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Commissioner Wright retires today

By David Bowser

Gerald Wright comes by his interest in local history honestly. His family lived it.

Wright's great uncle, Johnny Long, came to the Texas Panhandle in 1874 as a member of the U.S. Cavalry and fought in the Red River Indian Wars.

Long stayed on when Fort Elliott was established in 1875.

"He was stationed there for a while," Wright said.

After he got out of the Army at Fort Elliott, he went into business over at Mobeetie.

"He decided to get out of the military because he saw the opportunity for the panhandle to grow," Wright said. "With the fort there and Mobeetie being established, he opened up a general mercantile store there in Mobeetie.'

The store did well.

"Then he decided to open a saloon there in Mobeetie," Wright said. "He operated the saloon and the general store and things were still doing well, so opened a bank and was elected county treasurer of Wheeler County."

He continued his business career in Mobeetie until his See Wright, Page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Gerald Wright, businessman and county commissioner but most of all an historian, particularly of Gray and Wheeler Counties where his roots are, holds a homemade hatchett that his archeological group found at a campsite near Pampa. the hatchett is now part of a display at the White Deer Land Museum where many of the historical artifacts he's found locally are on display.

Vandals smashing holiday spirit



photo by Rachel Stennett

On Monday night, in the 1800 block of North Wells, Mary Lee Bolin had this string of over-sized Christmas lights broken and vandalized. Bolin's story is one of many that has been reported in the area of Christmas decorations being vandalized.

by Rachel Stennett rstennett@thepampanews.com

Apparently not everyone is in the holiday spirit this season, as Pampa citizens report vandalized Christmas decorations on their property's. Such is the case for Mary Lee Bolin, who had a string of over-sized Christmas lights lining her sidewalk broken and shattered this week.

According to Bolin, Monday night around 9:30 p.m., her and her husband were watching television in bed when they heard someone on their front lawn breaking the lights, directly under the bedroom window.

"I heard a sound of glass breaking and by the time I got to the window, I saw two people running from the yard," Bolin said as she explained her now

broken decorations. "I heard car doors shut and heard the car drive off."

Bolin suspected from the sound that someone had taken a bat or golf club to the string of lights, which she spent nearly \$100 on. Bolin had other decorations on her property, including an inflatable penguin and snowman that went untouched. The alleged vandals broke the majority of the lights for about two minutes. By the time Bolin understood what was happening, she only saw the shadows of the people out her bedroom window leaving.

Bolin was upset by the accident saying, "I cried, I balled," as she couldn't understand who or why someone would vandalize the decorations. "I'm to

See Smash, Page 3

PISD board discusses school policies

by David Bowser dbowser@thepampanews.com

Construction and school polices will high-Pampa light the Independent School District board of trustees

meeting Thursday night. Thursday's meeting of the school board will begin at 6 p.m. in the Carver Center Administration Office,

321 W. Albert. The school board will discuss the price of the proposed new junior high school, street lighting from Texas Highway 70 to the new junior high school, naming the street in front of the new junior

high school so it will have an address and whether the family donating the site for the junior high should be permitted to graze livestock on the

grounds. The school board will also consider bids for new football uniforms for away games.

Board members will also discuss the roofing project for Pampa High School.

The board has talked about replacing the high school roof in January or February because there is a portion of the roof at Pampa High School that is holding water and leaking. If the high school roof is replaced, it will not interfere with other construction at the high school, which is being renovated and expanded.

Replacing the high school roof after the first of the year could delay the roof replacement at Elementary Lamar School until the 2009-2010 school year.

The school board will also review the proposed 2009-2010 school calen-

Supt. Barry Haenisch said the school year would start on Aug. 24 and end before June 1.

earlier this month among the district staff. Among the options was to end the first semester before Christmas. Haenisch said results of

endar survey was taken

the survey would be presented to the school board Thursday.

The board will also consider revising PISD policies to meet policy updates by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Policy considerations will include inter-district transfers, grading practices as some campuses, probationary contracts, suspension and terminations, assignments and schedules and resignations.

The board will also consider changing the stated policy concerning school board meetings. The current policy calls for a meeting at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. A proposed revised policy would add a 5:30 p.m. meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

The school board will also discuss the use of wind driven energy for electricity at some school campuses.

See Schools, Page 3





Open each night until December 31st From 6-10 pm (Sun.-Thury.) and 6-11 pm (Fri. & Sat.)







Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 10.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 21. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12

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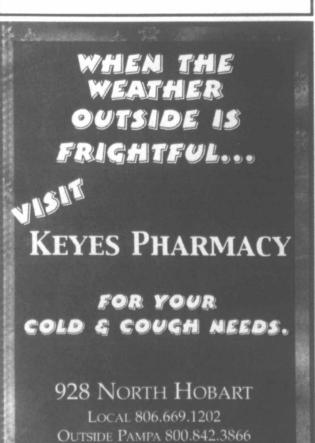
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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

HOLDEN, Manny — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memorial Park, Tulsa, Okla. MYTRYK, Catherine "Kay" — Funeral mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Pampa.

Helen Holmes Bolton, 90

Helen Holmes Bolton, 90, of Pampa, died Dec. 17, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

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

Howard Thomas Archer, 86

Howard Thomas Archer, 86, of Pampa, died Dec. 18, 2008, at Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

-Sign the on-line register book www.carmichael-whatley.com.

She was a

Furrs

Catherine 'Kay' Mytryk, 87 Dec. 17, 2005.

Catherine "Kay" Entombment Mytryk, 87, of Pampa, will Texas, died Dec. 16, 2008, at Pampa. Vigil will be held at 7

p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Ravi, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, officiating.

Funeral mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with the Rev. Francisco Perez, pastor, officiating.

be Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Kay was

born Oct. 11, 1921, in Braddock, Pa. She married Elmer Mytryk on Oct. 11, 1952, in Braddock, Pa. He preceded her in death on Okla.,



a checker for 25 years, retiring in 1986. Survivors include three sisters, Mary Kostyak of Turtle Pa., Creek, Theresa Crouch of Woodward,

Carson of Davisville, W.Va.; two brothers, Joseph Mirenzi or North Versailles, Pa., and Dom Mirenzi of Sutter Creek, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and one brother.

MEMORIALS: Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

-Sign the on-line book register www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Police Pampa Department reported the following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 13 and 11:59 p.m. Dec. 14.

Saturday, Dec. 13 Officers conducted 29 traffic stops. Stops at Road and Price Kentucky streets, Foster and West streets and in the 100 block of East resulted Brown arrests.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 1500 North block of Zimmers, the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 1500 block of North

Briefs

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Hamilton, the 200 block of North Nelson, the 500 block of North Warren, at McCullough and Barrett streets, and in the 1100 block of Willow Road.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Hamilton.

A verbal-only domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of East Francis. Disorderly conduct

reported was Cinderella and Rosewood streets, the 500 block of North Frost, the 300 block of North Banks and the 800 block of North Brunow.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 800 block of North Bradley Drive.

Theft was reported at McDonald's Restaurant, 1201 N. Hobart. Cash in the amount of \$1,050

was reported stolen. Suspicious persons were reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner, and

at Kentucky and Sumner The Pampa News is not responstreets. Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 900

ANDERSON APPLIANCE block of West 21st, the 1600 block of North Banks, the 1600 block of North Nelson, and at DETAIL YOUR car or boat Atchison and Gray in time for winter or get a gift streets.

certificate for the holidays. Agency assistance Ref. Avail. Call 662-5988 pick was rendered in the 200 block of North Russell.

Fraud, involving theft of services worth an LE CHIC Boutique, phone estimated \$40, was 806-688-1530. 113 W. Foster, reported in the 2200 Pampa. M-F 11-6:00 till block of North Beech Lane.

An alarm was report-30% off Avon. Anew Ulti- ed in the 800 block of mate Day & Night sets. Pat- West Francis.

A civil matter was Shipment Celine Dion- Bond reported at the PD. 007, Ungaro. Skin care. Free Motorist assistance gift wrapping. Miracle II was provided in the products in time for Christ-1000 block of South

Barnes. An assault with minor injuries was reported in PACK 'N' Mail will be the 1400 block of North

open Saturday for your pack- Hobart. Theft was reported in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

Driving while intoxicated was reported at Alcock and Banks.

A domestic disturbance with minor injuries was reported in PUPPIES FOR Sale! 1/2 the 1800 block of North Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Sumner.

1/2 Chocolate Lab, \$75, 1st A building check was round of shots included. Will performed in the 400 make Great X-mas Presents. block of West Foster.

Sunday, Dec. 14 Officers conducted eight traffic stops. Calls and stops con-

animals cerning occurred in the 1500 block of North Faulkner, the 600 block of North Naida, the 1800 block of North Chestnut Drive, the 600 block of East Browning, the 900 block of North Duncan.

A prowler was reported in the 1800 block of North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of West Foster, the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the 500 block of North Faulkner, the 700 block of North Sloan and the 500 block of North Frost.

Suspicious persons reported at were Hamilton and Worrell streets, in the 600 block of West Crawford, the 2200 block of West Alcock, the 100 block of East Harvester, the 600 block of East Frederic, the 2200 block of North Zimmers and at 17th and Hamilton streets.

DWI was reported in the 1000 block of East Francis.

assistance Agency was rendered in the 600 block of North Dwight.

A verbal-only assault was reported in the 500 block of North Yeager. An abandoned vehi-

cle, a 1986 Ford Taurus, was reported in the 500 block of South West. A civil matter was

reported in the 2200 block of North Russell. An attempt to serve

was made in the 1800 block of North Sumner. An assault with unknown injuries was reported in the 100

block of West 30th. An assault was reported in the 200 block of South McGee.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2300 block of North Comanche, where the rear axle and tires were reportedly broken off a pedal go-cart for an estimated \$75 in damages.

Found property was

reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

A traffic complaint reported was Somerville and Cook streets.

Officers conducted welfare checks in the 1300 block of North Coffee and at 23rd and Lynn streets.

Burglary was reported in the 800 block of South Gray.

Alarms were reported in the 200 block of West Tyng, the 1100 block of Mary Ellen and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

A traffic accident was reported at Hobart and Somerville streets.

An assault was reported in the 900 block of South Love.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office recently recorded the following arrests. Saturday, Dec. 13

Anthony Dwayne Baston, 19, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for public intoxication.

Jacob Lynn West, 22, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for theft by check.

Anthony Ray Beebe, 22, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for possession of drug paraphernalia. Eddie Scott Graham,

20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for public intoxication. Lakisha Yvette

Hodge, 28, of Lubbock was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety on a warrant out of Lubbock County for theft with prior convic-

Pablo Soto Cabrales, 42, of Pampa as arrested by Pampa PD for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Victor Manuel Soto, 24, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD for no driver's license, no insurance and disregarding a stop sign.

Grain prices

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

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Wright

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retirement, Wright said. "Since 1874," Wright said, "our family's had a presence in Gray and Wheeler Counties.

Wright said that his interest in local history has a lot to do with his ancestors.

There are still a lot of descendents of cavalrymen, buffalo hunters and early law enforcement officers still living in the area, Wright said.

Long was in several engagements of the Red River Indian War that ended the dominance of the Native Americans on the plains of the Texas Panhandle. But Long also went with Gen. Nelson A. Miles up into Montana and the Northern Plains where he fought the Sioux and Northern Cheyenne before returning to Wheeler County.

"When the cavalry came out here in 1874, Wright said, "there were no establishments. All that was here were the Indians and the buffalo."

After Fort Elliott was built in 1874, Mobeetie was founded.

"That's where the panhandle got its start," Wright said.

It's the Red River Indian War that has particularly captured Wright's imagination. Although it was a series of skirmishes over about a year or two, its history

is the stuff of legends, ranging from the siege of Adobe Walls where a handful of buffalo hunters held off hundreds of Indians to the Battle of Buffalo Wallow where a half dozen soldiers and scouts took cover in a shallow depression to defend themselves against more than 100 Indian warriors.

"When the German siswere recaptured down there on McClellan Creek it was Nov. 8, 1874," Wright said, "and it was an extremely cold year."

The German sisters (German is the name of the family, not a country of origin) had been captured by a band of Chevenne near Colorado-Kansas border. They were rescued that cold November day by the cavalry south of present day Pampa.

One of the officers on the expedition, Wright said, recorded temperatures at a minus 20 degrees.

"I was cold for the soldiers and the livestock, the horses," Wright said, "but they were tough guys that came out here and opened this land up for what we got today."

The counties and cities grew from there, he said. "I was born in Vernon," Wright said. But he considers himself a Pampa

native. "My folks just happened to be down there when I was born," he said. "Mother and Dad had a ranch down in Crowell."

They were down there taking care of business when Wright decided to come into the world.

"After a few days," he said, "they came back to Pampa. This is where they lived."

He said his family has lived in Gray County since before there was a Gray County. At the time his family arrived Gray County was still a part of Wheeler County.

Although he retired after 29 years at Cabot and at the end of the year will retire after 24 years as a Gray County Commissioner, Wright's love is his historical and archeological pursuits.

He belongs to an informal group of friends who often spend nice weekends trying to find battle sites and camp grounds in the area dating to the Red River Indian War.

"We do work for museums and work with the Historical Commission," Wright said.

They've gone to archeological schools for train-

"We've done a lot of work, and still do, for the state," he said.

Many of the artifacts that Wright and his group have found are in the White Deer Land Museum.

"Back in the 1990s," Wright said, "we worked on the first permanent military post in the panhandle, which was called

Camp Cantonment."

It was there for four or five months before the military decided to move it over to Sweetwater Creek and rename it Fort Elliott after Major Joel A. Elliott, who died in 1868 in the Battle of the Washita when George Armstrong Custer attacked a village of Cheyenne in their winter quarters.

Working with the Texas Historical Commission, Wright and his friends found and mapped the site of the Farnsworth skirmish, a running battle after a patrol of soldiers ran across an Indian camp in the breaks southeast of Pampa.

Using metal detectors, they found shell casings, metal arrowheads, buttons and horse shoes that indicated the trail of the battle as the soldier tried to retreat back up onto the plains.

Although Wright can often be found out scouring area pastures, searching for historical sites, he said that much more of his time is spent trying to track down records and researching archives that might give an indication where some of the battles in the panhandle took place.

Now that's he's retired, he said he hopes to have more time for his archeological endeavors, but he's also bought a small business, Pak-A-Burger, and has been approached with a couple of other job offers.

Continued from Page 1

the point that I don't want to decorate anymore. People don't have the respect for other people's property. It's very frustrating."

According to Chief Donny Brown at the Pampa Police Department, Bolin's case is one of many that has been going on in the city. "We have had several incidents over the last several days where people have damaged ornaments," Brown said. "Unfortunately, around this time of year that sort of thing happens."

Brown and the PPD are working with Crime Stoppers, both the student committee and adult divisions, to try to catch any vandals. Brown encouraged anyone with any information, or anyone who has witnessed the vandalizing to call Crime

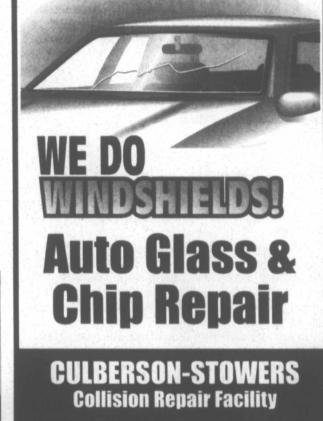
Stoppers at 806-669-2222.

Most of the vandalism that has been reported as been to inflatable persons, animals, or objects, Brown said. He suggested that people deflate the objects when the go to bed so that "temptation is not there.'

Notice of Nondiscriminatory **Policy As To Students**

The Community Christian School of Pampa, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions, policies, scholarship, and loan programs.

C-6 Dec. 18,2009



Schools Continued from Page 1 The board of trustees

will hear a report on the district's technology department.

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The board will also hear a report on media servic-

Medical Fund established for Jose (Joe) Romero of Pampa who suffers from Lukemia/Graft versus Host disease at Happy State Bank-Your donations can be made out to: the account of

Amanda Smith for the Benefit of Jose (Joe) Romero.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 18, the 353rd day of 2008. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward. On this date:

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1944, in a pair of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans, but also said undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

'Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage'

> — Anais Nin American author

In 1957, the Shippingport Power Atomic Station Pennsylvania, the first public, fullscale commercial nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line. (It was taken out of service in 1982.)

In 1958, world's first communications satellite, SCORE, nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States

aboard an Atlas rocket. In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days

Ten years ago: The House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. U.S. and British forces blasted Iraq with a third day of airstrikes. South Carolina carried out the nation's 500th execution since capital punishment resumed

in 1977. Five years ago: Two federal appeals courts ruled the U.S. military could not indefinitely hold prisoners without access to lawyers or American courts. A jury in Chesapeake, Va., convicted teenager Lee Boyd Malvo of two counts of capital murder in the Washington-area sniper shootings (he was later sentenced to life in prison without parole). A judge in Seattle sentenced confessed Green River Killer Gary Ridgway to 48 consecu-

One year ago: The White House said President George W. Bush had approved "a significant reduction" in the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile cutting it to less than one-quarter its size at the end of the Cold War.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Roger Smith is 76. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 65. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 62. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 58. Actor Ray Liotta is 53. Actor Brad Pitt is 45. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 40. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 38. Rapper DMX is 38. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 36. Actress Katie Holmes is 30. Singer Christina Aguilera is 28.

The dog files

"Don't make me come after you with the leash!"

Animal cruelty. That is the source for this ridiculous statement. The cruelty of some animals to their lovable caretaker or caretakers ... in case you are wondering, the "caretaker" in this instance would be me.

I yell the aforementioned lunacy periodically out my back door into my FENCED IN backyard as I attempt to hustle my animals into doing, uh-hum, their "business."

Thus we enter into another strange segment of "the dog files."

Alas, my two pets prefer to lollygag, or tussle, or flirt with the handsome neighbor - a besotted German Shepherd – or all of the above to doing their business and returning indoors.

What is it with this weather by the way? It is winter, and still I am encountering insect life inside and outside the

house. You would think (grumble, grumble, grumble) that one clear plus to the winter season would be no insect life, but, nooo, flies and other creepy, flying, crawlies abound!

And what, you ask, do insects in winter have to do with animal

cruelty? I'm getting to that. Really, I am. You see,

recently stomped a beetle-like, creepycrawley in the bathroom and,

okay, it was late, and I was in my night clothes, and I left the dead, rotting carcass for the next day or, um, two.

Well, anyway, I eventually picked up its poor, dead body and threw it in the trash. In the interim, however, I was not for one instant allowed to forget the stinky hull of the aforementioned disgusting critter because

every time I went to the loo one or other of my dogs would follow me and examine the corpse at length as if captivated by the repulsive thing.

Really, after three days, enough enough! If I had to see another dog snuffle over

Skyla **Bryant**

Lifestyles reporter



that dead insect, would've put myself on the leash and led myself to a padded closet.

Jetta, my Labrador, has many, er, "issues." She is the only dog I am cognizant of who is absolutely terrified of ... inanimate objects. That's right. No doubt somewhere in her puppy past before I knew her, she had a bad experi-

ence with porcelain or bathtubs, for whenever she steps into the bathroom and views my shiny, white tub she immediately sniffs it caureluctantly tiously, decides it isn't a threat then shoves her head my way to be petted. If I happen to be occupying the tub, she won't venture farther than the door.

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Of course, some would say the thing frightens her because it is the only shiny, clean surface in my house, but those people I

For several nights running, a blanket in the neighbors' yard gave Jetta fright palpitations. Each time I let her out, she would immediately spy the offending blanket and begin barking hysterically. This was a problem. Especially in the middle of the night.

Sigh. The cruelty of some animals is unspeak-



If I Were President

by Michael Reagan

Who needs gigantic bailouts when there are far less costly and more effective ways to deal with the economic crisis, such as those I'd use if I were president of the United States.

To begin with I'd give the economy a powerful shot in the arm by eliminating a lot of federal taxes that are hobbling economic growth.

There is a better way to boost our economy than the socialistic programs now being both used and considered. It's called free enterprise, and it works by loosening the death grip now strangling America's small business community, which provides the majority of jobs in this country.

I'd start by reinstating the tax deductibility of the interest rates we now pay banks on vacation or second homes, cars, motor homes, RVs, boats and yachts.

Instead of following the lead of the Governor of New York by put- and without bailouts. ting a luxury tax on these items -thereby killing the free market -- I'd revive the market, and those houses in foreclosure and owned by banks would find eager buyers seeking to invest in real estate.

If buyers knew they could write off the interest that they would be paying a bank on the loan, you wouldn't need a government bailout, because the people with money to invest -- not government -- would be the ones who would bail out the economy.

Giving them a tax break for getting involved in the economy by investing in income-producing real estate is the sensible way of bailing out the marketplace.

plan to give General Motors a ers to go out of business and be bailout with money we don't have? done with it? Why should we need to borrow from our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren and their offspring?

Instead, why not allow us to deduct the interest on a second home we might buy? Do the same with boats, with RVs, with second homes, with automobiles.

We'd undo much of the damage the downturn in the economy has done to our retirement accounts, causing most of us to lose at least 25 to 30 percent or our retirement

Moreover if we also cut taxes on capital gains to zero and slash corporate taxation by half, the economy would grow and the nation's economic engine would be restarted and roar into life, and it would all happen with raising one cent of

We'd do it all without socialism

Think about it. Giving the automakers huge barrels of money doesn't do a single thing about motivating people to buy cars, and if people don't have an incentive to buy cars most won't, and you're right back where you started, only a lot poorer.

People need an incentive to buy a car. What's the incentive? If, however, you give them a tax break as a reward for buying a car they have an incentive.

With the economic downturn, the boat business is in the tank. Nobody is buying boats, yet the Governor of New York wants to kill the boat business by adding a five percent luxury tax to the cost of buying a

What are we thinking when we boat? Why not just order boat sell-

Years ago a tax on yachts was imposed and the results on the economy were staggering. I was in the business of selling boats at the time, and the taxes simply killed the business in the United States.

The tax did boost the economy, except it wasn't the U.S. economy. People kept buying boats, but not here. They bought them in Venezuela and Mexico and a host of other foreign countries, had them registered in those countries, and then had somebody take them to the United States.

Why? To avoid the taxes.

Make the interest buyers pay on cars, boats, motor homes, second homes and investment real estate deductible, and you won't need bailouts. The American people will do the job themselves.

Mike Reagan, the elder son of President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

We welcome your letters. To insure publication, please adhere

to the following guidelines:

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

*All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be pub-

·Defamatory comments will not be published.

· E-mail submission are welcome.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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> Randall Pribble Publisher

> > bphillips@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Rachel Stennett

Reporter

rstennett@thepampanews.com

rpribble@thepampanews.com

Betsy Phillips ReDonn Woods Advertising Manager Editor

advertising@thepampanews.com Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative advertising1@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor Classified Advertising classified@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent Circulation

circulation@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Skyla Bryant Lifestyles Reporter lifestyles@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins Accounting bookkeeper@thepampanews.com Press Supervisor

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I take exception to your reply to "Minister's Daughter, Cayucos, Calif." (Sept. 8), who objected to the greeting and handshaking moment during church service that is dictated by the minister. I happen to wholeheartedly with "Daughter's" sentiments, as do many other members of my church. We feel that the moment is manipulated, interrupts the flow of the service and creates a false bonhomie. None of us is unfriendly, ungracious or reluctant to make others feel welcome in our church. But we would prefer to do it spontaneously -- before or after the service -- when we actually feel moved to make the gesture. -- LYN CHAR-LOTTESVILLE, VA.

DEAR LYN: I understand your sentiments. That said, I stand by my answer. I told "Minister's Daughter" that I didn't think it was too much to ask to reach out for a moment to ensure that everyone felt included. However, I received a ton of mail on this subject and opinions were decidedly mixed. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: When I attended church with my husband and family, I never cared for the forced greeting custom. However, now that I am divorced and attend church alone, I realize that the human contact is priceless. One Sunday, our minister said, "Turn to the people next to you and tell them they are beautiful." I turned, and the woman next to me said, "Hello. Has anyone told you that you are beautiful?" Even though

it touched my heart. never refuse a handshake Speaking as someone if one is offered. -who lives alone and who never hears those words, it brightened my day. The greeting, like the church and life, is not about what you get, but about what

you give to someone else. -- GREETER WITH A **NEW ATTITUDE** DEAR ABBY: started this type of greeting years ago, and I also

think more people don't like it. I hate it when people cover their face with their hand when they cough or sneeze and then offer a handshake. We all know that colds and flu are transmitted this way. After hearing complaints, our pastor now asks that we offer a "sign of peace." I much prefer this, and I offer a smile and say, "La paix du Seigneur" (God's peace

it was a "forced" greeting, be with you). However, I ANDREE IN OTTAWA

DEAR ABBY: If the intent of this practice is to make newcomers feel like part of the group, then it is counterproductive. A better way would be for the pastor to encourage gregarious members of the congregation to greet new people after the service. If it is for those worshippers who are already wellacquainted to greet each other in a structured manner, then it is unnecessary. -- WASHINGTON STATE BOOMER

DEAR ABBY: A message to "Minister's Daughter": If you intend to go to heaven, GET USED TO IT. Everyone in heaven greets you. --"GRAN" IN LAKE-

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... leave it to us grownups to ask him about fixing the economy.

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH **DOWN**

1 Plugs

position

3 Refrigera-

4 "Adam —"

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5 Charm-

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6 Witch

7 Fired

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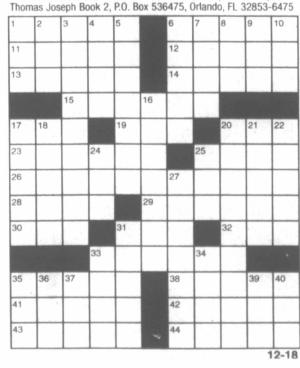
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34 Scoop

- 21 "Little Rascals" girl
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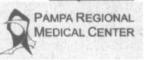
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 19,

This year, choose to funnel your energy where you will have an impact. Work on attentiveness to what is being said and shared in difficult and easy situations. Your ability to understand and see beyond what is going on helps other people, but also yourself. If you are single, you easily might meet quite a few people who could be instrumental to your wellbeing. In this group could be a potential partner who helps make your dreams realities. If you are attached, focus on achieving key mutual goals, and you will find your sweetie joins in. LIBRA is always a friend. You can count on them.

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

They are your natural cheerleader.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Defer to others, which is not

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

natural for you. You'll discover a lot more about someone's plans by not taking charge. Avoid a difficult situation with a boss or higher-up. Your easy attitude goes far. Tonight: Sort through your

difference. Listen to what is being said as well as what is not being said. Tonight: Easy does it. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Your very playful personality

emerges. You might wonder what is

★★★ Play it easy and stay sure of your-

self. Your ability to move forward and

understand what is happening within

your immediate circle will make a big

going on behind the scenes. A partner or associate could be most informative, forcing you to regroup. Listen to what others reveal. You'll gain insight. Tonight: Say yes to an offer.

DAILY HOROSCOPE

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Stay anchored despite what is happening within a relationship or another person's power play. Share your issues with an agreement or change. Certainly there are mixed messages there. Tonight: Close to home. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Start up talks and think

through a decision that needs to be made.

Don't push; let the natural process occur.

Listen to feedback from an associate or

friend. Come back with questions. You must do your research. There are no shortcuts. Tonight: Keep talking. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Be aware of the financial situation and don't undermine it with what is happening. If you are a bit overwhelmed, rethink your direction with an eye to greater stability. Be aware of what is

at any cost. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Your smile helps melt others' problems. Others feel relaxed and confident once they interact with you. Still, you might need to revise your thinking after what you see and hear. Choose not to share your insecurities right now. Tonight: Others naturally follow.

going on. Tonight: Stick to your budget

** Choose to say little and to gather information. How you communicate what you think is a wonderful idea could change. The more you see, the more your attitude might adjust. You might need to

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

do necessary research. Tonight: You don't need to share it all. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Find your friends, and you

won't have difficulty in a meeting or another effort dependent on the special people in your life. Don't delegate everything, as tempting as it might be. Tonight: Let a party happen. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Realize what someone is

not say exactly what he or she wants. You might want to understand what is going on behind the scenes. Ask questions Tonight: Let others come to you. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Reach out for the many people in your life. Someone from a distance plays a significant role in your plans and

happiness. Share deep feelings without fear or holding back. Conversations open

demanding. This person's words might

up situations. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Relate on a one-on-one level. Friendship plays an enormous role in what occurs. You need to give others the benefit of the doubt, as they might be having some strong reactions to the holi-

BORN TODAY Paleontologist Richard Leakey (1944), actor Jake Gyllenhaal (1980), Russian statesman Leonid Brezhnev (1906)

days. Tonight: Dinner for two.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2008 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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Nursing center residents receive gifts, visitors for holidays



submitted photo

The ladies of the Woman's Missionary Union of Central Baptist Church presented decorated crosses for each resident of Coronado Nursing Center in Pampa, Wed., December 16, for Christmas. The church has services there every Tuesday afternoon with singing, devotional, and refreshments.



submitted photo

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Residents at Coronado Nursing Center in Pampa recently received a visit from students of Community Christian School in Pampa. The students entertained the residents by singing Christmas carols.

Pampa events & opportunities

• 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.

· Carson County Square House Museum in Panhandle will host an artist reception for Charles Firestone from 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 11 in Hazlewood Gallery of the museum. Firestone is from Dalhart. He has studied under Dord Fitz and other artists. He belongs to several area art groups as a student and as an instructor. Firestone works primarily in oils but also uses watercolor, pastels, acrylics and personal photographs. A wide range of subjects from landscapes to portraits will be on display at the museum. For more information, call the museum at (806) 537-3524

· 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 www.bridesworld.com on the Internet.

• Pampa Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: Jan 14, "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch; Feb. 11, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and Davie Relin; March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• 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

 Manhattanville My Soldier is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.



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Be a powerful voice for a child If you've always wanted to make a difference in the

world, here's your chance. Every year more than a million children are abused and neglected and every year these children's futures are put at risk. But you can make a difference. By standing up for these children and speaking on their behalf, you'll help ensure that these children find safe, permanent homes - something every child deserves. Volunteer as a CASA advocate and change one life at a time.

CASA of the High Plains will begin Volunteer Training Classes on Tuesday, January 20, at 6 p.m.

Completed applications must be submitted one week prior to training. Applications may be picked up at The Brown Alliance for Children, 315 N. Ballard.

Every year, the state of Texas removes thousands of children from their homes because of abuse or neglect. These victimized children are drawn into an overburdened child welfare system that is hard pressed to address their individual concerns. Eventually, they end up in court. CASA is a nonprofit agency that trains and supports volunteers to work with these children as they journey toward safe, loving, permanent homes. The CASA volunteer is frequently the most consistent person in the child's life during their involvement with the court.

Refuse to be silent. Learn how to speak up for a child. Attend the informational meeting to find out how you can become a powerful voice in a child's life.

For more information contact CASA of the High Plains, 806 669-7638 or 806 669-6909 fax.

Correction

In the article "Plea agreements reached in felony cases" on Wednesday, Dec. 10, the article stated that Dirk Gellert reached a plea agreement with the District Attorney to serve five years probation and 16 months confinement.

Gellert will serve no probation time, only 16 months confinement. Gellert was not ordered to pay restitution.

We regret any inconvenience to our readers.







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