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Volume 105 · No. 184

Tralee Volunteer Coordinator Cinthia Salazar hangs ornaments representing the Christmas needs and wishes for the families of 25 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes on the Tree of Blessing located at Tralee's main office, 310 S. Cuyler, in Pampa

Tree of Blessing brightens holidays

While many area residents celebrate Christmas in the warmth and comfort of their homes with family and friends, there are those who face a bleak holiday after their lives were shattered by domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

Tralee Crisis Center's annual Tree of Blessing offers an opportunity for generous citizens to make the holidays a little brighter for these families. Ornaments on the tree represent Christmas wishes and needs for each member of eligible families served by the non-profit agency from throughout Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hemphill, Roberts and Wheeler counties.

The Tree of Blessing is located at the Tralee offices at 310 S. Cuyler in Pampa. Persons who want to par-TRALEE cont. on page 3

WEEKEND

Soup with Mrs. Claus will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hal at the corner Cuyler and Browning.

The annual Christmas Parade begins at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Participants will start at the BNSF train deport on East Atchison and head for Cuyler. The parade route turns north on Cuyler to Francis where it will turn west to Somerville. At Somerville, the parade route turns south to Foster and then west to

EVENTS cont. on page 3

Ward. The parade disbands

Small wind turbine information meeting scheduled in Pampa

ate electricity for their homes and farming operations, and to sell back to the electric company. The problem is most of us don't know what it takes to install a Wind Turbine or what the costs and payback will be.

Those questions will be answered at a meeting in Pampa on Wednesday December 9t.

The meeting will be held at the USDA Service Center meeting room in the Gray County Annex on

East Frederick. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. and be over by noon. Dr. Steve Amosson from the Texas AgriLife Extension

popularity as people look for ways ics of installing small and medium to reduce their electric bills. Home sized wind turbines for home and to measure the amount of electricity owners and farmers are looking farm electricity generation. Dr. you put back into the electric grid. for ways to harness the wind, sun Amosson will discuss what it costs and locally grown crops to gener- to buy and maintain a wind generator. Representatives from Xcel Energy will also be on the program to discuss what you have to do to connect your wind generator to the electrical grid.

According to John Crowell, Coordinator for the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development Office in Pampa, "There are a lot of things a person needs to consider when planning the installation of a wind turbine. You don't just buy a small wind turbine, put it up and plug it in to the electric grid. There is a permitting process you must go through with

Wind Generators are increasing in Service will discuss the econom- your electric company. There are special meters that must be installed

> In some towns you may need a permit and city approval before you can put up a wind turbine in the city limits. The purpose of the meeting in Pampa on December 9th is to provide the information people need to know about the installation of Wind Turbines and bio-fuel electric generators."

> The meeting is co-sponsored by the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Gray County Texas AgriLife Extension Service. For more information call John Crowell at 806-662-2551.

Alvey files for 223rd District Judge

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com Standing on the steps of the Gray County Courthouse, Pampa lawyer Todd L. Alvey made it official. He's running for 223rd District Judge.

Alvey threw his hat in the ring Tuesday for next year's race for the state district judge's office.

Saying he has an active law practice focusing on criminal and family law, Alvey said he has practiced law in Pampa since 1991.

"Over the past 18 years," he said, "I have come to know and have practiced before a number of district judges in the Texas Panhandle. I was also privileged to serve as your Gray County Attorney for 10 years, primarily prosecuting criminal cases.

The incumbent 223rd District Judge, Lee Waters,

has announced he will be stepping down at the end of his term next year and won't seek re-election.

"It would be a privilege to follow in the footsteps of Judge Waters," Alvey said. He said he always thought Judge Waters was fair and consistent in his rulings.

"I would strive to be the same kind of judge in serving my district," Alvey said.

The former county attorney said that because of his diverse experience, he feels he could fully understand the laws applicable to each case before him and treat each case individually in a fair and impartial manner.

Married, Alvey has four children.

'My oldest graduated from Pampa High School in 2009 and the three younger children are now attending ALVEY cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa attorney Todd L. Alvey has announced he will run for the 223rd District Judge seat. Current Judge Lee Waters has said he will not seek re-election.

Texas primary filing period begins

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Texas candidates running for office in 2010 are making their election plans official.

Democrats and Republicans seeking office could file for their March 2 party primaries starting yesterday. Each party's

state office in Austin expects a stream of candidates to begin coming in.

The office-seekers have until Jan. 4 to

Winners of the March primaries advance to the November 2010 general election.







Sunday

For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday

Low 21



High 34 Low 18

High 34 Low 26

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. Wind chill values between 13 and 18. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 46. Wind chill values between 12 and 22 early. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Wind chill values between 12 and 17. East southeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north. Winds could gust as high as 20

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 34. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. East wind 15 to 20 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

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Man falsely claimed ties to Tommy Lee Jones

GEORGETOWN, Texas (AP) — An 18-month state Clothing Inc. became susjail term has been ordered for a man who falsely claimed ties to Oscar winning actor Tommy Lee Jones to get items for free.

A judge in Georgetown sentenced 21-year-old Michael Andrew Tissier in a plea agreement.

Tissier on Wednesday pleaded guilty to theft in a case where a Los Angeles company sent him thousands of dollars in clothing

Officials with NSF picious when contacted by Tissier in September for items for an alleged fundraising event and for filming of "Men In Black III." Tissier was arrested Nov.

Jones, who's 63, is an eighth-generation Texan known for his acting and directing. He was born in San Saba, about 70 miles northwest of Georgetown.

Last Minute Ads

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

6:30pm with "Mrs. Claus", Dec. 5, 9, 669-0013.

JAMMING AT Woody

Guthrie Music Center, Fri.

11:30-1:30p. 318 N. Cuyler (Knights of Columbus). \$5 per person.

No email photos. Questions? 669-2525 CHRISTMAS TOUR of

Homes, Sun. Dec. 6, 1-4pm. Tickets avail. at homes. 641 County Line Road, 645 Pheasant Lane, 640 Pheasant Lane, 311 Oak. For more info. call 669-0148.

FIREWOOD, WOODEN Benches, Wishing Wells, Handmade Crosses. 806-669-

GRIEF AND Loss Seminar, Monday, Dec. 7th, 7-8pm. Redeemed Hearts Christian Counciling Center, 110 W. Kingsmill, 688-0096, \$25.

MASSAGE THERAPY Gift Certificate Christmas Special. Call Cathy Potter, Holly Albert or Brittany ALTRUSA'S SOUP Shuman! 1224 N. Hobart Ste.

MATERIAL GIRLZ Come by & see Borger's new-BABY'S FIRST Christmas! est store! We have a huge Deadline Dec. 14th, before 4 selection of Minky. New pm. \$25 (paid in advance). fabric arriving daily! 101 Broadmoor, Borger, TX. 273-

> OPEN HOUSE Sat. 11-4. Door Prizes & Specials at Carousel Expressions, 113 N.

RED RIVER Steakhouse is now accepting reservations for Christmas parties & New Year's Eve celebrations! Call today!! 806-779-8940.

REWARD!!! LOST female, black lab mixed dog in 800 block of Somerville wearing Harley Davidson collar. Call 662-2883

Obituaries

Odessa

John T. "Tommy" Hollis, 90

and M. E. Moses until her Sue Cook and husband

three

Women's

Fort Worth- John T. Arrangements are under the Cabot Corp. as an elec-"Tommy" Hollis, 90, died December 1, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 5, 2009, at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, with Rev. Linda Kelly, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, officiating.

Pampa-

Dallas, Texas.

McGahen, 73,

Funeral Directors.

December 3, 2009, in

with Carmichael-Whatley

Mrs. McGahen was

born October 10, 1936

in Shamrock to Ottice

and Susie Kidwell. She

attended Samnorwood

schools graduating in

1955. She married Troy

Ledbetter on August 28,

1955 in Samnorwood.

He preceded her in death

in 1996. She later mar-

ried Charles McGahen on

April 15, 1998 in Pampa.

Odessa had been a resident

of Pampa since 1965. She

managed F. W. Woolworth

Donnen Hicks, 39, died

November 18, 2009, in

Memorial services will

be at 1 p.m. Saturday,

December 5, 2009, at the

Marana Church of Christ,

12311 West Moore,

October 2, 1970 in Pampa,

Mr. Hicks was born

Arizona-

Marana,

Marana, Arizona.

Marana, Arizona.

Services are pending

direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Hollis was born April 16, 1919 in Hoover. He had been a lifelong resident of Pampa, moving to the Fort Worth area in 2007. He married Dorothy Lynn on May 29, 1946 in

retirement. She was a

member of the American

Association, and an active

member of Calvary Baptist

Church. She loved camping and traveling, especial-

ly to Branson, Missouri.

Odessa loved to read her

Bible and spend time with

her husband, Charles

McGahen of the home:

two sons, Jammy Ledbetter

and wife Sherri of Fort

Morgan, Colorado, Terry

Ledbetter and wife Dee

Anna of Howardwick;

stepson: Dicky McGahen

and wife Karen of Pampa;

stepdaughter:

Survivors include

Business

her family.

trician, retiring in 1981. Tommy was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Hollis of the home; two daughters, Karla Hayslip and husband Mark of Fort Worth, and Rolisa Twombly and hus-Pampa. He worked for band Randy of Amarillo; Odessa McGahen, 73

Ottice Kidwell, Jr., and

Andrus and husband Larry

and Carolyn Taylor and

husband Jackie, all of

Pampa; one granddaugh-

ter, Lindsey Botello and

husband Vivian of Pampa,

four step-grandchildren,

three great-grandchildren,

Avery, Boston and Baron;

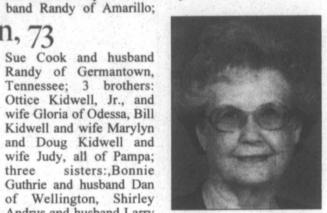
five step-great-grandchil-

dren and numerous nieces

Karen and nephews. Odessa was

daughter-in-law Schelia Hollis of Gainesville; eight grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son: John L. Hollis on May 24, 2009; five brothers and

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



McGahen

preceded in death by three

MEMORIALS: Calvary Baptist Church Jubilee Fund, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-what-

Donnen Hicks, 39 Arizona in 1977, living in for Raytheon Industries

Winslow, Arizona until 1980 and then in Holbrook, Arizona until 1986. He returned to Pampa, Texas in 1986 where he graduated from Pampa High School. He attended West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, graduating from their engineering school. At the time of his

in Marana, Arizona, as an engineer.

Survivors include a son, Donnen Colter Hicks, Jr. of Marana, Arizona; parents, Donald and Cathy Hicks of Marana, Arizona; a grandmother, Vastalee Hicks of Pampa, Texas; a sister, Jessica Hicks Goree and family of Phoenix, Arizona; his former wife,

Theresa Hangan Hicks of Marana, Arizona; his aunt, Cindy Hicks Smith and family of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; and his cousin, Jon Todd Bates of Pampa, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the research of strokes.



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The Pampa News

Gray County's Hometown Newspaper

1072

Havens, McDaniel top bareback opener in NFR

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Jason Havens and Justin McDaniel upstaged bareback rider Clint Cannon during the first round of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo on Thursday, while Cannon added to his historic earnings total with a fifth-place tie.

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Cannon, from Waller, Texas, set a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association record this year with regular-season earnings of \$233,504 in one

Making his first NFR appearance, Cannon competed in 97 rodeos and was never bucked off on more than 200 rides during the regular season. He opened the NFR with an 84 on Jail House Rock to push his total to \$235,899.

Havens, from Prineville, Ore., and McDaniel, a former world champion from Porum, Okla., tied for first with

"It's kind of wild, and I figured I needed to do something since I was coming in 15th," Haven said after his ride on Centennial. "I always thought it would be cool to be the first guy out and win first. It kind of came together.'

In steer wrestling, Curtis Cassidy of Donalda, Alberta, won with a 3.6-second run, while Jake Rinehart of Highmore, S.D., was second in 3.7.

"It's a really fast start here, and the steers run," Cassidy said. "When the steers run in a short building like this, it takes a great horse to get you there and put you in the three-second hole."

In the closest world standings race in the NFR, leader Lee Graves of Calgary, Alberta, was \$893 in front of Rinehart and \$2,584 ahead of and defending world champion Luke Branquinho of Los Alamos, Calif., after the first round.

Branquinho placed third in 4.0, and Graves tied for fourth in 4.2.

In team roping, header JoJo LeMond of Andrews, Texas, and heeler Randon Adams of Logandale, Nev., won in 4.3 seconds. LeMond and Adams are both thing in the season standings. World header leader Chad Masters of Clarksville, Tenn., and heeler leader Jade Corkill of Fallon, Nev., were 11th

In saddle bronc, Taos Muncy of Corona, N.M., won the opening round with an 86 on Knife Money. Last year, Muncy missed participating in the NFR because of a broken leg.

Jesse Kruse of Great Falls, Mont., the world standings leader making his first NFR appearance, was sixth with a 79.5 on Tooke Scott.

In tie-down roping, Josh Peek of Pueblo, Colo., placed first with a time of 7.5 seconds. Trevor Brazile of Decatur, Texas, tops the standings with \$132,916, but finished last in the round

In barrel racing, world leader and former champion Brittany Pozzi of Victoria, Texas, won in 13.94 seconds.

"I have always had a plan, a strategy for the NFR, but this year I am winging it all the way," Pozzi said. "For the next nine days, I am just going to make runs and let the chips fall where they may. No special plans this year.'

In bull riding, Kanin Asay of Powell, Wyo., won with an 89 on Hot Diggity Damn after getting a re-ride.

Standings leader and defending champion J.W. Harris of May, Texas, has earned \$219,275 and was \$108,966 ahead of second-place Corey Navarre of Weatherford, Okla. Harris, who had a no score in the first round, owns the biggest lead in any event at this year's

Weak demand puts natural gas prices at 52-week low

NEW YORK (AP) -Natural gas prices have slumped well below what they were last year, and that trend will likely continue into 2010.

York The New Mercantile Exchange contract for January delivery at one point dropped to a new 52-week low of \$4.432 per 1,000 cubic feet on Thursday.

The government then reported that the amount of natural gas in storage rose again, surprising most energy experts. The country has never had this much natural gas in storage.

At this time of year, natural gas supplies are getting smaller as people turn on the heat in their homes.

That's not happening this year because the winter has been so mild. Instead, more gas was placed into storage last week, the first time that has happened this late in the year since at least 2001.

The salt caverns and other places where the U.S. stores natural gas are near or at capacity because major industrial power users have been shuttering plants or slowing production. The Energy Information Administration said Thursday that natural gas stocks have set new

national records for seven consecutive weeks.

For consumers, that likely means an extended period of cheap energy, though how long that will go on is not clear. But heating bills will be cheaper in most places and power companies that use natural gas also will feel less pressure to raise electricity rates.

Oil prices rose Thursday along with a weeklong rally on Wall Street and promising jobs numbers.

Benchmark crude for January delivery gave up 14 cents to settle at \$76.46 a barrel on Nymex. In London, Brent crude for January delivery rose 48 cents to settle at \$78.36 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of newly laid-off workers dropped unexpectedly to the lowest level since the week of Sept. 6, 2008.

Still, the U.S. continues to sip at its petroleum reserves as millions of laid off workers have stayed out of the morning commute. Oil companies are finding it easier to store crude and deliver it later when demand has hopefully picked up.

Refiners that turn crude into gasoline and other

fuels have slowed production and even shut down facilities permanently.

"Demand is pretty bad," said Peter Beutel, an analyst with Cameron Hanover. "Refiners just don't have the incentive to run right now. So people will store crude, thinking that something will happen down the road.'

That weak demand is also affecting imports.

Oil imports have sunk to the lowest point since the fourth quarter of 1990, when the U.S. was preparing for the first Gulf War, according to analyst Stephen Schork.

At the pump, retail gas prices ticked higher by less than a penny overnight to a new national average of \$2.633 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular unleaded is 5.3 cents cheaper than it was a month ago, but it's still 83 cents more expensive than the same time last year.

Refiners shut down much of their operations last year as energy prices tanked, and they're doing so again. Crude prices are still high enough that refiners are struggling to make a profit converting it into fuel.

Alvey

schools in the Pampa ISD," he said.

Alvey is a Victim's Advocate and past member of Tralee Crisis Center board of directors.

"I was active participant in organizing the local

cont. from page 1 CASA and the Bridge in

Gray County," he said.

Dear Abby...



By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have Please give this the serious been married to "Mick" for 22 years -- most of them happy. My problem is his communication skills. I have always had a hard time contacting him. He has a cell phone, but won't take it out of his vehicle.

Recently, our daughter came home from college. We had planned to go to dinner with her and her boyfriend. When Mick didn't show up, I tried without success to contact him. My daughter tried and then my son did, too. This went on for an hour and a half. We were worried sick, so we started calling his friends and co-workers -- anyone who might know his whereabouts.

Abby, I have a serious heart condition that could send me to the hospital at any time.

Mick finally called back and said he had gotten distracted talking with an old friend. He acted like we were crazy for being concerned, and insists he did nothing wrong.

All I have ever asked is that my husband and kids give me a quick call to let me know if they're going to be late so I won't worry. My son and daughter do it, but Mick refuses. He says he's the breadwinner, and he should not have to answer to anyone. I have put up with this for years, but now I have had enough. What do you think? -- SICK AND TIRED OF IT, IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SICK AND TIRED OF IT: Candidly, I think Mick is acting more like a rebellious teenager rather than a caring husband. Because he has been this way for 22 years, I seriously doubt he is capable of change. That's why I also think you should talk to your attorney about adding another family member to your Advance Directive for Health Care, in case you have a medical emergency and your husband is as usual -- unreachable.

consideration it deserves because your life could depend on it.

DEAR ABBY: I married "Marge" 18 months ago. It was a second marriage for both of us. We agreed to sell our homes and buy something together. Mine sold and now I'm in her house.

Things were going fine until Marge's daughter and son-in-law moved back in. It was supposed to be a three- or four-day stay, but it's now into the fifth week. They always claim to be right on the edge of leaving.

Marge enjoys having her daughter near her, but this is stressful for me. They sleep until noon every day and stay up late. They enjoy all that we have earned throughout our lives, and offer nothing in the way of rent.

I am not allowed to complain. I have been given the option to say 'Go," but I know it will cause hard feelings from Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

them and Marge. I am to the point where I'm ready to move out. -- TRAPPED IN THEIR HOUSE

DEAR TRAPPED: More troubling than the fact you appear to have been invaded by freeloaders is that you say you are "not allowed" to voice your feelings about it. Marriage is supposed to be a partnership of equals, and if one partner is not happy, healthy couples work out an agreeable solution together. Because you have been unable to do this, I recommend marriage counseling before you pack your bags.

With counseling I'm hoping you and Marge can form a united front in telling "the kids" they have a deadline to be out instead of you being forced into the role of "bad guy." Moving out should be your last option, because once you do, the move may be permanent.

Events

at Ward and Foster.

A performance of the Nutcracker will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Mk. Brown auditorium. Sunday

The 14th annual Tour of Homes is from 1 p.m. to

The Lewis and Debbie Davis Home & **Christmas Tree Farm** 641 County Line Road Take Hwy 70 North to

County Line Road, which is the road one mile before the Little Red School House. Go left on County Line Road to the

tree farm. The Tina Cox Home 645 Pheasant Lane Enter Walnut Creek and take Walnut Lane, cross-

ing the cattle guard to Pheasant Lane. The Robert and Jane **Jacobs Home**

cont. from page 1

640 Pheasant Lane Enter Walnut Creek and take Walnut Lane, crossing the cattle guard to Pheasant Lane. The Wesley and

Sharon Crosier Home 311 Oak Walnut Creek Tickets are \$10 and

may be purchased at the

homes.

Tralee

office during normal business hours and choose one or more ornaments, then return the gifts, unwrapped, by Dec. 18. The gifts will

be wrapped and distributed

ticipate can come by the to the Tralee families in

time for Christmas. Monetary donations are also welcome and can be mailed to Tralee Crisis Center, P.O. Box 2880, Pampa, TX 79066-2880.

cont. from page 1

For more information about the Tree of Blessing or Tralee Crisis Center's services, call 806-669-



for your business in this popular annual special section! Call ReDonn or Sue before Nov. 13.

669-2525

1070

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2009. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 4, 1619, settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Va., where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival. (Some suggest that this was America's true first Thanksgiving.)

On this date:

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

'Beauty is the promise of happiness.';

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

← Stendahl (Henri Beyle), French author and critic In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1984, a five-day hijack drama began as four armed men seized a Kuwaiti airliner en route to Pakistan and forced it to land in Tehran, where the hijackers killed American passenger Charles Hegna.

In 1991, the original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward Mars on an odyssey of 310 million miles. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

Ten years ago: NASA scientists continued to wait in vain for a signal from the Mars Polar Lander, raising questions about the whereabouts of NASA's \$165 million probe. (It's believed the spacecraft was destroyed after it plunged toward the Red Planet.)

Five years ago: President George W. Bush received the president of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in the Oval Office; afterward, Bush pronounced himself "very pleased" with Pakistan's efforts to flush out terrorists.

One year ago: U.S. automakers drew fresh skepticism from lawmakers during a Senate Banking Committee hearing over their pleas for an expanded \$34 billion rescue package they said was needed for them to survive. For the first time, an NFL game was broadcast live in 3-D to theaters in Boston, New York and Los Angeles. (Although the telecast was marred by technical glitches, fans were mostly forgiving as they watched the San Diego Chargers beat the Oakland Raiders 34-7.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 88. Game show host Wink Martindale is 76. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 73. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 72. Actress Gemma Jones is 67. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 67. Singermusician Chris Hillman is 65. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 62. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 61. Actor Jeff Bridges is 60. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 58. Actress Patricia Wettig is 58. Actor Tony Todd is 55. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 54. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 54. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 50. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 47. Actress Marisa Tomei is 45. Actress Chelsea Noble is 45. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 43. Rapper Jay-Z is 40. Actor Kevin Sussman is 39. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 36. Country singer Lila McCann is 28. Actress Lindsay Felton is 25. Actor Orlando Brown is 22.

We welcome your letters

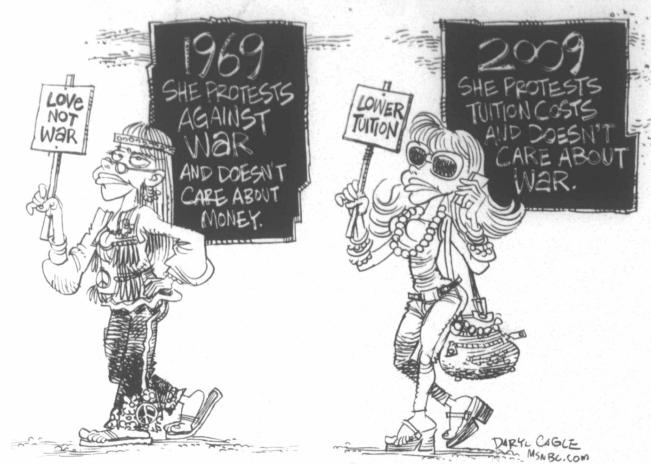
To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

•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 published.

•Defamatory comments will not be published.

• E-mail submissions are welcome.



FORTY Years of Progress.

Join the success conversation

By Barry Haenisch PISD Superintendent

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year! It is a time of giving and good cheer. This season is special for the young and old, alike. Christmas

memories can live for years.

One of our family's best Christmas memories occurred in 1976. Our son Kyle was not quite four years old, and his sister was only a few days old. We were in Lubbock to be with Lindy's porents.

Linda's parents.
On Christmas Eve we took our son to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus in one of the city's parks. The evening was brisk and the line was long. Each child waited for that special time with St. Nick and Mrs. Claus. The longer we waited, the more excited Kyle became. When it was his turn, Kyle let all of his wishes spill forth for the Claus's to hear. Both were very reassuring that he had been a "good boy" and that he

could expect a wonderful Christmas.

As we were leaving, Mrs. Claus called Kyle back to her. She whispered so that only he could hear, "Be sure your PawPaw moves his big chair from in front of the fireplace. We don't want Santa to trip over it in the dark!"

That sentence only confirmed our son's certainty that Santa was the greatest person in the world and that

he did see everything. PawPaw did have a big chair that sat in front of the fireplace. Santa would trip over it in the dark. Kyle was ready for the best Christmas ever after he supervised his grandfather's moving of the chair to a safe place in the room.

Kyle's anticipation and certainty paid dividends that year. Before the last present was opened, Kyle had collapsed to the floor amazed and overjoyed that he had received everything on his wish list. He learned that all of any person's wishes could be delivered by Santa if he was a "good boy" and if he asked for them!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if receiving all we needed was as easy as it seemed in childhood? The staff of the Pampa ISD realizes that our wish for academic success for each child in our schools is not as easy as it seemed when we were children. As we age, we learn that realizing the important wishes require the coordinated efforts of many people. For our community's children to reach their full potential, the School Board, the school staff, students, parents, and community members must work in concert. Each group plays a critical role in achieving success for all

This year the school administration is focused on coordinating the contributions of each critical group in our



Barry Haenisch

community

Periodically, all of the stakeholders in our community are meeting together to discuss important issues and to plan for crystal clear two-way communication on making our beliefs about learning a reality. Your voice is needed in our conversations.

If you want your ideas to be heard or if you want to hear what others are thinking regarding our needs to build successful schools, please join with us. Just call 669-4700 and let Sabrina East or Karen Linder know that you would like to be contacted when we meet.

After all, getting everything we want from our educational system takes more than just asking Santa. It takes people working together!

Letters to the editor

Our tax dollars at work

Lets begin with why should we destroy something of beauty and enjoyment to us? Then we need to ask those making these decisions(and being paid with our tax dollars) why it is feasible to spend \$10,000 to \$20,000 to tear down each roadside park to save \$7,000 and wit this consider the debris going to our landfills?

Now, we must not forget we will no longer have rest stops to empty trash out of or vehicles so I can now just toss it out the window and then you can hire extra help to pick it up— or will you just let it blow for the land owner to be responsible for keeping it off his fence, out of his

pasture and away from his cattle?

Have you ever been thrown from a horse because some-body's trash blew in front of him and caused him to do an unexpected buck, or had a herd of cattle nearly penned only to have the trash blow and spook the leader and they

all scatter, then you have to start gathering all over again?
Oh, yes, and let's not mention the times we use these parks to stop, stretch and wake up when we get sleepy driving, blinking in an attempt to stay awake or get and walk through weeds, dodging snakes.

With the budget reaching such a shortfall, I suggest we start at the top of the payroll, weed out the dead wood and spend the money on the already existing roadside parks.

Nell Bailey Pampa

Dear Editor:

What a pleasant surprise and wonderful experience to attend the Community Concert on Monday, November 16, 2009 in the Heritage Room of the M. K. Brown Auditorium with so many well mannered young people in attendance intermingled with their parents and the usual "white haired" attendees. It was a "packed" house.

The music for the evening was "different", but most interesting intermingled with balanced elements of jazz, hip hop and classical named "Project" by the group of three classical musicians with Master's degrees playing a flute, cello and bass.....a very talented group.

Now that the younger concert goers have experienced what the Community Concert Ass'n. has to offer....hope the "seed is planted" so we will see more attend future concerts.

Iris Ragsdale Pampa

THE PAMPA NEWS

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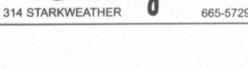


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Sports

Lady Mustangs roll the Lefors Lady Pirates 54-23

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lefors Lady Pirates' losing streak reaches three as they lost the opener of the Miami Tournament 54-23 to the Wheeler Lady Mustangs Thursday in Miami.

Head Coach Tory Peet said even though they loss it was one of their better games.

"We're still fundamentally not where we need to be," Peet said. "But we are improving. From the previous games we played a little bit better today. In the first quarter Wheeler pressed us and that's the first time we've seen a press. We panicked but we'll get better in time."

The Lady Mustangs jumped out to an early lead on the Lady Pirates. Lefors had five turnovers allowing Wheeler to take a 9-0 lead. The Lady Pirates did not score until almost four minutes into the game when Shayley Morriss made a free throw. Story Pairsh made the Pirates first basket cutting the Lady Mustangs lead to 12-5. Wheeler led 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, both teams went on runs. Wheeler outscored Lefors 6-2 to start the quarter and

increased their lead to 20-9. The Lady Pirates went on a 6-1 run to cut the Lady Mustangs' lead to 21-15. Wheeler scored the last four points of the quarter to lead 25-15 at halftime.

After Lefors scored on their first possession off the third quarter the Lady Mustangs took complete control of the game. Wheeler went on a 16-4 run to expand their lead to 41-21 after three quarters. The Lady Mustangs scored the first 12 points of the fourth quarter giving them a commanding 53-21 lead.

Peet was pleased with the intensity of his team's defense.

"Wheeler is a very good team," Peet said. "They move the ball well. I was very pleased with our effort on defense. Wheeler didn't just come down and score on one shot they had to work the ball."

Pairsh led the team in scoring with 10 points. Morriss had seven, Kaittlynne Porter and Ashley Shepard each had three. Pairsh led the team in rebounds with four. Taylor Overstreet and Lacie Johnston each had three. The Lady Pirates (1-3) will play the loser of Booker and Memphis 6 p.m. today.



staff photo by Andrew

Lacie Johnston attempts a jumper against the Wheeler Lady Mustangs Thursday in the first round of the Miami tournament. Lefors lost 54-23 and play the loser of Booker and Memphis 6 p.m. today. The Lady Pirates fall to 1-3 on the season losing their last three.

Ski ok with loss to No. 19 'Stangs

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Typically a coach would not be happy if his team lost by 22. However, Lefors Head Coach Joey Czubinski aka "Coach Ski" was pleased with how his team played in a 57-35 loss to the No. 19 Wheeler Mustangs Thursday in the Miami Tournament.

"We were talking before the game with their (Wheeler's) speed and athleticism, if we get over 30 I'm going to be happy," Coach Ski said. "We could have scored more or given up less. I can't fault them for that they did what they could."

Wheeler got an early lead at the beginning of the game. The Pirates had two turnovers and a missed shot on their first three possessions allowing the Mustangs to take a 5-0 lead. Taylor Ray got the Pirates first points making two free throws cutting Wheeler's lead to 5-2 which would be the closest Lefors would get in the first quarter. The Mustangs led 10-6 after the first.

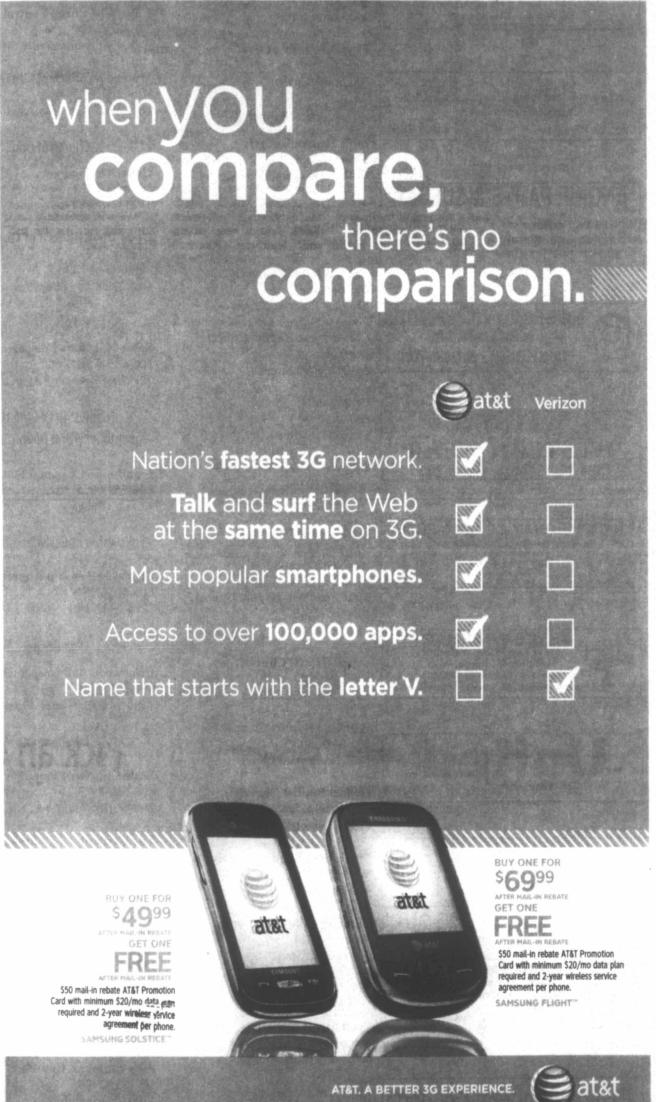
In the second quarter, both teams started exchanging baskets. However, Wheeler started to take control. Leading 16-11 the Mustangs closed the second quarter on a 10-2 run to led 26-13 at halftime. Lefors had nine turnovers in the second quarter.

The Mustangs started quickly in the third quarter opening with an 8-4 run to expand their lead to 34-17. The teams played back and forth the rest of the third quarter with Wheeler leading 40-25 at the end of the

The Mustangs ended any hope of a Lefors rally as they opened the fourth quarter with a 15-0 run. The Pirates turned it over five of their first six possessions. The Pirates closed the game on a 10-2 run. Ray led the team in scoring with 14 points, Keenan Lott had nine points.

Lefors (1-1) will play the loser of Booker vs. Memphis 7:30 p.m. today. Coach Ski said it will be a tough game for them.

"I guess it's pick your poison with those guys," Coach Ski said. "You play one tough eleven-man (football) school and you have to play another tough eleven-man team."



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Sports

Girls JV rallies for five in a row

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

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Pampa Lady Harvesters junior varsity team overcame a fourth quarter deficit and Caitlin Sieck hit a last second three-pointer in a 56-55 win over the Follett Panthers varsity team Thursday in the Miami Tournament.

The Lady Harvesters trailed 53-46 in the fourth quarter. Sieck cut their lead to five with a two-pointer. Kailyn Troxell made a layup to cut Panthers lead to 53-50. Delaney Clendening tied the game with a three-pointer.

Follett regained the lead when Troxell committed a foul. The Panthers made both free throws to take a 55-53 lead. On Pampa's next possession Sieck hit a three-pointer from the center of the basket. Coach Forrest Harding said Follett was running a zone and his team just executed the offense.

"We called a zone offense," Harding said. "Sieck just got the ball back and she nailed the three. It was great."

The Lady Harvesters were in control during the first half of the game.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Courtney Ward (10) fires a jump shot against Follett. Pampa won 56-55 giving them a five-game winning streak Thursday in the Miami Tournament at Miami High School.

Panthers went on a 15-6

run and scored the last six

points of the quarter to cut

Pampa's lead to 38-36 after

Clendening led the team

in scoring with 29 points

and in rebounds with seven.

Sieck scored nine points

Kaitlynn Ramirez

the third.

Pampa scored the opening seven points of the game with Clendening getting five of those points. The Lady Harvesters led 15-9 after the first quarter.

In the second quarter the teams exchanged baskets. The Lady Harvesters were able to put together a small run at the end of the quarter

to lead 27-17 at halftime. After the first half, Follett got back into the scored six. Courtney Ward

game. Pampa expanded had five rebounds and Troxell had three. their lead to 32-21 mid The win gives the Lady way through the third. The

Harvesters five in a row and six of their last eight. Pampa (6-5) will play the winner of Arbor and Miami JV 9 a.m. today. Harding said the next game will be a challenge.

"We will definitely have our work cut out for us," Harding said.

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runs past Booker Kiowas

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters boys junior varsity team overcame a sluggish start to defeat the Booker Kiowas junior varsity team 58-32.

The win was the Harvesters third in their last four games. Coach Matt Embry said his team is buying in to what he wants them to do.

"We started having some attitude issues," Embry said. "We have been doing what it takes to take care of them."

Missed baskets plagued the Harvesters early as Booker was able to jump out to a 7-0 lead. Pampa settled in and outscored the Kiowas 13-1 the rest of the quarter to lead 13-8. Embry said his team likes to get out and run but had the run guys running down the floor.

"We want are ones and twos running down the court," Embry said. "We had our big guys running down the court. Once we got disciplined we were

fine." In the second quarter, Pampa doubled their lead with Derek Pollard hitting a two-pointer and Greg Cabrales hit a three-pointer. Booker cut the lead down to six with a four point run. The Harvesters ended the quarter with a

14-3 run to lead 32-15 at every game. We're good halftime.

open in the third quarter outscoring the Kiowas 18-5 to lead 50-20 after three quarters. Pollard scored six of the Harvesters last 10 points of the quarter. Embry was pleased with his team's defense.

"We only allowed 32 points," Embry said. "If we only allow that we will win

for 45 points."

Pampa broke the game * The Harvesters play the winner of the Wheeler junior varsity game 10:30 am today. Embry said their opponent better be ready.

"We are Pampa and you are who you are," Embry said. "We want to beat you."

Saturday

Pampa boys and girls basketball River Road tournament

Pampa boys and girls JV basketball Miami tournament

Lefors boys and girls basketball Miami tournament

Pampa boys and girls freshmen basketball Borger tournament

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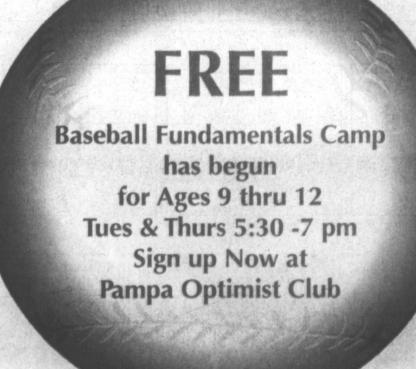
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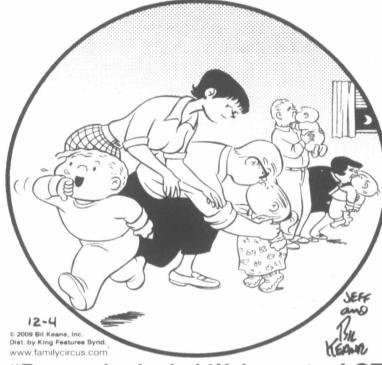
Marmaduke



"No! I don't want to see the odd-looking toupee he brought home."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Boy, we're lucky! We've got a LOT of people to kiss good night!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

44 Traveler's

stop

45 German

1 Request

2 Sigh,

say

4 Great

3 Tabloids

weight

5 Potions

earnestly

ACROSS

1 Defeats 6 Part of a repair bill

steel 11 One with city a record 46 Fresh

12 1836

battle site **DOWN** 13 Neighbor

of Togo

14 Moved a

raft 15 Rooter

16 Bitter, for one 18 Hoary

19 Seventh Greek letter

20 "The Matrix" hero 21 Harvest

23 Pass

25 Golf position

27 Become a brunette

28 Texas player

30 Spot

33 Bat wood 34 NYC subway line

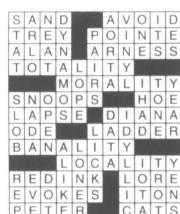
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PETER CATS Yesterday's answer

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10 Western food, contest maybe professor 17 Devoured 32 Annual 33 Burning

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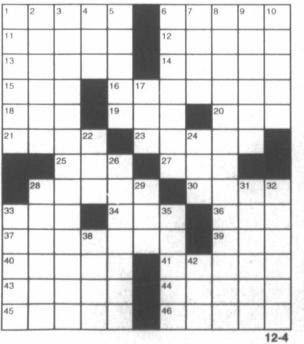
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHRYN MAE DUDLEY Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2009, in Docket No. 9678, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: GLENDA MAR-CUM

Street, Hereford, Texas len. Call 440-4765 79045. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 30th day of

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4 days \$21.50 persons are hereby inan enormous relief to both of you. What formed that all dwella wonderful way to enter the holidays. ings advertised are

heart. Tonight: What you want. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

- this person might be more pressured by what is occurring than you realize. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Take off for a day at the flea market or shop for a tree. Enjoy the change and worry less about this or that You'll recharge your batteries and feel nothing less than terrific. Tonight: Let your spirit soar.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Relate to a loved one as if there is no tomorrow. You could be surprised by a newfound closeness, which could be Tonight: You don't need to explain any-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Can you postpone the moment? No; nor should you. Celebrate living and life without a doubt that you are doing the right thing. A friendship could evolve to a new level if you just

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ** Play it nice and easy the next few days. Though you could be worn out by what is happening, decide to accomplish only what is necessary. Start working on

(1901), musician Little Richard (1932). songwriter J.J. Cale (1938)

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

CRYPTOQUOTE

PFA'V

TCLKDV VDYYM C M

LZDMA'V C M UXZJ

FUUZXL,

TCNBAK GBYYBFJ

UDFVODX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ANY GIRL CAN BE GLAMOROUS. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAND STILL AND LOOK STUPID. — HEDY LAMARR

PETS ADORABLE PUGGLE, 2 years old. Looking for a oving home. Call Gina Go to www.thepampanews.com or call 806-669-2525.

ease. The unusual or different person will catch your eye. If you are attached, take a seminar together or plan that special vacation. Make friendship an even more important part of your relationship. LEO often expresses very different views. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

> *** You might want to stay close to home in the afternoon. Start decorating and getting into the holiday season. How you handle a matter and what you do could change radically once you hear news. Even after you absorb new information, hold back for a while. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Keep the give-and-take

between you and others. Though some-

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** You are full of fun and energy and a child is very drawn to this playfulness. You will wonder which way to go or what is best for you. Your understand-

ing grows to a new level. When you just

relax, you connect on a deeper level.

4-Positive;

Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Daily Horoscope

son's needs could be interesting. You could do this successfully. Tonight: Hang

** Get into shopping and clear out as much as you can. In fact, once you get into the spirit of the holiday, you are all smiles. Stop and meet a friend for some eggnog or dinner. Tonight: Your treat!

feeling as if it could be difficult to stop you. A heavy conversation could cause you a hassle. Listen to what is being

know that you don't need to explain.

put on some Christmas music. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ** Others continue to look to you to take the lead. Understand what is happening with a boss or relative you look

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** You are on cruise control and

care deeply about. Tonight: Vanish and

about each person as you choose his or

hang out. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

holiday cards or choosing your e-mail selections. Tonight: Living it up. **BORN TODAY** Creator of Mickey Mouse Walt Disney

one might really want you to him- or herself you might not be inclined to do just that. Juggling your desires with this per-

shared by a child or loved one. Take it to *** Listen if you want to understand a lot more of what is going on. You'll see a situation in a far different light. Remain sensitive to a roommate or someone you

*** Remember what you like most her holiday gift. If you reflect some of the sunshine that exists between the two of you, you cannot go wrong. Tonight: Get into some local festivities, or at least

Blessed are the conservative in Bible translation

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP) — The Gospel of Luke records that, as he was dying on the cross, Jesus showed his boundless mercy by praying for his killers this way: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Not so fast, say contributors to the Conservative Bible Project.

The project, an online effort to create a Bible suitable for contemporary conservative sensibilities, claims Jesus' quote is a disputed addition abetted by liberal biblical scholars, even if it appears in some form in almost every translation of the Bible.

The project's authors argue that contemporary scholars have inserted liberal views and ahistorical passages into the Bible, turning Jesus into little more than a well-meaning social worker with a store of watered-down platitudes.

"Professors are the most liberal group of people in the world, and it's professors who are doing the popular modern translations of the Bible," said Andy Schlafly, founder of Conservapedia.com, the project's online home.

Experts who have devoted their careers to unraveling the ancient texts of the Scriptures, many in long-extinct languages, are predictably skeptical about a project by amateur translators.

"This is not making scripture understandable to people today, it's reworking scripture to support a particular political or social agenda," said Timothy Paul Jones, a professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in

and coastal areas. When

winter storms threaten,

monitor broadcast media

and NOAA Weather Radio for information. Keep your

gas tank full to avoid ice in

the tank and fuel lines. On

icy roads, drive slowly and

increase distance required

for stop. If power is out,

treat all intersections as

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

•Blankets/sleeping bags and extra clothing, mittens

•Cell phone, radio, flash-

•First-aid kit and pocket

•High calorie, non perish-

Sack of sand or cat litter

•Windshield scraper, tool

EMERGENCY TIPS

FOR HOME

If a winter storm leads

to a power outage, be

kit, booster cables, tow

able food, bottled water

for de-icing roadway

rope and shovel

light, extra batteries

FOR VEHICLE

four-way stops.

and hat

winter storms

Winter storms can strand extremely careful using

motorists traveling northern routes in Texas, sometimes striking South Texas generators or gas powered equipment. Carbon monoxide (CO) is invisible,

CHARLESTON, West Louisville, Kentucky, who calls himself a theological conservative.

Religious publishers already provide an alphabet soup of Bible translations for a range of theological outlooks, from the King James Version (KJV) to the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and beyond. The most widely used traditional translations were overseen by scholars who are considered the best minds in conservative Christianity.

"The phrase 'theological conservative' does not mean that someone is politically conservative," said Schlafly, who lives in Far Hills, New Jersey.

This liberal slanting, Schlafly argues, ranges from changing gendered language — Jesus calling his disciples to be "fishers of people" rather than "fishers of men" — to more subtle choices, like the 2001 English Standard Version of the Bible, which uses "comrade" and "laborer" more often than the conservative-friendly "volunteer."

Contributors to the project aren't arguing on ideological grounds alone. The discussion forum on the site is full of discourse on Greek grammar, along with arguments long familiar to Biblical scholars about the history of certain passages.

Take the famous passage from Luke: the Conservative Bible Project omits it not only because it's "a favorite of liberals," but because there's some dispute over its authenticity, based on the manuscripts it appears in.

agenda," said Timothy
Paul Jones, a professor at the Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary in

Be prepared for

odorless, deadly - and can

build up in a matter of minutes. Do not use generators,

charcoal grills or gas grills

inside the house, garage or

enclosed space. Do not try

to heat the house using a

•Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, batteries,

flashlights, cell phone and

chargers, manual can open-

•One-week supply of

food, water, medicine, medical supplies and items

for special health care

•Pet supplies, kitty litter

·Heating fuel, properly

ventilated emergency heat-

ing source such as a fire-

place, wood stove or space

•Fire extinguisher, smoke

•Warm clothing and extra

detector, carbon monoxide

or sand for de-icing steps

needs.

detector

blankets

and walkways

Be prepared at home:

gas range or oven.

"There are so many factors to consider when looking at that, but here it gets boiled down to 'liberals put it in,'" he said. "You've got people who are doing this who have probably never looked at an actual ancient manuscript."

In some ways, the Conservative Bible Project reflects an ancient debate over Scripture. The Bible as it's known today more or less took final shape in the 4th century after hundreds of years of debate over which books were canonical.

The debate flared up again during the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther fruitlessly yearned to cut the Book of James because of its fairly explicit contradiction of his belief that salvation could be attained by faith alone.

this with the Bible," said Philip Jenkins, a professor of history and religious studies at Pennsylvania State University. "Virtually everyone in a

"People have always done

mainstream Protestant or Roman Catholic church in the United States is reading a doctored version of the Bible."

Jenkins is referring to the Revised Common Lectionary, a selection of biblical texts read in worship services that amounts to about a third of the full text.

Schlafly's project is distinctive, though, because non-experts collaborate Wiki-style on the Internet to produce their version.

"The best of the public is better than a group of experts," said Schlafly, whose mother, Phyllis, is a longtime conservative activist known for her opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Jones says the project is a misguided effort to read contemporary politics back into the text.

"Ironically, there's a long tradition of the liberal twisting of scripture," Jones said. "Scholars have rightly deemed those translations illegitimate, and

this conservative Bible is every bit as illegitimate."

The Bible's roots in a dizzying variety of ancient manuscripts require a lifetime of dedication to master, said the Rev. Frank Matera, a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a former president of the Catholic Biblical Association of America.

"There's a little Italian proverb, 'Every translator is a traitor,'" Matera said. "Most Bible translations are usually done by a group of scholars, precisely so they can balance out each other. It's not something that everybody can do."





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