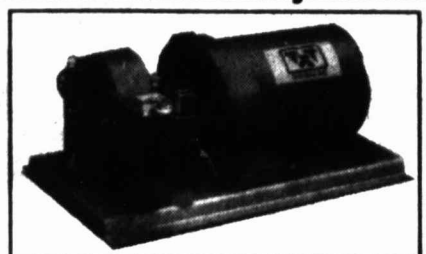


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THE Pampa NEWS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2003

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Pitner heads up shopping tour

By JOHN W. WARNER
FOR THE NEWS

Trevlyn Pitner, the general chair of the 2003 Children's Shopping Tour, announced the committee chairs for the event which is for children ages 5 to 10.

Capt. Patricia Steward of the Salvation Army and Sandra McKinney of the Texas Department of Human Services are in charge of inviting an estimated 125 children to attend. Shelly Cook, a Kiwanian, is in charge of recruiting more than 200 volunteers who will be needed to help chaperone the children on the tour. Volunteers may reach her at 669-2899 or 669-9911.

Optimist Dr. Dan Powell is in charge of contacting churches in the community and inviting them to participate. He may be reached at 665-0801.

The chaperones will meet at the Optimist Club at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. They will be assigned children by a registration committee headed by John Warner, an Optimist and a Kiwanian member. Pitner will conduct an orientation and answer questions.

The morning session will be sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center, which is represented on the Steering Committee by Karen Hooper. Donuts, coffee and orange juice will be provided for the chaperones. A brochure explaining the project will be handed to the chaperones and will be mailed to all contributors to the project.

Kiwanians Ann Franklin and the Rev. Harold Eggert chair the brochure committee.

About 9 a.m., the chaperones will pick up their children and take them shopping for members of their families. They do not buy presents for themselves. They buy for members of their families.

"This is the first time most of them have ever experienced sharing at Christmas," Pitner explained. "We hope through this project to let them see that the true meaning of Christmas is caring and sharing."

Many of the local stores offer discounts to the shoppers.

After the shopping is completed, the chaperones and children return to the Optimist gym where the Opti-Mrs. Club, led by Whitney Davis, sponsors a wrapping party.

"Last year the chaperones, children and Opti-Mrs. members wrapped about 700 presents," Ms. Davis said. "Every year we begin right after Christmas gathering the wrapping paper, bows, boxes and other materials needed for the wrapping party."

Kevin Davis is the chair for the Optimist-sponsored luncheon that follows the wrapping party. His committee prepares hamburgers and the trimmings for the chaperones and children.

"We start cooking about 9:30 a.m.," Davis said. "Some of the children return early and some barely get back in time to eat."



Trevlyn Pitner

Energizer Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church is in charge of entertaining children who finish their shopping and wrapping early. Allison Pfitzner is the Energizer chair for the project. Mitch Kelley is the president of the class, which consists of students in Pampa Middle School. They plan to have the children sing Christmas carols, hear Christmas stories, compete in a coloring contest and hear a short talk about the real reason we celebrate the Christmas season.

The American Red Cross, with Jana Gregory chairing the effort, will provide coffee and assist in providing transportation of a resident of the North Pole, who will visit with each child. The Pampa High School cheerleaders will take pictures of the children with Santa and give them the picture as a keepsake of the tour.

Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr., a Kiwanian, and Harley Knutson, an Optimist, co-chair a committee which will make available a Gideon Bible to every child who wants one. Bibles will be available in English and in Spanish.

The chaperones are expected to return the children to their homes about noon.

Optimist John W. Warner is the treasurer. Contributions are tax deductible. They should be made payable to the Pampa Optimist Youth Club and mailed to Warner at Box 645, Pampa, TX 79066-0645.

Other members of the Steering Committee, which plans the project, include Dan McGuire, an Optimist member who is past general chair; Linda Daniels, a Kiwanian who served as general chair last year; Sheri Tice, the Optimist president; Trevor Allison, the Kiwanian chair; and Lynn Allison, the Kiwanian president.

Other organizations involved include First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, 31st District Attorney's Office, Pampa Rotary Club, Aldersgate Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, Body of Christ Church, Gray County Democratic Club, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Preceptor Theta Iota, Catholic Youth Organization and Calvary Baptist Church.

Christmas float



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Liberty Bloxom, left, Steven Counts, center, and Teresa Lyles, right, all of the Pampa Sheltered Workshop, sort through decorations for the Workshop's Christmas Parade float Friday afternoon. Also assisting with building the float for Saturday's holiday parade were Donna Andrews, Lisa Busby, Janis Smith, Brenda Wilson, Workshop Director Anna Laury and Assistant Director Candi Oxley.

Poll shows growing optimism about economy

By WILL LESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' increasing optimism about the economy is starting to improve their attitudes about the direction of the nation and about President Bush, an Associated Press poll finds.

People are increasingly comfortable about job security for themselves and for those they know — 44 percent now, compared with 35 percent in early October. And more approve of the way Bush is handling the economy — 50 percent compared with 45 percent in the October poll, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

More in the poll say they favor the president's re-election than oppose it, with 41 percent saying they will definitely vote for him and 36 percent definitely against him. One in five is considering voting for someone else.

"I'm mulling over what I'm going to do in the next election," said Eydee Nelson, a 32-year-old mother of two

young girls in Fort Collins, Colo. "I feel like the economy is picking up. That definitely makes me more sympathetic to the president's re-election."

The economy is showing mixed signs of recovery: rapid growth that surprised most economists last quarter, indications the job market could be turning around, a rebound in the stock market over the past six months.

But the nation has lost 2.3 million jobs, the turnaround in employment is uncertain and states have been hard hit by revenue losses and are making cuts.

Baby boomers, college graduates and men in general were among the groups more likely to show signs of increased optimism, according to the AP-Ipsos poll.

"Confidence is improving," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "It's a trend, not a blip. While it's not at the level it was in 1999 and 2000, we clearly are coming off the bottom."

The poll found the percentage of people who say they're more comfortable about job security is higher than

for those who say they're not, 44 percent to 37 percent. In early October, more were uncomfortable.

If the economy continues to improve, Bush is expected to benefit.

"If things are going well, it's more than likely he'll get a good bit of credit for it," said Doreen Hartley, a 48-year-old computer programmer from Newtown, Pa., near Philadelphia.

While improvements in Bush's ratings were usually small, the upward

shifts were reflected in several poll questions. The public remains sharply divided about the president, but the economic optimism seems to have halted his slide in the polls. Also, his Thanksgiving trip to visit U.S. troops in Baghdad was generally well-received.

Support for the president's handling of other domestic issues like education, health care and the economy, at

(See POLL, Page 2)

PEDC changing meeting location

Pampa Economic Development Corporation's board members plan to meet in a different location Monday.

The PEDC Board will meet at 5 p.m. in the Green Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium, said Board President Doug Locke. Board members also expect to meet with prospective buyers of the organization's property on Texas Highway 152, where Crall Products is located.

Agenda items listed for the meeting also include election of officers for the coming year, and discussion and possible action on insurance, assets and liabilities, and accounts payable.

WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **LOW**
75 **38**

STATE

City rule a tough cookie for Girl Scouts

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas city is making it harder for Girl Scouts to sell cookies door to door under a new solicitation ordinance.

Rowlett city officials recently adopted a stricter ordinance that requires scouts to apply for permits and requires all adults involved, including parents who make the rounds with their daughters, to have a criminal background check.

The policy is one tough cookie to swallow for parents and Girl Scout leaders who are worried that it will hurt this year's cookies sales.

DEATHS

William Robert Provence, 61, oilfield worker.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM ROBERT PROVENCE
 1942-2003

William Robert Provence, 61, of Pampa, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003. The body was cremated. No services are planned at this time.
 Born June 19, 1942, at Foreman, Ark., Mr. Provence had been a Pampa resident most of his life, working as a roughneck in the oilfield. Survivors include three stepsons, Robert Swanson of Skellytown, Bobby Swanson of New Mexico and Billy Swanson of Amarillo; a brother, Leonard Provence of Avant, Okla.; and a sister, Marie Gonzalez of Pampa.

ON RECORD

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 5

Earnest Lamar Huff, 68, incomplete address given, of Pampa, was arrested by Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

Lee Dewayne Scott, 51, 611 Barnes, was arrested by DPS for public intoxication.

Randall Kevin Eldridge, 40, Lefors, was arrested for public intoxication.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Jacob Seymour, 17, Shamrock, was arrested by DPS for public intoxication and minor in possession of alcohol.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 5

6:56 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:47 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of North Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:18 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Garland and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:21 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Wynne and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:38 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of North Christy. No transport.

8:13 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported no calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department made the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 5

Jane Deric Dedrick, 30, 200 N. Wells, was arrested for no seat belt.

Donald Dane Johnson, 39, 726 Dean Dr., was arrested on a capias pro fine for failure to control speed and for possession of marijuana under 2-ounces.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is the mid 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Monday night, cloudy. A chance of light rain or snow then a chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows around 30. Chance of rain or snow 30 percent. Tuesday, partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow showers in the morning. Highs in the lower 40s. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Thursday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

May God Bless all of our family and friends who so thoughtfully expressed their sympathy and concern during our time of such great loss. We would like to thank each and everyone of you for all the prayers, meals, friendly calls and visits, cards and wonderful contributions made to our family. We will never forget what each of you have done. You will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Sincerely,
 The Jimmy Baggett & Lash Families

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
 Hebrews 13:5

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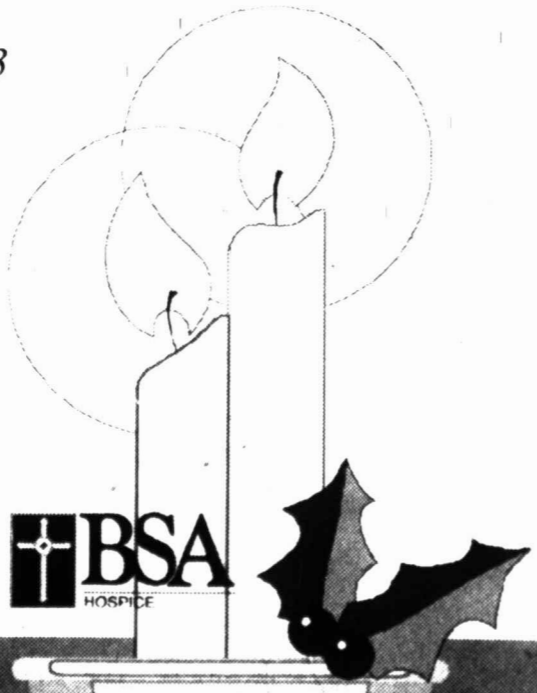
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City Briefs

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

ANGELS, ANGELS we have Salvation Army Angels! Help make someone's Holiday special! Come by and pick an angel off our Christmas tree! 8-5 p.m. *The Pampa News*, 403 W. Atchison.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS for Children 5 & older at Lovett Memorial Library, Sat., Dec. 13, 10 a.m. Call 669-5780 to sign-up or more info.

FILL OUT a Christmas Wish List at North Fork Antiques. When your loved ones want to know what you want, we can tell them! 211 N. Main, McLean, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 p.m.

FOTO TIME will be open Tuesday-Friday 9 to 5. Picture frames and photo accessories 40% off. Darkroom sinks, enlargers, store fixtures, glass shelves, display cases and other items for sale. 107 N. Cuyler

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Redneck Chimney Sweeps. Call for your chimney sweeping, repairs & caps. 665-7153.

IT'S TIME to plan your Holiday Travel! For all your travel needs call Complete Travel, 669-6110.

KAREN'S KITCHEN, 716 W. Foster, Sun. 11-2, baked pork chops, brisket, ch. tenders. All You Can Eat \$7.25.

KNIGHTS OF Columbus Holiday Turkeys for sale. Rick 665-2500, Jerry 665-0840, Jim 669-0468, or Jack 665-7161. Deadline is Dec. 14th.

LETTERS TO Santa! Bring letters by *The Pampa News* office, 403 W. Atchison, 8-5 p.m., or mail to Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066. Letters will not be accepted after 12 noon, Mon. Dec. 22nd.

MAHOGANY SECRETARY. 1940's. North Fork Antiques. McLean. Open til 7 on Thurs., Tues.-Sat: 10-6 pm

MAKE THIS Christmas special by framing a family photo, Hobby Shop, open til 7 p.m. Thurs.

MASSAGE THERAPY Special, Christmas gift certificates & essential oils. Call Cathy Potter, 669-0013.

MELISSA THOMAS formerly of Chez Tanz, now at Downtown Nails, 107 W. Foster, 669-1730.

PAMCEL FEDERAL Credit Union Members, please stop by the Credit Union for our Holiday Open House on Dec. 11th, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. We wish you a very Merry Christmas & prosperous 2004!

PAMPA SHRINE Club election of officers. Monday Dec. 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

RHEAMS DIAMOND Shop Open til 8 p.m. for Christmas register, for Free "Diamond Ring", from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. only.

SKATEBOARDS AND all the accessories now available at Hall's!! 700 W. Foster, 665-4241.

THE ANNUAL Christmas Tree Project for Tralee Crisis Center is now underway. Please come by the office at 310 S. Cuyler or call 669-1131 for more info. Help to UN-decorate their tree. You can assist a victim and her children have a joyful holiday.

THE VICARY House Tea Room will be closed to the public during Dec. Book your private party now! 669-0122.

'TIS THE Season To Relax With A Massage....To make an appointment call Zane Walters 664-2629. Gift Certificates are Available.

X-MAS DECORATIONS Installed, Daniel, 665-4219

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

POLL

47 percent, has not shifted significantly. A majority, 54 percent, approved of his handling of foreign policy and the war on terrorism.

Bush's job approval among registered voters was at 53 percent, with 44 percent dis-

proving. In mid-November, his approval was at 50 percent. The public's overall mood about the direction of the country was slightly improved from November.

In the new poll, 43 percent said the country was headed in the right direction, and 51 percent said it was on the wrong track. In mid-November, 38

percent had a positive view, and 56 percent said wrong track.

Divisions on Bush are still apparent.

"I think he does a good job on some things," said Bill Rogers, a 69-year-old retiree from Farnsworth, Texas. "On other things like the war in Iraq, I think he made a mistake."

While a majority of people support the president on foreign policy and the campaign on terror, they remain closely divided on his re-election.

Joseph Caporino of Hoboken, N.J., said he would consider voting for someone other than Bush.

"It depends on the other candidates in the race and what they have to say," the 54-year-old account manager said. "There's no sense putting another jerk in there. At least Bush has already been in for a while."

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,001 adults was taken Dec. 1-3 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

On the Net: Ipsos-Public Affairs: http://www.ipsos.com Multimedia presentation will be available at http://data-center.ap.org/wdc/poll.html

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The Family of Minnie Evans

Pampa Girl Scouts recognize local businesses for help



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Girl Scouts recently presented certificates of appreciation to Store Manager Carol Carter of Wal-Mart, for her company's support of the recent nut sales. Pictured are, back row from left: Elyxeus Anaya, Chrissi Ditiirro, and Mike Gilbert; middle row, from left: Lacey Dodson, Kinsey Griffin, Chelsie Griffin, Keva Dallas; and front row, from left: Macye Wheat and Nikki Anderson.

The Five Star Girl Scout Council & Girl Scout Troops of Pampa recently recognized Wal-Mart, Carol Carter, Store Manager and United Supermarket, Troy Newton, Manager for their generous support during their fall sales of Girl Scout nuts.

Proceeds from the sales go to help the local troops with expenses, such as funds for crafts, badges, tree angels field trips, and summer camp tuition.

Representatives from all troops in Pampa that participated presented each business with a certificate of appreciation.

"They are our partners for the future, helping mold our next generation of community leaders," said Letha Anderson, Pampa Service Unit Chair. "These businesses have been supporters of Girl Scouts for many years," she added.

Nuts are still available and may be purchased by contacting Anderson at 669-6177.

Pampa area Girl Scouts plan to begin their annual Girl Scout Cookies sale on Jan. 15, 2004.



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Girl Scouts recently presented certificates of appreciation to Manager Mike Gilbert, United Supermarket, for his company's support of the recent nut sales. Pictured are, back row from left: Elyxeus Anaya, Chrissi Ditiirro, and Mike Gilbert; middle row, from left: Lacey Dodson, Kinsey Griffin, Chelsie Griffin, Keva Dallas; and front row, from left: Macye Wheat and Nikki Anderson.

In effort to improve education, schools look abroad for qualified educators

By BRUCE NICHOLS
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HOUSTON — Last year, Vivek Agarwal was teaching math in a private school in his native India. This year, he's teaching chemistry at Smiley High School in Houston's North Forest Independent School District.

"It is very exciting," said Mr. Agarwal, 36, who is fulfilling his dream of coming to the United States. In the process, he is making \$2,800 a month as opposed to \$300 a month in India.

His students are happy. "I think he's a great teacher," said Tashka Jones, a 17-year-old sophomore.

Aiming to improve on poor achievement test scores, administrators are also happy. "It's teachers like him who are going to help us reach the goal that we're striving for," said Smiley Principal Norris Rhines.

North Forest ISD honored Mr. Agarwal recently for scoring 100 on his Texas teacher certification test.

Mr. Agarwal exemplifies the expanding global reach of the search for teachers to ease a U.S. teacher shortage that officials estimate at 50,000 a year and likely to grow because of low pay, poor working conditions and retirement of baby-boomer teachers.

Companies are springing up to help school officials find teachers overseas, including a

new company in Houston, USA Employment, which specializes in teachers from India. It helped Mr. Agarwal land the job at Smiley.

U.S. schools have imported teachers for years, and Texas and Houston area schools are leaders in the effort, according to a National Education Association study of foreign teacher recruitment published in June.

Of 10,000 foreign teachers working in U.S. public schools last year, more than 3,000 were in Texas, estimated NEA, the nation's largest teachers' union. In the Houston area alone, there were 2,400, including 915 in the Houston Independent School District, while the Dallas Independent School District had 88, the NEA said.

Most were brought to meet the need for bilingual instruction, and with the biggest immigrant populations being from south of the border, the emphasis has been on Spain, Mexico and Latin America, officials said.

Bringing teachers from India is relatively new, said Ron Kettler, interim director of the Texas Board of Educator Certification.

But the phenomenon likely will grow because there is a need not just for Hispanic bilingual instruction, but for math and science teachers, said Jay Kumar, a former petrochemical engineer who two years ago started USA Employment to help districts

recruit teachers in India.

India has a pool of experienced teachers highly qualified in math and science. And because India had been part of the British Empire, most Indian teachers speak English.

"We think this is the best solution," Mr. Kumar said.

USA Employment is not the only company in the field the NEA report listed several others that have operated longer but in just two years it has placed 120 teachers in districts from Arizona to Connecticut.

Fare paid for officials. The company pays the way of school district officials to India to interview candidates. For those unable to travel, it can provide videotapes or teleconferenced interviewing from its Delhi office, run by Mr. Kumar's brother.

The teachers pay their own way, coming to the United States on non-immigrant visas, and they remit to USA Employment a fee of as much as \$500 a month for three

years to cover the cost of finding them a job, Mr. Kumar said.

In its recent report, the NEA expressed concern that not all foreign teachers receive comparable pay. The group also doubted the wisdom of people paying agencies to get jobs in the United States.

Some districts including Dallas ISD have a policy of avoiding such arrangements. "We don't charge for our services, and we don't want any of our employees to wind up paying somebody to come to work for the district," DISD spokesman Donnie Claxton said.

The Houston school district, working with the Region IV Texas Education Service Center, doesn't use private agencies either, said Terry Abbott, HISD spokesman.

But the need is great and growing, partly because of Congress' recent passage of

the No Child Left Behind Act, requiring qualified teachers in every classroom, said Larry Zenke, a consultant to school districts.

"We need to expand our traditional recruiting avenues to find the teachers we need," said Dr. Zenke, who recently returned from a USA Employment recruiting trip for the Jacksonville-Duval County school district in Florida.

Mr. Agarwal said his arrangement with USA Employment has been beneficial. "I appreciate the program," he said.

Borrowed money for trip. He made two trips to the United States before finding a job, borrowing the total cost of \$6,000 \$2,000 for the first trip, \$4,000 for the second from his father. "I'm paying him back now," Mr. Agarwal said.

The calculation Indian teachers make is simple, offi-

cialists said. While students are more respectful in India and teachers' position in society is more respected, there's much greater opportunity in America.

"People want to come basically because this is the best place you can be," said Isha Gangopadhy, a third-grade teacher placed in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land by USA Employment.

Teaching at Smiley has been challenging but rewarding, Mr. Agarwal said. "The students need me more. Their morale has been really low. They're being told they're bad, they're stupid, all these things. ... I tell them they're doing good. I force them to think," he said.

Judging from a recent session in the classroom, his approach is working. As he used the question-and-answer method to walk students

(See TEACHERS, Page 5)



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WTA&M Centennial Ornament Series available in time for Christmas

CANYON — It's tree-decorating time and what better ornament to hang than West Texas A&M University's 2003 "Buffalo Courts Alumni Center" ornament.

The ornament is the fourth in the University's Centennial Countdown Series and depicts one of the University's most identifiable landmarks.

Buffalo Courts was built by WT students with petrified wood and native stone. It was originally constructed with a series of rooms arranged around a courtyard and a large two-story lodge. The facility served as the first dormitory in the state reserved exclusively for male athletes.

The two-story main building, completed in 1941, is the only part of the structure still standing. It now houses the Alumni Association, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

"Buffalo Courts was an obvious choice for this year's ornament. It holds a lot of memories for a lot of people, and we're

excited to add it to the collection," Natrele Long, honorary chair of the Christmas ornament committee and wife of WTAMU President Russell Long, said.

The three-dimensional solid-brass Buffalo Courts ornament is finished in 24-karat gold and is elegantly presented in a decorative box bearing the University seal.

The first ornament in the 11-ornament series was issued in 2000, depicting the University's Old Main building. The next year, a Buffalo ornament was available, followed by an Event Center ornament last year. A new ornament will be introduced every year until 2010 to commemorate the University's 100-year anniversary.

The Buffalo Courts ornament is available for \$12.95 each. A limited number of Old Main, Buffalo and Event Center ornaments are available for \$14.95 each. (Handling and shipping is an additional \$4.95 per order and will require two to three

weeks for delivery.) Profits from the sale of the ornaments benefit campus beautification projects.

Orders can be mailed to Bookstore, WTAMU Box 60937, Canyon, Texas 79016-0001, or call 806-651-2744, fax 806-651-2752 or visit the University Bookstore in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center on campus.

Texas Panhandle Regional Development Corp. elects new officers

AMARILLO — Texas Panhandle Regional Development Corporation recently elected Sheryl Hardy, director of Economic Development, Perryton Community Development Corp., as its next president while Duane Hart, Edward Jones in Pampa, is among current TPRDC directors.

Other directors are Lorie Vincent with The High Ground of Texas in Stratford, Ralph Maxfield with Lemon Insurance in Booker, Mike Amos with Sun Bank in Panhandle, and Sheila Martin with Texas

Department of Agriculture in Amarillo. Robert Worley, executive director of Dumas Economic Development Corp., was elected vice president; Steve Brunson, executive vice president of First American Bank in Amarillo, was elected secretary; and Milton Cooke, president of Cookya, Inc., in Canadian, will serve as treasurer.

TPRDC is a U.S. Small Business Administration Certified Development Company which serves the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

A certified development company is a nonprofit corporation set up to contribute to the economic development of its community or region. CDCs work with the Small Business Administration and private-sector lenders to provide financing to small businesses.

Through SBA 504 Loan Program, TPRDC enables expanding businesses or business start-ups to secure long-term, fixed rate financing for fixed assets such as land and buildings.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

TEACHERS

through how various materials conduct electricity, he held the attention of most in the class. "When he's trying to teach you something, he makes sure you get it before he goes on," said John Davis, a 16-year-old sophomore.

"He doesn't give up," said Jessica Contreras, 16. "If you don't give up, he won't give up. He keeps going. ... He really cares about his students. You can tell it from the way he teaches."

Problems at first Both Mr. Agarwal and his students acknowledged there were some communica-

tion problems at first because of his Indian-accented English and their Texas accents and American slang.

"We had to work together to understand each other," Ms. Jones said.

"Initially, I was having some problems, but now I am comfortable," Mr. Agarwal agreed.

Although teachers enter the country on visas lasting up to six years, many seek to stay either as permanent residents or become U.S. citizens. Mr. Kumar wants to bring his wife, Tulika, to the United States and eventually to become a citizen. He has no children.

Even if he doesn't

stay in the country, Mr. Agarwal said the experience will have been valuable. "I've really learned a lot, and if I go back from here, I've a very good chance to become a principal or to guide other teachers," he said.

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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Children Never Outgrow Need For Their Grandmother's Love

DEAR ABBY: "Loving Grandma in Omaha" was unsure whether it was OK to still hold her 11-year-old grandson on her lap.

Her letter reminded me of the time my 10-year-old nephew and my mother and I were at a restaurant. (Mom had helped to raise him as a baby.)

Toward the end of dinner my nephew went to sit on my mother's lap. I asked him, "What happens when you're too big for Grandma to hold anymore?" Without blinking, he replied, "Then I'll hold her." I had tears in my eyes the rest of the evening.

DEAR KATHLEEN: Smart child. That is what I used to do with my mother. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was close to my maternal grandmother. Some mornings she would call my mother at 7 a.m. and tell her to take my temperature because I was sick. (She was always right!) After I was 10 or so, I'd lie on the couch and put my head in her lap and she'd rub my neck and head.

She died just before my 13th birthday. I was in school, but I "knew" it had happened before I was told.

She had a wonderful Yiddish saying: "Tsuris (trouble) is what you get from children. Naches (joy) is what you get from grandchildren!"

DEAR SENTIMENTAL: There's truth in those old Yiddish sayings. Here's another: "When a man who has been previously married marries a woman who has been previously married, four people go to bed." But I digress. Back to the subject:

DEAR ABBY: I rocked my son when he was a baby. When he was 6 or 7, he began having minor problems at school. His teacher suggested that I start rocking him again. I did, and within a few days, his teacher began commenting on how much better behaved he was.

I did not rock my son to sleep. We used the time to talk. He would confide his fears, little hurts, good things that happened — things we would never otherwise have shared. I continued to rock him until he was

nearly bigger than I was. It was one of the best things I ever did.

Today he's in college, and a very personable young man.

PROUD MOM,
CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

DEAR PROUD MOM: And I'm sure your wonderful relationship continues.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 32, and I still lie on the couch and put my head in my grandmother's lap. My sister is 28, a sergeant first class in the Army, and she still climbs into bed with Mom to talk. Some of my most precious memories are tied to those moments. Please tell "Loving Grandma" to continue rocking her grandson. As my mom is so fond of saying, "You cannot spoil a child by loving him."

STILL CUDDLING,
DAVENPORT, IOWA

DEAR STILL CUDDLING: Your mother is right.

DEAR ABBY: Grandchildren are never too old to be held and shown affection. I would give anything to feel my grandmother's arms around me just once more.

It has been four years since her passing. I still have days when the pain hits like it did when I first lost her, but I get through it knowing she is always with me. Sometimes, when I need her most, I still feel her arms around me.

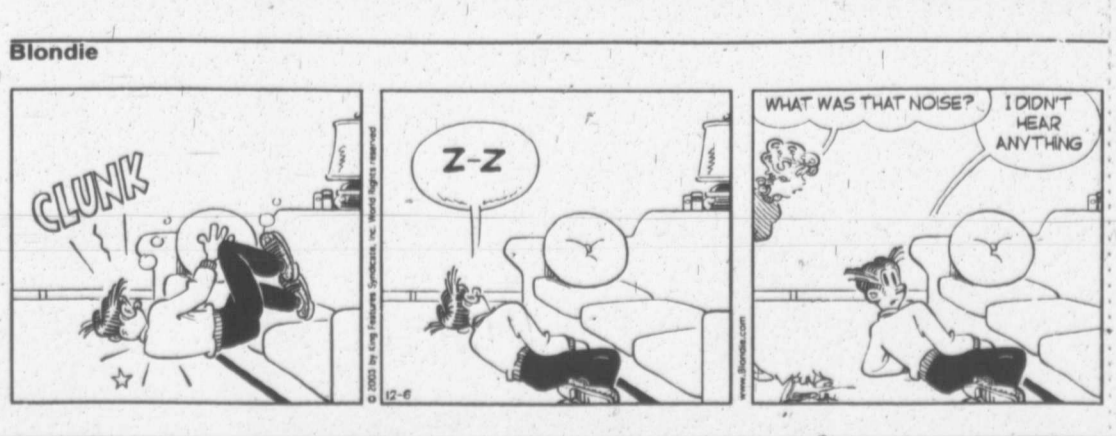
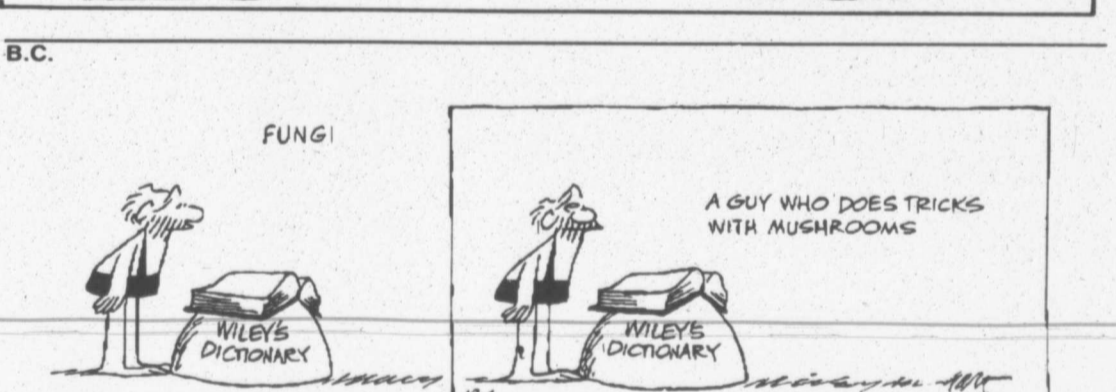
STILL MISSING GRANDMA
IN N.C.

DEAR STILL: You have said it well. The people we love always remain in our hearts. The memory of their love and wisdom is their most important legacy.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne 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.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



The Pampa News Comics

Crossword Puzzle

ROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 42 Takes it
1 Bar order easy
6 Rings
11 Museum piece
12 Confused
13 Flooded
14 Birth-based
15 Use, as
17 Big head
18 Tick off
19 Trial
22 Teaching org.
23 Role for De Niro
24 Toss
25 Lab container
27 Big galoot
30 Theater seat part
31 Not strict
32 Parly staple
33 Casual top
35 "See ya!"
38 Chair repairer
39 Danny's daughter
40 Sports site
41 Winter weather
- DOWN
1 Entice
2 Do elec-trician's work
3 Silka's state
4 Pike, e.g.
5 Trinket
6 Bad-review
7 Flight guess
8 Toward the wake
9 Team group
10 Perm place
16 Most proximate
20 Convert-ible
21 Pull often
24 Sticky stuff
25 Kind of shower
26 Realm
27 Flared dresses
28 Report card recipient
29 Crowd scene
30 Second group president
34 Fast runner
36 Bullfight call
37 Drunk

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A FOOT EXILE
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Yesterday's answer

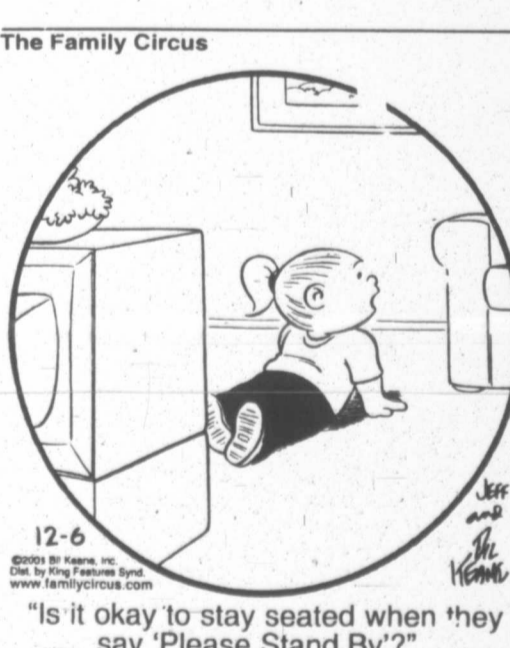
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PPHM S Canyon wil Saturday of second floor PPHM at (8 USS Col seeking Nav USS Colum Columbus (president, 7: 339-3568; e White D (112-116 S. Sunday. No...

Other
Ballroom Dancers Assn ner social o If enough int be formed to information, USABDACE New Freedom Clarendo 7782, Hwy Saturday. Do Ten games a 874-VETS. T per session.
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CALENDAR ITEMS

EDUCATION, PSAs

World Heritage. World Heritage, a non-profit student exchange program, is currently seeking a local community representative to provide high school exchange students with program support. For more information, call Ande Bloom at 1-800-888-9040 or visit www.world-heritage.org on the World Wide Web.

MUSEUMS, MILITARY

82nd Airborne. The 82nd Airborne Division Association is seeking new members. Airborne is the only requirement for membership. The Association holds a national reunion each year plus many mini-reunions, picnics and dinner dances. For more information, write AIRBORNE 2001, 5459 Northcutt P, Dayton, OH 45414-3742; or call S.R. Gossett (WWII) at (937) 898-5977.

Freedom Museum USA. Freedom Museum, USA, 600 N. Hobart is open from 12-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Revolutionary War to Kosovo. All branches of service are represented. For more information, call 669-6066.

Harrington House. The 2001 tour season for Harrington House, 1600 S. Polk, Amarillo, is in full swing. Built in 1914 by cattlemen John and Pat Landergin, the house was acquired in 1940 and preserved by Don and Sybil Harrington. The hour-long tours are conducted from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through mid-December. There is no admission fee. For more information call (806) 374-5490.

The Old Guard. Current and former members of the U.S. Army's oldest Infantry Regiment, the 3d U.S. Infantry or "The Old Guard Association" (also known as TOGA) are being sought for membership in the association. For more information, write to: Membership Committee, The Old Guard Association, 1000 Winchell Rd., Drawer 22, Aurora, OH 44202; or visit www.oldguard.org on the Internet.

Old Mobeetie Jail Museum. Old Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie offers various volunteer opportunities to interested individuals. For more information, call (806) 845-2028.

PPHM Story Time. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will present "Story Time" at 2:30 p.m. every second Saturday of each month except December and January on the second floor of the museum. For more information, contact PPHM at (806) 651-2244.

USS Columbus. USS Columbus Veterans Association is seeking Navy and Marine Corps shipmates who served on the USS Columbus (CA-74/CG-12) 1944-1976 and the USS Columbus (SSN-762) past and present. Contact Alvin S. Lewis, president, 726 E. Covina Blvd., Covina CA 91722-2955; (626) 339-3568; e-mail homeport@lewisengraving.com.

White Deer Land Museum. White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) winter visiting hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. No charge for admission; elevator provided.

Other

Ballroom Dancers. United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association is seeking support for a chapter for beginner social or recreational ballroom dancers in the Amarillo area. If enough interest is expressed, a local steering committee will be formed to guide the project and enroll members. For more information, call 1-800-447-9047; e-mail USABDACENT@aol.com; or write: USABDA, P.O. Box 128, New Freedom, PA 17349.

Clarendon VFW Bingo. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7782, Hwy 287 east, Clarendon, hosts charity bingo every Saturday. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. Ten games are played per session. For more information, call 874-VETS. The maximum award is \$750 per game and \$2,500 per session.

Geezer.com. Green Thumb, Inc., the nation's oldest and largest provider of training and employment for mature workers, now offers consumers Geezer.com, an on-line service featuring the handiwork of seniors from across the country. The site is a must for shoppers looking for distinctive, often one-of-a-kind gifts. Geezer.com includes scores of artisans and craftspeople with more than 2,000 hand-wrought products in more than a dozen categories — apparel, art, doll houses, home and hearth, music and videos, pet store, sports, recreation, toys and games, yard and garden and more.

Tetra's Virtual Aquarium. Tetra's Virtual Aquarium is located at www.tetra-fish.com on the World Wide Web.

TEXAS Vacation Packages. The Musical Drama "TEXAS" is continuing its fall, winter and spring vacation packages showcasing area attractions such as Amarillo Rattlers, Amarillo Opera, Amarillo Symphony, Lone Star Ballet, American Quarter Horse Association and much more. The packages include hotel/motel accommodations, dining in the best western

tradition and one-stop shopping. For more information, call 1-800-655-2181 or visit www.texasmusicaldrama.com on the Internet.

COMMUNITY, CHURCHES

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

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

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

Church of the Brethren. Church of the Brethren hosts a country gospel program at 7 p.m., every Monday at its location at 600 N. Frost.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pampa Masonic Lodge #966. Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 420 W. Kingsmill, stated meeting is the third Thursday of each month at the same time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Texas Department of Human Services. Texas Department of Human Services is seeking volunteers for its Texas Works Services Program. Tasks are varied and placement is based upon the volunteer's interest, capability and availability of openings. Hours are flexible. For more information, contact Beth Miller at 665-1863.

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

VFW & Ladies Auxiliary. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1567 meets at 7 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the VFW Hall, 105 S. Cuyler. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m., the second Tuesday of the month at the VFW Hall.

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

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

American Legion. American Legion Post 334 meets at 7 p.m., the third Thursday of each month at Freedom Museum, 600 N. Hobart.

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

Downtown Business Association. Pampa Downtown Business Association meets at 8:30 a.m., the second Tuesday of the month at The Coffee Shop on Cuyler. For more information, call Chase Roach at 665-1251.

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

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

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

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

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

Magic Plains ABWA. Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Clint and Sons Smokehouse, 1421 N. Hobart. Working business women are invited to attend. For more information, call Pat Winkleblack at 669-7828 or Estelle Malone at 669-9614.

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

PCCA
Pampa Community Concert Association's 2003-04 concert series includes the following programs: Lee and Suits Duo - 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "Guthrie in Dance and Music" - 3 p.m., Jan. 20, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "The Woods Tea Co." - Feb. 15, Heritage Room, M.K. Brown Auditorium; and Cantus - 7:30 p.m., April 26, Borger High School Auditorium. Memberships/tickets are available at the door. For more information on any of these events, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631.

OHS/WIC
Stay-at-home moms who would like to work a few hours a week may be eligible for a part-time position as a breastfeeding peer counselor for Outreach Health Services Women, Infants and Children program. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a telephone. Must have successfully breastfed an infant and must be a current or former WIC client. For more information, call 1-800-200-7121.

TDHS VOLUNTEERS
Texas Department of Human Services is seeking volunteers for its Texas Works Services Program. Tasks are varied and placement is based upon the volunteer's interest, capability and availability of openings. Hours are flexible. For more information, contact Beth Miller at 665-1863.

FESTIVAL OF TREES
Pampa Garden Club will hold its annual Festival of Trees from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, and from 12 noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Contact Debbie Davis at 665-0123 for more information.

APPRAISAL SEMINAR
The American Society of Agricultural Appraisers will offer a 4 1/2-day Personal Property Appraisal Seminar Dec. 10-14 in Dallas/Fort Worth. The seminar is designed specifically for individuals who currently are, or who desire to be, a livestock, farm equipment or horse appraiser. For more information, call 1-800-488-7570 or visit www.amagappraisers.com on the Internet.

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING TOUR
The annual Children's Shopping tour will be held the morning of Dec. 13. The event will get under way at 8 a.m. at Pampa Optimist Club, 601 E. Craven. The tour matches underprivileged children with adult volunteers who take the children Christmas shopping for family members. Over 200 volunteers are sought for this year's tour. For more information, call Trevlyn Pitner, Pampa Police Department, at 669-5700 or Shelly Cook, Guaranty Abstract & Title, at 669-2899.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Moonlight Extension Education Club will host its 25th Annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 14 at Bailey County Civic Center and Coliseum at Muleshoe. Booth space is available until Dec. 8. To request an application, write to Linda Huckaby, 902 W. 8th St., Muleshoe, TX 79347.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping

cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Dec. 3 and 17, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 8, at Baker School, 723 Cheyenne Ave., Canadian.

AMARILLO QUILT SHOW
Amarillo Quilt Show is scheduled from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, March 19, and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 20 in the Regency Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. The event is being sponsored by Piecemakers Quilt Club, a member of National Quilting Association. Admission will be \$3 for adults. For show information, call (806) 359-3315; for class information, call (806) 655-7401; and for quilt show entries, (806) 353-1164.

COLGATE YOUTH SERVICE CONTEST
Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Camp Fire and 4-H organizations are invited to enter their best community service projects in the 2000 "Colgate Youth for America" campaign. Cash grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to the most creative and best executed projects from local clubs and troops. Local club and troop community service programs running between March 1, 2003, and March 1, 2004, are eligible for the contest. Entry forms are available through regional offices of the national organizations or by sending a SASE to: Colgate Youth for America Campaign, P.O. Box 1058, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-1058. Deadline for entry into this year's program is April 30, 2004. Forms are also available on-line at www.youthforamerica.com.

USS SPERRY
The USS Sperry Association is seeking former shipmates who served between 1942-82 for a reunion celebration. For more information, call (517) 784-7810; write George Gallas, secretary, USS SPERRY (AS-12) Association, Jackson, MI 49203-1521; or e-mail georgecarole@modempool.com.

TPMHMR board hears PNAC program update

AMARILLO — Don Newsom, Administrative Support Services director, was presented to Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation Board of Trustees at a board meeting recently. Newsom addressed the board about a proposed Centers Workshop Utilization Project while Susan Kitchens, Clients Rights officer, and Tim Bowles, Planning and Public Information director, updated the board on the new Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC) structure and membership requirements.

Trustees approved the relocation of the administrative staff currently located in the Taylor facility to the Wallace facility; Children's Services and STAR program will move from Wellington Square to the Taylor facility, all in Amarillo. This consolidation is projected to save the agency approximately \$84,000 over the next fiscal year.

The board approved a PNA Committee consisting of nine members, five whom are either consumers or have family members that receive services from the agency. The following representatives from the region were appointed to the new committee: Linda Brain, Charlene Brownlow, Buck Formby, Charles Gill, David Hagler, Vicki Lane, the Rev. James Peach, Karen Pshigoda and Jerry Williams.

TPMHMR approved the plan to refine its Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) to the Home and Community Based Services (HCS) program. This move is expected to provide more options for clients with mental retardation while helping ease the administrative burden of operating two separate systems of rules and reimbursement.

Employment contracts for Bud Schertler, executive director of TPMHMR, and Dr. Michael Jenkins, chief medical officer, were reviewed and approved.

The Volunteer Services Council will be conducting its annual Christmas projects for the benefit of the clients of TPMHMR. Ornaments reflecting one wish each for qualifying clients are being hung on the Christmas trees located in the lobby of select Amarillo banks. Other projects include the annual benefit luncheon and the Star Dust and Sweet Dreams Dance.

Trustees approved relocation of administrative staff currently located in the Taylor facility to the Wallace facility; Children's Services and STAR program will move from Wellington Square to the Taylor facility, all in Amarillo

The Board of Trustees represents the citizens served by TPMHMR in the upper 21 counties of the Texas Panhandle and serves as the policy making body. The board meets monthly and conducts business in accordance with the Open Meetings Laws of Texas. Board members are The Hon. Willis Smith, chair, Higgins; Dr. Sam Reeves, vice-chair, Amarillo; Janis Robinson, secretary/treasurer, Hereford; Steve Cornett, Canyon; Diane Scroggins, Borger; Elaine Vivens, Amarillo; Lee Ann Reno, Amarillo; Patty Hamm, Amarillo; and Sharon Braddock, Pampa. The center has offices in Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon, Dumas, Hereford, Pampa, Perryton and Wellington.

Any individual served by TPMHMR, their families, agency personnel, service providers or the general public who have questions or concerns regarding services provided by TPMHMR may contact Susan Kitchens, director of Client Relations, at (806) 349-5607.

Scholarship deadline near
CANYON — The application deadline for West Texas A&M University scholarships is fast approaching, and students are encouraged to start thinking about the application process now.

Feb. 1, 2004, is the scholarship deadline for the fall 2004 and spring 2005 semesters, and that date comes quickly after classes begin Jan. 13. Applications for scholarships are available online at www.wtamu.edu/scholarships.

The WTAMU scholarship committee has made the application process easier this year by eliminating the requirement for letters of recommendation and transcripts. "Students should take their time filling out the application to ensure they include all pertinent information and proofread carefully before submitting," Velma Murillo, assistant to the president, said. "The holidays are a great time to do this since most classes are not in session."

Scholarships are available to WTAMU students, transfer students and entering freshmen. Last year, WTAMU awarded approximately \$454,800 in scholarships. Students can apply online at www.wtamu.edu/scholarships. For more information, call 806-651-2097.

ALT to present 'Man of La Mancha'

AMARILLO — Amarillo Little Theatre will present one of Broadway's epic musicals "Man of La Mancha," Dec. 4-21, as the second production of the season.

The story begins in the common room of a stone prison vault in Seville, Spain, at the end of the 16th century. There, poet Miguel de Cervantes along with his servant Sancho Panza, awaits his time before the Spanish Inquisition, his fate uncertain.

In order to survive his time in the vault among the "thieves and murderers," he enacts a tale of the dauntless knight, Don Quixote and his adventures in La Mancha. As his story draws to a conclusion, Cervantes has won the hearts and minds of the prisoners. This show is not only inspirational and heart warming, it also features a fabulous score including the hit song, "The Impossible Dream."

Cast for "Man of La

Mancha" is a collection of talent from the area.

Playing the role of Miguel Cervantes is James Gardner, one of the area's most accomplished musicians. Aldonza/Dulcinea is being played by newcomer Emily Doerfel, a recent graduate of Duquesne University's vocal department. Sancho Panza is played by Richie R. Garza, theatre arts instructor at Caprock High School.

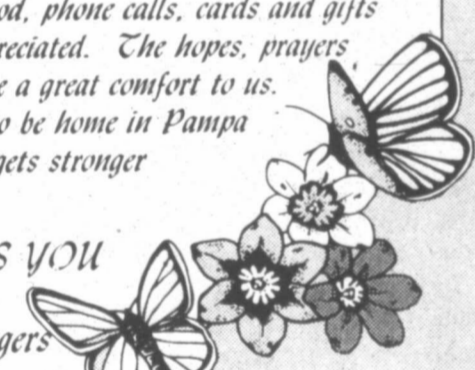
The remainder of the ensemble cast is comprised of a talented mix of newcomers and ALT veterans.

Production staff includes Allen Shankles as artistic director, Rolando Salazar as music director/conductor and Shawn Walsh as choreographer.

Tickets are available at the Amarillo Little Theatre Box Office at 2019 Civic Circle or by calling (806) 355-9991. Tickets may also be reserved online by e-mailing info@amarillolittletheatre.org.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the caring and thoughtfulness shown to our family following Jennie's recent accident. The food, phone calls, cards and gifts were greatly appreciated. The hopes, prayers and support were a great comfort to us. We are blessed to be home in Pampa now, as Jennie gets stronger every day.

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Santa will be at Knight's Sunday, Dec. 7, 14 & 21, 1-4 p.m. Have your child's photo taken with Santa!

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SAR phys mag

A mystery has Texas other public concerned, T magazine r December is developing that cannot ordinary an while theor presented, r not certain are occurring

The skin the resu Staphylococ called methi Staphylococ MRSA.

People in centers, scho facilities in T where have breaks of the the past 19 magazine re Antonio ho more than 10 among child months, and in which the died as a res Scores of in Bexar County contracted the last Decembe

"What we since 1997 is ism that is usu in the hosp becoming ver the communi Fergie, MD Texas Association's Committee o Diseases, tel zine. "That germ that in just associat tions acquire tal, is now l children who perfectly heal pediatric infe specialist.

Dr. Fergie Purcell, MI RPH, have article on the medical jour notes a signi MRSA case Christi's Dis Hospital as Texas Medi Their study cases of MR pital from through Dec Of those 1 cases are de been comm MRSA; 53 c 1997, and 3 2000 alone.

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Mon. - Fri. 221

MEDICAL

SARS strain worries physicians, medical magazine reporting

A mysterious scourge has Texas physicians and other public health officials concerned, Texas Medicine magazine reports in its December issue. People are developing skin eruptions that cannot be treated by ordinary antibiotics, and while theories have been presented, researchers are not certain why outbreaks are occurring.

The skin eruptions are the result of a Staphylococcus bacteria called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA.

People in jails, day care centers, schools, and other facilities in Texas and elsewhere have suffered outbreaks of the infection over the past 19 months, the magazine reports. A San Antonio hospital reports more than 100 MRSA cases among children in recent months, and even one case in which the young patient died as a result of MRSA. Scores of inmates at the Bexar County jail also have contracted the malady since last December.

"What we have noticed since 1997 is that an organism that is usually seen only in the hospital is now becoming very common in the community," Jaime E. Fergie, MD, chair of the Texas Medical Association's (TMA's) Committee on Infectious Diseases, tells the magazine. "That bacteria, that germ that in the past was just associated with infections acquired in the hospital, is now being seen in children who are otherwise perfectly healthy," adds the pediatric infectious disease specialist.

Dr. Fergie and Kevin Purcell, MD, PharmD, RPH, have published an article on the subject in a medical journal. Their work notes a significant jump in MRSA cases in Corpus Christi's Driscoll Children's Hospital as early as 1997, Texas Medicine reports. Their study examines 147 cases of MRSA at the hospital from October 1990 through December 2000. Of those 147 cases, 60 cases are deemed to have been community-acquired MRSA; 53 occurring since 1997, and 35 in the year 2000 alone.

Where else is MRSA

showing up? On our kids' school sports fields. Some student-athletes on middle school and high school teams are contracting the skin eruptions. One health official tells Texas Medicine that 20 high school football teams across Texas have players suffering from the infection. "We have one football team with 25 members with soft tissue infections," Neil Pascoe, RN, an epidemiologist with the Infectious Disease Division of the Texas Department of Health (TDH) says in the magazine.

Of those, nine are confirmed cases of MRSA, he says. Person-to-person contact with wounds often suffered in athletics apparently increases the spread.

The MRSA infection is resistant to penicillin and other similar antibiotics, but it can be treated effectively with other drugs, including non penicillin-related antibiotics. Public health officials are warning physicians that Staph infections not responding to antibiotics may be MRSA.

Proper detection and diagnosis is key, Texas Medicine reports, which is easier when the infection afflicts the skin, the most common target. However, infection showing up in less-obvious places in the body, such as internally, is more difficult to detect, diagnose and treat.

MRSA is spread primarily through person-to-person contact, so Texas Medicine says TDH's top prevention tip is thorough hand washing. But cases in which a person has no direct contact with an infected patient may be caused by the over-prescribing of antibiotics, and patients not completing their dosages of antibiotics when prescribed them.

Texas Medicine is a publication of the Texas Medical Association, a 38,000-member statewide association of physicians and medical students.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

Experimental pill may block organ rejection

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists mimicked a powerful immune-system disease in creating a pill that may block the rejection of transplanted organs without as many of the side effects that patients now face, researchers reported recently.

The experimental drug helped monkeys that had been given kidney transplants — a crucial hurdle, the researchers said. Although much more research is needed, human safety studies are beginning.

If it works, the drug, created by Pfizer Inc., could mark a more sophisticated way to prevent transplant rejection. Unlike today's anti-rejection drugs, it was specially engineered to inhibit a molecule called JAK3 that is key to marshaling the immune cells that attack and destroy newly implanted organs.

Ironically, the new compound was inspired by the deadly "bubble boy disease," in which children are born without a functioning immune system. A complete lack of JAK3 is at the root of the genetic disease, also called SCID or severe com-

combined immunodeficiency. With the new compound, Pfizer scientists hope to harness JAK3's immune suppression powers enough to help transplant recipients without overwhelming the body's defenses.

"It's a brand new concept," said Dr. Dominic Borie, transplant immunology chief at Stanford University School of Medicine, who tested Pfizer's drug in 12 monkeys given varying doses for three months.

While it completely protected only a third, "indeed it works, and does as well as other immunosuppressive drugs," with fewer side effects, he said.

Borie, along with scientists from Pfizer and the National Institutes of Health, reported the results in the journal Science.

The big question is how well the drug will work in people who are already sick instead of monkeys who start off healthy, cautioned Dr. John Fung, transplant chief at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, who was not involved with the research.

Still, he's intrigued.

"It looks like a very promising approach," Fung said. "It ushers in a new era of drugs that are targeted at specific pathways" of organ rejection.

The body's reaction to a new organ is thousands of times more aggressive than its fight against routine infections, so transplant recipients take powerful immune-suppressing drugs, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

Despite the obvious benefits, today's anti-rejection drugs can cause debilitating, even deadly, side effects. Some raise blood pressure and cholesterol levels, increasing the risk of heart disease. Some cause anemia. And some gradually destroy the kidneys, eventually forcing many transplant recipients onto dialysis.

Those side effects arise because the older drugs' molecular targets are found in cells throughout the body. Because the new compound's target, JAK3, is an enzyme found only in immune cells, it shouldn't cause kidney, heart and other problems, explained Pfizer lead

researcher Paul Changelian.

The hunt for the drug — so far known by the unwieldy code name CP-690,550 — began almost a decade ago, when the NIH discovered JAK3 and found it's crucial in activating infection-fighting white blood cells. Working with NIH, Pfizer then designed a pill to curb white blood cells' attack on donated organs by inhibiting JAK3's action.

It worked in mice given heart transplants. Stanford then tested 12 monkeys. Four had no signs of kidney problems after three months, and others had varying degrees of rejection earlier, suggesting the drug is comparable to other medications, Borie said. The monkeys' only side effect was anemia from the highest dose.



CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

by Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.

HAVE A JOLLY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY

Chiropractors receive a greater number of phone calls around holiday time. Patients lift heavy presents, lug the Christmas tree, and get into awkward positions to assemble toys and children's vehicles. Here are a few reminders to keep your body healthy:

Bend your knees when picking up an object. When lifting, keep the load as close to your body as possible. Do not flex forward when carrying the object since this creates pressure on the joints of the low back. A straight back is the best position.

Do not slouch in the car when in the car, especially when driving for long periods to visit the relatives. Also, regularly stop and stretch your legs and walk around. Similarly, watch how you sit in the recliner and sofa after the big holiday meal. Wrong positions could hurt your back.

No one likes making many trips back and forth to the car with small packages. However, carrying a heavy suitcase, package or box can hurt your back.

Be careful how you move when on your back assembling the new bike or crib. Make an appointment with your chiropractor if feeling unusual aches or pains.

Brought To You As A Community Service By

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(See SKIN, Page 12)

HEALTHBEAT: Researchers developing therapies for troubling skin disease

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a new era for patients covered in the itchy, scaly skin disease psoriasis. After years with few good treatments, doctors finally have a handful of therapies that promise to help control the incurable condition with fewer bad side effects.

What changed? Scientists learned that psoriasis isn't just a skin-deep disorder but a dysfunction of the immune system, so the new therapies target the real culprit.

"Five to six years ago, I was telling my patients it was the wasteland," says Dr. Craig Leonardi of St. Louis University Medical School, who participated in studies of the new treatments. "Now there's this huge explosion of amazing drugs coming forward."

The new options don't help everyone, cautions Dr. Michael Tharp, dermatology chief at Chicago's Rush University Medical Center. And they're very expensive, costing \$10,000 a year or more.

But, "it's a great first step," Tharp says. "Now we've got very directed molecules and know where they work and how they work. ... I hope it is just the beginning."

Two unique psoriasis shots, Amevive and Raptiva, recently won Food and Drug Administration approval. Two drugs already sold to treat other conditions — Enbrel and Remicade — are used against psoriasis, too. A list of other potential treatments is under study.

The four newest options haven't yet been compared to each other, but because each works somewhat differently, specialists expect hard-to-treat patients to find some relief among the bunch.

Some 4.5 million Americans have psoriasis. Of those, 1.5 million suffer moderate to severe symptoms — their skin covered in red or white scaly patches that burn and itch. It's triggered when certain immune system cells, called memory effector T cells, run amok, causing skin cells to multiply faster than normal and become inflamed.

It can be life-altering. "I wouldn't wear anything

but long-legged pants and long-sleeved shirts because I got so tired of people asking me questions," says Lyle Newcomb, 60, of Milwaukee, Ore., who tried every treatment without success. "You don't allow yourself to get real close to anybody because you don't know how they're going to accept it."

Then Newcomb entered a study of Raptiva. "I had never been clear of psoriasis in my life, but I was totally clear in three weeks," and, two years later, weekly shots keep symptoms at bay.

Ointments and light therapy — ultraviolet beams, sometimes with light-sensitizing drugs, a few times a week — are effective for milder psoriasis.

Until now, severely hit patients had two powerful options, each with serious side effects. The immune suppressor cyclosporine, commonly used to prevent rejection



Connie Nicklas and Daughter, Emily

30 minutes saved this mama.

"I wasn't looking forward to it, but it's something you do for yourself and your family. Now I have peace of mind, and I'm thankful I had that mammogram."

Pampa Regional Medical Center believes the health of this area's women is important. We have invested in state-of-the-art mammography:

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(Courtesy photo)

The Stevens Home, 1101 Mary Ellen

Twentieth Century Cotillion schedules annual Tour of Homes

Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club will once again host its annual Christmas Tour of Homes from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, in Pampa.

Now in its eighth year, the tour will include three homes — the Stevens Home, the Morrison Home and the Baten Home.

Tickets to the fund-raiser may be purchased at the door of the homes on tour. Proceeds will benefit The Opportunity Plan, Inc., of Canyon, a non-profit organization established in 1954 to provide financial assistance to students in post-secondary educational programs.

Located at 1101 Mary Ellen, The Stevens Home was built for Siler and Edna Faulkner in 1929 by Rippert Lumber Company and Builders out of Amarillo at a cost of \$30,000.

Siler was the first county clerk in Gray County and served as county judge.

E.L. Green, Jr., and Virginia Faulkner Green lived in the home and raised three sons after Siler's sudden death. The home remained in the family until Mrs. Green's death in January 2003. Now it is occupied by Jeff and Tammy Stevens and their three young sons.

This two-story home consists of five bedrooms, four

bathrooms, exterior brickwork, tile roofing, portico side carport, detached two car garage and an oval dormer style front door.

The interior boasts crown molding, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, a laundry shoot, French doors and a full basement.

The Morrison family has occupied the Morrison Home, located at 2101 N. Christine, since 1958, purchasing it from Floyd Walker. Bedrooms, a laundry room, an office, a storeroom and a basement have all been added to the home over the years.



(Courtesy photo)

The Morrison Home, 2101 N. Christine

In November 2000, Don and Fran Walker moved into the house. They restored the hardwood floors to their original luster and remodeled the kitchen.

Fran's love of the outdoors and horticulture is evidenced by the lack of curtains in the home, enabling one to view the wealth of flower beds and trees in the yard beyond which includes a newly built bench, fashioned from two steps taken from the local post office in 1934.

One might say the footprints of Pampa's history now adorn the Morrison front yard.

A unique log home built for Jerry and Malena Baten in January 2001 by Satterwhite Log Homes out of Longview, the Baten Home, 11845 Jira Road (located off McCullough Street just west of Lamar Elementary)

features four bedrooms and four baths.

Inviting wrap-around porches and a spacious living area with a rock fireplace surrounded by glass lends this home a "Rocky Mountain" effect.

The exterior is built entirely from dead-standing Engelmann Spruce trees found in high elevations while Aspen tongue-

and-groove cover all the interior walls.

The home was constructed entirely without sheet rock.

The Batens always dreamed of a mountain home, but hesitated to be too far from the grandchildren. They compromised and brought a touch of the mountains to the Panhandle.



(Courtesy photo)

The Baten Home, 11845 Kira Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

SKIN

tion of transplanted organs, can destroy kidneys. Inflammation-suppressing methotrexate, also used for cancer and rheumatoid arthritis, can cause liver damage.

The new biologically engineered treatments promise more targeted therapy without those risks:

—Amevive and Raptiva interfere with the harmful T cells, dramatically clearing psoriasis lesions in 20 percent to 40 percent of patients.

Amevive causes those T cells to die, explaining why some people's symptoms don't return for months after a three-month course of weekly shots. About 3,500 patients have begun Amevive since FDA approval in January, says maker Biogen Inc. The intramuscular shots are given in a doctor's office.

In contrast, Raptiva keeps

harmful immune cells from getting into and inflaming skin, so patients must take it indefinitely. Sales will begin by Thanksgiving, say makers Genentech Inc. and Xoma Ltd. Patients give themselves weekly under-the-skin shots.

That difference means more than convenience; some insurance pays for in-office therapy but not at-home drugs.

—Instead of targeting T cells, Enbrel and Remicade inhibit a protein, TNF, that's crucial to inflammation. FDA-approved for certain types of arthritis, some doctors already use the drugs for psoriasis' skin lesions. The FDA now is evaluating Enbrel injections for that use; a final-stage study of intravenous Remicade is about to begin.

Specialists call the four

new treatments largely safe but acknowledge that even mildly tinkering with the immune system for years might spur infections or cancer. "We're crossing our fingers," Tharp says.

That plus their huge cost means the new drugs are reserved for the worst patients. For less severe psoriasis sufferers, "we're back in the stone ages," Tharp says, urging companies to study better options for them, too.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lauran Neergaard covers health and medical issues for The Associated Press in Washington.

On the Net: National Psoriasis Foundation: <http://www.pso-ris.org>

CLUB NEWS

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

Pampa Art Club

Pampa Art Club met Dec. 2 at the home of Evelyn Epps.

The following business was conducted and

announcements made:

—Ornaments were completed for the club's entry into Festival of Trees slated Dec. 6-7. Select ornaments will be offered for sale with proceeds to benefit a needy child selected from the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

—Norma Hinkle was welcomed as a new member.

—Louise Moore will deliver a demonstration on the one-stroke technique on Jan. 20 at Lovett Memorial Library. Heritage Art Club is invited to attend the demonstration.

A Christmas party and

gift exchange is planned for 10:30 a.m. Dec. 16 at the home of Dona Cornutt.

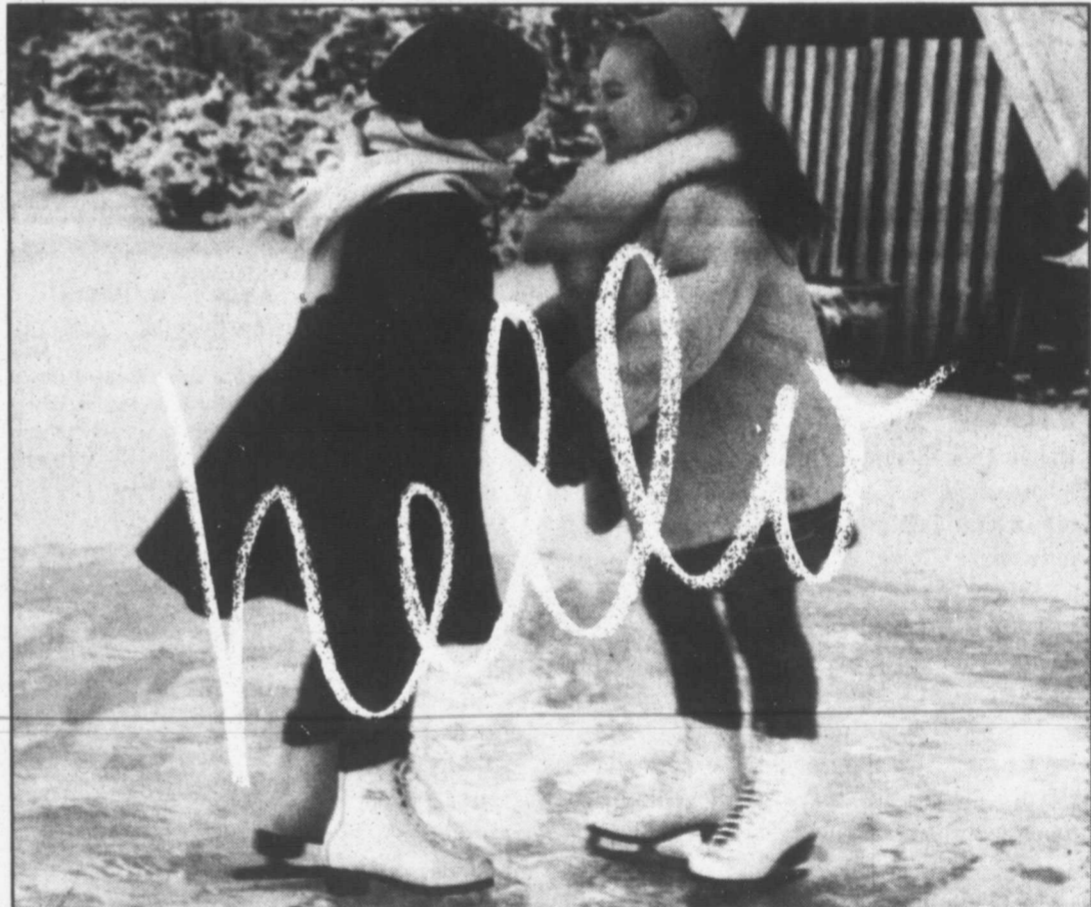
Heritage Art Club

Heritage Art Club met recently for its annual Christmas party with Jennie Baker and Barbara Stubblefield serving as hostesses.

Kelly and Breanna Beesley sang Christmas carols. Members exchanged homemade gift ornaments.

For membership information or to learn more about HAC, call 665-1597.

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COMMUNITY

NEWSMAKERS



Carissa B. Snelgrooes

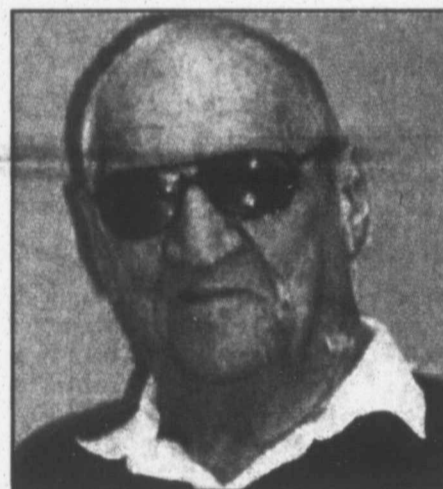
Carissa B. Snelgrooes, a student at Pampa High School, was recently selected for inclusion in The National Society of High School Scholars. The announcement was made by NSHSS Honorary Chair Claes Nobel, a senior member of the Nobel Prize Family.

Only students who exhibit superior academic achievement and who are among the top scholars in the nation are eligible for the society.

"I congratulate Carissa on this outstanding achievement and applaud the commitment to academic excellence," said Nobel. "The hard work and success of these exceptional young people will ensure a future generation dedicated to their communities and world betterment."

NSHSS was founded to recognize outstanding academic performance among high school students. Membership is by invitation only and includes several benefits for members such as scholarships, networking, events, publications and other opportunities.

Snelgrooes is the daughter of Steve and Alicia Snelgrooes of Pampa and is the granddaughter of Nathan and Nelda Lancaster and Shirley Swinney, all of Pampa.



Mike Porter

Mike Porter, curator of Freedom Museum USA in Pampa, will appear in a documentary set to air on the History Channel in 2004 in the United States. The program will be translated into German for German TV.

Porter recently received a letter asking his permission to publish the interview, along with his picture, in a book that is due to be released in the spring of 2004.

In July, four documentary editors came to the United States from Hamburg, Germany, and interviewed a man in Chicago, Ill., before arriving in Pampa for their interview with Porter. They later journeyed to England and interviewed two Royal Air Force pilots. All these veterans are expected to be included in the book.

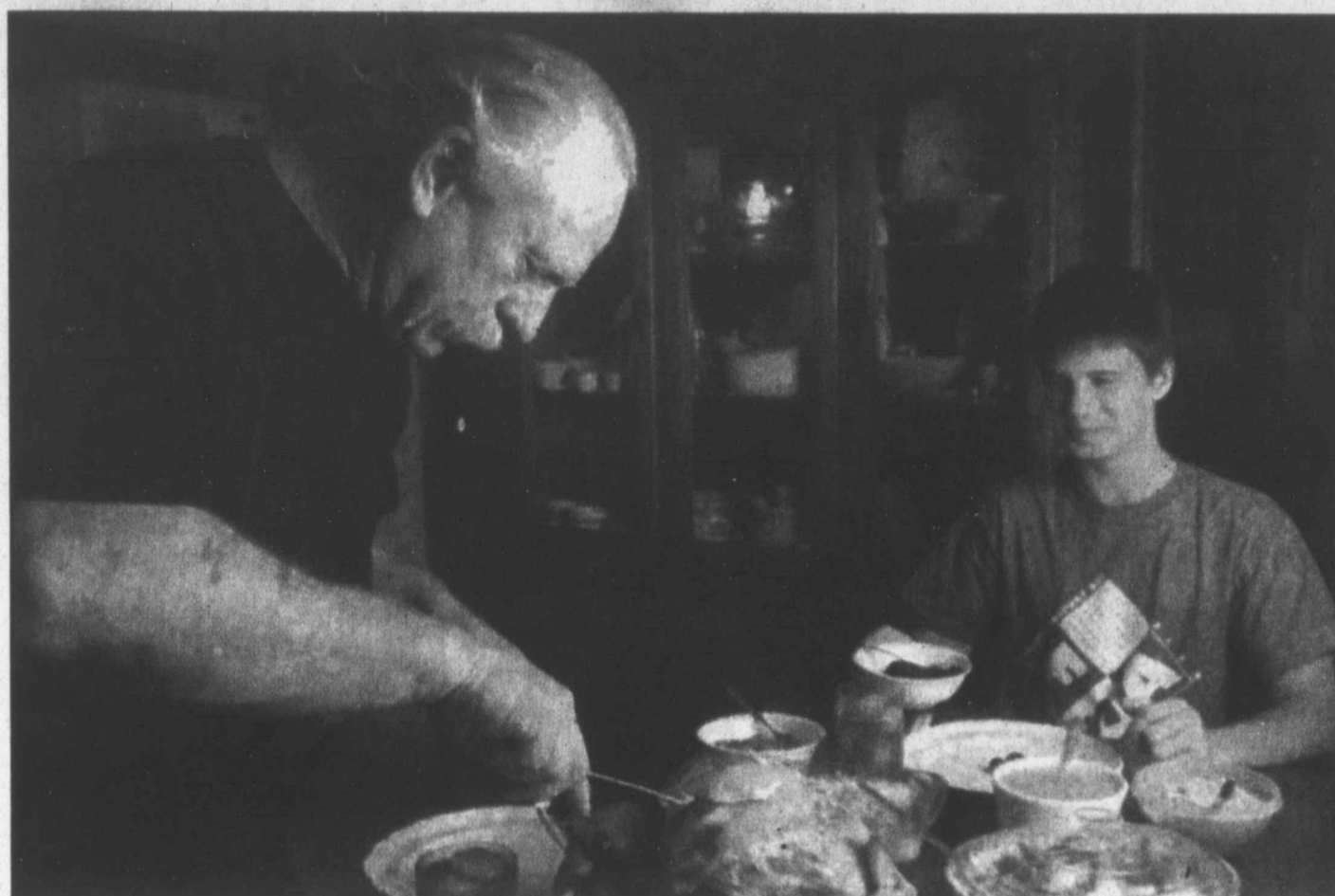
The German writers heard about Porter from a man named Agee who learned about Porter from Dub Ferguson, a graduate of Pampa Army Air Field.

The book, to be made available at the museum once on the market, is being written by Professor Rolf-Dieter Mueller, a well-known expert on the history of World War II and scientific consultant for the TV series.

CANYON — Ashley D. Knipp of Pampa was recently among 148 students at West Texas A&M University to be inducted into Texas Zeta Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Membership in Alpha Chi is by invitation only and is limited to students who have completed at least 30 semester hours with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher and who rank in the top 10 percent of the junior or senior class.

The purpose of Alpha Chi is to recognize students who have maintained a high level of scholarship, according to Dr. Duane J. Rosa, Alpha Chi faculty sponsor and director of the Department of Planning and Analysis at WTAMU.



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Al Williams serves turkey to Vladimir Rybalkin, a foreign exchange student, at Rybalkin's first Thanksgiving.

Exchange student from Ukraine experiences American holiday

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Vladimir Rybalkin watched skeptically as Al Williams began carving the turkey.

"I don't have much experience with Thanksgiving," Rybalkin said. An hour later, waving a turkey drumstick, the grin on his face said Rybalkin's first Thanksgiving was a success.

Fifteen-year-old Vlad Rybalkin is a foreign exchange student from Lutuhino, Ukraine. Attending Pampa High School, he lives with Al and Sharon Williams west of Pampa.

Last Thursday was his first encounter with turkey and dressing and the uniquely American Thanksgiving celebration.

If there was any doubt about whether or not he enjoyed Thanksgiving, it disappeared when Rybalkin reached for seconds.

"He has a healthy appetite," Al Williams laughed. "I know he's put on weight."

Rybalkin admitted that the clothes he wore on his trip over from the Ukraine are now a little tight.

Rybalkin said he is used to eating more pork at home and not as much beef as in the Texas Panhandle.

Since arriving in Pampa last August, however, Rybalkin has had a chance to taste a variety of fare, including jalapenos.

"I warned him to take just a little bite," Sharon Williams said.

The plucky teenager popped one in his mouth ... and his eyes lit up and began to water.

Rybalkin, however, seems to have acquired a taste for jalapenos since then, asking for them during his first Thanksgiving meal here.

Al Williams said Rybalkin has tried Mexican food, Thai food and even rattlesnake.

Williams, who works for an oil and gas company, found a four-foot rattlesnake, captured it and brought it home in a bucket, then put it in a 55 gallon drum.

"You should have seen the look on his face when I pulled that four foot rattlesnake out of that 55 gallon drum," Al Williams said.

Williams said the eyes on both Rybalkin and Williams' grandson, Johnny Smith, opened wide and they both started backing up.

William's killed the snake, skinned it and fried the meat.

"It was tasty," Rybalkin said. "It didn't taste like chicken."

Gerald Lilley, friend of the Williams, gave Rybalkin two cured six-foot long rattlesnake skins complete with rattles.

"They've got huge rattles on them," Al Williams said.

While Rybalkin was tentative about digging into the cranberry sauce during

the Thanksgiving dinner with the Williams, he was not shy about the broccoli and rice casserole, one of his favorite dishes.

It's taken a while, on both sides, to adjust to new tastes.

"He doesn't like peanut butter," Sharon Williams said. "He says it sticks to the roof of his mouth."

Rybalkin doesn't like ice cream, either, but he like popsicles.

He's only been drinking iced tea for about the last couple of weeks. Before that, it was hot tea.

Rybalkin's also learned a number of new words, Al Williams said.

"Ya'll," Rybalkin said, grinning. "Fixin' to and cool."

Pampa, he said, is much like his hometown, but it is also very different.

Lutuhino is about the same size as Pampa, Rybalkin said.

Located in the northeastern part of the Ukraine, it is known for its gold mines and farming.

Known as the breadbasket of the old Soviet Union, Rybalkin said the Ukraine is now trying to move from an agricultural to an industrial economy.

The country has a good educational system, he said.

"Students have good grades for better jobs after their schooling," Rybalkin said.

He credits the skill of the teachers there for the excellent educational program.

One thing Lutuhino has that is in short supply around Pampa, Rybalkin noted, is trees.

"We have more trees," he said. "I miss them."

He also said he misses his dog, a Doberman named Rich, short for Richard, and his parents.

Rybalkin said he likes to go for walks with his dog.

"If you are upset," he said, "you can go out with your dog and all your problems, all the emotions, disappear."

The Williams have a cat, a horse and a dog named Sassy.

Sharon said her horse is 26-years-old and isn't ridden a lot, but a neighbor has some gentle horses and invited Rybalkin over to ride.

Rybalkin has also taken a liking to football. Initially, he was a Jets fan, but Megan, the Williams granddaughter warned him that he'd better root for the Dallas Cowboys, especially in her granddaddy's house.

The Ukrainian got a taste of football up close this year, playing on the freshman team as a wide receiver and line backer.

"I didn't get to play a lot," he said, but added that he enjoyed the time he spent on the field.

Rybalkin said he's enjoyed the weather in the Texas Panhandle so far, at least until a cold snap earlier this month. He said he doesn't like cold weather.

The Ukraine has mild winters, he said. It snows there, but there is little wind.

With four kids, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, the Williams are used to big dinners, but with two of their children now living in Washington State and one in Dallas, this year's Thanksgiving was more modest. The daughter that lives a mile away, Christie, was having Thanksgiving dinner with her in-laws, but she and her family, her husband Chris, her daughter Megan and her son Clayton, managed to make it home for coffee and pumpkin pie.

While the family visited and Megan talked to Rybalkin, the growing teenaged boy worked on another helping of broccoli-rice casserole.



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Sharon Williams gives Vlad Rybalkin a hug during the foreign exchange student's first Thanksgiving.

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LIFESTYLES

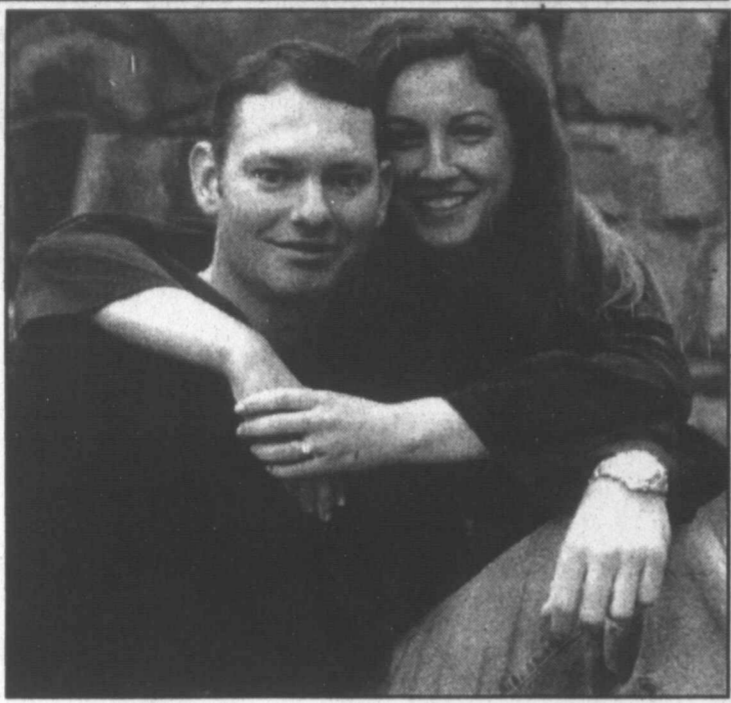
ENGAGEMENTS

Topper-Downs

Keely Suzanne Topper and Jeremiah Lynn Downs, both of Pampa, plan to wed Saturday, Feb. 7, in Bible Church of Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Ms. Kathryn McIntire Topper of Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1997 and holds a bachelor of science degree from West Texas A&M University (2001). She currently teaches third grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.

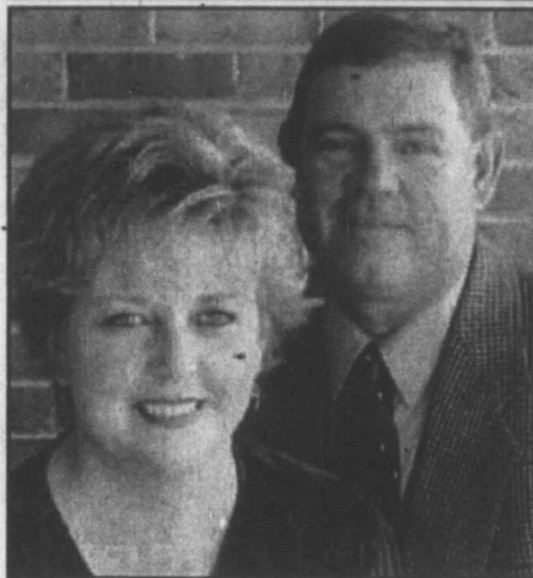
The prospective groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Taylor and of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Downs, all of Pampa.



Jeremiah Lynn Downs and Keely Suzanne Topper

He graduated from Pampa High School in 1993 and holds a degree from Amarillo College (1996). He is presently an instrument technician at Conoco-Phillips in Borger.

ANNIVERSARIES



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snelgrooes



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snelgrooes

Snelgrooes anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snelgrooes of Pampa will observe their 25th wedding anniversary in December. The couple are celebrating with a trip to Cancun, Mexico.

Steve Snelgrooes and Alicia Lancaster were married Dec. 2, 1978. They have been Pampa residents for 25 years.

Mr. Snelgrooes works at Celanese. Mrs. Snelgrooes is employed at Pampa Middle School.

Children of the couple are Kaleb and Jered, both of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, and Carissa, a junior at Pampa High School.

MENUS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-12

Pampa Schools
MONDAY
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
Lunch: Steak fingers or pizza, whipped potatoes, green beans, applesauce, rolls.
TUESDAY
Breakfast: Pancakes.
Lunch: Cheeseburger pockets or chicken nuggets, English peas, carrot sticks, pears.
WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Cheese omelet, toast.
Lunch: Sloppy Joes or pizza, French fries, salad, strawberries.
THURSDAY
Breakfast: Cinnamon toast.
Lunch: Sliced ham, whipped potatoes, broccoli/cheese casserole, blackeyed peas, pineapple upsidedown cake, rolls.
FRIDAY
Breakfast: Cereal, toast, sausage.
Lunch: Corn dogs or hamburgers, potato rounds, western beans, pears.

Lefors Schools
MONDAY
Breakfast: Breakfast pocket, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: Baked potatoes or burritos, chili, broccoli, cheese, apple, salad bar, milk.

TUESDAY
Breakfast: Hot or cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: Pizza or ravioli, peas, peaches, salad bar, milk.
WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: Pancakes, sausage, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: Chicken pot pie or mini corn dogs, spinach, tater tots, salad bar, fruit, milk.
THURSDAY
Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwiches, stew, beans, oranges, salad bar, milk.
FRIDAY
Breakfast: Muffins, cold cereal, toast, juice, milk.
Lunch: Macaroni/cheese, fish, peas, carrots, pineapple, milk.

Senior Citizens
MONDAY
Chicken fried steak or chicken/ham tetrazzini, mashed potatoes, beets, spinach, beans, strawberry cake, or chocolate sundae cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
TUESDAY
Leg quarters/wild rice or Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, cheesy hominy, California blend, beans, peanut butter cake or apple raisin cobbler slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY
Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, peas/carrots, breaded tomatoes, beans, orange cake or lemon jello box pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
THURSDAY
Chicken strips or stew, tater tots, turnip greens, buttered squash, blackeyed peas, black forest cake or blueberry cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
FRIDAY
Catfish/hushpuppies or Frito pie, potato wedges, broccoli casserole, beans, red velvet cake or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic toast, hot rolls or cornbread.

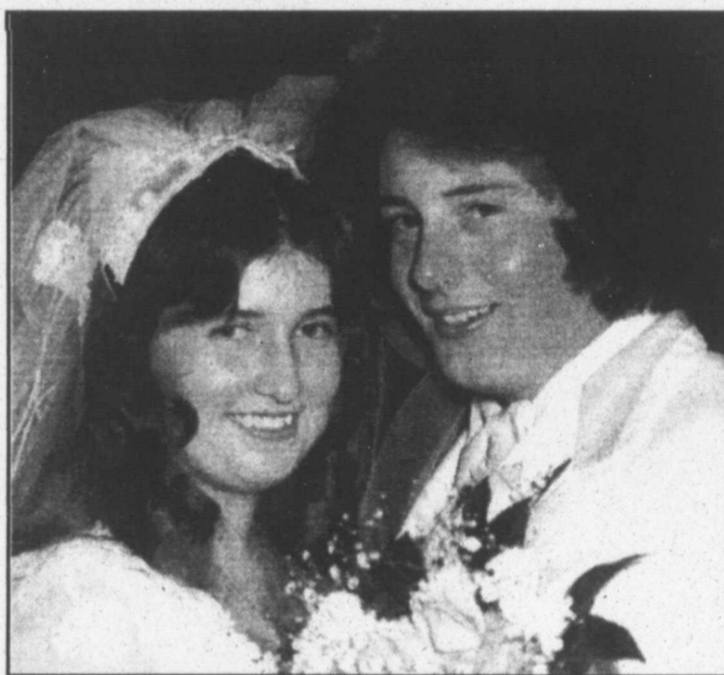
Ball anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Geary Ball of Pampa will observe their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 8. A family celebration and a small celebration trip are planned.

Geary Ball and Marilyn Shapley were married Dec. 8, 1978, at First Baptist Church in Pampa. They are of Baptist denomination.

Mr. Ball, a Pampa resident for 26 years, was employed in electrical construction with Brown and Root prior to working for Cabot Corporation, a job he has held for 23 years.

Mrs. Ball, a lifelong



Mr. and Mrs. Geary Ball

Pampa resident, is currently a homemaker but previously worked in department sales for Home Interiors, Bealls and Wal-Mart.

Children of the couple are Hannah Ball and Lesley Ball of the home.

Ridgway anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway of Mobeetie will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, at Mobeetie Bank.

William "Bill" Ridgway and Virginia Shaw were married Dec. 16, 1978, in Pampa. They have made Mobeetie home for the past 25 years and

are involved in farming and ranching in the Mobeetie area. Mr. Ridgway works in the maintenance department for Kinder Morgan.

Mrs. Ridgway is cafeteria manager for Fort Elliott school system.



Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway

Bridal Registry...

Celeste Stowers • Grady Locknane
Amanda Kludt • Erick Anderson
Tabitha Lane • Joel Sharp
Katrina Pinkerton • Shan Phillips
Keely Topper • Jeremiah Downs

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Amanda Kludt ~ Erick Anderson
Amber Ratliff ~ Kurt Jones
Lacy Plunk ~ Jason Nolte
Rachel Smiley ~ Richard Hill

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Farm Soy

BY BETTY ASSOCIATE

MARYLA Mo. (AP) — family has grown other crops in outside St. L when his great-grandfather was

Stemme pl across this year rent from some area feeling from housing a pment. And s concern — about foreign c For the f America musc States in soybe vesting 3.3 bi year.

"It's a huge said. 'There's issues relating t compete with t One way, finding new ma and experimen uses.

Soy foods soymilk, are all supermarket Missouri brew beer made with California cor using soy in ha farmers and s sumers use biod to power vehic and an Iowa f created a busin like it, selling scents such as C Cheries and G

Not every ef the marketpla make parts of sr bean-derived r paid off yet researcher says question.

Eric Niema the United Soyb Uses Committe new products fa gories: lubrican ings and inks, ad products.

The Nortonv said consumer goods with soyb not even be a instance, certain lations, furniture pet backings co said. Roughly American daily some soy ink ir according to the Board.

"Each niche use a lot of soy said Niemann.

Most soybea soy meal, a fee stock, and soy etable oils or products, the noted.

Farmers lik support resear with their crop includes soy, or explained, one l every bushel so research and p beans through a known as the cl

And there a being created.

Pony Ex Company, base Missouri comm City, is makin beans, promoti high protein lev

Soy also sh Hair Concep Chatsworth, C been selling h with soy since ny now distribu 60,000 salons n

Melanie T Scarville, SoyLights, can wax on her fa mother of five a business with t the grocery bill, her own expect

"It burns cle soy wax, "and s oot." Throne s farmers are loc businesses. "It Iowa, I'm talkin East and West never heard of

Farm Scene:
Soy solutions

By **BETSY TAYLOR**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Mo. (AP) — Warren Stemme's family has grown soybeans and other crops in the river bottoms outside St. Louis since 1869, when his great-grandfather emigrated from Germany.

Stemme planted about 1,200 acres this year, striking deals to rent from some 20 owners, in an area feeling increasing pressure from housing and business development. And sprawl isn't his only concern — he's also worried about foreign competitors.

For the first time, South America muscled past the United States in soybean production, harvesting 3.3 billion bushels last year.

"It's a huge concern," Stemme said. "There's a whole bunch of issues relating to that. How do we compete with them?"

One way, Stemme said, is finding new markets for soybeans and experimenting to find new uses.

Soy foods, like tofu and soymilk, are already a staple on supermarket shelves, but a Missouri brewer introduced a beer made with soy this year; a California company has been using soy in hair products; many farmers and some other consumers use biodiesel with soy in it to power vehicles or equipment; and an Iowa farmer's wife has created a business, one of dozens like it, selling soy candles in scents such as Chocolate Covered Cherries and Grandma's Baking.

Not every effort has made it to the marketplace. Attempts to make parts of sneakers out of soybean-derived materials haven't paid off yet — though a researcher says it's not out of the question.

Eric Niemann, chairman for the United Soybean Board's New Uses Committee, said work on new products falls into five categories: lubricants, plastics, coatings and inks, adhesives and other products.

The Nortonville, Kan., farmer said consumers may be using goods with soybeans in them and not even be aware of it. For instance, certain spray foam insulations, furniture padding and carpet backings contain soybeans, he said. Roughly 90 percent of American daily newspapers use some soy ink in their production, according to the United Soybean Board.

"Each niche market doesn't use a lot of soy, but it adds up," said Niemann.

Most soybeans are turned into soy meal, a feed source for livestock, and soy oil, sold in vegetable oils or used in industrial products, the national board noted.

Farmers like Stemme help support research into new uses with their crop sales. He uses biodiesel, a type of fuel that includes soy, on his farm. And, he explained, one half of 1 percent of every bushel sold is directed into research and promotion of soybeans through a national initiative known as the checkoff program.

And there are other products being created.

Pony Express Brewing Company, based in the western Missouri community of Garden City, is making beer with soybeans, promoting it as having a high protein level.

Soy also shows up in Sexy Hair Concepts, based in Chatsworth, Calif., which has been selling hair care products with soy since 1999. The company now distributes to more than 60,000 salons nationwide.

Melanie Throne, 35, of Scarville, Iowa, makes SoyLights, candles made with soy wax on her family's farm. The mother of five said she started the business with the goal of paying the grocery bill, but has surpassed her own expectation.

"It burns cleanly," she said of soy wax, "and there's not a lot of soot." Throne said more and more farmers are looking into similar businesses. "It's happening in Iowa. I'm talking to people on the East and West coasts who have never heard of soy candles."

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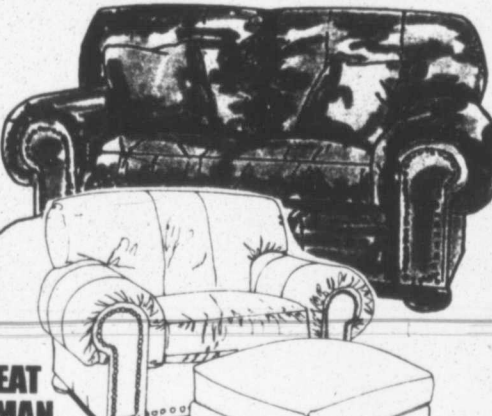
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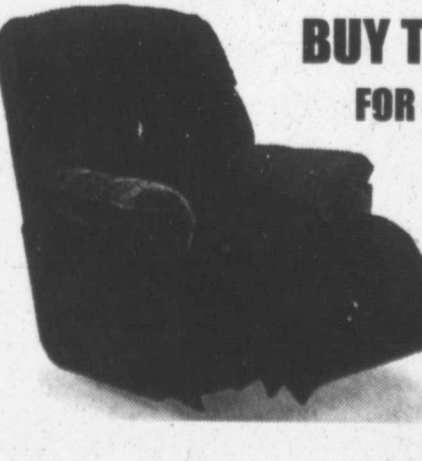
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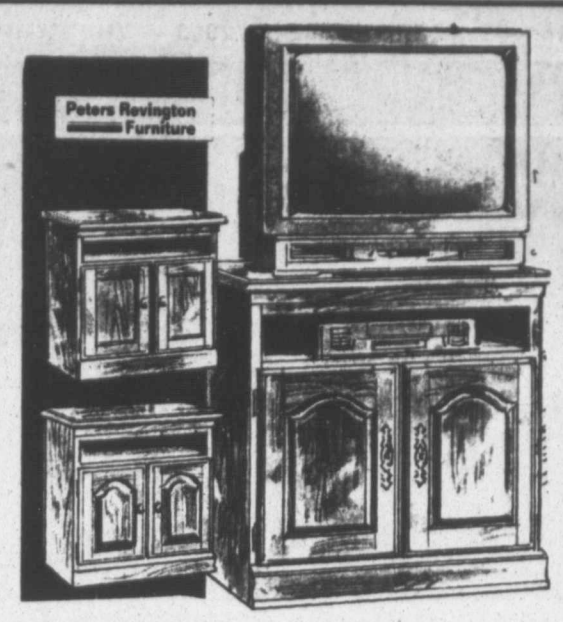
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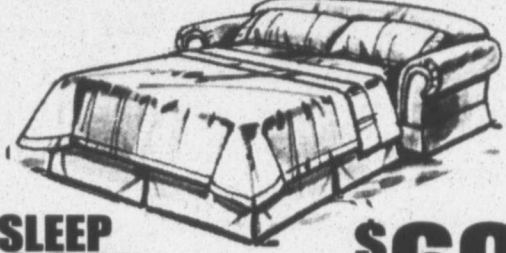
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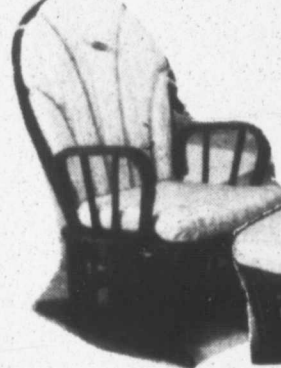
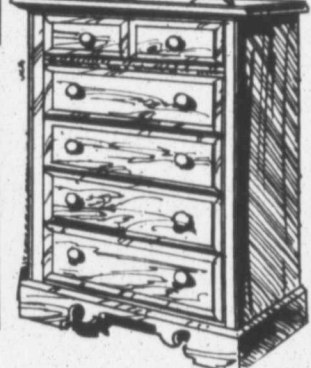


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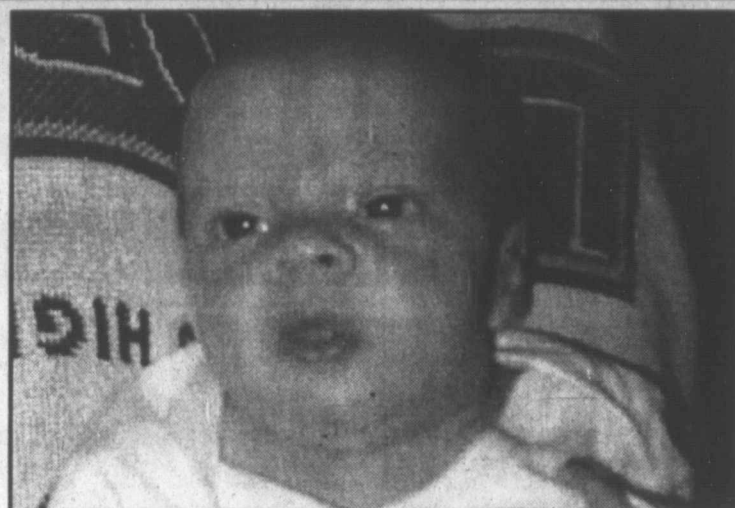


Hunter C. Nichols

Hunter Nichols

Hunter Creed Nichols was born at 3:08 p.m. Sept. 8 at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, to Randy and Nikki Nichols of Pampa.

At birth, the infant weighed 8-pounds, 4 1/2-ounces and was 19 1/2-inches long. His sister is Hannah. His grandparents are Albert and Barbara Nichols of Pampa and Casey and Jo Lane of Borger.



Hayden C. Henson

Hayden Henson

Hayden Conner Henson was born at 12:48 p.m. Oct. 28 at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, to Jay and Deborah Henson of Lefors.

At birth, the infant weighed 6-pounds, 13-ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He has two sisters, Savannah and Haley, and is the grandson of Jim and Sandy Henson.



Dakota A. David

Dakota David

Dakota Allen David was born at 11:34 p.m. Nov. 25 at Golden Plains Community Hospital in Borger, to David and Julie David of Pampa.

At birth, the infant weighed 6-pounds, 9-ounces and was 19 1/2-inches long. He is the brother of Marlee David and Kaleb Born; and is the grandson of Wayne Terry, Sherry Olson and Milton and Theresa David.

WEDDINGS

Walker-Carrillo

Cari Walker and Jerry Carrillo, both of Pampa, were wed Nov. 15 in Hobart Baptist Church of Pampa with cousin of the bride Kile Bateman, of Evangel Temple Assembly of God Church in Wichita Falls, officiating.

The maid of honor was Megan Coutts of Lubbock. The bridesmaid was Raeli Walker, 5-year-old daughter of the bride of Pampa. The flower girls were Calli Brewer, niece of the bride, and Christy Saldernia, niece of the groom, both of Pampa.

The best man was Pedro Montoya of Zeeland, Mich. The ring bearer was Erik Carrillo, nephew of the groom of Amarillo.

The ushers were Ethan Greer, cousin of the bride of Pampa, and Kaylan Sanchez,



Cari Walker

nephew of the groom of Garden City, Kan. Registering the guests was

Emilea Greer, cousin of the bride of Pampa. The following musical

selections were provided by various artists: "When God Made You," "Have You Ever Been in Love" and "Beat of a Heart."

A reception was held following the service with Brandi Brewer, Nancy Carrillo and Marysol Carrillo, all of Pampa, and Lisa Carrillo and Rose Mary Carrillo, both of Amarillo, serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and La Gwenda Walker of Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 2000 and from Frank Phillips College in 2002.

The groom is the son of Gustavo and Lupe Carrillo of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1995 and attended Amarillo College. He is self-employed and currently co-owns JC Services Pole Line Construction.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Las Vegas, Nev., and intend to make their home in Pampa.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

By The Associated Press
Celebrity birthdays for the week of Dec. 7-13:
Dec. 7: Actor Eli Wallach is 88. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 71. Country singer Gary Morris is 55. Singer Tom Waits is 54. Announcer Edd Hall ("The Tonight Show With Jay Leno") is 45. Bassist Tim Butler of Psychedelic Furs is 45. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 37. Singer Nicole Appleton of All Saints is 28. Rapper Kon Artis of D12 is 27. Actress Shiri Appleby ("Roswell") is 25. Singer Aaron Carter is 16.

Dec. 8: Actor-producer-director Maximilian Schell is 73. Actor David Carradine is 67. Actor James MacArthur ("Hawaii Five-O") is 66. Singer Jerry Butler is 64. Drummer Bobby Elliott of The Hollies is 61. Actor John Rubinstein ("Family," "Crazy Like a Fox") is 57. Singer-keyboardist Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers is 56. Actress Kim Basinger is 50. Guitarist Warren Cuccurullo (Duran Duran, Missing Persons) is 47. Guitarist Phil Collen of Def Leppard is 46. Country singer

Marty Raybon (The Raybon Brothers, Shenandoah) is 44. Guitarist Marty Friedman (Megadeth) is 41. Actor Malcolm Gets ("Caroline in the City") is 40. Actress Teri Hatcher is 39. Rapper Bushwick Bill of Geto Boys is 37. Singer Sinead O'Connor is 37. Actor Matthew Laborteaux ("Little House on the Prairie") is 37. Guitarist Ryan Newell of Sister Hazel is 31. Actor Dominic Monaghan ("Lord of the Rings") is 27. Actor Ian Somerhalder ("Rules of Attraction," "Life as a House") is 25.

Dec. 9: Actor Kirk Douglas is 87. Actress Dina Merrill is 78. Actor Dick Van Patten ("Eight Is Enough") is 75. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 73. Actress Judi Dench is 69. Actor Beau Bridges is 62. Actor Michael Nouri is 58. Singer Joan Armatrading is 53. Actor Michael Dorn ("Star Trek: The Next Generation") is 51. Actor John Malkovich is 50. Country singer Sylvia is 47. Singer-guitarist Donny

Sci Fi brings back sleeker 'Battlestar Galactica'

By JANICE RHOSHALLE
LITTLEJOHN
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Battlestar Galactica" is returning as a four-hour miniseries, backed by hype befitting a science fiction classic in the same galaxy as "Star Wars" or "Star Trek."

Never mind that this classic was a campy space opera that lasted just one season.

When it premiered on ABC in 1978, the special-effects dazzler was the most highly publicized new series of that season. Lorne Greene starred as Adama, the commander of a ragtag band of refugees in search of a lost planet called Earth after a band of robotic Cylons wiped out much of humankind.

In the new version, airing Monday and Tuesday on the Sci Fi Channel (9 p.m. EST), Edward James Olmos takes over as Adama; Jamie Bamber is his son, Apollo (originally played by Richard Hatch); and the hot-headed pilot, Starbuck, is now a woman, played by Katee Sackhoff (Dirk Benedict was the original).

While the original series' thematic core remains — the human struggle for survival — a lot has changed.

Gone is the space fantasy with the dashing caped warriors of old. Now they're handsome heroes in uniforms akin to Air Force fighter pilots. The aluminum Cylon enemies look more like humans, complete with feelings, including one with rabid sexual desires.

And the quest is not for a mythical Earth — it no longer exists.

"It's a fine line in deciding what you want to retain and what you want to change from the original," says the miniseries' writer, Ron Moore. "But it all started with the name."

What he ended up with is a saga for a post-Sept. 11 world: an array of conflicted characters forced to coexist under the threat of more deadly adversaries living among them.

"When 9-11 happened," says Sackhoff, "I knew for the first time what it was like to feel fear — genuine fear. And had that not happened, it would have been a lot harder for me to actually play this character."

"What science fiction should be," says Moore, "is a look at ourselves, an examination of humanity. But where we are with science fiction in television and movies, you've sort of fallen into two categories: There's this quasi-cyberpunk stuff, which is everything from 'Matrix' to 'Blade Runner.' Then there's the sort of 'Star Wars,' 'Star Trek' lush orchestral visions of the future."

Olmos, who's eschewed science fiction since appearing in the 1982 film "Blade Runner," says Moore's script "was different than anything I'd ever read before. There's a lot of reality in this that you might find in say a 'NYPD Blue' or 'Hill Street Blues.'"

Devotees of the original will be hard to convince, however.

Chat-room conversations on many of the scores of "Battlestar" Web sites have been fiercely opposed to this "reimagined" version.

One site even features a cartoon of Benedict's Starbuck being castrated by a laser beam, and there are many who vow to tune out when the miniseries comes on.

Hatch understands the fan sentiment.

"I had a lot of anger and frustration because I saw a studio not on any level being receptive to what the vast majority of fans wanted," the actor says in his small apartment littered with "Battlestar" paraphernalia, including a lunchbox, posters and videos.

Hatch, who has written six spin-off novels, tried his own sequel: "Battlestar Galactica: The Second Coming." A four-minute, self-financed trailer has been a hit among conventioners, but studio executives have been unimpressed.

"Every time they bring back a classic, they always fail because they've thrown the baby out with the bath water," says the 58-year-old Hatch. "They throw away the very elements the fans loved most."

A few years ago, fans thought they'd get the continuation saga they'd clamored for when Bryan Singer and Tom DeSanto, the director-writer team behind "X-Men," hooked up with original "Galactica" creator Glen Larson to develop a project at 20th Century Fox.

When that deal fell through, Universal TV chief David Kissing brought in executive producer David Eick and Moore to rework the franchise for Sci Fi.

"We want the fans to embrace what we are doing," says Sci Fi President Bonnie Hammer, "but if you produced now what was produced then, it would feel like old TV. We wanted to make it more relatable, even in terms of the stereotypes of characters."

"I understand they're trying to do a modern version," says Larson. "But change for the sake of change — it's taking the title and exploiting it."

Not according to Bamber, who as a new cast member is part of the change.

"It's like a favorite play," he argues. "It's there to be challenged, it's there to be redone and reinterpreted."

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ENTERTAINMENT

BILLBOARD MUSIC CHARTS

By The Associated Press

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

BILLBOARD HOT 100: TOP 10

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Hey Ya!" OutKast. Arista.
 2. "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Shawna). Disturbing the Peace.
 3. "The Way You Move," OutKast Feat. Sleepy Brown. Arista.
 4. "Milkshake," Kelis. Star Trak.
 5. "Baby Boy," Beyonce (feat. Sean Paul). Columbia.
 6. "Holiday In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing the Peace.
 7. "Here Without You," 3 Doors Down. Republic.
 8. "Suga Suga," Baby Bash (feat. Frankie J). Universal.
 9. "Step in the Name of Love," R. Kelly. Jive.
 10. "Walked Outta Heaven," Jagged Edge. Columbia.
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THE BILLBOARD 200 TOP ALBUMS: TOP 10

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Black Album," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
 2. "The Singles 1992-2003," No Doubt. Interscope.
 3. "In the Zone," Britney Spears. Jive/Zomba.
 4. "Metamorphosis," Hilary Duff. Buena Vista. (Platinum)
 5. "Now 14," Various Artists. Columbia/Universal/EMI/Zomba/Sony Music.
 6. "Shock 'n Y'all," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 7. "Closer," Josh Groban. 143.
 8. "Beg for Mercy," G-Unit. G-Unit.
 9. "Take a Look in the Mirror," Korn. Immortal/Epic/Sony Music.
 10. "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," OutKast. Arista. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
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HOT ADULT CONTEMPORARY

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Forever and For Always," Shania Twain. Mercury.
2. "Unwell," matchbox twenty. Atlantic.
3. "Calling All Angels," Train. Columbia.
4. "Drift Away," Uncle Kracker (feat. Dobie Gray). Lava.
5. "Sunrise," Simply Red. simplyred.com/Red Ink.
6. "Big Yellow Taxi," Counting Crows (feat. Vanessa Carlton). Geffen.
7. "Look Through My Eyes," Phil Collins. Walt Disney/Hollywood.
8. "I Can Only Imagine," MercyMe. INO.
9. "White Flag," Dido. Arista.
10. "The First Cut is the Deepest," Sheryl Crow. A&M.

TOP CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Payable on Death," P.O.D. Atlantic.
2. "WOW Hits 2004," Various Artists. Provident.
3. "Almost There," MercyMe. INO. (Platinum)
4. "Stacie Orrico," Stacie Orrico. Forefront.
5. "Peace," Jim Brickman. Windham Hill.
6. "The Beautiful Letdown," Switchfoot. Sparrow.
7. "Worship & Faith," Randy Travis. Word-Curb.
8. "Who We Are Instead," Jars of Clay. Essential.
9. "Accelerate," Jump5. Sparrow.
10. "Offerings II: All I Have to Give," Third Day. Essential. (Gold)

MAINSTREAM ROCK TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Away From Me," Puddle of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen.
2. "Numb," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
3. "Still Frame," Trapt. Warner Bros.
4. "Weak and Powerless," A Perfect Circle. Virgin.
5. "So Far Away," Staind. Flip.
6. "All in the Suit that You Wear," Stone Temple Pilots. Atlantic.
7. "(I Hate) Everything About You," Three Days Grace. Jive.
8. "Figured You Out," Nickelback. Roadrunner/DJMG.
9. "Gasoline," Seether. Wind-up.
10. "Enemy," Sevendust.TVT.

MODERN ROCK TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Numb," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
2. "Feeling This," Blink-182. Geffen.
3. "(I Hate) Everything About You," Three Days Grace. Jive.
4. "Hit That," The Offspring. Columbia.
5. "Away From Me," Puddle of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen.
6. "Are You Gonna Be My Girl," Jet. Elektra.
7. "Meant to Live," Switchfoot. Red Ink.
8. "Still Frame," Trapt. Warner Bros.
9. "So Far Away," Staind. Flip.
10. "Fortune Faded," Red Hot Chili Peppers. Warner Bros.

HOT COUNTRY SINGLES AND TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "I Love This Bar," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 2. "Cowboys Like Us," George Strait. MCA Nashville.
 3. "I Melt," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street.
 4. "There Goes My Life," Kenny Chesney. BNA.
 5. "Hell Yeah," Montgomery Gentry. Columbia.
 6. "Wave on Wave," Pat Green. Republic.
 7. "Chicks Dig It," Chris Cagle. Capitol.
 8. "You Can't Take the Honky Tonk Out of the Girl," Brooks & Dunn. Arista Nashville.
 9. "Walking in Memphis," Lonestar. BNA.
 10. "Honesty (Write Me a List)," Rodney Atkins. Curb.
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TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Shock 'n Y'all," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 2. "Greatest Hits Volume II and Some Other Stuff," Alan Jackson. Arista Nashville. (Platinum)
 3. "Top of the World Tour Live," Dixie Chicks. Monument.
 4. "All I Want for Christmas is a Real Good Tan," Kenny Chesney. BNA. (Gold)
 5. "Greatest Hits," LeAnn Rimes. Curb. (Platinum)
 6. "Unleashed," Toby Keith. DreamWorks (Nashville). (Platinum)
 7. "Up!", Shania Twain. Mercury (Nashville).
 8. "Martina," Martina McBride. RCA (Nashville). (Gold)
 9. "Room to Breathe," Reba McEntire. MCA Nashville/UMGN.
 10. "Melt," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street. (Platinum)
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HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLES AND TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports and radio playlists)

1. "Step in the Name of Love," R. Kelly. Jive.
2. "You Don't Know My Name," Alicia Keys. J.
3. "Walked Outta Heaven," Jagged Edge. Columbia.
4. "The Way You Move," OutKast Feat. Sleepy Brown. Arista.
5. "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Shawna). Disturbing the Peace.
6. "Damn!" YoungBloodZ (feat. Lil Jon). So So Def.
7. "Stunt 101," G-Unit. G-Unit.
8. "Change Clothes," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/DJMG.
9. "Milkshake," Kelis. Star Trak.

10. "Holiday In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing the Peace.
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TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUMS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Black Album," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
 2. "Beg for Mercy," G-Unit. G-Unit.
 3. "This is Not a Test!" Missy Elliott. The Gold Mind.
 4. Soundtrack: "Tupac: Resurrection." Amaru.
 5. "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," OutKast. Arista. (Platinum)
 6. "Da Derry Versions — The Reinvention," Nelly. Fo'Reel.
 7. "Part II," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz. BME.
 8. "ChickenNBeer," Ludacris. Disturbing the Peace. (Platinum)
 9. "Hot & Wet," 112. Bad Boy/Def Soul/UMRG.
 10. "The R. in R&B Collection: Volume One," R. Kelly. Jive. (Platinum)
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HOT RAP TRACKS

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled, and Provided by SoundScan)

1. "Stand Up," Ludacris (feat. Frankie J). Disturbing the Peace.
 2. "The Way You Move," OutKast (feat. Sleepy Brown). Arista.
 3. "Damn!" YoungBloodz (feat. Lil Jon). Arista.
 4. "Holiday In," Chingy (feat. Ludacris & Snoop Dogg). Disturbing the Peace.
 5. "Stunt 101," G-Unit. G-Unit.
 6. "Change Clothes," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
 7. "Wat da Hook Gon Be," Murphy Lee Feat. Jermaine Dupri. Fo'Reel.
 8. "Runnin (Dying to Live)," Tupac (feat. The Notorious B.I.G.). Amaru.
 9. "Get Low," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz (feat. Ying Yang Twins). BME.
 10. "Right Thurr," Chingy. Disturbing the Peace.
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HOT DANCE MUSIC — CLUB PLAY

(Compiled from a national sample of dance club playlists)

1. "Waiting for You (Thick Dick, Passengerz, 29 Palms, D. Carter)," Seal. Warner Bros.
 2. "Believe," Murk (Oscar G. & Ralph Falcon). Tommy Boy Silver Label.
 3. "Milkshake (X-ress 2 & DJ Zinc Mixes)," Kelis. Star Trak.
 4. "Nobody Knows Me (P. Rauhofer, Above & Beyond, Mount Sims Mixes)," Madonna. Maverick/Warner Bros.
 5. "Are You Ready for Love," Elton John. Southern Fried/Ultra.
 6. "Baby Boy (J. Vasquez & M. Joshua Mixes)," Beyonce. Columbia.
 7. "Fly Again (Scumfrog Mixes)," Kristine W. Tommy Boy Silver Label.
 8. "My Love is Always," Saffron Hill. Uncommon Trax.
 9. "Me Against the Music," Britney Spears (feat. Madonna). Jive.
 10. "Rock Wit You (Awww Baby) (Dance Remixes)," Ashanti. Murder Inc.
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HOT LATIN TRACKS

(Compiled from national Latin radio airplay reports)

1. "Mientes Tan Bien," Sin Bandera. Sony Discos.
 2. "Nomás Por Tu Culpa," Los Huracanes Del Norte. Univision.
 3. "Antes," Obie Bermudez. EMI Latin.
 4. "Te Necesito," Luis Miguel. Warner Latina.
 5. "Ave Cautiva," Conjunto Primavera. Fonovisa.
 6. "Hoy," Gloria Estefan. Epic.
 7. "Un Siglo Sin Ti," Chayanne. Sony Discos.
 8. "Lagrimas de Cristal," Grupo Montez De Durango. Disa.
 9. "La Paga," Juanes. Surco.
 10. "Quien Te Dijo Eso?" Luis Fonsi. Universal Latino.
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Unearthing 'secret past,' amateurs seek U.S. planes downed in WWII

By ANDREA DUDIKOVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — It's a sleepy Sunday morning, and the quiet of a field behind the capital's high-rises is interrupted only by the beeps of a metal detector and the occasional thumps of a hoe.

For Jan Babincak, the day of rest is an opportunity to look for the missing numerical identification of a U.S. warplane that crashed in the field during World War II.

Babincak, 57, and fellow amateur historians have spent hundreds of hours of their free time researching in archives and traipsing through field and forest to find and identify the rusted remains of dozens of American aircraft downed in Slovakia during the war.

"We try to remember those who were almost purposefully forgotten, to return a face to them," Babincak said. "It is too late to do this, but it's better than never."

Their tireless work has drawn some former American servicemen back to Slovakia in recent years for a glimpse of the mangled remains of their planes — and a chance to close out a grim chapter in their lives.

John Howison, who bailed out with his crew from a damaged B-24 bomber near the western village of Dobra Voda in December 1944, said Slovaks have shown warm hospitality and generosity on his two trips back, most recently last year.

"We toured by rental car and showed my children the remaining bits of the airplane," Howison, 78, of Bogata, Texas, said in an e-mail. "We met many enthusiasts of WW2 aerial warfare history ... (who) generously gave me pieces of my personal mechanical computer they had discovered at the crash site."

Aerial history buffs started their search for crashed U.S. warplanes after the communist regime was ousted in then Czechoslovakia in 1989, opening the way for such activities.

Under communism, official history books glorified the Soviet army and its liberating efforts but largely ignored what the Western allies did for Slovakia, which during the war was a puppet state of Nazi Germany.

Over the past decade, Babincak and his friends have pinpointed crash sites for 50 U.S. bombers and eight fighter planes, mostly scattered around the western part of this central European country of 5.4 million people.

Nearly all of the aircraft have been identified. An unknown number of airmen died, but most of those whose planes went down survived the crashes, Babincak said. He did not have details.

"At first, my interest was more technical and statistical — how it happened and how many planes crashed," Babincak said. "But over time, as one deals with the history and personal tragedies of these pilots, one's interest changes."

Nearly six decades after the war ended, the search for plane parts and crash sites is difficult because of building and other development and because many people who witnessed crashes are no longer alive.

"Too bad we started so late," Babincak said with a sigh. "Many of the witnesses and their testimonies are lost."

The tracking process starts on the ground: buying beers for locals, getting their recollections of crashes on paper, and combing police or church records for more detailed information.

Once the hunters have an idea of a crash site, they sweep the area with metal detectors and begin digging.

Their goal is to find a piece of the aircraft imprinted with its identification number, which can then be cross-checked with U.S. Army Air Force archives to reveal the details of the men who were aboard the plane.

It's not easy. Babincak has been searching the field on the outskirts of Bratislava on and off for 10 years, looking for a piece of burned metal bearing the identification number of the plane he already determined crashed here.

Because the remnants of the aircraft aren't going anywhere, Babincak has been focusing on a more urgent task: recording the personal accounts of those who know something about the crash. The technical issues, he said, "can be studied later on."

Once a crashed plane has been identified, the group of volunteers erects a simple memorial — a plaque usually affixed to a propeller fragment or other crash debris — at the site to show their gratitude.

"It's a small repayment to those who risked their lives," Babincak said. "Without their sacrifices, our peaceful life today would not be possible."

Another former U.S. airman, 80-year-old John Zebrowski, of Liverpool, N.Y., who bailed out with Howison near Dobra Voda, said he "gained a great respect for the people of Slovakia as they risked their lives to prevent me from being captured by the Germans."

In an e-mail message, he said he welcomes Babincak's efforts.

"Others can confirm how much he has done to preserve a chapter in his country's history," Zebrowski said. "But my daughter, sons and I know as well as anyone what a great ambassador of goodwill he is for us."

Hospitals welcome federal funds to help with immigrant care

By LYNN BREZOSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Border hospitals lose millions of dollars annually caring for sick or injured illegal immigrants but a \$1 billion federal aide package promises relief.

"The federal government finally realized that there is a huge burden placed on the border hospitals to pay for the cost of the illegal aliens," said Dr. Lorenzo Pelly, a trauma surgeon at Valley Regional Medical Center. "It's a national issue because it is the federal government that has to stop the flow of the illegal aliens and they cannot do it."

A study by the U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition, an American lobbying group, last year found that U.S. border hospitals provide at least \$200 million a year in uncompensated emergency care to illegal immigrants, \$74 million of that in Texas.

When approving the Medicare bill last month, Congress allocated \$1 billion to help border hospitals cover those costs. President Bush is expected to sign the bill Monday.

Texas and California would get the most money, followed by Arizona. The money will be allocated over four years, starting in 2005.

By federal law, hospitals and doctors must provide emergency care to a patient, regardless of insurance coverage or citizenship.

Most hospitals recoup their losses from caring for the poor and uninsured through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. However, health care providers along the border find most of their patients are illegals who don't qualify for public assistance.

"It's a federal mandate, but an unfunded mandate," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said of the rule requiring emergency care for all people.

Cornyn and Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz.,

supported the allocation of federal funds to help border hospitals.

Kyl, who asked for the study on how the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act effected hospitals along the border, said hospitals in his state were cutting services or closing altogether because they didn't have enough money or insurance reimbursements to cover the costs of the free care they provided.

"It is a huge step forward and is an important symbol of Congress' growing awareness of the problems we face along our porous borders," Kyl said.

Each state would be eligible for reimbursement, but the funding formula is skewed to help border hospitals that frequently treat illegal immigrants.

McAllen Medical Center CEO Louis Garcia said his hospital last year provided \$60 million in uncompensated care, and illegal immigrants accounted for about 25 percent of those costs. The service most often provided to non-citizens — baby delivery.

Mexican women deliver their babies in the United States so their children will be U.S. citizens, he said. Each birth can cost hospitals \$5,000.

Some lawmakers opposed the federal reimbursement, saying it would only encourage more illegal immigrants to cross the border for medical care.

"If you build an illegal alien entitlement program, they will come," said Sen. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo.

But Jack Martin, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, said immigrants' medical costs point to a bigger problem.

Border states should not "carry a disproportionate burden of expenditures for illegal immigrants," he said. "But we also think it's irresponsible to provide reimbursement without at the same time trying to take steps to identify and remove from the country those illegal aliens who have been using the medical services."

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Rural communities divided, literally, by redistricting

SONORA, Texas (AP) — To folks in this hamlet on the western edge of the Texas Hill Country, redistricting seemed an issue for cities such as Houston, Dallas or San Antonio.

That was until state lawmakers divided Sutton County between two U.S. congressmen, splitting a place where natural gas fuels the economy and where hunters fill the main drag each autumn.

"It's an absolute absurdity," said John Tedford, the Republican party chairman for Sutton County. "With just 3,000 people here, it's just absurd."

The Texas Legislature approved in October a congressional redistricting plan that split many Texas counties. The plan must still clear the U.S. Justice Department and court challenges.

A critical deadline looms: the state's March 9 primary election.

Republicans redrew congressional lines to put more members of their own party in Congress, including one boundary down the middle of Sonora, Sutton County's seat.

U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-

San Antonio, represented the 1,200 residents in the northeast half of the county for 11 years. They are now in a newly drawn district, likely anchored in Midland, some 180 miles away. The other half of the county remains in Bonilla's district.

"It's always been my contention that if it ain't broke, don't fix it," said Mallie Turner, a retired natural gas well operator.

Under the new map, Turner and his wife move from Bonilla's district.

"I don't know who will represent us. He may be good as gold, but I'm more than pleased with Henry Bonilla to represent us and this district," Turner said.

Many residents praise Bonilla's representation of Sonora's ranching and natural gas industries.

"A lot of ranchers in Sonora really liked him. He's done a lot for agriculture and for our county," John Creek, a former high school football coach and government teacher, said as he prepared his father's ranch for the first day of deer hunting season.

Like many in Sonora, Turner

and Creek describe themselves as independent, but say they tend to vote mostly Republican.

Others in Sonora aren't concerned with the impending congressional district changes.

"As long as there's a roof over their head and three square meals on the table, they're not going to gripe," Creek said. "Most people are worried about taking their kids to soccer practice ... they're not worried too much about this."

The Sutton County split was a last-minute move during a series of marathon map-drawing sessions as Republicans sought a compromise over the shape of a West Texas district.

State Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, a lead map-drawer, said dividing Sonora was an unavoidable consequence of the requirement that the congressional district contain exactly 651,619 residents, with no deviation. It's federally required that districts be evenly divided according to census figures.

"Realistically, it could have been one of a hundred different towns where the boundary even-

tually stopped," Staples said. "In this instance, it just happened to be in Sutton County."

Staples said the split was probably drawn "in the wee hours of the morning, as we analyzed the map." He said Sutton County was not a political target.

Sutton County must pay to bring all four precincts in line with the new congressional districts before the March primary, a job that will cost the county an estimated \$1,500, said Sutton County Clerk Veronica "Betty" Hernandez.

"If it was up to me, I wish it would remain the same. But we have to change according to the new lines now," Hernandez said.

Sutton and other counties with new boundaries must scramble to meet an array of election filing and ballot deadlines. Counties need time to print ballots, mail new voter registration cards and alert voters of new polling places.

"Once you add in everything, we're looking at at least \$5,000," said Sutton County Judge Carla Garner, a Democrat. "That's a

considerable amount we didn't budget for."

They'll likely use money earmarked from a local improvement project, Garner said.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," Garner said. "They split our votes, and we don't have that many to begin with. I don't understand why they did it. It can't make any difference to either district that we're in."

Tedford, a jewelry store owner, said he's considering leaving his post as county Republican chairman after 40 years rather than take on the responsibilities of working in two districts.

"We haven't been well represented, haven't been considered at all," he said. "We could be thrown to the wolves and there's not enough people here to matter."

Creek said sparsely populated areas like Sutton County are logical casualties of Republicans trying to leave their mark.

"We're the minority out here," Creek said. "When it comes to getting things done, we don't have many representatives that stand up for West Texas."

Brother-sister act from Lubbock charms Country Music Television

By P. CHRISTINE SMITH
LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

LUBBOCK, Texas — Pat Wright said she recognized exceptional talent in her two children from the time they were toddlers, but she never imagined that in a few short years they would be at the cusp of promising professional music careers.

They liked playing the instruments that we had around the house better than they liked playing with toys, the Lubbock woman said.

The Buddy and Tina Wright Band will be featured in a Country Music Television documentary about black country music performers to be aired in February. Buddy, 17, and Tina, 15, have performed together since early childhood.

Buddy and Tina sing, and both are avid songwriters. Buddy plays six instruments, while Tina plays seven.

Now, Buddy and Tina have caught the attention of a television network producer who emphatically said she considers

the brother and sister nothing short of child prodigies.

The Buddy and Tina Wright Band, backed up by parents Pat and Ray, are to be one of five acts featured in a Country Music Television documentary on black performers.

The family put on a Nov. 24 performance at the Abernathy Jamboree, which was to be filmed by a CMT production crew.

The show's producers, Carla Winphrey and Henri Giles, also plan to visit the Wright family home to tape an interview, Winphrey said.

"I'll be spending time with them at their home and capturing the essence of Buddy and Tina," Winphrey said. "These kids are just phenomenal. Some people are good ... and some people just naturally have it. We expect to

see great things from Buddy and Tina." Already with dozens of public performances and four compact

discs under their belts, the teenagers who play mostly country, gospel and bluegrass are looking forward to careers in the entertainment industry.

"I'm just going to keep going in the direction were going in right now, Buddy said. I want to be a great composer ... be a household name.

Tina agreed.

"I want to be a great composer as well," she said. "I want every child across the nation to know about American music."

Buddy and Tina, in addition to their performance schedule, have conducted educational seminars in more than 100 schools, universities and libraries, teaching children the history of American music and the different instruments that have been played since the 15th century. More than 20,000 youth have attended their classes.

The connection to CMT began seven years ago when the family lived in the Dallas area.

In 1996 they did a TV show for Fox 4 in Dallas, Pat Wright said.

Winphrey was the show's host.

She remembered Buddy and Tina and she searched long and hard to find us, Pat Wright said.

Once Winphrey got in touch with the Wright family, she invited them to CMT headquarters in Nashville to audition for the show.

"There was only supposed to be four executives in (the room) and by the time (Buddy and Tina) ended, there was 45 or 50 people in there," Pat Wright said.

The duo performed three songs and got two standing ovations, she said.

They are extremely talented people, said CMT executive producer Kodjoe. It was a done deal, he said, referring to the bands inclusion in the documentary after they auditioned.

The result is that The Buddy and Tina Wright Band is to be involved in a ground-breaking project, according to Winphrey.

The documentary not only will highlight five contemporary performers, but will go into the history of country music and the African-American influences over the centuries that shaped it into what it is today, Kodjoe said.

Meanwhile the family continues to practice and tour.

Ray Wright, a retired telecommunications engineer, now travels and performs with the band, a luxury he previously didn't have.

He is proud, he said, that he is able to nurture and support his children's abilities.

I'm not really surprised, he said. I've seen what they've been capable of over the years.

I expect great things for Buddy and Tina.

Distributed By The Associated Press

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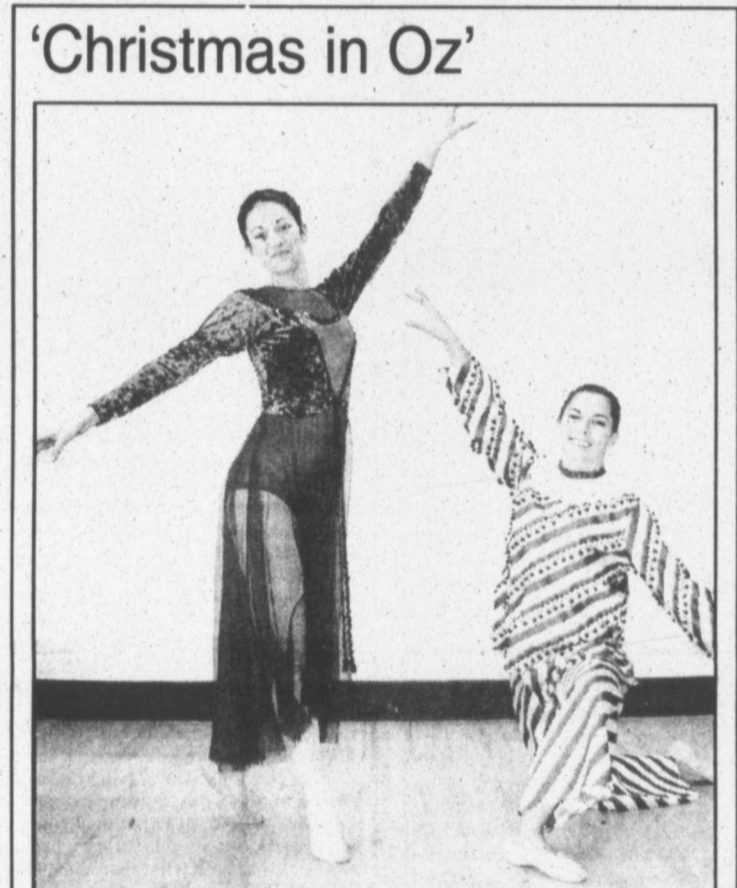
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(Courtesy photo)

Danielle Powers and Kim Adams, a pair of Frank Phillips College students, will take part in "Christmas in Oz," an original family Christmas show presented by Texas Dance Theatre, the Center for Texas Culture, Frank Phillips College and the Texas Dance Theatre Guild. Full performances will take place Dec. 19, 20 and 21 at the newly-refurbished Tascosa High School Auditorium in Amarillo. To find out more, contact the Center for Texas Culture.

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