwide, the FBI said it had no information of any specific threats or plots for a holiday terrorist bombing, according to officials familiar with the advisory.

But the FBI advisory said U.S. authorities continue to receive intelligence that terrorists remain interested in a shoe bomb attack like the one Richard Reid was prevented from carrying out a year ago this week, the officials said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

Reid, a British citizen, was overpowered by passengers and crew aboard an American Airlines jet on Dec. 22, 2001, after he unsuccessfully sought to light the fuse of an explosive hidden in his shoes. The Paris-to-Miami flight was diverted to Boston, where Reid was taken into custody.

Reid, 29, has since pleaded guilty to trying to blow up the flight. A convert to Islam, Reid has acknowledged in court that he is a member of al-Qaida and pledged his support to Osama bin Laden. He faces between 60 years and life in prison when sentenced Jan. 8.

The officials told The Associated Press the FBI's advisory Monday was timed to remind law enforcement of the one-year anniversary of Reid's failed attack and to urge vigilance in warding off such attempts in the future.

The officials said the warning suggested that winter jackets, shoes and other items of clothing could be used by terrorists to conceal explosives.

"The advisory was designed to simply remind law enforcement that terrorists often like anniversaries and that they also remain interested in shoe bombs as a possible form of attack," one senior law enforcement official said. "But it was not based on a specific threat."

Even when it does not have specific information about terrorist plots, the FBI has been trying to send local law enforcement agencies nationwide advisories every seven to 10 days highlighting the most recent analysis of intelligence to keep officials focused on possible threats and to identify potential "soft targets" that might be selected by terrorists, the officials said.

Beyond the one-year anniversary and Reid's impending sentencing in a federal courthouse in Boston, there have been other recent developments in the shoe bomber case.

French authorities late last month detained seven suspected Islamic militants with possible ties to Reid.

## LIONS CLUB SWEETHEARTS



Sarah Porter

Pampa Lions Club Sweethearts of the Month for November are Sarah Porter and Kelly Tripplehorn.

Porter is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Porter. Her activities, honors, and accomplishments include: Freshman volleyball, varsity soccer (four years), varsity soccer team captain, varsity cross country, women's choir, concert choir (three years), show choir (three years), Pampa High School choir musicals (three years), D-FY-IT (three years), Texas Association of Future Educators, Drug Abuse Resistance Education mentor, Worth the Wait Advisory Board.

National Honor Society vice president, Texas Association of Future Educators vice president, ASTRA vice president, PHS Choir Advisory Board, City of Pampa Adopt A Park program, youth soccer coach, beginner guitar instructor, youth mentor, Salvation Army volunteer, City of Pampa Summer Recreation program. In addition, Sarah has been active in the First Baptist Church Choir, Youth Choir, Hand Bells, Youth Praise Team, and has participated in First Baptist Mission trips to Osoyoos, British Columbia, Canada, and Ponca City, Okla. Her future plans are to major in music at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.



Kelly Tripplehorn

Tripplehorn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tripplehorn. Her activities, honors, and accomplishments include: PHS Mixed Choir (two years), Concert Choir (two years), Show Choir sound tech (two years), PHS musical sound and lighting tech (three years), Latin Club, Drama Club, International Thespian Society (two years), D-FY-IT (four years), PHS softball team (three years), Who's Who Among American High School students (two years), National Honor Roll (two years), All American Scholar (two years), United States National English Merit Award, Excellence in Education Award.

National Leadership and Service Award (two years), Technical Theater Student of the Year (two years), PHS Honor Roll (four years), technical director-PHS musical sound and lighting (2002), Latin Club parliamentarian, Drama Club president, National Honor Society (two years), and Kanakomo Kamp (seven years), Kanakomo Kamp 2002 "I'm Third" award, Children's Christmas Shopping Volunteer (five years), VFW Holiday Food Baskets community service project (four years), Super Playground construction volunteer, and lighting tech assistant Dallas Children's Theater performance in Pampa, 2001. Tripplehorn plans to pursue a dual major in political science and English at Texas Christian University in the fall and eventually attend law school.

## Southwest Airline's deal may include stock options

DALLAS (AP) — A tentative contract between Southwest Airlines Co. and the union representing its reservation and customer service agents was hailed by the airline as a significant step toward labor harmony.

About 10,000 members of the International Association of Machinists will vote Jan. 30 on the proposed deal reached on Monday. It includes raises, improved work rules and stock options, the union said.

Joe Tiberi, spokesman for the machinists, said he could not recall any IAM-negotiated tentative agreement being reached as quickly as this one.

"The stock options were a factor in the negotiations, but it was more that management recognized the

benefits of having a fair agreement in place," he told The Dallas Morning News in Tuesday's editions.

Tiberi said a strong relationship between the union and Southwest management helped wrap up negotiations just six weeks after the current deal became amendable.

This summer, Dallas-based Southwest reached tentative agreement with its union mechanics on a new contract that would last until August 2005.

The newest deal, if ratified, would run through October 2008, but it could be reopened by the union for changes in 2006 if the airline's stock doesn't perform to preset levels.

"We're quite pleased with the agreement" with the IAM, said Southwest

spokesman Ed Stewart.

The carrier, which is the most heavily unionized U.S. airline at about 85 percent of its work force, has negotiated four major contracts this year, including pilots and ground staff.

Stock options have sweetened several recent contracts for Southwest, the only major U.S. airline to remain profitable every quarter since last year's terrorist attacks.

The low-fare carrier's flight attendants are the last major employee group with an open contract, though those negotiations are proceeding well, said Stewart.

Southwest accelerated the pace of talks with its unions because it may not be able to grant stock options for much longer. A proposed Securities and

Exchange Commission rule would prevent a company from granting the options to employees without first gaining shareholder approval.

## Airport offers gift wrapping service

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts officials hoped a free gift-wrapping service at Logan International Airport would help foster a holiday mood. The response from travelers so far: Bah humbug.

Rather than take advantage of the service, arriving passengers either stopped to ask directions or simply rushed by with their bags.

The Massachusetts Port Authority, which operates Logan, is offering the free gift-wrapping to help incoming travelers who couldn't wrap their gifts before the trip due to federal security measures.

"We're doing what we can to keep the travelers happy, doing our bit," said Phil Orlandella, an authority spokesman. "It's just a good gesture from the company."

Joe Dalton, a construction employee who volunteered Monday at a gift-wrapping booth near a baggage claim area, spent most of his time curling ribbons with a scissors edge and arranging the rolls of brightly colored wrapping paper.

The two "customers" who did stop by were other airport workers, wanting to get away from long lines at stores. Dalton started wrapping with gusto.

"I enjoy helping people," he said, as he wrapped a pair of ankle-high slippers for Ronnie Stockton, a Hotel Reservations employee.

Stockton said his own gift-wrapping was "lousy."

"Plus I figured, coming here would be an extra touch, helping out other people," Stockton said, later slipping a few dollar bills into the donations jar. Proceeds were to go to the Boston Firemen Relief fund.

Orlandella didn't know how many travelers had used the free gift-wrapping service.

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SPORTS

# Red Raiders romp past Clemson, 55-15

## Kingsbury throws for 375 yards, three TDs

NOTEBOOK

**BASKETBALL**

**LUBBOCK** — Both the Pampa boys' and girls' teams are entered in the Caprock Holiday Tournament, which starts Thursday in Lubbock.

The Harvesters meet Dimmitt at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the Lubbock Coronado gym. The Lady Harvesters meet Spearman at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Lubbock Estacado gym.

**FOOTBALL**

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Deion Sanders was released by the Washington Redskins, clearing the first of several obstacles for him to play for the Oakland Raiders.

The retired cornerback was on the reserve-retired list with the Redskins, the team from which he retired after the 2000 season, one year into his seven-year contract — meaning the Redskins own his rights.

Sanders now must clear waivers for the Raiders to be able to sign him. It was not immediately clear whether the team wants him, despite Sanders' comments about trying to return to the NFL.

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — The Pittsburgh Steelers set the tone in pregame warmups, refusing to back down from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"We don't like them," receiver Hines Ward said. "They don't like us."

That was evident even before Tampa Bay's Nate Webster stirred the Steelers by running through a group of Pittsburgh players during the pregame stretch. Keyshawn Johnson stepped in to help defuse the situation, then Jerome Bettis sent a message by shoving Warren Sapp.

"It was just a matter of who is the bigger bully," Bettis said after Tommy Maddox threw for 236 yards and a touchdown in a 17-7 victory that gave the Steelers the AFC North championship.

"We beat them up down here last year, and they said they were waiting a year for this," Bettis added. "We said: 'Hey, we'll see who's a bigger bully.' We came out here and bullied them and showed them that we're the baddest on the block."

Chad Scott returned an interception for a touchdown and the Steelers defense, which appears to be peaking at the right time, forced two fumbles inside the Pittsburgh 10 to frustrate Tampa Bay's effort to come back from a 17-point, first-quarter deficit.

"It's great when people don't give you a chance to win," Ward said. "And to beat them the way we did, it really feels good."

The Bucs (11-4) claimed the NFC South title Sunday when New Orleans lost to Cincinnati, but they were hoping to keep pace with the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers in the race for home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

"We had as much to play for as they did. ... There was no letdown," said Bucs coach Jon Gruden, whose team will have to beat Chicago on the road and get help from the New York Jets against the Packers in order to earn the No. 2 seed, which would give them a first-round bye.

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — One series into the Tangerine Bowl, Kliff Kingsbury knew he was in for a big night.

"I felt like we could do some things, seeing their defensive base package and how they lined up," Kingsbury said. "I felt like we could exploit it."

Kingsbury became the third Division I-A player to top 5,000 yards passing in a season, throwing for 375 and three touchdowns as Texas Tech defeated Clemson 55-15 on Monday night.

Texas Tech (9-5) won its first bowl game since beating Air Force in the 1995 Copper Bowl, and gave coach Mike Leach his first postseason victory.

Five receivers caught touchdown passes for the Red Raiders, and Wes Welker had a 59-yard punt return for a score.

"We went out there and really played with a good tempo and I think that everybody fed off one another," Leach said. "I'm proud of the way we came down here and stuck to business."

It was the worst loss of the season for Clemson (7-6), and the worst in a bowl

since a 41-0 defeat to Syracuse in the 1996 Gator Bowl.

"I'm totally embarrassed," defensive tackle Nick Eason said. "This was my last game as a Clemson Tiger, and I got destroyed."

"I might have more games, in the NFL, maybe some All-Star games, but this is one I'll always remember."

Kingsbury, the game's MVP, completed 32 of 43 passes and finished his career with 5,017 yards. The only other players to reach the mark are BYU's Ty Detmer, who had 5,188 yards, and Houston's David Klingler, who had 5,140. Both players did it in 1990. Detmer played in 12 games, Klingler 11.

"Five thousand yards, that's a big number," Kingsbury said. "That shows how well our offense played this season."

Kingsbury left briefly in the third quarter after Clemson defensive end Khaleed Vaughn appeared to roll onto his right leg. Kingsbury quickly got up, but he hopped only a few yards before falling to the turf and motioning to the training staff. He got his ankle re-taped

and jogged on the sideline without a limp, and returned on the next possession after approval from the trainer.

"He wasn't keeping me off the field," Kingsbury said. "I was going to get back out there."

The Red Raiders were playing for the first time since a 60-15 loss to Oklahoma on Nov. 23, but they went ahead 3-0 lead after taking their opening possession 82 yards in 13 plays. It was 24-0 in the second quarter before the Tigers blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety and their first points.

Kingsbury was intercepted once on a poorly thrown pass in the first quarter, but he had little problems solving Clemson's coverage.

He left midway through the fourth, but returned for the final play with 4 seconds left, taking a knee to end the game.

Texas Tech punted just three times — including the block — and piled up 555 yards of offense.

Charlie Whitehurst, a redshirt freshman who led the Tigers to victories in three of their last four games after taking over as the starting quarterback, couldn't match Kingsbury.

He finished 20-of-48 for 263 yards and four interceptions after being intercepted only twice in 166 attempts coming in.

Most of Whitehurst's problems were caused by a lack of protection by his

offensive line. Several times he was forced to leave the pocket, and two of his interceptions came after he scrambled out of trouble.

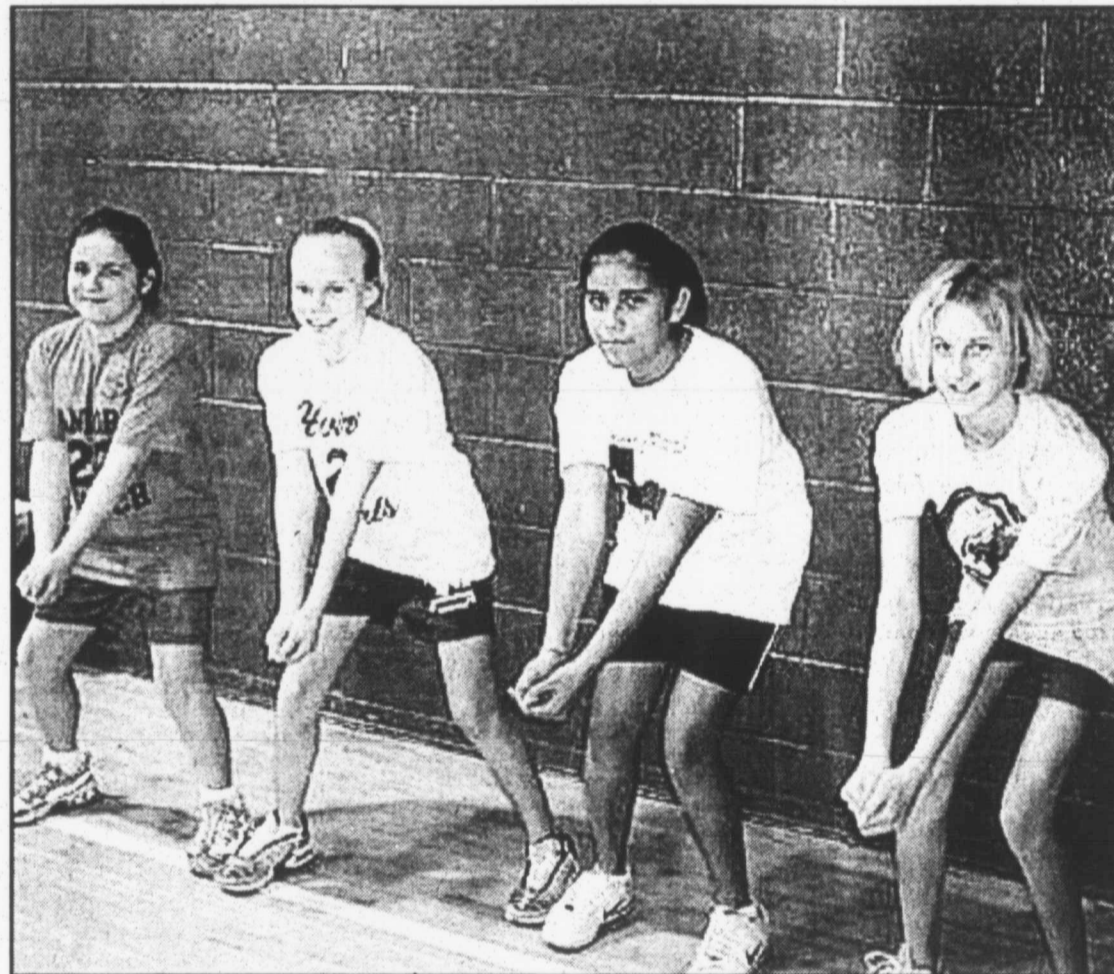
Even when he avoided a sack, he often got hit. And the Red Raiders were called for two roughing-the-passer penalties. Whitehurst left with 2:10 to go after taking a hard hit from linebacker Jeremy Woods, although Whitehurst walked off the field on his own.

"I honestly felt sorry for Whitehurst," Texas Tech defensive end Aaron Hunt said. "We hit him shot after shot after shot. Just like any other freshman, when you hit him, he gets rattled and starts running around and doing crazy things."

His receivers let him down, too, dropping at least five passes. Late in the first half, with Clemson driving, Whitehurst threw a perfect pass to Airese Currie at the goal line. But the ball bounced off Currie's shoulder pads and landed in the hands of Texas Tech safety Vincent Meeks with 31 seconds left.

After Meeks returned it 23 yards, three quick passes by Kingsbury moved the ball into field-goal range. Robert Treece kicked a 40-yarder on the last play of the half for a 34-2 lead.

"The score's pretty embarrassing," Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said. "Games that come down to the end of the fourth quarter, those are a little easier to take."



Volleyball players (l-r) Catelyn Hampton, Libby Dyson, Stephanie Jimenez and Kat Aler go through a drill during recent workouts. The Pampa Junior Volleyball League starts next month with the first games to be played Jan. 16 in the middle school gyms. "I am overwhelmed with the response to the program. We had 72 girls play last year and this year we have 95," says coach Kendra Reeves. "I have great coaches lined up and the girls will learn the basics of volleyball and have a lot of fun. I am very proud of my middle school program and starting even younger is awesome."

**Alabama is No. 1 in basketball**

**TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)** — Alabama is No. 1 in that other sport.

The school that has won six national football championships moved to the top of the AP college basketball poll for the first

time ever. The Crimson Tide (8-0) moved up one spot following Arizona's loss at LSU on Saturday night, giving the Top 25 a No. 1 team other than the Wildcats for the first time this season.

**Campo remains "positive"**

**IRVING, Texas (AP)** — Emmitt Smith knows all too well the uncertainty Dallas Cowboys coach Dave Campo is facing this week.

Smith has been hearing for months that he might be released after this season in a move that's both cost-cutting and youth-oriented. A week after becoming the leading rusher in NFL history, he even heard his backup calling for more playing time, then getting it.

Now Campo is the one with the bull's eye on his back.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones spent five hours last week talking to Bill Parcells, presumably about him taking the job Campo now holds. That intensified previous speculation that Jones was ready to make his third coaching change in six years.

"We're all in the same boat," Smith said. "When things hit the fan, it don't miss not one man. Every man shares in that adversity and those kinds of talk."

"Stuff is going to swirl around any time you go 5-10 and play the way we've played most of the year. You try to block it out and stay focused. I prefer not to play that game. I stay focused on what I have to do."

Campo is doing exactly that. In typical fashion, he showed up at work Monday thinking positive and trying to make everyone else upbeat, too.

"I haven't changed any of my motivation," he said. "I'm still

thinking about '03."

He told players in a team meeting that they should tune out all the talk about him and put their attention squarely on extending a 10-game winning streak against Washington, Dallas' opponent in the season finale Sunday.

"Coach came in and said what he wanted to say, then moved on to the Redskins," linebacker Kevin Hardy said. "He didn't seem any different than he's been all season long."



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# TENNIS 2002: It was all about Sampras and Serena

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

Tennis 2002 was mainly about Serena and Sampras.

For all the out-of-nowhere champions, fantastic comebacks and high-profile spats, the sport's most significant scenes came courtesy of the younger Williams and Pistol Pete.

Emerging as the best player in her home and the world, Williams swept the last three Grand Slam titles for what she called a "Serena Slam" — beating sister Venus each time.

If hers was the most impressive overall performance, Sampras' exclamation point of a U.S. Open had to be the most personally satisfying moment.

"This one may take the cake," Sampras said after beating Andre Agassi for a fifth U.S. Open title and record 14th in a Grand Slam event. "The way I've been going this year, to come through a very tough time and play like this — it was awesome."

He had been hounded for more than a year by questions about retirement. Sampras entered the Open with a 20-16 match record for the year, no titles since July 2000, and he even was written off by Greg Rusedski as "a step and a half slow" AFTER their match at Flushing Meadows.

The final against Agassi was a marquee matchup straight out of the early 1990s. Sampras is his generation's greatest server. Agassi is top returner, and each played the assigned role to perfection. Sampras boomed 33 aces at up to 132 mph, and won the point on 69 of 105 net trips. Agassi conjured up 19 ground-stroke winners to Sampras' 16.

Even Agassi acknowledged: "It

was special."

And maybe their sons will meet at the 2022 U.S. Open: Sampras' wife, actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras, gave birth in November; Agassi's wife, Steffi Graf, did last year.

In the afterglow of winning the Open, the 31-year-old Sampras sounded like someone ready to walk away. But by the middle of December, he had announced plans to keep playing and persuaded Paul Annacone to resume as his full-time coach.

Other players might want to think about asking whether Richard or Oracene Williams is available for lessons; they managed to raise the first two siblings to reach Nos. 1-2 in the rankings.

Venus — at 22, older by 15 months — and Serena claimed that distinction right after the French Open. At that point, Venus was No. 1, but Serena overtook her at Wimbledon and stayed on top.

They continued to grow as players and people on the sport's biggest stages.

After Serena won a mistake-strewn final at Roland Garros — 101 unforced errors, 14 double faults, 13 service breaks — Venus grabbed Oracene's camera and joined the photojournalists snapping shots of the champion with her trophy.

At Wimbledon, they were truly Slammin' Sisters: trading hard shots, getting to balls that would have been winners against anyone else. When it was over, with another victory for little sis, Venus — who had won two straight titles at the All England Club — leaned over and whispered: "You have to curtsy. Did you know that?"

Serena capped her run at the U.S. Open, where she didn't drop a set, the same as at Wimbledon.

"I was just tired of losing," said

Serena, who has just as many major titles as Venus, four. "Life was passing me by."

Serena went 56-5 (.918 winning percentage) with a tour-high eight titles (in 13 tournaments). Venus was 0-4 against Serena, 58-5 against everyone else.

In the 1990s, two siblings never met for a Grand Slam title. These sisters did it three times in as many months.

Lleyton Hewitt (who won Wimbledon and finished a second straight year at No. 1) and Amelie Mauresmo (twice a Grand Slam semifinalist) were among those wondering aloud whether fans want to see more all-Williams title matches.

"People may get sick of seeing the two of them playing in every Grand Slam final all the time," Hewitt said.

The only major where they didn't decide the title was the Australian Open, which Serena skipped with an ankle injury.

The champion there was Jennifer Capriati for a second straight time. That was her highlight; she didn't win another title and was off the Fed Cup team after fighting with captain Billie Jean King.

Capriati won in Melbourne by saving four match points against Martina Hingis, a record for a women's final at a major.

That actually was Hingis' high point, too. The former No. 1 had ankle surgery in May and pulled out of the French Open and Wimbledon — the first majors she missed since turning pro in 1994. She returned in August, then went back to rehab in October.

No comeback was more inspiring than Corina Morariu's. She returned to Grand Slam action less than 1 1/2 years after starting treatment for

leukemia, playing Serena Williams in the first round of the U.S. Open. Alas, now Morariu's sidelined up to six months after shoulder surgery.

Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin had knee surgery in January, and both were winning matches by the summer. Rubin won two titles, and Davenport reached finals at four of nine tournaments. Gustavo Kuerten, though, wasn't the same after hip surgery.

Other story lines:

— Thomas Johansson (Australian Open) and Albert Costa (French Open) shockingly won majors, David Nalbandian's first grass-court tourney ended with a loss to Hewitt in the Wimbledon final, and Sjeng Schalken made the U.S. Open semifinals.

— Paradorn Srichaphan of

Thailand vaulted from 126th to 16th in the rankings.

— Russia won its first Davis Cup title, Slovakia won its first Fed Cup title.

— Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Cedric Pioline and Sandrine Testud retired.

— Anna Kournikova didn't win a match at a major, extended her career-long title drought to more than 115 events, had an argument with a British TV interviewer, and threatened to sue Penthouse after it published nude pictures of another woman and billed them as photos of her. But perhaps the greatest indignity? Kournikova dropped to No. 2 (behind English soccer player David Beckham) on the list of most-viewed athletes on the Internet search engine Google.com.

## College Bowl Glance

<b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b> <b>Las Vegas Bowl</b> UCLA (7-5) vs. New Mexico (7-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	(ESPN2) <b>Peach Bowl</b> Maryland (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
<b>Hawaii Bowl</b> Tulane (7-5) vs. Hawaii (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>San Francisco Bowl</b> Air Force (8-4) vs. Virginia Tech (9-4), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
<b>Thursday, Dec. 26</b> <b>Motor City Bowl</b> Toledo (9-4) vs. Boston College (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Wednesday, Jan. 1</b> <b>Outback Bowl</b> Michigan (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
<b>Insight Bowl</b> Oregon State (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Cotton Bowl</b> LSU (8-4) vs. Texas (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)
<b>Friday, Dec. 27</b> <b>Houston Bowl</b> Southern Mississippi (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Gator Bowl</b> Notre Dame (10-2) vs. North Carolina State (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
<b>Independence Bowl</b> Nebraska (7-6) vs. Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Capital One Bowl</b> Penn State (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 1 p.m. (ABC)
<b>Holiday Bowl</b> Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arizona State (8-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Rose Bowl</b> Washington State (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 5 p.m. (ABC)
<b>Saturday, Dec. 28</b> <b>Alamo Bowl</b> Colorado (9-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Sugar Bowl</b> Georgia (12-1) vs. Florida State (9-4), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)
<b>Continental Tire Bowl</b> West Virginia (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)	<b>Thursday, Jan. 2</b> <b>Orange Bowl</b> At Miami
<b>Monday, Dec. 30</b> <b>Music City Bowl</b> Minnesota (7-5) vs. Arkansas (9-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Friday, Jan. 3</b> <b>Fiesta Bowl</b> Miami (12-0) vs. Ohio State (13-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)
<b>Seattle Bowl</b> Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Oregon (7-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)	<b>Saturday, Jan. 11</b> <b>East-West Shrine Classic</b> West vs. East, 2 p.m. (ESPN)
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 31</b> <b>Humanitarian Bowl</b> Iowa State (7-6) vs. Boise State (11-1), Noon (ESPN)	<b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> <b>Senior Bowl</b> South vs. North, 2 p.m. (ESPN)
<b>Sun Bowl</b> Washington (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)	<b>Saturday, Jan. 25</b> <b>Gridiron Classic</b> Team Florida vs. Team USA, 2 p.m. (ESPN2)
<b>Liberty Bowl</b> Colorado State (10-3) vs. TCU (9-2), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)	
<b>Silicon Valley Classic</b> Fresno State (8-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 3:30 p.m.	

## Spurs turn back Hornets in overtime, 99-94

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The New Orleans Hornets didn't hang their heads after an overtime loss to the San Antonio Spurs.

"I think that we did a really great job of just keeping in the game, and the character of

my team is incredible," Hornets coach Paul Silas said. "The character of this group — especially to hang in this ballgame, with this type of road trip we had, says a lot."

Tim Duncan had 29 points and tied a career high with 23

rebounds, while Bruce Bowen tied his career best with 21 points as the Spurs beat the Hornets 99-94 on Monday night.

"It was a fantastic game for us," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

## Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002: You have the unusual ability to make this year meaningful to you as well as to others. By pulling back and gaining a different perspective, many doors will open. Your understanding of others nearly makes you a minipsychologist. Take courses that allow you to add to your expertise, both professionally and emotionally, which will have a profound impact in your life after October 2003. If you are single, you will meet someone special who will make quite a difference in your life next fall. You'll be more than ready to greet many social and emotional opportunities. If attached, your relationship will develop because of your willingness to give more to others. VIRGO always adds a different perspective.

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) \*\*\*\*\* Start spreading the good will once you've opened all the presents. Make a call to someone at a distance. Touch base with others. Make that extra effort toward others. One-on-one relating adds that magic that Christmas is known for. Tonight: Stay even, while others cascade from one mood to another.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* Express your caring through your actions. Though you might not think you're doing very much, you actually are. Others see you as the ultimate giver. Ask for help if you feel overwhelmed. A partner could be delighted to be there for you. Tonight: Let someone know how much he or she means to you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* Ever playful, you add to everyone's day without any effort. Act on matters close to your heart. Get past an immediate snafu with a demanding friend or family member. You will, and do, make the difference that counts. Tonight: The world is your oyster.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* Reach out for others. Think of that person who might have been forgotten in the mix. Your thoughtfulness could help someone turn the corner with his or her feelings toward family and holidays. Express your caring. Tonight: Say what you feel.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Keep discussions moving in a new direction. You might become discouraged by what is going on. Not everyone can hold the spiritual values that you do. Instill, if possible, a bit more religious or spiritual content into the day. Tonight: Say "yes."  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Everything seems close to perfect. Don't let someone interfere with the joy and happiness you feel at the moment. Consider what might make a family member more comfortable. All you can do is your best. Tonight: Out and about.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Step back. You might not be content with everything that comes your way. Make the best of what is happening. Do something instinctive that makes a difference to those around you. Consider others' feelings. Tonight: Take your time.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Reach out for friends. Add a spare invitation or two, if need be. You might have to stretch the food a bit further, but ultimately, the happiness more

than justifies it. Others are simply happy to be together and enjoy themselves. Tonight: Where your friends are.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Take that additional step that will make the difference. Touch base with someone you deeply care about and whom you often put on a pedestal. Make room for someone else at your Christmas dinner. Tonight: Enjoy others to the wee hours.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* You might need to travel or make an important long-distance call to several close loved ones. You manage to reach others. Help others tune in to the true meaning of the holiday. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* Make an effort toward a partner and let him or her understand just how much you feel. Don't just swap gifts, also share feelings that you often keep to yourself. Discuss what you both might want from this tie. Tonight: As you like it.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* Others seem to dote on you. You might not know exactly what to say. Share more of what is happening within your immediate circle. Establish stronger ground rules with a difficult parent or associate. Tonight: Let someone dote on you.  
**BORN TODAY**  
Egyptian president Anwar Sadat (1918), Red Cross founder Clara Barton (1821), painter Maurice Utrillo (1883)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.  
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**Delivering Our Thanks**

We're ho-ho-hoping a bundle of good news and glad tidings lands on your doorstep every day of the holiday season. We appreciate your loyal readership

**The Pampa News**

Don't forget, we will not deliver papers Christmas Day so that we can spend time with family.

## Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002: Jump into action this year. You will find little reason not to do what you want. Maintaining a high level of focus could make all the difference you need and want. You might feel conflicted with work demands and/or your professional image. You find a way of making these differences work. Sometimes you can be very hard on yourself about not always achieving what you want. Be less demanding, and center on what you want and need. Others will become closer as well, as long as you don't become too exacting or demanding. If you are single, your relationship could take a startling twist or turn, as someone quite dynamic floats right through your door, probably at work. This person could knock your socks off. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit if you share more of your work with this person. LIBRA reads you loud and clear.

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) \*\*\*\*\* Know that the pressure is off. Others seek you out. You might be dismayed by what you hear, but on the other hand, you gain a new perspective on your life. Tension builds from others' expectations. Help others see this issue. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* Make an effort toward friends and loved ones. You allow others to help you see a different perspective. Your laughter helps others see what might not be realistic. Others have expectations that might be close to impossible to reach. Tonight: As you like it.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* Realize your limits more carefully when dealing with loved ones. Not everyone has to agree with what you say and think. Be willing to break ground. Use your creativity to allow others to see life from a more realistic perspective. Tonight: Play away.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* It might be the day after Christmas, but you still can enjoy some downtime with a child or loved one. Take the day off and don't get caught up in the post-season whirl. Realize your limits with a loved one you care about. Tonight: Happy at home.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Keep talks active, allowing many around you to share their ideas. Your verbal skills emerge, helping draw a different or new perspective. Not everything is as you see it. Take a risk and move forward in the near future. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Make an effort to touch base with others. Realize what is going on with a child or loved one. You could decide that someone close to you might be overly materialistic or touchy. Now is the time to shake up the status quo. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Your mood cheers others up, helping you to see situations with renewed and different interest. Handle a personal matter in a more direct and caring manner. Pressure builds with a family member. Tonight: As you like it.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Nearly everything is possible, but right now you might be too worn out to see it. Don't push yourself too hard; remember, we all easily tend to go into overload. Ask for extra space and time, if need be. Think positively. Tonight: Good night's sleep.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Friends call with a lot of news. Listen; in fact, it might be easier to set up plans and get together with others. You could find that many around you want and need the change of pace. Go for a leisurely few days. Tonight: Where your friends are.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Typically, when others cannot get their work done, you can. Now, how fun can it be to go to the office and work? Yet others count on you doing just that. Understand when you've had enough. Call it an early day, if possible. Tonight: A must appearance.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* You might not be able to make the impression on others that you would like. Know when you've had enough, or when you need to go in a different direction. If possible, schedule a day trip, or relax by doing something unique. Yes, difference works. Tonight: Head in your own direction.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* Don't disagree with a partner. You could be confused about what is going on with this person. The best approach is to start talking and opening up. You might be amazed by how different the two of you are. Tonight: Togetherness works.  
**BORN TODAY**  
Talk-show host Alan King (1927), actor Richard Widmark (1914), founder of People's Republic of China Mao Tse-tung (1893)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
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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.

### 12-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

F M Q U M G Y F Q U F K W H M F  
G R F M Q L Q E Y W U  
I M Y W U F S E U Q A Q — R Y G S  
U T K C G Z K F G U G K T N .  
— P T Y F G K M W J J W U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOME: THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR CORN ON THE COB AND SOUP. — SOURCE UNKNOWN

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.

### 12-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q K H Y K T O K G F K G F M D A -  
P Z C C Y F J Q O Z B U R K B F K A K G F  
K I O D B I Y O D N B G Y V A Y K O .

— A D N O I N X X C Y Y F Z U D O B  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SHORTEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR IS CHRISTMAS EVE — FROM SUNDOWN TO SON UP. — BURTON HILLIS

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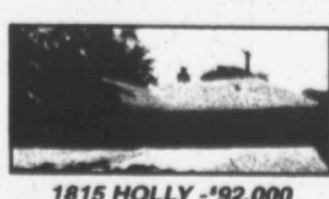
2210 NELSON - \$34,000  
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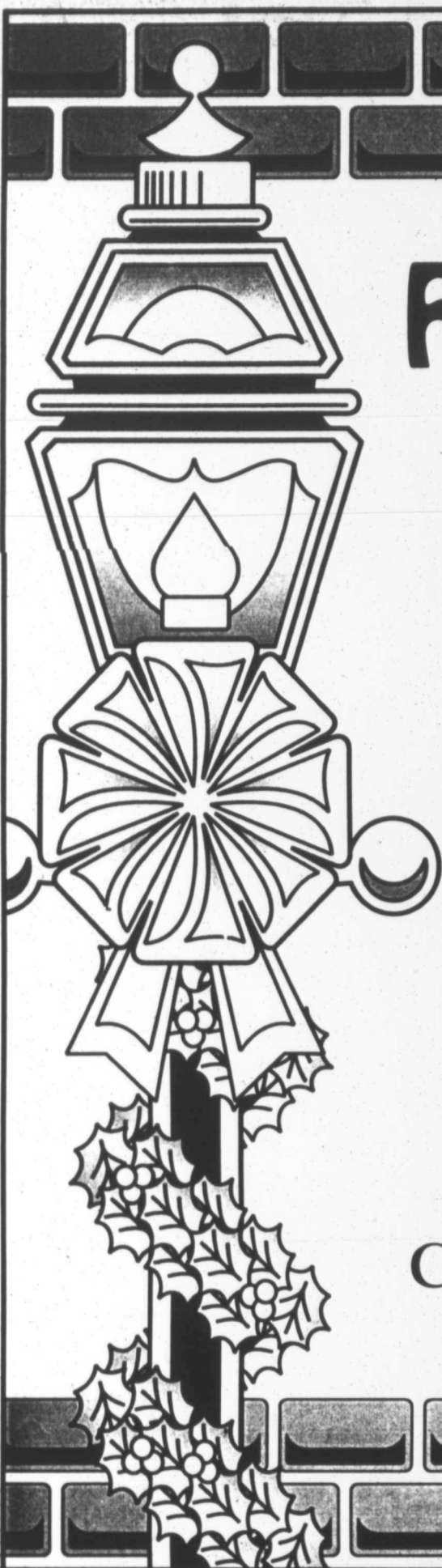
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## Medicare cuts impacts nursing home residents

By MARY ANN ROSER  
AUSTIN  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN

WIMBERLEY, Texas — John Lee struggles to stand and stay steady while gripping his walker in the rehabilitation room at Deer Creek nursing home. After taking a few shaky steps, Lee sinks into a nearby chair. The staff applauds as he cracks a triumphant grin.

Lee's fight to get back the active life he had before a stroke in June has been slow and plodding. His wife, Petesie, says they are lucky he can convalesce close to their home in Wimberley, in a place they like and trust.

But the latest cuts in the federal Medicare program, which provides health coverage to elderly and disabled people, have nursing home administrator Todd Mackenzie wondering how long his facility can keep up the level of service it has been providing.

Rehabilitation is expensive, and Deer Creek of Wimberley could end up putting some of those services on the chopping block if Congress doesn't restore Medicare funding next year, Mackenzie said.

"We can't go on forever," he said. "You can only provide a service in the red for so long."

Mackenzie and several other Central Texas nursing home operators said that since the government cut the average payment for a Medicare patient from \$330 a day to \$295 starting Oct. 1, they're barely making a profit.

Some are facing tough choices. Already, Mackenzie has laid off four people and cut a fifth person's hours to part time. Douglas Howerton, owner of four homes in Austin, has refused to admit some patients needing more costly care than what the government covers.

Michael Heath Sr., chief operating officer of Sunrise Senior Care, manager of eight Central Texas homes, said the cut will "affect everything from the way I buy food to the way I give raises."

"For 70 to 80 percent of the providers in Texas, it's going to have a significant effect if Congress doesn't change this decision," said Tim Graves, president of the Texas Health Care Association. "It's just a wrongheaded way to go, especially in Texas, which has a low Medicaid rate."

States provide health coverage to the poor, including the majority of nursing home residents, through the Medicaid program. But most states pay more to cover Medicaid patients than Texas does.

And that makes the federal government's latest Medicare cuts all the more painful, Graves said.

Homes feel squeezed by both government programs. The latest Medicare cuts, totaling 10 percent, or \$1.7 billion nationally for skilled care, will cost Texas nursing homes about \$90 million in the federal fiscal year that began Oct. 1, Graves said.

At Howerton's homes, Medicaid pays between \$70 and \$125 a day for each patient it covers, not counting therapy and medications, for which Medicaid pays extra, Howerton said. Medicare, on the other hand, gives a lump sum payment, and the average \$295 that homes get per patient each day is supposed to cover everything.

The rest of patients, called "private pay," cover their expenses out of their own pockets: about \$115 a day for room and board and extra for medications, physician services and therapy, Howerton said.

Nursing home administrators said they sometimes use Medicare payments to subsidize the cost of Medicaid patients.

"Is that appropriate? I don't know if I'm the one who should answer that," Heath said. "It's allowed us to give services to some who otherwise wouldn't have gotten it."

About 10 percent of the patients in his nursing homes are on Medicare.

Over the years, hospitals in Austin have shuttered their skilled nursing care units, partly because of declining government payments for health care.

In January, South Austin Hospital will close its 20-bed skilled nursing facility, which serves patients who no longer need acute nursing care but aren't ready to go home. St. David's HealthCare Partnership, which runs South Austin Hospital, kept the unit open as long as it could, even though "this has not been a moneymaker for us," said Jon Foster, president and chief executive of the partnership.

"Things have gotten to the point where the beds are so tight on the medical/surgical side that we've had to prioritize our bed space and create more capacity for acute-care patients," he said.

The Medicare cuts were a smaller part of the equation to close the unit, Foster said.

At the Wimberley home, 22 of the 118 patients are on Medicare, and the rest are on Medicaid or pay out of their own pockets.

Dr. Sharon McGeeney, the home's medical director and attending physician, said the home has to be more selective when admitting patients. Her physician fees for treating Medicare patients were cut 5 percent last year and will shrink another 4.5 percent in January, she said.

(See 'CUTS,' Page 14)

## 2CARE program kiosk open for business

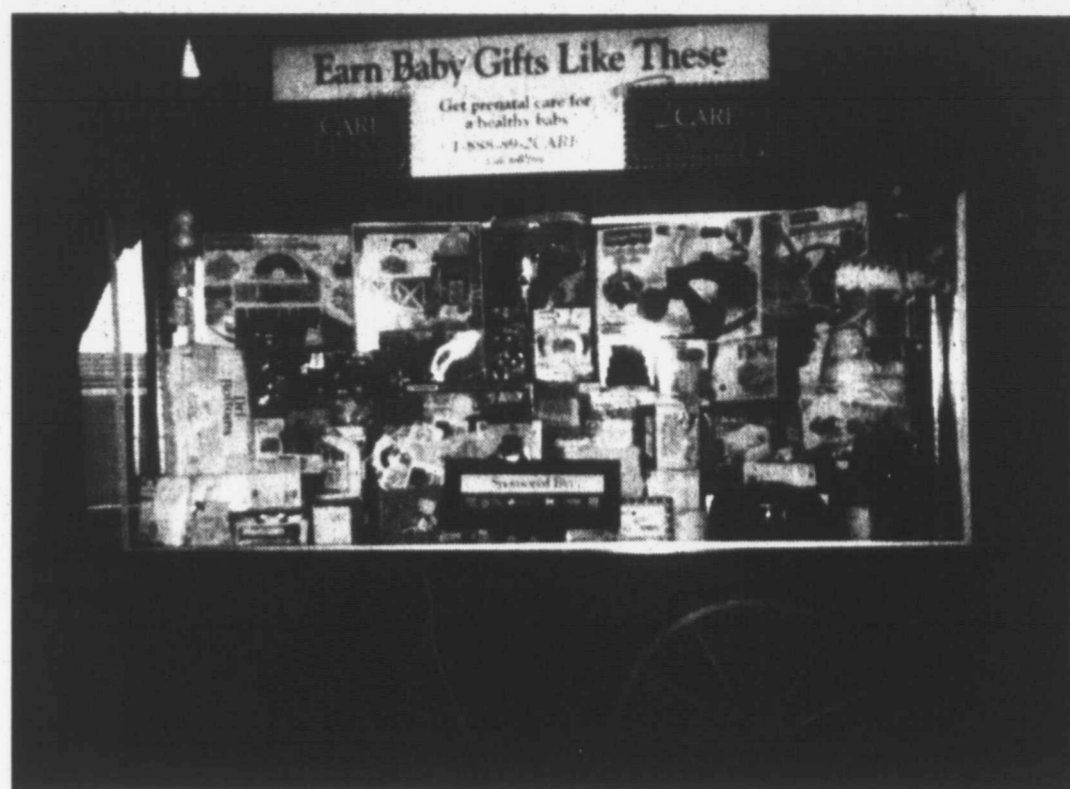
The Baby's Coming Shop kiosk opened recently in Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC) in Pampa and has had a number of local and area moms visit. Some redeemed gift cards, others came to browse and plan.

The kiosk, located in the lobby of the North Medical Office Building, has a permanent display of possible gifts to be earned through 2CARE for MOMS and Babies programs.

Pampa providers for 2CARE for Babies are Dr. Nguyen, Dr. Simoneta Soriano, Family Medicine Center, and Planned Parenthood of Pampa. This program educates parents about the importance of well-baby check-ups and is open to any baby up to one year of age who is being seen by one of these Pampa providers.

Even though the PRMC obstetrical unit is temporarily closed, the Women's Health Clinic continues to see expectant mothers and to enroll them in the 2CARE for MOMS program.

Moms from Pampa and the surrounding communities who see a provider physician or clinic during their pregnancy may continue to utilize the Pampa gift room kiosk rather than travel to Amarillo to redeem their gift



(Courtesy photo)

A service of 2CARE for MOMS and Babies program, this kiosk — located in the lobby of North Medical Office Building at Pampa Regional Medical Center — is still available to expectant mothers in Pampa and the surrounding communities.

cards after the birth of their baby. Continued support from Pampa organizations and individuals for providing these gifts for the Baby's Coming Shop

Satellite is a great help. The Gift Room is located in the Hughes Bldg., Suite 252. Hours are by appointment.

For more information or to

make a donation, call 664-2459. Judith Loyd, AmeriCorps-VISTA volunteer, will be happy to make an appointment to suit your convenience.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**CUTS.**

"We couldn't take a breast cancer patient because of the cost of resources," McGeeney said. "We have the ability to do any care that needs to be done, but we have to send people out because we can't afford it."

Mackenzie also has reduced administrative support positions. His nurse-to-patient ratios are well below the state average, and he knows he can't cut there. The company that owns the home, Mariner Health Care of Atlanta, just came out of bankruptcy in July and wants to stay in business,

**A** vonne Dumas, 69, who was released from the home last week after recovering from a broken leg, said she intends to write Congress about the cuts. Her only complaint about the home was that she sometimes waited 30 to 40 minutes for an aide because of short staffing, a problem facing many health-care facilities.

Mackenzie said.

But nursing home expenses continue to rise. For example, the company's share of health insurance costs for employees is doubling at Deer Creek, Mackenzie said.

"You're going to see long-term care facilities get out of the Medicare program," he predicted.

John Lee, 78, is on Medicare, which covers his bed, board and care, including three hours of rehabilitation services each day. Mackenzie's nursing home is the only one in Wimberley that provides the rehabilitation services. Without it, Petesie Lee would have a long drive out of town to visit her husband.

Katherine Whitsett, 61, lives in Wimberley and comes to Deer Creek three times a week for rehabilitation after having knee replacement surgery.

"I've gotten to where I can

almost straighten my leg," Whitsett said, holding her leg flat on a bed. "I'm not eligible for Medicare," which starts at age 65, she said, "but I'm going to need it."

Avonne Dumas, 69, who was released from the home last week after recovering from a broken leg, said she intends to write Congress about the cuts. Her only complaint about the home was that she sometimes waited 30 to 40 minutes for an aide because of short staffing, a problem facing many health-care facilities.

Petesie Lee said she also will write to Congress because she fears services, such as the ones her husband desperately needs, will be cut.

"I believe in this facility," she said. "They've had him up and walking. It's been miraculous."

Distributed by The Associated Press

**American, other big airlines taking cues from Southwest**

By BRAD FOSS  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Fat and happy just a few years ago, the nation's biggest airlines experienced the corporate equivalent of a heart attack in 2002. Now they are desperately trying to become lean and mean to ensure a healthier future — or any future at all.

With industrywide losses approaching \$9 billion for the year, carriers such as American, United and Delta shed employees and excess planes, eliminated travel agents' commissions and levied new fees on everything from extra baggage to alcoholic beverages.

The biggest airlines also sought inspiration from Dallas-based Southwest Airlines, the soundest major carrier around and the only one to consistently report quarterly profits during the industry's worst downturn ever.

For example, American overhauled flight schedules at its hubs to use planes and employees more efficiently, reduced the number of different jets it flies to cut maintenance costs and tested a new fare structure to offer lower prices for business travelers — each a nod to the Southwest way. The Fort Worth-based carrier also asked employees to forgo raises next year and said it wants to change work rules to cut annual expenses by more than \$3 billion annually.

"In the long run, the low-cost airlines were going to eat our lunch," Daniel P. Garton, American's executive vice president of marketing, said during a recent interview at the company's headquarters.

It was that same conviction that led Delta and United in 2002 to announce plans to launch their own budget air-

lines, which will offer point-to-point service and compete with Southwest and smaller imitators such as JetBlue, AirTran and Frontier.

Delta chairman Leo Mullin described the Atlanta-based carrier's goal bluntly: "To meet the low-fare carriers head on — first, to halt their progress and then to regain competitive share."

The low-cost, low-fare strategy proved both prescient and profitable at a time when travelers had become extremely frugal. With passenger demand and domestic ticket prices down nearly 15 percent from 2000 — the most recent profitable year for the industry — the dropoff in revenue was steep enough to force United and US Airways to file for bankruptcy.

By comparison, the cost advantage at Southwest is overwhelming enough that it can sell even cheaper tickets than its competitors and still prosper.

A study by a transportation consultant at Unisys found that the expense per-seat, per-mile at Southwest was 33 percent lower than the industrywide average in the first quarter of 2002.

Both United and US Airways hope to emerge from Chapter 11 as sleeker airlines and, if they're successful, analysts say it could encourage further cost savings within the beleaguered industry. Assuming United and US Airways reorganize with lower cost structures, analysts expect executives at other airlines to have increased leverage during contract negotiations with their own workers and vendors.

The long-term impact on consumers is likely to be

mixed, analysts said. As airlines lower their costs, they should be able to support lower ticket prices. However, to squeeze savings from operations, carriers are likely to offer fewer perks at the airport and in-flight.

Garton said American is evaluating the costs and benefits of a wide range of services, including premium check-in and frequent flier rewards, as it decides which can be cut or curtailed and which must be preserved. He insisted that American doesn't need to get its costs or ticket prices as low as Southwest's as long as it offers a higher-quality product. Even so, Garton said, "we're all about narrowing that gap."

That gap grew but was not obvious during the 1990s, when rising costs at carriers such as American, United and Delta were offset by increasing demand for air travel and passengers' willingness to pay more for tickets — luxuries they could afford when the economy was expanding.

But when the economy soured, family vacation budgets shrank and corporate travelers had a tougher time getting approval for trips that previously were not an issue.

The decline in spending by corporations was particularly painful for the major airlines because business travelers often purchased tickets at the last minute, thus paying several times more per ticket than leisure travelers. To continue traveling, many business fliers began behaving more like cost-conscious leisure fliers, searching for cheap fares on the Internet, booking far in advance and scheduling itineraries that included a Saturday night stay.

(See 'AIRLINES,' Page 15)

**State parent conference scheduled in Amarillo**

AMARILLO — The Migrant Program at Region 16 Education Service Center will host the 23rd Annual Texas Parent Coordinating Conference on Feb. 5-7 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Area educators and parents are encouraged to register now for the state event, sponsored by the Texas Education Agency's divisions of Migrant Education, Bilingual/ESL Education and Title I Part A Education.

Authors, Elva Trevino Hart ("Barefoot Heart") and John Erickson ("Hank the Cowdog") will speak at the general sessions, which will also feature performances from Lone Star Rising, Kwahadi Dancers, and Angela

Davis, the Yarnspinner. Additionally the conference will feature numerous sessions on educational issues and strategies to help students successfully complete high school and access further education and career opportunities and more.

Optional field trips are also planned to the Amarillo Museum of Art, the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum and Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon.

Cost for the conference, which includes five meals, is \$50 if paid by Jan. 10. After that date, cost is \$100. For additional information, contact Susan Nevad at (806) 677-5150.



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Matthew 2:9-10

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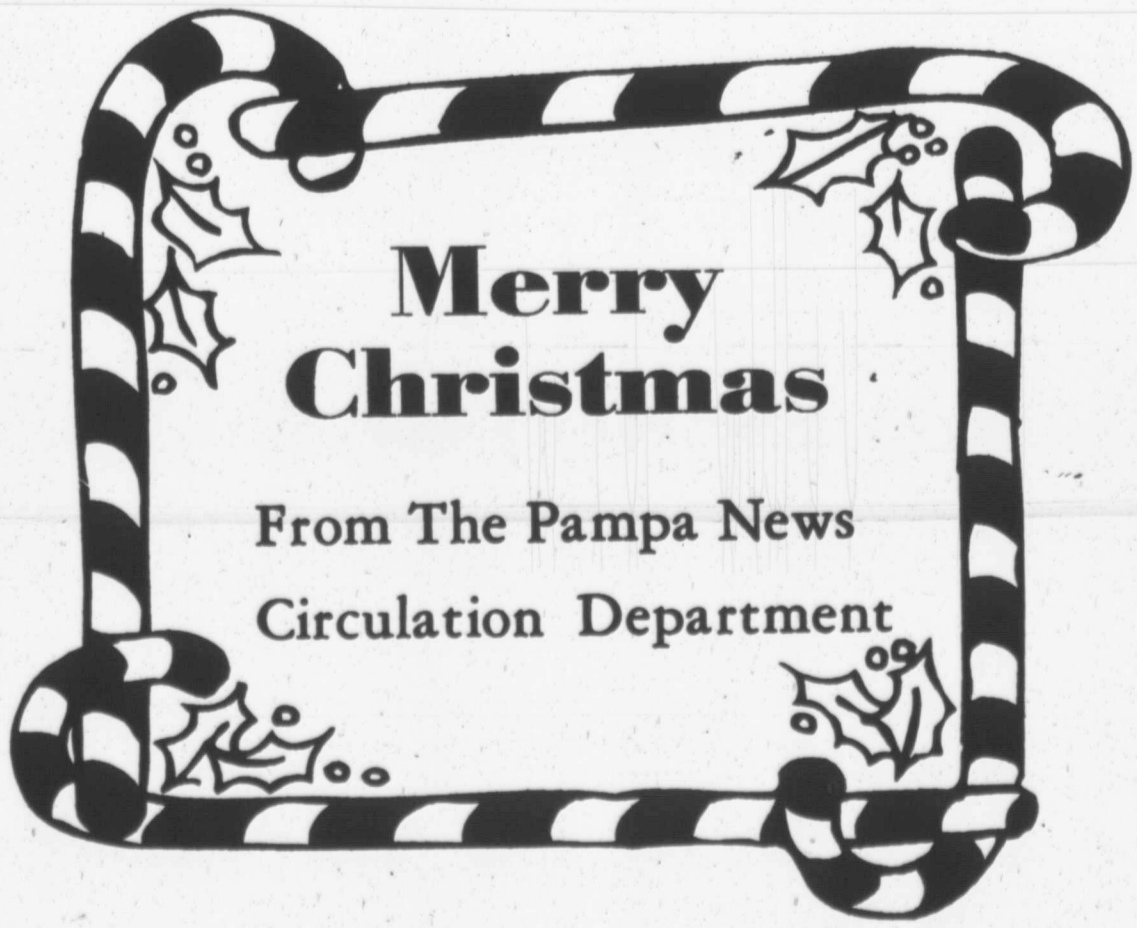
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**Merry Christmas**

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Circulation Department

**Table A — preliminary**

1. GAINES
2. ANDREWS
3. YOAKUM
4. HOCKLEY
5. ECTOR
6. CRANE
7. MIDLAND
8. SCURRY
9. PECOS
10. UPTON

**RR**

AUSTIN — Commission original d November 2 in Novembe The Nov 603 permits gas wells, 2 well bores, pletions. I

**NAS**

BY MAR AP AEROS

CAPE CA (AP) — Is th studio in the How can the there's no wii Why can't w moon-landing For three has taken t ignoring th the Apollo were faked colossal gove acy.

The claim: questions lik here mostly books and on last year's pri special on "moon ho schoolteacher plead with N. ammunition to So a few r space agen \$15,000 to hir et scientist an duce a small b

**AIRLIN**

Then came ind demand rimped by fe and the perce security meas ravel more of was worth. A ately America Delta cut bac and jobs, whi secured \$5 b emergency fur federal govern But as mult faily loss throughout 200 more fundame American, Uni became increas "There was hat they could et returns to aid David Tre of New York onsultancy SF While the

**Table A — October Texas Top 10 Oil/Gas Producing Counties ranked by preliminary production ...**

COUNTY	CRUDE OIL (BBL)	COUNTY	TOTAL GAS (MCF)
1. GAINES	2,660,204	1. HIDALGO	22,634,248
2. ANDREWS	2,280,485	2. ZAPATA	20,768,929
3. YOAKUM	2,061,023	3. WEBB	20,719,512
4. HOCKLEY	1,840,720	4. PANOLA	19,548,662
5. ECTOR	1,596,722	5. FREESTONE	18,522,861
6. CRANE	861,297	6. PECOS	17,159,746
7. MIDLAND	838,512	7. STARR	14,508,662
8. SCURRY	802,753	8. WISE	10,806,880
9. PECOS	758,674	9. CROCKETT	8,992,732
10. LPTON	644,600	10. DENTON	7,651,686

**Table B — November Texas Oil/Gas drilling permits and completions by district ...**

RAILROAD COMMISSION DISTRICT	PERMITS TO DRILL OIL/GAS HOLES	OIL COMPLETIONS	GAS COMPLETIONS
(1) SAN ANTONIO AREA	30	7	11
(2) REFUGIO AREA	64	11	19
(3) SOUTHEAST TEXAS	72	26	33
(4) DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	116	5	87
(5) EAST CENTRAL TX	57	6	34
(6) EAST TEXAS	73	1	42
(7) WEST CENTRAL TX	46	7	7
(7C) SAN ANGELO AREA	75	16	70
(8) MIDLAND	102	63	9
(8A) LUBBOCK AREA	53	44	1
(9) NORTH TEXAS	79	13	41
(10) PANHANDLE	34	5	30

## RRC posts oil, gas statistics

AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission issued a total of 801 original drilling permits in November 2002 compared to 776 in November 2001.

The November total included 603 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 25 to re-enter existing well bores, and 173 for re-completions. Permits issued in

November 2002 included 165 oil, 231 gas, 374 oil and gas, 25 injection, two service, and four other permits.

Texas preliminary October 2002 crude oil production averaged 927,607 barrels daily, down from the 988,140 barrels daily average of October 2001.

The preliminary Texas crude oil

production figure for October 2002 is 28,755,829 barrels, a decrease from 30,632,330 barrels reported during October 2001.

In November 2002, operators reported 204 oil, 384 gas, 17 injection, and three others compared to 220 oil, 513 gas, 18 injection and four other completions during November 2001.

Total well completions for 2002 year to date are 8,638 up from 8,519 recorded during the same period in 2001.

Operators reported 320 holes plugged and 64 dry holes in November 2002 compared to 743 plugged and 85 dry holes in November 2001.

Texas oil and gas wells pro-

duced 433,170,079 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for October 2002, down from the October 2001 preliminary gas production total of 444,166,800 Mcf.

Texas production in October 2002 came from 133,966 oil and 53,594 gas wells.

## NASA stumped as to how best to counter claims of faked moon landings

By MARCIA DUNN  
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Is that the moon or a studio in the Nevada desert? How can the flag flutter when there's no wind on the moon? Why can't we see stars in the moon-landing pictures?

For three decades, NASA has taken the high road, ignoring those who claimed the Apollo moon landings were faked and part of a colossal government conspiracy.

The claims and suspicious questions like the ones cited here mostly showed up in books and on the Internet. But last year's prime-time Fox TV special on the so-called "moon hoax" prompted schoolteachers and others to plead with NASA for factual ammunition to fight back.

So a few months ago, the space agency budgeted \$15,000 to hire a former rocket scientist and author to produce a small book refuting the

disbelievers' claims. It would be written primarily with teachers and students in mind.

The idea backfired, however, embarrassing the space agency for responding to ignorance, and the book deal was chucked.

"The issue of trying to do a targeted response to this is just lending credibility to something that is, on its face, asinine," NASA chief Sean O'Keefe said in late November after the dust settled.

So it's back to square one: ignoring the hoaxers. That's troubling to some scientific experts who contend that someone needs to lead the fight against scientific illiteracy and the growing belief in pseudoscience like aliens and astrology.

Someone like NASA.

"If they don't speak out, who will?" asks Melissa Pollak, a senior analyst at the National Science Foundation.

Author James Oberg will. The former space shuttle

flight controller plans to write the book NASA commissioned from him even though the agency pulled the plug. He's seeking money elsewhere. His working title: "A Pall Over Apollo."

Tom Hanks will speak out, too.

The Academy Award-winning actor, who starred in the 1995 movie "Apollo 13" and later directed the HBO miniseries "From the Earth to the Moon," is working on another lunar-themed project. The IMAX documentary will feature Apollo archival footage. Its title: "Magnificent Desolation," astronaut Buzz Aldrin's real-time description of the moon on July 20, 1969.

While attending the Cape Canaveral premiere of the IMAX version of "Apollo 13" in November, Hanks said the film industry has a responsibility to promote historical literacy. He took a job at the 1978 movie "Capricorn One," which had NASA's first manned mission to Mars

being faked on a sound stage.

"We live in a society where there is no law in making money in the promulgation of ignorance or, in some cases, stupidity," Hanks said. "There are a lot of things you can say never happened. You can go as relatively quasi-harmless as saying no one went to the moon. But you also can say that the Holocaust never happened."

A spokesman for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington says there will always be those who will not be convinced. But the museum does not engage them in debate.

The spokesman acknowledges, however, that if a major news channel was doing a program that questioned the authenticity of the Holocaust, "I'd certainly want to inject myself into the debate with them in a very forceful way."

Television's Fox Network was the moon-hoax purveyor. In February 2001 and again a month later, Fox broadcast an hourlong program titled "Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon?"

Roger Launius, who agreed to Oberg's book just before leaving NASA's history office, says the story about the moon hoax has been around a long time. But the Fox show "raised it to a new level, it gave it legs and credibility that it didn't have before."

Indeed, the National Science Foundation's Pollak says two of her colleagues, after watching the Fox special, thought it was possible that NASA faked the moon landings. "These are people who work at NSF," she stresses.

The story went — and still

goes — something like this: America was desperate to beat the Soviet Union in the high-stakes race to the moon, but lacked the technology to pull it off. So NASA faked the six manned moon landings in a studio somewhere out West.

(See 'MOON,' Page 17)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### AIRLINES

Then came Sept. 11, 2001, and demand was further cramped by fears of terrorism and the perception that new security measures made air travel more of a hassle than it was worth. Almost immediately American, United and Delta cut back on capacity and jobs, while the industry secured \$5 billion cash in emergency funding from the federal government.

But as multimillion-dollar daily losses persisted throughout 2002, the need for more fundamental changes at American, United and Delta became increasingly clear.

"There was a realization that they couldn't bet on market returns to save them," said David Treitel, chairman of New York-based airline consultancy SH&E Inc.

While the hub-and-spoke

carriers are making progress as far as cost-cutting goes, they still have a long way to go.

The major carriers — excluding Southwest — are on pace to lose more money in 2001, 2002 and 2003 than they made during the nine years previous, according to Unisys. The outlook for 2003 is especially murky because of the threat of war in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the focus on reducing expenses at American and other big carriers has not gone unnoticed at Southwest, which is also experiencing greater competition from growing low-fare rivals such as JetBlue.

To be sure, Southwest is not sitting still. In the past year it lowered the ceiling on its fares by 25 percent to lure more cost-conscious business travelers from network carriers, reached new contract agreements with pilots, mechanics and ramp workers

and expanded service while the major carriers cut back.

Southwest president Colleen Barrett recently responded to a journalist's question by saying that one of her biggest concerns was "the assumption that we're invincible."

"It's just not as easy as it used to be," Barrett said.

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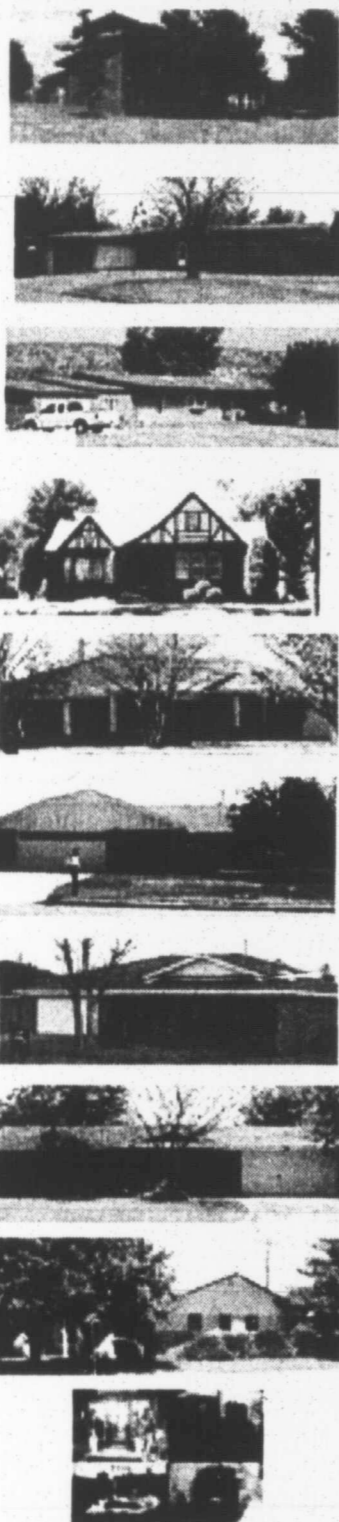
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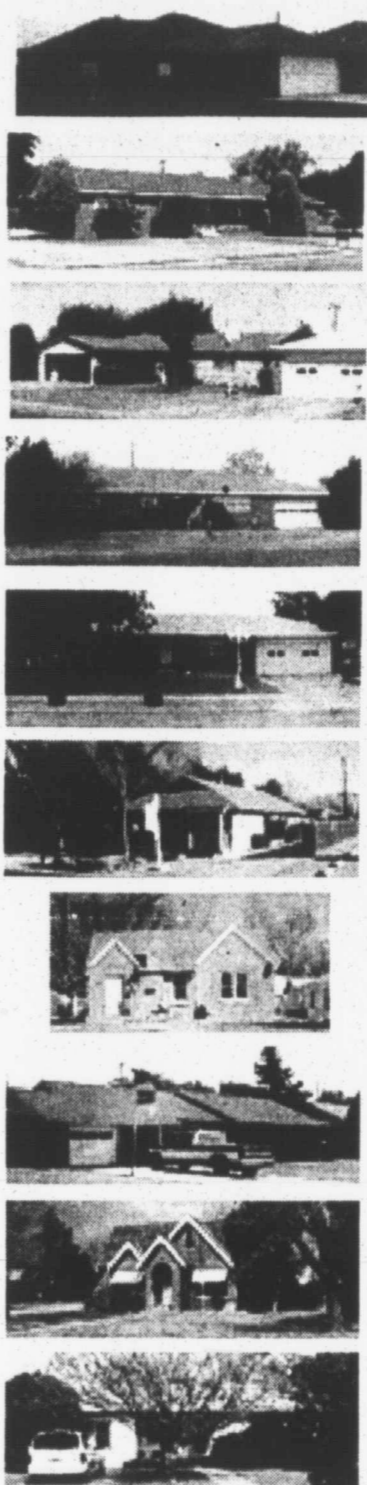


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# How to know what's naughty and what's nice

By SHELBY HODGE  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — We saw it with our own eyes. The dinner guest changed the place cards. The hostess changed them back. The dinner guest then ignored the place cards and sat at the desired seat even though the name and the face did not match.

"I know my name was here," the guest noted with a certain impatience. "I saw it earlier. Someone must have changed the cards."

Indeed. This is not the way to start the holiday party season. Charlotte Ford, author of "21st Century Etiquette," says, "I think that is so unbelievably rude. Those are the kinds of people you don't want to ever invite again."

Being banned from the social circuit is harsh punishment for a party faux pas. However, there are maddening behaviors exhibited by guests that can challenge the patience of every host.

To ensure that you don't stray into the realm of unacceptable behavior in either giving or attending a holiday party, we offer a few reminders.

Honor your RSVPs. You've heard it a thousand times. A good guest makes his RSVP in a timely fashion and lives by the commitment. Last-minute cancellations, short of hospitalization or divorce, are unacceptable.

Also, showing up at a party after having declined is a major no-no. It wrecks havoc with seating plans and food allotment.

Monitor your alcohol consumption. Nothing is more unattractive or socially deadly than an overserved guest. When you make the rounds of several parties in one night, the alcohol intake can sneak up on you.

At least for the holidays, skip the at-home drinky before going out. There is no need to prime the pump during the busy party season.

No double-dipping. The temptation is strong. The boiled shrimp are tasty, and even tastier with loads of red sauce. But once you've bitten into that hors d'oeuvre — be it a shrimp, a chip or an empanada — there is no additional dipping into the

sauce. It's unsanitary, and it's gross.

Observe the invitation timetable. Do not arrive early to a party. Some hosts are last-minute types who won't have the lipstick on or the shoes tied until the designated moment of arrival.

Likewise, do not overextend your stay. If the party is from 6 to 8, your hosts may well have plans for dinner afterward. If it is from 7 to 10, do not linger unless invited by your hosts to remain.

Be on time for seated dinners. The beef tenderloin chills, the corn souffle falls and the ice cream parfait melts if the guests are overly late.

Arriving fashionably late means no more than 15 minutes after the appointed hour in someone's home.

If it's a small restaurant gathering, guests are expected to arrive on time. If it is a larger party with 20 or more people, the line is often more flexible.

Cheek with your host if you plan on being late or cutting short the cocktail hour, which in some homes can be only 30 minutes.

Do not confuse eating utensils with conductor's batons. Waving knives and forks in the air as you talk over dinner is verboten.

Welcome your guests graciously. At least one party host should always be at the door to greet guests, to direct them, to make them feel at ease. All hosts should make a point of welcoming every guest at some time during the party.

Respect the power of fragrance. The tendency is to practically bathe in cologne or perfume, and the battle between Tresor and Escada at a single table is ghastly.

A strong scent over lunch or dinner is louder than a police siren, and it dampens your table-mates' enthusiasm for the meal. Go easy on the perfume. Please.

Kiss with caution. Mistletoe above the door does not automatically give a host or guest the go-ahead for a big kiss on the lips. Air kisses, as silly as they may seem, serve a purpose in greeting.

(See 'MANNERS,' Page 20)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

## MOON

Ralph Rene, a retired carpenter in Passaic, N.J., takes it one step farther. The space fakery started during the Gemini program, according to Rene, author of the 1992 book, "NASA Mooned America!"

"I don't know what real achievements they've done because when do you trust a liar?" Rene says. "I know we have a shuttle running right around above our heads, but that's only 175 miles up. It's under the shield. You cannot go through the shield and live."

He's talking, of course, about the radiation shield.

Alex Roland, a NASA historian during the 1970s and early 1980s, says his office used to have "a kook drawer" for such correspondence and never took it very seriously. But there were no prime-time TV shows disputing the moon landings then — and no Internet.

Still, Roland would be inclined to "just let it go because you'll probably just make it worse by giving it any

official attention."

Within NASA, opinions were split about a rebuttal book. Oberg, a Houston-based author of 12 books, mostly about the Russian space program, said ignoring the problem "just makes this harder. To a conspiracy mind, refusing to respond is a sign of cover-up."

Phil Plait, a Sonoma State University astronomer who picks apart the moon hoaxers' claims on his "Bad Astronomy" Web site, agrees that NASA should have followed through with the book but understands why it didn't.

"It became, as things like this do, a media circus. And by circus, I mean more like carnival," Plait says, toot-toot-tooting like a calliope. He warns, "There's a lot of antisemitic thinking and if this stuff is allowed to continue, it's going to spell doom for our country."

Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell does not know what else, if anything, can be done to confront this moon madness.

"All I know is that somebody sued me because I said I went to the moon," says the

74-year-old astronaut. "Of course, the courts threw it out."

The authorities also threw out the case involving Apollo 11 moonwalker Aldrin in September.

A much bigger and younger man was hounding the 72-year-old astronaut in Beverly Hills, Calif., calling him "a coward and a liar and a thief" and trying to get him to swear on a Bible, on camera, that he walked on the moon. Aldrin, a Korean War combat pilot, responded with a fist in the chops.

Compare this with the gentle disbelievers of yesteryear. For its last manned moon

shot 30 years ago this month, NASA invited Charlie Smith, a former slave reputed to be 130 years old. Smith was impressed by the nighttime liftoff of Apollo 17, but said afterward he still did not believe the astronauts were flying to the moon. "It just can't happen," he insisted.

Ron Howard's grandfather also did not believe men went to the moon. Howard grew up to become the director of "Apollo 13."

On the Net:  
Author James Oberg: www.jamesoberg.com  
Astronomer Phil Plait: www.badastronomy.com

# Combs urges producers 'stand up, be counted'

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs today urged Texas producers to be on the lookout for the 2002 Census of Agriculture surveys, which will be mailed Dec. 16, and to promptly fill out the report forms on behalf of their operations.

"Watch for a large white envelope with the words 2002 Census of Agriculture printed in green on the outside. This is definitely not junk mail — this is the largest information-gathering project for agriculture, and we need producers across Texas to put pen to paper and be counted among the nation's farmers and ranchers," Combs said.

Farm and ranch organizations use Census data to evaluate and propose programs that help producers. Policymakers refer to the data when they draft agricultural legislation. State and local governments use the information for rural development planning, while researchers use the data to develop new technologies to keep agriculture progressive.

"It's a chance for farmers and ranchers to shape the way agricultural policies meet the changing needs of today's produc-

er," Combs said. "The information comes straight from the source — the producer."

Not only is it in the best interest of producers to fill out the survey, U.S. law requires a response from all producers who receive a Census report, even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2002. This same law also guarantees that their information is kept strictly confidential. Completed forms are due by Feb. 3, 2003.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted once every five years and gathers information about land use and ownership, acres irrigated, crop acreage and quantities harvested, livestock and poultry inventories, value of products sold, participation in federal farm programs and more. New to the 2002 Census will be questions on computer and Internet use and on new commodities such as bison, elk, llamas, deer, emus and ostriches.

For more information on the 2002 Census of Agriculture, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service web site at [www.usda.gov/nass](http://www.usda.gov/nass) or call (888) 4AG-STAT.



### Let The Holiday Spirit Ring!

It's the most wonderful time of year to celebrate kindness, friendship and family. We're grateful to have you in our family of customers, and we wish you all the best this holiday season.

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## CC Meat judging team places at contest

CLARENDON — Wrex Phipps of Kearney, Neb., and Travis Herod of Frost were chosen first-time "All American Meat Judging Teams" at the American Royal Intercollegiate Meat Judging contests.

All-American team members are selected based on academic achievement and performance at intercollegiate meat judging contests.

The team placed first overall at the Excel High Plains contest and went on to place second overall at the American Royal contest in Emporia, Kan.

## Away In A Manger

When they were come into the house they saw the young child with Mary and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrror.

— St. Matthew 2:11

Wishing you and yours a most miraculous holiday season. We thank you for your kind support.

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<p><b>CRAFTSMAN sale 77<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p>5-drawer premium tool storage, save \$22 Includes bulk riser for storing large items. #59975 Reg. 99.99</p>	<p><b>CRAFTSMAN sale 99<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>19.2-volt drill kit, save \$40 Includes cordless screwdriver, work-light, Speed-Lok™ set. #11417 Reg. 139.99 All Cordless Drills On Sale</p>	<p><b>final 899<sup>88</sup></b></p> <p>42-in. lawn tractor, after \$100 savings &amp; \$50 mail-in rebate! #27155. Was 1049.99, closeout 999.88, sale 949.88 While quantities last.</p>	<p><b>PRO-FORM sale 599<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>Crosswalk treadmill, save \$200 Upper-body workout. 2.5-HP motor. #29325 Reg. 799.99</p>

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Tuesday, December 24, 2002

# DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

## Bride Needs Fiance's Support To Stand Up to Father-in-Law

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Don't Want to Be His Daughter-in-Law" and had to respond. My husband is a wonderful, kind, caring, responsible man. However his father is crude, rude, and has made sexual advances to me. From my personal experience, you can have a good, strong marriage, even if your father-in-law is horrid. Our solution was to invite our friends to our wedding and ignore my future father-in-law's guest list, serve no alcohol at the reception, treat him kindly without letting him walk all over us, and after the wedding — we moved! We now live two hours away. Most important, her fiance must stand up for her, back her up, and not be cowed by his father.

HAPPY WIFE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HAPPY WIFE: Thank you for some excellent suggestions. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: That bride-to-be and her fiance should get premarital counseling to work out how to cope with his family. He may also have some problems down the road being a good husband and father, since he did not have a good role model. Counseling and some good self-help books about being the child of an alcoholic will also help. Also, they should attend Al-Anon meetings and learn how to say no to the alcoholic when it comes to their

lives. And last but not least, I recommend she stop calling them "drunks." They are "alcoholics" suffering from a terrible disease that often has its roots in genetics. KATHARINE IN FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

DEAR KATHARINE: I won't quarrel with you on that one. And your idea of premarital counseling is a good one. Another helpful resource might be ACA — Adult Children of Alcoholics. (It is also in the phone book.)

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and will be married next September. Usually the father of the bride walks her

down the aisle, but I want my father's brother to be the one to do the honors. When I mentioned it to my father's wife, she told me he'd be very upset if I asked my uncle and not him. However, there's a reason why I want to ask my uncle. Many years ago, he lost his wife and two little girls in a tragic accident. I feel that asking him to walk me down the aisle would make him feel that although his daughters are gone, he can still have that moment every father dreams of when he brings a daughter into this world.

I view it this way: My father still has his daughter to see and talk to whenever he wants; my uncle doesn't. What do you think of my

idea? I have many months to plan this, and I want my father's help as well.

UNDECIDED IN VERMONT

DEAR UNDECIDED: You have a heart of gold and are well-intentioned. However, as much as you might wish to, you cannot change history. Your father should walk you down the aisle. If you want your uncle to be a part of your wedding, please consider another role for him. Perhaps he could be part of the wedding party, or do a reading during the service. That way there will be no ill feelings on the part of anyone on this happy occasion.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Have a Merry Christmas, but please keep in mind: If you're drinking, don't drive; if you're driving, don't drink.

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.

### Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Common Sense author
- 6 Command to Spot
- 11 Annex
- 12 Nebraska city
- 13 "My Fair Lady" director
- 15 Building wing
- 16 Vitamin bottle abbr.
- 17 Blunder
- 18 Plunder
- 20 — chi
- 21 Superlative suffix
- 22 Soccer legend
- 23 Block-heads
- 26 Big mistake
- 27 Put — act
- 28 Stole stuff
- 29 Droop
- 30 Alan of "Die Hard"
- 34 Pub pint
- 35 Com-motion
- 36 Gorilla, e.g.
- 37 "Star Wars" director
- 40 Bert's pal
- 41 Like neon
- 42 Gobbet parts
- 43 Prices

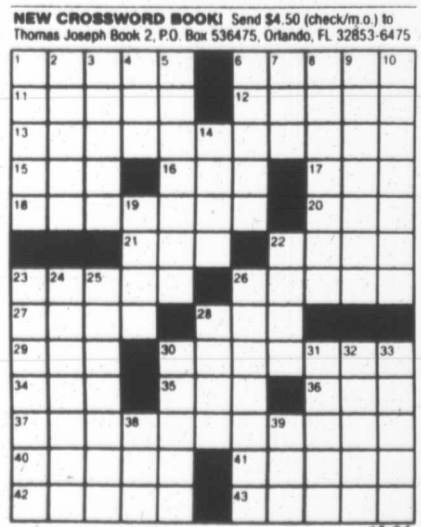
#### DOWN

- 1 Called to the phone
- 2 Fred Astaire's sister
- 3 Objects of adulation
- 4 Neither follower
- 5 Absorb
- 6 Kind of point or length
- 7 Earth-bound bird
- 8 Rest
- 9 Church song
- 10 Cross-country runner
- 14 Fix copy
- 19 Hammer part
- 22 Chorizo base
- 23 Fix amounts
- 24 Ready for conflict
- 25 Headline spot
- 26 Pastoral
- 28 Bona — 30 is furious
- 31 Spiked clubs
- 32 Separate
- 33 High homes
- 38 Border
- 39 Numero

TRAPS AMID  
RIVAL DINAR  
ADANO ALFIE  
LEI ESP ORC  
ARLOGUTHRIE  
MIN TICES  
PAGAN PRESS  
ALAN DIE  
JTIMIHENDRIX  
ABE OWN ARE  
MADAM ASTIAN  
ABATE TONTO  
AYES ESENEN

Yesterday's answer

19 Hammer part  
22 Chorizo base  
23 Fix amounts  
24 Ready for conflict  
25 Headline spot  
26 Pastoral



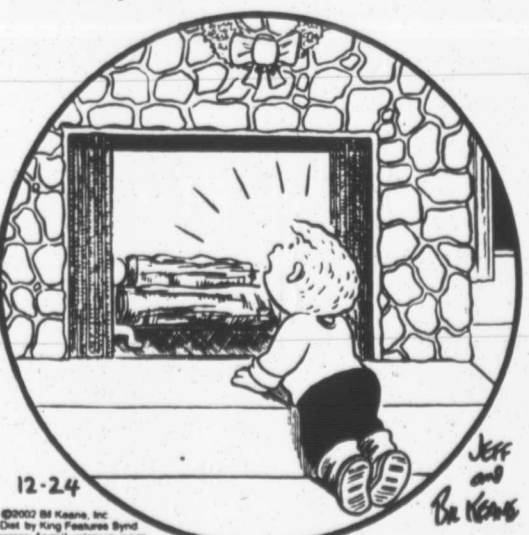
### STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-900-454-7377, 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

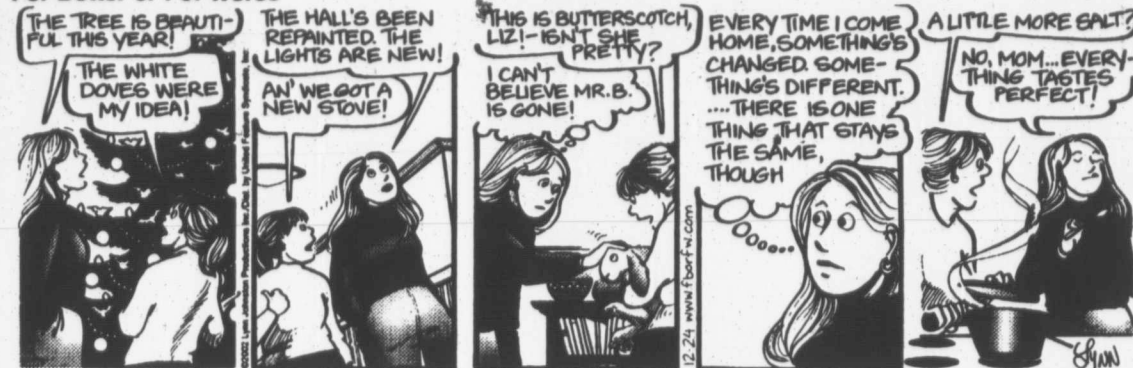
### Marmaduke



### The Family Circus



### For Better or For Worse



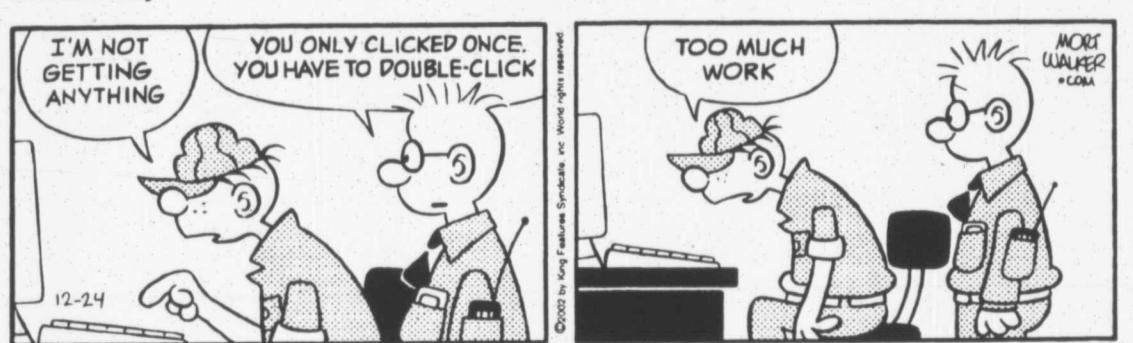
### Zits



### Garfield



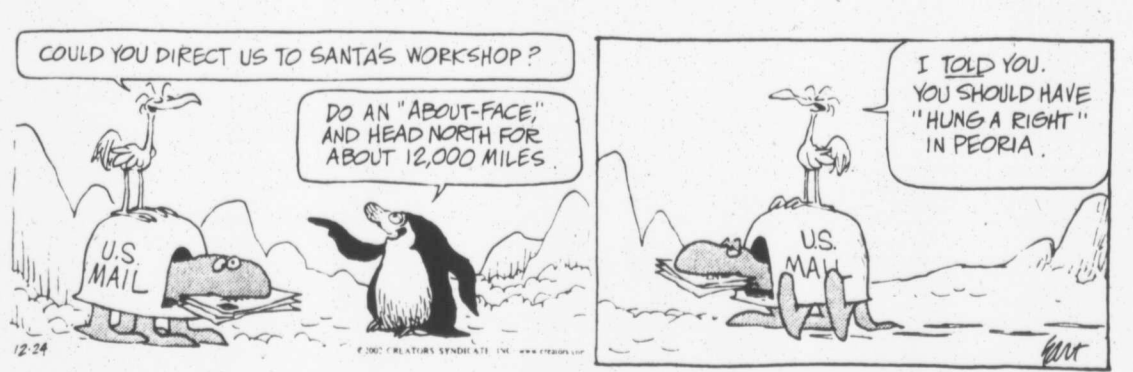
### Beetle Bailey



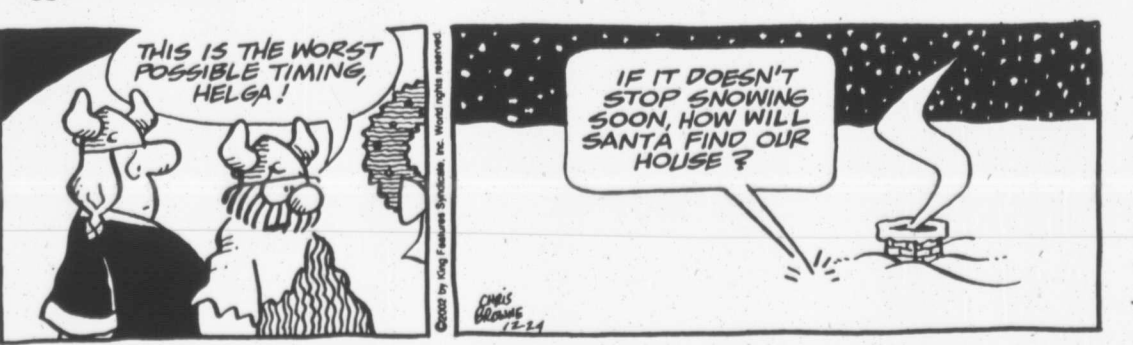
### Marvin



### B.C.



### Hagar The Horrible



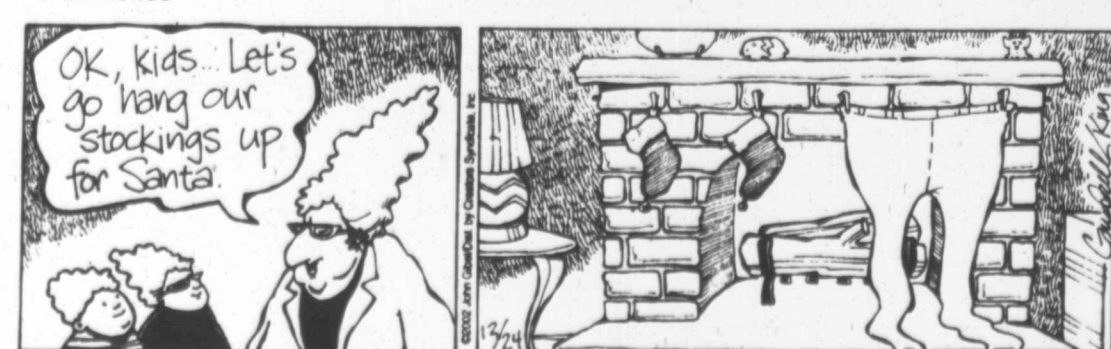
### Peanuts



### Blondie



### Flo & Friends







# CHRISTMAS

*Is In The Air!*

It's just a day before Christmas and all through the town, We see happy people; not even one frown. It's great to see folks who show so much care.

For their friends and their neighbors - today is so rare.

So we'd like to thank you this time of the year. For all of the memories we hold so dear. As customers, as neighbors, you all mean so much to us, your community and all whom you touch.

Have a wonderful holiday!



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# Lone Star Living: Decorating hearths with soul ...

By MARIANA GREENE  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS — Bringing evergreen boughs indoors has been a tradition at this time of year since the late Middle Ages, when the fresh green of holly and fir branches represented mystical power in the face of winter's killing cold.

Today, "deck the halls" is a decorating imperative in which anything goes. Even the most Zen of pared-down rooms doesn't seem festive without a bit of Christmas excess.

Mantels figure prominently in Christmas trimmings, as key to

setting the holiday scene as a decorated tree or a wreath on the front door. But the practice, for many, has gone way beyond a mere swag of unembellished greenery. Mantels are adorned with fresh flowers, ornaments, candles, toys, objets that usually perch in other parts of a house and botanical elements not generally associated with the season.

The floral designers whose works are pictured here don't design in a visual vacuum. Each mantel's room setting as well as the client's personality and preferences are interpreted through the designer's artistic eye and nimble fingers.

## Brambly winter fantasy

Floral designers Haile Wossen and Randy Wenz collaborated on a Highland Park mantel that glorifies found objects.

In a house whose owner is just as happy to have long, leafless branches of native persimmon in a fine vase as hothouse flowers, the duo felt confident bringing the outdoors into her sophisticated surroundings.

For the mantel's winter landscape, they assembled found objects such as redbud tree trimmings, the washed root ball of a discarded hibiscus plant, sun-bleached weathered wood, amber soapberries and blue-black Japanese ligustrum berries.

Gray reindeer moss (available at craft and floral supply stores) and pomanders made of crisp, deep red roses were the only purchased botanicals.

A sculptural fragment, a carved wooden figure from Europe, was plucked from elsewhere in the house. It's classical demeanor adds unexpected formality to the otherwise wild tableau.

"You don't have to spend a lot of money" to have a one-of-a-kind mantel, Wossen says. "This is all about accessible nature, forgoing the mall for your back yard."

## It's Howdy Doody time

Stylist Skip Allen of Dallas let his fingers do the walking by working the keys of his computer to browse for hours on eBay looking for holiday inspiration.

Feeling nostalgic one day, he typed the name of a childhood hero, Howdy Doody, into eBay's search field. Before he knew it, he had acquired a home movie called Howdy Doody's Christmas and several Howdy Doody dolls.

During the next few days, after spells of feverish online competition, Allen successfully

bid on an aerosol can of spray snow, a sleigh-full of vintage toys, Santas and reindeer and a passel of elves.

"I think eBay is the best thing that ever happened," Allen says, estimating that he logged 40 to 60 online hours to furnish the mantel. "It's such a rich source to find things you think nobody has. Somebody does, and they're trying to sell it."

Knowing that his clients, Cathy and Scott Phillips, have an appreciation "for old, wonderful things," Allen assembled a scene straight out of the 1950s with a charming display of camp and kitsch.

In addition to Santa and his elves, which Mr. Allen posed by adding wire to their limbs, the designer found sprites made from pine cones and tiny, quaint, snow-capped cottages. These knickknacks, made in occupied Japan, are collectible for their historical associations.

Allen updated old strings of

holiday lights with dimmers so they wouldn't get so hot, and he covered boxes in fragments of vintage wrapping paper, some pieces dating from 1930.

"Everything tells a story," Allen says. "There's something about handling things that have been touched by untold others."

## Traditional treasures

Christmas tradition is the cornerstone of Jamie Huizenga's scheme for a circa-1910 Belgian mantelpiece. She combines the seasonal colors of red and green (albeit a bright yellow-green) with the clear blue ground of a 17th-century Madonna and child painting from Europe.

Rather than mix the abundant flowers in a riot of intense color, Huizenga, the owner of Cebolla Fine Flowers in University Park, massed them in separate groupings. "I used chartreuse instead of Kelly green because chartreuse has such a fresh look to it," she

says. "It ties colors together in an unusual way. It's at the top of my color list right now."

Although her use of cut amaryllis and large-flowered cymbidium orchids seems extravagant, Huizenga says the blossoms last two weeks, as do the blue-berried juniper branches. The rounded heads of blue hydrangea (stems cut short) have been frosted with glitter to make them sparkle.

Huizenga is a fan of artisanship, and in her shop handmade shares billing with nature-made. The organic pottery holding flowers is from the Czech Republic; the Nativity figures, carved and painted by hand, are from Ecuador. Swagging the top of the mantel is a string of handmade ornaments from California; the wool stockings stuffed with felt animals are from Germany.

Distributed by The Associated Press

Christmas tradition is the cornerstone of Jamie Huizenga's scheme for a circa-1910 Belgian mantelpiece. She combines the seasonal colors of red and green (albeit a bright yellow-green) with the clear blue ground of a 17th-century Madonna and child painting from Europe.

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## School Board Recognition Month in January

January is School Board Recognition Month and Pampa ISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge its commitment to our community and schools.

"Texans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. These men and women are the local school board members of Texas," said PISD Superintendent Dawson Orr.

"These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education," Orr continued. "They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education. Even though we are mak-

ing a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part."

"We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families," said Orr. "These individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their dedication to the continuing success of our students and schools."

The men and women serving PISD are: Lee Porter, Joe Martinez, Nancy Coffee, John Curry, Jay Johnson, Bill Jones, and Lance DeFever.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

## MANNERS

Lightly kissing on the cheeks is a warm and friendly gesture. However, kissing on the lips without the express consent of the subject is simply not nice.

Do not talk about yourself. Self-absorbed dinner guests are society's biggest bores. Read the

paper. Watch CNN. Read a book. Keep yourself informed and supplied with interesting conversation topics.

Do not talk about money. As Barbara Bush said at last spring's Celebration of Reading, "Talking about money is vulgar."

We don't want to know how much your shoes cost, how valu-

able the painting is or how much your last vacation set you back. In circles where money has been a plump commodity for generations and in polite society in general, the subject is never broached.

Remember the written thank-you. Party givers often put their heart and soul into planning that special holiday evening. The minor effort it takes to write a thank-you note is a small price to pay for savoring a friend's hospitality.

Don't touch those place cards. If you have a serious problem with your seating (as in being placed at the same table as your husband's paramour), speak privately to your host and respectfully request a change.

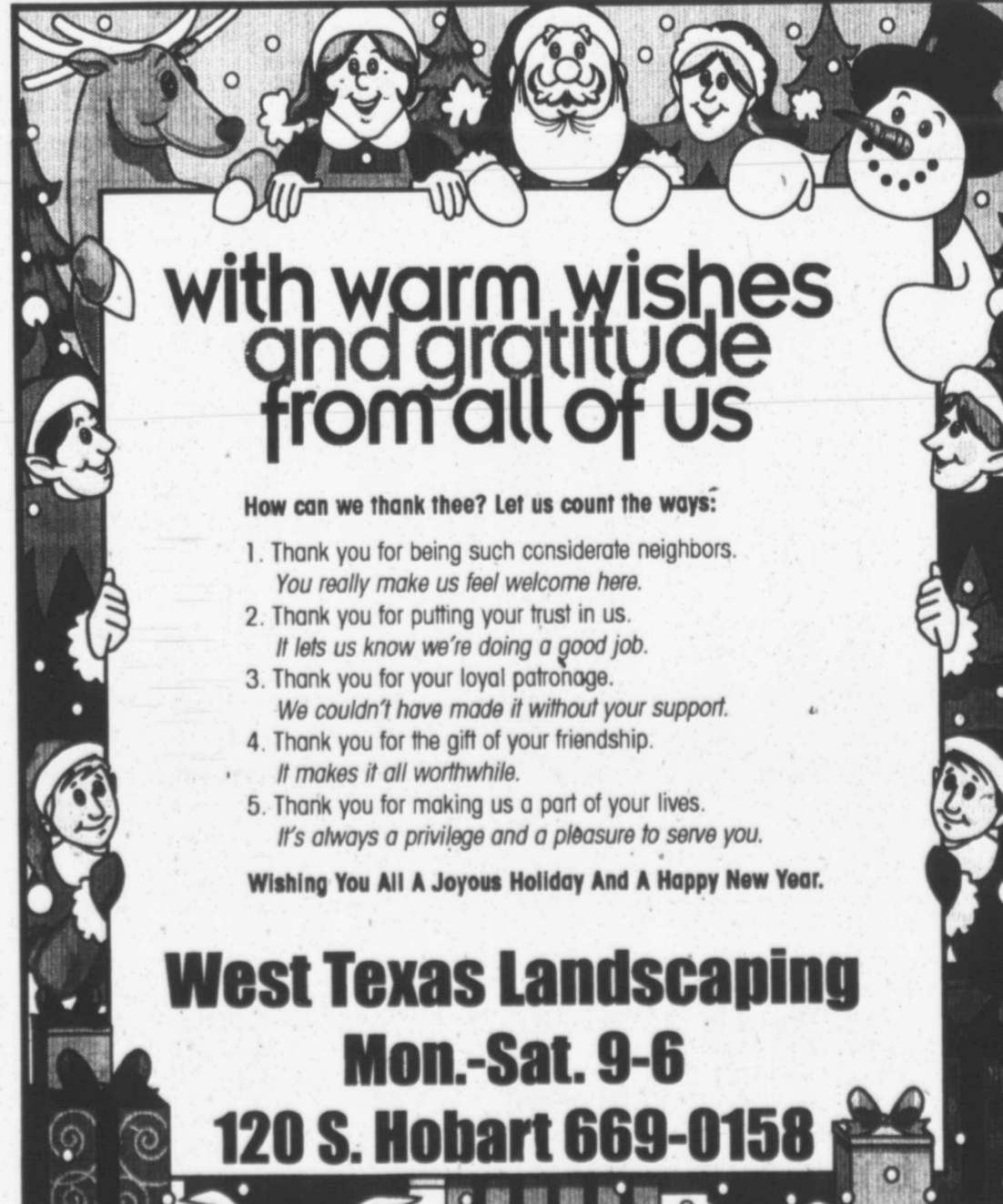
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## GREETINGS

**The stockings are hung,  
The tree's glowing bright,  
It's going to be a wonderful night!**

Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks for your continued loyal patronage with us.

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*We couldn't have made it without your support.*
4. Thank you for the gift of your friendship.  
*It makes it all worthwhile.*
5. Thank you for making us a part of your lives.  
*It's always a privilege and a pleasure to serve you.*

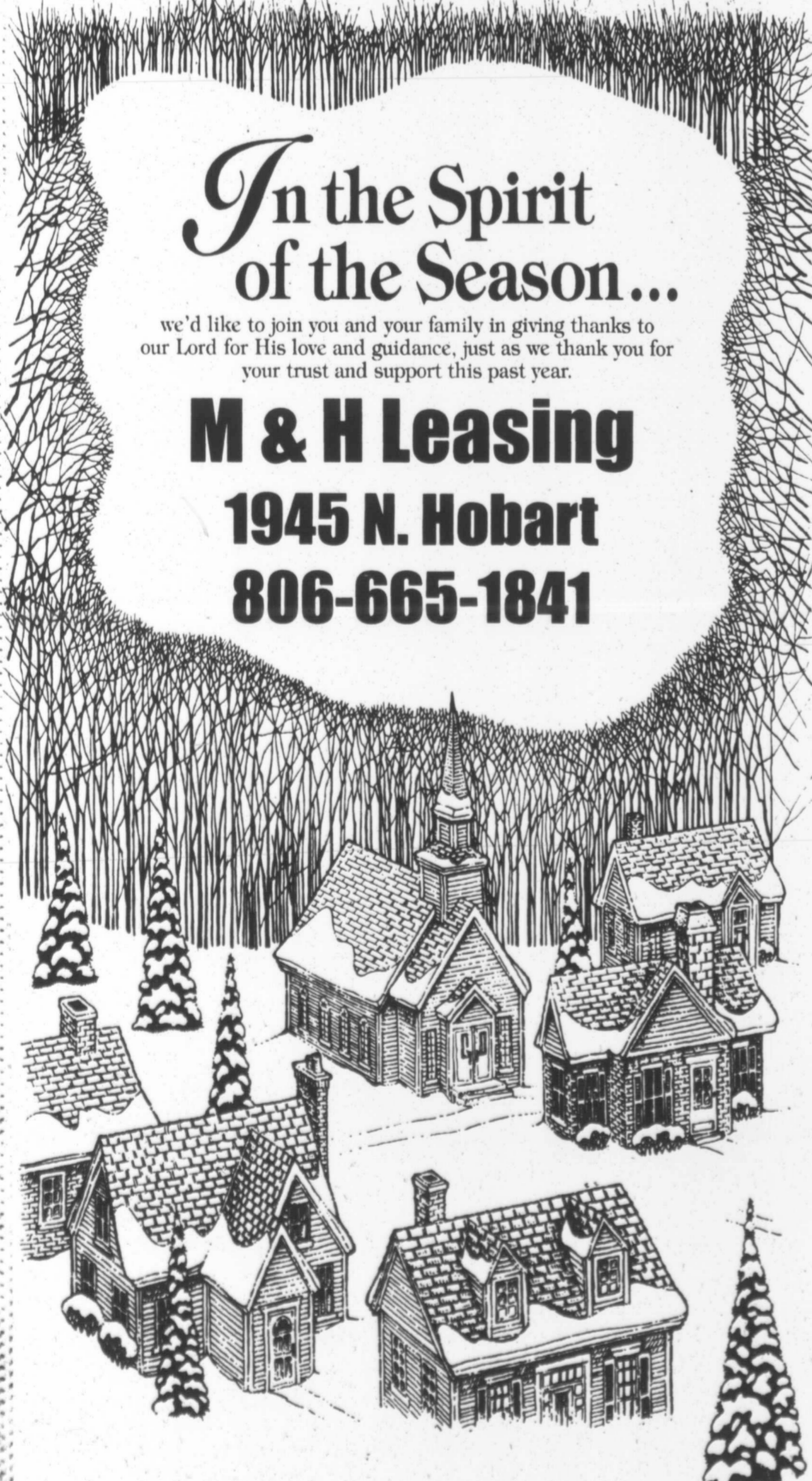
**Wishing You All A Joyous Holiday And A Happy New Year.**

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*In the Spirit  
of the Season...*

we'd like to join you and your family in giving thanks to our Lord for His love and guidance, just as we thank you for your trust and support this past year.

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# Trappist monks make fruitcake to support small monastery

By **CONNIE FARROW**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AVA, Mo. (AP) — When the monks of Assumption Abbey could no longer support themselves by producing cement blocks, they decided to make fruitcake.

Fifteen years, and thousands of cakes later, there is no denying the little monastery and its 12 monks have created a niche market.

Some find humor in the transition, acknowledges Father Anthony Sloan.

"Sure there have been jokes, but I think anyone who has tasted our fruitcake would agree that they are moist and delicious," he said.

Assumption Abbey is one of 17 Trappist monasteries in the United States supported through the production and sale of specialized foods. The modest bakery is running at full capacity now, with orders being shipped to stores and individuals across the country, Canada and Europe.

"I just shipped five cakes to Great Britain and one to Ireland," said Sloan, who runs the bakery.

The monks will have made 31,544 cakes when their 11-month baking period ends in late December. The Abbey expects to sell each of the \$26

**M**onks wearing aprons over their black robes labor in the bakery two hours in the morning, mixing the batter and baking the cakes in the 300-degree oven. The finished cakes are decorated with four pecan halves — carefully placed to form a cross — and injected with an ounce of Puerto Rican rum.

cakes — and turn away potential customers — with no advertising.

One bite of the rich, moist cake with a lingering kick of rum is all many people need. Some customers send notes and e-mails of thanks. Many admit to buying extras because they can't restrain themselves.

"Your fruitcakes are fantastic, and you can count on receiving my order this coming holiday season," wrote Jerry Lambeth of Grand Junction, Colo.

Their business in rural Ava, about 30 miles north of the Arkansas border, depends on a delicate balance between

monastic life — marked by contemplation, study and worship — and making a living.

While Trappist monks take a vow of poverty, they must provide for themselves through life's journey. So, they have found a way to integrate high-speed modems and toll-free telephone lines into their life of contemplation and solitude.

"It's amazing how fruitcake seems to have an endless market, even though people make a lot of jokes about them," said Father Mark Scott, abbot of Assumption Abbey.

Life in the cloister is rooted in simplicity, but the struggle to make a living in the rocky, rolling Ozarks hills has not been easy. The monks took up farming when Assumption Abbey opened in 1950 but had little success.

They switched to making cement blocks in the 1960s, dredging their creek for materials. Then in the '80s the industry underwent a shakeout and it became clear only the large firms were going to survive.

With a few reservations, the monks switched to fruitcakes in 1987.

After a modest first year that resulted in 6,000 cakes, production has increased

steadily. Now the monastery's bakery is running at full capacity, turning cakes out of the oven 125 at a time.

The monks use an exclusive recipe created by St. Louis pastry chef Jean-Pierre Auge, who once was employed by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. He gave them eight recipes, and they settled on one.

"We don't have any intentions of changing it," Sloan said. "In fact, we are very protective of our recipe."

It calls for 70 percent fruit and nuts to 30 percent batter. A mixture of cherries, raisins and pineapple is marinated for three days in burgundy wine.

Monks wearing aprons over their black robes labor in the bakery two hours in the morning, mixing the batter and baking the cakes in the 300-degree oven. The finished cakes are decorated with four pecan halves — carefully placed to form a cross — and injected with an ounce of Puerto Rican rum.

They return for another two hours in the afternoon to review orders and prepare the 2-pound cakes for pickup by United Parcel Service.

The work is relatively simple, allowing the monks to free their minds for prayer and Scripture reflection, Brother Simin Praep said.

"It's enjoyable work," he said, as he sealed cakes in plastic wrap and placed them in tins.

The abbey's biggest customer is San Francisco-based

Williams-Sonoma Inc., which has ordered 13,000 cakes this year. Founder Chuck Williams said he became hooked in 1988 after receiving one as a gift. His stores and catalogs began selling them the following year.

"It really is good," said Williams, who confesses to buying one for himself each Christmas. "I don't know how they do it."

Devout customers snap them up early, he said. "I know a good many

years we have run out," Williams said.

There is no question the monks could sell more fruitcakes, but they do not want to automate or hire outside workers.

"Our monastic life carries over into the bakery," Sloan said. "Our goal is not to be rich. We can only make a certain amount of fruitcakes."

On the Net:  
<http://www.trappist-monks.com>

## TDA accepting nominations for Rural Heroism Award

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced recently that the Texas Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for TDA's 2002 Rural Heroism Award.

Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2002. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses and telephone num-

bers of everyone involved. If available, newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be post-marked by Feb. 1, 2003 and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA Safety Coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711. For additional information on qualifications, contact Lemmon at (512) 475-1611.

The 2002 recipient will be announced March 31 at the Texas Safety Association's annual conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston.

## Deadline set for scholarship applications at Canyon's West Texas A&M University

CANYON — The West Texas A&M University scholarship committee is encouraging new and continuing students to start thinking about applying for University scholarships. The application deadline is Feb. 1, 2003 for fall 2003 and spring 2004 semesters.

Applicants must complete an application, provide a current transcript and two letters of recommendation to be considered for a scholarship.

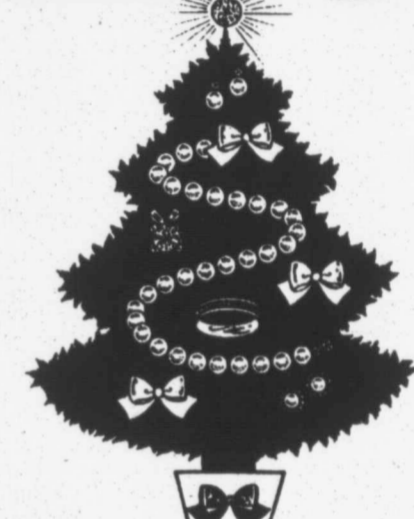
Scholarship committee members say it is important to plan early to apply for scholarships, especially if they are requesting letters of recommendation from professors.

"If they are going to have a professor write a letter of recommendation, we suggest that they request the letter before the holidays to give the professor enough time to get it done," Velma Murillo, assistant to the president, said. "Some professors will even set aside time to write letters during the holiday break."

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships online at [www.wtamu.edu](http://www.wtamu.edu) under the "Prospective Students" link.

Scholarships are available to WTAMU students, transfer students and entering freshmen. For more information, call 806-651-2097.

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





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
**REDONN WOODS**  
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**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**  
**FROM THE WHOLE GANG!**

Wishing you a season that's merry and bright, filled with laughter, love and much delight! It's been a privilege and pleasure serving you this past year, Thanks, friends!

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# West Virginia physician making difference in rural area

BY TARA GODVIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FOREST HILL, W.Va. (AP) — In the green hills along a narrow road to nowhere in particular, a stream of patients come and go from the small, nondescript doctor's office in the middle of town. Some pay for their treatment, some receive a dose of medicine unique to their rural setting.

This is where Dr. James Blume grew up. And, at a time when West Virginians worry about physicians fleeing the state to escape escalating insurance costs, this is exactly why he is staying put.

In this community of 75 where more horses can be seen sauntering around than humans, Blume counts 7,000 of the region's residents as his

patients. The people he wants to help.

Between the family practice he has had in Forest Hill for 11 years and his work as an emergency physician at three area hospitals (Plateau Medical Center in Oak Hill, St. Luke's Hospital in Bluefield and Pocahontas Memorial Hospital in Marlinton) he works 365 days a year.

Though his schedule allows little time to spend with his wife and seven children, Blume is happy he returned to southern West Virginia after 14 years away.

His job, he says, is his calling.

"God has a plan for everybody. Just takes a while to find it sometimes," said Blume, who recently finished a 5-year stint as preacher at the nearby

Countryside Baptist Church. "I know this is God's plan for my life."

He's at the office during snow storms and power outages. When he was diagnosed with colon cancer last year, he saw patients the day after starting 10 months of chemotherapy.

"Me and him are buddies now. We're survivors," said 70-year-old Raymond Coleman, of Hinton.

Coleman sports a long curly, gray mane he grew after completing his own chemotherapy for thyroid cancer. He jokes with Blume about how the hair on Blume's legs is finally growing back.

Blume grins and blushes a bit.

Coleman, who worked in the coal mines for 37 years, is at the doctor's office on this Monday because of swelling in his ankle and pain in his lungs. He complains that he has trouble fishing because he can get down the bank, but not back up.

"Well, you just need a

longer line then!" exclaims Blume.

The jocular relationship repeats itself throughout the day as the 46-year-old doctor makes his way through cramped halls decorated with pictures of the children he treats and the "Get Well" cards sent to him during his chemotherapy. He prides himself on the familial office atmosphere he and his staff have created.

"If I'm more accessible, then medical care is more accessible," he said.

In acknowledgment of his work and dedication, Blume was named Country Doctor of the Year by Staff Care, a Texas-based medical staffing firm that has been honoring rural doctors for eight years. As part of the award, a physician will cover Blume's practice for a week so he can take some time off.

West Virginia is the second most rural state in the nation; 41 of its 55 counties are considered a primary health care shortage area.

"It takes some special people to practice in the really, really rural areas of West Virginia," said Jill Hutchinson, executive director of the West Virginia Primary Care Association.

Doctors in remote areas feel isolated from the rest of the medical community and regularly labor under long hours. "They often times have a heavy case load if they're the only game in town," Hutchinson said.

In an effort to attract doctors to West Virginia, the state has implemented a number of programs using state and federal funds to provide sign-on bonuses and help repay up to \$90,000 in educational loans.

Still Blume has found it difficult to attract a partner to his practice in the hills.

"I could put three or four family doctors to work here," he said.

On a Friday that started without a single scheduled appointment, Blume had seen 26 patients by closing time.

Another threat to a rural

doctor's survival is the shrinking financial viability of the country practice, said George Wright, an economist and professor with the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington, home to one of six federally funded rural health research centers.

Rural areas are often too isolated and too poor to have a large enough economic base, said Wright, who conducted an economic study of rural medicine in Washington state.

"There is a need for their services, but not a paying demand," said Wright.

As medical costs and the price of malpractice insurance rise while the payouts from Medicaid and Medicare don't, the value of a practice in a poor area diminishes.

Summers County, where Blume's practice is located, has the state's oldest median age, 43.4. The area's median household income was \$21,672 in 1999.

About 60 percent of Blume's patients are covered by Medicare or Medicaid, but these patients represent only a third of his revenue. He also sees patients who have no insurance at all.

"I see them and let them pay whenever," Blume said. "I typically don't want to know these statistics."

Many of the nation's rural doctors are exactly the type of doctor patients want.

"Patients who go see that doctor know he's there for them and not for a buck," said Wright. "These guys are heroes."

On a recent morning, as the stream of patients came and went, 60-year-old Bob Martin escorted his 81-year-old mother into Blume's office to check on her back ache. Martin's entire family comes to Blume for treatment, including his wife, who once nearly severed a toe with a chain saw.

"She hasn't had a minute's trouble with it," he said.

Martin was one of several patients who admitted they trusted Blume more than the local hospitals.

"If we didn't have Doctor Blume, I don't know what we'd do 'round here," Martin said. "He's a super good guy with it, good friend and all."

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AND  
**DR. WALLACE MANN**  
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## CPAT to stage first annual meeting, election

CORPUS CHRISTI — Corn Producers Association of Texas (CPAT) will stage its first annual meeting Jan. 8 at the Corpus Christi Bayfront Plaza Convention Center in Corpus Christi in conjunction with an educational session it is jointly hosting with Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB) during the Corpus Christi Farm and Ranch Show.

A TCPB breakfast at 7:30 a.m., will kick-off the event. The program will begin at

8:15 a.m. TCPB Executive Director David Gibson will give the introductory address. Other speakers will include Bruce Knight, chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dr. Javier Betran, Texas A&M plant breeder, and Dr. Peter Cotty, research plant pathologist-Agricultural Research Service.

Participants will also hear of upcoming state legislative issues and will vote in their

first director election. Directors whose seats are up include Bert Williams, District 2, and Jean Davis, District 3. At-large directors whose seats are up include Bart Thoreson of Gruver, Jimmy Wedel of Muleshoe, and Henry Keller of Castroville.

One-and-a-half CEUs will be offered for the educational session. For more information, contact CPAT or TCPB at 1-800-647-2676 or visit [www.texascorn.org](http://www.texascorn.org)

# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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## Rylander posts monthly sales tax allocations

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently delivered \$292.2 million in monthly sales tax payments to local governments.

Rylander sent sales tax rebates of \$196.8 million to Texas cities and \$16.8 million to Texas counties. Seventy-six special purpose taxing districts received \$7.9 million and Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit departments received \$70.5 million in sales tax revenue.

December sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected in October and reported to the Comptroller in November. The state's share of sales tax reported during this period was \$1.3 billion.

For details of December sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit departments and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html).

With best wishes and gratitude to all of you who have helped play a vital role in our success this past year



# Baby's 1st Christmas

**Bailey Paige Odom**  
Born... August 17, 2002



Parents...  
Brandon & Becca Odom  
of Amarillo  
Grandparents...  
Mike & Roseanne Kelly  
of Amarillo  
L.W. & Sherry McCall  
of Pampa

**Justin Zachary Burke**  
Born... April 8, 2002



Parents...  
Brian & Shari Burke  
of Houston, Texas  
Grandparents...  
L.W. & Sherry McCall  
of Pampa

**Cameron Dewayne Hair**  
Born... June 19, 2002



Parents...  
Carrie Ellis & Dewayne Hair  
Big Sister...  
Jazmyn Hair  
Grandparents...  
Terry Ellis  
Dave & Helena McKnight  
Great-Grandparent...  
Jean Ellis

**Greyson Harmon Heiskell**  
Born... March 31, 2002



Parents...  
Kevin & Chantelle Heiskell  
Big Sister... Krissy  
Big Brother... Taylor  
Grandparents...  
Glen & Barbara Preas  
Bill & Bree Rohrbacher

**Nathan Daniel Lee**  
Born... April 6, 2002



Parent...  
April Taylor  
Grandparents...  
Keith & Beverly Taylor

**Rebecca Nicole Short**  
Born... January 4, 2002



Parents...  
Roy J. & Beverly J. Short  
Grandparents...  
Diane Short and  
Bobby J. & Rosemary Schiffman  
Great-Grandparents...  
O.B. (Bob) & Geneva Schiffman, Jr.  
Aunt...  
Bonnie J. Schiffman  
Uncles... Art Short, Richard Short,  
Thomas Daniel Short

**Mackenzie Danielle Rivera**  
Born... May 20, 2002



Fort Worth, Texas  
Parents...  
Ruben & Danette Rivera  
Grandparents...  
Ricardo & Mary Lou Lopez  
Dannie & Angie Hoover  
Great-Grandparents...  
Mary Lou Peppers and  
the late G.L. Peppers

**Gabriel Raymond Graves**  
Born... October 16, 2002



Illesheim Germany  
Parents...  
John & Melanie Graves  
Sisters...  
Tiffany & Andriana  
Grandparents...  
Carl & Cindy Graves  
Angelika Hey

**Tristen Leon Wright**  
Born... August 22, 2002



Kailua, Hawaii  
Parents...  
Trae and Tami Wright  
Grandparents...  
Carl & Cindy Graves  
Leon Wright  
Delores Jennings

**Kaitlyn Brianne Roberson**  
Born... July 2, 2002



Amarillo, Texas  
Parents...  
Keith & Susan Roberson  
Brothers...  
Trent & Brent  
Grandparents...  
Carl & Cindy Graves  
Nell Roberson

**Brody Lane Seely**  
Born... October 19, 2002



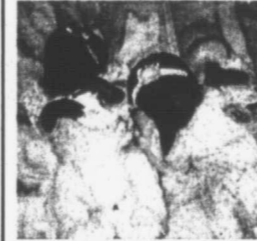
Parents...  
Lindsey & Craig Seely  
Grandparents...  
Velma & Melvin Early  
Pat & Russell Seely

**Taylor Paige Jefferis**  
Born... June 12, 2002



Parents...  
Kevin & Alissha Jefferis  
Brother...  
Kolton Jefferis  
Grandparents...  
Melvin & Velma Earl

**Hope Ashley Broadbent  
Kaylee Ann Broadbent**  
Born... December 5, 2002



Parents...  
Chris & Delta Broadbent  
Sister...  
Kenzie

**Cidnie Elexis Goodson**  
Born... March 29, 2002



Parents...  
Johnny & Michelle Goodson  
Grandparents...  
Teresa & Sotero Anguiano  
Rodney & Debbie Goodson  
Lyna Bolin

**Hannah Nicole McCollum  
Hope Amaris McCollum**  
Born... May 5, 2002



Parents...  
Alan & Christy McCollum

**Sierra Neal Winkler**  
Born... May 31, 2002



Parents...  
Jeremy & Tabitha Winkler  
Brother... Kade  
Sister... Cheyenne  
Grandparents...  
Keith & Patricia Winkler  
April Annis  
Aunts & Uncles...  
Tanner & Amy Winkler  
Valerie & Carl Carlew

**Zachary Clay Norwood**  
Born... April 26, 2002



Parent...  
Amy Norwood  
Brother... Justin  
Nana...  
Elizabeth Alexander

**Stori Grace Stribling**  
Born... April 7, 2002



Parents...  
Scotty & Shanna Stribling  
Spoiled & Adored  
By Her Grandparents...  
Carol Stribling  
Randy & Connie Molitor

**D'Anna Kate England**  
Born... February 28, 2002



Parents...  
Danny & Stephanie England  
Grandparents...  
Steve & Kathy Farley  
Therma Farley

**Angelina Amor Martinez**  
Born... June 5, 2002



Parents...  
Brig & Diana Martinez  
Grandparents...  
Harlan & Henrietta Yates  
Beatrice and Joe Martinez  
Merry Christmas!!

**Shaye Ansley Stephens**  
Born... September 26, 2002



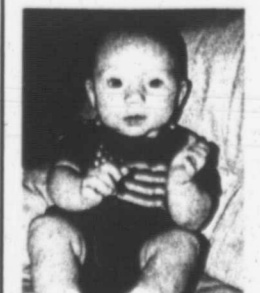
Parents...  
Russell & Shannon Stephens  
of Amarillo  
Grandparents...  
Darrell & Linda Sehom  
of Pampa  
Brent & Laura Stephens  
of Horseshoe Bay, Texas

**Aaron Lee Orr**  
Born... September 5, 2002



Parents...  
Amanda Dominey &  
Justin Orr  
Grandparents...  
Fred Dominey  
Linda Austin  
Lisa Orr

**Cameron Todd Cawthorn**  
Born... July 19, 2002



Parents...  
Ashlee & Todd Cawthorn  
Grandparents...  
Mike Russell  
Marylon & Dan Nicolet

**Alexis Loraine Holland**  
Born... October 26, 2002



Parent...  
Misty Holland  
Grandparents...  
Joe & Brenda Hall

**Bailee Leann Towles**  
Born... January 19, 2002



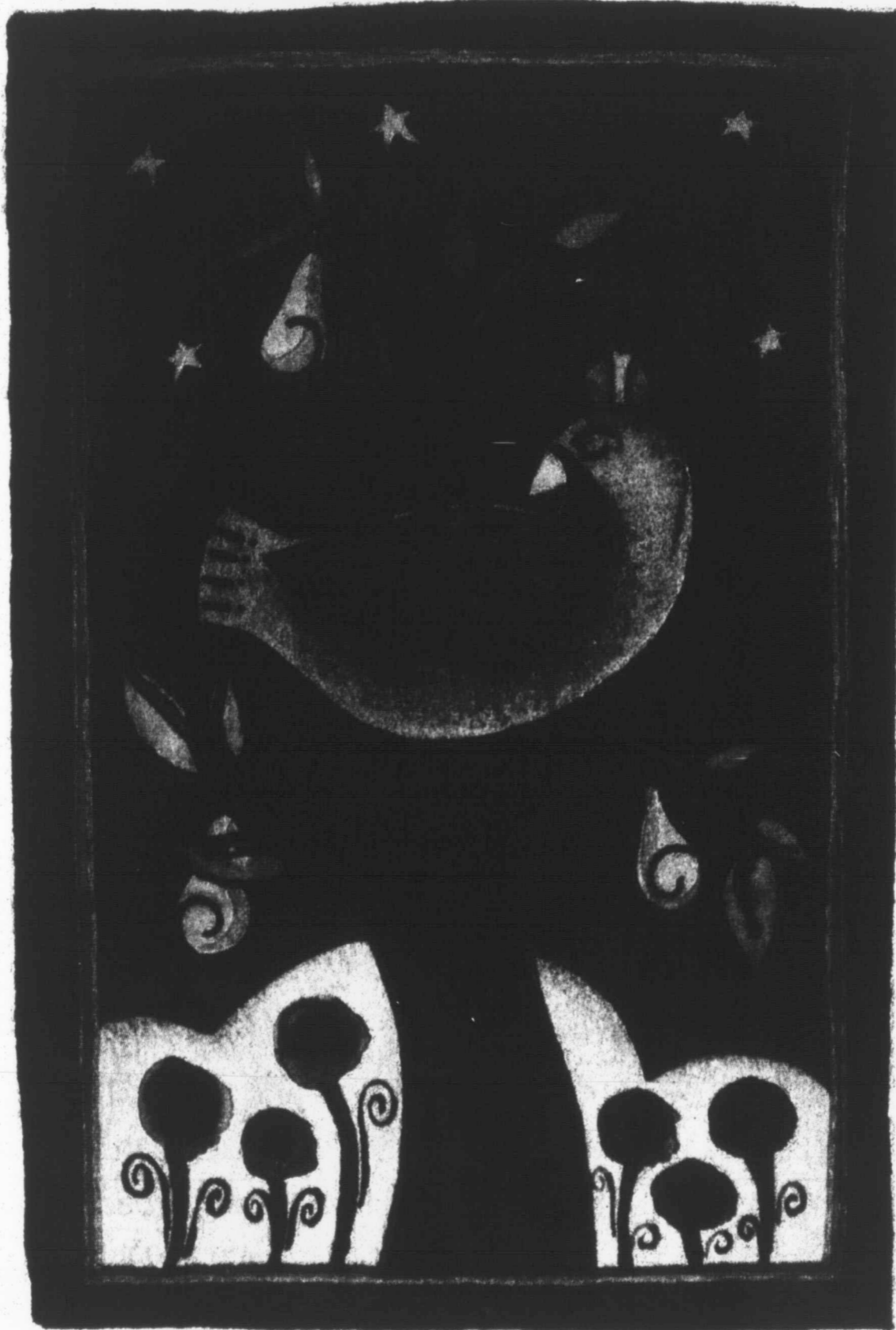
Parents...  
Pete & Julie Towles  
Brothers...  
Bradley & Brennen  
Sister... Brittney  
Grandparents...  
Scott & Karen Towles  
Kevin & Jan Hucks  
Lee & Nita French

**Carter James Cherry**  
Born... February 15, 2002



Parents...  
Kelly & Jenny Cherry  
Brother... Cooper  
Grandparents...  
Kelly & Sonya Everson  
Joe & Etha Mae Thomas

# A Merry Christmas to All.



We wish all of you and your loved ones the most wonderful Christmas ever, and in this coming year of 2003, it is our hope that you may have...

- Enough happiness to keep you sweet
- Enough trials to keep you strong
- Enough sorrow to keep you human
- Enough failure to keep you humble
- Enough hope to keep you happy
- Enough success to keep you eager

- ✧ Enough friends to give you comfort
- ✧ Enough wealth to meet your needs
- ✧ Enough enthusiasm to look forward
- ✧ Enough faith to banish depression
- ✧ Enough determination to make each day a better day than yesterday

*This message was a favorite of United Supermarkets founder, H.D. "Jack" Swett Jr., and sharing it with you has been a United Christmas tradition since 1976.*

All United Supermarkets locations are closed on Christmas Day so that our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families.

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