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Jim Bruton

# The PAMPA NEWS

Volume 104 • No. 212

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## Hearings slated on tuition increase

CANYON — Officials at West Texas A&M University have scheduled five public hearings to address a proposed increase in designated tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Each of the five public hearings will take place at the Jack B. Kelley Student Center on campus.

The first hearing is at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. Two other hearings will be Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The final two hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Designated tuition is a general use fee authorized by the Texas Education Code that universities use as part of a student's total tuition costs.

WTAMU's present designated tuition is \$86 per semester credit hour, which ranks below both the average and median of the designated tuition rates of the 35 public universities in Texas.

"The university will seek authority from The State Board of Education to increase designated tuition to \$100 per semester credit hour," said David Eves, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company.

## Xcel withdraws fuel surcharge plans

AMARILLO — Xcel Energy has withdrawn a planned fuel-cost surcharge that would have raised average residential bills in Texas by 6.2 percent beginning in January.

Lower natural gas prices and the addition of the new, efficient Hobbs Generating Station to the power generation mix are projected to largely offset the company's past fuel cost under-collections, said David Eves, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company.

Overall bills in Texas were reduced by more than 8 percent at the beginning of November when the company lowered its fuel cost factor — the rate at which the company charges customers

See Xcel, Page 1

## All jazzed up



submitted photo

Students at Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center are preparing for a fund-raiser meal and show "Scrooge: All Jazzed Up Like the Dickens" this coming Sunday at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Admission will be \$8 for adults and \$6 for children between 4 and 12. Children 3 and under will be admitted at no charge.

## Richard Morris named Interim City Manager

Mark Buzzard tapped for City Attorney  
 Municipal judge will become city employee

by David Bowers  
 staff reporter

The City of Pampa will have to start providing its municipal judge with benefits.

Judge Kurt Curfman has been working under contract to the city, but Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins said following an executive session of the city commission Tuesday, that under a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service, the municipal judge was a full-time employee of the city.

The city will provide the judge with

full benefits effective January 1.

The city commission also named Richard Morris, Pampa's public works director as interim city manager effective Dec. 12. That is the date that City Manager Trevlyn Pitner will leave to take a job in Dallas with the private sector.

Mark Buzzard was named Pampa City Attorney. City Attorney Franklin McDonough is leaving to take a position as assistant district attorney in

See City, Page 3

## Plea agreements reached in felony cases

by Rachel Stennett  
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

The 223rd Judicial District Court approved many plea agreements for second and third degree felony offenses yesterday, with the honorable Judge Lee Waters Presiding.

In the case of Texas vs. Dirk Gellert, Gellert pleaded guilty to failure to attend drug program, failure to perform community service, delinquent payments, failure to attend theft classes, and failure to report to probation supervision officer.

Gellert reached a plea agreement with the district attorney to serve five

years probation, and confinement for 16 months in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, institutional division. Gellert also was ordered to pay restitution.

Charles Fredrick Sidelnik pleaded guilty to the third degree felony of possession of a controlled substance greater than 5 pounds but less than 50 pounds. Sidelnik was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000. Sidelnik lives in the state of New York and the court approved the transfer of probation supervision to that state.

Justin Allen Thomas pleaded guilty to two second degree felonies. In one charge for fraud using counterfeit \$20 bills on Jan. 24, 2008. Thomas reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve seven years probation, and pay \$2,000 in fines. On a second charge, Thomas agreed to 10 years of probation and payment of another \$2,000 fine, and 240 hours of community service.

Larry Dean Fernandez pleaded guilty to money laundering that had allegedly occurred on Sept. 11, 2007. Fernandez

was placed on probation, but failed to complete substance abuse evaluation, and failed to report to the probation supervising officer within 48 hours of an arrest. In September of 2008, Fernandez was also charged with battery and domestic violence. He pleaded true to possession/consumption of marijuana, being delinquent in paying court cost, and failure to perform community service. A plea agreement was reached with the DA for five years of probation, and payment of \$1,500 in fines.

Jesse Lee Spencer




pleaded guilty to a third degree felony charge of possession of marijuana greater than four ounces but less than 5 pounds and to possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) greater than one gram, but less than four grams. To the first charge, Spencer agreed to pay \$2,000 in fines (\$1,000 at the time of agreement and the other \$1,000 over probation time), serve three years of probation, and 120 hours of community service. To the second charge, Spencer pleaded

See Pleas, Page 3

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**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. Wind chill values between 22 and 32 early. Calm wind becoming west-northwest around 5 mph.  
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 23 and 28. South-southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. Windy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. South-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. South-southwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41.

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**Grain prices**

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.

Wheat	4.10
Milo	3.89
Corn	5.67

**CITY BRIEFS**

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

**BABY'S 1ST** Christmas (in the Christmas Eve edition of the Pampa News), deadline is Dec. 15th, 5pm. \$25. Photos should be of baby only, please. No emailed photos will be accepted.

**DUANE HARP'S** Edward Jones Office Christmas Open House, 11-3, Thurs., Dec. 11th

**PAMCEL FEDERAL** Credit Union Members, Please stop by the credit union for our Holiday Open House on Thurs., Dec. 11, from 7am-2pm at the plant office, and 9am-3pm at the branch office. We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2009!

**ATTENTION PAMPA** Lions Club Members. No club for Thurs. Dec 11th. Don't forget the Christmas Party that evening at 7:00.

**PICTURES WITH** Santa, Dec. 11 & 18th, 4-7pm, Shutterbug Photography, 207 N. Cuyler, 681-2840.

**PUPPIES FOR** Sale! 1/2 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, 1/2 Chocolate Lab, \$75, 1st round of shots included. Will Go Fast! 806-664-0333 leave message.

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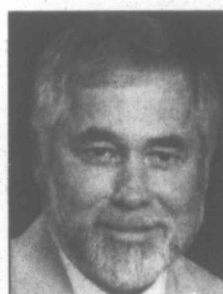
**6th Annual Candlelight Service**  
**Monday, Dec 15, At 6 pm**  
**PUBLIC INVITED Luminarias Lit at Dark**  
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**Obituaries**

**Services tomorrow**

**HALE, Arnold Vernon** — 2:30 p.m., Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, Sheridan, Ark.  
**JUSTICE, Clara Brown** — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.  
**RAY, Mary L.** — 9 a.m., Thursday, Kiesau Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, Clinton, Okla. Burial, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

**Donny Dee Fields, 63**



Fields

**SEAGRAVES** — Donny Dee Fields, 63, of Seagraves, passed away Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, in Lubbock.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Billy Oliver officiating, assisted by the Rev. Floyd Haddock.

Interment will follow in the Gaines County Cemetery with services

under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Seagraves.

Donny was born Feb. 25, 1945, in Whitesboro, Texas, to Joe Calvin and Minnie Fields. He married Connie Gail Miller in Seagraves on July 10, 1965.

Donny was a farmer. He was a member of the First Baptist Church. Donny was preceded in death by his father in 1983 and his brother, Ricky, in 2000.

He is survived by his wife, Connie Fields of Seagraves; two daughters, Ginger Langehennig and

husband, Mark, of Seagraves, and Debra Barrera and husband, Daniel, of Hutto; six grandchildren, Vondee, Drew, Ryan and Jenna Langehennig, and Steffen and Jonah Calvin Barrera; his mother, Minnie Fields of Sherman; and four brothers, Joe Fields of Douglass, Kenneth Fields of Conroe, Jimmy Fields of Pauls Valley, Okla., and Ronny Fields of Sherman.

**Arnold Vernon Hale, 90**

**LEWISVILLE** — Arnold Vernon Hale of Lewisville, Texas, formerly of Sheridan, Ark., was born Nov. 29, 1918, in Grant County and died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, at the Regency Long Term Acute Care facility in North Carrollton, Texas. He was 90 years old on his birthday.

Arnold Hale was the son of Jasper Emery and Helen Madeline Perigan Hale. His wife, Sarah Lybrand Hale, predeceased him on March 5, 1999. Arnold worked as a maintenance worker at the Celanese Chemical Plant in Pampa,

Texas, until he retired in 1982.

He was also a World War II United States Army veteran. He was a member of Lakeland Baptist Church in Lewisville, Texas, and was formerly a member of North Main Baptist Church in Sheridan.

He loved visiting with people and working in his garden which he was doing the last week of October when he became ill with pneumonia. He lived independently in an active senior citizen apartment in Lewisville, Texas.

He is the last of his generation, being predeceased

by his brothers, Jessie Hale and Auston Eugene Hale, both from the Sheridan area, and by Elbert Hale from the West Coast; and his sisters, Fronia Berry, Lois Barnes, Othell Skeeto and Vera Mae Taylor, all from the Grapevine area.

Survivors are Arnold's sons, David Arnold Hale and wife, Linda Jo Ross Hale, of Flower Mound, Texas, and Joe Vernon Hale of Sheridan; grandchildren, John-David Hale of Lewisville, Texas, Charles (Chuck) Hale of Jacksboro, Texas, D'Lisa Amber Hale Bennett and husband, Matthew Lane

Bennett, of Flower Mound, Texas, and Philip Austin Hale and wife, Mary, of Graham, Texas; and five great-grandchildren.

Family and friends visitation will be Wednesday night, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home in Sheridan. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home in Sheridan with burial following at the Grapevine Cemetery near Sheridan.

Memorials may be made to the North Main Baptist Church in Sheridan.

**Clara Brown Justice, 99**



Justice

**Clara Brown Justice** passed away in Odessa, Texas, on March 8, 2008. The daughter of Hamp and Linnie Brown, Clara was born March 30, 1909, in Amarillo and lived most of her life in Pampa.

Clara married Harold

Lee Justice on Oct. 23, 1946, in Pampa and taught school at Lefors, Grandview and Pampa for 29 years. Her husband, Harold, pre-

ceded her in death in 1991.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Glenn and Reba Justice; three grandsons, Matt, John

and Robbie Justice; and two great-grandsons, Tanner and Tyler Justice.

Graveside services conducted by the Rev. John Curry are to be held in Pampa at Fairview Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11.

**Emergency Services**

**Fire**

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 5 and 12 p.m. Dec. 8.

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
 8:59 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to an odor investigation in the 300 block of Foster. Nothing was found.  
 11:19 a.m. — One unit

and three personnel responded to a call of unconscious/unresponsive in the 1200 block of East Francis.

11:28 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 11000 block of Highway 152 West on a call for medical assistance.

1:01 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a vehicle fire in the 600 block of

Faulkner.

1:28 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to 1 Medical Plaza on a standby for LifeStar Helicopter.

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
 3:11 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a natural gas odor in the 700 block of Lefors. Nothing was found.

8:15 a.m. — One unit and three personnel

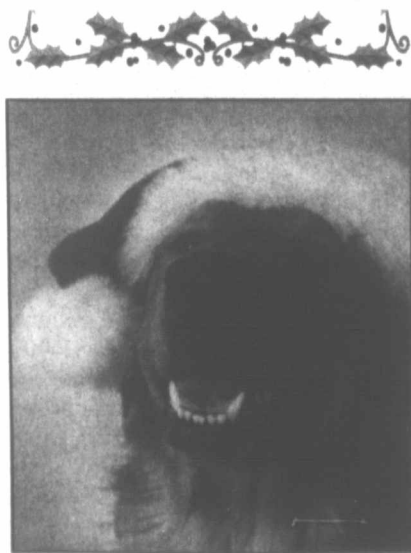
responded to the 400 block of Starkweather on a medical call.

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 8:28 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a hay bale fire on Horse Alley off Price Road.

8:50 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2000 block of Duncan on a call for lifting assistance.

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# Xcel

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for the fuel used to generate power — to reflect lower natural gas prices.

At the time, however, the company was still millions of dollars behind on collecting past fuel costs because of natural gas price spikes in 2007 and mid 2008. Since the November fuel factor was set, prices have fallen even further and the new Hobbs plant began delivering even more savings. The net result is expected to eliminate the need for the previously scheduled surcharge.

Customers will continue paying a fuel surcharge that was placed on bills in April 2008, but that surcharge will expire at the end of March, further reducing the amount customers will pay for fuel in the foreseeable future.

An average residential customer in Texas using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month is now paying 9.4 cents per kWh, or \$94.42 per month. In October that same customer was paying 10.9 cents per kWh, or \$109.60 per month.

"While falling natural gas prices are primarily responsible for lower

overall bills, we can't overlook the impact of the new Hobbs Generating Station, which is 40 percent more efficient than our existing fleet of gas-fired plants," Eves said. "This plant not only reduces natural gas use on our system, but it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater use."

Eves pointed out that changes in fuel costs are separate from a proposal to increase Texas base rates, which recover (non-fuel) operational and maintenance expenses and increased investment in infrastructure. One such investment is the Hobbs plant, which increases base rate-recoverable costs, but decreases fuel consumption.

Texas communities served by Xcel Energy, along with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, are in the process of examining the base rate proposal. A decision on base rate changes could come by the end of the year or in early 2009.

Eves said fuel charges are pass-through costs that pay for the coal and natural gas used to produce electric energy at Xcel Energy-owned power plants in the area, along with wind power and energy purchased from outside providers.

# Pleas

Continued from Page 1

guilty and reached an agreement for five years probation, and payments of \$2,000 in fines, \$140 in restitution, and 160 hours of community service.

Dione Nicole Wood pleaded guilty to possession of controlled substance, (methamphetamine) greater than one gram but less than four grams, and possession of marijuana greater than four ounces and less than five pounds. On the first charge, Wood agreed to serve five years probation and pay \$2,000 in fines, and on the second charge, Wood agreed to serve three years probation and pay \$2,000 in fines. Woods is a resident of California, and transfer or probation supervision to the state of California was approved.

Miguel A. Villegas, Villegas pleaded guilty to a second degree felony for threatening an alleged victim and shooting their direction with a firearm, and use of a deadly weapon in March of 2008. Villegas reached a plea agreement with the DA and agreed to serve four years of probation, pay \$3,000 in fines, and to have no contact with the victim or the families. The state agreed not to pursue a case with an alleged second victim for the guilty plea.

Mary Tiffany Martin pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana more than 5 pounds but less than 20 pounds in February of 2008. Martin reached an agreement with the DA to serve six years of probation, and pay \$4,000 in fines, \$2,000 at the time of agreement, and \$2,000 over probation time. Martin also agreed to pay \$140 in restitution fees, and serve 240 hours of community service.

John David Richards pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) less than one gram on March 14, 2007, and driving while intoxicated in October of 2002.

Richards reached a plea agreement with the DA for four years of probation, payment of \$4,000 in fines, \$140 in restitution fees, and to serve 240 hours of community service.

Robert Allen Robinson pleaded guilty to criminal mischief, where property was damaged and tires punctured causing more than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000 in damage. Robinson reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve three years of probation, pay \$1,000 in fines, \$4,998.74 in restitution, and serve 120 hours of community service.

Simeon Xavier Dunn pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine greater than one gram, but less than four grams. Dunn agreed to serve four years probation, pay \$3,000 in fines, pay \$140 in restitution, and serve 160 hours of community service.

Stephen Jerald Pierce pleaded guilty to secure execution of document by deception greater than \$1,500 less than \$20,000. Pierce had previously pleaded guilty to this charge and at the time reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve three years of deferred probation. That probation was violated, and he was reached a new agreement to serve five years probation, pay about \$1,500 in fines, and serve 120 hours of community service.

Jesse Tyler Riley pleaded guilty to the second degree felony of intent to commit theft and forced entry of habitation. Riley reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve seven years of probation, pay \$3,000 in fines, and perform 240 hours of community service.

Jake Adam Barry pleaded guilty to evading arrest through the use of a motor vehicle, and driving while intoxicated. Barry reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve two years probation, and 120 hours of community service.

Tracy Lynn Morris pleaded guilty to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Morris reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve 12 months in

state jail.

Joshua Mullen pleaded guilty to credit card/debit abuse and burglary of habitation, a second degree felony. Mullen reached a plea agreement with the DA to serve 18 months in confinement in the state jail, and eight years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, institutional division, for the burglary of habitation charge.


# WTAMU

Continued from Page 1


Texas A&M University System Board of Regents at its March meeting to increase what WTAMU charges for designated tuition.

WTAMU is not alone in seeking an increase in designated tuition; most state universities are looking at similar proposals.

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# City

Continued from Page 1

Hutchinson County. The commission also approved participation in a bond issue by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to raise \$21.6 million to expand their Robert County well field.

The city commission approved on second and final reading a Pampa Economic Development grant of \$350,000 to the Pampa Independent School District's athletic department for synthetic turf on the football field

at Harvester Stadium.

They also approved on second and final reading a \$50,000 matching grant by the Pampa Economic Development Corporation to establish the Gray-Pampa Community Fund. The fund, with a matching \$50,000 by the Amarillo Area Foundation, will be managed by the foundation. A board of directors from Pampa will oversee the fund.

Due to the holiday schedule, the commission cancelled their Dec. 23 meeting and called a special meeting for noon on Dec. 30.

## 2 children die in Houston duplex fire

HOUSTON (AP) — Twin toddlers died in a fire at their mother's duplex on Houston's first wintry morning of the season Wednesday.

Houston police said the mother of the 18-month-old girls had left two stove burners on and left them alone for a short time.

The mother, who was not immediately identified, said when she returned, she saw smoke coming from the building.

Police questioned the mother and released her without charges while they continue to investigate the fire.

Temperatures in Houston dropped into the 30s overnight Wednesday, the coldest of the season so far.

## Seliger to speak at WTAMU commencement

CANYON — Texas Sen. Kel Seliger will serve as guest speaker at West Texas A&M University's fall commencement exercises Saturday, Dec. 13 at the First United Bank Center.

The Senator will actually speak at two commencements that day. Diplomas will be handed out at 10 a.m. for students in the College of Agriculture, Science and Engineering, the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and a second commencement begins at 3 p.m. for students in the College of Business and the College of Education and Social Sciences.

A total of 589 students have applied for fall graduation.

Seliger, who served four terms as mayor of Amarillo, was sworn into the Texas Senate in March 2004 after a special election to represent District 31. The district covers the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle and includes Amarillo, Midland, Odessa and Big Spring.

He was re-elected to the senate position in 2004 and currently serves as vice chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. He also is a member of the Natural Resources, International Relations and Trade and Administration Committees and has been appointed to the Energy Council.

He has been recognized for his work and honored with several awards including the Texas Municipal League Distinguished Legislative Service Award and the Rural Legislator of the Year Award.

Other graduation activities include a graduation reception and ring ceremony from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 in the Grand Lobby of the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex.

West Texas A&M University conducts three commencement ceremonies each year in December, May and August.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 2008. There are 21 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on Dec. 10, 1958, National Airlines opened the era of U.S. domestic jet passenger service as it began flights between New York and Miami using Boeing 707s leased from Pan Am.

On this date:

In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication.

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state.

In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.

*'It is only in romances that people undergo a sudden metamorphosis. In real life, even after the most terrible experiences, the main character remains exactly the same.'*

— Isadora Duncan  
American dance pioneer

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1931, Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (the co-recipient was

Nicholas Murray Butler).

In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed in the crash of their plane in Lake Monona, Wis.

In 1978, movie director Edward D. Wood Jr. ("Plan 9 From Outer Space") died in North Hollywood, Calif., at age 54.

Ten years ago: Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee lined up one by one in favor of impeaching President Bill Clinton; Democrats vowed opposition after lawyers clashed in closing arguments over alleged "high crimes and misdemeanors." Six astronauts jubilantly swung open the doors to the new international space station, becoming the first guests aboard the orbiting outpost. The Palestinian leadership scrapped constitutional clauses rejecting Israel's existence.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harold Gould is 85. Actor Tommy Kirk is 67. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 67. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 62. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 62. Actress Susan Dey is 56. Actress Nia Peeples is 47. TV chef Bobby Flay is 44.

## State implementing practical strategies in transparency, spending

By Susan Combs  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

At our office, we continuously pore over budgets in keeping the books for our agency and the state as a whole — a large task, and one that should be open to scrutiny. By my fourth day as Comptroller, we published all of our agency expenditures online, right down to the pencils. And thanks to the Where the Money Goes Web site, our expenditures and those of other state agencies are available and easily searchable online.

In these tough economic times, Texans deserve to know their tax dollars are used wisely. Just as working families must cut expenses and look for ways to save, government must tighten its belt and make the most of every dollar.

To do our part in improving Texas government, we recently introduced Open Book Texas, a three-part set of initiatives aimed at improving government spending, transparency and accounting accuracy.

### First Initiative: Texas Smart Buy

Transparency helps spotlight spending ineffi-

ciencies after the fact, and our office also works to make Texas state government a better shopper from the outset. That is where Texas Smart Buy helps.

The initiative gives agencies and local governments access to an online shopping cart —

Transparency Check-Up, our office expands on previous online accountability efforts and encourages transparency at all levels of Texas government finance.

The Web site offers transparency guidance to local governments and provides Texans an

ing, beyond our Where the Money Goes online expenditure database, we are pursuing an initiative to introduce more uniformity in Texas government accounting.

Today, we have many sets of books of sometimes conflicting accounting data across Texas state agencies, a recipe for duplication that can make accurate bookkeeping an enormous challenge. With the Single Set of Books Initiative, our office will work with agencies to present a report to the Legislature on ways that state accounting systems and processes can be made more accurate and useful in decision making.

Transparency and wise spending are important during the best of times, and absolutely essential during an uncertain economy when there are no dollars to waste. We need to be sure we show the same common sense, resourcefulness and thrift when spending money as the hardworking citizens of the Lone Star State.

For an in-depth look at Open Book Texas, visit [www.window.state.tx.us/openbook/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/openbook/).



Susan Combs

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

much like shopping at popular online retailers — that allows them to purchase goods and services through state-negotiated contracts. By purchasing from those contracts, individual purchasers can leverage the state of Texas' bulk buying power to receive lower prices.

For years, families have bought in bulk to save money, and it makes sense for state government to have the same option.

### Second Initiative: Texas Transparency Check-Up

With the rollout of a new Web site, Texas

opportunity to see how well their local governments stack up in offering online access to financial information.

When you know what you are spending, you know how to spend better. Our office is committed to seeing that philosophy spread to every level of government. In the age of the Internet, there is seldom a reason to not publish public information online.

### Third Initiative: Single Set of Books

To shine more light on state agency bookkeep-



## Editorial Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion:

*The Observer*, London, on Mumbai terrorist attacks:

India's trauma will be measured not just by the scale of the attacks on Mumbai, but by their duration. For nearly three days, security forces battled terrorists for control of sites in the heart of the financial capital of the world's largest democracy. Compared to the instant horror of a suicide bombing, a paramilitary death squad murders in slow motion. The time it took to defeat the gunmen brought a new

dimension to the fight against terrorism. On this occasion, it truly looked like war.

To Indian authorities, it also looks like invasion. New Delhi was quick to blame "elements linked to Pakistan." ...

India's terrible misfortune is to have been singled out as a collaborator in the imagined Western conspiracy against Muslims. ...

The enormous challenge for India's government is to pursue justice for the victims of jihadi violence and simultaneously to embrace the cause of justice for those Muslims in whose name the jihadis claim to act. In other words,

New Delhi must find a way to make the defeat of terrorism a common cause among its citizens regardless of faith. ...

India was targeted not just because it is a country with an unhappy Muslim minority, but because it is a democracy undergoing rapid and potentially destabilizing economic change, and with a history of inter-faith violence. But India is also a regional beacon of cultural openness and political freedom. The terrorists clearly think the bastion is brittle and can be blown apart. They must be proved wrong.

## Write to us, we welcome your letters

The Pampa News invites input from our readers. Let us know what's important to you. To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

•Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

•All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter, so we can verify the author. Only your name and city will be published.

•Defamatory comments will not be published.

•"Thank you" letters are not permitted.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

[rpribble@thepampanews.com](mailto:rpribble@thepampanews.com)

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager

[advertising@thepampanews.com](mailto:advertising@thepampanews.com)

Betsy Phillips

Editor

[bphillips@thepampanews.com](mailto:bphillips@thepampanews.com)

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative

[advertising1@thepampanews.com](mailto:advertising1@thepampanews.com)

David Bowser

Reporter

[dbowser@thepampanews.com](mailto:dbowser@thepampanews.com)

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising

[classified@thepampanews.com](mailto:classified@thepampanews.com)

Rachel Stennett

Reporter

[rstennett@thepampanews.com](mailto:rstennett@thepampanews.com)

Kera Kent

Circulation

[circulation@thepampanews.com](mailto:circulation@thepampanews.com)

Skyla Bryant

Lifestyles Reporter

[lifestyles@thepampanews.com](mailto:lifestyles@thepampanews.com)

Carrie Hair

Accounting

[bookkeeper@thepampanews.com](mailto:bookkeeper@thepampanews.com)

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

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# Comics

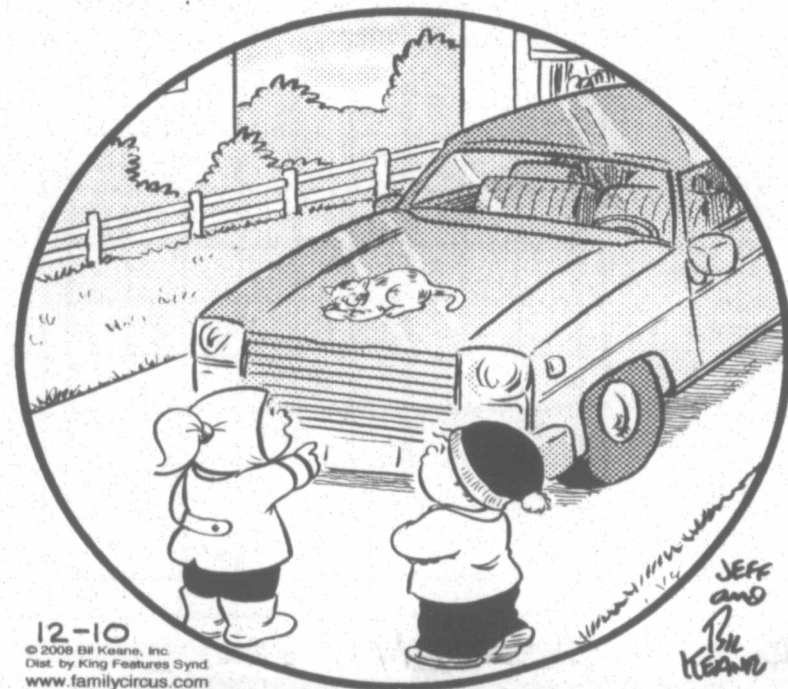
## Marmaduke



"Did you hear her call us 'partners in crime'?"

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Kittycat likes to play hood ornament on our car ... till Daddy gets in to drive."

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Monopoly card
  - 1 "Ali" or "Ray" card
  - 7 Prejudice hit the showers
  - 11 Book goofs
  - 12 Opposed to
  - 13 Macbeth prop
  - 14 Dance part
  - 15 Attack from hiding
  - 17 Tibia setting
  - 20 Small sounds
  - 23 Hauler's unit
  - 24 "Camelot" song
  - 26 Museum stuff
  - 27 Brewpub product
  - 28 Not at home
  - 29 Get what's coming to you
  - 31 Area code preceder for some
  - 32 "Superman" star
  - 33 Appends
  - 34 Lane of Broadway
  - 37 Tater
  - 39 Stamping need
  - 43 Staff member
  - 44 Tejano singing star
- DOWN**
- 1 Sleep site
  - 2 Lyricist
  - 3 Assn. Gershwin
  - 4 Heathen
  - 5 Gossip bit
  - 6 Diet no-no, for some
  - 7 Long-eared hound
  - 8 Swing Era hit
  - 9 Pigged out
  - 10 Tentative taste
  - 16 Surprise win
  - 17 Flight part
  - 18 Singer Lena
  - 19 Starkers
  - 21 Weight unit
  - 22 Locales
  - 24 Insertion signal
  - 25 Quarter-back
  - 30 Dodged
  - 33 Sock
  - 35 Radiator spot
  - 36 Freshly sound
  - 37 Down
  - 38 Diner
  - 40 Soup bit
  - 41 Crumb carrier
  - 42 Calendar box

GENRE	DATUM
OCEAN	ARENA
DROP	CURTAIN
SUN	INK
ENDED	
CANDO	NEPAL
AGOG	CUBA
LODES	CANES
SHELF	
PAL	UMA
IRON	CURTAIN
CLOAK	EAGLE
SONGS	TRESS

### Yesterday's answer

**NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!** Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11							12		
13							14		
		15				16			
17	18	19				20		21	22
23			24	25					
26			27				28		
29			30					31	
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		34			35	36			
37	38				39		40	41	42
43					44				
45					46				

## For Better Or Worse



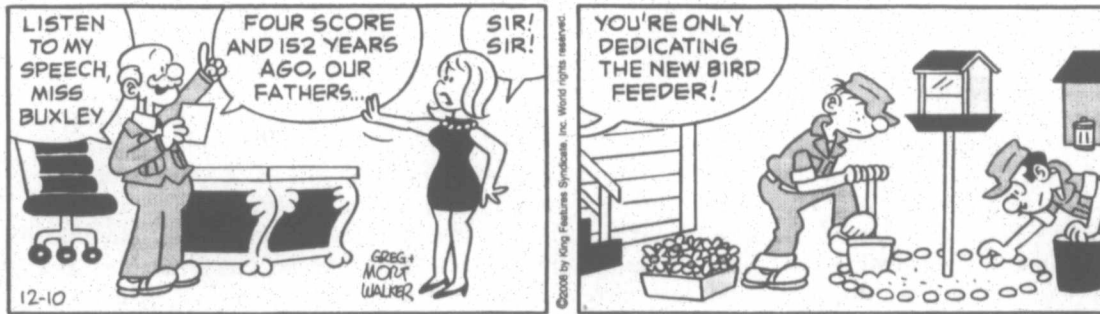
## Zits



## Garfield



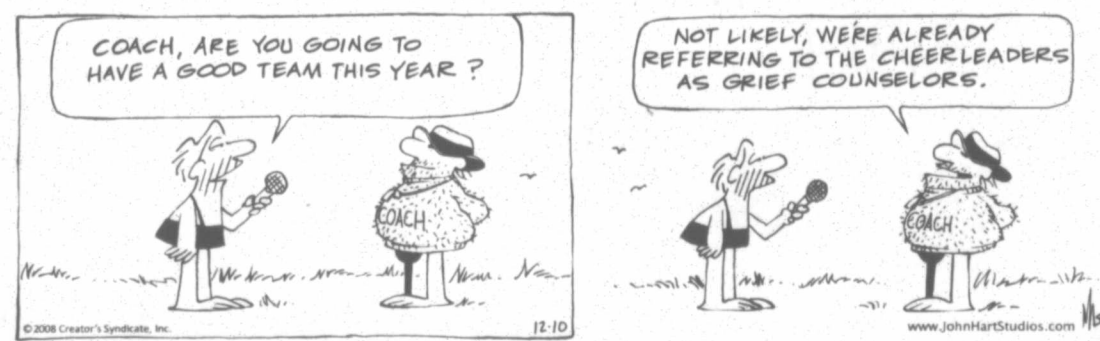
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends





# Sports

## POYC News

### The Red Riot and Culligan of Pampa win City Tournament

By Roy Lott  
Special to The Pampa News

The POYC Girls basketball season came to an end Monday night with much excitement with both the 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade championship games going into extra events.

In the 3rd-4th grade league, Giles Construction went undefeated through the tournament only to face The Red Riot in the finals. The Red Riot came out on top in the first game forcing the "IF" game due to Giles having only one lose. The final game proved to be as exciting with a

low scoring event, but The Red Riots tenacious defense put them on top in the end to become the 2008 3rd-4th Girls POYC City Champs.

The 5th-6th grade was also very entertaining. Shutterbug Photography came into the tournament seeded 4th only to knock off #1 seed Culligan of Pampa and then going on to defeat the #2 seed, Niccum Electric. In the finals Monday, Culligan would defeat Shutterbug in the first game forcing another "IF" game giving Shutterbug their first lose. The final game went 3 periods before Culligan finally pulled away for the win making them

the 2008 5th-6th POYC City Champs.

We would like to thank all of the coaches, teams and sponsors for the 2008 season. Once again it was a very successful season due to all of your cooperation.

2008 Sponsors include: Shutterbug Photography, Panhandle Perforators, Pampa Concrete, B&G Performance, Giles Construction, Culligan of Pampa, Niccum Electric, and The Red Riot Sponsor.

Boys basketball season will be starting in January, come support Pampa Optimist and the boys by cheering on your favorite team.

### Yankees, Sabathia close to \$160M deal

LAS VEGAS (AP) — CC Sabathia and the New York Yankees are closing in on a seven-year contract worth about \$160 million, a deal that would be a record for a pitcher.

The Yankees and the pitcher's agents had not yet reached a letter of agreement, a baseball official familiar with the talks said Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because a deal had not yet been finalized. The official said the Yankees were confident an agreement would soon be reached.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman left the winter meetings Tuesday and traveled to the San Francisco area to meet with the pitcher and his wife.



### Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old, happily married girl, but I have a problem. My 15-year-old cousin "Rayleen" likes my husband. She calls his cell phone at all hours of the night, and last week she sent him a letter telling him that I was cheating on him (a lie!) and that when he decides to get a divorce from me, if he wants a "real woman" to give her a call.

Rayleen has always had a thing for older men, but this time she has just gone too far. I know my husband loves me and would never believe her, but I'm not sure how to tell my cousin to stop. I don't want to be mean, but she can't have him. -- FURIOUS IN ALABAMA

DEAR FURIOUS: It appears that no one ever taught your hormonal cousin that there are boundaries that should not be crossed. You should not be the person telling Rayleen to cool off and face reality. That message should come from your husband, as he tells her to stop calling and stop writing nasty letters because he already has a real woman -- his wife.

P.S. And the letter should be turned over to Rayleen's mother because right now your cousin needs some parenting a lot worse than she needs a man.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old guy who, due to money problems, credit card bills and student loans, recently moved back with my parents. Before I moved in they made me agree to a written contract that included no drinking, no smoking of any kind, a midnight curfew, getting a job and stating that once I move out I can't move back in again.

I get what they're trying to do, but I feel like they are treating me like a child. I only agreed to the terms because I was desperate.

I have abided by all the rules, but they still are suspicious of me breaking the contract after five months under their roof. I want to move out, but I am still unable to do so. What can I do to make this situation better? -- DESPERATE IN ARIZONA

DEAR DESPERATE: Your parents may have insisted on the stipula-

tions of the contract because of something that happened before you first moved out on your own. Because they feel strongly about drinking, smoking and the curfew, the best advice I can offer is to obey the rules, avoid arguments and save your money until you can earn enough to become independent again.

DEAR ABBY: With the economic problems so many people are having, I thought I'd share a holiday gift suggestion with you.

Years ago, I realized my

nephew was receiving more toys than he could ever enjoy, so I gave him a Christmas ornament instead. He was only 5 or 6 at the time, so I'm not sure he really appreciated it then. However, as more nieces and nephews came along, I continued the tradition of giving them ornaments.

They all grew to treasure their personal ornaments and took great delight in having something of their own to hang on the tree each year. -- DAVID S. IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR DAVID S.:

Thank you for sharing a wonderful idea. I'm sure that now your nieces and nephews are grown, hanging those ornaments on their own trees has special significance.

I knew a woman years ago who used to craft gorgeous Christmas tree ornaments using Styrofoam balls decorated with ribbons, sequins and beads. They were special not only because of the love and work she put into them, but also because they were entirely unique.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

6	7	9	2	5	4	8	1	3
4	8	3	1	9	7	6	5	2
2	1	5	8	3	6	9	7	4
8	6	4	9	7	2	1	3	5
7	5	1	6	8	3	4	2	9
9	3	2	5	4	1	7	6	8
1	4	7	3	2	8	5	9	6
3	9	6	4	1	5	2	8	7
5	2	8	7	6	9	3	4	1

Sudoku

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		8		9	3			5
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Level: Intermediate

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**1 Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
 The City of McLean shall conduct a public hearing at 1:30 pm on Monday, December 17, 2008 in the McLean City Hall, 220 N. Main, McLean, Texas to review the performance and obtain comments on its Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) 2006 Contract #726421. The City encourages citizens to participate in the review of its TxCDBG project and to make their views known at this public hearing. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend this meeting should contact the City Mayor's office at (806)779-2481 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City Mayor's Office at least two business days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.  
 B-99 Dec. 10, 2008

**5 Special Notices**

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

**10 Lost/Found**

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White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

LOCKER Bed, full size, w/ computer table & storage. Excellent cond., \$250. 669-9424.

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CUSTOM Soy Candles. No soot! You choose size, fragrance & color. Jar & lid filled. Refills also. GO GREEN WITH SOY! Christi Coffee. 669-2158.

KG. mattress \$40. Sears 10" table saw \$125. drill press \$75. Coke mach. \$125. 669-6467

ELECTRIC Treadmill for sale \$100 669-2919

DINETTE set, bedrm. suite, chest, beds, end tables, 1/2 price on Christmas lights, ribbons, gift bags & more. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. Buy & Sell Estates. 665-2767, Sat. 10-5pm.

80 Pets & Suppl. FULL blood Schnauzer Puppies for sale. Ready anytime. Call for Info. 669-2634.

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**CERTIFIED Pharmacy Tech needed**  
 •30-40 hrs. per week  
 •No Sundays!  
 •1/2 day every 3rd Sat. No Phone Calls. Please! Mail Resume to Keyes Pharmacy 928 N. Hobart Pampa Tx 79065 or fax to 806-669-0957

FULL-TIME LVN needed. Excellent benefits package incl. shift differential & mileage supplement. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. 537-3194.

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**MECHANICS Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, Tx. Applicants must have knowledge and exp. in servicing of diesel trucks, brakes and general repair • Full Benefit Pkg. (903) 856-2401 x 137 or (800) 443-8580 Clint**

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**95 Furn. Apts.**



## Sunday show and lunch "All jazzed up"

Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center in Pampa will host a fundraising luncheon from 12 - 2 p.m. followed by a performance Sunday, Dec. 14 at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

The show, "Scrooge: All Jazzed Up Like the Dickens," will be staged at 2 p.m. Choreography and routines are by Madeline Graves and Shauna Munsell.

Key players include Chris Stewart as the voice of Scrooge; Jacklyn Cargill, pantomime; Jonathan Tyler, Marley; Adisson Hinkle, Tiny Tina; Danielle Zuniga, Ghost of Christmas Past; Caylee Steward, Ghost of Christmas Present; Jenna Munsell, Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come; and Elysa Clements, Dream Angel.

The following will appear in the cast: Haley Macina, Ashley Williams, Olivia Tyler, Caylee Steward, Jenna Munsell, Danielle Zuniga, Marlee Richardson, Jacie Ketcherside, Jenna Gee, Allison Cooper, Elysa Clements, Edy Brainard, Blayke Breeding, Jordan Curfman, Gracey Durham, Adisson Hinkle, Mikaela King, Shelby Rios, Jana Shults, Mika Bell, Jonah Munsell, Jacee Baten, Grace Hudson, Halie West, Serenity Leal, Jensen Massick, Sidni Bohn, Jacelyn Slagle, Kaileigh McIntosh, Katelin Medley, Maribelle Gomez, Kaylee Kee, Ariel Lacher, Leah Moreno, Katelee VanDellen, Geri Laub, Dallas Vaughn, Carmee Vela, Kendyll Roberson, Lorell Luera, Cassi Stubblefield, Alexandra Anguiano, Sierra

Rodriguez, Mercedes Romero, Jazmine Silva, Alexia Albear, Kylie Shook, Raylee Jewett, Alec Cloud, Riley Devoll, Cassi Estrada, Stormi Ketcherside, Tristen Winkler, Autumn Woods, Erin Allen, Kaitlyn Roberson, Audrey Cotton, Deja Roe, Jetta Miller, Sydney Cotton, Brooklyn Smith and Amanda Hess.

Madeline Graves students are also currently participating in a food drive to benefit a program at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Admission to the dinner and show Sunday will be \$8 per adult and \$6 for children aged 4 - 12. Children three and under get in free.

## Shopping Tour starts Saturday

The Children's Shopping Tour begins Saturday, Dec. 12 at 8 a.m. at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club with registration of volunteers who will take children shopping and help them wrap the gifts they purchase.

Robert Jacobs is serving as General Chair this year.

"The Children's Shopping Tour fills a niche in our community which is not covered by other organizations," Jacobs said. "It is encouraging and very rewarding to see those members of our community give generously of their time and money. Their efforts help these children experience the power of giving at Christmas rather than receiving."

## Pampa events and opportunities

compiled by Skyla Bryant  
lifestyles@thepampanews.com

• **Tralee Crisis Center of Pampa** launched its annual Tree of Blessing program this month to benefit victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Client families are screened and submit "wish lists." Paper ornaments are made for each item requested and hung on the tree. Families are kept confidential. Persons interested in picking up an ornament and purchasing the item listed may contact Tralee. The deadline to return all items unwrapped to the office is Dec. 19. All ornaments must be returned even if an item is not provided so that organizers can purchase what was not purchased. For more information, contact Tralee Crisis Center at 669-1131.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa will host a free centerpiece/wreath-making class at 10 a.m. Dec. 13 at the library. For more information, contact the library at 669-5780.

• **Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa** will host its Sixth Annual Christmas Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Chapel of Peace Mausoleum on the west side of the cemetery. The service is dedicated to those who are no longer living. For more information, call 665-8921.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with

the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 17, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa. For more information, call 665-4752.

• **The 26th Annual Benefit Bridal Show** will be staged from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 11 in the Heritage Ball Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo by Bride's World. The event will include 100 merchants, continuous modeling of bridal wear, a silent auction and a grand prize giveaway. Tickets will be \$6 at the door or may be purchased in advance at [www.bridesworld.com](http://www.bridesworld.com) on the Internet.

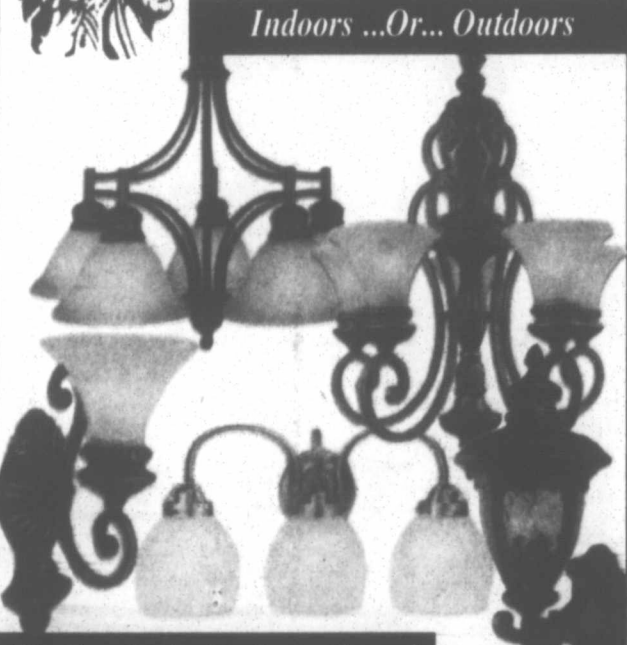
• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2x3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Servicemember. To find out more, visit [www.mysoldier.com](http://www.mysoldier.com) on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

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**1240 SOUTH BARNES**  
806-669-2755

Indoors ...Or... Outdoors



We Can Light Up Your Home!



**Steak & Rings** \$3.99

**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY**  
11AM - 10PM

**DAILY HAPPY HOUR**  
1/2 PRICE DRINKS  
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**SONIC**  
America's Drive-In.

1404 N. Hobart • Pampa  
Limited Time Only!

## Bathing Beauty Turns 18!

God gave a gift to the world when you were born 18 years ago. You are someone who touches each life she enters and makes a difference in the world. You are a special treasure to us, so may the love you give be returned to you multiplied!

*We love you,  
Dad & Mom  
Bryan & Scott  
& Keyes Pharmacy Staff*



As seen at the Olympics

## Kinesio Tape

Available at Ford Family Chiropractic Rehabilitation & Wellness Center

Dr. Samantha A. Ford is the only Certified Kinesio Tape Doctor in the entire Texas Panhandle

The Kinesio Taping Method is applied over muscles to reduce pain and inflammation, relax overused or tired muscles and support muscles in movement on a 24-hour-a-day basis. It is not a restrictive type of taping and allows for full range of motion. This is not your Grandpa's white athletic tape.

**Benefits of Kinesio Tape:**

- Affects the activation of the nervous system and circulatory system
- Muscle relaxation
- Pain control to allow the body to heal
- Improves strength and positioning of joints

**Conditions which are helped with Kinesio Tape:**

- Foot problems
- Sports injuries
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Lower back pain/strain
- Knee and shoulder conditions
- And many more

Get the same Kinesio Tape treatment as the US Olympic Team at

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