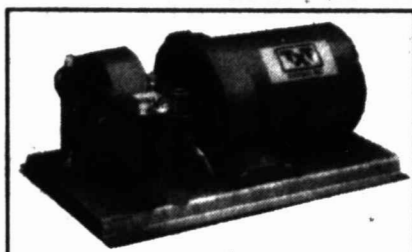


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Counselor takes stock of survey

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

For 10 years, Pampa students, grades 4 through 12, have taken the Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use, a collection of self-reported tobacco, alcohol, inhalant and substance use.

For 10 years, Pampa High School Counselor Lesley Gershmel has watched the trends, using the statistics to hone Pampa Independent School District's efforts to educate and inform students about the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse.

The most recent survey, taken last spring, shows students in the district are higher than state average in many areas, but also indicates that efforts to educate them are starting to make a difference, Gershmel told Pampa ISD board members at a recent meeting.

Tobacco use is higher at Pampa ISD, she reported, with 48 percent of PHS seniors saying they had used tobacco products in the last month, compared to 30

percent statewide.

Gershmel said that "use in the past month" generally indicates regular use.

To combat the rising use of tobacco, Pampa ISD and Pampa Police Department have received grants that help pay for stronger enforcement of tobacco laws in the schools and to help pay for "stings" at local businesses that might sell tobacco products to minors.

Alcohol use among Pampa students is "always significantly higher than the state," Gershmel told the board.

Seventy-seven percent of students here say that alcohol is "easy to get," compared to 71 percent in the state.

By seventh grade here, 48 percent have drunk alcohol "at least once," according to the survey. The statewide average is 40 percent.

"What really worries me is the amount they're drinking," Gershmel said.

Of seventh to 12th graders in Pampa ISD, 43 percent reported they drank beer weekly or monthly and 27 percent

But 25 percent of Pampa students have reported that the drug "ecstasy" is readily available here. These reports baffle Gershmel and law enforcement officials alike, she said, because only small amounts of the drug have been found "on the streets."

said they drank five or more beers at a time. Twelve percent said they had attended class while drunk, compared to 9 percent in the state. Gershmel is also concerned about students who say they've been driving under the influence.

"Thirty-five percent of 11 and 12 graders each say they've been driving under the influence," she said.

The percentage of use of other drugs is relatively the same between Pampa students and students statewide.

"I don't know if we're better or the

state's getting worse," Gershmel said.

When asked who they would go to for help with a drug or alcohol problem, most Pampa students (77 percent) said they would seek help from friends, compared to 73 percent statewide.

Five percent have gone to someone for help other than family and friends in the past year, according to the survey.

"I think we have some work to do there," Gershmel said. "Why don't students feel comfortable coming to us?"

Gershmel said the school district's drug education program and Worth the Wait may have contributed to "way better" averages regarding drug education.

Eighty percent of Pampa ISD students said they had received information about drugs and alcohol from a school source since classes began in Fall

2002, compared to 61 percent statewide. "An assembly program" was reported by 88 percent as the way they received information. Other educational sources reported by students included "invited school guest" and "health class."

Pampa's seventh grade classes reported lower averages of drug use in every level, Gershmel said, a good sign that the "Life Skills Training" classes the district has implemented for third through eighth grades may be making a difference.

Last spring, "Shattered Dreams," an intensive program intended to discourage teenage drinking and driving was presented at Pampa High School for the first time. However, the survey had been conducted before the program.

"It'll be interesting to see (the survey results) after 'Shattered Dreams,'" Gershmel said.

WEATHER & WEATHER

HIGH **62** LOW **35**

LOCAL City Commissioners to meet this week

Pampa City commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the second floor City Commission Chamber at City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill.

On its agenda, the commission will consider adopting a resolution renaming Hobart Street Park. One name under consideration is "Hobart/Keeton Park."

Red Cross open house

Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross invites the public to its annual Christmas Open House from 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, the local Red Cross office, 108 N. Russell.

DEATHS

Maynard Kotara, 65, longtime farmer and rancher.

INSIDE...

- Classified24
- Comics22
- Community ..15
- Editorial4
- Sports12

Beautiful Paving Stones... You Can Install Yourself

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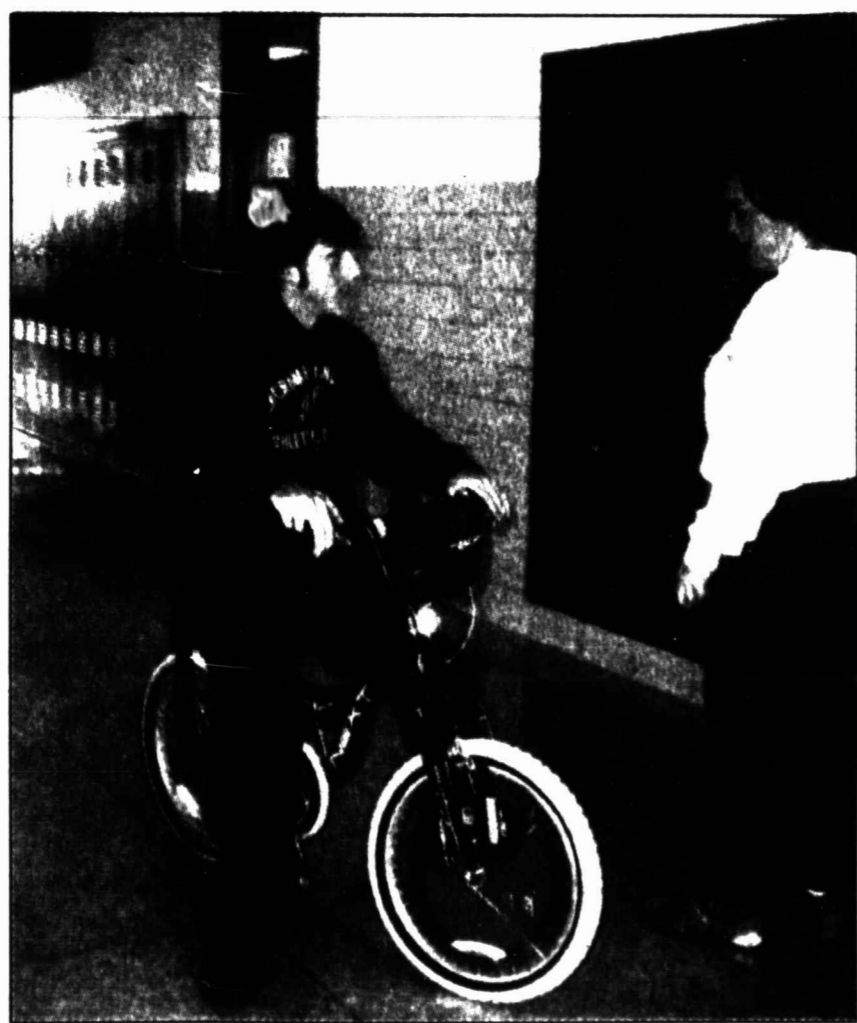
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Bikin' down the hall



(Photo by Amanda Rasmussen)

Senior Britton White stops to visit with faculty member Melody Youree after cruising down the first floor hallway at Pampa High School recently on a brightly-colored, purple children's bicycle which his English class donated to the Tralee Crisis Center's Angel Tree project. "My classes have adopted 12 different angels and have donated money, clothing, the bike, etc.," said English AP IV teacher Nancy McCall.

Seabourn appointment part of county commission agenda

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Gray County commissioners will meet in executive session Monday to consider the appointment of Pampa attorney Josh Seabourn as interim county attorney. The executive session will be held during commissioners' regular meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. Monday in the county courtroom on the second floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Seabourn is the only applicant for the position to be vacated by Todd Alvey on Dec. 31. Applications for the unexpired term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2004, were due by Dec. 1. If for any reason commissioners decline to appoint Seabourn, they have the option of contracting out the county attorney's work or working with the district attorney's office, said Gray County Judge Richard Peet.

Seabourn, 28, a Pampa native,

has been part-time assistant district attorney since April 1. He also works part-time in the law office of Pampa attorney John Warner, where he has been employed since receiving his law degree in May 2001.

Seabourn graduated from Pampa High School in 1993 and attended Oklahoma State University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1998 and a juris doctor degree in 2001.

Other items on the county commissioners' agenda include:

- Possible county dental plan
- County health insurance premium increase
- Reappointment, and appointment of new member, to White Deer Land Museum Board
- Resolution prohibiting unfunded mandates
- Resolution supporting district attorney's office submitting 31st District Domestic Violence Initiative grand application to the governor's office.

Miami ISD Education Board to convene

MIAMI — Miami Independent School District Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15 in the school administration office.

The board will consider appointing Steve Hale and Herman

Boone to the Roberts District. All-District football awards are also on the agenda.

Other agenda items include school report card and school finance.

Financial reports on the agenda include

reports, fund balances, cafeteria, transportation, tax and other reports.

Business items include approval of TASB Policy Update 71, school audit for 2002-03, and superintendent evaluation.

PAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 11:45 am in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building

Speaker... Heath Parker - Pampa High School Football Coach

Sponsor... Totally Wireless Caterer... Dos Caballeros

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OBITUARIES

MAYNARD KOTARA 1938-2003

WHITE DEER — Maynard Kotara, 65, died Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at Amarillo. Vigil services will be at 6 p.m. Monday at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in White Deer with Monsignor Kevin Hand, rector, officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Kotara was born Sept. 15, 1938, at Pampa. He married Nancy Ensey on March 25, 1975, at White Deer. He farmed and ranched in the White Deer area for 38 years and belonged to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He was a veteran of the Army National Guard, serving from 1956-1960.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy, of the home; a son, Rick Kotara of Canyon; two daughters, Rhonda Reed and Kathy Davis, both of Bowie; his mother, Theresa Kotara of White Deer; a brother, John Kotara of White Deer; four sisters, Joy Grange of White Deer, Marilyn Voyles of Corpus Christi, Gay Blaylock of San Antonio and Debbie Huff of Grand Prairie; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to V.A. Health Care System, 6010 Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo, TX 79106; or to Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center, 1500 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

SERVICES TOMORROW

GILMORE, Nathan — Graveside services, 10:30 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, McLean.
KOTARA, Maynard — Vigil services, 6 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

City Briefs

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

ALL ABOUT Beauty for the Holidays! Hair, nails, tanning. Gift certificates. Katie Kidd, Connie Perkins, Nancy Jacoby, Vanessa Milligan & Christie Wall. 665-1101.

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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.

KAREN'S KITCHEN, 716 W. Foster, Sun. 11-2, liver & onions, ch. spaghetti, meatloaf. All You Can Eat \$7.25.

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

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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.

X-MAS DECORATIONS Installed, Daniel, 665-4219

ON RECORD

POLICE

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

Friday, Dec. 12

Valerie Marie Vigil, 18, 440 Hughes, was arrested for burglary of a motor vehicle.
Lacey Delonn Nevins, 33, 1108 Neal Road, was arrested for capias pro fines for parking with wheels 15-inches from curb and for violation of driver's license restriction.
Peter Rodriguez, 36, 410 S. Ballard, was arrested for public intoxication.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Trey Lynn Brassfield, 24, 509 N. Cuyler, was arrested for capias pro fines for expired motor vehicle registration and for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

SHERIFF

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

Friday, Dec. 12

Anthony Chris Broaddus, no age given, of Miami, was arrested on a five-day sentence for driving while intoxicated.
Debra Jean Hill, 40, 452 Pitts, was arrested on capias pro fines for driving with license suspended and for no insurance.
Steve Cory Gardner, 17, 1217 E. Kingsmill, was arrested by GCSO for Pampa Police Department on a capias pro fine for minor in possession of tobacco and for minor in possession of alcohol and open container in vehicle.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Bobby Jack Crain, 46, 2200 Evergreen, was arrested by Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated - first offense.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Friday, Dec. 12

11:08 a.m. — Three units and seven firefighters responded to the 100 block of North Cuyler on investigation only. Nothing found.
4:15 p.m. — Four units and nine firefighters responded to 8004 County Road 8 on a structure fire which completely destroyed a residence. No further details were available at press time.
6:11 p.m. — Two units and four firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 800 block of North Nelson and discovered a panful of burnt cornbread, but no fire.

AMBULANCE

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

Friday, Dec. 12

12:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.
1:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Cuyler and transported a patient to PRMC.
4:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's, Amarillo.
4:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to County Road J and 8 on a fire standby.
8:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Baten Prison Unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

WEATHER FOCUS

The forecast today is calling winds 10 to 20 mph. Night should fall on partly cloudy skies with lows in the mid 30s

and south winds 5 to 15 mph. Monday should see partly cloudy skies. Windy. Highs around 60. West winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Monday night, mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Windy. Lows in the mid 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Breezy, cooler. Highs in the mid 40s. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. Wednesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

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Farn gove health

WAUSAU Thousands of small business employees are now eligible for health insurance.

Gov. Jim Ives has created five insurance pools for individuals with health insurance and collective health care costs three times a health insurance employee's company, Doyle said.

"I don't believe this will provide absolutely the best health care said before session."

"We can reduce the cost of health care just go to the care premium under because afford health their families, The gove Wisconsin far month for he miums that annual deduct

"It is no Wisconsin health insurance all," Doyle said.

Phoenix

PHOENIX scanning technology to recognize offenders and has been installed in a school in a some law education expand.

Two camps expected to be opened this week, will see who enter the Palm Middle linked to state bases of sex children and a

An officer to the school possible match County Sheriff

"If it works one missing child from a search it's worth it," tough-talking previously gave his chain gear issued pink ur

Civil liberties red flags about to potential and biometric recognition proof.

"There are concerns. I'm also fact that the proven," Eisenberg, ex the Arizona Union.

Chengjun and researcher

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Farm Scene: Wisconsin governor signs pivotal health insurance bill

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — Thousands of farm families, small business owners and self-employed workers in Wisconsin are now eligible for a new program to help them get affordable health insurance.

Gov. Jim Doyle signed legislation into law last week that creates five regional health insurance purchasing cooperatives with the power to pool individuals to negotiate directly with health insurance providers and collectively bargain for cheaper coverage.

Wisconsin farmers face a health care crisis, already paying three times as much for their health insurance as salaried employees working for a company, Doyle said.

"I don't think anyone believes this will be the absolutely perfect answer, but it will provide some help," Doyle said before signing the legislation.

"We can raise prices and productivity of our farmers, but it won't matter if increased profits just go to cover rising health care premiums or if farms go under because our farmers can't afford health care coverage for their families," he said.

The governor said some Wisconsin farmers pay \$1,900 a month for health insurance premiums that include a \$2,500 annual deductible.

"It is no wonder 25 percent of Wisconsin farmers have no health insurance coverage at all," Doyle said.

Phoenix school installs facial scan system

PHOENIX (AP) — Face-scanning technology designed to recognize registered sex offenders and missing children has been installed in a Phoenix school in a pilot project that some law enforcement and education officials hope to expand.

Two cameras, which are expected to be operational next week, will scan faces of people who enter the office at Royal Palm Middle School. They are linked to state and national databases of sex offenders, missing children and alleged abductors.

An officer will be dispatched to the school in the event of a possible match, said Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

"If it works one time, locates one missing child or saves a child from a sexual attack, I feel it's worth it," said Arpaio, a tough-talking sheriff who has previously gained notoriety for his chain gangs and prison-issued pink underwear.

Civil libertarians have raised red flags about the idea, pointing to potential privacy violations, and biometrics experts say facial recognition programs are not foolproof.

"There are huge privacy concerns. I'm also troubled by the fact that the technology is not proven," said Eleanor Eisenberg, executive director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union.

Chengjun Liu, a professor and researcher of facial recogni-

About 50 people watched the signing ceremony at FCS Financial Services, a member-owned cooperative that provides loans and other services to agricultural customers and home owners.

The legislation, based on a successful Minnesota program, was approved by both the Senate and Assembly in November.

Bill Oemichen, president and CEO of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, a primary advocate of the legislation, said each purchasing cooperative must have at least 5,000 members.

It's believed the new alliances can negotiate health insurance policies that lower the premiums on average at least 10 percent and perhaps as much as 35 percent compared with what the individuals and their families now pay, Oemichen said.

The biggest advantage will come in lower annual deductibles on the policies, perhaps to \$250 to \$500, he said.

The first policies could be in place by next summer, Oemichen said.

Wayne Corey, executive director of Wisconsin Independent Businesses, predicted the change Doyle signed into law would stabilize health insurance costs and revitalize many small businesses, enhance their profitability and make more money available for employee raises and other benefits.

tion technology at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, said facial recognition software is promising but can have reliability issues.

Variables like lighting and facial expression can affect the accuracy of the applications, he said. "There are a lot of challenges," Liu said, but the systems do have potential.

Ken Kaplan, engineering director for Phoenix-based Hummingbird — which donated the system at Royal Palm — said most mug shots or snapshots can be used to accurately pinpoint a person. He said false positives are rare, but cautioned: "You can fool it. It's not perfect."

Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Home came out in support of the pilot program, saying he would seek funding for the cameras, which cost roughly \$3,000 to \$5,000, to be placed in every school in the state.



Dec. 14
11 shopping
days to Christmas

Colleges wooing students with amenities

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Forget flip flops and shower caddies. Today's college students are demanding private bathrooms and more living space — and they're getting it.

Across the nation, colleges and universities are building new residential facilities that cater to every student's desire, from high-speed Internet connections and cable television to their own bedrooms in apartments and suites.

Duquesne University recently entered into an agreement to purchase an 850-bed apartment tower, and housing officials are mulling over plans to add six floors to a suite-style dorm at the urban campus in Pittsburgh.

At Penn State, officials took out a \$75 million bond to construct housing for 800 juniors and seniors at its University Park campus. The dorms will feature clusters of single rooms with private baths around common living and study areas.

"Twenty years ago, students were expected to come in and share a room and share a bathroom down the hall with 40 people," said Michelle Fryling, a spokeswoman for Indiana University of Pennsylvania, about 45 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

"Many of today's students may never have shared a room with a brother or sister, and they have different expectations of what residence hall life should be," she said.

And construction isn't limited to dorms: Instead of banning cars for freshmen, West Chester University of Pennsylvania is putting up two student parking lots. Many universities are investing in recreation centers with swimming pools and tennis courts.

"It's surprising if they're not building a new rec center," said Lander Medlin, executive vice president of the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers.

Medlin says the college building boom comes as higher education institutions compete for students. According to a survey by the American School & University's magazine, the median cost per square foot to construct a new residence hall in 2002 reached \$150, compared to \$82 in 1993.

Administrators believe the construction will pay off. About 1,800 students entered into a lottery for the 800 new spaces at Penn State, said Lynn DuBois, associated director of housing.

"Students today come from households where they're used to having more space. That translates to having more space in colleges," said Meg Lauerman, a spokeswoman for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which plans to add 1,000 beds in new apartments because market research says students who live on campus are more likely to graduate and earn better grades.

"And we know from recruiting experience that college students are interested in living facilities," Lauerman said. "It does factor in to their decision."

And don't forget the meal plan. Michael Hager, Nebraska's associate director of housing administration, says the university recently renovated one dining hall from a buffet-style cafeteria to a market-style eatery where students can custom order the meat in a Mongolian grill plate to vegetarian pizza freshly baked in a wood oven.

All the pressure to spend has some smaller private colleges worried they can't compete with bigger public universities.

"It troubles some people, but the reality is that state-subsidized public institutions aggressively do this, and it can put pressure on a private institution to have to keep up," said Don Francis of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.

To offset some of the costs, some institutions have turned to privatized housing projects, inviting developers on campus to build apartments and townhouses. California University of Pennsylvania was the first in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's 14-university group to do it.

California president Angelo Armenti said the dorms from the \$36-million project will be among the best in the nation and should help to attract new students. They are the first residence halls to be built on campus in more than 30 years.

At West Chester University of Pennsylvania, a \$42.3 million bond was issued to build two student housing projects. One is an apartment-style facility with conference rooms, coffee bar, fitness center and computer lab. The other is a suite-style facility.

"The best explanation is that the family structure is smaller than it used to be, and so they come from having their own room and they don't understand group housing," Medlin said. "It's clearly a change in their culture, and the experience based on having their own room and their own space and some level of privacy."

Altrusa Christmas Tea



(Courtesy photo)

Members of Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met recently for "Altrusa Christmas Tea" at the home of Jeanne Townsend. Altrusa Board of Directors hosted the event. Above, left-right: Billie Dixon, Georgia Johnson, Judy Warner, Dorla McAndrew, Mayda King and Brenda Tucker.

GRANDVIEW-HOPKINS ISD HONOR ROLL

Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District recently announced students named to its second six-weeks honor roll for the 2003-04 school year.

A HONOR ROLL

First Grade. Shauntae Foster.
Second Grade. Ela Earhart, Ashton Standerfer, Roper Sweeney, Amber Adams.
Third Grade. Claire Hopkins, Alex Stevens.
Fourth Grade. Amber Harris, Celby Snapp, Dakota Schiffman, Hilary Zedlitz.

Sixth Grade. Cody Schiffman, Zachery Ponce.

AB HONOR ROLL

First Grade. Jelsie Rose.
Second Grade. Bracie Harris.
Third Grade. Renee Baggerman, Joseph Slatten.
Fourth Grade. Cheyene Adams, Ty Baggerman, Brittany McCallum, Chelsey McCallum, Jazmine Rose, Lyndi Whitson, Chloe Zedlitz.
Fifth Grade. Reid Bradley.
Sixth Grade. Robert Ponce.

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VIEWPOINTS

What Republicans want in '04

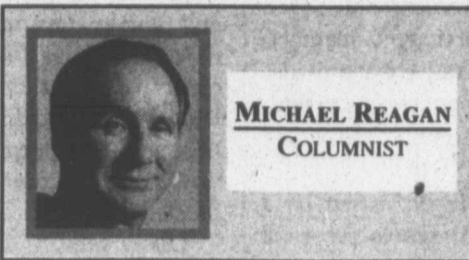
The GOP's main goal in 2004 is to win big in the presidential and senate races. That's obvious. What's less obvious is how they hope to get there.

Basically, what they want is Dean to be the Democrat presidential nominee in 2004 because they see him as the 2004 version of Walter Mondale, who also said he wanted to raise taxes when he ran in 1980 against my father. He promptly went down in a humiliating defeat.

There is still a lot of talk about Hillary or Al Gore running this year as vice presidential candidates which of course is just plain silly. Hillary is not going to be Howard Dean's vice presidential running mate. After all, if Dean accidentally won the election, she couldn't run for president in 2008 because Dean would certainly be a candidate for re-election that year. She'd have to wait until 2012 when she'll be older and less attractive.

Moreover, Dean is out to clean the Clinton's clock and wrest control of the party from them. As a result, she doesn't want to do anything to help Dean because she wants him to lose so she can run in 2008. It's all very Byzantine, but that's the way Democrats think.

And no matter what Bill and Hillary's lap dog candidate Gen. Wesley Clark says, Hillary is not going to consider being his or anybody else's running mate. And of course the whole thing is moot anyway because Wesley Clark is not going to be the Democrat candidate this or any other year.



MICHAEL REAGAN
COLUMNIST

Now, for Al Gore. You have to understand that Gore did not endorse Dean so he could be what he's already been: Vice President. People do not run for the presidency and lose and then take a step backward to be vice president again.

Besides, Al Gore certainly knows Dean will lose this year if he is the Democrat candidate. And that's what he wants to happen because he is also eyeing a run in 2008. Here's where it really gets Byzantine. By endorsing Howard Dean and joining forces with him to take party control away from the Clintons, he'll then have de facto control of the party and that will help him win the 2008 nomination over Hillary.

What we are seeing now is a civil war taking place among the Democrats, and before it's over there will be pools of blood all over the place. They are proving once again that Will Rogers was right when he said that he belonged to no organized political party - that he was a Democrat.

The Republicans are hoping that all of the ungodly amount of money that they have spent in this present congress and the bigger the government has grown

under President Bush, especially with the new Medicare entitlement now well in place, will turn into enough votes in this year to win a big enough majority in the Senate so they can squash the filibusters the Democrats have been using. Then they'll be able finally to redo Medicare the way it needs to be redone, and at last redo Social Security the way it needs to be redone, and get all the other things that need to be taken care of to get the nation back on the right track.

In order to get there they had to gamble by spending vast amounts of money and giving entitlements to the elderly who vote in large numbers. That's their game plan. It's a gamble and we'll find out in November if the gamble pays off and they get the whopping majority in the Senate that will allow them to stave off those Democrat filibusters, get the judges approved, deal with Medicare and Social Security in a way that will save and strengthen both programs, and hopefully fix our ridiculous and ruinous tax system.

To sum up, if the Republicans get their wishes fulfilled, Dean will win the nomination, take the control of his party away from the Clintons, lose the election and in the process drag down Democrat Senate candidates with him, thus helping the GOP win a big majority in the Senate.

Iraq then becomes the only question mark for 2004 but the economy is going well, job growth is back and historically we don't change presidents in the middle of a war.

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TEXAS EDITORIAL

The best way to recruit minorities to universities

From The Bryan-College Station Eagle:
Texas A&M President Robert Gates has it right. For the good of the school and the good of the state, A&M must attract more minority students. At the same time, students shouldn't be admitted simply because they are minority.

That may sound contradictory, but really it isn't. Why is it important for A&M to have a larger minority enrollment? There are many reasons. A university, particularly one that is state supported, should represent the people of that state. A&M should have a healthy diversity of students from all parts of the state, all income levels, all cultures and backgrounds, different philosophies and interests and so on. A great university of course is about a great education, but that education extends beyond books and lectures. A great education includes interacting with people students will be living with and working with for their rest of their lives. It is about learning and appreciating other cultures.

A state-supported school shouldn't just be the bastion of the white and the well-to-do. All Texas children should believe that, if they study hard, they will have an opportunity to attend an A&M. If they believe they have no chance, then they will never try to gain admission.

It is well-known that an Aggie education is one of the best available and if all segments of the Texas population are to thrive, then more Texans must have the opportunity to gain that wonderful education.

At the same time, why shouldn't race be considered for admission to A&M? If A&M wants more minority students, why not just admit more, regardless of grades or test scores or school and community activities. Quite simply, if A&M is going to maintain its edge and build upon its already fine record, it cannot afford to change its admission standards. Students who come to A&M should be up to the challenge an A&M education requires. They must have a realistic chance of being successful.

So if race isn't to be a factor in admissions, how does A&M increase its minority enrollment? Gates says the school will do a better job reaching out to high schools with large minority enrollments, encouraging students there to apply themselves and then apply to A&M. A&M will send the message that there is a place for them on the College Station campus. And, for those students from households with incomes of \$40,000 or less many of the minority A&M will offer Regents Scholarships that will ease the financial burden of attending school here.

Of course, that won't solve the minority-enrollment issue completely. A&M will need help from the public schools and, most important, from minority families if it is to increase minority enrollment.

From the day a child enters school, he or she must be encouraged to work hard so that one day they can get into a Texas A&M. They must be told again and again that they can be successful and can be accepted at A&M. Minority parents must make education a priority and set high expectations for their children. Their children must believe in themselves and in the possibility of becoming an Aggie.

Minority churches, those that once were so instrumental in the struggle for civil rights, must reclaim their leadership role in helping minority families understand the importance of a good education.

And when those children do come to A&M, they must be welcomed in the same manner as other Aggies, by faculty, staff, students and the entire local community.

None of this will be easy, but life rarely is. We cannot continue to polarize as a nation of haves and have-nots. Not every minority child will want to go to A&M or will get in if he or she so desires. But working together, we can make many more children see that they, too, can and should become a Texas Aggie.

Nothing could be better or more critical to the future of Texas.



Al Gore says it's time for payback

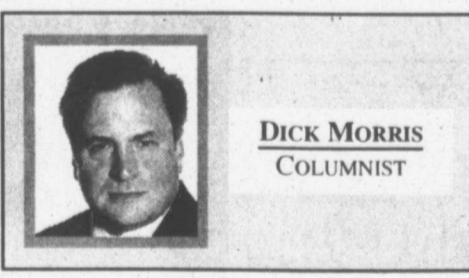
It's payback time for Al Gore.

Dissatisfied at how thoroughly forgotten he is among active Democrats and resentful of all the attention Sen. Hillary Clinton, his White House rival, is getting, Al has reportedly decided to flank the Clintons by backing Howard Dean for president.

Forget the November election. The fight we are witnessing is a battle for control of the Democratic Party.

In one corner stand the Clintons, sending contender after contender out to center ring in an effort to stop Dean from taking over their party. First Joe Lieberman came limping back. Then Wesley Clark ran away from the early primaries and forfeited the match. And now John Kerry is so far behind in New Hampshire that he is down for the count.

In the other corner is Dean, backed by Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. and now Gore, battling to take the party away from Hillary



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

and craft a new Democratic left. Rejecting Clintonian, Democratic Leadership Council-style moderation, Dean and Gore are letting their liberalism hang out as they garner popularity on the left.

The tail is taking over the dog. One-third of Americans are Democrats. One-third of the Democrats are liberal activists backing Dean. And now they are dictating policy to the entire party.

Dean has mobilized this new power to get power; now Gore is using it to get his relevance back.

Hillary, anxious to keep pace in the move to the left and stay the leader of the

party, goes to Iraq and on the talk shows to bolster her image as a liberal, living down her vote for the war resolution. She sees the decade-long reign of sanity in the Democratic Party leadership coming to an end and is determined to make it in the brave new world.

Enter Al Gore. Robbed of the presidency (in his view), he has been sidetracked by the Clinton machine that once lifted him from the dustbin of history and made him vice president. Has anybody thought of Al Gore in the past six months? Apparently Dean has. Their common cause: independence from Hillary and Bill.

Gore likely knows that Dean won't win. But by backing him, he begins to carve out his own identity in the post-Bill Clinton, post-moderation post-sanity Democratic era.

Or maybe he just wants to be vice president again?

TODAY IN HISTORY

- BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- Today is Sunday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2003. There are 17 days left in the year.
 - Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 14, 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon home at age 67.
 - On this date: In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.
 - In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died in London.
 - In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the South Pole, beating out an expedition led by Robert F. Scott.
 - In 1939, the Soviet Union was dropped from the League of Nations.
 - In 1946, the U.N. General Assembly voted to establish U.N. headquarters in New York.
 - In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner Two approached Venus, transmitting information about the planet.
 - In 1975, six South Moluccan extremists surrendered after holding 23 hostages for 12 days on a train near the Dutch town of Beilen.
 - In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.
 - In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.
 - In 2000, the Federal Trade Commission unanimously approved the \$111-billion merger of America Online and Time Warner.

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BY J ABILE

ABILENE — about eBay, but s

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Web class's project assignment to sell stuff on eBay

By **BRIAN BETHEL**
 ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

ABILENE — Tina Lyter doesn't know much about eBay, but she's learning. The 14-year-old Cooper High School freshman knows it's the Web's most-visited auction site, and that millions use it to buy just about anything. "My mom used to collect Beanie Babies, and she used eBay all the time to buy them," she said. "But I've never done anything with it myself." That said, and recalling her mother's yen for overstuffed, cuddly critters, Lyter hopes her two Hello Kitty dolls will earn a tidy sum for her "Webmastery" class at Cooper. If that doesn't work, she has three Playstation games for sale, too. Christmas is coming, after all. Lyter is one of more than 120 students in the class, which learns how to write Web pages, who are auctioning items on the Internet site as a class project. It's a chance for students to use what they've learned about designing Web pages to raise funds to buy computer software and equipment. "It's different and kind of interesting," Lyter said of the unusual assignment, which requires students to gather used items from around their homes or from friends and neighbors and sell them for a class fund-raiser. "We've done other

Web pages for the class, but nothing like this." Lyter's teacher, Richard Rhodes, said the students must sell two items each, designing the Web pages that auctioneers will see describing their wares. In addition, the students must research whether their planned item is likely to be popular, take photographs of it for the Web page and interact with potential buyers. The auction started Saturday (Nov. 28) and ends around 6 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 7), Rhodes said. When it's all said and done, the students will ship the items to the winning bidders, then put the cash in the class kitty. "I don't think I've ever heard of anyone doing something like this for a class project," Rhodes said. The idea came about mostly by chance, he said. At a recent Cooper Band reunion, Rhodes was introduced to a woman who uses eBay as a full-time business. "She suggested we do a fund-raiser on eBay," he said. "The more I thought about it, the more it seemed like a good idea." Knowing there is always a need for money to buy new hardware and software, Rhodes turned the notion into a class assignment. Students are asked to find what Rhodes terms garage sale items to offer for sale on eBay. "It can be a compact disc they no longer listen to, or maybe someone gave them as a gift,

for example," he said. "Lots of kids are selling video and computer games. But we do have some fairly interesting items." Those include a complete set of Time-Life Books Old West series, a 48-star American flag, used golf clubs and a Randy Moss rookie football card in a case. The goal of the online auction is to give necessary Web-writing practice, teach students a bit about personal responsibility and make the class some money, Rhodes said. Cooper Principal Gail Gregg said such fund-raisers aren't unusual. "A lot of our groups have garage sales and such to raise money for various things," he said. "We've done that in the past, and we saw this as an opportunity to let the children use what they've been learning and raise some money." Gregg said he asked Abilene Independent School District administrators their opinion on the matter, and all agreed the idea was acceptable. "We feel like it's kind of a cutting-edge garage sale," he said. With many schools losing students, there is less budget money to go around, Gregg said. Mainly, such fund-raisers help students and classes go "above and beyond" what the normal budget allows even in good years. "The band certainly does the same thing, as

do many other classes and organizations," he said. "I think the eBay auction is a great idea." Student Paul Cisneros, 17, is auctioning a computer game and a Playstation game. Already familiar with Web design, he has carefully considered how he will attract potential bidders. "I'm probably going to take three separate pictures, then try to give them a little background on each game," he said. "I want them to know what kind of games they are and will try to be truthful with them. I don't want anyone buying something they won't enjoy." Senior Kelly McGrath, 18, hopes her plan to auction 2 yards of children's print fabric (Care Bears and Monsters, Inc.) and a Care Bear doll will net some money for the class. "It's a good way for us to get money to update some things," she said. "I think most of the things we sell are probably going to start at a dollar or so. I've heard that the lower you start, the more likely people are to start bidding." Rhodes said he has high hopes for the auction. "Were hoping it will provide some revenue and also provide a good learning experience for the kids," he said. "I'm also hoping they'll have some fun doing it."

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Pampa Native
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LETTERS TO SANTA

To: Santa Clause
North Pole 85921

Dear Santa,
I want a new train, a toy horse, a beautiful ballerina, and a BIG Barbie. Also, I would like to watch a sing-along movie. My big sister wants a toy horse, too. We both want some skeletons to scare each other.
—Love Ariel Cambern, 4

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year, and I will be looking for you Christmas Eve. All I want is a four wheeler for Christmas. I will leave you some cookies and milk.
Love you,
—Horsey
P.S. I will also leave you some cheese.

Dear Santa,
I want to know "Is Rudolph real?" I would like you to bring me the talking cooking grill. It's lots of fun. I will leave milk and cookies for you to eat.
—Love, Ramie Woods, 4 1/2

Dear Santa,
I want you to bring me some toys. Some more movies to watch at my house would be good, too. I am 3 1/2-years-old and am going to have a castle cake when I turn 4.
—Love, Nathan Farrar, 3 1/2

Dear Santa,
I want some Hulk movies and also "Finding Nemo." I love you.
Alex wants a paintball gun and Lauren wants a teddy bear. They are my brother and sister and they are pretty nice to me.
—Love, Samantha Smith, 4

Dear Santa,
I want some gummy bears, a remote control choo-choo, a tractor, and an Imaginex Forest.
—Camron Washington, 4
P.S. I will leave your milk and cookies on the fireplace.

Dear Santa,
I want a fish game, a sharp tooth, a lazer gun, and a little rifle gun. Does Rudolph's nose really glow?
—Love, Carson Eubank, 4 1/2

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa. I have been good this year. What I want this year is,
a digite blue movie creater and a kitty bed for my cat and a little tv and a spongbob squarepants video game and a marioparty 5 video game and a cat in the hat video game and a jak 2 video game and finding Nemo video and a 37 inche keyboard and a Santa Claws 2 video and a cat in the hat movie and a samurai Jack 5-pc action figure set and a Barbie set for my cusins and a thundershock air plane.
Thank you Santa,
—Zachery Wolfe

Dear Santa I want Dallas Cowboys Football field and the Imagine XT Pirate Ship and a Dallas Cowboys Rug from Cade Engle.
—Cade Engle, 6

Dear Santa,
My name is Braydon, and I've been pretty good this year, so could you please bring me the following items on Christmas Eve?
1. A Harley like Uncle Mike's.
2. A new golf bag.
3. Silly Soccer game.
4. Hungry Hippo game.
5. A marble game for little kids.
6. A fishing game with sharks.
Thank you, Santa. Be cool.
—Braydon Weatherly, 3

Dear Santa,
Please bring me clothes, lots of clothes and a purple backpack and babies. I also would like a new pair of tennis shoes and Barbies. I need some more dress-up clothes and lots of Barbie clothes, too.
I am 4 1/2-years-old. I have been good all my life.
Thank you, Santa. I love you, Santa.
—Ashlynn Organ, 4 1/2

Dear Santa,
I would like a laptop computer, a real baby carrier, a baby doll, a baby blanket (blue or purple or yellow), two parakets birds (yellow and blue), yellow scooter wheels, a real baby stroller, a yellow cover for my cell phone, jewelry, a new dog for my Mamaw and Pawpaw because theirs got killed, also please bring something for my two dogs and my cat, please remember all the other girls and boys in the world. So they will have a good Christmas! Please let everyone remember the true meaning of Christmas — Jesus' birthday!
Merry Christmas, Santa!
Love,
—Lindsay Garmon

Dear Santa,
My name is Dacie McGill. I am 6-years-old. I am in Mrs. Thompson's 1st grade class at Travis. For Christmas I would like No David books, the Freaky Friday movie, a T.V., a My little baby, a cat & the Hat game, a Nutcracker, a shooting star necklace, a soccer ball, the all grown up movie, a guitar, and Christmas stickers.

Please bring a toy for all the angels on the angel tree. I hope your sleigh is not to heavy. Please bring my friend Caragan a teddy bear. Bring my mom a glass doll and bring my dad a soldier. Bring all my girl friends new Barbie clothes. Bring all my boy friends race cars.

If I see you I will sing Jingle Bells to you. For all my soucins bring bears. For all my grandparents bring bells to sing happy birthday to Jesus. Tell Rudolph I love him. I love you Santa.

Love,
—Dacie McGill, 6
P.S. If you see Mcdonald's you can stop and eat.

Dear Santa,
I have been good most of the time. This year, I would like a Rescue Hero Robot for Christmas. My little sister would like a baby doll with purple clothes. We will have cookies for you and a carrot for your reindeer.
Love,
—Alex White, 5

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie talking townhouse, a glow wand.
Love,
—Ally Roberson

Dear Santa,
How you today? Fine. I'm Joshua Dre'. I am 2-years-old. I would like to have a rocket, a toy, hot wheel, and another hot wheel. I will leave you two cookies with no nuts.
I love you!
—Joshua Fuller, 2

Dear Santa,
How are you today? I wish I was Rudolph. I want a go-cart or something to ride, lots of Pokemon cards and a book to put them in.
I want a Playstation 2, and hot wheels underground. What I really want is a GI-Joe airplane and a tank. (The toy ones.) And something for my dad, mom, mam-ma, Lannie, Landaddy and aunt bear.
Have a very Merry Christmas!
Love,
—Bryson Fuller, 7

Dear Santa,
I'm just 3-years-old. My "Ma Ma" is writing this for me. Please bring me a Huck and some Rescue Rangers. Don't forget my cousin, Remington. We both live in Amarillo.

Please don't forget all the other little boys and girls. There will be cookies and milk for you.
I love you.
Payton "Pete" Newman, 3

Dear Santa,
I'm only 4-year-old. My "Ma Ma" is writing this for me. Please bring me a Mi Mi Puppy and new markers. My "Ba Ba" would like a DVD player.
Don't forget my cousin, Pete. He has moved to Amarillo where I live. Please don't forget all the other little boys and girls.
I'll leave milk and cookies for you.
Love you,
—Remington Cooke, 4

Dear Santa,
I am six years I want a four wheeler. I want hulk stuff. I also like harley boots.
Love,
—David Leshar Jr., 6

Dear Santa,
I want a baby bottle and a baby stroler and a carseat ana baby and a baby bed and a baby woker and I want a babg I hope you fill my stoking up! and also I want a baby that runs temperature
Love,
—Brianna Leshar

The following letters were submitted by Mrs. McGills Pre-class at St. Matthews Episcopal Day School:
Dear Santa,
My name is Nicholas. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been bad. I'm sorry. For Christmas, I would like a real Peter Pan movie. Thank you for my family. I hope you bring me toys.
—Nicholas, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Ashten. I am 5-years-old. Since last year, I have been good. For Christmas, I would like a horse doll house. Thank you for my toys. I hope you have a nice time.
—Ashten, 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Meredith. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been nice to my sister because she was sick. For Christmas, I would like candy canes and a doll. Thank you for my robot computer. I hope you have a good time.
—Meredith, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Anastasia. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been sick and had to stay home. For Christmas, I would like a new thing to take my dog a walk with. Thank you for my toys and doll house. I hope you get me what I want.
—Anastasia, 4


Dear Santa,
My name is Mason. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been mostly good. For Christmas, I would like a Hulk toy. Thank you for my toys. I hope you bring me toys.
—Mason, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Kami. I am 4-years-old. Since last year, I have been really good. For Christmas, I would like a tea party. Thank you for Christmas cards. I hope you cook some food so you don't get hungry.
—Kami, 4


(See LETTERS, page 7)

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LETTERS TO SANTA
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My name is...
I am 4-...
Since last...
3 years.
For Christmas...
like a Barbie...
babies, PJ's...
Thank you...
and my dad...
I hope you...
Christmas...
—Ashlynn

Dear Santa
My name is...
I am 6-...
Since last...
very good!
For Christmas...
like a baby...
Thank you...
house.
I hope you...
with your...
—Lauren

Dear Santa
My name is...
I am 4-...
Since last...
very good.
For Christmas...
like a train.
Thank you...
I hope you...
—Drew

Dear Santa
My name is...
I am 5-...
Since last...
super duper...
For Christmas...
like a real...
and a white...
Thank you...
joy.
I hope you...
—Dayana

Dear Santa
My name is...
I am 4-...
Since last...
good.
For Christmas...
like a Barbie...
Thank you...
maids.
I hope you...
mommy a to...
—Madi

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

LETTERS

Dear Santa,
My name is Ashlynn.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been 3 years.
For Christmas, I would like a Barbie, bike, Barbies babies, P.J.s, shoes.
Thank you for my clothes, and my daddy.
I hope you have a good Christmas.
—Ashlynn, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Lauren.
I am 6-years-old.
Since last year, I have been very good!
For Christmas, I would like a baby doll.
Thank you for the play-house.
I hope you have a safe trip with your reindeer.
—Lauren, 6

Dear Santa,
My name is Drew.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been very good.
For Christmas, I would like a train.
Thank you for Christmas.
I hope you do magic.
—Drew, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Dayana.
I am 5-years-old.
Since last year, I have been super duper good.
For Christmas, I would like a real horse, a black one and a white one.
Thank you for giving me joy.
I hope you bring me a toy.
—Dayana, 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Madi.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been good.
For Christmas, I would like a Barbie and a Barbie car.
Thank you for the mermaids.
I hope you bring my mommy a toy.
—Madi, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Dillon.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been in Pampa.
For Christmas, I would like a big truck with Power Ranger in it.
Thank you for the Sun so Bright.
I hope you can bring me Brother Bear.
—Dillon, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Matthew.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been good for you.
For Christmas, I would like a four-wheeler to ride.
Thank you for my house.
I hope you come to my house.
—Matthew, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Kylie.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been sick.
For Christmas, I would like a Barbie car.
Thank you for the sun.
I hope you make a lot of toys.
—Kylie, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Adisson.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been very good.
For Christmas, I would like a tiger.
Thank you for giving me presents.
I hope you get some stickers.
—Adisson, 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Bailey.
I am 4-years-old.
Since last year, I have been really good.
For Christmas, I would like an easy bake oven.
Thank you for toys and I love you, Santa.
I hope you know my name.
—Bailey, 4

Wheat marketing event open to area producers

AMARILLO — If you invest nearly a year growing a wheat crop why not take advantage of clear-cut opportunity to make more money? On Dec. 17, area farmers will have the chance to work with experts who can assist them in preparing a plan to market what they harvest, says Steve Amosson, an economist with Texas Cooperative Extension. Developing this year's marketing strategy for wheat will be addressed in a one-day Advanced Topics Series workshop slated at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Boulevard West. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and end by 4 p.m. The course costs \$75 per person and includes the cost of materials, refreshments and noon meal. Participants will learn about fundamentals, technical signals, seasonal trends in cash, basis and contracts dealing with wheat. In addition, different marketing strategies for both pre- and post harvest situations will be covered. A&M instructors, Stan Bevers of Vernon and Mark Waller of College Station will conduct the training. Participants will learn at a highly applied level using a combination of lecture, small working groups and simulation exercises. ATS workshops are similar to those offered through the Master Marketer Program. Bevers is a specialist in farm and ranch management, economics, risk management, and marketing club development. Waller is a specialist in

grain marketing and policy development. The annual ATS program is underwritten by Southern Region Risk Management Education Center and by the sponsors of the Master Marketer Educational System, Texas Wheat Producers Board, Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Farm Bureau, and Texas Cotton Support Committee. Pre-registration is required. Forms are available through your local Extension office or through Fran Bretz at (806) 677-5600.

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Sat 8:30 - 1:00

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.

GCAP for Moms and Babies
Gray County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies met Nov. 20 with Judith Loyd presiding. The following business was conducted and announcements made:
—Introductions were made and minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
—Anne Stobbe, librarian, delivered the program on local library happenings and events.
—Loyd addressed the need for an annual fund-raiser. She contacted Walmart about matching funds and outlined the Baby Bottle Campaign, a fund-raiser netting some \$9,000 in Borger. She also applied to M.K. Brown Foundation for funding towards utilities for a possible storefront location. Joan Gray suggested a baby shower fund-raiser be held sometime in the spring.
—Loyd will take charge of Spanish language surveys once collected and find out where they are to be sent for review.
—A VISTA coordinator is currently being sought.
—Cheryl Lewis thanked the group for its participation in the Health Fair recently.
No meeting is scheduled in December. The next meeting will take place Jan. 14.

Emerson offers full scholarships to Interlochen Arts Camp

INTERLOCHEN, Mich. — The top high school musicians around the country are invited to apply for an Emerson Scholarship Award to Interlochen Arts Camp in northern Michigan. Fifty-two students from across the United States and Puerto Rico will receive a full scholarship for the 2004 Interlochen Arts Camp. The scholarships are funded through a grant from St. Louis-based Emerson. The Emerson Scholars Award is a \$5,250 scholarship, which provides full tuition, private lessons, and room and board for the eight-week summer program. The 77th Camp season dates are June 20-Aug. 16, 2004. Applicants must be in grades nine through 12 and demonstrate exceptional proficiency on harp, string, wind, or percussion instruments. An audition submitted on tape or CD is required with application. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2004, and winners will be announced by April 15, 2004. Winners will be determined solely on merit. "Because of the Emerson Scholarship, I was able to have the best summer of my

The guest speaker will be Kristi Harden, RN-BSN.
DAR
"A Fairyland of Light" was presented by Billie Dixon during Las Pampas Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution Christmas luncheon held at the home of Nancy Coffee recently. Dixon reported that Thomas Edison erected the first outdoor light display, an eight-mile row of lights, at Menlo Park, N.J., in 1880. Two years later, 80 electric lights were used in place of the traditional candles on a Christmas tree. In 1895, the White House used lights at Christmas for the first time, and by 1920 the use of Christmas lights had greatly increased. Darlene Birkes presented facts about the Wright Brothers in observance of the centennial of the flight of the Kitty Hawk, Dec. 17, 1903. Members were invited to a special exhibit in commemoration of the historic flight from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 17, at Freedom Museum USA in Pampa. Reports were heard from Mary Cantrell (conservation and the Louisiana Purchase); Coffee (DAR Good Citizens); Donna Burger (veterans program at Travis Elementary); and Louisa Britton (national defense). The next meeting will be Jan. 8 at the home of Britton. Fran Gross will present a program on Lewis and Clark.
Altrusa
Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met Dec. 9 at Pampa Country Club with President Billie Sue Evans presiding. Billie Dixon and Penni Pfizner served as greeters. Leslie Gershmel attended as a guest.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:
—The Accent was delivered by Mary McDaniel who told the story of the Christmas Poinsettia.
—Appreciation was expressed to Altrusa Board for hosting the Christmas Tea held recently at the home of Jeanne Townson.
—Salvation Army Angel Tree Gift-Wrapping is scheduled Dec. 15-16. Members are urged to donate boxes and wrapping supplies.
—Members will volunteer at Celebration of Lights donation booth on Dec. 17-18.
—Add an Altrusan Day is set for Jan. 21, 2004.
—Birthday greetings were extended to Kadda Schale, Judy Warner, Karen Bridges, Elia Smith and Anne Stobbe. The next meeting will be at 12 noon Jan. 14, 2004, at Pampa Country Club.
Preceptor Theta Iota
Preceptor Theta Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Dec. 8 in the home of hostess Carolyn Smith. The following business was conducted and announcements made:
—Pat Kindle and Carol Carpenter exhibited gifts purchased for a boy and a girl angel selected from The Salvation Army Angel Tree.
—Members participated in a "Secret Sister" Christmas gift exchange.
—Smith delivered the program on her collection of musical Santas. The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12, 2004, at the home of Carol Carpenter.

Said another Emerson Scholar, Devin Adams from Washington, D.C., "I learned about two years of great instruction in eight weeks." Established in 1987, the Emerson Scholars Program recognizes exceptional high school musicians and gives them an opportunity to hone their talents in an environment that is recognized around the world as the premier training ground for young artists. "This is one of the most prestigious scholarships offerings at Interlochen, thanks to the generosity of Emerson," said Interlochen President Jeffrey S. Kimpton. "We can provide some of this nation's top young artists with an experience unlike any other." Interlochen Arts Camp is part of Interlochen Center for the Arts, which also operates Interlochen Arts Academy, the nation's premier fine arts high school; Interlochen Arts Festival, the annual presentation of more than 700 concerts, readings, plays and exhibitions by students, faculty and guest artists; Interlochen Public Radio; and Interlochen Pathfinder School, a grade school for students in the Grand Traverse region. For more information or to obtain an application, e-mail admissions@interlochen.org, call (231) 276-7472 or write: Emerson Scholar Program, Interlochen Center for the Arts, P.O. Box 199, Interlochen, MI, 49643. Complete information is also available online at www.interlochen.org.



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LIFESTYLES HEADERS

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, Berger 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.amagapraisers.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.

Park officials work to remove Tamarisk

FRITCH — In an area where trees are few and far between, there is no way to miss the feathery, needle-like leaves and pink flowers of the salt cedar tree, also known as the Tamarisk, growing in creeks and along the banks of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.

What looks like a beautiful tree is actually an exotic species that is detrimental to the environment. According to Keith Duncan, a brush and weed specialist from New Mexico State University, in some areas salt cedars may consume up to 14 acre feet of water a year when the water table is near the surface and a mature salt cedar can guzzle 200 gallons a day. Moreover, the trees are incredibly difficult to eliminate because they reproduce easily, one mature tree can produce as many as 500,000 seeds a year.

The park's fire and resource management program has undertaken the task of controlling this water-guzzling weed, utilizing heavy machinery, approved herbicides and much manual labor. Excavators have been removing the trees and piling them up in Bates Canyon, Bugbee, Mullinaw, Chimney Hollow and Cedar Canyon. During the next tree months, weather conditions permitting, the park will be burning the brush piles.

"We are hoping for some rain or snowfall this winter, the best time to burn would be with a layer of snow covering the ground," said Fire Management Officer Mike Davin. During the burns, visitors may notice thick smoke and should drive with their headlights on if smoke is present.

Since 1999, the park has treated over 2,000 acres of salt

cedar, and the battle will continue into the future.

"We are watching results from several different methods to control this exotic species that is so detrimental," Davin said.

A promising new "weapon" in this war is the Chinese leaf beetle. Dr. Jack DeLoach, an entomologist with USDA in Temple, has been studying insects that feed on salt cedar in its native environment in China and Israel. The results of his research are promising and might just be the thing to get this nuisance species under control. The leaf beetle does not feed on willows of cottonwood trees, native species that provides numerous benefits to the environment and wildlife.

"While the beetle is proving itself in many areas of Colorado, New Mexico, and even parts of Texas, there's no

guarantee that we will use it at Lake Meredith. We will have to perform environmental assessments before we can even think about using the beetles here," said Davin.

Starting around 1854, salt cedars were first introduced into the United States from the Middle East as ornamental windbreaks and soil stabilizers. This prolific, water-guzzling plant soon became known as an invasive pest, drawing salt to the surface, killing native plants and growing in thick stands that became fire hazards and blocked wildlife from water sources.

Once it is established, this plant is difficult to eradicate. It thrives in saline-rich and nutrient-poor soil. Salt cedars can grow as much as 1-foot per month during the spring and it quickly out-competes native plants.



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CEO hopes to pilot airline to long-term profitability

By **TREBOR BANSTETTER**
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

DALLAS — Bob Zoller was no stranger to troubled airlines when he was offered the top job at struggling freight carrier Kitty Hawk last year.

The longtime aviation

executive had helped resurrect ValuJet after a devastating crash in the Florida Everglades that nearly wiped out the airline now known as AirTran. He had tackled problems for 10 years at Pacific Southwest Airlines, a San Diego carrier that closed in 1988. And he was part of the team at American Airlines that

merged a group of small, independent commuter carriers into American Eagle, now the nation's largest regional airline.

Despite that track record, Zoller said he doubted that he could resurrect Kitty Hawk, which had been mired in bankruptcy for two years.

"I kept turning them down,

because I really didn't think the company would do well," he said. "The future of the airline was pretty cloudy, and I was somewhat skeptical of the chances of the company surviving."

Kitty Hawk's board of directors eventually convinced him otherwise, and he joined the company in November 2002, soon after it emerged from bankruptcy. A year later, the airline — with headquarters at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport — is a smaller, more efficient, more focused operation with improved financial results and a brighter outlook.

Consider: The carrier reported a \$5.8 million profit for the third quarter, compared with a \$40 million loss, before special items, for the same period last year. And revenue was up 10 percent, at \$35.5 million for the quarter, versus \$30.5 million last year.

The carrier has expanded, with new destinations including Las Vegas, New Orleans, Salt Lake City and Hawaii.

Executives recently signed a 10-year contract with pilots, renegotiated deals with vendors and brought in a new executive over employee relations to focus on boosting morale.

Experts say the picture for the freight industry is improving. The International Air Transport Association, a Hong Kong-based trade group, predicts that air cargo will grow 4 percent this year and as much

as 6 percent in 2005.

And Tom Scherck, president of the Colography Group, an Atlanta-based transportation research firm, estimated that shipping will expand next year as the economy recovers.

Zoller said he hopes Kitty Hawk's restructuring can turn the company around even without a fast economic recovery.

"I felt like this company had a very motivated work force and if we could harness that energy, we could make Kitty Hawk successful," he said. "That's what we're working toward doing."

'Mission-critical' The future is by no means assured. Although Kitty Hawk reported a profit for the third quarter, it is still expected to lose money this year, and Zoller won't predict when it may return to long-term profitability. And even if the economy rebounds, Zoller expects the airline to be on the lagging edge of the recovery.

The carrier found itself in the spotlight recently when a man packed himself in a crate and shipped himself from New York to D/FW Airport. Kitty Hawk was one of several shipping companies that

transported the crate.

Airline officials say they followed all normal shipping procedures.

But the incident renewed calls for increased security for cargo airlines, which could add to Kitty Hawk's costs.

Still, Zoller said, the cargo carrier has come a long way in the past year, and he is optimistic about the future.

Kitty Hawk, founded in 1975 by M. Tom Christopher as a traditional cargo airline, today focuses on delivering overnight freight that typically is heavier than 70 pounds, the usual limit on packages delivered by UPS or FedEx.

Zoller calls it "mission-critical" cargo that must be delivered quickly but is often difficult to ship.

The carrier serves the automotive industry, and also ships exotic animals. It serves more than 50 cities nationwide, and ships about 750,000 pounds of cargo nightly with a fleet of 20 Boeing 727 aircraft. Its headquarters are in North Texas, but its main hub is in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Turbulent years After decades of successful growth, Kitty Hawk ran into trouble in 1997, after it

(See AIRLINE, Page 11)

Pampa Board of Realtors



(Courtesy photo)

Randy Jeffers, 2004 Regional I Representative, recently installed officers of the Pampa Board of Realtors for 2004. Pictured are Joan Mabry, President; Bobbie Sue Stephens, vice-president; Norma Ward, director; Judi Edwards, director; Janie Shed, director; Katrina Bigham, secretary.

Songwriter proud to call himself country

By **SARA HENDRICKS**
VICTORIA ADVOCATE

VICTORIA, Texas — Bruce Robison calls his label Boars Nest Records after the place where Boss Hogg hatched his evil plots. Like that old nemesis of the "Dukes of Hazzard," Robison uses his studio to pull the wool over people's eyes, he says, mostly in jest.

What he means to convey is that when people really hit it lucky, when they find their true calling in life, there's the fear that "somebody's going to find out you're not any good and take it all away."

Not likely, Bruce. With two No. 1 songs under his belt and a successful performing career, he's here to stay.

Robison considers himself a songwriter first. His wife, Kelly Willis says he can pull an idea out of the air and make it his own.

"I've written a lot of songs from personal experience," Robison says. "But I'm always trying to keep my eyes open. The main thing is to write a song other people can relate to. You get ideas from everywhere if you keep your eyes open."

"The world is always changing and that is the way that music can change. You don't have to feel like all the songs have been written."

His musical style is pure country.

"There have been moments when other people tried to describe it in other terms and moments when I tried to describe it in different terms, but country — that's what I do," he says.

Country artists who've recorded his songs include George Strait, Lee Ann Womack, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, and, of course, Kelly Willis, his brother, Charlie Robison and the Dixie Chicks. One of the Chicks is married to Robison.

His songs that hit No. 1 were "Angry All the Time," recorded by Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, and "Travelin' Soldier" for the Dixie Chicks.

But Robison just can't quit talking about how lucky he is. Lucky to have found a job he's not only good at, but loves.

"To be honest, it was the

first thing I ever did that I was ever good at," he says. "I did a lot of things that just didn't fit. I was a student, I worked at a lot of different jobs, I was an athlete for a while. Until I started doing what I do, I didn't realize how bad I was at all those things."

Still, it was 10 years before he gained any degree of success.

"Even during those 10 years, I felt lucky doing something that I enjoyed doing. And it's what I hope for others, for my children and for people that I know."

Real success, he says, is realizing that money isn't the true gauge.

"It's so amazing," he says. "I've had success beyond my wildest dreams. Even when I decided to be a songwriter,

my plan was to write a lot of songs and maybe keep doing it for 30 years and maybe eke out a career."

"There are a lot of people who are wonderful, incredible

songwriters who never had people cut their songs at the peak of their success. I've done a lot of hard work, but I've been fortunate as well."

Robison may be a songwriter first, but that doesn't stop him from dabbling.

"There's a lot of things I'd like to do and I kind of have my fingers in a lot of different things," he said. "I love writing songs but don't want to do that exclusively, just because I think I'd get bored."

"I'd like producing people, to explore some other ways of recording. I also have some other projects that are completely unrelated. There's a film I'm trying to develop simply because that's something I know nothing about and that's a real challenge."

"And I have three small children and it's a challenge to me that I spend the proper amount of time with that."

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CALENDAR ITEMS

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pampa Woodcarving Club. Pampa Woodcarving

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

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

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

Southwest Cowboy Poets. Southwest Cowboy Poets meets at 8 a.m., the second Saturday of each month at The Big Texan, I-40 East, in Amarillo.

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

MEDICAL SUPPORT GROUPS, ETC.

Al-Anon. Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky. For more information, call 665-6898.

Alzheimer's Support

Group. The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson at 6650 0356.

American Heart Ass'n. American Heart Association meets at 12 noon the second Thursday of each month at Chaney's Restaurant in Pampa.

ARC. Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs (with pot) and hospital beds for its Loan Closet. For more information or to make a donation, contact the local Red Cross office at 669-7121.

Area Agency on Aging. Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle needs volunteers to serve as advocates for nursing home residents as part of its Ombudsmen program. The Ombudsmen will visit residents of long-term care facilities and help resolve complaints involving residents rights, quality of life and quality of care. Once accepted into the program, volunteers complete a three month internship including intensive training and supervision in preparation. Ideal candidates will have strong sense of fair play, excellent problem-solving skills, good relationships with older people and the ability to devote two hours a week to the residents served by the Ombudsman program. For more information, contact Jeff Price, regional Ombudsman, or Tanya Mock, Ombudsman Program Aide, at 1-800-642-6008; or write P.O. Box 9257, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

Beginnings. "Beginnings," a Harrington Cancer Center program for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, will meet weekly in Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room, 1500 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo. For more information, call

(806) 359-4673, ext. 173, or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

Breast Cancer 101. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center sponsors "Breast Cancer 101," an intensive education and supportive introduction to breast cancer, monthly at Harrington Cancer Center Amphitheatre in Amarillo. The series repeats the following topics each month: "Breast Cancer Overview and Surgical Options"; "Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer"; "Women in Touch Support Group"; and "Body Image and Sexuality" (spouses invited). For more information call (806) 359-4673, ext. 173 or 1-800-274-4673, ext. 173.

Cancer Survivors Network. CSN, created by American Cancer Society, is a community/support network for cancer survivors and caregivers. The link to the network is located on ACS's web site at www.cancer.org. People may also call 1-877-333-4673 (HOPE). By logging onto the site, cancer survivors and caregivers can listen to, read or download prerecorded personal stories and discussions among survivors and caregivers. They may also explore and contribute to the Expressions Gallery, a compilation of survivor's stories, poems and songs.

COAF Web Site. The Children of Alcoholics Foundation, an education-prevention arm of Phoenix House, recently launched a website (www.coaf.org) for children of substance abusers of all ages. The website is designed to help educators, physicians, social workers and other professionals. The site includes sections for teens and adults who have grown up with an alcoholic or drug addicted parent as well as information for teachers, social workers and others.

Coffee Memorial Blood Center. Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo is now open on Saturdays and will take appointments for blood donations. The new donation hours are: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. The center is also promoting The Birthday Club. If a donor donates blood on their birthday, they will receive a Blood Drop Beanie. For more information, call (806) 358-4563 or 1-800-658-6178.

CPF. Cerebral Palsy Foundation is seeking families with children (birth to age 12) affected by cerebral palsy in an effort to establish a chapter in

the area. CPF offers financial and emotional support as well as many free services. For more information, call 1-888-872-7966 toll-free.

Dialogue. The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1:00 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

GCAP for Moms and Babies. Gray County Partnership of Moms and Babies meets at 12 noon on the third Friday of each month at Medical Office Building, second floor conference room, in Pampa. For more information, call 664-2459 and leave a message.

High Plains Epilepsy Ass'n. High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

H.O.P.E. Crown of Texas Hospice and Northwest Texas Healthcare System are co-sponsors of "H.O.P.E.," an education and support group for parents grieving the death of a child. The group meets the second Thursday of each month at Crown of Texas Hospice in Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 372-7696.

Hospice Hope Series. Crown of Texas Hospice is offering HOPE (Healing Our Parental Emptiness) bereavement series for those grieving the death of a child (pregnancy to 18 years) from 10-11:30 a.m., the first Saturday of each month at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365.

HOSPICELINK. Hospice Education Institute, a non-profit organization, has established HOSPICELINK, a national toll-free telephone hotline for people seeking information and education regarding hospice care. The service offers referrals to hospices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is

available to consumers free of charge. HOSPICELINK maintains a continually updated computer database of all hospices, national and internationally, so referrals are accurate and appropriate to each patient's needs. For more information about HEL, call 1-800-331-1620. HOSPICELINK lines are open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays, Eastern time.

LifeStyle Medical. LifeStyle Medical Program makes available, at no cost to the patient, breathing medications and nebulizers to patients who use oxygen or who have asthma, emphysema or COPD if they qualify. The Albuterol Products are provided to those with severe breathing conditions and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. For more information, call 1-800-519-4480.

Medicines.md. U.S. senior citizens now have access to legitimate e-mail order links to the world's lowest prices on prescription drugs by visiting www.medicines.md on the Internet, allowing them to have their prescriptions filled by licensed pharmacies abroad. The service adheres to FDA guidelines and offers free access to regularly updated international price lists for the 120 most popular brand-name prescription drugs as well as 1,300 generic medicines.

Miracle Ear. Miracle-Ear Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization, works in cooperation with Miracle-Ear Centers nationwide to provide free hearing aids and services to children 16 and under whose families do not qualify for public assistance, yet cannot afford the expense of hearing aids for their children. For more information, contact the local Miracle-Ear Center at (806) 795-0188 or 1-800-808-0188.

Mamá Maniá. A support group for mothers entirely in Spanish. It meets at 10 a.m., the third Thursday of each month at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. For more information, call 1-888-892-2273, ext. 228.

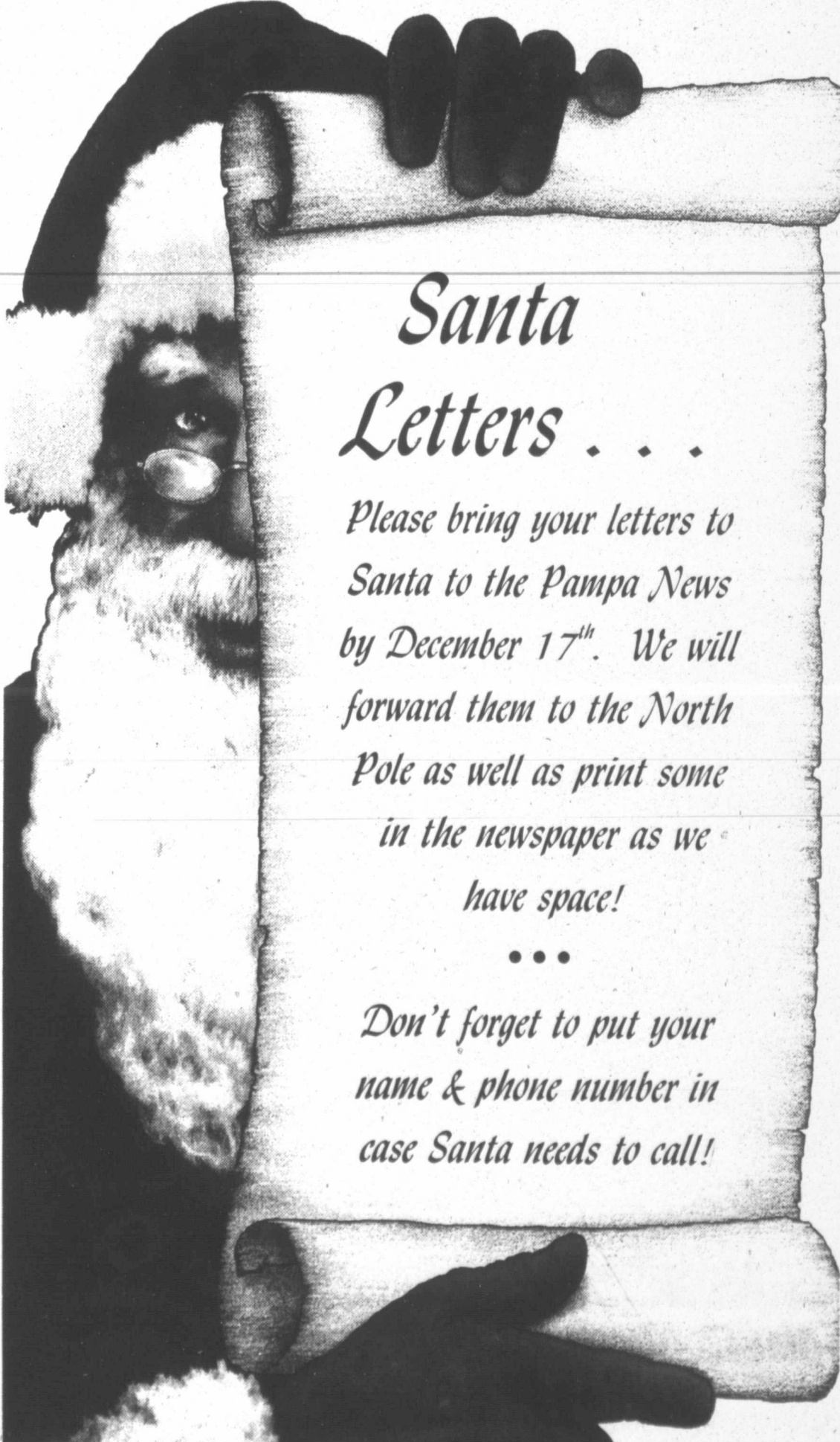
Mom Mania. Mom Mania, a support group for mothers with small children, meets at 6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Come for facts, food and fun. Nursery not included but infants and toddlers are welcome. For more information, call 664-2459.

Mommy 'N' Me. A support group for nursing mothers and women needing information on breastfeeding that meets at 10 a.m., the first Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan. For more information, call 664-2459.

MSAA. A wide range of free, direct support services is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com on the Internet.

MS SOCIETY. The Multiple Sclerosis Society offers a monthly program for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS," "When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: A Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS website at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

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Well-known western writer honored for his work

By MATT PHINNEY
SAN ANGELO STANDARD-TIMES

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Elmer Kelton isn't ready to stop writing.

Regarded by many as the greatest western writer, Kelton continues to polish his craft 50 years after publishing his first novel.

More than 40 books and numerous awards later, Kelton still enjoys the challenge of writing.

"Sometimes things flow and you can write a lot and some times it's like pulling your own teeth," he said. "But so long as it's working and coming along, then it's fine."

More often than not, the writing works for Kelton, who is still a major figure in western literature. In November, Kelton received the 2003 Bookend Award at the Texas Book Festival in Austin. The accolade is given in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to Texas literature.

Kelton also is a seven-time Spur Award-winner, which is the most prestigious honor given by the Western Writers Association. Kelton received another honor at the beginning of December with the unveiling of "The rebirth of an old friend" sculpture between the pavilions at the Paseo.

The sculpture — a monu-

ment of three buffaloes — was envisioned by former San Angelo architect Mario Alaniz and is the special project of a citizens' committee in conjunction with the San Angelo Area Foundation.

"I'm honored to even have them think about me," Kelton said. "I have had a lot of honors these last few years. It sort of worries me a little bit because some of these are things they do for you when you are gone. I'm still here, but it makes me wonder."

Judging by his productivity, Kelton has many more years to capture the imagery and restlessness of the Old West.

Kelton released "Christmas at the Ranch" in November. The 70-page book is a short collection of childhood Christmas memories as well as one Christmas Kelton spent in the Army during World War II.

His novel "Texas Vendetta" is scheduled for release in December. The book is the fifth of Kelton's "Ranger Series" and centers on a family feud and the ranchers who try to stop it.

Kelton has another novel in mind, and said he will start work on it when he develops more plot.

Readers will remember the characters in the new book from "The Good Old Boys," Kelton said.

"I've never been a great

story plotter," Kelton said. "But if I have a strength, it is characterization. Very often, I just try and invent some good strong characters and let them develop their own plot with their interaction."

Kelton's agent also wants the writer to record his memoirs in a book. Writing a collection of memoirs will be much more difficult than writing a novel, Kelton said.

"My own life hasn't been that interesting, but I have lived in some interesting times," he said. "And I'm not good with details. My dad could tell you what horse he was riding on the 17th day of December in a certain year. I couldn't tell you anything I was doing during that year."

Kelton is the world's greatest living western writer, but his writing transcends the western genre, said Fort Concho Director Bob Bluthardt.

Kelton has elevated the craft of writing westerns, which at one time were not taken seriously, Bluthardt said. One of Kelton's talents is in storytelling, Bluthardt said.

"He is a man of immense talent," Bluthardt said. "His books have become movies and his books are sold from coast-to-coast. He can tell a good story about anything he wants to talk about. He knows the relationship between people and the

land. He can get inside people and tell a great story."

Kelton's ability to tell a colorful story probably stems from his youth. He grew up on a ranch in Upton and Crane counties where his father worked as foreman. After work, Kelton spent many evenings listening to other ranch hands swap stories about better bygone days on the open range.

Listening to the old cowboys instilled in Kelton a love of both history and storytelling, the writer said.

"These people had been there and gone through it and I knew them, so history wasn't something out of a book. It was real," Kelton said. "In those days, you didn't have entertainment in the evenings between supper and bedtime. There wasn't a lot to do but sit and talk and play cards."

The sculpture will memorialize Kelton's novel "The Wolf and the Buffalo," which centers on Fort Concho in the post-Civil War years. The book represents the conflict between the Native Americans and the Buffalo Soldiers, he said.

In the book, the Buffalo Soldiers are fighting the Indians so the whites could have the land, he said.

"Buffalo and the west go hand-in-hand and Elmer is a western writer, so this is a great fit," said former mayor Dick Funk.

Funk is a buffalo statue committee member. As mayor, Funk never left town to meet other dignitaries without a signed

Kelton book as a gift, he said. During the ceremony, local winners of an essay, poetry and short story contest will be presented certificates, Funk said.

An "Elmer Kelton Endowment Fund for San Angelo City Parks" also has been established to fund improvements to city parks, Funk said.

"Elmer epitomizes the western heritage," Funk said. "To me, he is just a great representative of San Angelo. He has received acclaim, but never anything significant in his hometown."

Brian May said he buys Kelton's hardback novels as soon as they come out because he doesn't want to wait for the paperback.

May, an Angelo State University agriculture professor, said Kelton writes historical fiction and gives his readers a good sense of what it was like in early Tom Green County.

"All of us have enjoyed

Elmer Kelton for so long," May said. "We really wanted to do something nice for this great man so he could enjoy it. If you go anywhere in the country and they know San Angelo and agriculture, they know Elmer."

History is important in Kelton novels, but entertainment is paramount to details, Kelton said. If a story isn't entertaining, everything else is lost.

Kelton said he wants to be remembered for writing accurately about history and telling meaningful stories of the past and the present. But he's not ready to be remembered just yet.

"I don't plan on quitting until my mind quits or they put me in a box," Kelton said. "I've seen a lot of these guys retire and then do nothing. They don't last long."

Thankfully Kelton has

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

AIRLINE

acquired American International, a major competitor more than twice its size.

The acquisition made Kitty Hawk the largest air-only cargo company in the world, but merging the two operations proved more difficult than expected. The airline splintered into nine subsidiaries that included international cargo delivery and passenger charter operations.

The carrier was soon hit with higher-than-expected maintenance costs and low profit margins.

After slashing 1,500 jobs and seeing revenue plummet with a softening of the air freight market, Kitty Hawk warned investors it had a cash crisis and was in danger of defaulting on loans.

The board fired Christopher as chairman and chief executive and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May 2000.

The airline's creditors were awarded shares in the airline and took control of the board of directors. The airline emerged from bankruptcy in October 2002. **Regaining focus**

Zoller said the key to saving the company was transforming it from a sprawling, unfocused operation to a smaller, streamlined carrier with a single mission.

Kitty Hawk slimmed down from nine subsidiaries to two and today focuses solely on

overnight freight to North American destinations.

Savings were achieved by renegotiating vendor contracts, rebidding insurance plans and taking some maintenance operations in-house. The carrier also began a safety program that brought down workers compensation costs.

And the airline inked an unusually long 10-year contract with its 130 pilots last month. The contract is described by both union and management as a "strategic partnership," because it doesn't involve big raises, has a no strike/no lockout clause and includes mandatory binding arbitration to solve disputes.

"Our pilot group brought a long-range view to the negotiating table," said Thomas Gothard, a Kitty Hawk captain and chairman of the master executive council of the Kitty Hawk Pilots Association. "Our members understand that their personal

success as pilots goes hand-in-hand with the success of the company."

Pilots devised a plan to save fuel and shorten flights by altering flight patterns during takeoff in Fort Wayne.

The carrier has also benefited by cutbacks at major passenger airlines, such as American and Delta Air Lines. Because those carriers also transport cargo, the reductions have meant more business for Kitty Hawk.

Zoller warns that success isn't assured. Companies tend to use overnight freight delivery, which is more expensive than slower shipping, when business is booming.

The slow economy means the airline isn't expecting rapid growth. "It's a lagging indicator," he said. "But we're committed to hanging in there, and so far, we've seen some promising results."

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Team			Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	214	200
Won	Lost		N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	240	255
The Woodpecker Shop			South						
Bob's Bandits			W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Beta Tex			Indianapolis	10	3	0	.769	372	281
Lefors Fed. Credit Union			Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	347	261
Gutter Busters			Houston	5	8	0	.385	211	317
Team Three			Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	229	264
Chez Tanz			North						
Harvester Lanes			W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Davis Minit Mart			Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	331	251
Reed's Welding			Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	281	297
Pittsburgh			Pittsburgh	5	8	0	.385	250	284
Cleveland			Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	212	250

High scratch game: Dan Anderson 247; High scratch series: Andy Anderson 650; High handicap game: Bob Fick 288; High handicap series: Mike Nelson 723.

Women
High scratch game: Judy Anderson 178; High scratch series: Bonnie Clemens 476; High handicap game: Heather Lane 236; High handicap series: Toni Connally 661.

Church League (Week 5)		
Team	Won	Lost
Ward's For Christ	14	6
Reeborn No. 1	14	6
3 Gals & A Guy	14	6
Carpenter's Creations	12	8
Two by Two	12	8
Young At Heart	11	9
Hits-n-Misses	10	10
Four Him	9	11
Holy Rollers	7 1/2	12 1/2
Reeborn No. 2	7	13
Slider's	6	14
24-7 Christ	2 1/2	13 1/2

High scratch game: Ward Crouch 182; High scratch series: Ward Crouch 490; High handicap game: Kyle Payne 243; High handicap series: Tanner Winkler 621.

High scratch game: Patti Carpenter 179; High scratch series: Patti Carpenter 480; High handicap game: Helen Neeley 221; High handicap series: Kelly Barton 604.

BASKETBALL	
EAST	
Colgate 78, Harvard 60	
Villanova 74, Northeastern 55	
SOUTH	
Alabama A&M 78, Tennessee St. 77	
Georgia St. 88, South Alabama 56	
MVSU 85, Texas-Pan American 67	
Pepperdine 95, Lipscomb 74	
MIDWEST	
Minnesota 100, Oral Roberts 80	
FAR WEST	
Oregon St. 84, Willamette 53	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
AMERICAN CONFERENCE	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East
x-Philadelphia 10 3 0 .769 281 222
Dallas 8 5 0 .615 236 244
Washington 5 8 0 .385 256 287
N.Y. Giants 4 9 0 .308 209 286
South
Carolina 8 5 0 .615 248 249
New Orleans 6 7 0 .462 263 292
Tampa Bay 6 7 0 .462 244 198
Atlanta 3 10 0 .231 241 342
North
Minnesota 8 5 0 .615 344 302
Green Bay 7 6 0 .538 332 276
Chicago 5 8 0 .385 240 281
Detroit 4 9 0 .308 209 294
West
x-St. Louis 10 3 0 .769 373 266
Seattle 8 5 0 .615 330 273
San Francisco 6 7 0 .462 298 244
Arizona 3 10 0 .231 180 387
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games
Buffalo at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Seattle at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at New England, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
Monday's Game
Philadelphia at Miami, 9 p.m.

Long journey lands former janitor in Cowboys' backfield

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Erik Bickerstaff's stat line in his debut with the Dallas Cowboys was nothing remarkable: nine carries for 41 yards, two kickoff returns for 24 yards.

What is remarkable: The last time he played that much he was a junior. In high school. Seven years ago.

Since then, Bickerstaff has faced dead end after dead end, escaping them all like only a shifty running back could.

Convinced he could make it to the NFL, he refused to give up on his dream. He certainly had plenty of chances — such as this time last year, when he was a janitor cleaning Wisconsin's Camp Randall Stadium.

"I just knew that I had the talent to play at any level," Bickerstaff said. "I got calls from my friends in the league. They told me, 'You've got the talent, just keep it up and you're going to be right here with me.'"

Before playing last Sunday against Philadelphia, Bickerstaff's last action at tailback was in 1996, his junior year at North High School in Waukesha, Wis. He was named all-league and was looking forward to a big senior season when he was caught drinking. The punishment was a year-long suspension.

Forgotten or ignored by colleges, his only scholarship offer was from Division I-AA Northern Iowa. And it was to

run track. Bickerstaff walked on at Wisconsin instead. But the Badgers already had Ron Dayne and Michael Bennett at tailback, so Bickerstaff was moved to fullback.

He paid his dues for four years, a redshirt season plus three more. He paid his tuition, too. Along the way, Bickerstaff had just one carry — in the final minutes of a 59-0 win over Indiana.

In spring 2002, Bickerstaff was preparing for his breakthrough. Coaches said he'd start at fullback. He also was finally going on scholarship. His eagerness showed on the practice field.

"I was pretty much a wrecking crew out there," Bickerstaff said.

Shortly before the annual spring game, running backs coach Brian White came to him, apologizing in advance for some bad news. Although his grades were fine, it was just discovered that Bickerstaff was academically ineligible.

The problem: a low ACT score made him a "partial qualifier" when he got to Wisconsin. That meant he wasn't allowed to play his first year, then had only three more seasons — not four, like most players. And he'd used them up.

Once academic counselors found the mistake, Bickerstaff was told there was still one way to gain an extra season: Earn his last 12 credits in sum-

mer school. He did. Then he was told he needed 12 more.

"I didn't really get mad," he said. "I knew there had to be another way."

His only option was going to an NAA school. Wisconsin coaches steered him to Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala., but soon after he arrived the program was accepted into the NCAA. The Badgers invited him back, still honoring his scholarship even though he couldn't play.

His old coaches helped him get a job. At, of all places, the stadium.

For \$8.50 an hour, he swept floors and fixed things. He often went to empty the trash in White's office and wound up spending hours studying film and talking football.

Bickerstaff also was given a workout plan designed by the strength coach. With no one to push him, and no games to prepare for, it took a lot of dedication to follow it.

Saturdays were the worst. Although many of his friends, and all of his roommates, were football players, Bickerstaff skipped every game.

"I just couldn't stand to watch knowing somebody was out there playing my position," he said.

In the spring, he focused on the campus workout for NFL scouts. He wasn't expecting to get drafted, but he hoped to impress them enough to get invited to a training camp.

Area players on all-region team

Two Miami players made the first-team, All-Region 1 Six-Man Football Team for 2003.

Junior cornerback Kris Roach and senior safety Jeffery Browning were first-team defenders.

Junior punter Blake King of Lefors was also a first-team pick.

Two other Miami players — junior tight end Kyler Roach and senior running back Chris Brewer — were second-team defense.

Junior wide receiver Sean Bauer of McLean and senior cornerback Andrew Jennings of Lefors were second-team picks.



Pampa Harvester Sports Calendar

BASKETBALL	
TUESDAY • DECEMBER 16	Pampa Boys vs Clovis • 7:30 at Pampa
FRIDAY • DECEMBER 19	Pampa Boys & Girls vs Hereford • 7:30 at Pampa
WRESTLING	
THURSDAY • DECEMBER 16	Pampa vs Dumas • 6:00 at Pampa
SATURDAY • DECEMBER 20	Pampa at Randall Quad

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Baseball's winter meetings start

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Mike Cameron came to the fringe of the French Quarter, hoping to find a new home. Within a few days, he might have plenty of company.

Keith Foulke, Greg Maddux and Juan Gonzalez were all available as the baseball winter meetings began Friday.

Toronto made the first move of the annual swap session, agreeing with free agent pitcher Miguel Batista on a \$13.1 million, three-year contract. Yet that deal was overshadowed by the possibility of bigger things and bigger names.

Though their top decision-makers were absent from New Orleans, the New York Yankees still managed to join the party. They worked on completing the trade for Kevin Brown, zeroed in on Kenny Lofton and kept Gary Sheffield on hold.

Texas and the Red Sox continued to talk about their potential blockbuster — Alex Rodriguez for Manny Ramirez.

And there was speculation — still at a low level, for now — that Roger Clemens would unretire and join former Yankees teammate and good friend Andy Pettitte to pitch in his hometown of Houston.

"Roger always said he was 99

percent retired," said one of his agents, Randy Hendricks, who also represents Pettitte. "I still think he is. But the 1 percent would be the Houston Astros."

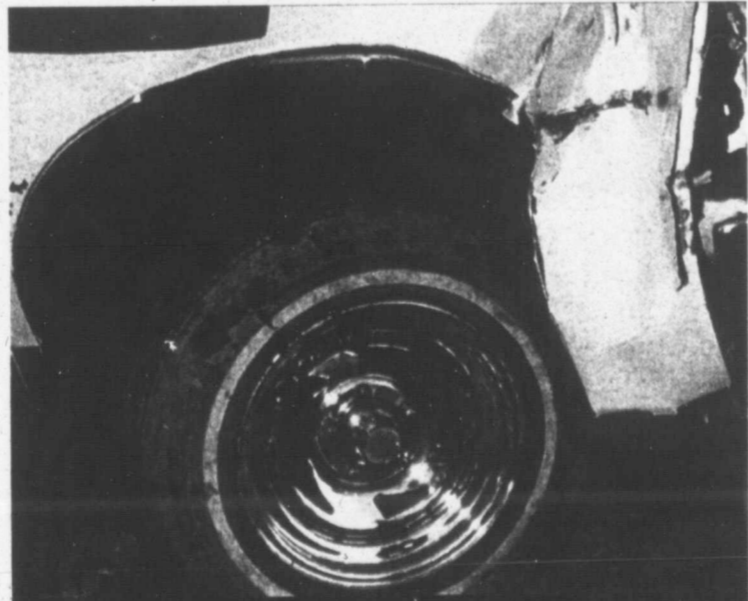
Foulke, the top free-agent closer on the market, was trying to decide between re-signing with Oakland or going to Boston.

Maddux might have another place to play, too, by the time the meetings wrap up Monday. The four-time Cy Young winner was let loose last week by Atlanta, and the Chicago Cubs and San Diego were among the teams said to be interested.

Cameron was in town, with the New York Mets, Oakland and San Diego in pursuit.

"In the next couple of days, he should be making a decision," Mets general manager Jim Duquette said.

The opening day of the meetings typically produces more talk than trades, and there was plenty of it as the likes of Jack McKeon, Bobby Cox and Tony Pena roamed the hotel lobby, a few blocks from Bourbon Street.



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DECEMBER 14 2003

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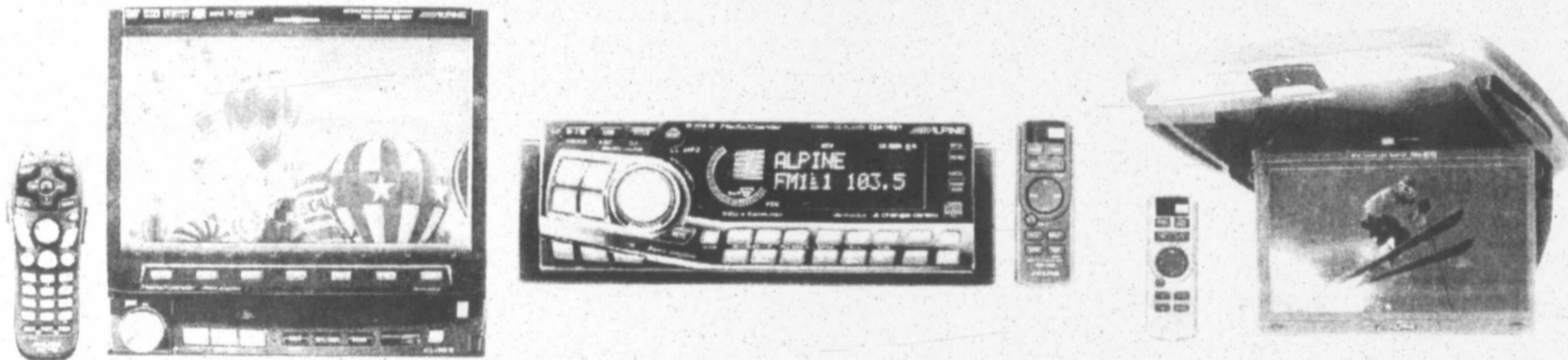
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NEWSMAKERS



Tamra L. Henthorn

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Airman **Tamra L. Henthorn**, daughter of Dean and Tammy Henthorn of Pampa, has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

During the six weeks of training, Henthorn studied Air Force mission, organization, and military customs/courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, recruits who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Henthorn is a 2003 graduate of Pampa High School.

PORTALES, N.M. — **Constance Janera Danielle White** is among 270 graduation candidates at Eastern New Mexico University this fall.

White is a candidate for a bachelor of science degree in psychology.

CANYON — **Lindsay Wakefield**, a West Texas A&M University senior speech communication major from Shamrock, recently placed fourth in persuasive speaking at Cameron Christmas Classic held at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla.

The WTAMU speech team did not enter the debate portion of the Christmas Classic, which prevented the squad from placing in the tournament sweepstakes.

The team's tournament season will resume after the semester break as members prepare for the national tournament in April. The first tournament of the spring semester is scheduled for Jan. 22-25 in California. Five additional tournaments will follow before national competition.

The WTAMU speech team is coached by Connie McKee, instructor of speech communication.

AMARILLO — Amarillo College recently announced graduates from various programs at AC. Some of the graduates will be participating in commencement ceremonies in May.

Area residents earning diplomas from AC include: **Gayla Chester, Tabitha Taylor, Darla Watson and Teri Williams**, all associate in applied science degrees in nursing, all of Pampa; **Lance E. Defever** of Pampa, associate in applied science in mortuary science; **Charles R. Nix, Jr.**, of Pampa, associate in applied science in instrument and control technology and a certificate of completion in electronic instrument control technology; **Vernon R. Noble** of Pampa, associate in applied science in criminal justice law enforcement; **Robert E. Hilton** of Pampa, certificate of completion in electronic engineering technology; **Jamie Starks** of Pampa, certificate of completion in licensed vocational nursing; and **Kristina Louise Porter** of Lefors, associate in applied science in instrument and control technology.

Happy Holidays

PARADE RESULTS

Parade entry winners as announced by Pampa Chamber of Commerce are as follows:

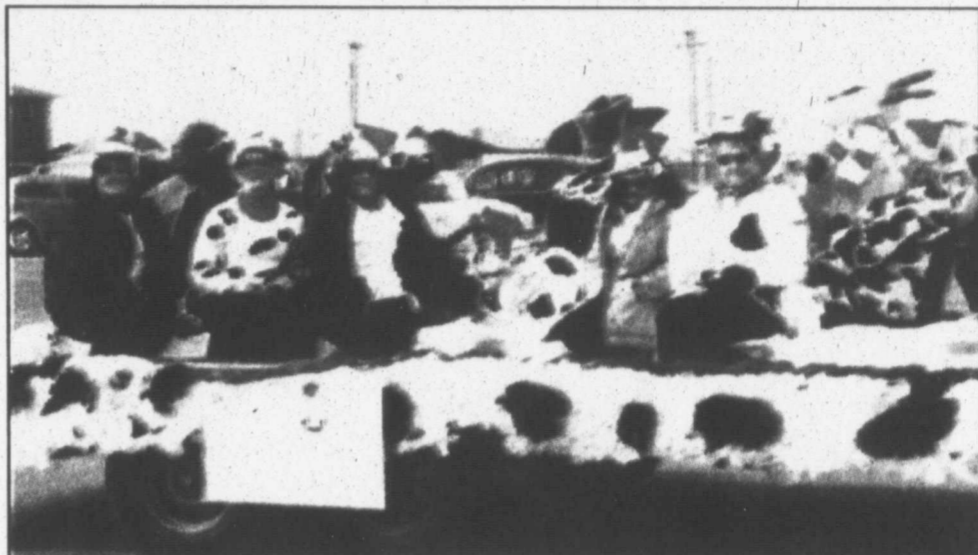
Commercial Category. Pampa Pool & Spa, first place; Coronado Health Care, second place; and Cable One, third place.

Religious Category. Hi-Land Christian Church, first place; Knights of Columbus Color Guard, second place; and Hobart Baptist Church, third place.

Classic Cars. Denver Bruner, 1956 Buick, first place; Top O' Texas Rodeo Queen, 1961 Ford Galaxy, second place; and American Business Womens Association, 1950 Hudson, third place.

Non-Commercial Category. Girl Scouts Five Star Council, first place; Pampa Cow Patties, second place; and Pampa Civic Ballet, third place.

Antique Cars. Gary and Sherry Bolch, 1934 Ford Sedan, first place; Cox Fence Company, 1932 Ford pickup, second place; Robert Benyshek, 1929 Coupe, third place.



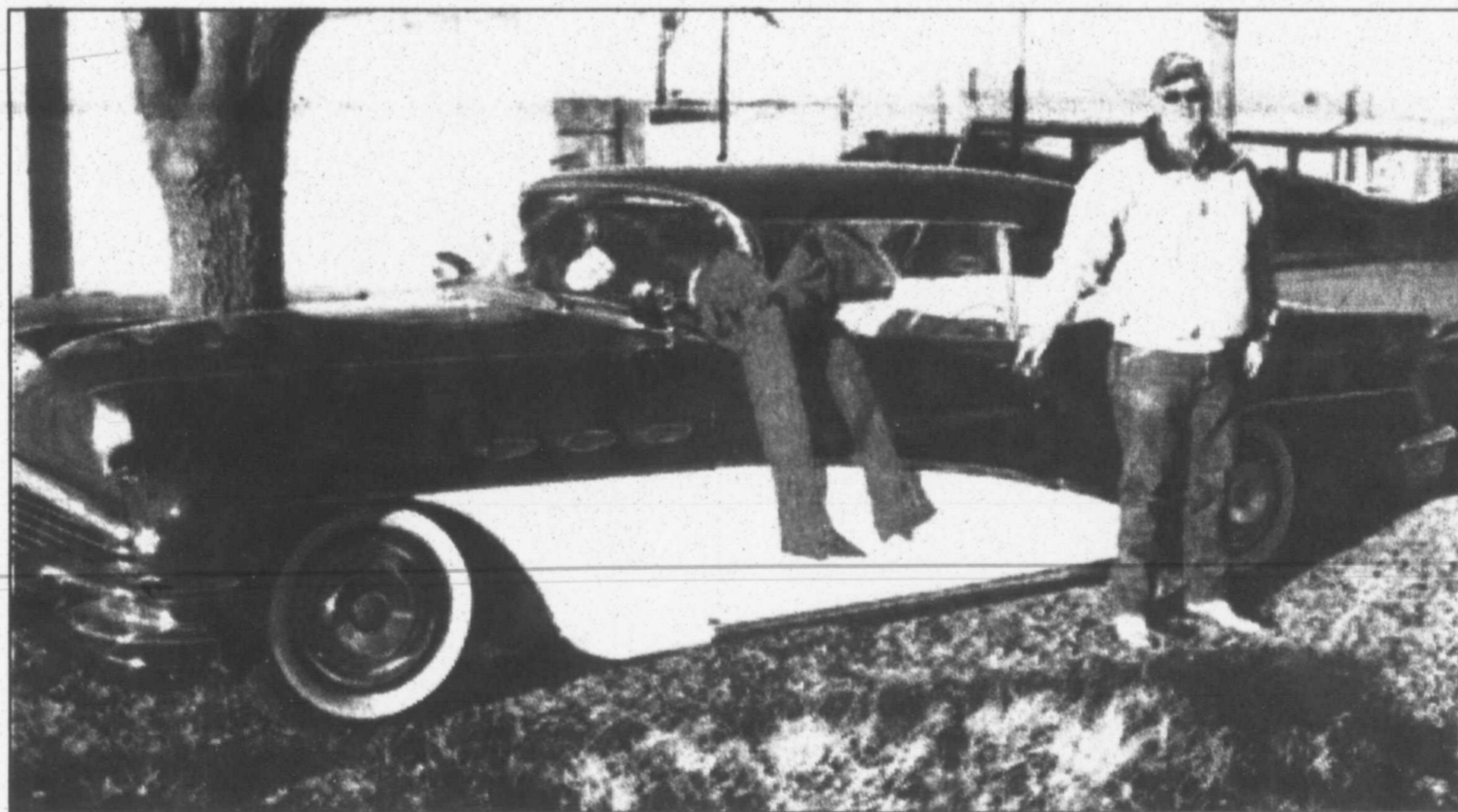
(Courtesy photo)

Pampa "Cow Patties" float.



(Courtesy photo)

Crowd gathering on the corner of Kingsmill and Cuyler for the "Shop Pampa & Win" drawing.



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Denver Bruner of Pampa stands beside his 1956 Buick which won first place in the Classic Car Division of this year's Christmas Parade.



(Courtesy photo)

Travis Elementary School Band float.



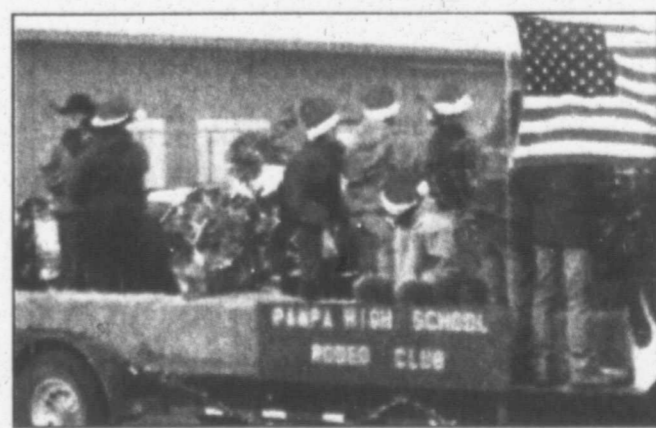
(Courtesy photo)

Cable One parade entry.



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Regional Medical Center float.



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa High School Rodeo Club float.

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LIFESTYLES

WEDDINGS

Daniels-Fernau

Linda C. Daniels of Pampa, Texas, and William "Bill" Fernau of Chandler, Okla., were joined in marriage on Nov. 8 in New Life Assembly of God Church in Pampa with Harold Eggert officiating.

A unity candle was lit surrounded by 10 smaller candles, representing children and grandchildren uniting as one family.

Linda operates a real estate business from her 1929 Phillips 66 filling station in Pampa, and Bill operates a property management business from his 1930 Phillips 66 filling station in Chandler. He is also employed with the Federal Railroad Administration.



William "Bill" Fernau and Linda C. Daniels

The couple met when Bill inquired about some original Phillips 66 windows stored behind Linda's station. It was "love at first sight," and they were mar-

ried shortly thereafter.

Bill and Linda honeymooned in the Northwest as the couple brought their good news to Bill's parents in Spokane, Wash.

Stallings-Huddleston

Lori Ann Stallings and Kenn E. Huddleston, both of Pampa, were wed Saturday, Oct. 25, at Stokes Barn in Pampa with Dale Higgambotham of Larned, Kan., officiating.

The maid of honor was Kayleen Stallings of Pampa. The bridesmaids were Stacy Huddleston and Jessika Rosenberg, both of Pampa. The flower girl was Sadie Miranda of Pampa.

The best man was Brian Huddleston of Pampa. The groomsmen were Michael Shaw of Reno, Nev., and Kevin Corcoran of Pampa. The ring bearer was Sam Corcoran of Pampa.

Registering the guests was Shannon Stallings of Pampa.



Lori Ann Stallings and Kenn E. Huddleston

A reception was held at Stokes Barn following the service.

The bride is the daughter of David and Shannon Stallings of Pampa and Kim and Nelson Norbury of Sparks, Nev. She is a 1997 graduate of Cedar High School in Cedar City, Utah.

The groom is the son of Donald and Linda Huddleston of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1996 and is presently involved in agriculture.

The newlyweds honeymooned in New Mexico and intend to make their home in Pampa.

ENGAGEMENTS

Allen-Wood

Traci Shannon Allen and Mark Taylor Wood, both of Austin, plan to wed January 17, 2004, at Green Pastures in Austin.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Betty Ann Allen of Midway and James Edwin Allen of Houston. She holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial distribution from Texas A&M University and is currently employed with Merrill Lynch in Austin.

The prospective groom is the son of William Ronnie and Suzanne Wood of Pampa. He holds a bachelor of business administration degree in business analysis from Texas A&M University. He is currently employed with SI Corporation in Austin.



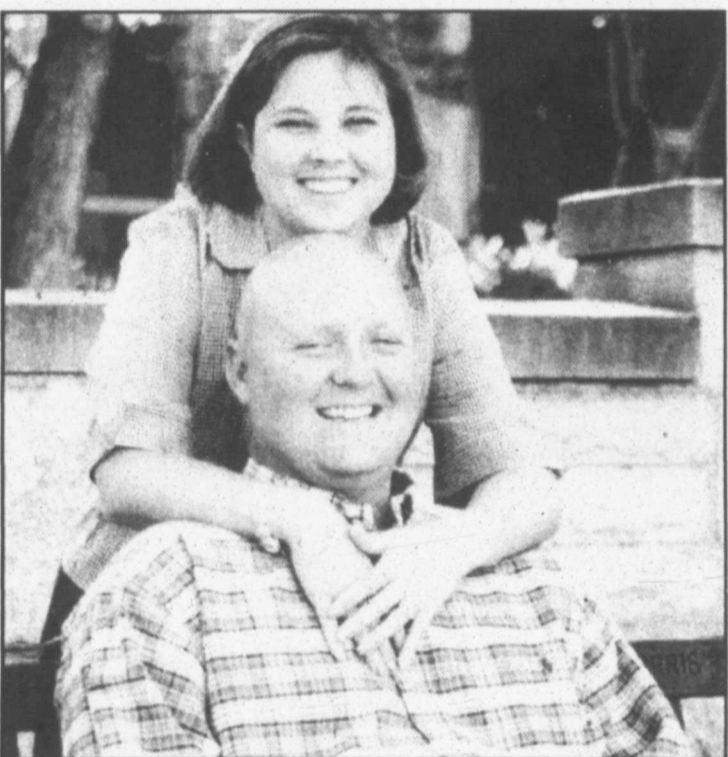
Traci Shannon Allen and Mark Taylor Wood

Ford-Porter

Kelley Michele Ford and Gavin Lee Porter, both of Pampa, plan to wed Saturday, March 6, 2004, at First Baptist Church in Pampa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Ben and Pat Ford of Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1994 and holds a bachelor of science degree in sports and exercise science from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. She later earned a master of science degree in sports and exercise science from West Texas A&M University and is currently head athletic trainer at Randall High School in Amarillo.

The prospective groom is the son of Lee and Janice



Kelley Michele Ford and Gavin Lee Porter

Porter of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1994 and holds a bachelor of arts degree in finance from

Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. He is currently employed in the family oil and gas business.

ANNIVERSARIES

Starnes anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Starnes of Pampa will observe their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 14. A family dinner will be held in their honor at the Route 66 Steakhouse in Groom with children and grandchildren hosting the dinner.

Larry Starnes and Linda

Edwards were married Dec. 14, 1963, in the bride's parents' home in Plainview. They have lived in Pampa for 25 years and are members of First Baptist Church.

Mr. Starnes is district representative for Modern

Woodmen of America. Mrs. Starnes is a homemaker.

Children of the couple are Johnny and Cheryl Malone and Chris and Lori Starnes, all of Pampa. They have five grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Starnes

Bridal Registry...

Celeste Stowers • Grady Lockname
Amanda Kludt • Erick Anderson
Tabitha Lane • Joel Sharp
Katrina Pinkerton • Shan Phillips
Keely Topper • Jeremiah Downs
Julie Marsh • David Radcliff

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Education commissioner to speak at December commencement

CANYON — More than 500 students have applied to receive undergraduate or graduate degrees during commencement exercises Friday, Dec. 12 at West Texas A&M University. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. in the WTAMU Event Center.

The commencement address will be delivered by Don W. Brown, commissioner of higher education for the state of Texas since 1997. His career with the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board (THECB) spans 20 years during which he has been deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner for special programs, assistant to the commissioner, program director and, finally, commissioner.

Brown has been a driving force behind the state's development and implementation of the Texas higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015.

Prior to joining the THECB

in 1983, Brown was visiting associate professor of government and visiting associate professor of public affairs from the University of California, Riverside to the University of Texas at Austin, his alma mater. Brown received a bachelor of arts degree in government from the University of Texas and a master of arts and doctorate degrees in political science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

He is the author and co-author of numerous articles published in professional journals and books.



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Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

Welcome to Zian Foppest Pope, a.k.a. World's Cutest Baby (his dad's words). Little Z was born in Denton, TX on October 10, 2003

PROUD PARENTS ARE TASHA AND ZACH POPE, SANGER, TX. BRAGGING RIGHTS ALSO BELONG TO GRANDPARENTS JERRY AND DIETTA POPE OF PAMPA AND TRINA BROWN OF RUIDOSO, NM AND GREAT-GRANDMOTHERS Michel Wiley of PAMPA, MAJAUNTA HILLS FORMERLY OF PAMPA, AND DORIS REASER, ALBUQUERQUE, NM.

Fax: Pa Jerry Pope and Little Z
Picture taken 12-02-03

Breakfast swirl French
Lunch or pizza
green bread rolls.

Breakfast
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Dec. 23rd
Dec. 24th

MENUS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 15-19

Pampa Schools

MONDAY
 Breakfast: Cinnamon swirl French toast.
 Lunch: Popcorn shrimp or pizza, French fries, green beans, mixed fruit, rolls.

TUESDAY

Breakfast: Biscuits.
 Lunch: Spaghetti/meat sauce or chicken nuggets, corn, salad, pineapple, garlic toast, cookies.

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, toast.
 Lunch: Tacos or pizza, pinto beans, salad, apricot blooming cake.

THURSDAY

Breakfast: Waffle sticks.
 Lunch: Chicken strips or chef salad, whipped potatoes, English peas, strawberries, rolls.

FRIDAY

Breakfast: Cereal, toast, sausage.
 Lunch: Pizza or hotdogs/chili, green beans, potato rounds, applesauce.

Lefors Schools

Not available at press time.

Senior Citizens

MONDAY

Chicken fried steak or chili rellenos/cheese sauce, mashed potatoes, hominy, spinach, pinto beans, party rainbow cake or banana pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

TUESDAY

Corned beef & cabbage or salmon patties, cheese potatoes, succotash, car-

rots, northern beans, butter pecan cake or rice pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

WEDNESDAY

Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian blend, turnip greens, beans, lemon pound cake or chocolate icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

THURSDAY

Chicken strips or taco salad, seasoned red skin potatoes, cheese grits, broccoli, beans, milk chocolate cake or cherry cream pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.

FRIDAY

Catfish/hushpuppies or Swedish meatballs/noodles, potato wedges, English peas, beans, cinnamon swirl cake or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic toast, hot rolls or cornbread.

Meals On Wheels

MONDAY

Chicken, tomatoes, mixed vegetables, pears.

TUESDAY

Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, strawberries.

WEDNESDAY

Shepherd pies, lima beans, candied carrots, pudding.

THURSDAY

Barbecue, tater tots, baked beans, peaches.

FRIDAY

Ravioli, chukwagon corn, salad, green beans, jello.

Morgan bases sitcom on his own family values

By Frazier Moore
 AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Viewers who love Tracy Morgan's new sitcom as well as anyone who isn't so gung-ho can all agree on one thing: It feels mighty familiar.

Bingo, Morgan replies. That was the idea. "I was thinking about old-fashioned television," he explains, "when the whole family was in the living room: It's about to come on!"

"I'd been playing outrageous characters on 'Saturday Night Live' for (seven) years and I wanted to show the people something that's close to me: 'Wow, this dude is a father and a husband, as opposed to Brian Fellows and Astronaut Jones and all that.'"

His co-stars on "The Tracy Morgan Show" (8 p.m. EST Tuesdays on NBC) include John Witherspoon and Heavy D, who play mechanics at the garage Tracy's character owns, and Katt Williams as a quippy layabout.

But every family man needs a mate. Tamala Jones was cast as Alicia, Tracy Mitchell's charming, levelheaded wife and the mother of their sons, 13-year-old Derrick (Marc John Jefferies) and 7-year-old Jimmy (Bobb'e J. Thompson).

The show's patriarch met Jones while they were filming the Chris Rock comedy "Head of State."

"We kicked it off really well," says Morgan, grinning at her seated beside him. "I had her laughing —"

"The whoole time!" she chimes in.

— and she responded to my

siliness. Then when we started the show, she said, 'Well, how you want this done?' I said, 'You are the backbone of this show! You are the Queen Bee!'"

"I looked to see who do I know who's the Queen Bee?" says Jones. First on her list: "My grandmother! And then I watched Alice on 'The Honeymooners,' Lucille Ball, 'Claudine' — the 1974 film, a favorite of Morgan's, starring Diahann Carroll as a single mother of six children in Harlem."

"I told her, 'I want you to be a strong sister!'" Morgan says. "When Tracy Mitchell gets a little out there, his wife brings him back. She's his reason. Same as Tracy Morgan. My wife and my kids" — Morgan, 35, has three teenage sons with Sabina, his high-school sweetheart — "are MY reason."

"I speak to Tracy's wife quite often about how she would address certain situations with him," Jones confides. "She says, 'Pop him up side of the head.'"

"Or give him a hug," Morgan sweet-talks. "The show is set on Fordham Road in the Bronx ... but there's love in the ghetto!"

"We live in the ghetto?" asks Jones, a Pasadena native, clearly caught by surprise.

"It sure ain't the suburbs!" cackles Morgan, who grew up in New York's inner city. Then, growing serious, he recalls, "When I was 6 years old, my dad left the house, left my mom with five kids to raise. One of the reasons why I got so funny is because, out of all my siblings, I think I took it the hardest. My sense of humor was a defense mechanism."

"My father was not around at all," echoes Jones. "My mom was a single mother and she had to work, and I basically raised my two brothers."

"Now, Tamala has to deal with the fact that she has to trust me," Morgan points out. "When a young girl's dad is not there, it has a profound effect on every man she's ever gonna have a relationship with" — even how she relates with her TV husband. Jones nods in agreement.

"I've gone through a lot of self-help books," she says, "to be

centered and grounded and understand how that's an issue that I need to change about myself. It's therapy for me to play this role."

"We're gonna deal with that issue!" Morgan erupts. "The dads aren't standing up! They're running out on their kids! That's why youth are the way they are now. Why they don't trust us adults."

That said, he spins out an episode he'd like to do: "There's a knock on the door one day and my wife answers. And it's her dad!"

"Maybe we need to DEAL with it!"

But that will come later. "The Tracy Morgan Show" has wrapped production on this season's 13 episodes.

"It wasn't easy making 13,"

says Morgan with a weary smile. "It's family and when you got family, you got ups and" — his voice takes a plunge — "you got downs. We would GO at it!"

"I started cooking on the set," Jones interjects. "You got to cook for a family." She gestures at Morgan. "His favorite thing is gumbo."

The thought of it makes Morgan moony-eyed. "When you were smart enough to think of THAT," he tells Jones, "you was finding your way to my heart!"

"I sure was," she laughs.

"We did 13 episodes like that," says Morgan, "so we know we can do 89 more. Or 150 more!" He beams, looking pleased and confident. "Cause now everybody done got everything outta the way!"

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CRADLE CALL

Emilee Lewis

Emilee Grace Lewis was born at 11:19 a.m., Oct. 14, at BSA Hospital in Amarillo, to Allen and Betsie Lewis of Pampa.

The infant weighed 7-pounds, 4-ounces at birth and was 19 1/2-inches long.

Emilee is the sister of Eric and Matthew Lewis and is the granddaughter of Ruby King of Pampa and Jessie Stepps of Perryville.



Emilee G. Lewis

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1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.
 2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday (12 noon Tuesday before a holiday such as Thanksgiving or

Christmas), prior to Sunday insertion.
 3. Engagement, wedding and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday.
 4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding.
 5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.
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MEDICAL

Research: LDL cholesterol levels can not be 'too low'

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP MEDICAL EDITOR

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A new study offers an answer to doctors' long-running debate over how far heart patients should lower their bad LDL cholesterol: As low as possible.

"There is no such thing as too low an LDL. That's what the data seem to show," said Dr. Steven Nissen of the Cleveland Clinic. He presented the results recently at a meeting of the American Heart Association in Orlando.

He conducted the first head-to-head comparison of popular statin drugs. The results suggest that lowering cholesterol more aggressively than the current national guidelines recommend can completely stop dangerous clogging of the arteries.

Nevertheless, other experts caution that it is too soon to rewrite federal guidelines, although that may be in the offing as several new studies tackle this issue in the next few years.

The latest study compared two statin pills, Lipitor and Pravachol. It found that Lipitor did a considerably better job of both lowering cholesterol and controlling the insidious buildup of gunk inside the arteries when given to people with serious heart disease.

Exactly why, though, is unclear. The benefit could not be totally explained by the lower cholesterol levels. Researchers wondered if some other property of Lipitor, such as its stronger effect on inflammation, accounted for its more potent effects.

The study was sponsored by Lipitor's maker, Pfizer. Another similar but larger study is nearing completion, sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb, which makes Pravachol.

Guidelines recommend getting LDL, the bad cholesterol, down to 100. But many have wondered whether lower is better. The latest study lowered that target to 80 and found the more rigorous treatment seemed to stop artery clogging in its tracks.

The study involved 654 adults with LDL over 125 who had symptoms of coronary disease. They were randomly assigned to get either 40 milligrams of Pravachol or 80 milligrams of Lipitor, the top doses available of the two drugs. At the time the

study began in 1999, Lipitor was considered to be the most powerful statin on the market.

The doctors used highly sensitive intravascular ultrasound to watch what happened to the buildup, known as plaque, in volunteers' heart arteries. After 18 months of typical follow-up, average LDL was 110 in the Pravachol patients and 79 in those on Lipitor.

The volume of plaque in their arteries increased almost 3 percent in the Pravachol patients, while it actually regressed a fraction of 1 percent in those on Lipitor. However, the shrinkage was too small to be statistically meaningful.

Even when people on Pravachol reached the same LDL levels as those on Lipitor, their plaque buildup was worse. Nissen speculated that Lipitor's especially powerful effect on inflammation of the blood vessels could be the reason.

In this study, Lipitor lowered this inflammation, as measured by a substance called C-reactive protein, by 36 percent, while Pravachol reduced it by 5 percent.

"I think Pravachol is a good drug," Nissen said. "I just think it's not the best drug. I do respect that all statins work. But there are differences across the class."

Julie Keenan, a spokeswoman for Bristol-Myers Squibb, noted that the study did not measure actual heart complications, such as heart attacks and death, and earlier studies have shown that Pravachol reduces the risk of both.

Dr. Christopher Cannon of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital is directing Bristol-Myers Squibb's comparison of the two drugs and said that study will judge which one does a better job of keeping people alive and healthy.

He said Nissen's finding that Lipitor is more effective at blocking plaque is "fascinating," but he asked, "Is it important?"

Meanwhile, Dr. Raymond Gibbons of the Mayo Clinic said cardiologists will demand hard evidence that more aggressive cholesterol lowering saves lives before they make wholesale switches in therapy.

"We are not treating the people who need it, period, to even moderate LDL levels," Gibbons said. "We are not getting them to even 110. This study suggests we need to go to a new level."

Guidelines from the National Institute of Health's National Cholesterol Education Program, last revised two years ago, set LDL under 100 as the target for treatment in people with heart disease.

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

Study suggests doctors frequently fail to give standard treatment to heart failure patients

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP MEDICAL EDITOR

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Doctors have known for a decade that drugs called ACE inhibitors are a cornerstone of care for congestive heart failure, yet a nationwide survey released recently shows that nearly one-third of patients are sent home from the hospital without this lifesaving treatment.

The report documents what many see as a dangerous reality of modern medicine: Doctors often fail to offer, or simply don't know about, the most basic elements of care for the many conditions they see daily.

Just why doctors do not give patients the treatments experts universally agree work best is not always clear, although those who study situation say the reasons probably range from forgetfulness and haste to simple ignorance.

In the latest study, Dr. Gregg Fonarow of the University of California, Los Angeles, looked at how often patients hospitalized with heart failure are discharged with four standard kinds of care. He found they are often missing, although this varies widely from hospital to hospital.

"There are certain hospitals in the United States where 100 percent of the patients get this," he said. "There are others where patients had a better chance of winning the lottery than getting the indicated care."

More than 1 million admissions are made each year to U.S. hospitals for congestive heart failure, which is becoming even more common as better treatments that help people survive heart attacks leave them with damaged heart muscle.

Large studies finished in the early 1990s convinced specialists that every heart failure patient — with a few clearly defined exceptions — should be on widely available drugs called angiotensin converting, or ACE, inhibitors. The American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology included the drugs in their

formal treatment guidelines in 1995, and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations later agreed.

The newest survey found that 31 percent of patients considered ideal candidates for ACE inhibitors are sent home without them. Even at elite teaching hospitals affiliated with medical schools, more than one-quarter are not given them.

The report documents what many see as a dangerous reality of modern medicine: Doctors often fail to offer, or simply don't know about, the most basic elements of care for the many conditions they see daily.

—72 percent are discharged without receiving a complete set of discharge instructions, as guidelines recommend.

—69 percent of smokers with heart failure are never told to quit.

—18 percent do not have the pumping power of their left ventricles measured, a standard indicator of heart failure.

Fonarow noted that doctors can bill insurance companies for measuring ventricle strength but not for writing prescriptions or exhorting patients to give up smoking.

"I don't think the public understands the huge degree of variation between hospitals," he said. "People think if they go to a good hospital, they will get all the standard things."

He based his findings on discharge data on 54,639 heart failure patients at 260 hospitals between October 2001 and January 2003. The registry is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson's Scios pharmaceutical unit, which is developing new heart disease treatments. Fonarow presented the results at the heart association's annual scientific meeting in Orlando.

Dr. Richard Pasternak, head of preventive cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, said he believes doctors are actually more likely to follow standard procedures than they once were.

"Things are getting better," he said. "The question is why they aren't getting better faster."

One approach is to set up systems in hospitals that routinely prompt doctors to offer all the standard kinds of care

when they admit patients or discharge them. These are like the checklists airline pilots follow before taking off.

The heart association recently introduced its "Get with the Guidelines" program to improve treatment of heart attacks by helping hospitals establish these checklists. Dr. Kenneth LaBresh of MassPRO, the Massachusetts Medical Society's healthcare quality organization, said the program has already paid off for the first 123 hospitals to join.

He presented data at the meeting showing doctors at these hospitals are more likely to give such accepted treatments for heart attacks as aspirin, beta blockers and cholesterol drugs.

Among other reports at the meeting Sunday:

—A study of 3,203 adolescents in rural North Carolina found that 14 percent have at least three signs of the metabolic syndrome, which puts them at increased risk of diabetes and heart disease. These signs are high blood pressure, elevated triglycerides, low levels of the good cholesterol HDL, high insulin levels, high weight and mildly elevated glucose levels in the blood.

—A Tufts University study compared four diet books — Atkins, the Zone, Ornish and the Weight Watchers cookbook — in 160 overweight volunteers and found that all reduced weight by 4 percent to 6 percent over one year. All but the Ornish plan significantly lowered the chance of heart trouble as measured by the widely used Framingham cardiac risk score.

—A study at the University of Athens found that people who follow a Mediterranean diet, which emphasizes fish, fruit, vegetables, olive oil and little red meat, have significantly lower levels of C-reactive protein, a sign of general inflammation in the bloodstream. Many researchers think inflammation is a common cause of heart attacks.

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

TDH: Infections linked to antibiotic-resistant bacteria increasing

AUSTIN — A healthy high school football player has a skin infection that sends him to a doctor. An equally healthy toddler in day care comes home with a similar problem. They are both diagnosed with Staphylococcus aureus, commonly called a staph infection.

The laboratory report confirms that these infections are resistant to standard antibiotic treatment. Both are infected with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. (Methicillin refers to a group of antibiotics frequently used to treat common staph infections. An MRSA infection doesn't respond to these antibiotics.)

MRSA has been a serious problem for years among hospital patients and residents of long-term-care facilities. But reports of MRSA in the community are increasing, according to Neil Pascoe, epidemiologist with the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance Division at the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

"Staph and MRSA infections are not routinely reported to TDH, so we do not have precise numbers," Pascoe said.

"But we are seeing an increase in reports of MRSA infections in the community, especially among those participating in contact sports such as football, volleyball and wrestling."

Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infection in the United States.

Most of these infections are minor such as pimples and boils, but they may lead to more serious illness including pneumonia and bloodstream infections. Staph infections are spread when bacteria from an infected person comes in contact with another person through a break in the skin such

as a cut or scrape. People also can get a staph infection from bacteria-contaminated items such as clothing, sheets, towels, equipment or furniture. These bacteria are not transmitted through the air or soil.

"An MRSA infection is more difficult to treat because the bacteria is resistant to methicillin-related antibiotics such as penicillin," Pascoe said. Many other commonly used antibiotics no longer work against these infections.

The treatment for MRSA may be longer, more expensive and more complicated, and infections can reappear frequently. MRSA infections can progress to life-threatening blood or bone infections because there are fewer effective antibiotics available for treatment.

"Hand washing is the single most important factor in pre-

venting infectious disease," Pascoe said. "Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer as a supplement or substitute when soap and water are not available."

He advises people to remember to wash their hands after sneezing, blowing or touching their noses and after using the restroom. Hands should be clean before you touch your eyes, mouth, nose or any cuts or scrapes on the skin.

Other precautions, especially for athletes, include:

—Do not share towels, soap, lotion, ointments, antibiotics or other personal-care items.

—Avoid direct physical contact with infected wounds or contaminated materials.

—Shower with soap and water as soon as possible after direct contact sports.

—Dry using a clean, dry towel.

—Use a moisturizing lotion to prevent dry, cracked skin.

—Prewash or rinse with plain water any items that have been heavily contaminated with body fluids.

—Wash towels, uniforms, scrimmage shirts and other laundry in hot water and ordinary detergent and dry on the hottest recommended cycle.

To help prevent antibiotic resistance, Pascoe suggests that people take the right amount of any prescribed antibiotic, take prescribed doses on time and take all the medicine even if the person feels better. "Never share antibiotics," he said. "Throw away any old antibiotics. And remember that antibiotics do not work against viruses."

TDH has information on staphylococcal infections specific for child-care centers, parents of children in child-care centers, school athletic departments and athletes. This information is available on the TDH Web site at: www.tdh.state.tx.us/ideas/antibiotic_resistance/mrsa/school_athletic_departments.asp and www.tdh.state.tx.us/ideas/antibiotic_resistance/mrsa/day-care_administrators.asp.



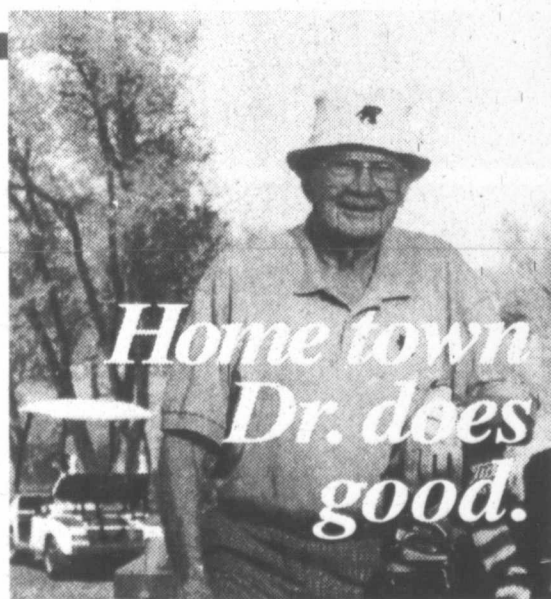
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by Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.

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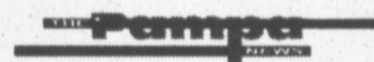
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SUNDAY • December 14, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

Mom Who Feels Being Alone Is Not Keeping Good Company

DEAR ABBY: My teenage sister and I both live at home with our single mom. Lately she has been acting like a teen in love — giddy, staying out late, and hiding to take her phone calls. We have even caught her kissing this man, "Gary."

Mom denies any romantic relationship with Gary, who is married with children. But when his name comes up, she talks endlessly about how mean and horrible his wife is. Mom has never met his wife, so she must be getting her information from Gary.

We overheard him tell Mom that his wife had found his cell phone bill and knew that he was calling Mom a lot. So last month, Mom bought Gary another cell phone. We can't afford that! We struggle to pay our bills, and my sister and I have loaned Mom money for her car insurance.

Mom has often expressed a fear of being alone. We are happy that she is feeling good about herself and dating again, but with Gary, she's headed for trouble. We don't want her hurt. How can we help?

WORRIED ABOUT MOM
IN VIRGINIA

DEAR WORRIED: Be there to offer emotional support, because your mother is on thin ice. Gary's wife is already suspicious, and it's only a matter of time until he gets caught. The situation is bad. Your mother is lying to herself, lying to you, and setting a terrible example. Learn from her mistakes.

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with "Adrian" for eight years — and he still doesn't want to commit to anything other than living together. I have tried explaining the issues of security, honor and respect, and the fact that I have proven I'm a worthy partner and deserve to be his wife.

Adrian is 45 and was married once. I am 39 and have been divorced twice. He uses my divorces as justification for not wanting to give up his independence.

He recently bought a new home.

It is solely in his name because I couldn't afford to help with the closing costs or pay half the mortgage payment. I have a good job and contribute to all our bills. I am not looking for a free ride and have always been willing to pay my own way. After eight years, I do not have one joint bill nor do I own anything with him jointly.

When I try to discuss marriage with Adrian, he becomes angry and verbally abusive. Is this how you treat somebody you love? I feel I'm being punished for wanting a future with him. Please give me some sound advice.

WANTS RESPECT
IN MARYLAND

DEAR WANTS RESPECT: You are an intelligent woman. You fail to see the security in this relationship because there is none. Meanwhile, Adrian is sitting in clover. For eight years he has enjoyed the benefits of a roommate and bed partner. If you protest, he keeps you in line by becoming abusive. Does that sound like love to you?

Ask yourself, Why have I tolerated the situation for so long? If it's a secure future you want, you won't find it with Adrian. He has already demonstrated that the only things he "loves" are himself and his tangible assets. If you leave you'll be available to meet someone who can give you a secure future. Please don't wait. Pack your bags now.

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.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keppes Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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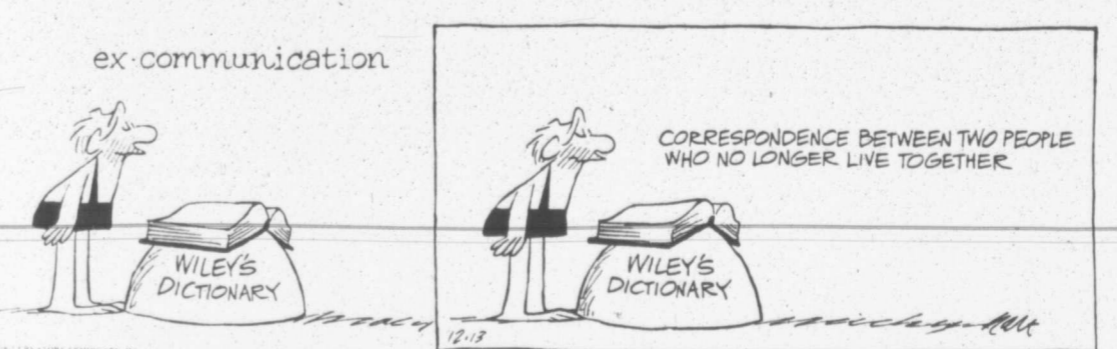
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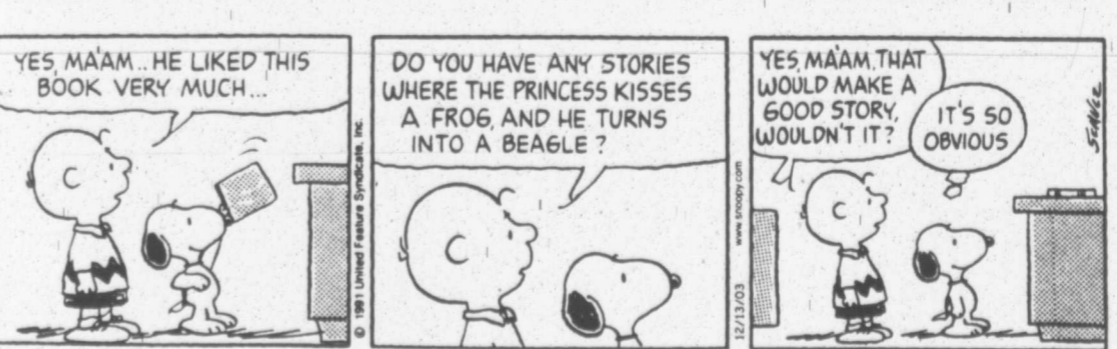
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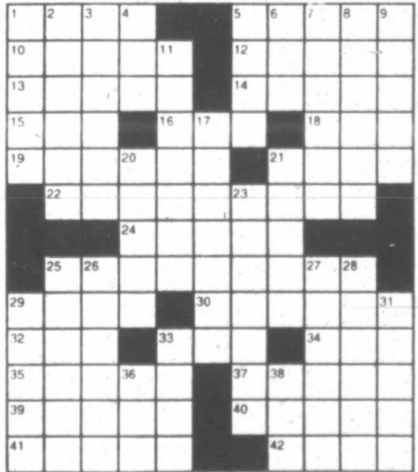
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 - 5 Nitwits
 - 10 Comics unit
 - 12 Vigilant
 - 13 Fatuous
 - 14 Zellweger of "Chicago"
 - 15 Forty winks
 - 16 White House nickname
 - 18 Epoch
 - 19 Good witch of Oz
 - 21 Dimwit
 - 22 Starfish's cousin
 - 24 Animal trail
 - 25 Tubular marine creature
 - 29 Male moose
 - 30 Implied
 - 32 Lowly worker
 - 33 Hire
 - 34 Bee chaser
 - 35 14 pounds
 - 37 Slur over
 - 39 TV's "Sisco"
- DOWN**
- 1 Mimicking
 - 2 Venice
 - 3 Place for blackbirds
 - 4 Lair
 - 5 Challenge
 - 6 Grand Opry
 - 7 Alaskan peak
 - 8 Salem setting
 - 9 Mount
 - 11 Preparations
 - 17 Extravagant
 - 18 Twangy
 - 20 Rock of comedy
 - 21 Alaskan peak
 - 23 Diner fixture
 - 25 Surfer's feature
 - 11 Preparation
 - 26 Corrida critter
 - 27 Wisconsin city
 - 28 Busy
 - 29 Soaks up rays
 - 31 Ocean areas
 - 33 Eye part
 - 36 Fresh
 - 38 Track trip



Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



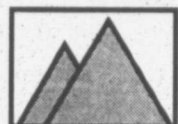
Flo & Friends



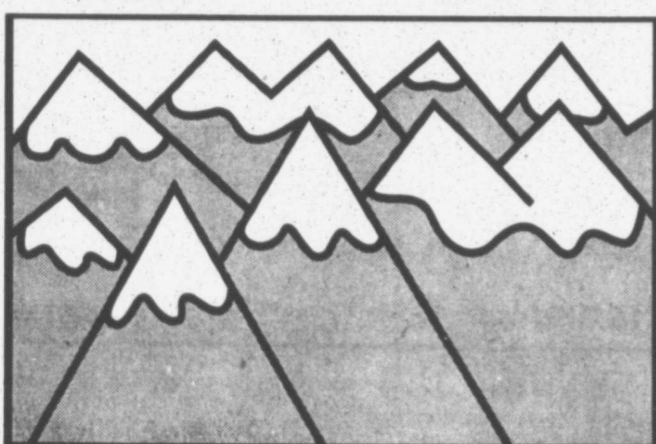
Just Kidding

Learn Some French

les montagnes



de la neige



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

SEEK — FIND

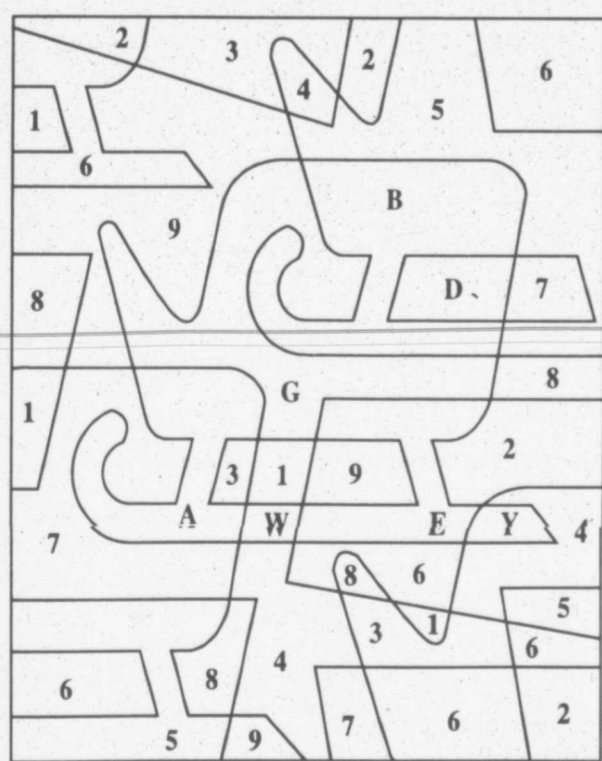
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

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

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

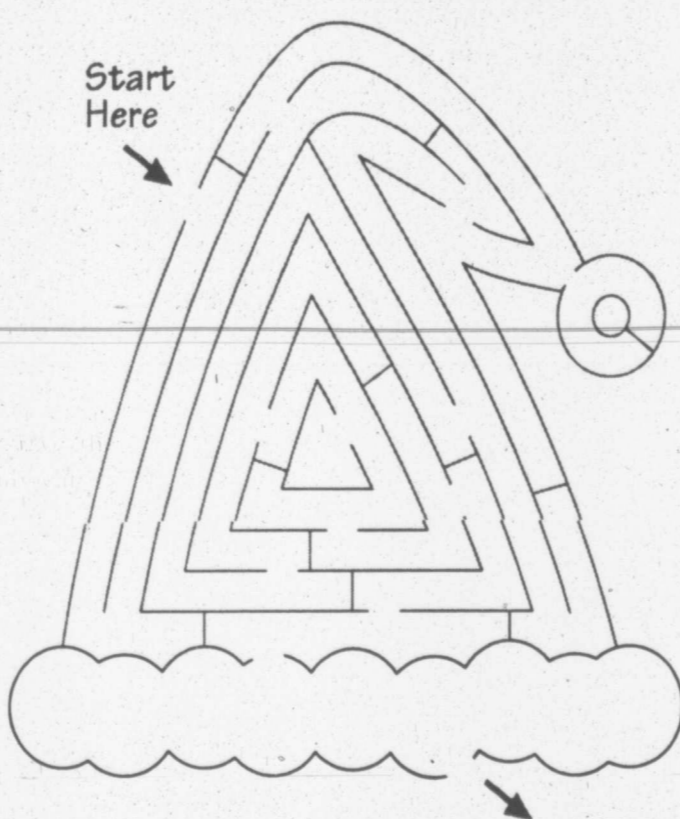
W S C A S R E H D F
S T O C K I N G J G
N F O K R L M I L K
O I K A E B N E M W
W G I S E D C L X A
J C E V D L I S T S
K O S A N T A I O P
G H C H I M N E Y L
Z B N A E L V E S F
T E R A R S D N P I

HIDDEN



Color in each space that contains a letter.

MAZE



Santa Across The World

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

Germany

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



Canadian



European



French



German



Italian



Russian



Scandinavian



Scottish

France

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

Spain and Mexico

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

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

Russia

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

Italy

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

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

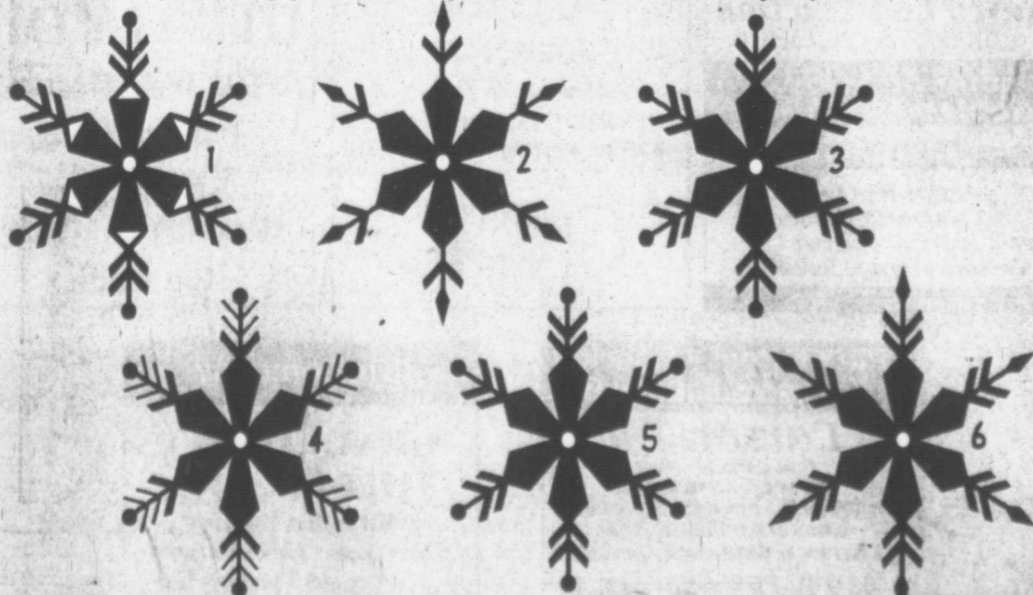
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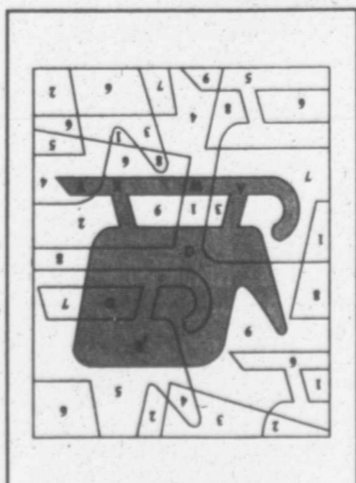
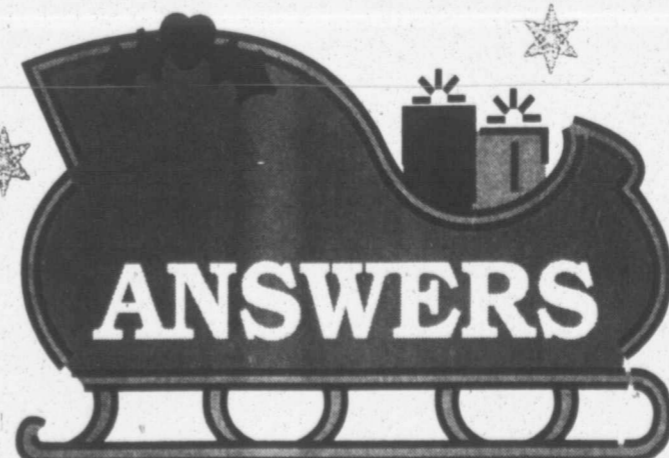
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FIND THE TWINS

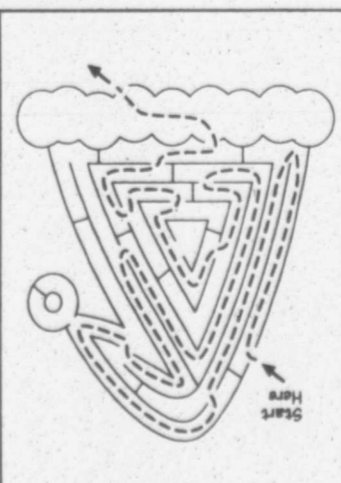
WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER: THREE AND FIVE



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



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Equal Housing Opportunity

ENTERTAINING

Would be delightful in this lovely 3 bedroom brick, 1 3/4 baths. Large formal living room, large combined kitchen-den. Woodburning fireplace. Wood garage, front yard sprinkler system, beautiful deck. This is a must see. Choice neighborhood. Lots of amenities too numerous to mention. Call Irvine for appointment to see. MLS 6246.

COMPLETE WITH WATER POND

Lovely 3 bedroom brick 1 3/4 baths. Huge living area. Very unusual woodburning fireplace. Great tile flooring plus carpet. Updated kitchen counter tops and appliances. Extra room for office. Lots and lots of storage. Oversized double car garage. Call for an appointment. MLS 6296.

CORNER LOCATION

Nice three bedroom brick. Metal trim for low maintenance. Single car garage. Plenty of room in back to add more garage space. Sprinkler system front and back. Great school location. Corner lot. Call Chris to see. MLS 6154.

REDUCED PRICE-COUNTRY LIVING

Enjoy country living at its finest. Great 3 bedroom, 2 baths, large open living-dining and kitchen. Large sunroom. Patio, huge barn or workshop plus large storage building. Lots of cement including a circle drive and walkway to the barn. Double car garage. 3 acres. Call Irvine for additional details. OE.

OWNER SAYS SELL

And has reduced the price on this nice three bedroom. Combined living-dining room. Some hardwood flooring plus carpet. Beautiful ceramic tile in bath. Utility room, convenient to Austin, Middle and High schools. It's a bargain. Call Irvine to see. MLS 6045.

CALL FIRST LANDMARK FIRST FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS.

Irvine Righahn, GRI... 665-4534
Chris Moore, GRI... 665-8172
Bobbie Nisbet, BKR... 665-4534

Norma Ward REALTY
669-3346
Jim Ward... 665-1593
Norma Ward, GRI, Broker

1 Public Notice

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT-FAMILY DIVISION EATON COUNTY PUBLICATION OF HEARING

FILE NO. 03-14519-NA, TO: MICHAEL PAUL ROSE (ADDRESS UNKNOWN)

IN THE MATTER OF: 4 MIKYALA RENEE BRYANT

dob 11/07/2003

A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

petition has been filed in the above matter. Hearings on the petition will be conducted by the court on:

IF PLEA DATE 2/06/04 at 9:00 a.m. and BENCH TRIAL 2/09/2004 at 9:00 a.m. in Probate Courtroom, Eaton County Courthouse / County Bldg., 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT MICHAEL PAUL ROSE personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.

This hearing may result in: Termination of Parental Rights.

December 8, 2003

Honorable Michael E. Skinner (P36261)

D-70 Dec. 14, 2003

4 Not Respon.

AS of this date Dec. 10, 2003, I, Tiffany M. Voss, will no longer be responsible for any debts other than those incurred by me. Signed, Tiffany M. Voss.

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

11 Financial

You're Cashworthy with us!

AT THE CASH STORE, we make cash advances from \$50 to \$1,000 in minutes, with no credit required.

JUST BRING IN: Your most recent pay stub, Checking account statement, Personal checkbook, State-issued ID.

PAMPA 1064 N. Hobart St. At Hobart & Somerville 669-1508

www.thecashstore.com

Loans provided by Bryant State Bank, Bryant, SD. Actual terms and loan amounts may vary. See store for details.

14b Appl. Repair

FREE Service Call (labor only) thru Christmas, to Servicemen's Wives. Williams Appliance 665-8894

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR

Kidwell Construction, Call 669-6347.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs.

Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost... It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo, Tx.

Ceramic Tile Works

Handicap Conversions Shower Installation Floor Tile & Regrouting Keith 665-0328 or Iv. msg lotte.

SUPERIOR Quality Kensington replacement windows and doors. Guaranteed 30% fuel savings! Also steel & vinyl siding. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

HUSBAND for Hire. Will do most household repairs. References. Milton Brown, 664-0171 (cell#).

LONESTAR CHIMNEY SWEEP

now taking appts. NO MESS. 669-1562

Jerry's Floor Installation Service.

Carpet restretching, ceramics, hardwood, laminates, vinyl, carpet. Over 25 yrs. exp. 664-7959 (c) 868-2016, Miami

RAIN Gutter Clean-Out, Branch & Leaf Removal, Snow removal, Hedge Trimming.

665-3039, local cell 440-1304.

14n Painting

INT./EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

50 yr. exp. We paint, dry-wall, texture, comm./residential. Free Estimates. Happy Painters 665-3214

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing

Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE: All ads that contain phone numbers or give reference to a number with an area code of 809 or a prefix of 011 are international toll numbers and you will be charged international long distance rates. For more information and assistance regarding the investigation of work at home opportunities and job lists, The Pampa News urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau of South Texas, 609 S. International Blvd., Weslaco, Tx. 78596, (210) 968-3678.

21 Help Wanted

MCLEAN Care Center has the following immediate openings: L.V.N., Charge Nurse Position, 2-10, full time & weekend R.N.'s. Benefits include paid vacation, 401K & health insurance available. Contact Billy Ray Johnson or Kim Ray @ 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th St. for more information.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

21 Help Wanted

NOW Hiring For These Positions Experienced shop/diesel mechanic & CDL drivers Reliable transportation required Positions in Canadian/Wheeler Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC 1224 N. Hobart St. NBC Plaza II, Ste. 11, Pampa, TX 79065 (806) 665-2991

21 Help Wanted

CNAs and LVNS needed at Edward Abraham memorial Home. Benefits incl. paid holidays, vacation and health ins. Apply at 803 Birch, Canadian, or call 323-6453. EOE.

21 Help Wanted

APPLICATIONS are being accepted until January 12, 2004 for temporary fulltime positions with USDA-Farm Service Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC User with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Positions will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own reliable transportation. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at Gray County FSA Office, 12125 E. Frederic, Pampa, TX, or by calling (806)665-6561. Completed application forms must be returned to the Gray County FSA Office and must arrive by January 12, 2004 to be considered. Faxed Applications will not be accepted. USDA is an EEO employer.

21 Help Wanted

COME work with the 1st team. Wanted welders, laborers, concrete men, grain millwright, steel bldg erectors & carpenters. 2 years work in Iowa. Work starts in Iowa, Maine & Puerto Rico. Mogensen Steel Erectors 740-360-1907.

21 Help Wanted

DRIVER needed for Piz-za Hut Delivery. Apply at 1500 N. Banks. No phone calls please.

21 Help Wanted

FLORAL Designer needed. Apply in person at Freeman's Flowers, 410 E. Foster.

21 Help Wanted

TRACTOR trailer driver. Tanker exp. helpful, home often. Good pay & benefits, Rimarc Transportation, 1-800-831-9563.

21 Help Wanted

RAINS & SONS ESPRESSO (A Navajo Agent) We offer: Hoods-No Touch Vac./Ins./401K/Direct Dep. \$300 Sign on Bonus on 8th day We require: Good MVR, no D&A Chgs. 1 year venifiable OTR within last 3 Yr. Call Ralph x21 or Janda x15 800-547-5074

21 Help Wanted

NEED Cashier / Deli Worker. Apply in person, 1020 E. Frederic.

21 Help Wanted

HOME based business its not to late to earn extra Christmas money. Call 669-9840, ask for Becky and more details.

21 Help Wanted

CARPENTER needed FT Needs transportation and hand tools, drug test maybe required 665-4274

21 Help Wanted

TEXAS Rose is now taking applications for kitchen help. No Phone Calls Please!

21 Help Wanted

WEEKEND RN needed, 7 a - 3 p. shift Sat. & Sun. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. Apply in person or call Kay 537-3194.

21 Help Wanted

SUBWAY is now accepting applications for all shifts. Apply in person, 2114 N. Hobart.

21 Help Wanted

SONIC is now taking applications. Apply in person, 1418 N. Hobart, Pampa.

21 Help Wanted

BI-LINGUAL House-keeper and Laundry Supervisor, full-time house-keeper and part-time laundry assistant needed at Edward Abraham Memorial Home. Benefits incl. paid holidays, vacation and health ins. Apply at 8-3 Birch, Canadian or call 323-6453. EOE.

21 Help Wanted

EAHMH will start a Certified Nurse Aide Class beginning January 10th. Classes will be held on weekends and evenings. Anyone interested in attending these classes to be certified as a nurse aide should contact Debra at 323-6453 or come by 803 Birch street.

21 Help Wanted

NOW Hiring For These Positions Experienced compressor mechanic Out of town work required, transportation and meals provided Drug Screens required Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC 1224 N. Hobart St. NBC Plaza II, Ste. 11, Pampa, TX 79065 (806) 665-2991

21 Help Wanted

COME work with the 1st team. Wanted welders, laborers, concrete men, grain millwright, steel bldg erectors & carpenters. 2 years work in Iowa. Work starts in Iowa, Maine & Puerto Rico. Mogensen Steel Erectors 740-360-1907.

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21 Help Wanted

NIGHT time waitress needed. Apply in person 855 W. Kingsmill.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER

420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. list \$550, sell \$236, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. list \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, list \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

60 Household

SOFA w/ matching chair, dining set-6 chairs-matching hutch, 2 other sofas. 665-9705, 662-0015.

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

LRG. rolls Christmas paper, gift bags, ribbons, bows, tags! Warner-Horton, 900 Duncan 8-5-M-F.

THE PAMPA NEWS SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 15, 2003:

You reach out for others more than ever this year. Your finances will be a prime focus; you'll come up with many different moneymaking ideas. A boss or someone who cares about you starts becoming more of a team player. Together you'll become invincible once you decide on a course of action. A partner or loved one easily could close down because he or she is jealous of the attention you are giving your work. If you care about this relationship, give your sweetie the extra time he or she needs. If single, you might not be ready to form a relationship until fall. You will meet more people at that time and have a greater selection. VIRGO often acts as an authority figure.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Pace yourself at an easy level. You can count on getting a lot done in a precise and efficient manner. Speak your mind to a boss. Stay on top of conversations. You present a different point of view, and in an appropriate way. Tonight: Put your feet up

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Reach out for others, especially someone who might not have your level of get-up-and-go. This person much appreciates your sensitivity to his or her mood right now. You might not realize how much of a difference you make. Tonight: "Playful" is the word.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Remain anchored in what you do. Expenses could go overboard, whether a long time coming. Discussions revolve you realize it or not. A partner comes around a key question. Get as much feedback for you, whether with ideas or back as possible. The more ideas, the

better. Tonight: Go out and do what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Deal with others, especially someone who's controlling the purse strings. You might want to curtail your interaction here or separate what's yours from what's his or hers. You really do know what is best for you. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Talk and express yourself in a more bountiful manner. You like what you hear in return, even if you find a partner a bit difficult. This person might, be holding back or closing down, as he or she is so sensitive. Tonight: Read between the lines.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Togetherness seems to be the theme of the day, be it at work or at play. You might want to reveal much more than you have in a long time to a key partner. Take some time off together to run some holiday errands or attend an event. Tonight: Snuggle in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Reach out to others if they don't find you. Discuss what you want for the long term with those who could be part of making it happen. You might be talking about a Christmas project, or you might be talking about work. Tonight: Say "yes" to a special invitation.

BORN TODAY

Actor Don Johnson (1949), oil magnate J. Paul Getty (1892), actor Garrett Wang (1968)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

© 2003 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

14, 2003:

Learning to detailifies your behavior. Learn to approach perhaps more dynamically find you far more find that events are not be what you do not be different background Work demands you will gain because see the natural law. If you are single, a up for you this year be exotic but also friendship. If you special trip together that you become pushes you hard.

The Stars Show th Have: 5-Dynami 3-Average; 2-So-so

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Dedicate important to you as could find the aff must-do's. Lighten revolving plans and aren't so much w Company you're wri organized for 1 This Week: Your r Tuesday. Your in marks your week, temperament.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Deal with matters first, and you ly let go later. Some or loved one — spe with an idea that is will want to jump Tonight: Play as if This Week: Focus on even though somet ing you on a lov expressing your ang GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Get out in ing or errands. You in midafternoon a cozy A loved one affection. You als some decorating of Tonight: Order in This Week: You r mood to rock and re but when you look

CONOCO Phillips, Borger Refinery and NGL Center is looking for motivated individuals with a desire to join our Team. We are looking for applicants with a positive attitude who get along well with people. You should be able to demonstrate that you have a good work ethic, you are reliable, you have a good safety record and a willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done. We are hiring for entry level positions within our Maintenance function (Yardman) with progression into our Operations and Maintenance Crafts. The beginning rate of pay for a Yardman is \$13.68/hr with increases to \$17.35/hr in eighteen months. At this time, the top wage rate for an Operations employee is \$26.32/hr and \$25.61/hr for a Maintenance Craft position. To be considered you must have the following:

1. A minimum of a High School Education or equivalent.
2. A current valid drivers license.
3. Experience in construction, maintenance, or operations within an industrial environment, which can include refineries, chemical plants, manufacturing plants, machine shops, fab shops, commercial construction or oil field servicing. Applicable agricultural and military experience will also be considered.
4. Individuals with technical training and demonstrated skill in one or more of the following areas will also be consider:
 - Electrical
 - Instrument
 - Machinist
 - Millwright (pumps, compressors, engines, etc.)
 - Welder
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (big trucks, backhoes, dozers, cranes, etc.)
 - Pipefitter/Boilmaker

Conoco Phillips Petroleum Company is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants

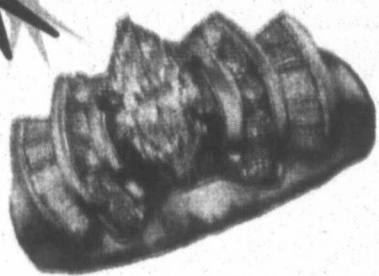


Wrap Up The Savings

Men's Diamond Rings
25%-50% OFF



Citizen, Seiko & Pulsar
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25% OFF

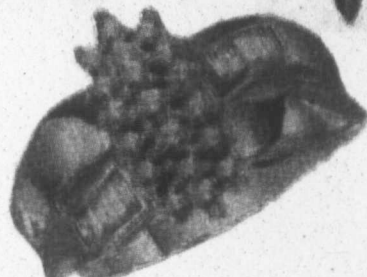


Diamond Bridal Sets
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Diamond Pendants
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25%-50% OFF



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