

# Merry Chris THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Brrrr, it's cold outside

By MARILYN POWERS  
 Staff Writer

The wintry weather which arrived in time for the winter solstice Dec. 21, marking the first day of winter, has brought the coldest temperatures of the season to the Pampa area and a thin coating of snow just in time for Christmas.

Temperatures, which have been below freezing for the past couple of days, will not climb above 32 degrees until Christmas afternoon, according to the National Weather Service. This morning's low temperature was the coldest so far of the icy spell, with -2 as the overnight low, according to KGRO-KOMX radio station.

Wintry precipitation began falling Tuesday and resulted in slick pavement. Icy roads were listed as the main cause of at least 17 accidents outside Pampa in Gray County and another seven on Pampa roadways on Wednesday. None of the 17 accidents outside city limits involved injuries, according to Texas Department of Public Safety and Gray County Sheriff's

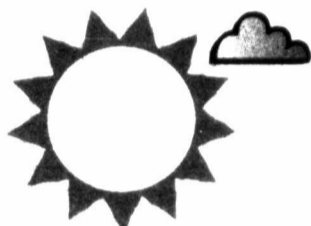
See BRRR, Page 3



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

There's nothing better than going sledding with Dad, Jalyne Howell, 7, discovers as she and her father Jason slide down the hillside at Austin Elementary school grounds Thursday afternoon. Although snow blankets the Panhandle today and temperatures dipped into the single digits overnight, Christmas Day promises to be almost balmy with sunny skies and a high near 50 degrees.

### Today's weather



H 30 L 18

### Deaths

Mark Rodgers, 35, services pending.

### Odds & Ends

**HASTINGS, Neb. (AP)** — When Earl Marian sends birthday wishes to his brother, he can count on getting the same exact birthday wishes from Floyd Marian the next month.

It's a card-swapping tradition that started in 1975, when Floyd first received the birthday card from his brother.

In it, Linus of the Peanuts comic strip tells the reader, "This is the age of ecology! Don't throw this card away. Recycle it to a friend."

Floyd took the advice and sent it back to Earl. Earl followed suit the following year. And so on and so on.

For 29 years the brothers have kept their same-card exchange going, freshening the card up with one-line messages that now have taken up most of the card's open space.

Floyd, 80, receives the card each year around his Dec. 10 birthday, then kicks it back to Earl, 73, in time to acknowledge his birthday on Jan. 31.

"It's getting worn out a little bit," Floyd said.

**GLENWOOD, Minn. (AP)** — Each year, Mike Field ships anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 pounds of lutefisk from his small shop here to customers all over the United States.

But his latest order of the stinky fish crosses a new horizon.

One lutefisk-loving soldier has ordered 25 pounds of the pungent lye-soaked fish to be shipped to Afghanistan as a "treat" for the servicemen and women stationed there.

"This is a first for this little outfit," said Field, owner of Mike's Fish and Seafood Inc.

The order came from Mike Lindemoe, a serviceman with the U.S. Army stationed in Afghanistan — and yes, Lindemoe's the one who called it a "treat", Field said.

Field said that Lindemoe told him he wouldn't mind if it costs \$50 a plate, he wants the lutefisk, which is a holiday tradition for many with Scandinavian heritage.

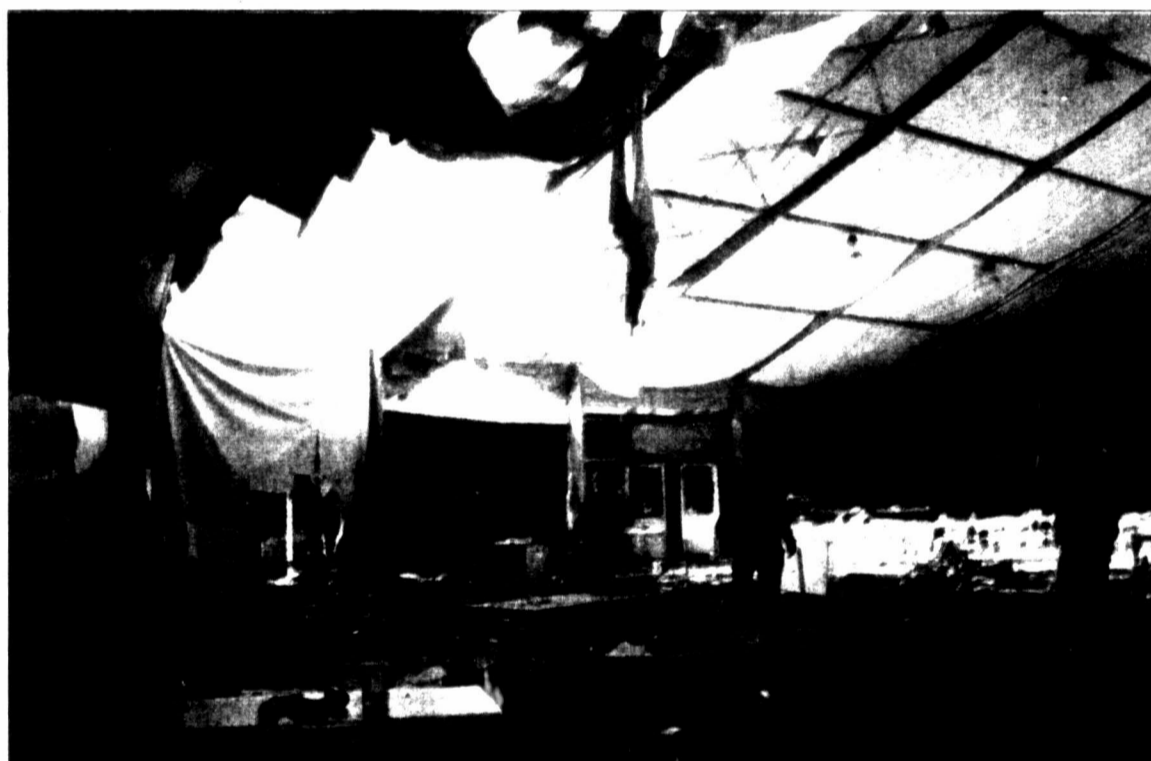
## Medical heroics save lives in Mosul attack

By Spc. Blair Larson  
 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Many soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul will forever remember December 21 as the day an explosion ripped through the chow hall, interrupting their noon meal with a shower of shrapnel and thousands of tiny metal ball bearings.

The American people will remember watching on television the most deadly attack on Multi-National Forces in Iraq since the war began. But the medical personnel at the 67th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Mosul that day will remember the scene at the hospital as huge numbers of casualties arrived and the harrowing hours they spent tending to their injured comrades.

Although the attack tragically took the lives of many soldiers and civilians, the extent of the destruction could have been much worse. Were it not for the quick response of the soldiers and medical profes-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Blair Larson

A large explosion in the dining facility at a U.S. military installation Dec. 21 in Mosul, Iraq, left 22 dead and many more injured. Despite the immense destruction, many soldiers lives were saved by the calm and quick response of other soldiers and medical personnel.

sionals who began treatment immediately after the explosion, many more lives could have been lost.

Immediately after the dust cleared from the explosion,

soldiers began to bandage and move the injured to the hospital. Using tables as stretchers and shirts as bandages, the soldiers on the scene instinctively per-

formed the medical aid that every Soldier is trained to do in order to stabilize a casualty until medical personnel arrive.

The attack was reported

by radio to the soldiers at the CSH, who immediately began preparing for the arrival of the injured. An announcement went out over a speaker in the medical personnel living area, alerting the soldiers who were on call. As they arrived at the hospital, the staff reported to their assigned areas, ready to put their skills to use.

"I walked through the door and saw patients everywhere; some were bleeding, some gasping for air," said medic Spc. Victoria Castillo.

It was a scene they had rehearsed many times before. The medical personnel from the 67th Combat Support Hospital have trained constantly to handle a mass casualty scenario, and in the past 11 months, they have responded to several incidents requiring treatment of multiple injuries.

Although the hospital has many well-trained specialists, the first moments after a tragedy like this are filled with everyone pitching in to help with basic life-saving

See HEROICS, Page 3

## Brig. general to lead probe into tragic mess tent blast

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)** — The brigadier general who investigated abuse at Abu Ghraib prison is heading the U.S. military's probe into how a suicide bomber infiltrated a U.S. Army base near Mosul and detonated a deadly explosion, authorities said Friday.

The team led by Brig. Gen. Richard P. Formica started its work in Mosul as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld paid a surprise Christmas Eve visit to the

wounded soldiers at the base, part of a tour that also took him to Tikrit and Fallujah.

"Now we have a pretty good idea that it was a suicide bomber," said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a spokesman at the Mosul base. "(Formica) is going to investigate into the how's — how did that happen?"

Formica, an artillery commander, has already investigated detention practices by special forces in Iraq,

including allegations of torture and mistreatment of prisoners linked to the Abu Ghraib abuses scandal.

Hastings said the Mosul investigation will be "conducted quickly and thoroughly" but that there was no deadline for its conclusions.

The Mosul blast killed 22 people, most of them American soldiers and civilians — the deadliest single

See PROBE, Page 3

### Better watch out!

## Naughty kids lose presents to eBay

**HOUSTON (AP)** — The father of three children went from playing Santa Claus to playing the Grinch after he determined his children were being naughty instead of nice, and taught them a lesson on by auctioning their presents on eBay.

And they'd better watch out — the tree may come down, too.

A Pasadena information technology specialist decided to auction the presents because the youngsters, ages 9, 11, and 15, had misbehaved.

"One thing we teach around this house," said the man, who asked the Houston Chronicle not to reveal his name.

See NAUGHTY, Page 3

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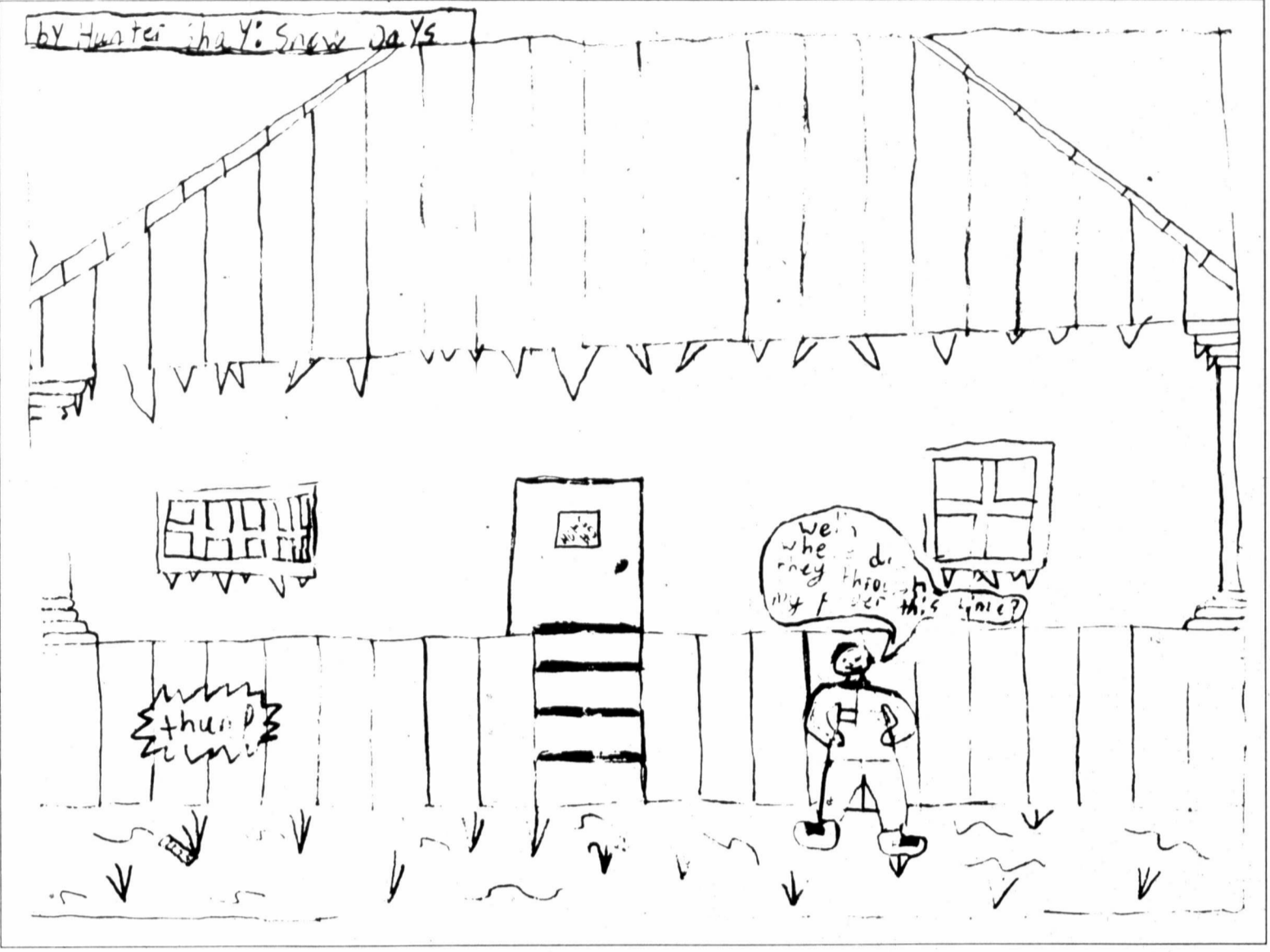
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Artist Hunter Shay, II, of Pampa drew this picture which he titled "Snow Days." The man depicted in the picture is saying in the balloon, "Well, where did they throw my paper this time?"

**Gray County Weather**

Today: Patchy fog before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high around 30. Wind chill values between -14 and -4. West southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 18. Wind chill values between 6 and 16. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Emergency Services**

**Pampa PD**

Pampa Police Department made four traffic stops and responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at midnight last night, according to the department's incident blotter.

There were four calls concerning business alarms.

Business checks were made at Carpenter's Auto on West Highway 60 and at Sandy's Bar, 2218 W. Alcock.

An emergency medical services assist was made in the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and the 1700 block of Coffee.

Driving while intoxicated was reported at Brown and Cuyler streets.

A silent/abusive call to 911 was received from the 2000 block of Mary Ellen, the 1600 block of West Somerville and the 400 block of Doucette.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Theft was reported in the 1700 block of Charles, where firewood was reported taken.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Christine.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of South Hobart.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart and the intersection of Kentucky and Duncan streets.

**Thursday, Dec. 23**

Morris Powell, 52, 455 Hughes, was arrested in the 400 block of Crawford on capias pro fines for failure to appear and two counts of no valid driver's license.

Campbell, was arrested on a district court warrant for possession of a controlled substance under one gram, failure to stop and leave information, accident under \$200, no insurance, and no motor vehicle inspection.

**Fire**

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Thursday, Dec. 23**

1:23 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 700 block of Coffee.

7:34 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Kentucky and Duncan streets. No injuries or hazardous spills were reported.

8 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 600 block of North Frost.

**Friday, Dec. 24**

5:40 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1000 block of Murphy.

**Sheriff**

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrest today.

**Friday, Dec. 24**

Jason Samuel Shorter, 24, 837

**CITY BRIEFS**

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

**BRICK REPAIR**, Harley Knutson 665-4237 or 664-1240

**HOBBY SHOP** Bargains Galore! After Christmas Sale, Dec. 27, 28 & 29th.

**NEW YEAR'S Eve Bash** at The Lonestar Bar with Cop-perhead. \$20 person, \$30 couple. Drink Specials!

"THANK YOU" for all your loyal patronage. Without you I could'n't be here, Brandon's Flowers. "Your loved ones will only receive quality deliveries, that I'm proud of". Merry Christmas.

**LISA WILLS** (2nd time winner) with 104 points of Pampa, local winner of the Pampa News Football Power Points Game, regional winner Leonard Stamps, of Tulsa, Ok., with 125 points.

**THANK YOU**, Thank You, Thank You! All the Angels were taken off the trees and gifts were distributed. Thank you so much for your generosity. You made Christmas happen for over 600 children. God Bless and may you have a Happy New Year, Salvation Army Board.

**THE OCB** (Other Corner Bar), will be open Sat., Dec. 25th, 3 p.m., 2302 Alcock.

**WATCH FOR** 2 sections of today's Pampa News. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

**Obituaries**

**Mark Rodgers, 35**

Mark Rodgers, 35, of Pampa, died Friday, Dec. 24, 2004, at Pampa.

Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

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

**Cave-in claims worker's life**

HOUSTON (AP) — A 21-year-old construction worker drowned Thursday morning in Pearland when a hole he was working in caved in and filled with water.

Three employees of KCC Group were working on a water main as part of a street-widening project when the cave-in occurred, Pearland police spokesman Rick Fernandez. He said two of the men were able to escape.

Workers at the scene said the 10-foot-deep hole was not reinforced with forms. The cave-in caused the water line to break, drowning the trapped worker, Fernandez said.

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Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

## Taking a cold dive

Ryan Stoffle, 11, falls while riding on an early Christmas present, a snowboard, at the hillside of Austin Elementary and Beech streets Thursday afternoon.

## Brrr

Continued from Page 1

Office representatives. Snow continued to fall yesterday, adding another 1 1/4 inch to the 2 inches already on the ground, according to KGRO-KOMX. The 24-hour moisture total

for yesterday was four one-hundredths of precipitation. At press time today, the temperature was 9 degrees, with a wind chill of -5 and 8-mile-per-hour winds out of the west-southwest, according to Pampa Independent School District's website. The highest winds so far today were 14.7 miles per hour at 9 a.m., according to

the Texas Tech mesonet weather station east of Pampa. Yesterday's high was 18, the same as the low forecast for tonight. The frigid temperatures and the holiday season have not, however, resulted in house fires, according to a Pampa Fire Department spokesperson. No calls have been received by the fire

department concerning Christmas decorations or heating devices such as space heaters as of press time today. The Arctic blast is moving away from the Panhandle, which will result in a high of 48 tomorrow and 56 on Sunday. Sunday morning's low will be 26, according to KGRO-KOMX.

## Probe

Continued from Page 1

attack on a U.S. base in Iraq. It has prompted the military to reassess security at bases across the country in light of the bomber's success in apparently slipping into the camp and entering a tent

crowded with soldiers eating lunch Tuesday. The suicide bomber believed to have carried out the attack was probably wearing an Iraqi military uniform, the U.S. military said Thursday. On Thursday, U.S. Marines battled insurgents in Fallujah in the heaviest fighting there in weeks. The clash-

es erupted as nearly 1,000 residents returned to the devastated city for the first time since a major U.S. offensive last month that drove out most of the militants. At least three Marines were killed Thursday's fighting. In a rare admission of high casualties among the guerrillas, a posting on an Islamic Web site said 24

insurgents were killed in the battles. The posting, which could not be confirmed, said 19 of the dead were from non-Iraqi Arabs from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and the rest Iraqis. On Friday, around 4,000 more displaced citizens returned to Fallujah to inspect their devastated homes.

## Heroics

Continued from Page 1

procedures such as stopping bleeding and patching wounds. Even the support personnel were active participants, as the unit's mechanics, cooks and engineers carried litters and copied down vital information.

"During a mass casualty situation, everyone drops their individual skills and becomes a medic, focusing on the basic skills like making sure bleeding and breathing are controlled," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel White, the Assistant Chief Ward Master.

As the patients arrived by the dozens, the medical personnel used a triage process to sort the more serious injuries from the lesser ones and began to stabilize and treat the casualties. Nearly 90 U.S., Iraqi and multinational casualties were brought to the hospital for treatment.

"When the patients arrived, they were evaluated by priority and sorted by how serious their injuries were. Surgical patients were identified and the worst were brought to the operating room," said Maj. Simon Telian, a general surgeon at the 67th CSH.

In a perfect example of organized chaos, the hospital came alive. X-ray technicians with portable equipment examined those with broken bones. A radiology specialist gave CT scans to those with abdominal and head wounds. The lab and pharmacy kept the patients supplied with blood and painkillers. Within the first eight hours, the medical staff had performed eight major surgeries and many more minor surgeries.

The injured were stabilized and some were evacuated by helicopter to larger hospitals in Balad and Baghdad. Several would

eventually continue on to a military hospital in Germany.

During the evacuation and treatment of the injured, a barrage of mortar rounds hit the hospital. Even under those dangerous circumstances, the medical staff bravely moved the wounded to shelter and continued their treatment.

The hustle and bustle of the trauma center required the help of every staff member. For hours, the medical professionals hovered around the makeshift beds, stabilizing and comforting the injured soldiers.

"You just keep going non-stop without looking back," said Castillo.

Although some of the injured were civilians, the majority of the casualties were U.S. soldiers. Treating fellow soldiers can take an emotional toll on medical professionals.

"It is more difficult to work with American soldiers because you feel closer to them," said 1st Lt. Sarah Kuehl, a registered nurse at the 67th CSH.

For the medical soldiers who deal with life and death situations, instinct takes over as they work. Their extensive training automatically kicks in, and they are focused completely on the person whose life is in danger.

"Situations like that are overwhelming. You have no time to think, you just have to do your job," said Castillo.

An emergency can never be planned for enough. Though soldiers use common scenarios when they train, there are always factors that change when a real emergency arises. The more than 90 casualties treated by the 67th CSH is the largest number of casualties any hospital in theater has seen at one time during the Iraq war.

*"Situations like that are overwhelming. You have no time to think, you just have to do your job."*

— Spc. Victoria Castillo  
Medic, U.S. Army



*We're sending our best wishes to the many good friends and customers we've had the pleasure of serving this year.*

*May all the blessings of the season shine on you and yours.*

*The Kennedy Family...  
Shane, Laci, Walker & Gage*



## Naughty

Continued from Page 1

"is that good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people."

"BAD CHILDREN get no Nintendo DS. Santa will skip our house this year," the man announced in his eBay posting to sell three DS systems with PictoChat and Metroid. Also offered were three games for use with the system. "No kidding. Three undeserving boys have crossed the line. Tonight we sat down and showed them what they WILL NOT get for Christmas this year. I'll be taking the tree down tomorrow."

Thursday night, the auction wound down with bidding at \$465.01 — below the price the man had set.

"If you don't buy them, we'll return them to the store," the seller known online as magumbo—2000 reported on the site.

"These are normally really good kids," he said. But in a single day, he added, the boys fought one another, used vulgar language and gestured obscenely.

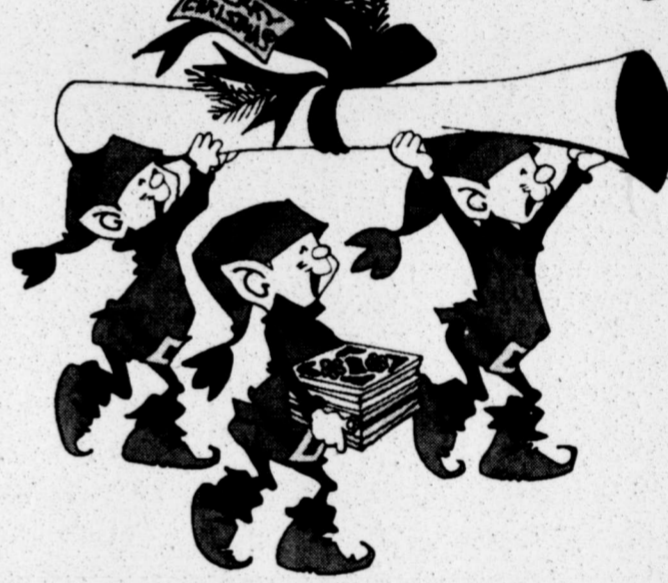
The man blamed at least part of the family discord on being lax.

"It seems like we'd say what we were going to do, then bend and back off a little," the 41-year-old father said. "We'd ground them for a week, but they'd really be grounded for three days; we'd take away video games, but they would still watch television. It decayed to the point that groundings don't work, putting them in their room, timeouts don't have any effect."

### FOOT FACTS BY BROWNS SHOE FIT CO.

**RUN-OVER HEELS...** If you could view the human skeleton from the rear, you would realize that the heel bone isn't along the centerline of the leg bone (tibia), but slightly outside of center. With every step, as the heel strikes the ground, the force is exerted at the outer-rear corner of the shoe heel or top lift. That's why 9 out of 10 people wear down their heels in that place. Perhaps the Great Designer planned it that way to provide work for the shoe repairman. Many customers see running over of the heels as some fault of the shoe. Rather, wearing down of the heel at the outside rear corner is normal.

## Get Carried Away



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# Viewpoints

## To each and all, have a merry Mas

*We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States of America.*

\*\*\*

"Blessings of Liberty." What is the interpretation of those two words? Answer is, "Thank you Lord for aiding in securing our freedom from persecution." Every form of persecution up to and including governmental intolerance of the people's choice of religion. Our farsighted founders of the

Constitution were thanking God for their freedom — and generations thereafter!

"One nation, under God." You know, "Blessings of Liberty" thing again. If it weren't for prayer to the Lord our God to overcome the transgressions created by his royal highness, odds were Old Glory would never have been stitched by Betsy. The miracle of prayer is indeed a miracle, for faith helped our forefathers overcome immense odds in their quest for freedom. I don't know about you, but after prayer, I just feel good — confident. Yeah, must have felt great to go out and whip ole King George's arse! Goliath certainly knows the advantages of prayer, doesn't he, David? Doesn't he,

Israel?

The last words of the oath of office for the President of the United States are "So help me, God." No brainer, you secularists. When will we see the attack on that phrase in the Oath of Office? My bet is, pretty soon. Can you imagine the weight on President Bush's shoulders every night before sleep? It's beyond me, average Joe citizen here. Without prayer, I bet Dubya would be miserable with what is on his agenda. If soldiers dying in a far-off war were the only thing on my plate, I would never arise from prayer.

**Dennis Palmitier**  
Columnist



President Bush acknowledges his faith and where he would be without prayer — how miserable his life would be. With the exception of Jimmy Carter, no president in modern times has relied on prayer more than George W. Bush. I firmly believe the mandate of

President Bush's re-election is to squelch the rise of secularism within our country. The fight has begun. The Ten Commandments. I beseech you, travel to Washington, D.C., and visit the Supreme Court building. In your walk through the building, notice the Roman

numerals I through X carved in stone. What do they represent? They represent the fundamental basis of justice as written in the Preamble. "The Law of Man" as written by the Lord our God, the foundation of our very existence as meant by God. Could the X mean anything else? The answer is a profound "no!" I pray every day with my own personal fight with I through X and maybe, just maybe, I'll get them right one of these days — "So help me, God."

The secular society is at war with religion. This past year has seen more court action against our fundamental right of religion than ever before — Alabama, California, Texas (Houston, Austin, Plano) and

Oklahoma. No, it is not Democrats or Republicans, but secularists that are attempting the takeover of religion. I would like to see the Democratic Party's leaders defend our fundamental rights as President Bush is doing. The Supreme Court, federal courts, state courts, and now, our school districts are afraid of religion. I pray that one day we will have justices that are not afraid to interpret the Constitution as it is written. I pray that one day federal justices will have term limits.

Furthermore, I pray that school districts across our great nation will not succumb to secularism as they have done in Plano (hooray

See MAS, Page 5

## Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2004. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve television broadcast.

On this date:

In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cochin, India.

In 1814, the War of 1812 officially ended as the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium.

*'So if a Christian is touched only once a year, the touching is still worth it, and maybe on some given Christmas, some quiet morning, the touch will take.'*

— Harry Reasoner  
American broadcast journalist (1923-1991)

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tenn., called the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt, to celebrate

the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1920, Enrico Caruso gave his last public performance, singing in Jacques Halevy's "La Juive" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In 1943, President Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces as part of Operation "Overlord."

In 1951, Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera written specifically for television, was first broadcast by NBC TV.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds — one second for each day of captivity.

In 2002, Laci Peterson was reported missing from her Modesto, Calif., home, by her husband, Scott, who was later convicted of murdering her and their unborn son.

Ten years ago: Armed Islamic fundamentalists hijacked an Air France Airbus A-300 carrying 227 passengers at the Algiers airport; three passengers were killed during the siege before the hijackers were killed by French commandos in Marseille two days later. British playwright John Osborne ("Look Back in Anger") died at age 65.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, LET'S PASS ON THE KNUTLEY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR.



## Networks giving us our due

We in the South have been chided, ridiculed, scorned and are generally the objects of fun-poking by the "intelligence" in Eastern and Pacific time zones. Folks on the left and right coasts feel that cutting-edge topics apply only to them. They are the national trend-setters — on the go and in the know. We in Central and Mountain time zones are viewed as but furniture on life's stage.

Poor ole, us. We've been badgered so long by so many. We examine bruises, thinking that we did ride in on turnip trucks over rough roads.

We answer "here" upon hearing words like "country bumpkin, mountaineer, hick and rube." We figure "dumbo" fits many folks outside the circus. We confess to being central figures in those stories of shortages — you know, one grape short of a cluster, one bulb short of a string, one sandwich short of a picnic, etc.

We're somehow faltering under the assault of insinuations and derisions. We feel way behind on the IQ scale. Sadly, it is ours to trudge along, living out lives of geographically challenged mortals. Down deep, we sigh, figuring that second class is better than no class at all.

A joke, e-mailed from California to New York, tells of a pair of bumpkins who married. Their offspring, predictably, is a show-class bumpkin, the object of much ridicule. He grows accus-

tomed to "last in his class" status but somehow manages to graduate.

Friends are shocked when the young man's father brags at church that his son is going to medical school! "What's he gonna study?" friends question.

"Oh, he ain't gonna study nothing," dad answers. "They're going to study him."

Some of us nod. Alas, if there's any studying to be done, we'll be the objects of it, not participants.

Admittedly, the topic is being approached gingerly.

In keeping with Jack Nicholson's suggestion that "we can't handle the truth," I am taking into account that you are stressed by bad news in general and the crush of holidays in particular. Mentioning networks and friends in the same sentence too early in this treatise would be tantamount to suggesting that you skip this week's epistle. So, I move forward ever so slowly.

Media folks have taken much on the chin this year. In some instances, they've led with their chins.

Television had wardrobe malfunctions. A noted news man "got it wrong" and wound up apologizing. Foul-ups big and small abounded. We had too little flu serum, and now we have too much.

We wonder if we're the only people in the world NOT on steroids.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then, just when we're ready to "sign off" on the networks, one of their messages hits home. It seems as a lightning bolt gift from on high, one deserving acknowledgment years ago. It is not one of frankincense and myrrh, nor can it be touched, eaten or smelled. The message is not subliminal and long has begged for dissection. Indeed, the networks extend a gift of affirmation — a tribute to superior intelligence — for those of us

in the Central and Mountain time zones.

If you want to take "getting it right" a step further, the networks believe that the "intelligence" on the east and west coasts is more fragile. It is these folks who need the most help. And TV moguls know that we in the south (and the mountains, too) can extrapolate.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Extrapo-WHAT?" you might ask, figuring if your mama ever caught you at it she'd wash your mouth out with soap or have pa take you to the woodshed. Never mind that we may not know the exact definition; the important thing is that we're good at it.

And the networks know it. They discovered, years ago,

which time zones can handle a barrage of reminders calling for extrapolation.

\*\*\*\*\*

OK, so what in blue blazes am I talking about? Networks are always promoting upcoming sporting events. In these days, when we're in the midst of 29 football bowl games, there are thousands of announcements trumpeting upcoming games with time reminders like: "8 p.m. Eastern, 5 Pacific."

Networks KNOW that we in the middle states can extrapolate — "inferring an unknown from something that is known" — thus determining when to tune in. If they thought people on the coasts could extrapolate, they'd give equal time with alternates like: "6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain."

No, they dare not. This could short circuit folks in the coastal time zones who don't even realize the networks are coddling them. Such flies right over their heads.

The rest of us chuckle with heads held high, trying to remember where we put our Confederate money — just in case the South is rising again.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist. His weekly column appears in more than 100 newspapers in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. He invites comments and inquiries phone 817.447.3872 or e-mail: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

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# Mas

Continued from Page 4

for the state district judge on his decision), and in Oklahoma where the Nativity scene was eliminated from a school play for fear of offending someone and fear of the lawsuit. The citizens of the particular Oklahoma community, I can't recall its name, voted out all school bond improvements wanted by their school board. Next, the chicken-hearted superintendent will go — I pray.

The Constitution of the United States interpreted

by moi, Closet Writer, and I am no scholar of the second greatest document written by man, the Bible being the first.

Remember, God wrote the Ten Commandments, not Moses who did all the sweating over them. It's hard, this ADD thing, but my point is this: The beauty of the Constitution is our freedom to choose or not to choose. Prayer to God is not mandated by the Constitution, not mandated by our government, not mandated by our school districts. Prayer has never been law, but only a right. If a person or student does not want to participate in wor-

ship, they have the right to be excluded. If religious-based candy is not my choice for a gift, I have the right to say, "No, thanks." But others have the right to accept the gift. If an elementary school Christmas Nativity scene might offend a student or three or their parents, they don't have to sit in the audience. If a child's father is offended by her saying "One nation, under God," he has the right to get her to school after the Pledge of Allegiance, not the right to exclude all students from participation. If the Ten Commandments offend a person as he/she walks into

a court house, who is there to force them to read I through X? Walk around them.

I pray that the words written in our Constitution will overcome this attempt by a secular society bent on eradicating our fundamental right as Americans to worship as we please. I pray our school children will make it through school and college fully aware of how our great nation was founded and our right to be thankful for our blessings.

I pray our courts will stop wavering from the words of our Constitution — and the Ten Commandments. And, I pray that my granddaugh-

ter's granddaughter will be able to worship the joy of Christmas, not the joy of mas. And, being the human being that I am, I pray one of these days I'm square with all Ten. Miracles do happen.

Merry Christmas, folks!

\*\*\*

Dennis Palmitier is a Pampa native, a Pampa High School graduate and a pharmaceutical sales representative.

## 'Motor City Madman' Ted Nugent turning Texan

CONCORD, Mich. (AP) — The Motor City Madman is officially turning Texan.

Michigan rocker and hunting activist Ted Nugent says he plans to get a Texas driver's license soon. He said in a phone interview Wednesday that he officially will become a Texas resident

in 2005, after moving his family to Crawford, Texas, about a year and a half ago.

The rock guitarist was at his Michigan house in Concord, near Jackson, during the holidays to prepare for his Whiplash Bash tour.

Nugent said he plans a New Year's hunting excursion

with Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

He said his son, Rocco Nugent, is excelling in the local schools and has done well in sports.

And the hunting in Crawford is great, too, he said.

"Right behind Rocco's school is game! It's a barbecue dream," he said.

Nugent, who said he supports President Bush "100 percent," said his new home is "right around the corner" from Bush's ranch. Nugent

said he is working with the Texas fish and game department, where he writes for a state publication on bow-hunting.

Nugent said he and his wife have started a "Hunters for the Hungry" program there that delivers venison and other game to those who need food.

The second episode of his VH1 TV series, "Surviving Nugent," was shot last spring in Waco, Texas, not far from Crawford.

### Cradle call



### Walker Griffin Porterfield

Walker Griffin Porterfield was born Nov. 24 at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo, to Debi and Nathan Porterfield of Pampa. At birth, the infant weighed 5-pounds, 15-ounces and was 19 1/4-inches long. Relatives include his grandparents, Jake and Patty Griffin and Joyce and David Porterfield; and his great-grandmother, Marjorie Morphew.



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# TDA seeking nominations for its yearly Rural Heroism Award

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs is reminding Texans that Feb. 2, 2005, is the deadline for nominations for the Texas Department of Agriculture's 2004 Rural Heroism Award.

Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2004. The heroic deed

should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents

caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of

the incident and the names, addresses and telephone

See **AWARD**, Page 7

## Merry Christmas

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## Christmas mouser



Pampa News photos by DEE DEE LARAMORE

"Fuzzybutt" sniffs presents at the Pampa Red Cross office recently to see if one of them might be hers. The gray and black tabby belonging to Jana Gregory, executive director, volunteers by catching mice in the storage area and providing relaxation therapy for other Red Cross staff and volunteers. "It's a lot cheaper than an exterminator," Gregory quips.

## All business: Stock bulls back, but for how long?

By RACHEL BECK  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — No wonder investors are so giddy about the stock market lately. It's human nature to let good news supersede that which could be potentially bad.

A surge since late October has lifted the market's major indexes to levels not seen in three years, leaving a decidedly bullish tone on Wall Street. Fueling that climb: retreating oil prices and strong earnings, which seem to be giving investors plenty of reason to buy.

But their focus on today's happenings rather than tomorrow's prospects raises some questions over whether this rally can last. Maybe for some investors, that doesn't matter right now.

Stocks started off strong this year, but then got stuck in a narrow trading range that lasted until about two months ago. Things changed after oil prices fell from their

record high of \$55.17 a barrel in late October. Crude oil futures are now trading around \$45 a barrel.

Also helping to drive shares ahead was the quick resolution to the presidential election, with the business-friendly Bush administration securing a second term in office.

The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index and the Dow Jones industrial average have both gained about 10 percent since late October, while the Nasdaq composite index has shot up nearly 13 percent in that time.

There are plenty of strategists tracking the market

*'The current environment may very well prove to be one of short-term gain and long-term pain.'*

— Francois Trahan  
Chief investment strategist at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.

who believe that this positive turn has staying power. Their view is that lower oil prices should help consumer spending, thus boosting the economy's pace, and even though most see earnings growth slowing next year, companies still have strong balance sheets and solid cash cushions should they run into tougher times.

"Our perspective on this market is that it is firing on all cylinders and has no indication of hitting a top," said Richard A. Dickson, senior market strategist at Lowry's Research Reports in Palm Beach, Fla. "This trend in motion will stay in motion until something big happens to cause it to reverse."

But that sentiment certainly isn't embraced by all, and some market-watchers are more cautious about their look ahead — and think that

investors should be, too.

One concern is that investors are being somewhat shortsighted by just seeing the positive effects of falling oil prices, and not considering that the economic stimulus caused by that decline could spur the Federal Reserve to become more aggressive in its tightening of interest rates.

"The current environment may very well prove to be one of short-term gain and long-term pain," Francois Trahan, chief investment strategist at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., wrote in a recent note to clients.

There is also potential trouble with the falling dollar, which sank to a record low against the euro this year and tumbled against other major currencies. A weak dollar is already spurring foreigners to pare down their holdings of U.S. Treasury securities and there is great worry over whether that will ultimately lead them to retreat from holding equities, too.

A big debate looms over the slowing pace of earnings growth. When the numbers are tallied for 2004, 17 of the

See **BULLS**, Page 7

## Season's Greetings From All Of Us!

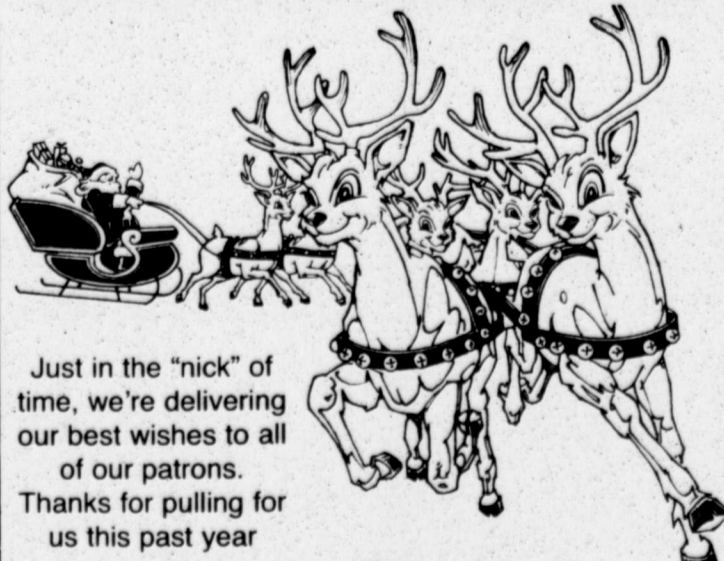
We wouldn't be where we are without a little help from our friends. Merry Christmas and many thanks!



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## Texas

LIVINGS (AP) — As t the cell bloc robber Rich unfamiliar wi "I saw so in," Cobb s wearing cuff: 'Bye! Bye ev "It was re second, it's everybody's t leaves and it drops on eve ders. Everyb Cameron V leaving Tex prison outsid the 45-mile tr and the d where he wo for setting a his three chil Willinghar tion in Febru 23 executio 2004. While the nation's r carrying out ty, the state's from a year average for 1 Texas' overa 336 since resumed in 1 Cobb, c January fo abduction an where three fatally shot, 22 convicted on Texas de That's the s in more th

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## Drilling Intentions

### Intentions to Drill

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.P., #7 Meadows '5', 1980' from South & 2155' from East line, Sec. 5,4,AB&M, PD 13500'. Rule 37

HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) Peak Operating of Texas, L.L.C., #8 Wright '122', 2600' from North & 660' from West line, Sec. 122,41,H&TC, PD 8000'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star, L.P., #407 Cheek, 660' from South & 800' from West line, Sec. 7,1,I&Gn, PD 13500'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & SOUTH HIGGINS Morrow) Peak Operating of Texas, L.L.C., #3050 Dorothy Crane, 660' from North & West line, Sec. 50,42,H&TC, PD 12800'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & ALPAR-LIPS St. Louis)

Latigo Petroleum Texas, L.P., #7 Courson Ranch '158', 1053' from South & 1036' from East line, Sec. 158,13,T&NO, PD 11040'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & COURSON RANCH Hunton) Range Production Co., #22 Tew, 467' from North & 1257' from East line, Sec. 2,44, T.E. White, PD 12000'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & MORRISON RANCH Upper Morrow) Davis Operating Co., Inc., #2183 Morrison, 467' from South & West line, Sec. 183,42,H&TC, PD 12000'. Rule 37

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & PARSELL Lower Morrow) Range Production Co., #3 Parsell Unit 'A', 2374' from North & 1748' from East line, Sec. 33,43,H&TC, PD 11500'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & PARSELL Upper Morrow) Range Production Co., #5 Parsell, 1291' from North &

1511' from West line, Sec. 167,42,H&TC, PD 11500'. WHEELER (WILDCAT & B&B Atoka Granite Wash) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., Reed, PD 16000', for the following wells:

#101, 660' from North & 710' from West line, Sec. 1,—C&M.

#2T, 3000' from North & 1870' from East line, Thomas James Survey.

WHEELER (WILDCAT & STILES RANCH Atoka) Apache Corp., PD 16000', for the following wells:

#2-68 Atherton, 2190' from South & 1980' from East line, Sec. 68,A-7,H&GN.

#4-19 Bartz, 2100' from South & 1980' from West line, Sec. 16,A-3,H&GN.

#2-16 Stiles, 1980' from South & 467' from East line,

See DRILLING, Page 10

## Texas still first in executions in 2004

LIVINGSTON, Texas (AP) — As the new kid on the cell block, condemned robber Richard Cobb was unfamiliar with the routine.

"I saw some guy come in," Cobb said. "He was wearing cuffs. He's yelling: 'Bye! Bye everybody!'"

"It was real weird. One second, it's real loud and everybody's talking. Then he leaves and it's like a weight drops on everybody's shoulders. Everybody gets quiet."

Cameron Willingham was leaving Texas' death row prison outside Livingston for the 45-mile trip to Huntsville and the death chamber, where he would be executed for setting a fire that killed his three children.

Willingham's lethal injection in February was one of 23 executions in Texas in 2004. While Texas remained the nation's most active state carrying out the death penalty, the state's total was down from a year ago and about average for the past decade. Texas' overall total grew to 336 since executions resumed in 1982.

Cobb, condemned in January for a robbery, abduction and sexual assault where three people were fatally shot, was the first of 22 convicted killers to arrive on Texas death row in 2004. That's the smallest number in more than 20 years to

come to death row in Texas in a calendar year.

might have helped Banks' case.

dence and needlessly drugged him during his trial.

A day after he was released, he talked about what it was like to sleep on a good bed, eat a cheeseburger and take a hot bath.

"It's the small things everybody takes for granted," he said of what he missed while in prison. "And when that's taken away from you, it's hard."

Another federal judge threw out a death sentence for Joe Lee Guy, who spent 10 years on death row for a robbery-murder in Lubbock. Guy, who accepted a life sentence, had argued he only was a lookout for two others who got life terms for the slaying.

At the state court level, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, considered by capital punishment opponents a rubber stamp for death sentences, ordered three men removed from death row because the prisoners are mentally retarded and ineligible for execution under a recent Supreme Court ruling.

Sentences for Walter Bell Jr., whose 29 years behind bars for a Port Arthur slaying

See DEATHS, Page 11

*'One thing that obviously affects both juries and prosecutors is an increasing sensibility that the Supreme Court is looking over their shoulder at the American death penalty.'*

— Jordan Steiker

University of Texas Law School professor

"I think there's a national trend toward greater scrutiny of the death penalty," said Jordan Steiker, a University of Texas Law School professor. "One thing that obviously affects both juries and prosecutors is an increasing sensibility that the Supreme Court is looking over their shoulder at the American death penalty."

Early this year, the Supreme Court overturned two Texas death sentences — for LaRoyce Lathair Smith and Robert Tennard — because jurors were not told of the defendants' learning disabilities.

The court also lifted the death sentence of Delma Banks, condemned nearly 25 years ago, and criticized Texas officials and lower courts, saying prosecutors hid crucial information that

And just this month, the high court for a second time heard arguments on whether a nearly all-white Dallas jury unfairly convicted and sentenced to death a black man, Thomas Miller-El, for the 1985 slaying of a motel clerk.

"We've been here almost 20 years," Miller-El said from death row. "Innocence almost doesn't matter at this point when they've taken your whole life away."

Ernest Willis, 59, understands that. In October, Willis walked out of prison a free man — 18 years after he was arrested, convicted and condemned for the deaths of two women in a house fire. Pecos County prosecutors decided not to retry him after a federal judge threw out his conviction in July, saying authorities concealed evi-

## Bulls

Continued from Page 6

24 industry sectors in the S&P 500 are expected to show double-digit earnings growth, and that's only forecast to drop slightly next year.

But as Morgan Stanley U.S. market strategist Henry McVey points out, that "optimism seems somewhat inconsistent" with real gross domestic product growth expected to slip from its projected 4.4 percent pace this year to about 3.7 percent in 2005.

And even if these factors aren't weighing on investors right now, there is some worry that all their recent buying may trump what has historically happened in January, long considered the busiest time for stock purchases all year.

That "January effect," as it is called, generally happens because investors sell underperforming shares — mostly small- and mid-cap stocks — in December for tax purposes, and then resume their buying during the first weeks of January. The Nasdaq composite index, for instance, has delivered positive returns 70 percent of the time in January and has had an average January rise of 3.76 percent over the last 33 years, Trahan said.

But the recent wave of buying has gotten some market-watchers wondering if the "January effect" is taking

place earlier than usual this year. Nasdaq has already surpassed the levels it usually reaches by the end of January, which Trahan said is something that investors should "bear" in mind.

Of course, no one really knows what is driving investors to buy, and no one really knows if this party-like atmosphere will soon end. Like every day on Wall Street, they just need to remember to somehow hedge their bets.

Rachel Beck is the national business columnist for The Associated Press. Write to her at rbeck(at)ap.org

## Peace Be With You

May the Lord watch over you and your flock as together we celebrate the miracle of Christmas.

## WAYNE'S WESTERN WEAR, INC



## Award

Continued from Page 6

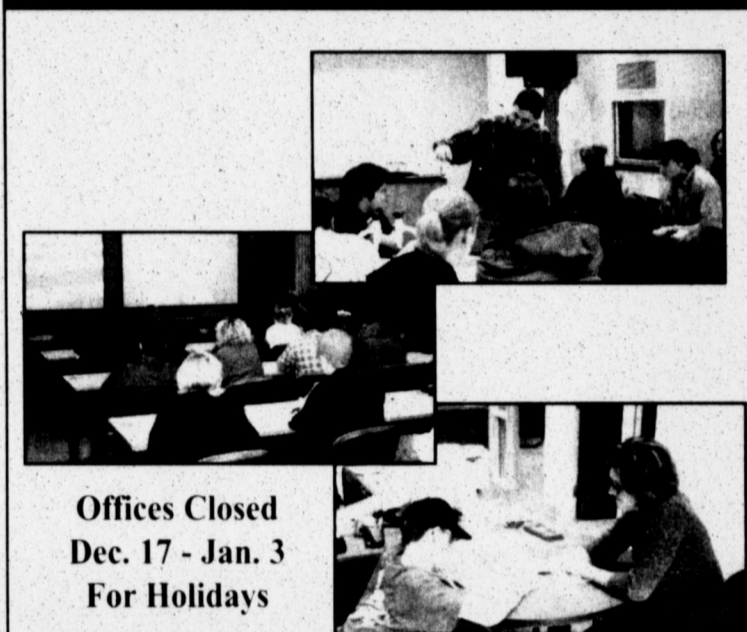
numbers of everyone involved. If available, newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2005, and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA safety coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. For additional information on qualifications, you can contact Lemmon at (512) 475-1611.

The 2004 recipient will be announced March 21 at the Texas Safety Association's Conference and Exposition in San Antonio.

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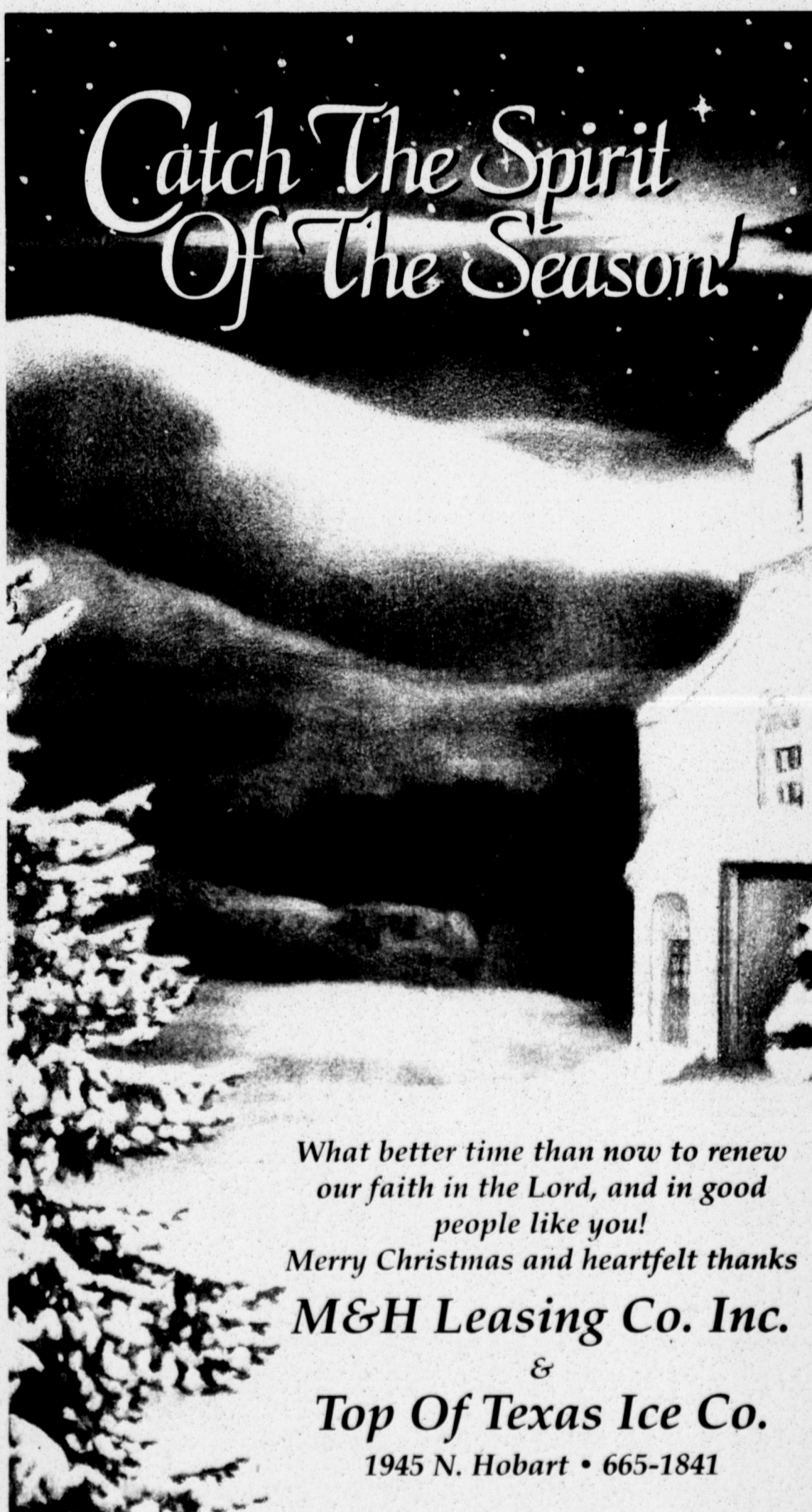
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# JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

## HEBREWS 13:8

**Minist**  
**TH**  
Have die; take Thursday, friend drev breath. It human dri fight and I could do to comfor drew near I had sp of days ea I in the r your time forget one family the band/fathe been a de life. Your moment v your last on truth, like most a loved or Lord and I get there I my seat w We bc Tuesday. I Beginn the fight t Every br staff was were terri for their His wife first had l old. Now his body coped wi

**Holi**  
BOSTO describe h pulpit dur Christmas the Rev. talks "Football." The exc ing in fro crowd is l ing the pri says. So ma attend onl and every service to moving. The McPheete Communi when he s he's just " up about i Sunday. So are leagues. A ministers and small welcome visitors w Christmas These Christian them, coi sons — dragged t

**Chu**  
**First As special**  
First A Church o one serv Dec. 26. meet for at 10:30 special m Tonya Wi Pastor offer a br

**PTCC s comedy AMAF**  
Year's Terrace Singles M will be l dance wi and C Show wi to get ur Dec. 31 Center H Ticket Italian fe For ticl Singles I 353-661



# Religion

## Minister's Musing

### The supper that God changed

Have you ever watched someone die; take their very last breath? Thursday, Dec. 16, I watched as a friend drew closer and closer to his last breath. It is incredible how strong the human drive for life is. I watched him fight and fight and fight and fight. All I could do was watch and pray and try to comfort the family as his passing drew nearer and nearer.

I had spoken with him just a couple of days earlier. When it was just he and I in the room I reminded him: "As your time draws closer don't you dare forget one thing. You have given your family the greatest gift that any husband/father/grandpa can. You have been a devoted Christian most of your life. Your family won't worry for one moment where you are after you take your last breath. And it will be based on truth, not some kind of fairy tale like most people tell themselves when a loved one dies. You will be with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So if you get there before I do, be sure and keep my seat warm for me, OK?"

We both smiled. That was on Tuesday. Everything seemed fine.

Beginning about 1 a.m. on Thursday the fight between life and death began. Every breath was a battle. The ICU staff was magnificent and doctors were terrific. Family members battled for their own resolve to the situation. His wife shared with me when they first had held hands; she was 15 years old. Now she held the same hand, but his body was so weak. Each child coped with the struggle in their own

way. One sang, one talked and the other tried to help her dad be more comfortable.

After several hours, I finally pulled his wife aside and asked for her permission to go ask several friends to pray that God would end his suffering and take him home to heaven. She told me that she had been praying that for quite some time that morning. I returned to my office and sent out an e-mail to several friends who I consider serious prayer warriors. That was Tuesday afternoon.

**The Rev. Mike Sublett**  
Hi-Land Christian



Last night, Friday, Dec. 17, we had a dinner for the whole family at our church. Everyone was peaceful, joyful and enjoying each others company. I just stood in the kitchen and watched with such appreciation at how a family comes together for one another. You may be asking yourself, "Why was everyone so joyful and peaceful?"

Well, God did end his suffering on Tuesday night. How? God brought Carl back from the very brink of death and restored him to life. The man who had been moments from death's door was sitting up and eating ice cream and weakly visiting with family. The doctors don't really have a medical

explanation for what happened and neither do the nurses. Carl just got well.

Of course, every believer knows. God just wasn't finished with his son's earthly assignment yet.

What seemed so certain to be such a somber meal turned into a supper of enjoyment and thanksgiving. I can still see the family just enjoying each other and visiting and laughing.

Now one day my friend's time will come and the dinner then will be less joyful. Not because anyone will be in doubt as to where Carl is; everyone will just be missing him. But on that day I will surely remember last night and how God changed a meal bound for sadness and pain into one of joy and peace. I will recall how God ministered to a family through their genuine relationship with Him.

So since your time will also surely come one day, give yourself and your family the greatest gift anyone can ever receive or give. Fall down before God in repentance over your sin. Then cry out to Jesus and ask Him to save your soul. He will you know. That is why He died on Calvary. Then when your family gathers after your passing, they will be sad, but not filled with despair. And they won't have to lie to themselves that you are in a better place, when you really aren't. They will know the truth; that when you died, you were a real deal, born-again, saved disciple of Jesus Christ. God bless.

## St. Matt's traditional service

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 727 W. Browning Ave., will hold its 57th nativity service on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 at the church. The evening will start out with Christmas caroling and refreshments from 6 until 7 p.m., followed from 7-8 p.m. by Family Christmas Eve Communion Services.

"This year the service will be preceded by a time of singing favorite carols, hot cider, cookies, and birthday cake in the parish hall," a press release from St. Matt's said.

"We will first hear many of the prophecies from Old Testament prophets," the release continues, "about one who was to be sent by God to be the savior of the world, one who would be called Emmanuel or 'God with us.' The fulfillment of these prophecies will be heard in the reading of the nativity narratives from the New Testament.

"All readings will be accompanied by correspon-

ding hymns and carols. The celebrant for this communion service will be the Rev. Mike Ehmer, Canon to the Bishop of Northwest Texas, from Lubbock, assisted by Deacons Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson from Pampa. Music will be provided by Jerry Whitten, organist, choir members and Mark Lang, guitarist."



### Home For The Holidays

Wishing everyone in our fine community a joyous holiday season.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from your friends at the Pampa Senior Citizen's Center

Merry Christmas!

Wherever you go this holiday season, our fond wishes are with you. All the best to our many friends throughout the area! This has been a great year for us, thanks to your generous support.

**PAMPA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

A Christmas Wish For You

May faith guide you and your flock during this holy season, and may peace and joy follow wherever you go. Noel!

**Shepards Crook Nursing**

## Holidays time of greater crowds for many churches

BOSTON (AP) — To describe his feelings at the pulpit during a jam-packed Christmas worship service, the Rev. Paul McPheeters talks "Monday Night Football."

The excitement of speaking in front of a big holiday crowd is like a player's during the prime-time game, he says.

So many worshippers attend only on the holidays, and every preacher wants the service to be memorable and moving.

The result, says McPheeters, of Forestdale Community Church, is that when he stands in the pulpit he's just "a little more jacked up about it" than on a typical Sunday.

So are many of his colleagues. Around the country, ministers in churches big and small are preparing to welcome the annual rush of visitors who attend just on Christmas or Easter.

These "Holiday Christians," as some call them, come for many reasons — whether they're dragged by family members

*'Worship services that don't meet the high expectations are doomed to failure for everyone, but particularly for the guests that are there infrequently.'*

— the Rev. Daniel Benedict  
Director of worship resources at The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship

or attracted to a hopeful message during what can be a time of loneliness.

Pastors and priests say they strive to be friendly, inspirational and clear about the Christmas message of God coming to earth to redeem humanity.

But whether it's music, drama or homilies, church leaders know that whatever they do must be done exceptionally well, said the Rev. Daniel Benedict, director of worship resources at The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship.

"Culturally, the expectations are extremely high for Christmas," he said.

"Worship services that don't meet the high expectations are doomed to failure for everyone, but particularly for the guests that are there infrequently."

Despite its commercialization, Christmas remains a time of personal and spiritual reflection, and that makes people open to the Christian message, said Gerald Mann of the Riverbend Church in Austin, Texas.

"This is the time of year to shine the light on all the dark places in your head," Mann said. "I think it's God's declaration that no matter how secular society gets, you can't kill God."

Pastors say they don't

want holiday visitors to feel guilty because of their infrequent attendance or embarrassed because they're unfamiliar with church rituals. Some churches don't take offerings, so visitors won't feel the church is just after their money.

Others remove religious readings that visitors might be unfamiliar with, or make sure to explain them in church bulletins.

"We don't want people singled out or feeling awkward," said the Rev. Gordon Hugenberger, pastor the historic Park Street Church in Boston. "We're thrilled they're here."

Churches offer a variety of ways to tell the Christmas story, from simple candle-light services to elaborate musical presentations.

For instance, the "Christmas Bursts Into Beauty" presentation at Washington Cathedral in Redmond, Wash., features a live manger scene, soloists and harpists.

## Church briefs

### First Assembly to hold special service on 26th

First Assembly of God Church of Pampa will hold one service only on Sunday, Dec. 26. The church will meet for praise and worship at 10:30 a.m. followed by a special music program with Tonya Witt of Plano.

Pastor Leland Lewis will offer a brief sermon.

### PTCC selling tickets for comedy show, dance

AMARILLO — On New Year's Eve, Paramount Terrace Christian Church Singles Ministry in Amarillo will be having a dinner, a dance and a show. The dance will follow the dinner and Comedy Hypnosis Show with Gerry Kelly set to get under way at 7 p.m. Dec. 31 in Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Room.

Tickets are \$20 apiece. Italian food will be served. For tickets, call PTCC Singles Department at (806) 353-6615.

With Gratitude At The Holidays

Here's wishing you a holiday that's filled with a generous dose of health and happiness. We thank you for your trust in us and look forward to serving you again next year.

**KEYES PHARMACY**  
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To our friends and customers:

Each year during the holiday season, we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and sending a heartfelt message to all our, best friends and customers.

How joyful we are that this time has come again to extend to you sincere gratitude because it is good friends and customers like you that make our business possible.

May your holiday be filled with joy and the coming year be overflowing with all good things in life.

John A., John H., Jack C., Betty J., Chrise & Annie

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# Drilling

Continued from Page 7

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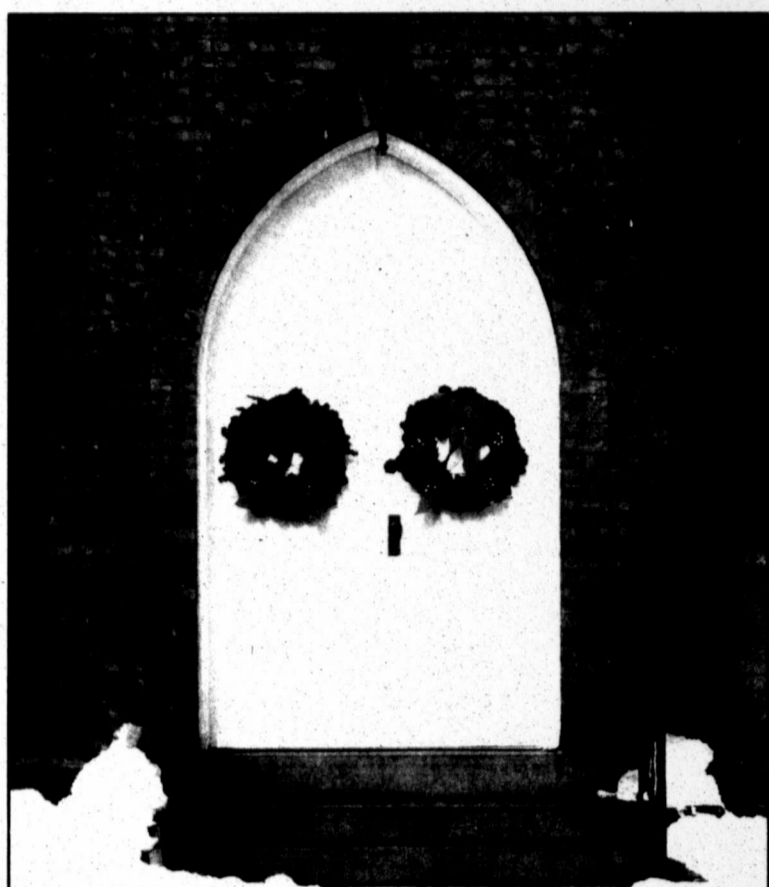
10-22-04, potential 1315 MCF, TD 12165', PBTD 12115' —

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RANCH Granite Wash) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #1021 Bryant, Sec. 21,A-3,H&GN, spud 6-28-04, drlg. compl 7-21-04, tested 10-21-04, potential 1849 MCF, TD 13720', PBTD 13674' — Form 1 in Bravo Natural Resources

WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash) Chesapeake Operating, Inc., #1025 Davis, Sec. 25,052, E.E. Webb, spud 7-26-04, drlg. compl 8-15-04, tested 10-20-04, potential 1300 MCF, TD 13800', PBTD 13701' — Form 1 in Bravo Natural Resources



*Welcome The Season!*

As we welcome Christmas into our hearts and our homes, we'd like to thank all the folks who have made us feel so welcome here.

Have a very joyous Noel.

**PAMPA REALTY**

### Agriculture

## December Texas cattle on feed down by 4 percent from last year, according to TASS

AUSTIN — Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.74 million head on Dec. 1, down 4 percent from a year ago.

According to the monthly report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the estimate was down 5 percent from the Nov. 1 level. Producers placed 320,000 head in commercial feedlots during November, down 27 percent from a year ago, and 51 percent below the October 2004 total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 430,000 head during November, up 5 percent from last year but down 17 percent from the October 2004 total.

On Dec. 1, there were 2.28 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 83 percent of the state's total. The number on feed across the area was down 3 percent from last year, and down 5 percent from the

November total.

October placements in the Northern High Plains totaled 249,000 head, down 55 percent from the October total. Marketings were down 21 percent from last month to 345,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 11.3 million head on Dec. 1, 2004. This inventory was slightly above December 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.74 million head, 10 percent below November 2003. November placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 590,000 head; 600-699 pounds totaled 557,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 326,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 270,000 head. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.63 million head, 6 percent above 2003.

*"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,*

and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,  
Fear not: for, behold.

I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

*Luke 2:9-11*

We hope the holidays find you surrounded by peace and joy.

Thank you for being a loyal customer and friend.

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### Practicing being good

These Christmas "elves" have been working long hours to be good. They are the 4- and 5-year-old class of Linda Bodie, part of "Mother's Day Out" at First Christian Church. Pictured: (left-right) Lexi, Brittney, Alexander, Dylan, Brennen, Reece and Burkley.

*This year we're trimming our tree with*

**JOY  
LOVE  
PEACE  
FAITH  
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WASHINGTON — Combative battles, ethical Texas corruption raised Leader Tom profile so mu he couldn't nipped-and-t without maki

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# Controversy gave DeLay larger public image

WASHINGTON (AP) — Combative congressional battles, ethical lapses and a Texas corruption investigation raised House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's public profile so much in 2004 that he couldn't even bat his nipped-and-tucked eyelids without making news.

The Sugar Land Republican, who's arm-twisting for votes to push the GOP agenda earned him the nickname "The Hammer," received back-to-back admonishments by the House ethics committee just after three of his close associates were indicted in connection with campaign finance irregularities linked to DeLay's national political committee.

The negative publicity reached a peak after the November elections, when House Republicans changed a party rule so DeLay, the No. 2 ranking House member, would not have to step aside as majority leader if indicted in Texas.

The move triggered numerous negative editorials and critical commentary, but it also showed the extent of loyalty to DeLay.

The intense spotlight on DeLay was even more evident when the 57-year-old's October surgery to lift his droopy eyelids was reported nationally. DeLay said he needed the surgery to help him see better.

By Republican standards, DeLay marked a few accomplishments during the year. He helped smooth resistance within his own party to win passage of an intelligence bill back by President Bush.

He moved forward a \$146 billion corporate tax break bill. He helped get three middle-class tax credits extended. And, as the architect of a

redistricting plan in Texas that drove four Democrats from office, DeLay assured Republicans of a net national gain of seats in the November elections.

"People were able to cut right through all that nonsense and vote on what's important to them rather than what's important" to Democrats, said DeLay spokesman Jonathan Grella.

But the ethical lapses and ongoing Texas investigation cast a shadow over DeLay's achievements.

"It seems to me it's both a wonderful and awful year," said Lou DuBose, co-author of "The Hammer," a critical book on DeLay that was published this year. "He expanded his majority by picking up the seats in Texas. But I think the question is how much scandal can a leadership bear and stand?"

DeLay started the year with an early victory when longtime Democrat Rep. Ralph Hall of Rockwall switched parties.

Hall's switch allowed DeLay to brag the GOP had won a seat in Texas without an election thanks to the 2003 redrawing of congressional districts, which he orchestrated to give an edge to Republican candidates.

The redistricting payoff was evident Nov. 2 when Texas Republicans defeated four incumbent Democrats, including Martin Frost of Arlington, DeLay's nemesis. Texas now has the largest GOP delegation in the country and the four Texas freshman are conservatives who

owe credit for their election to DeLay.

Democrats tried linking Republican opponents to DeLay as an election strategy. "They lost miserably," Grella said. "They put all their eggs in that basket and it didn't work."

But DeLay's redistricting plan came back to haunt him. Freshman Rep. Chris Bell, a Houston Democrat who lost the primary election in his newly-drawn district, filed an ethics complaint that accused DeLay of taking

future actions to assure that you are in full compliance with ... House rules and standards of conduct."

Just before the ethics decisions, a Texas grand jury indicted three DeLay operatives and eight corporations as part of a two-year investigation into the role of corporate money in the 2002 legislative elections.

The GOP needed to win a majority of seats to help push through the 2003 redistricting plan, which would help Republicans win a majority in Congress. Both happened.

Jim Ellis, who operates DeLay's Americans For A Republican Majority

political committee, was among those indicted. DeLay has used the committee to give out thousands of dollars to Republican candidates, who in turn have become his loyal supporters in the House.

DeLay has not been subpoenaed or faced any allegations in the investigation, but the grand jury hasn't finished its work. So, the House made a decision to repeal a rule that automatically required party leaders or committee chairmen to step down if they are indicted on a felony charge. The new rule provides for a case-by-case review.

Also, the ethics complaint filed by Bell alleged DeLay was involved in a money

laundering scheme in connection with the corporate campaign contributions under investigation in Texas. The ethics committee deferred action on that allegation pending the outcome of the grand jury investigation.

"He really didn't have any great desire to have this kind of profile, especially on ethics issues," said Norman Ornstein, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute and frequent DeLay critic. "He's been very sensitive to it, not so sensitive that he stopped ... the move to change the rule that applied only to him."

DeLay has said the history of the Republican majority may be defined by what is accomplished in the 109th Congress that convenes Jan. 4.

"I believe the 109th Congress ... should show the world not that Republicans can govern the United States, but that the American people believe Republicans should," DeLay said after the November elections.

But the ongoing Texas investigation could end up providing an entirely different definition.

"DeLay is very secure within the Republican caucus," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "If he is ever brought down, it will be on the account of the many enemies he's made in Democratic Party, in the press and his own home state."

*'It seems to me it's both a wonderful and awful year.'*

— Lou DuBose  
Writer

bribes, money laundering and giving special favors to Republican donors.

The House ethics committee said the complaint was filled with exaggerations, but it did admonish DeLay for appearing to link political donations by a Kansas Corporation, Westar Energy, to legislative assistance on an energy bill, and for improperly involving federal authorities in a search for a private plane Democrats used to flee Texas during the Legislature's 2003 redistricting fight.

Those rebukes came just six days after the ethics committee admonished DeLay for offering to support the House candidacy of a Michigan lawmaker's son, in return for the lawmaker's vote for a Medicare prescription drug benefit bill.

The committee told DeLay, "it is clearly necessary for you to temper your

criminal justice professor who has joined death penalty protesters outside the Huntsville Unit.

He said the stays of Kunkle and Newton were encouraging, but they may give death penalty opponents false hope because the courts could later decide to go ahead with the executions. When the Supreme Court lifted Kunkle's reprieve, for example, a new January execution date was quickly set by a judge in Nueces County.

At least four death dates were put off for inmates who were condemned for slayings committed when they were 17. The constitutionality of the death penalty for offenders at that young age

is under review by the Supreme Court, whose ruling expected next year will affect more than two dozen Texas death row inmates.

At least nine executions already are scheduled for 2005, including four in January.

"You can't run from your mistakes forever," said James Porter, who has dropped his appeals and is volunteering to die Jan. 4 for killing a fellow prison inmate 3 1/2 years ago. "I'm at a real peace."

On the Net:  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Death Row Information: [www.tdcj.state.tx.us/stat/deathrow.htm](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/stat/deathrow.htm)

## Deaths

Continued from Page 7

make him the dean of Texas' death row, and Alberto Valdez, condemned for the shooting death of a Corpus Christi police officer, were reduced to life in prison. The court also commuted the death sentence for Willie Mack Modden, convicted of the 1984 killing of a Lufkin woman.

In another case, the conviction and death sentence of Kenneth Vodochodsky, found guilty in the 1999 slaying of an Atascosa County sheriff's deputy, was thrown out because of weak evidence.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, also a target of death penalty critics who brand it as unsympathetic to condemned prisoners, recommended in May that mentally ill convicted murderer Kelsey Patterson be spared. Gov. Rick Perry rejected the recommendation and Patterson was executed.

Then late last month, the panel sent to Perry a recommendation that Frances Newton, who would have been the first black woman executed in Texas, be spared for four months while her new lawyers investigate her case. Perry said he found no evidence of innocence but agreed to the postponement.

The reprieve came two weeks after condemned prisoner Troy Kunkle avoided the death chamber for a second time this year when the Supreme Court stopped his execution about 40 minutes before he was scheduled to die. His lawyers raised concerns that jurors weren't allowed to fully consider Kunkle's troubled background in deliberations nearly 20 years ago.

"There seems to be, at the end of the year, a sense of hope among those of us who have concerns about the death penalty system," said Dennis Longmire, a Sam Houston State University

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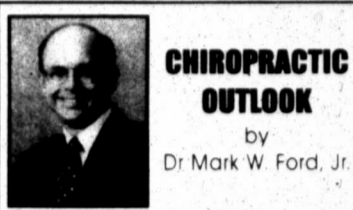
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# Medical



**CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK**  
by  
Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.

**HIT THE SLOPES IN A HEALTHY WAY**

You have just returned from a ski trip and your neck feels terrible. What can you do to relieve the pain next time you go out on the slopes? Just like every other sport, you need to exercise regularly before heading downhill. This regimen should include strengthening exercises for the upper legs and calves and stretching to improve muscle flexibility. More importantly, you should have routine chiropractic care to maintain the integrity and elasticity of the muscles and spinal column.

A series of chiropractic adjustments before your ski trip can greatly reduce the risk of accidents. You may lose mobility and dexterity when your spine becomes misaligned, because the muscles in the lower back, legs and knees do not function at maximum capacity. The muscles, which are forced to work against the body instead of with it, can become very tired and fail to move as rapidly as they should. This can lead to unfortunate injuries and unnecessary pain.

If you accidentally fall with a misaligned spine, more damage may be incurred since the muscles have less mobility and elasticity to provide support. A minor injury can instead become much more serious because the body cannot sustain the fall or the neck and upper back twists awkwardly. Just a half hour with a chiropractor can provide the prevention you require.

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**Activity**



**Calcium Vitamin D**

**How will your bones stand test of time?**

(NAPSA) — The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that by 2020, half of the American citizens older than 50 will be at risk for fractures from osteoporosis and low bone mass. Ten million Americans over the age of 50 have osteoporosis, the most common bone disease, while another 34 million are at risk for developing osteoporosis. And each year, roughly 1.5 million people suffer a bone fracture related to osteoporosis.

The good news is that you can protect yourself against osteoporosis. The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists has outlined several basic preventative measures to help you maximize your peak bone mass, avoid bone loss and prevent fractures. The following can help reduce your risk of osteoporosis:

Say "No" to Extra Joe. Drinking more than three

See BONES, Page 13

**Medical news**

**Half of patients with aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may not receive enough treatment**

(NAPSA) — With advances in cancer treatment, survival is now a reality for the thousands of people diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and other cancers each year. But a new study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology reveals an alarming trend in NHL treatment — approximately half of patients with aggressive and potentially curable NHL fail to receive their full, recommended dose of chemotherapy. Similar results were observed in a study of nearly 20,000 patients with early-stage breast cancer that were revealed last year.

"The data point to a troubling trend in the treatment of patients with aggressive and potentially curable NHL. Far too many patients are not receiving the chemotherapy doses they need in order to have the best chance for remission or cure," said Gary H. Lyman, M.D., M.P.H., of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center and lead author of the study.

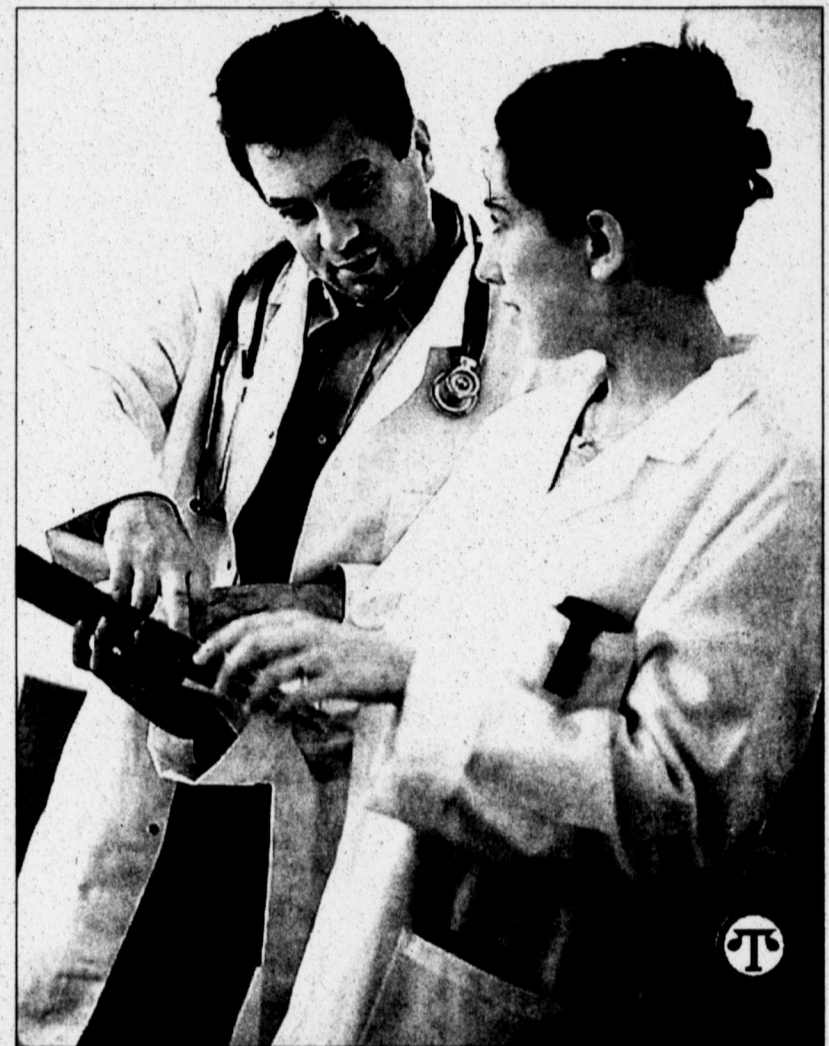
Previous studies have shown that receiving less than 85 percent of the dose of chemotherapy recommended by national guidelines can result in lower response and survival rates for NHL patients.

According to the study,

one of the primary reasons for physicians reducing the dose and delaying the schedule of chemotherapy was neutropenia, a shortage of infection-fighting white blood cells, a common side effect of chemotherapy. Chemotherapy drugs are designed to kill the cancerous cells, but unfortunately, these drugs also kill healthy cells — including white blood cells. When a patient develops a low white blood cell count, chemotherapy must often be delayed, or the dose reduced, to avoid infection and allow the body's white blood cells to replenish.

However, a low white blood cell count can be prevented through the use of a white blood cell booster. Even though these treatments are available, the study found that only half of patients (54 percent) received a white blood cell booster at some point during the course of chemotherapy and only 12 percent of patients received a white blood cell booster preventatively, to protect patients before white blood cell counts dropped too low.

White blood cell boosters



**A new study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology reveals an alarming trend in NHL treatment — approximately half of patients with aggressive and potentially curable NHL fail to receive their full, recommended dose of chemotherapy.**

help protect patients from prolonged severe neutropenia and the risk of infection. By taking these white blood cell boosters at the beginning of their chemotherapy regimen, patients can pro-

tect themselves from a dangerously low white blood cell count which can help prevent unnecessary delays or reductions in chemotherapy doses.

**USDA says soy found to help lower risk of heart disease**

(NAPSA) — If you feel like attempts at improving your heart health have been in vain, try this tip: Have some soy.

The USDA has said that getting more soy in your diet can reduce your risk of heart disease. The news is significant considering that cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attacks and strokes, is the number-one killer of men and women in the U.S. Some experts even estimate that as many as 140 million Americans are at risk for heart disease, or one out of every two people.

Unfortunately, because you can't "feel" high cholesterol levels, most people don't learn of their condition until it has the chance to progress.

**What Causes Heart Disease?**

Heart disease has a number of causes, including:

- High cholesterol and blood pressure
- A high-saturated-fat, high-cholesterol diet
- Being overweight or physically inactive
- Diabetes
- Age, sex and family history
- Smoking.

While many of the causes are related



**Eating more soy may help lower your risk of heart disease.**

to lifestyle, some are less controllable. That's where soy comes in.

The Role Of Soy  
Studies show that soy lowers total LDL, or "bad" cholesterol (which can be caused by genetics), and that it may raise HDL or "good" cholesterol. It has also been linked with lower triglyceride levels. The FDA and American Heart Association agree that soy should be included in a heart-healthy, low-fat, low-cholesterol diet.

**The Science Of Soy**

Initially, attention was drawn to the benefits of soy after data revealed significantly lower mortality rates from cardiovascular disease in Asian populations with soy-rich diets. The studies piqued the FDA's interest, and after years of reviewing almost 40 studies on soy and cholesterol, the group concluded that diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol that include 25 grams of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease. Shortly following the FDA's official claim regarding soy and heart health, the American Heart Association joined the FDA in urging Americans to eat more soy.

**Soy Sources**

The easiest way to add more soy to your diet may be with supplements. There are a variety of high soy protein products available, which makes it easy to get the 25 grams of soy protein the FDA recommends. For example, one Revival Soy Low Carb Chocolate Raspberry Zing bar (19 grams) and one bag of baked pasta soy chips (7 grams) provide a total of 26 grams of soy protein in only two servings.

For more information on soy's benefits, go to [www.soy.com](http://www.soy.com).

**Study: High tech medical records, tracking yield better care**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Health providers that adopt computerized records and tracking systems do a better job of getting patients the

care they need, a study suggests. The study found that patients in the Veterans Affairs system — where

doctors nationwide have electronic access to everything from old treatment notes to recent X-rays — received 67 percent of the recommended care for their conditions.

Patients in a comparison group of non-VA outlets, some with insurance and some without, received just 51 percent of the care recommended.

Most non-VA hospitals, doctor's offices, HMOs, public health clinics and other facilities trail the agency in the use of electronic access to patient histories, the study's authors said.

The study appears in Tuesday's issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine. "I think there are lessons for the rest of the country's health care system. The VA's built an information superhighway," said the lead author, Dr. Steven M. Asch, a researcher at a VA center in Los Angeles.

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## 2004 great year for cattle raisers

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Consumers continued to scarf up steaks and burgers in 2004 even in the aftermath of the country's first-ever mad cow case and Texas beef producers weathered temporary price drops at auctions and commodity markets.

"This has been a humdinger of a year considering we started out with the announcement of a (mad cow) case that certainly set the markets on a rollercoaster and one that had breathtaking drops for a bit," said

jected to be the largest on record at \$70 billion, up \$8 billion from 2003.

The growth came despite heavier than normal rainfall that hurt some crops, but healed long-parched rangelands, which will encourage ranchers to expand herds.

"The moisture has certainly turned the corner," Brockman said. "I can't imagine many producers saying the drought hasn't been broken, and '05 is one we look forward to with great anticipation."

But the big news of 2004 for cattle producers was mad cow. In the only confirmed U.S. case, a Canadian-born Holstein was found to have been infected in Washington state in December 2003. That led to more than 40 countries cutting off imports of U.S. beef and the slaughter

of more than 700 additional cattle in Washington state, Oregon and Idaho as a precaution.

Japan, one of the country's largest export markets, tentatively agreed in October to begin accepting U.S. beef again but only animals younger than 21 months. Imports of U.S. beef products from older animals could resume after July 2005.

Exports account for about \$3.8 billion of America's \$40 billion a year beef production industry.

Jim McAdams, a fourth-generation cattle rancher southeast of San Antonio and president-elect of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said while the export business fell, Americans ate more beef — making 2004 possibly one of the best for producers in years.

*'The moisture has certainly turned the corner.'*

— Matt Brockman  
TSWCRA spokesman

Matt Brockman, spokesman for the Fort Worth-based Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Mad cow disease, which attacks an animal's nervous system, is also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. People who eat food contaminated with mad cow can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

In Texas, the nation's largest beef producing state, and elsewhere, consumers' fears about mad cow were allayed by an expanded national testing program and movement toward a national cattle identification system, Brockman said.

Those steps, combined with a protein-heavy regime in the popular Atkins and South Beach diets, kept beef consumption high. Domestic beef sales in 2004 are pro-

## Christmas 'elves'



◀ Santa "Elves" from First Christian Church recently visited the residents of Meredith House. Pictured here with residents are the 4- and 5-year-old class of Linda Bodie. From left to right are Dylan, Brittney, Alexander, Brennen, Lexi, Reece and Burkley.

## Menus

Week of December 27-31

- Senior Citizens**
- MONDAY**  
Chicken fried steak or chicken breast/wild rice, mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, cheese hominy, beans, marble cake or banana pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
- TUESDAY**  
Stir fry chicken/rice or Swiss steak, onion potatoes, corn cobbettes, spinach, pinto beans, strawberry cake or chocolate icebox pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
- WEDNESDAY**  
Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, carrots, beans, cinnamon swirl cake or butterscotch pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
- THURSDAY**  
Chicken strips or ham/fruit sauce, sour cream potatoes, turnip greens, blackeyed peas, carrot cake or pineapple squares, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
- FRIDAY**  
Catfish/hushpuppies or Swedish meatballs/noodles, potato wedges, broccoli spears/cheese, beans, brownies or tapioca cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, garlic bread sticks, hot rolls or cornbread.
- Meals On Wheels**
- MONDAY**  
Pork roast, green beans/tomatoes, pineapple cornbread salad.
- TUESDAY**  
Chicken spaghetti, pickled beets, peas, apricots.
- WEDNESDAY**  
Sausage/cabbage, black-eyed peas, fried potatoes, pineapple.
- THURSDAY**  
Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, autumn salad.
- FRIDAY**  
Holiday.

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## Bones

Continued from Page 12

cups of coffee a day can rob bones of calcium.

Get Your Daily C's (and D's). A diet rich in calcium and vitamin D is important. Good sources of calcium include low-fat yogurt, skim milk, cheese and salmon; fortified foods and sunlight provide vitamin D.

Don't Smoke. Smoking wreaks havoc on your bones by limiting your body's ability to absorb calcium.

Move It. Regular exercise can reduce your risk of falling by improving balance, muscle strength, and flexibility; walking or stair climbing can strengthen the bones in your legs, lower spine and hips.

So how can you plan your day to incorporate bone-loss prevention? It's simple. Start your day with 30 minutes of walking. Have a bowl of cereal with milk (it doesn't matter what kind — they're all good sources) and a glass of calcium-fortified orange juice. For lunch, include a slice of cheese on your sandwich. If you're worried about calories, skip the chips and add the cheese. Also, eat outside to get vitamin D from the sunlight. Dinner can include a spinach salad and a side of broccoli to round out the day. Spend the evening moving throughout the house instead of being a couch potato.

For more information on osteoporosis, visit the AACE Web sites at [www.aace.com](http://www.aace.com) or [www.powerofprevention.com](http://www.powerofprevention.com).

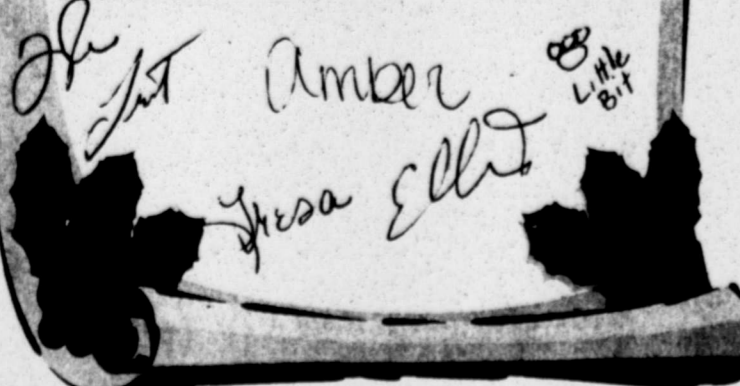
## Good Old-Fashioned Christmas Wishes

We hope you and your loved ones celebrate a warm and happy holiday together. May health and good fortune follow you throughout the new year.

Thanks for placing your trust in us. We look forward to a bright future together.

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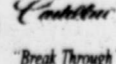
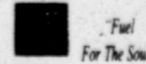
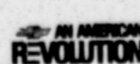
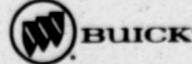
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## HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE WHOLE GANG!

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# Sports Day

## Cowboys-Redskins game does have some meaning

*Sky high*

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Just because the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins are both 5-9, don't automatically dismiss their matchup Sunday as a meaningless game. Grab a cup of eggnog and consider some of the things that will be on the line.

Technically, both teams are still in the playoff chase, something the Redskins are actually taking seriously. To get one of the two wild cards, they must climb past four teams with better records and six more with the same record, including Dallas.

"Every game from here on out is going to be like a playoff game for us," Washington linebacker Marcus Washington said.

This is the second-to-last chance for players on

both teams to prove themselves. It could be a free agent-to-be looking to pad his resume with more stats and highlights, a rookie trying to move up the depth chart or a fringe player hoping to show he belongs in the league.

"I want to make sure I have a job," Dallas center Al Johnson said. "A true competitor is going to play to win no matter what the situation is."

The Cowboys and Redskins also have been known to go together like the Hatfields and the McCoys. It's easy to see how that might be forgotten considering Dallas has won the last three meetings and 13 of 14.

"At some point you have to start winning games for it to be a rivalry," Washington

coach Joe Gibbs said.

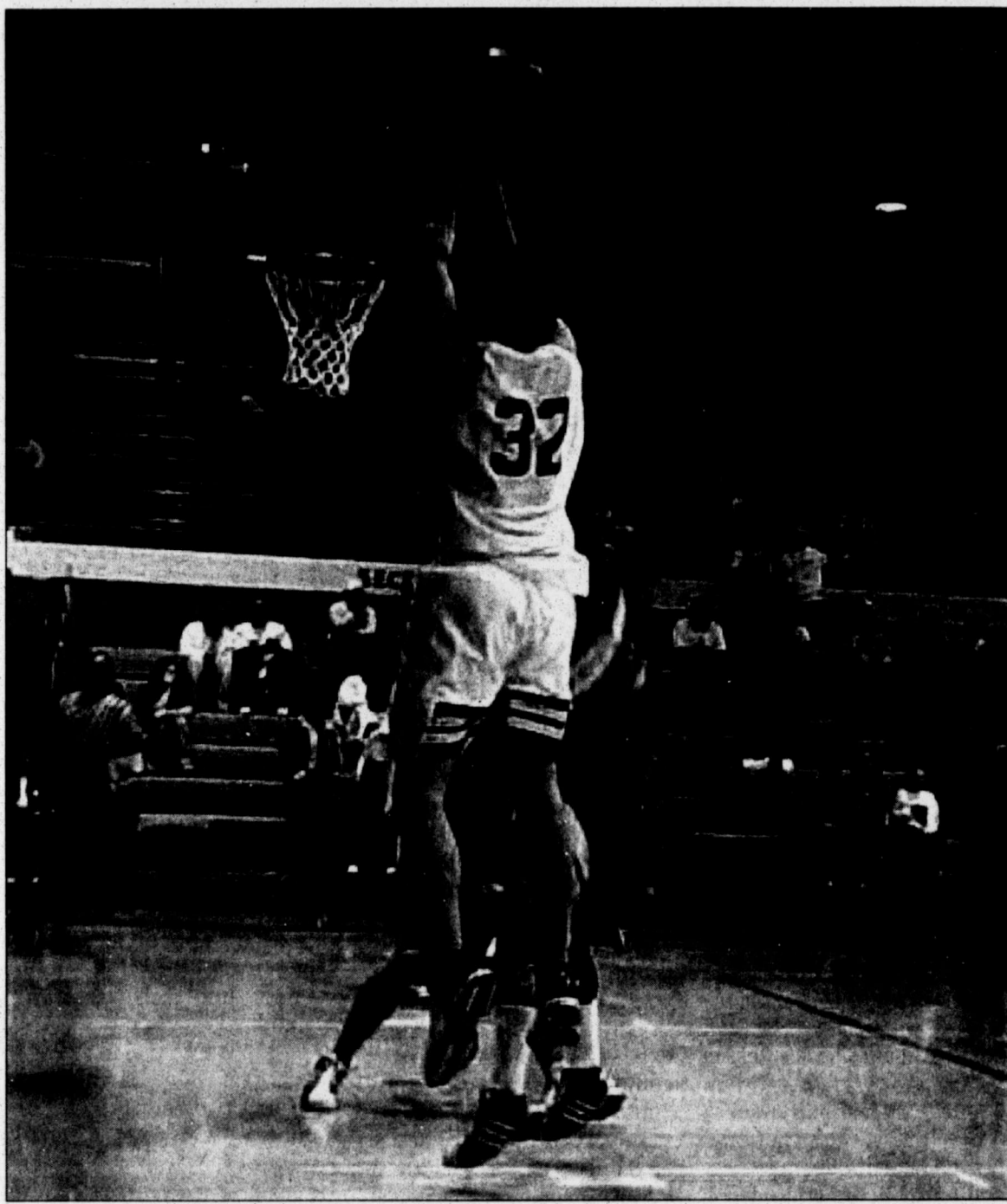
Perhaps Gibbs returning to Texas Stadium for the first time since the 1992 opener will stir up the kind of feelings best expressed by Tom Landry in the classic commercial that depicted him "surrounded by ... Redskins."

There's also the quirky saga of Dallas' starting quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who could have one eye looking over his shoulder to see when coach Bill Parcells will send in backup Tony Romo for the first snap of his two-year career, the other eye scanning his offensive linemen to make sure everyone really wants to be out there against a tough defense the day after Christmas.

"They're basically protecting you from being in harm's way," Testaverde said. "When you reach a certain point in the year, you're worried a little more about the players and make sure they're on top of their game."

OK, so maybe it's not as hype-worthy as NFL schedulers hoped when they put the second Gibbs-Parcells matchup in the late-afternoon slot on the final Sunday of 2004. (The first, by the way, was featured on a Monday night back in September.)

See COWBOYS, Page 15



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa junior Jarett Kotara, #32, fires off a short jump shot over a Bulldog defender During Monday night's win over Plainview. Kotara and his Pampa Harvester teammates are preparing for the Milk Cow Classic in Clovis next Monday through Wednesday. Pampa is scheduled to play Abilene Cooper at 10:45 a.m. Monday morning.



### PAMPA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### HARVESTER BOY'S BASKETBALL MON. - WED. • DEC. 27-29

Varsity Boys vs. Abilene Cooper in Clovis for the Milk Cow Classic  
1st Game • 10:45 am

#### HARVESTER GIRL'S BASKETBALL THURS. & FRI. • DEC. 29-31

Varsity Girls in Lubbock for the Caprock Tournament • TBA

### AWAITING THE NEXT HEAD HARVESTER

## Pampa should soon know identity of next head coach

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

We should know soon who will be pacing the side lines for the Pampa Harvester football program next year.

Indications are that an offer has been made and a reply imminent. One source close to the search suggested the new coach wanted to meet with his current staff and players to inform them of his decision before he is officially introduced as the next Pampa High School football coach.

When asked if he or she would like to let the cat out of the bag, the source

replied, "No."

It was thought Parker's replacement would possibly be named by Christmas. However, his name may not be known until after the first of the year.

Though there are a handful of qualified candidates capable of taking over the Harvester post, it is more important to find one who is worthy. One such name thought to be under consideration by many - provided a hiring from within the current coaching staff is unlikely - is Levelland's Brad Thiessen. The former Stratford Elk head coach has a solid resume and

could be the man who takes the Harvester program to its next level. And it wouldn't take him long. It is not like there is a great deal of rebuilding to do here. Sure, there are the graduating seniors, but there is also a tried-and-true support system in place here.

Just as coach Cavalier did for him, Parker leaves behind a program primed to excel. A program based on a philosophy.

If the next man can accept and adhere to this while infusing his knowledge and personality, Pampa could be the ideal coaching job, whoever he may be.

We will be closed  
Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Come in Tuesday for a  
super store-wide  
clearance sale.

**HOLMES**



304 S. Cuyler est. 1962 665-2631

Thanks for Coming  
'Round this Year!

May the coming season bring renewal, growth  
and good times to you and your loved ones, just as  
you have brought us so much joy this past year.

Merry Christmas!

West Texas Landscape & Nursery  
120 S. Hobart ~ 669-0158

## Vick becomes richest player in NFL

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — Michael Vick became the richest player in the NFL, signing a 10-year, \$130 million contract extension with Atlanta that guarantees him an NFL-record \$37 million in bonuses.

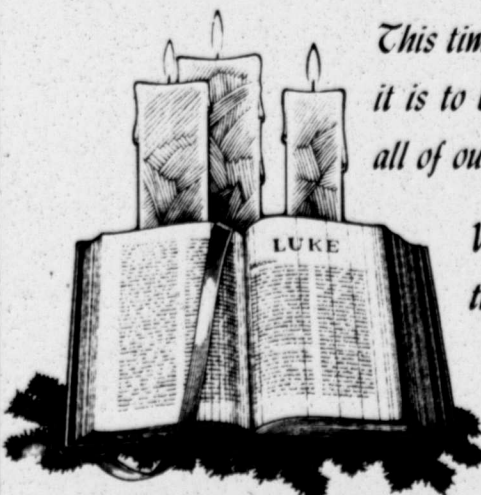
Vick's contract surpasses the \$98 million deal Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning signed in March — although

Manning's contract is for seven years. Manning was guaranteed \$34.5 million in bonuses.

The No. 1 overall draft pick in 2001, Vick has a 24-12-1 career record. He is 14-4 since returning from a broken ankle last year, and this season led the Falcons to just the third division title in franchise history.

## From Our Home To Yours!

On this Christmas Holiday, our family would like to take this opportunity to thank our special friends, and our customers for your continued support.



This time of year serves as a reminder of how important it is to be thankful for what we have and how important all of our personal and professional relationships are.

We hope the Holiday season is enjoyable and beautiful for you and your family.

Merry Christmas... Kelly & Lana Miller  
and the family of Jiffy Cleaners

## Jagu

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Houston and Jacksonville are both in a race for much of the Jacksonville Jaguars' playoff spots.

The Jaguars' pace in the picture and the playoff spots. And the "We're a guy playing ground play defensive." "Above and beyond have guaranteed son, so we're to be selling."

The Texas spoiler again are vying for a berth since "We've where we everyone Leftwich's good football games."

But win Although which Baltimore and Buffalo

## BCS V Colleg

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It's already electrocuted spindled, most recent roller. But the monster again, con

The BCS I Dr. Frank suits with Champion creation, that's only has turned ocrites, for gas and anything football "Backfield

But the Bloodied this week would not determinin commissio Mike Tran reincarnati meets in A

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## Jaguars need win, help for postseason berth

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Houston and Jacksonville are playing for much different things Sunday.

The Jaguars need a victory to keep pace in the crowded AFC wild-card picture and possibly even clinch a playoff spot.

And the Texans?  
 "We're playing for the same thing a guy playing basketball on the playground plays for — pride and respect," defensive lineman Seth Payne said. "Above and beyond all that, none of us have guaranteed contracts for next season, so we're playing so we don't have to be selling insurance next year."

The Texans (6-8) also could play spoiler against the Jaguars (8-6), who are vying for their first postseason berth since 1999.

"We've put ourselves in a position where we don't have to worry about everyone else," quarterback Byron Leftwich said. "We just need to play good football and continue to win games."

But winning might not be enough. Although there is a scenario in which Baltimore, Jacksonville, Denver and Buffalo could finish tied for the

final wild-card spot and the Jaguars would win the tiebreaker, a more probable — and much simpler — calculation for the Jags would be to win out and have the Ravens lose at Pittsburgh on Sunday.

*'We're playing for the same thing a guy playing basketball on the playground plays for — pride and respect.'*

— Seth Paynen  
 DL, Houston Texans

The Jags also can clinch a playoff spot Sunday with a victory and losses by the Ravens, Broncos and Bills.

"We recognize there are different things that would benefit us, but I think the biggest thing that benefits us is to focus on winning Sunday and then beyond that continuing to win," coach

Jack Del Rio said.

Del Rio said he doesn't plan on checking the scoreboard and joked that maybe he should try to ban updates from the Ravens-Steelers game.

That won't happen, and some players acknowledged that they might peek at the score of "the other game" during timeouts or between quarters. And who could blame them? After all, this is a team that has been virtually out of the playoff hunt at this point in each of the last four years.

"When you have an opportunity to move on, you have to take advantage of it," Leftwich said. "This time last year, we weren't even close. To be in it, it's a whole lot more fun than where we were last year."

The Texans also have improved from last season — they swept Tennessee, beat Jacksonville in late October and played Indianapolis close two weeks ago — but not enough to make the postseason in their third year.

"I think we still have an awful lot to play for," coach Dom Capers said. "I look at our division record and I look at the chance for us to play for a non-lossing season."

## Spurs drop Wolves 96-82

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Manu Ginobili scored 22 points, and the San Antonio Spurs held Kevin Garnett to just one second-half basket in their 96-82 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday night.

The Spurs, who trailed by double digits in the first half, made 11 of their 18 shots in the fourth quarter to break open a tie game. Minnesota, which shot 53 percent in the first half, made only three of 14 shots in the period.

## Cowboys

Continued from Page 14

But this game does offer some genuine intrigue.

The Redskins are playing better than they have all season, an indication Gibbs is finally starting to get things going in the right direction. They've won two of three, with the only exception a tight loss against Philadelphia.

The offense has improved since Patrick Ramsey took over five games ago and the defense is third best in the NFL at stopping the run. It got another boost last week with the return of linebacker LaVar Arrington.

Keeping this roll going against the Cowboys would certainly thrill Redskins fans, starting with the most important one, owner Daniel Snyder. Remember, Gibbs' predecessor Steve Spurrier vowed to beat Dallas for Snyder the day he was hired, then gave him a game ball when it happened.

Washington came close in the first meeting, getting into position for a tying field goal in the closing seconds when receiver Rod Gardner was tackled in bounds; time ran out because the Redskins couldn't stop the clock. The Cowboys nearly blew a late 11-point lead, but won 21-18.

"Dallas has always been a big deal here," Gibbs said. "We would like to play well against them and we haven't. We have to somehow find a way to get that

turned around."

Parcells can understand the frustration. He's been trying to turn around the Cowboys' season since October.

Dallas was building toward a December run until losing at home to New Orleans. The Cowboys rebounded last Sunday with a tight game against Philadelphia, but the loss guaranteed a losing season — their fourth in five years and the first for Parcells in his second season with a team.

He still has an outside chance of keeping alive his streak of making the playoffs in every Year 2. Even if it happens, he'll consider this season a disappointment.

"I feel like we certainly had our opportunities," he said. "One hundred percent of the teams in the NFC have had that."

## BCS WILL SURVIVE

### College football's B-movie horror classic: The BCS still lives!

By JIM LITKE  
 Associated Press

We're at that point in college football's annual B-movie horror classic when the monster staggers back to its feet for the umpteenth time.

It's already been shot, stabbed and electrocuted, folded, mutilated and spindled, drowned, fricasseed and, most recently, flattened by a steamroller. But in the next moment, with the monster rising to its full height yet again, comes the awful realization: The BCS lives!

Dr. Frankenstein had nothing on the suits who brought the Bowl Championship Series to life. Like his creation, theirs also was a bad idea that's only gotten worse over time. It has turned college presidents into hypocrites, forced coaches to become beggars and turned off more fans than anything since Roseanne Barr put on a football uniform for the movie "Backfield in Motion."

But the BCS isn't going anywhere. Bloodied but unbowed by the news this week that The Associated Press would not allow its poll to be used in determining its rankings, Big East commissioner and former BCS boss Mike Traghese promised yet another reincarnation after the organization meets in April.

"The BCS is here and it's going to continue. But the BCS is a target for all the playoff proponents. When something like this happens, they jump on it. They look at something like this as a crack. They don't understand the strong position of our presidents," he said.

Traghese is right about that last point. A playoff system could incorporate the major bowls and bring in more money for everyone involved and is favored by a majority of the coaches, players and fans.

The real reason the college presidents won't go along is simple: They want to protect the six major conferences, four bowls and the TV network that control the BCS and decide how to divvy up the take.

But the reason they offer is that a playoff would harm their student-athletes' chances at academic success. Please. Even an old-school authority like Penn State coach Joe Paterno isn't

*'I think the college presidents allowing the BCS thing is a real, real shame.'*

— Joe Paterno  
 Head Coach, Penn State

buying that line anymore.

"I think the college presidents allowing the BCS thing is a real, real shame," he said recently. "Whenever the talk turns to having some kind of a playoff, they say you can't miss classes and yet we've already got NCAA playoffs (in every other college sport) and everything else."

"I mean, who's kidding who?" Paterno added. "They've got to try to figure out a way to get rid of it and the hypocrisy of money, money, money."

It's small consolation, but the BCS is already hard at work — not at legislating itself out of existence, or ending the hypocrisy, mind you, but on the "money, money, money" part. The organization just signed a four-year deal worth \$320 million with Fox for the broadcast rights to the Fiesta, Orange and Sugar bowls from 2007-10

and the national title game from 2007-09. And credibility has never been high on the BCS' to-do list.

Never mind that the AP poll comprised one-third of the formula the BCS used to draw up this season's rankings — the coaches' poll and six computers made up the remaining two-thirds — or that the writers and broadcasters were the only ones who made their votes public. The coaches, many of whom have contracts triggering handsome bonuses for appearances in BCS bowls — have already indicated a willingness to stay on, and keeping the computers in the fold won't require anything more than a steady supply of electricity.

"We're just going to have to put our heads together," Traghese said, "and come up with an alternative way of picking the teams for the 1-2 game."

Small wonder Traghese was undaunted. Since they hijacked the postseason in 1998, the BCS and its old-boy network have had to revise the formula four times and the front-running scheme for alternative No. 5 is creation of a selection committee, similar to the one used for the NCAA's basketball tournament. The major difference, of course, is that after the basketball committee finishes seeding the teams, the championship is decided on the court.

The BCS won't go that far in reforming the system. And short of a playoff, it will never resolve the underlying flaw inherent in trying to seed a two-team tournament anytime there are three or more deserving contenders. But at least the monster will look different.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitkeap.org](mailto:jlitkeap.org)

## Varitek stays in Boston, Eckstein to Cards

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Varitek is remaining with the Boston Red Sox, and David Eckstein is moving on to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Varitek agreed to a \$40 million, four-year contract with the World Series champion Red Sox, a deal that is to be announced Friday, a lawyer with knowledge of the negotiations said on condition of anonymity.

Eckstein, let go by Anaheim on Monday, agreed Thursday to a \$10.25 million, three-year contract with the NL champion St. Louis Cardinals, completing a game of musical chairs among shortstops.

Boston started the short-stop switches by luring Edgar Renteria from St. Louis with a \$40 million, four-year contract. Anaheim then agreed Monday to a \$32 million, four-year deal with Orlando Cabrera, who helped the Red Sox sweep St. Louis in the World Series.

Also Thursday, Andres Galarraga agreed to a minor league contract with the New York Mets. The 43-year-old first baseman, who has come back twice from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, needs one home run to reach 400.

Two other deals were finalized as many teams started closing their offices for the holiday break: the Los Angeles Dodgers' \$55 million, five-year contract with outfielder J.D. Drew and Boston's \$1.5 million, one-year agreement with right-hander Wade Miller, who was cut by Houston earlier this week.

Varitek, who hit a career-high .296 last season with 18 homers and 73 RBIs, will receive a \$4 million signing bonus paid over four years and annual salaries of \$9 million.

The sides compromised over his desire for a no-trade clause, working out a solution that will cover the final

three years of his contract.

"Jason is clearly a key asset we need (to) retain. He is the rock solid leader of our club," principal owner John Henry said in an e-mail to The Associated Press, without confirming an agreement.

Eckstein was the second major offseason acquisition for the Cardinals, who obtained 17-game winner Mark Mulder from Oakland on Saturday for two pitchers and a minor league catching prospect. They still need a second baseman to replace Tony Womack, who signed with the New York Yankees.

He hit .276 with two homers and 35 RBIs last season, and scored 92 runs.

He was the second-hardest player to strike out in the AL, with just 49 in 566 at-bats.

Eckstein, who'll replace Womack in the leadoff slot, chose the Cardinals because they aggressively pursued him, and because he likes their chances of returning to the World Series.

"They have a great nucleus of guys," he said. "That lineup they put out there, you're playing with a bunch of All-Stars, and it's going to be fun to be a part of it."



**A Message of Peace**

May the coming year bring us all together in a great celebration of peace, hope and brotherhood. We know we're grateful for the goodwill you've show towards us.



**Here Comes Christmas!**

The sleigh is loaded with best wishes and gratitude, too

For each and every one of you,

And now that Christmas is getting near,

We'd like to thank you for your support this year.

**CABOT PAMPA FACILITIES**

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 111 W. KINGSMILL  
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Rental Equipment  
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**Holiday Greetings From Every Department**

From all of us, to all of you, go our very best wishes for a holiday season that's made to order.

For your generous support, we are truly thankful.

**Frank's True Value & Just Ask Rental**  
 401 N. Ballard - Pampa  
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# *Sweet Tidings To You!*



With joy in our hearts we wish you a most delightful season.



It's been a pleasure doing business with you and we look forward to your continued patronage.  
*Happy Holidays*




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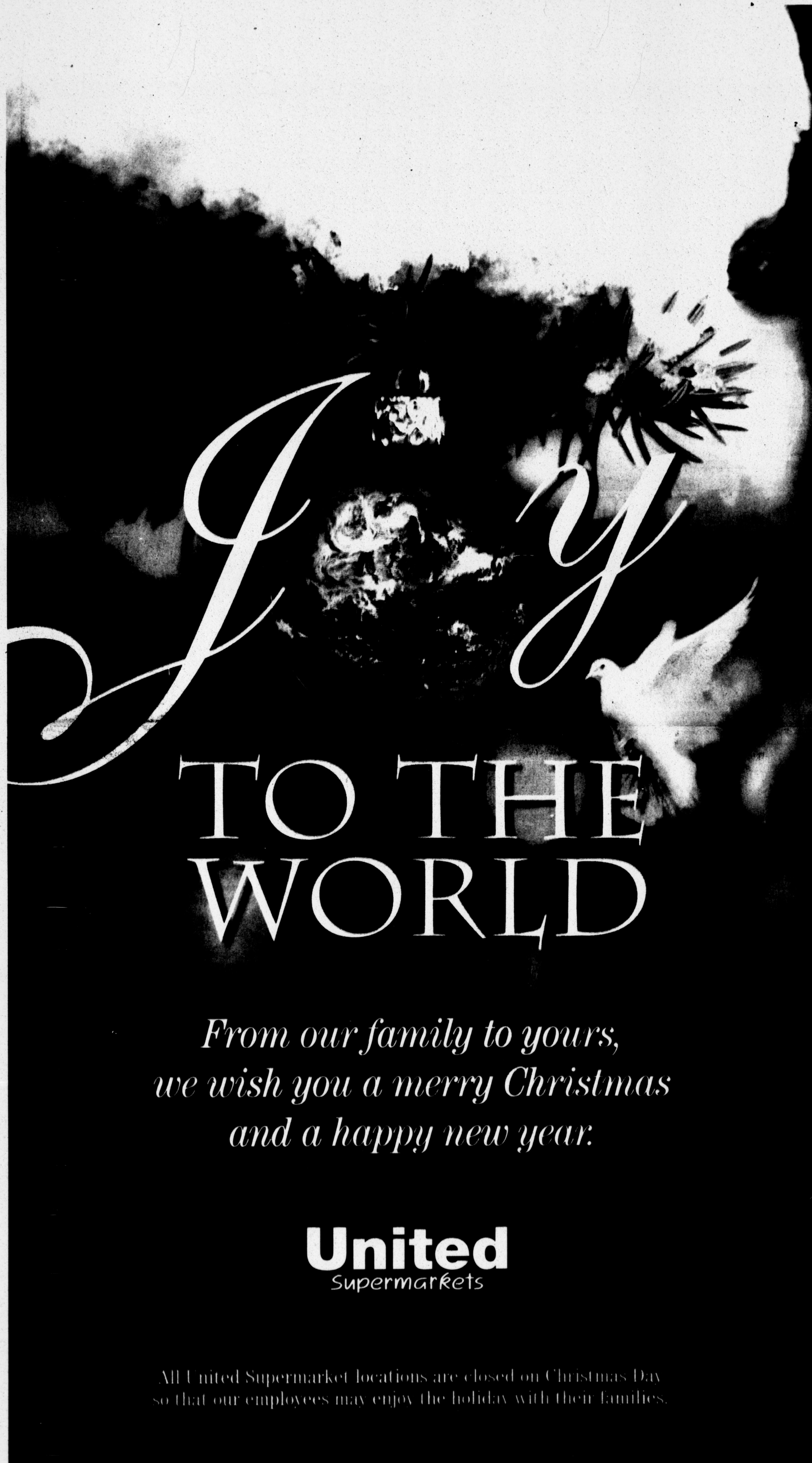
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*Joy*  
TO THE  
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*From our family to yours,  
we wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year.*

**United**  
Supermarkets

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

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# Wedding reception in Cory Court

Mary Leanne Dyson and Marcus Dwayne Hall, both of Sayre, Okla., exchanged their wedding vows Nov. 13 in First United Methodist Church Chapel in Pampa with Randy Elliott, Skellytown justice of the peace, presiding.

Attending the bride was her son, Brayden Dyson.

The flower girl was Jessica Hall. Doubling as best man and ring bearer was Hunter Hall, the groom's son.

Carrie Angel registered the guests. A reception followed the service in Cory Court of the church. Serving the guests were Carrie McKissick, Kate Devoll, Erin Waters and Raelynn Glaeseman.

The bride is the daughter of Kent and Michele Dyson and the late Margaret Fourkiller and Sheryl Porter of Pampa.

The groom is the son of Dwayne and Cindy Hall of Skellytown and Debbie Hoover of Pampa.

The couple are planning a honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, and intend to make their home in Sayre.



Mary Leanne Dyson and Marcus Dwayne Hall



## Hill anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hill of Pampa will observe their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 28. Edward M. Hill and Kim Belvin were married Dec. 28, 1979, at Balko, Okla. They have lived in Pampa for 14 years and are members of First Christian Church since 2004. Mr. Hill became employed at Celanese six years ago. Mrs. Hill has worked at FirstBank Southwest for 14 years. Children of the couple are Lexi Hill of Canyon and Dillon and Emily Hill of Houston.

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**ROLLOVER HEADQUARTERS**  
  
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 Serving Individual Investors Since 1871  
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## Newsmakers

PLAINVIEW — Jessica Renea Milligan graduated magna cum laude from Wayland Baptist University with a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Milligan, a 2001 Pampa High honor graduate, is a member of Kappa Delta Pi.

She and husband, Ryan live in Plainview where she will be teaching elementary school.

Milligan is the daughter of Larry and Lisa Blandford



Milligan

See NEWSMAKERS, Page 9-B

**BRUSH UP FOR CHRISTMAS!**  
 We're donning bright smiles as we think about all the great folks we've had the privilege to serve this past year ...  
 Thanks!  
**JAY A. JOHNSON, D.D.S. and STAFF**  
 2427 N. NOBART 665-0921

## Cradle call



## Mary McKenzie Keim

Mary McKenzie Keim was born Dec. 6 at The Woodlands, to Audrey and Dan Keim of The Woodlands. Relatives of the infant include grandparents, Albert M. Elder, Sr. of Houston, the late Gimmie Elder, Mary Nelson of Pampa and the late Paul D. Keim; her great-grandparents, the late Samuel A. Elder, Sr. and Iris Elder, both of Pampa, Texas; and her paternal great-aunt and uncle, Eleanor and Earl New of Pampa.

## Lifestyles Policy

1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing births, weddings, engagements or anniversaries. We also reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-

addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper.

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

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

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

5. Bridal photos and infor-

mation will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding.

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

See POLICY, Page 11-B

## White/Carter

Sarah Louise White and Bobby Glen Carter plan to wed Friday, March 11, 2005, at Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Myron and Susan White of Lubbock. She is a junior family studies major at Lubbock Christian University and is employed by Smokey River Restaurant. The prospective groom is the son of Randy and Pam Carter of Pampa. He holds a bachelor of psychology degree from LCU and is a residential counselor at The Children's Home of Lubbock.

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 infor-

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

See POLICY, Page 11-B

*Bridal Registry*  
**Courtney Moreland & James Godwin**  
**Meghan Nutt & Justin Trollinger**  
**Kristi Carter & Clint Well**  
**Sarah White & Bobby Carter**  
**Andrea Abbe & Cary Erskine**  
**Andrea Rodriguez & Woody Smith**  
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*Christmas Sparkles!*  
  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
 "We will be closed December 25 & 27 for our employees to be with their family & friends"  
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*It's Time For A Spectacular Season*  
 As the holidays head our way, and we await the festive glow - Relax and enjoy the promise of good times with those that you know.  
**Merry Christmas**  
**MEMORY GARDEN CEMETERY AND MAUSOLEUM OF PAMPA**  
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**Stock Up On Cheer!**  
 What's that on aisle two's shelf?  
 Could it be an elf?  
 Can it be in aisle three  
 A reindeer or two, or possibly three?  
 What's in-store, but in aisle four-  
 I saw Santa Claus himself!  
 And what's all that good cheer in my cart?  
 It must be Christmas at the mart!  
 With Best Wishes For A Happy Holiday Season From All Of Us At...  
**FRANK'S THRIFTWAY**  
 "Pampa's Homeowned Since 1967"  
 300 E. BROWN 665-5451

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## From Your Favorite Local Businesses

*With warm wishes to everyone who helped make our year something to celebrate. We're so glad you stopped by to see us and we look forward to serving you again, soon.*

WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VALUED BUSINESS. IT'S BEEN A REAL PLEASURE SERVING YOU THROUGHOUT 2004! WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED VISITS IN THE NEW YEAR!

**ALLISON AGENCY**  
HELEN ALLISON • TYLER ALLISON  
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*Seasons' Greetings*

Thank you for a wonderful year.  
From All You Friends At  
**Bob Clements Inc.**  
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Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and beyond.  
Bright wishes at Christmas

**First Landmark Realty** 665-0717  
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in the Pampa Mall

With our best wishes to you  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**GRAY COUNTY TITLE CO. INC.**  
Edith Hill - Manager  
408 W. Kingsmill • Suite 171-A • Pampa, Texas

Happy Holidays from all of us at the  
**Hamburger Station**

HWY 60 W  
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*Peace on Earth*

A new year brings new hope for harmony and goodwill around the world. Please join us in a prayer for peace as we celebrate the arrival of a brand new beginning.

**Hansford Implement**  
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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Thank You For Dining With Us

**Hickory Hut**  
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*Old-fashioned Christmas Wishes*

Here's hoping that this holiday season is just like the ones you used to know. Thank you for showing us old-fashioned loyalty and goodwill this year.

Billy Ray Johnston &  
The McLean Care Center

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes this holiday season.  
From all of us at  
**Pampa Office Supply**  
215 N. Cuyler • Pampa, Texas

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*  
to all our valued customers and friends!  
Thank You!

Happy Holidays from our family to yours

**Sands Fabrics & Needlecraft**  
225 N. Cuyler • Pampa, TX • 669-7909

**Randy Jay's New & Used Tires**  
1900 Alcock  
Don & Shirley Hoskins & Family

Our Recipe for a Sweet Holiday Season Calls For:

- ✓ a generous helping of gratitude
- ✓ a dash of good cheer
- ✓ a measure of best wishes

Mix together with good friends and kind neighbors like you for the best holiday season ever.

From all of us at **Sister's Spudnut Shop**  
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A world of thanks and best wishes to our neighbors, customers and friends.

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Sending our best wishes at  
Christmas & Happy New Year  
from all of us at  
**Quality Cleaners**  
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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** From the time that my father left -- I was 8 -- until I was thrown out of the house at 16, my mother was seriously emotionally abusive and neglectful. She frequently called me filthy names, made bizarre accusations that had no basis in truth, told me I was a "mistake," threatened me, publicly humiliated and belittled me.

I am now in my mid-20s and have had no contact with my mother for three years. My older brother is in denial about the abuse and insists that I forgive her and rebuild our relationship. He claims that she's sorry and she misses me.

I recently traveled back to my hometown and visited my mother. She treated me as though I were a stranger. Afterward, I felt that I could move on, knowing I had done the right thing in deciding to cut her out of my life. Now the rest of the family has turned their backs on me. I would like to maintain a personal relationship with them, but they think I'm a bad person for no longer having a relationship with my mother. Do you have any advice? -- LEFT IN THE COLD IN DULUTH

**DEAR LEFT IN THE COLD:** Only this: If the price of having a relationship with your family is tolerating their emotional blackmail and more abuse from your mother, the price is too high.

**DEAR ABBY:** Not long ago, we moved into a beautiful new housing development. Neighbors on the street behind us keep their puppy penned up outside day and night in all kinds of weather. Occasionally we see one of their neighbors walk the dog, but other than that, it seems the dog's existence is limited to a cement pad covered in you-know-what.

We would rather not call the homeowners' association or the Humane Society, as these neighbors seem like decent people. However, it is upsetting our small children, as well as my

husband and me, to hear the poor animal cry. We can't imagine spending the next 10 years like this. What do you recommend we do? -- CANINE LOVERS IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CANINE LOVERS:** Although you would rather not, for the puppy's sake, pick up the phone and contact the homeowners' association and the Humane Society. You'll be doing the neglected creature -- and yourselves -- a favor. The owners of that poor animal have no idea how to properly care for a dog. The Humane Society will instruct them on the proper care of their furry family member.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 2-year-old is in a private home day care. Occasionally he makes a mess on the carpet or breaks a toy. When it happens, the day-care provider is quick to point out the price of the cleaning or replacement, and I usually offer her \$20 in compensation. However, she expects me to pay at least half for my child's accidents.

Since this is a private home, is it appropriate to assume I'll pay for these incidents on top of the weekly fee? -- IN NEED OF DAY-CARE ETIQUETTE

**DEAR IN NEED:** The fees you pay the day-care provider should cover the cost of the toys -- they are a part of her cost of doing business. It is interesting that your day-care provider has her charges playing on her carpets, and not in an area that is easier to keep clean and sanitized. Is this person a licensed and insured day-care provider? If she is not, it's time to give some serious consideration to what might happen if your child were injured on her property. Readers, what do you think of this?

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

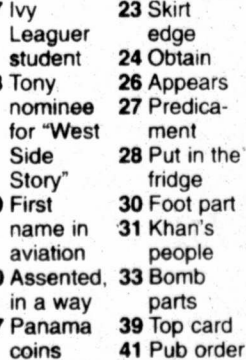
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Christmas Eve traveler
  - 6 Snack in a shell
  - 11 Ridiculous
  - 12 Texas attraction
  - 13 Plume source
  - 14 Trite
  - 15 Halloween cry
  - 16 Recipe abbr.
  - 18 Like St. Nick
  - 19 "I want for Christmas..."
  - 20 Put down
  - 21 Fiction
  - 22 Friend of Phoebe and Monica
  - 24 Like some tidings
  - 25 Caffeine-free drink
  - 27 Swindle
  - 29 Get the better of
  - 32 Swindle
  - 33 Distant
  - 34 Genetic messenger
  - 35 Director Howard
  - 36 SEALS org.
  - 37 Superlative suffix
  - 38 ABC spy series
- DOWN**
- 1 Cufflinks' kin
  - 2 African nation
  - 3 Tony winner for "Hello, Dolly!"
  - 4 Undivided
  - 5 Home-steader
  - 6 Singer and Cline
  - 7 Ivy
  - 8 Leaguer student
  - 9 First name in aviation
  - 10 Assented, in a way
  - 17 Panama coins
  - 23 Skirt edge
  - 24 Obtain
  - 26 Appears
  - 27 Predicament
  - 28 Put in the fridge
  - 30 Foot part
  - 31 Khan's name in people
  - 33 Bomb parts
  - 39 Top card
  - 41 Pub order



Yesterday's answer

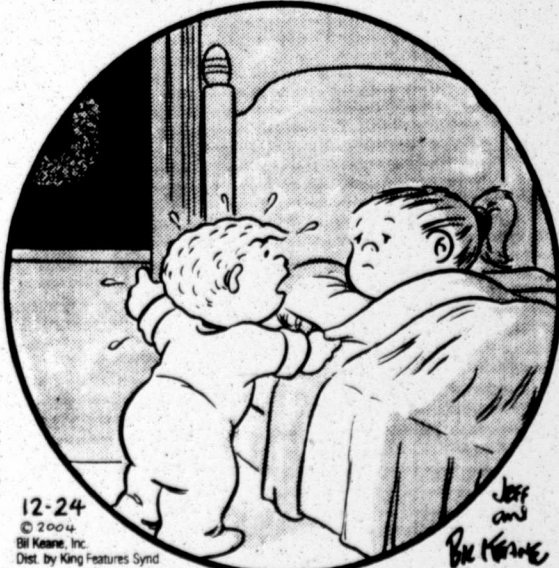


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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Advertisement for various services including 'More PO', 'BEST 2', 'NATION', '1224 N. Pampa', '806-665-...', 'F', 'Su', 'Wed', '1', 'M', 'E', '2'.



# At This Season Of Wishes

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near and dear  
And customers who've  
stopped by here  
Associates and vendors, too  
We couldn't have done it  
without ALL of you  
And if there's anyone  
we've missed  
On our special "thank you" list  
Please know you're in our  
hearts and minds  
At this joyous  
Christmastime  
So please accept  
without delay  
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for a great holiday!

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** A month ago, I celebrated my 10th wedding anniversary. My husband and I have been together for 12 years. He didn't lay a hand on me until a year ago.

We got into an argument on Valentine's Day, and he slapped me twice that night. It happened again last month. We separated after the second incident, but I couldn't afford to move out because I've been a stay-at-home mom for six years.

Tonight we had a minor spat, and he broke my nose. An hour later, his 21-year-old girlfriend drove over and picked him up, and here my 7-year-old son and I sit, while he not only gets sympathy, but also companionship and sex.

Abby, please tell young women that getting involved with married men isn't just stupid; it's dangerous -- and often to the woman he's married to when the single woman comes into his life. -- BRUISED IN ST. LOUIS

**DEAR BRUISED:** I'm broadcasting your message, but don't expect much response. Men who cheat on their wives are not above lying to their girlfriends. No doubt he has filled her head with what a terrible wife you are and how unhappy you have made him. That's the "lure" to snag her in the role of "rescuer."

Perhaps you should warn her so she doesn't become victim No. 2. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, have some taken of you before your bruises heal. The police should also be contacted, and the battery put on record.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have one child, and we have decided that we are having no more. People frequently ask when we're having another child, and when we say, "Never!" they always demand to

know why.

When we tell them our reasons, they go on and on about how we shouldn't make our little girl an only child and how "cruel" that would be to her.

What can we say to politely end everyone's incessant need to criticize us for not having more children? Do you agree that this is a rude question? -- HAVING FUN WITH ONE IN N.Y.

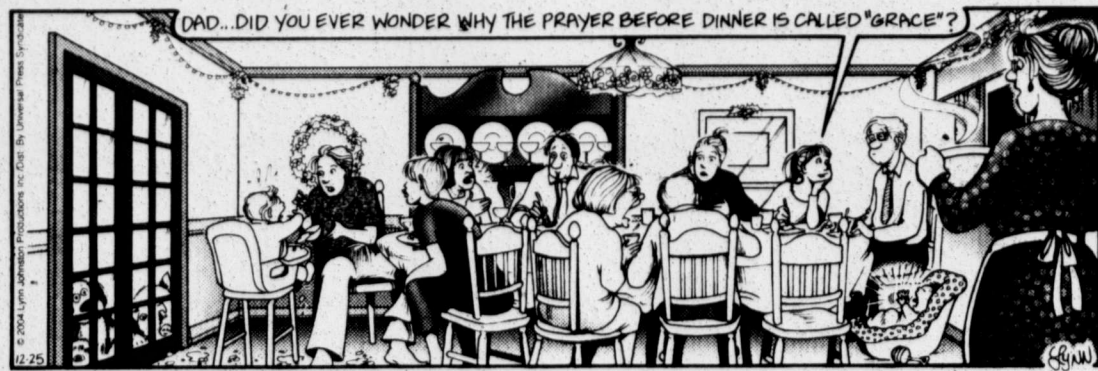
**DEAR HAVING FUN:** I certainly do, because that question is often painful to answer. You might catch less flak if, instead of saying "Never!" you reply as my friend Sherry does. She says, "I had the first one. It's up to my husband to have the second." That usually stops 'em.

**DEAR ABBY:** I think my sister has an eating disorder. She's rail-thin and is always watching her calorie intake. My concern is that she does it with my 3-year-old nephew, too. She has the child on a strict diet, counting his carb and calorie intake. Her little boy is still eating baby food (made for ages 6 to 9 months), and I'm afraid he will develop an eating disorder, too. What can I do? -- WORRIED AUNT IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR WORRIED AUNT:** Children have very different nutritional needs than adults, and your sister needs to be aware of what they are. Encourage your sister to consult her son's pediatrician about the eating program her child is on to assure he's getting the nutrients he needs for optimum brain and body development. A session with a dietitian who's credentialed by the American Dietetic Association would also be a good idea. (They have "R.D." after their names.)

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## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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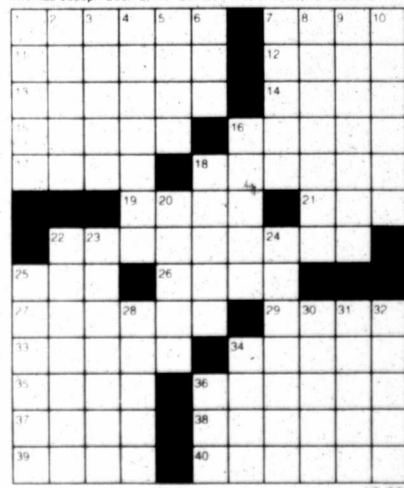
heroine gliders

23 Puzzled 34 City car

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batter need

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## Marmaduke



"Marmaduke was looking for Santa."

## The Family Circus



"You come over and see what I got, then I'll go see what you got."

## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie




# MARQUEE

**CLOSED**  
**FRIDAY CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 ...  
**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 4:30 • RATED G  
**SPONG BOB SQUARE PANTS**  
 7:00 • RATED PG  
**NATIONAL TREASURE**  
 ...  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
 2:00 & 7:00 • RATED PG  
**NATIONAL TREASURE**  
 4:30 • RATED G  
**SPONG BOB SQUARE PANTS**  
 ...  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
 4:30 • RATED G  
**SPONG BOB SQUARE PANTS**  
 7:00 • RATED PG  
**NATIONAL TREASURE**  
 ...  
**TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY**  
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**THROUGH**  
  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**



*Happy Holidays To You*

With gratitude, we extend our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to each and every one of you.

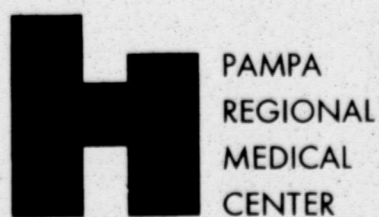
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# Blessings of the Season

*to all our friends and customers. We're truly grateful for the support you've show us this past year. We look forward to being of service in the year ahead.*

*Y. Folter*  
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## Jaz

(NAPSA) said that jazz is a true native American art form, increasingly popular among young people to educate y...  
A growing number of teachers are incorporating jazz into both an academic and performance setting, teaching to grade levels...  
In classrooms across the country, education is being jazzed up to: teach...  
• jazz problem-solving...  
• foster...  
• enhance...  
• discipline and...  
• improvise...  
• serve...  
for much of the social history of jazz, an introduction to other forms...  
According to Marsalis, a musician and of Jazz at Lincoln Center, "Jazz provides a way to learn in American schools." Said Marsalis, "It can help teach geography, different music, and way forms are counted." He also hopes to help give jazz a presence in the quality of education. Jazz at Lincoln Center, a not-for-profit organization...

## Tips

(NAPSA) says that a red cheek to cool down from damage up to a few days. Experts offer...  
• Close the curtains...  
• a major reason for radiant skin...  
• sleep can speed the process...  
• in. In addition, women receiving enough factor in a...  
• to get at least...  
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## Gift ca

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# Jazz hitting right chord in America

(NAPSA) — It's been said that jazz is America's true native art form and increasingly, it's being used to educate young people.

A growing number of teachers are using jazz — as both an academic and performance subject — as a teaching tool at different grade levels.

In classrooms across the country, educators are using jazz to:

- teach creative problem-solving
- foster communication and cooperation
- enhance self-discipline and the ability to improvise

serve as a backdrop for much of this country's social history, serve as an introduction to math and other forms of music and art.

According to Wynton Marsalis, world-renowned musician and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, "Jazz provides a painless way to learn about the best in American culture."

Said Marsalis, "Jazz can teach geography, where the different musicians are from. It can help with math, the way forms are laid out, the way musical forms are counted."

He also believes jazz can help give students confidence in their own individuality.

Jazz at Lincoln Center is a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to jazz. The organization's new home,



photo by FRANK STEWART/JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER

## Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis at a Jazz for Young People Concert.

Frederick P. Rose Hall, is the first performance, education and broadcast facility devoted to jazz. Located in New York City on Broadway at 60th Street, it features the Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame, a multimedia installation featuring an 18-foot video wall, interactive kiosks, touch-activated virtual plaques and the great sounds of jazz. It is free and open to the public.

As a cornerstone of its mission, Jazz at Lincoln Center has mounted a comprehensive education program teaching the public, especially young people, about the rich heritage of jazz, its great works and musicians, and the relationship between jazz and other disciplines.

Its education programs

reach over 300,000 students, teachers and general audience members a year.

The Jazz for Young People Curriculum brings the language of jazz to upper elementary and middle school students across the country and around the world.

The Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival supports high school jazz bands across the U.S. and Canada in the study and performance of Duke Ellington's music.

The Band Director Academy enhances the abilities of high school and college band directors to teach and conduct big band music.

Jazz for Young People Concerts introduce

children, their parents, and educators to major styles and figures in jazz.

Jazz in the Schools brings professional artists to schools throughout the five boroughs in interactive, hour-long performance/demonstrations.

WeBop classes teach very young children and their parents/ caregivers to sing, move and play with the soulful rhythms and melodies of great jazz.

Master classes feature world-renowned musicians working with students to improve their playing and performance, all in front of an audience.

Jazz 101 classes bring the history and personalities of jazz into the classroom, enlivening the concert-going experience for jazz novices and aficionados alike.

Jazz Talk features musicians, writers and scholars in lively conversations about jazz and our world.

In addition, Jazz at Lincoln Center conducts residencies, workshops, teacher training and jazz lessons in New York and while on tour. The Jazz at Lincoln Center concert archives are available at the New York Public Library.

To learn more about these and other programs of Jazz at Lincoln Center, visit [www.jalc.org](http://www.jalc.org).

### New resolution

## Get up, get out, make next year better and leaner.

(NAPSA) — Whether your family is working off the holiday overindulgence, turning over a new leaf for the New Year, preparing for swimsuit season or just interested in leading a healthier lifestyle, it's never been a better time to revitalize your family's workout routine. Fitting in an exercise plan doesn't have to be a chore for you or your kids. Here are a few tips to prevent a sedentary lifestyle:

Be realistic and consistent. It's great to be enthusiastic about your workout, but if you don't set obtainable goals for yourself, it will be harder to remain committed to your routine. Look at your schedule and establish an exercise routine that will fit into your lifestyle. Consistency is key. Working out at least three times a week will help ensure that exercise is part of your routine.

Rethink your home workout. You don't need a lot of bulky exercise equipment to have an effective workout at home. Tired of the same old workout videos? Netflix ([www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com)), the world's largest online movie rental service, is a great source to rent exercise DVDs.

With more than 150 fitness titles, Netflix can help keep your home workout interesting and effective.

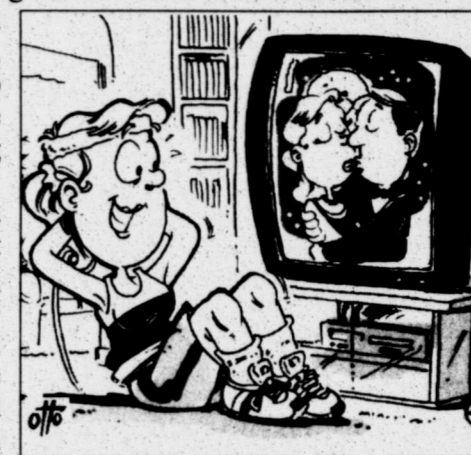
Join a team. Being a part of a team sport will help your kids bolster confidence, improve hand-eye coordination and develop team working skills. Research has shown that obesity in youth leads to increased health problems down the road, so establish an active lifestyle as early as possible.

Eat nutritious meals. It's never a good idea to skip a meal, especially when you are exercising regularly. It's important to keep your body nourished and hydrated throughout the day. Moderation is the key. Keep a daily diary of what you consume to help control portions and reduce snacking.

Make it family time. One of the best ways to keep you and your kids motivated to exercise is to include active and enjoyable family adventures in your daily life. Play soccer, run races, go sledding or skating, bicycle, play games or go swimming. The most important part is to help your child find activities that are fun.

Catch up on TV. Feel like you're missing out on your favorite TV show while you're exercising? With Netflix, you can catch up with favorite shows, from "24" to "Six Feet Under" to "The West Wing." You can even revisit old friends, such as "Seinfeld," "Sex and the City" and "Friends." With nearly 1,500 television DVDs, you'll never be bored on the treadmill again! For children, Netflix has more than 1,700 kid- and family-friendly DVDs.

Exercising regularly and eating healthy meals will help your family have more energy to tackle all the other aspects of your lives. You'll also notice that staying fit and healthy will give you greater self-confidence.



Watching favorite TV shows on DVD while exercising can help make workouts more enjoyable.

## Tips to keep skin fresh, healthy in winter

(NAPSA) — Turning the other cheek to cold weather may not keep it from damaging your skin-but facing up to a few skin care facts might. Experts offer these tips.

Close Your Eyes. Sleep plays a major role in maintaining healthy, radiant skin. Doctors say a lack of sleep can slow down the cell renewal process-and that's when aging can set in. In addition, about 89 percent of women recently surveyed said "getting enough sleep" was an important factor in achieving healthy skin. Try to get at least eight or nine hours a night.

Hot Water Hazards. During the colder months, limit your time in the shower or bathtub and keep water at a lukewarm temperature. Hot water may feel good, but it can actually dry out your skin. Make sure to dry off gently by patting the skin rather than wiping. This will help maintain as much natural moisture as possible-and that's important, because about 73 percent of women say their skin is dry during winter months.

Exfoliate. Exfoliate. Exfoliate. After harsh weather, skin may be left feeling dull and less than radiant. Remove dull, dead skin cells



It's important to practice a skin care regimen during colder months.

from the surface by exfoliating at least twice a week. Products such as St. Ives Invigorating Apricot Scrub for normal skin or St. Ives Gentle Apricot Scrub for sensitive skin can help. Both include all-natural exfo-

liants, which can help skin become smoother, softer and more radiant.

A Healthy Diet For Healthy Skin. Help maintain a radiant glow by eating a healthy, balanced diet consisting of foods rich in vitamins A and C. Vitamin A will help with the growth and repair of skin tissue and can be found in foods such as peaches and carrots. Vitamin C helps to produce collagen, which can keep skin looking firm and youthful. It can be found in citrus fruits and cabbage. Also, make sure to drink at least eight glasses of water a day.

Where In The World. Studies show that 80 percent of sun damage occurs before the age of 18, so it's important to keep your skin moisturized and protected, regardless of the climate. If you are unable to stay out of the sun, use a moisturizer with at least SPF 30 to provide protection from harmful UV rays.

Sweat It Out. Exercising is great for skin health but can sometimes cause breakouts. Try using a scrub with two percent salicylic acid, such as St. Ives Blackhead and Blemish Control Apricot Scrub. That can help to deep clean pores and keep skin healthy and radiant.

## Policy

Continued from Page 2-B

after the anniversary date.

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

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

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

## Cooking ideas: Put some pasta into your diet

(NAPSA) — Spaghetti, along with two other long-shape favorites, fettuccine and bucatini, is now available with ridges that add texture and surface area, allowing each piece to hold more sauce-which means more sauce on the pasta, not on the plate. The innovative pasta, called "Rigati" (which means "ridged" in Italian), has a distinctive grooved surface to capture sauce in a way that only short pastas such as penne were able to before. For instance, traditional spaghetti can only hold a light marinara sauce, but Spaghetti Rigati can hold more robust sauces for enhanced eating enjoyment, say pasta experts at Barilla. For rigati recipes, visit [www.barilla.com](http://www.barilla.com).

First available in the United States in 1883, J.A. Henckels' knives continue to be a popular cutlery choice for both amateur and professional chefs. In celebrating their anniversary, the company is offering special values on several of their popular knife sets. Zwilling J.A. Henckels uses highly sophisticated manufacturing techniques and computer-aided design to manufacture products of superior craftsmanship and quality. To learn more, visit [www.jahenckels.com](http://www.jahenckels.com).

Anyone with a love for ice cream and a heart for children may enjoy the latest dish on a month-long fund-raising effort to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In July, also declared

National Ice Cream Month, Cold Stone Creamery will donate a percentage of all ice cream purchases. To find a Cold Stone Creamery store, visit [coldstonecreamery.com](http://coldstonecreamery.com).

For women heading to the grill, Elizabeth Karmel, known as "Queen of the Grill" recommends her "Grilling Trilogy." First, brush food with olive oil, then season with kosher salt and freshly ground pepper. According to Karmel, these three ingredients and the heat of the grill, bring out robust flavors, especially in a food like turkey. Grillers can visit [honyesucklewhite.com](http://honyesucklewhite.com) or [shadybrookfarms.com](http://shadybrookfarms.com) for grilling recipes, tips and doneness temperatures. While there, you can enter to win the Dream Culinary & Spa Getaway to Canyon Ranch Spa and Resort in Tucson, AZ. A lucky winner will receive a retreat vacation along with a personal grilling demonstration from the Queen of the Grill.



## Gift cards getting more valuable, many shoppers actually saving money

(NAPSA) — There's a reason more people are giving gift certificates this holiday season: Shoppers would rather let their friends, family and colleagues decide what presents they actually need and want.

Last Christmas alone, Americans spent \$17 billion on what the news media dubbed "the first generation" of gift cards. But now, with new membership programs being

offered by merchants like [www.dealpass.com](http://www.dealpass.com), today's savvy shoppers can actually save themselves money while avoiding the stress associated with finding the perfect gift in crowded stores.

It's all done through special online membership programs. After enrolling for a reasonable membership fee, shoppers wind up saving up to 20 percent on every gift card they

buy from a large array of merchants, including brand-name retailers and leading restaurants.

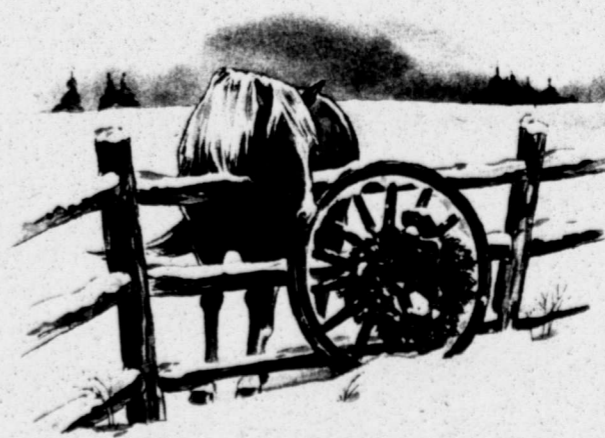
"These valuable membership benefits give you the ability to save money on holiday gift card giving and the recipient the freedom to buy whatever they want," says Sandy Malone, senior consultant for personal savings at Vertrue Incorporated, a direct-to-con-

sumer marketing company based in Stamford, Connecticut.

Vertrue, in fact, recently released a study, conducted by Kelton Research, confirming at least one reason why gift cards are so popular: 89 percent of Americans agreed that gift cards allow people to buy what they truly want or need.

For more information, visit [www.dealpass.com](http://www.dealpass.com).

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



A little good cheer goes a long way. . .  
So we're sending best wishes for a great holiday. And a Happy New Year to each one of you.

**Debbie Cantrell**  
Circulation Dept.  
The Pampa News

D E C 2 4 2 0 0 4

# Child victims in much of top Texas 2004 news

By MATT CURRY  
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The list includes overwhelmed Child Protective Services workers, deep cuts to Medicaid and children's health insurance, and inexplicable violence by mothers against their babies.

When it seemed the stories could become no more troubling, a Plano mother was arrested for cutting off the arms of her infant daughter.

Many of Texas' top news stories in 2004 had a disturbing common thread: child victims. The tragic litany left some wondering if Texas is becoming dangerous territory for its most precious residents. It's a situation state lawmakers intend to address in 2005.

"I don't think a society can long stand when it begins to revert to barbarism. Sooner or later the wheels come off," said the Rev. Ron W. Scates, senior pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. "I think we are headed totally in the wrong direction, and we are going to pay for it."

The National Center on Child Fatality Review determined that the state averaged more than 28 infant homicides a year from 1999-2001, with a high of 34 in 2001, the latest figures available. Texas was ranked 23rd in infant homicide rate among 40 states during that period, with

the center noting that high rates reflect better detection.

Disturbing headlines involving children highlight a "curious paradox in our society," said Darlene Grant, associate professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin.

"On the one hand people spend thousands and thousands of dollars to bear a child of their own using the miracles of modern medical science, or travel to China to adopt, while others unintentionally and intentionally abuse, neglect and/or throw their children away, and other children languish in institutional care throughout their childhoods," Grant wrote in an e-mail.

Both sides of the paradox contain people who may value children in some instances and devalue them in others.

"The how and why of this is quite complex and reducing the issue to simple cause and effect is something to avoid at all costs," she said.

Several outrageous killings have shaken state lawmakers, who are pledging a renewed effort to guard Texas children.

"Reading a newspaper of late has been more like reading a horror novel," said Sen. Jane Nelson, who is pushing for CPS reforms. "Only, the monsters are real."

In 2001, Andrea Yates drowned her five children at their Houston

home. She was sentenced to life in prison a year later.

Deanna Laney of New Chapel Hill in East Texas beat her two young sons to death with rocks and maimed her toddler in 2003. She was acquitted by reason of insanity earlier this year.

*"The how and why of this is quite complex and reducing the issue to simple cause and effect is something to avoid at all costs."*

—Darlene Grant  
associate professor  
University of Texas

Then, just last month, Dena Schlosser, supposedly suffering from postpartum depression, was charged with capital murder after she told a 911 operator she severed the arms of her 10-month-old daughter, killing the child.

The Legislature is expected to take up changing the current plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity" to "guilty but insane" next year. Others want mental illness decriminalized.

Texans like Dayna Robbins, an Arlington mother of twins, question

whether mental problems are simply an excuse.

"I just wonder how much it relates, or if it's just a label we're putting on there," she said.

"We're too quick to jump to that defense ... Postpartum depression, I never heard of this growing up," added Nancy Ruhe-Munch, executive director of Cincinnati-based Parents of Murdered Children.

But Curt Mooney, president of Houston's nonprofit DePelchin Children's Center, said substantial societal problems are rooted in mental illness.

"We're comfortable when somebody has a broken arm, or a bad liver, to go to the doctor," he said. "The fact that the brain — which runs on chemicals — has problems, we don't want to deal with that even though we've come a long way over the years from when we locked people away."

CPS, the state program responsible for the care of neglected and abused children, had previously investigated Schlosser's family for neglect but stopped in August after she received psychiatric treatment.

In Arlington, a 9-year-old boy who weighed just under 36 pounds and was covered in bruises died of malnutrition in July. CPS workers had investigated the boy's mother six times on allegations of neglect.

CPS investigators are responsible for an average of 61 cases, or fami-

lies. Each case can involve multiple children. Yet the Child Welfare League of America recommends investigators be assigned to 12 to 15 cases.

Nelson, a Flower Mound Republican, proposed legislation in 2005 that would provide more money to hire CPS caseworkers and initiate sweeping changes in CPS and another program under state scrutiny, Adult Protective Services, which cares for the elderly poor.

Considering the sheer volume of bad news for Texas children this year, the response by conservative-minded state policy-makers is sure to receive increased scrutiny in 2005. Texas' troubled foster care program is among areas needing reform.

"Publicly, we say children are our best asset, children are our priority. But what we have to look at as a society is putting our public dollars behind what we say we believe," said Patti Everett, executive director of the Children's Defense Fund of Texas.

On the Net:  
Child Protective Services:  
<http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us/Child-Protection/About-Child-Protective-Services>  
Children's Defense Fund of Texas: [www.cdf-texas.org](http://www.cdf-texas.org)  
National Center of Child Fatality Review: <http://www.ican-ncfr.org/>

## IRS Update

# Internal Revenue Service issues optional sales tax tables

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has made available on its Web site Publication 600, Optional State Sales Tax Tables, which taxpayers may use for their 2004 returns. The IRS also will send Pub. 600 to all taxpayers who get a Form 1040 tax package.

The tax law authorizing this optional deduction for state and local sales tax instead of state and local income tax was enacted too late in the year to include the tables in the tax instruction books.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 authorized the sales tax deduction as an option for those who itemize deductions,

letting them choose between deductions for state and local income or sales taxes. Taxpayers will indicate by a checkbox on line 5 of Schedule A which type of tax they're claiming. The law provides this choice for Tax Years 2004 and 2005 only.

"Taxpayers should check these tables to see if they're entitled to a larger sales tax deduction than a state income tax deduction," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson.

The tables give taxpayers a sales tax deduction amount as an alternative to saving their receipts throughout the year and tabulating the amount actually paid.

Taxpayers use their income level and number of exemptions to find the sales tax amount for their state. The table instructions explain how to add an amount for local sales taxes if appropriate.

Taxpayers also may add to the table amount any sales taxes paid on:

• A motor vehicle, but only up to the amount of tax paid at the general sales tax rate; and

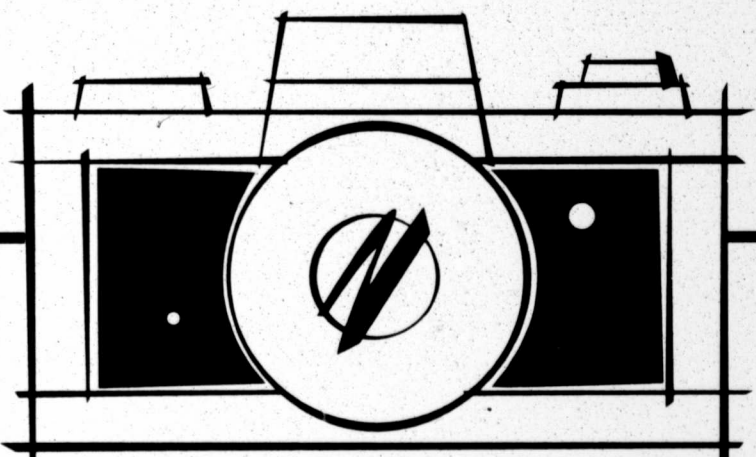
• An aircraft, boat, home (including mobile or prefabricated), or home building materials, if the tax rate is the same as the general sales tax rate.

While this deduction will mainly benefit

taxpayers with a state or local sales tax but no income tax — in Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming — it may give a larger deduction to any taxpayer who paid more in sales taxes than income taxes.

For example, a person may have bought a new car, boosting the sales tax total, or claimed tax credits, lowering the state income tax paid.

Taxpayers may download Pub. 600 from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). A printed version will be available for mailing in a few weeks by calling (toll-free) 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).



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# War takes toll on Texas soldiers and Marines

FORT HOOD (AP) — Colleen Evans spent many fitful nights while her husband was in Iraq flying Army helicopters.

When Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Evans Jr. returned safely from war in March, Colleen's worries ebbed and she started sleeping better. The danger of missiles and rocket-propelled grenades was now far away.

But a few days after Thanksgiving, her worst fear during Mark's time in Iraq came true just 30 miles from their home in Killeen.

An Army Black Hawk helicopter from Fort Hood being flown by her husband and another pilot struck steel cables holding up a TV transmission tower near Waco and crashed to the ground in a fiery tangle.

All seven 4th Infantry Division soldiers aboard were killed. Counting Evans, six of them had served in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

"I never would wish this grief on anyone," Colleen Evans said. "How can I be a mother and a father to my kids?"

Many military families in Texas find themselves in the same position as the Iraq war approaches the two-year mark in March.

A total of 78 Texans died in Iraq in 2004, double the number killed there the previous year. A few more lost their lives in Afghanistan.

And like 2003, fighting forces from this Army post in Central Texas have played a central role in providing troops for the war.

Nearly 20,000 soldiers from the 4th Infantry, deployed at the start, returned last spring with a solemn keepsake for Fort Hood: a

bronze memorial honoring the division's 79 war dead that was made from a pair of melted-down statues of toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Larry Polley Sr., whose son Larry Jr. was a 4th Infantry soldier killed in January, said the memorial is a fitting tribute to those who did not return.

"They deserve that," said Polley, who lives in the East Texas town of Center. "They lost their lives and I feel like they should never be forgotten."

*"Of course, no one really wants to be over there, but he always made it clear that that was his job and he needed to be over there."*

—Randi Drake  
Spc. Chad Drake's widow

Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, then 4th Infantry Division commander, said in April that he was proud of his troops, who faced the nontraditional roles of policing and rebuilding while fighting a foe that easily blended into the local population.

"Never has a combat theater been more complex or demanding of the individual soldier," he said.

Just as the 4th Infantry was coming home, about 17,000 soldiers from the Fort Hood-based 1st Cavalry Division were shipping out to Iraq to perform similar duties. That division is now scheduled to return in spring 2005.

The 1st Cavalry has so far

sustained 81 casualties in Iraq, among them 16 Texans.

In early September, Spc. Chad Drake, 23, of Garland was killed in Baghdad when his patrol vehicle was hit with gunfire. The 1st Cavalry soldier left behind his wife, Randi, and a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Kaylee.

"Of course, no one really wants to be over there, but he always made it clear that that was his job and he needed to be over there," Randi Drake said. "In one specific e-mail, I think his mom was real worried about him and I told him that, and he was telling me, 'Don't cry for me. I have my job and you have yours.'"

Randi is now living with her parents in Forney, east of Dallas, and trying to figure out how to go forward as a 20-year-old widow.

Among the Texans killed in Iraq were 34 Marines, many of them dying during major offensives in April and November to take control of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Perez, 19, of Austin was killed by a roadside bomb near Fallujah in September, a little over a year after he joined the Marine Corps with the gung-ho intention of making it his career.

His mother, Yolanda Valdez, said he knew and accepted the risks of joining the service during wartime.

"I remember him telling me, 'If I die here from a drive-by (shooting) or an accident, I'm just Nick,'" Valdez said. "I go over there and if I die, it's going to be different because I'm a Marine."

For many Texans, the desperate pain of losing their loved one is giving way to uneasy acceptance.



## PHO

It's not just getting a it's building

¡Llámame Múdeso

TOP OF

Ask About

AUSTIN SCHOOL

- 2700 Duncan .....
- 323 Oak, Walnut C .....
- 2706 Duncan .....
- 1801 N. Russell .....
- 2354 Beech .....
- 2014 Charles .....
- 2356 Beech .....
- 1939 Fir .....
- 1700 Duncan .....
- 1024 Mary Ellen .....
- 2525 Charles .....
- 2547 Duncan .....
- 2200 Duncan .....
- 2410 Fir .....
- 1826 Hamilton .....
- 309 W. Randy Mat .....
- 2714 Aspen .....
- 2216 Evergreen .....
- 2554 Aspen .....
- 2329 Aspen .....
- 2526 Mary Ellen .....
- 2131 Chestnut .....
- 2228 N. Russell .....
- 2126 N. Russell .....
- 1113 Terrace .....
- 1304 Mary Ellen .....
- 1316 Mary Ellen .....
- 120 W. 24th .....
- 615 Frost .....
- 2247 Mary Ellen .....
- 2314 Mary Ellen .....
- 2630 Seminole .....
- 1301 Starkweather .....
- 1105 Garland .....
- 2420 Charles .....
- 1825 Duncan .....

WILSON SCHOOL

- 425 Tignor .....
- 901 E. Francis .....
- 1121 E. Francis .....
- 1330 E. Kingmill .....
- 500 Magnolia .....
- 730 Murphy .....

OTHER AREA

- 10258 Hwy. 60, Ca .....
- 1600 Turtle Creek .....
- 607 Gardena, WD .....
- 91 Acres .....
- 412 Talley, White D .....
- 314 W. Wichita, Mi .....
- 319 S. Main, Miami .....
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Dec. 25, 2004:

You might be changeable this express your feis yourself problem handling your ar it exercise, there municating. How will determine received. What previously might Others seek you work on your list single, the pers might not work your popularity, don't project y partner. Share y them. CANCER approaches their The Stars Show Have: 5-Dyna Average: 2-S0-

**ARIES** (March Sometimes exp lem. You might on his or her be so. Avoid a detached and lo the other person who have a sim you. Tonight: news.  
**TAURUS** (Apr ★★★★★ Pull a loved one wh demanding or h What's going or this person's p moment. Share y around you. Ton **GEMINI** (May

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1939 Fir	\$135,000	3/2.75/2 2605 - SF/GCAD
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1024 Mary Ellen	\$110,000	4/2/2 - 2819 SF/GCAD
2525 Charles	\$92,500	3/2/2 2019 - SF/GCAD
2547 Duncan	\$87,500	3/1.75/2 1868 SF/GCAD
2200 Duncan	\$79,900	4/1.5/2 1912 - SF/GCAD
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1826 Hamilton	\$75,000	4/2/2 cp - 2196 SF/GCAD
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2554 Aspen	\$141,500	3/2/2 - 2232 SF/GCAD
2329 Aspen	\$135,000	3/1.75/2 - 2671 SF/GCAD
2526 Mary Ellen	\$65,000	3/1.75/1 1423 SF/GCAD
2131 Chestnut	\$65,000	3/1.5/2 1414 - SF/GCAD
2228 N. Russell	\$50,000	3/1/none - 1834 SF/GCAD
2126 N. Russell	\$38,000	2/2/None - 1485 SF/GCAD
1113 Terrace	\$37,500	2/1.5/2 1178 - S/1 & Apartment
1304 Mary Ellen	\$37,500	2/1/1 cp - 1480 SF/GCAD
1316 Mary Ellen	\$37,000	2/1/1 - 1030 SF/GCAD
120 W. 24th	\$35,990	3/1.75/2 1375 - SF/GCAD
615 Frost	\$35,000	3/1/1 1308 - SF/GCAD
2247 Mary Ellen	\$35,000	3/1/1 - 1078 SF/GCAD
2314 Mary Ellen	\$32,500	3/1/1 - 1148 SF/GCAD
2630 Seminole	\$28,500	2/1/None - 1020 SF/GCAD
1301 Starkweather	\$26,500	3/2/None 1794 - SF/GCAD
1105 Garland	\$25,000	2/1/1 cp - 898 SF/GCAD
2420 Charles	\$22,500	3/1/1 980 - SF/GCAD
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. 25, 2004:**

You might be moodier and more changeable this year. You also will express your feistiness and could cause yourself problems. Learn new ways of handling your anger and frustration, be it exercise, therapy or a class in communicating. How you express yourself will determine how your message is received. What might have worked previously might not work anymore. Others seek you out. Be observant and work on your listening skills. If you are single, the person you choose now might not work for you later. Enjoy your popularity. If you are attached, don't project your moods onto your partner. Share your feelings and own them. **CANCER** has similar issues but approaches them differently. 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) ★★★★★ Sometimes expectations can be a problem. You might expect everyone to be, on his or her best behavior, but it's not so. Avoid a conflict; simply be detached and loving. The issue is with the other person, not you. Enjoy those who have a similar frame of mind as you. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Pull away from a difficult loved one who might be overly demanding or having a Scrooge attack. What's going on has more to do with this person's past than the present moment. Share your caring with those around you. Tonight: Relax.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Those around you might be having a hard time. Sometimes the holidays aren't everything we wish they'd be. Understand some of the moodiness, yet at the same time, add cheer to the moment. Be a role model. Tonight: Love the ones you are with.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ This particular holiday might be overwhelming you or creating a mild depression. Consider going out and finding people who have nothing or no one to be with. Gain a realistic perspective. Actions help you change your mood. Tonight: Get into a cleanup project.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Your lively side brings many together. Wherever you are, others feel like they are having a party. A child or loved one could be testy, as he or she might expect more attention. You will need to deal with this person sooner or later. Tonight: Slow down.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You are the centerpiece wherever you are. Others need you to direct events or pull together the moment. A family member might be put off that you aren't more into the family. Tonight: Follow through on what is ultimately important.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Hopefully you have taken a few days off. You might have a difficult time anchoring in on what is happening in your immediate surroundings. Try to focus and concentrate. Those around you need your attention. Tonight: Allow your mind to roam.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ A key loved one or friend zeros in on you. Know that you have little choice but to go along. Relax and do not feel embarrassed if someone

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE PAMPA NEWS EMPLOYEES**

gives you a gift and you don't have one for him or her. Remember the spirit of the holiday. Tonight: Pull yourself together.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You might be acting out or more provocative than usual. You might have negative past memories of this holiday. Possibly you could be disappointed by someone in some way. Don't express your anger or hurt yet. Tonight: Let others enjoy themselves.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Don't allow what is brewing in your mind to impact your day or those you deal with. Process it in the next few days, at a better time. Get into helping others make more of their day. Pitch in where help might be necessary. Tonight: Relax; put your feet up.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Relish the uniqueness of the day and those who surround you. Give in to the child in you and help others become more playful. A friend could be difficult. Give him or her space. Don't worry if an expectation might not occur. Just be. Tonight: Add that extra sparkle.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Stay close to home and family. Others adore being around you. When you venture out or visit an older relative or boss, you might be greeted with flak. Why?/bother? Be where you are cared about. Help with a special meal or project. Tonight: Say "thank you" to a loved one.

**BORN TODAY**  
 Actress Sissy Spacek (1949), founder of the American Red Cross Clara Barton (1821), singer Barbara Mandrell (1948)

**SUE BAKER TEJAS REAL ESTATE**

**WISHES YOU EVERY HAPPINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**KNOWING YOU HAS MADE OUR YEAR A LITTLE BRIGHTER!!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**669-SOLD (7653)**

**AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**12-24 CRYPTOQUOTE**

QNHX N RFPFME QFODZNP  
 NGZ ODHX QNTTDOP  
 WQCFMYQFMW WQX PXNC

— PFMC TMAAOX XZDWFCE  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU GIVE BUT LITTLE WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS. IT IS WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF THAT YOU TRULY GIVE.** — KAHILIL GIBRAN

**STOP LOOKING AND GET TO WORK**

Tired of looking for just a job? Call us today and begin a Career! If you are self-motivated and have a sales personality, you may be what we are looking for. Call now to find out how you can support your family in today's job market, only serious inquiries please **669-0672**.

**NEED** Certified Medication aids, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. \$11.00 hr. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home. Claude 226-5121.

**NEED LVN** 6 a.m.- 6 p.m. \$15.75 hr. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home. Claude (806)226-5121.

**KITCHEN Help** Needed at Palo Duro Nursing Home. Call (806)226-5121.


**WANTED:** CNA 3-11 shift, FT w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home, 537-3194.

**CASH COLLECTIONS CLERK** needed to perform a variety of routine clerical, administrative and financial work by receiving payments from customers. Must have high school diploma or GED equivalent, working knowledge of computers, some knowledge of accounting principles. The ability to perform cashier duties accurately, to quickly make accurate arithmetic computations, and to handle stressful situations. Application can be made at Pampa City Hall, Room 205.




# Baby's First Christmas...

**Andrew David Brown**  
Born... September 5, 2004




Parents...  
Colby & Kimberly Brown  
Grandparents...  
Pam & Chris Dittberner  
Elaine Brown  
Jim Brown  
Great Grandparents...  
Lajuana Mayer  
Carrol & Virginia Tolleson

**K'Lee Jade Clardy**  
Born... April 24, 2004



Parents...  
Chad & Mary Lee Clardy  
Grandparents...  
Bill & Roxanne Giles  
Dwayne & Leanan Sparks  
Ray & Jeannetta Adamson  
Great Grandparents...  
Lyndelle Hatcher  
Kenneth & Jane Purvis  
Clyde & Vera Davis

**Riley James Coble**  
Born... July 21, 2004




Parents...  
Don and Kristi Coble

**Samantha Marie Short**  
Born... June 22, 2004




Parents...  
Troy & Beverly Short  
Sister...  
Rebecca Short  
Grandparents...  
Diane Short  
Bobby J. & Rosemary Schiffman  
Great Grandparents...  
Bob & Geneva Schiffman

**Logan Austen Harvey**  
Born... November 2, 2004




Parents...  
Tonja & James Harvey  
Brother...  
Russell Harvey  
Grandparents...  
Ronnie & Betty Parsley  
Sandra & David Harvey  
Coela & James Walker

**Jacob Dean Stroud**  
Born... August 7, 2004



Parents...  
Greg & Alisha Stroud  
Grandparents...  
Larry & Debbie Stroud  
Wanda & JP Wright  
Barbara & Bud Nunn  
Dorothy & Troy Brewer

**RyLee Jordan Day**  
Born... April 4, 2004




Parents...  
Randi Day & Justin Jouett  
Grandparents...  
Peggi & Cavin Coleman / Rodney Day  
Ron & Terry Jouett  
Great Grandparents...  
Stanley Coleman / Jo & James Ray  
Wallace & Jacque Jouett  
Jeanette & the late Lindsey Johnston

**Jackson Cade Westbrooks**  
Born... July 8, 2004




Parents...  
Jason & Rebecca Westbrooks  
Grandparents...  
Mike & Alice Westbrooks  
Gary & Ronda Heller  
Great Grandparents...  
Helen & the late Bo Dyer  
Wally & Ellie Westbrooks  
Margaret Hayes

**Emileigh Morgan Jones**  
Born... September 25, 2004




Parents...  
Jason & Amber Jones  
Grandparents...  
Rick & Sandy Crosswhite  
Mike & Jayne Jones

**Lily Darlene Forbes**  
Born... October 8, 2004




Parents...  
John & Melody Forbes  
Brother...  
Dillon Forbes  
Grandparents...  
Dwight & Kathy Dennis  
Larry & Judy Parker  
Tom & Wanda Forbes

**Garrett Lee McDonald**  
Born... August 12, 2004




Parents...  
Robert & Debbie McDonald  
Brother & Sisters...  
LaShonda, Jesse & Haylea  
Grandparents...  
Clifford & Linda McDonald  
Joseph & Carol Neil

**Huston Jeffrey Skinner**  
Born... June 22, 2004



Parents...  
Jeff & Kim Skinner  
Brothers & Sisters...  
Colby, Brittany, Copper, Hali, Casey,  
Heath & Hayden  
Grandparents...  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Don Skinner  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Stowers

**Bryson Ray Ruiz**  
Born... April 12, 2004




Parents...  
Cassie Newton & Arturo Ruiz  
Grandparents...  
Dee Dee & Steve Alexander  
Marissa & Curtis Newton

**Lella Belle McPherson**  
Born... May 18, 2004




Parents...  
Bill & Crystal McPherson  
Brothers & Sisters...  
Marlee, Ashley, Hannah,  
Billy & Isaiah

**Jorden McKinzee Perry**  
Born... June 17, 2004



Parents...  
Tristan & Britany Perry  
Grandparents...  
Doug & Cindy Kempf

**Samuel Perez II**  
Born... April 29, 2004




Parents...  
Jose Luis Perez Jr. & Christie Sanchez  
Grandparents...  
Chris & Terry Sanchez  
Jose Luis Perez  
Maria Adame

**Trystan Paige Kidd**  
Born... April 24, 2004




Parents...  
Heather Day & Kevin Kidd  
Grandparents...  
Nita & Michael Longo  
Tony & Gloria Day  
Lori Kidd

**James Wesley Summerlin Jr.**  
Born... October 10, 2004



Parents...  
Cassy & Wes Summerlin  
Grandparents...  
Jay & Anita Urbanczyk  
Paula & the late Wesley H. Summerlin

**Dominick Joshua Parsons**  
Born... July 23, 2004




Parents...  
Joshua & Sherri Parsons  
Brother & Sisters...  
Danielle Frazier, Shane White,  
Jordan, Jady & Courtney Parsons  
Grandparents...  
Michelle Rice  
Russell & Victoria Parsons  
Tim & Kathy Johnson

**Baileigh Halaine Shaw**  
Born... June 12, 2004



Parents...  
Willie & Wyomia Shaw  
Grandparents...  
Mike & Geri Shaw  
Zane & Tammy Roitz  
Michael & Michelle Wardle

**Jaidyn Harris**  
Born... June 17, 2004




Parents...  
Rhonda & Jason Harris  
Sister...  
Briana

**Walker Wright**  
Born... June 5, 2004



Parents...  
Jason & Valerie Wright  
Grandparents...  
Denver & Diana Bruner  
Sharon Wright & Ron Wright  
Great Grandparents...  
Margie Dennis & the late Paul Sangster  
Billie & the late Bob Bruner  
Don & Barbara Philpott  
Beauford & the late Margaret Wright

**Kaylyn Shyanne Tidwell**  
Born... April 29, 2004




Parents...  
Jeff & Junia Tidwell  
Brother & Sister...  
Jacob & Chantelle  
Grandparents...  
Gary & Sherry Bolch  
Don & Dianne Tidwell

**Harley Knight Organ**  
Born... September 29, 2004




Parents...  
Janene Lucas & Steve Organ  
Sisters...  
Kaleigh & Ashlyn  
Grandparents...  
Ann Bridges  
Bill & Linda Frost  
Bob Bridges

**Kelton Ryan Bowers**  
Born... May 31, 2004



Parents...  
Richy & Ruth Bowers  
Brother...  
Skylar  
Grandparents...  
David & Janiece Bowers  
Ross & Theresa Jameson  
Great Grandparents...  
Esther Bowers & Agnes Jameson

**Grayson Baker**  
Born... September 30, 2004



Parents...  
Lane & Emily Baker  
Grandparents...  
Dr. Tom & Sue Baker  
Aunts & Uncles...  
Aaron & Annie Baker / Landon Baker  
He is the twinkle in our Christmas!

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Ashley Graf and Lucas Jaramillo

## Graf, Jaramillo wed in Manitou Springs

Ashley Graf and Lucas Jaramillo, both of Colorado Springs, Colo., were wed Nov. 20 at Craftwood Inn in Manitou Springs, Colo., with the Rev. John Williams, of First Baptist Church in Monticello, Utah, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Graf, Jr., of Colorado Springs, Colo.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Jaramillo of Pampa.

The maid of honor was Alicia Portillo and the bridesmaid Riana Shaver, both of Colorado Springs. The flower girl was Isabel Valenzuela of Colorado Springs.

Serving as best man and groomsman were brothers of the groom Gabriel Jaramillo and Christopher Jaramillo, respectively, both of

Colorado Springs. Both brothers also doubled as ushers. The ring bearer was Austin Shaver of Colorado Springs.

A reception was held at the inn following the service.

The bride is a 2001 graduate of Wasson High School and attended Pike's Peak Community College. She is currently employed at College Pharmacy in Colorado Springs.

A 1998 graduate of Pampa High School, the groom holds a bachelor of science degree in computer science from West Texas A&M University and is currently employed as a computer programmer at Christian and Missionary Alliance Organization.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico, and intend to make their home in Colorado Springs.



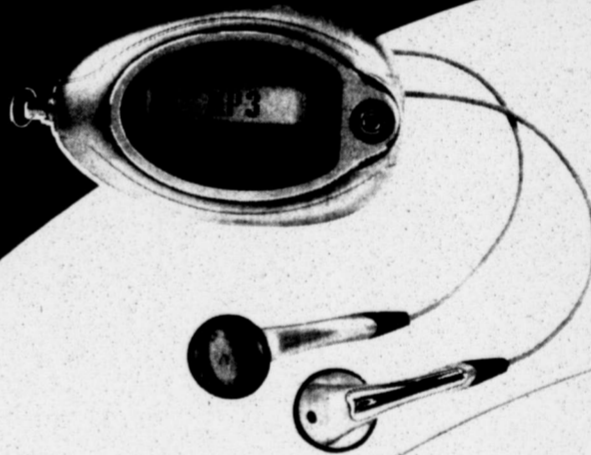
# With Heartfelt Thanks

*Wishing you a healthy and upbeat holiday season. It's been a pleasure caring for you this past year.*



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