INNERSE REALIZED REALIZ eeee471 12/31/2929 HERLINGE NICROFILM 4049 2151 AVE 54 CEDAR RAPIDS, 1A 52404 6309 all your insurance المارية المارية المراجعات المراجعات المراجعات المراجعات المراجعات المراجعا PAMPA NEWS ANCE AGENCY, LLC 1224 North Hobar BC Plaza 2, Suite 11 Pampa, TX 806-688-7081 **The Floor Store** 2110 Perryton Pkwy • 665-4455 Weekend Issue Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 2009 Volume 105 • No. 186 FREE 50¢ Daily \* Weekend \$1.50 Carpet pad with installation CTT Chamber mugs purchase to hold FREE in-stock laminate or tile with installation open purchase nouses Cross Texas Transmission will hold two open house meetings Dec. 14 and 15 to allow the public to view the proposed routes for a transmission line between the Gray and White Deer substations. Cracks In Bricks The first meeting will be Monday ticking Doors & Windo Interior Wall Cracking December 14, anytime between 3:30 FREE ESTIMATES and 6:30 p.m., in the Lefors Civic 1-800-299-9563 www.childersleveling.com Center, 103 N. Court Street, Lefors. The second will be held Tuesday December 15, 2009, anytime One STO between 4 and 7 p.m. in the Carson County War Memorial Building, Flooring 500 Main Street in Panhandle. Cross Texas Transmission, LLC Challenge (CTT) is proposing to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) double circuit high

Barbara Cox with Duncan, Fraser and Bridges Insurance Company sips from her new Pampa Chamber of

Commerce coffee cup. The new cups are on sale at the chamber offices at 200 N. Ballard.

Fill in the blanks and bring it in to One Stop for 7% off any installed new flooring job! Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, Hint: Look in the book of 1 John 5

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PAMPA - On Thursday, December 3, the tor the next child protection court judge." first day for filing, Judge Phil Vanderpool, seeking election as the 223rd District Judge in Gray County, officially filed for that position. The Republican Primary will be held on March 2010. Judge Lee Waters, currently the 223rd

District Judge, has stated his intention not to

Judge Vanderpool was instrumental in the creation of Great Plains CASA for Kids in Hereford and CASA of the Rolling Plains in Childress. Along with those two organizations, Judge vanderpool continues to work with CASA of the High Plains centered in Pampa, CASA 69 in Dalhart and Amarillo Area CASA. He received special recognition from Amarillo Area CASA for his efforts and his dedication to children in the Texas Panhandle and was a finalist for Texas CASA Judge of the Year in 2006. Judge Vanderpool is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education events across the State including those sponsored by the State Bar of Texas, South Plains Foster Care Court and Lubbock Bar Association, and Texas CASA's annual conference. At the request of the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center in Austin which works closely with the Texas Judicial Conduct Commission, Judge Vanderpool mentored a municipal judge in another city assisting that judge with an understanding of ethics and the limits of authority of a municipal judge.

Vanderpool files for 223rd District Judge

staff photo by David Bowser



voltage electric transmission line as

part of the Competitive Renewable

Energy Zones (CREZ) initiative. The

CREZ project is being developed to

integrate additional renewable ener-

gy and increase system reliability

throughout the Electric Reliability

Council of Texas (ERCOT).

CTT cont. on page 3

HOURS MON-FRI 8-6 • SAT 8-12 **EMERGENCY ANYTIME OWNERS: BOBBY FAIRES / DUECE FAIRES** 



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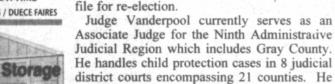
Combs-Worley Building

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has held that position since January 2, 2002. Prior to that, Judge Vanderpool served as Municipal Judge for the City of Pampa for over 14 years and as a certified hearing examiner for the Texas Education Agency for over 5 years.

Judge Vanderpool said, "I will bring my judicial experience of over 20 years and my legal experience of over 34 years to a broader range of issues and will work hard to insure all cases are handled timely with fairness, justice and dignity. I will continue my service as Chair of the Legal Education Subcommittee on the State Bar's Standing Committee for Child Abuse and Neglect and will be available to assist and men-



Judge Phil Vanderpool

VANDERPOOL cont. on page 4

### Mobil most fined polluters l'otal, Exxon

light DALLAS (AP) — In one industrial accident alone, ecor Total Petrochemical's Get your free estimate today and save yourself sprawling oil refinery in southeast Texas sprayed adache during // tons of sulfuric acid and the houdays. carbon monoxide into the 806.445.3660 sky

> The French company's 62-year-old facility also has released toxins such as cancer-causing benzene, regularly surpassed allowable pollution limits, failed to report dozens of emissions — or to even fully identify what or how much was released.

Such incidents helped make Total the most heavily fined polluter in Texas in the 2009 fiscal year, according to a year-end report summarizing how companies were punished in the state that produces the most industrial pollution. Total, assessed \$1.58

million for 11 violations over several years, says it has since resolved many of the problems at the Port Arthur plant and continues to look for ways to improve.

They have tried to be a fairly good neighbor, but it seems like they've had some problems out there," said Hilton Kelley, an activist who lives about three miles from the refinery and says flares, plumes of smoke and a strange chemical scents are commonplace. "Too many times they'll come out and tell you nothing was wrong, and we found out later that there was something wrong."

The most fined companies are almost all oil refiners and chemical manufacturers in southeast Texas. Exxon Mobil Corp., the



The Total Port Arthur refinery is shown Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009 in Port Arthur, Texas. Over the past several years, Total Petrochemical's sprawling oil refinery in southeast Texas has sprayed tons of sulfuric acid and carbon monoxide into the sky. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

world's largest publicly traded oil company, was third at about \$1.1 million but was the most frequently fined company

with 23 separate actions. Like Total, Exxon says it has made improvements and that many of its fines were from years past but FINES cont. on page 4

finalized in 2009.

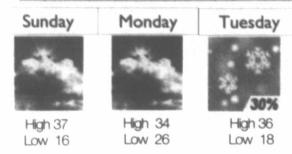
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued about 1,750 fines



The Pampa News --- Weekend Edition, Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 2009 --- Page 2

## For the record

### PAMPA FORECAST



Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 17 and 22. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Wind chill values between 16 and 26. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy; with a low around 16. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. Windy, with a east northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. Windy, with a north northwest wind 25 to 30

() This information brought to you by...



### Obituaries

### Odessa McGahen, 73

Odessa Pampa-73. died McGahen, December 3, 2009, in Dallas, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, December 7, 2009, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor, and Rev. Dallas Stringer, associate pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

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 and M. E. Moses until her retirement. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association, and an active member of Calvary Baptist Church. She loved camping and traveling, especially to Branson, Missouri. Odessa loved to read her Bible and spend time with

her family. Survivors include 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 Karen Sue Cook and husband Randy of Germantown, Tennessee; three brothers, Ottice Kidwell, Jr., and wife Gloria of Odessa, Bill Kidwell and wife Marylyn and Doug Kidwell and wife Judy, all of Pampa; three sisters, Bonnie Guthrie and husband Dan of Wellington, Shirley Andrus and husband Larry and Carolyn Taylor and husband Jackie, all of Pampa; one granddaughter: Lindsey Botello and husband Vivian of Pampa; four step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, Avery, Boston and Baron; five step-great-grandchil-



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dren and numerous nieces and nephews. Odessa was preceded in death by three sisters.

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

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatlev.com

### Rozelle "Rosie" Sandford, 83

Rozelle "Rosie" Sandford, 83, died Dec. 4, 2009.

Funeral Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 at Harvest Street Fellowship Baptist Church, 2700 Kentucky in Pampa, with C. W. Parker, Pastor officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 pm, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Debolt Cemetery in Arnett, OK by Cox-LaGrone Funeral Home, 4180 Canyon Dr. in Amarillo.

Mrs. Sandford was born April 6, 1926 in Blue Grove, TX to Alfred and Tollie Campiche. She graduated from Bowie High School as Salutatorian of her graduating class in 1943. She married P. B. "Buck" Sandford on April 23, 1965 in Tulia. Rozelle was a resident of Amarillo until she moved to Pampa in 1966 where she and her family owned and operated Bottle Shop Liquor in Pampa for many years. They sold the family business and she retired in 1988. Rozelle loved to shop, travel and be a grandma. She was always strong and loving to her kids and family and was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include two daughters; Rebecca Bailey and husband Tam of Pampa and Jackie Jaggers of Amarillo, four sons; Greg Sandford of San Antonio, David White of

Amarillo, Ronnie White of Pampa and Mike Hall and wife Karen of Universal City, TX, a special friend Knoxine Cotham of Pampa, 12 grandchildren; Dustin, D.J., Houston, Berkley, Becky, Heather, Erin, Greg, Steve, Daniel, Kim and April, 12 greatgrandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband P.B. "Buck" Sandford in 1979, a brother; Bud Campiche, three sisters; Velma McDonald, Aliene Weiss and Bernice Gibson and a daughter-in-law; Penny Sandford.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to St. Ann's nursing Home



Sanford

P.O. Box 1179, Panhandle, TX 79068

The family wishes to express special thanks to St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle and Odyssey Hospice for the wonderful care and compassion given to Rozelle.



### LAST MINUTE ADS

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

YARD Service, A&T 1305 S. Hobart, 669-9000. Christmas Trees are here! Free delivery in Pampa with purchase of tree. Free delivery & set up of tree, in Pampa, with purchase of tree and stand.

**BABY'S FIRST** Christmas! Deadline Dec. 14th, before 4pm. \$25 (paid in advance). Email photos will be accepted. Please call 669-2525.

BACK BY demand, Peggy's Place will & Breakfast. Dance to Blue be open all night Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

**BOOTH SPACE** available for hair and nail professionals. Call 669-2228 or 662-2607.

CHRISTMAS TOUR of Homes, Sun. Dec. 6, 1-4pm. We Cater!! 50-200 people. Tickets avail. at homes. 641 County Line Road, 645 Pheasant Lane, 640 Pheasant Lane, 311 Oak. For more info. call 669-0148.

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

HIRING CHURCH Nursery Attendant, Faith Bible Church, 688-9266.

GIFT HOLIDAY Wrapping, Arrangements & Decorating Keisha Webb, 440-1655 after 4 pm.

HOMEMADE GOURMET tasting, Pampa Market, 109 W. Francis, Dec. 11th, 4-7pm. Products available for purchase. Rhonda Hininger, 679-5415.

MASSAGE THERAPY Gift Certificate Christmas Special. Call Cathy Potter, Holly Albert or Brittany Shuman! 1224 N. Hobart Ste. 9, 669-0013.

FIREWOOD, WOODEN Benches, Wishing Wells, Handmade Crosses. 806-669-9689

MATERIAL GIRLZ. Come by & see Borger's newest store! We have a huge selection of Minky. New fabric arriving daily! 101 Broadmoor, Borger, TX. 273-2311

MCLEAN DANCE Club New Year's Eve Dance 8-12:30, Dec. 31st. BYOB. popular Snacks, Party Favors Denim II. \$20 per person. Call 665-5219 for tickets.

> PAMPA NEWS hours are 8am.-4pm. Mon.-Fri.

> PAMPA SHRINE Club (approx 3000 sq ft) available for rent. Weddings, Banquets, Company Parties or Family Reunions. Kitchen facilities avail. at no extra chrg. Call Ben Watson 665-3359 to reserve!

> PAMPERED PETS Grooming! Call Missy, 662-1236.

> holidays Hoagies Deli. 665-0292.

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

ROOM **MOTHER'S** we have inexpensive party favors & supplies! Christmas cards, invitations & stationary. Pampa Office Supply, 215 N. Cuyler.

SANTA STILL has a few spots left open for your company or private party. Call his elf at 440-1306 and leave a message. Santa will call you back.

### **PAMPA HIGH SCHOOL** SOCCER BOOSTER CLUB

Subscribe to The Pampa . News

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**OPTIMIST CLUB BUILDING** 

11:00am - 2:00pm



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CHILDREN (3 to 8) \$4

**CHILDREN (2 and under) FREE** 

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PARTY TRAYS for the

The Pampa News --- Weekend Edition, Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 2009 --- Page 3

### CTT

CTT intends to file a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application in the second quarter of 2010 requesting authorization from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to construct and operate the transmission line between the Gray and White Deer Substations.

CTT's routing consultant has identified a number of preliminary alternative routes to connect the Gray and White Deer substations. These routes, to the extent possible, were developed parallel to existing right-of-ways (ROW) and property boundaries while avoiding or minimizing impacts to environmental and physical constraints.

The proposed Gray to White Deer transmission

line will connect the Gray Substation, southwest of LeFors, and the White Deer Substation, south of Panhandle. The transmission line will be potentially located in the following counties: Gray and Carson. The proposed line will be constructed in a ROW that is approximately 200 feet wide.

Please note that there will not be a formal presentation as part of these meetings. Detailed maps showing the preliminary alternative routes and other information will be available for individuals to review. Individuals have the opportunity to visit with us anytime between 3:30pm and 6:30pm in Lefors and 4:00pm and 7:00pm in Panhandle to ask questions and to provide comments to repre-

#### cont. from page 1

sentatives and technical experts from CTT and its consultants regarding the proposed transmission line. CTT and its consultants will consider information gained during these public open house meetings into the overall routing evaluation that will be submitted as part of the CCN application.

CTT is committed to routing, constructing, and operating the proposed transmission lines in a manner consistent with the values of the local communities, and the rules and policies established by the Texas Legislature, the PUCT, and ERCOT.

For more information, please contact CTT toll free at (877) 214-8288 or locally (806) 669-3000 or via E-mail at info@crosstexas.com

### Meals on Wheels menu

Wednesday,

Hamburger Patties

Mashed Potatoes

**Pinto Beans** 

Cornbread

Peaches

Thursday,

**Oven-Fried** Chicken

Corn

**December 10** 

**December 9** 

**Monday**, December 7 Steak Fingers/Gravy Broccoli Casserole Carrots Pears

**Tuesday, December 8** Turkey **Rice Pilaf** Eng. Peas Sweet Potatoes Plums

**Baked** Potatoes Pudding

Friday, **December 11 Baked** Fish **Rice Pilaf** Garlic Bread Green Beans Apricots

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## IHE Christmas

Living CHRISTMAS TREE

Presented by The Music and Drama Ministry DECEMBER 12 & 13th AT 7:00 P.M.

First Baptist Church 203 N. West St. • PAMpa, TX

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If you want to play Little League in Pampa or are interested in a coaching opportunity, the Borger Little League Charter has drawn a new boundary map to include all of Pampa and White Deer. All boys and girls ages 5 to 15 years old are now eligible to play Little League baseball or softball with the Borger Club in Pampa.

For more information, contact Jackie Cooper at 806-665-8404.

Teams will be forming soon after the first of the year!

The Pampa News --- Weekend Edition, Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 2009 --- Page 4

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### Today in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2009. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History

On Dec. 5, 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

#### On this date

In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, N.Y. the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president: John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took

All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

Walt Disney

In 1932, German Albert physicist Einstein was granted a visa, making it

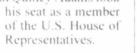
possible for him to travel to the United States. In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany

In 1979, feminist Sonia Johnson was formally excommunicated by the Mormon Church because of her outspoken support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

Ten years ago: AFL-CIO chief John Sweeney welcomed the collapse of World Trade Organization talks in Seattle, asserting that "No deal is better than a bad deal." Cuban President Fidel Castro demanded that the United States return 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez, who had been rescued at sea, to his father in Cuba within 72 hours.

Five years ago: Gunmen ambushed a bus carrying unarmed Iraqis to work at a U.S. ammo dump near Tikrit, killing 17. Egypt freed an Israeli Arab man convicted of spying in exchange for Israel's release of six Egyptian students who were suspected of trying to kidnap Israeli soldiers. Carlos Moya beat Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5) to clinch Spain's second Davis Cup title



In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

"68 YEARS... MAKES IT HARD NOT TO NOTICE THE OLD SOLDIERS ARE FADING AWAY."

### Fines

MA

for about \$14.5 million in the fiscal year, the most fines since the state began levying them in 1985 and for the most money in at least 15 years. The agency credits more aggressive enforcement efforts that prompted more than 100,000 investigations.

"This report shows the consequences of not abiding by the state's environmental rules," TCEQ Commissioner Buddy Garcia said in a statement. But environmentalists who've long criticized Texas' enforcement policies say the fines are the equivalent of traffic tickets for multibillion-dollar companies.

"The TCEQ still has not changed the long-standing principle in Texas that you can pay to pollute," said Matthew Tejada, executive director of the Galveston Houston Association for Smog Prevention, or GHASP. "They have taken little steps forward, but for the big companies out there, it's just a drop in the

in Texas is not making it worth companies' while to actually clean up."

John Sadlier, deputy director of the TCEQ's enforcement division, said he can't argue with the fact that fines alone can't fix the problem.

"Some of these companies, there's so much money being made that there's no penalty that could make a difference," he said, recalling complaints he received about small fines while Exxon Mobil was pulling in a record \$45.2 billion profit in 2008.

But, Sadlier points out, fines are capped by law at \$10,000 per day for each violation. The agency also says penalties are only part of its approach to stopping violations. Technical assistance, education and other measures are also part of the solution.

The money goes to the state's general fund, except for when it can be used for community programs or plant improvements to help stop pollution. About \$6.3 bucket. The penalty system million of the 2009 fines

went toward such projects.

There is no database or clearinghouse to compare fines state-by-state, and even if there were it'd be hard to find a place comparable with Texas. Texas leads the nation with more than 2,000 major sources of industrial pollution, and it has more chemical plants and oil refineries than any other state.

In Total's case, Sadlier said its compliance record is about average, many of its problems were selfreported, and that many emissions were not major.

Total was fined 11 times in 2009, a number that's a bit misleading. One of those fines was the largest of the year, for nearly \$750,000. That fine was for 73 offenses dating to 2003, including the release of more than 6 tons of sulfur dioxide and 6.5 tons of carbon monoxide over about two weeks in 2004. And within those 24 offenses there were sometimes multiple events. For example, one of the 73 offense summaries detailed

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24 unauthorized releases of contaminants.

Exxon Mobil's Baytown refinery, the largest in the nation, got the company's biggest fine — about \$500,000. It included 23 offenses, including a 171/2hour release that included 5 tons of sulfur dioxide, a half-ton of ammonia, more than 130 tons of carbon monoxide and 900 pounds of hydrogen cyanide.

Tejada, whose group GHASP last year put together a study critical of the Texas penalty system, said big companies are distorting how much they pollute by rolling numerous incidents into one fine.

"That's one of the ways that, in my opinion, the companies that are the bigger offenders and have more legal counsel can game the system," he said. 'I think it creates some opacity to the entire system, where not even the regulator can get a good idea of what's happening in each incident."

One year ago: The Labor Department reported that an alarming half-million jobs had vanished in Nov. 2008 as unemployment hit a 15-year high of 6.7 percent. Hundreds of workers laid off on short notice from the Republic Windows and Doors factory in Chicago began a six-day sit-in. (Republic ultimately agreed to the workers' demands for severance and accrued vacation pay: the factory was later sold to a California company, Serious Materials.) A judge in Las Vegas sentenced O.J. Simpson to 33 years in prison (with eligibility for parole after nine) for an armed robbery at a hotel room. Alexy II, the Russian Orthodox patriarch who'd presided over a vast post-Soviet revival of the faith, died at his residence outside Moscow at age 79. Death claimed actresses Nina Foch at age 84 and Beverly Garland at age 82.

Loday's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 77 Author Joan Didion is 75. Author Calvin Trillin is 74. Musician J.J. Cale is 71. Actor Jeroen Krabbe is 65. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 63. Pop singer Jim Messina is 62. College Football Hall of Famer Jim Plunkett is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 60. Actress Morgan Brittany is 58. Actor Brian Backer is 53. Pro Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 52. Country singer Ty England is 46. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 44. Country singer Gary Allan is 42. Comedianactress Margaret Cho is 41. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 40. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 40. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 37. Actress Paula Patton is 34. Actress Amy Acker is 33. Actor Nick Stahl is 30. R&B singer Keri Hilson is 27. Actor Frankie Muniz is 24. Actor Ross Bagley is 21.

### Vanderpool

Leadership TASB Judge Vanderpool was

licensed to practice law in 1975. Over many years since then, he has represented clients in civil and criminal cases in both jury and nonjury trials. He served the citizens of Pampa as the prosecutor in the Municipal Court for over 5 years.

Judge Vanderpool is a Life Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation and a Fellow in the College of the State Bar. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Child Protection Specialty Courts Advisory Group at the Texas Office of Court organization in various Administration in Austin and is a mediator qualified under the provisions of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

Judge Vanderpool served 3 terms on the Pampa School Board including two years as President of the Board. He received his Master Trustee designation from the Texas Association of School Boards and was a charter member of

Judge Vanderpool has always called Pampa and Gray County home. He attended Pampa schools in the 1960's and returned in 1975 to practice law. He has been a resident of Pampa his entire professional life. In the more than 34 years since his return after law school he has been active in his church serving as Chairman of the Administrative Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee. He has served on various other committees within the church

Additionally, Judge Vanderpool has served the Pampa and Gray County communities in organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, Gray County Child Welfare Board, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and United Way.

capacities.

"Public service is a public trust," said Judge Vanderpool. "That is

something I do not take cerns. I bring my judicial Service as the lightly. 223rd District Judge is a public trust. I know the people of Gray County and the 223rd Judicial District and understand our strengths and our con-

experience, judicial and community leadership, and the dedication to continue to work hard to insure all cases are resolved timely with fairness, justice and dignity."



### Obituaries

### Vernon Rayford "Ray" Brewer, 71

SADLER Vernon Rayford "Ray" Brewer, 71, passed away on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at Texoma Medical Center in Denison. No services are planned at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Meador Funeral Home in Whitesboro.

Ray was born on Sept. 22, 1938 in Wheeler, Texas to Millard F. and Clara (Hubble) Brewer. He was a Master Electrician, an avid hunter and deep sea fisherman. He also enjoyed boating and collecting arrowheads. Ray was the best "Papa" ever, dearly loving his family and especially his grandchildren. He was known for his big heart.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Brewer of Sadler; two sons, Michael "Deno" Brewer of Dallas, and Lonnie Brewer of Burnet; two daughters, Denise McElroy and husband, Leo of Spearman, and Cathy Schick of Denver, Colorado; seven grandchildren, Jenna McElroy and fiancée, Chance Riggins, Kade Turner, Rhiley Turner, Harley Brewer, Kayla Brewer, Christopher Brewer and Cyrus Brewer; a brother, Ron Brewer; and two sisters, Elaine Taylor and Estelle Carnal.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, two sisters, a son, Curtis Brewer; and a grandson, Camerick McElroy.

To sign the online registry, go to www.meadorfuneralhome.com



Brewer

**Carrie Hair Chico Ramirez** Accounting bookkeeper@thepampanews.com **Circulation Supervisor** 

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cont. from page 1



## No one should have to worry about staying warm this winter. Call 211 for help with your home heating bills.

Texas winters can be cold and harsh. But the people of Texas are warm and caring. That's why families struggling to pay home heating bills can count on Texas for the help they need.

Energy assistance is available to those facing hard times and high bills. To find out if you are eligible, all you need to do is call 211.

It doesn't matter if you live in a house or an apartment, or if you heat your home with natural gas, electricity or propane. But you must be enrolled by December 31, 2009.

So, please, don't put it off. Call 211 today. And keep warm this winter with the help you need - from deep in the hearts of Texans.

Brought to you by Panhandle Community Services in conjunction with Atmos Energy, your natural gas company. Funds are provided by the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program.

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Family gathering



Left front row (The Matriarch) Alice Marie-Wadsworth-Whinery ( great , great grandmother) second from left- Barbara Whinery- Owen ( daughter) Back row left -Natalie Bennett- Wilson (grandaughter)Right front row -Natasha Blair Wilcox(great grandaughter) and Scott Kurt Luttenberger III ( great great grandson) Barbara, Natalie, and Natasha are former Pampa residents. Natalie traveled from Rifle, Colorado, while Natasha and baby Scott traveled from Oxnard, California for Thanksgiving at the Owen home in Amarillo, while Alice, a Pampa Resident. traveled to Amarillo for the five generation picture.



In this picture- Orville William Whinery, Sr. ( great great grandfather), Barbara Whinery- Owen, (daughter)( center), Natalie Bennett-Wilson (grandaughter)( left back row), Natasha Blair Wilcox (greatgrandaughter), Scott Kurt Luttenberger III (great great granson), Barbara, Natalie, and Natasha are all former Pampa residents. Barbara resides in Amarillo. Natalie now resides in Rifle, Colorado, while Natasha and baby Scott live in Oxnard California. Mr. Whinery is a lontime Pampa resident. The event took place over the Thanksgiving Holiday at the Owen home near Amarillo.

MENU

BURRITO **OR CHICKEN** NUGGETS POTATOES, SLICED CARROTS, SLICED MIXED FRUIT SPANISH RICE BREAKFAST FRENCH TOAST STICKS SYRUP

Tuesday **PIZZA DIPPERS OR CHEF SALAD BLACKEYED PEAS BROCCOLI FLORETS** APPLESAUCE BREAKFAST BISCUIT GRAVY

Wednesday BARBEQUE ON A BUN **OR STEAK FINGERS FRENCH FRIES** TOSSED SALAD **FRESH FRUIT** 

BREAKFAST CHEESE OMELET TOAST Thursday

TURKEY WITH DRESSING WHIPPED POTATOES GREEN BEANS FRUIT CUP **CHIFFON TART** HOT ROLL BREAKFAST **BLUBERRY PANCAKE** N' SAUSAGE ON A STICK SYRUP

> Friday CHICKEN FRIED STEAK **OR HOT DOG** CORN ENGLISH PEAS PEARS BREAKFAST CEREAL TOAST



### Mr. and Mrs. Billy Ray Free Frees celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs Billy Ray Free four children Coy Free and are celebrating their 55th Lynn Miller, both of Pam-Wedding Anniversary. They pa, Gary Free of Borger

were married December and Sherri Smith of Cedar

## Fill two stockings for the price of one. Buy one, get one free at AT&T.



3 Price Check

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6. 1954 in Sayre, OK. The Park, TX. They have seven Frees have lived in Pampa grandchildren and six great 56 years, moving here after grandchildren. their marriage. They have



### Kami Kay Albus

born to proud parents Amy and Anthony Albus at 1:01 p.m. November 5, 2009, in Golden Plains Community Hospital, Borger.

Kami weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces at birth and was 19 1/5 inches long.

Kami's grandparents are Kirby and Rita Cochran

Kami Kay Albus was and Mike and Gina Albus all of Pampa.

Her great grandparents are Chuck and Lori Albus of Pampa, Mami Myers of Pampa and the late Royal Myers and the late Lester and Opal Cochran

Her siblings are Krista, Blake, Lexi, Leiah, Ashley, Rhett, Avery and Rome.



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Sports Lions feast on Pampa Boys JV

#### BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

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The Pampa Harvesters boys junior varsity shoot 10 for 27 (37 percent) from the free throw line and turn the ball over 29 times in a 57-41 loss to the Arbor Christian Lions Friday in the second round of the Miami tournament.

Coach Matt Embry said the missed free throws and turnovers were unacceptable.

"We shoot way too many free throws every day to let that happen," Embry said. "I think we're going to do quite about of conditioning and shoot free throws when we have no legs... Every possession is valuable that was 29 shots we didn't get to take."

In the first quarter Arbor and Pampa played close. The Lions largest lead was one at 9-8 and the Harvesters largest lead was four at 8-4. Pampa led 12-9 after the first quarter. In the second quarter Pampa's troubles would begin.

The Harvesters had seven turnovers, made only one basket and one free throw in the second quarter. Arbor opened the quarter on a 13-1 run to take a 22-13 lead. Collin Killgo had Pampa's only basket on an offensive rebound. The Harvesters trailed 25-15 at halftime

The Lions took complete control in the third after the teams exchanged baskets. Leading 29-20 Arbor went on a 13-0 run to close the third quarter with a 42-20 lead. In the first three quarters the Harvesters only made four of their 21 free throws. Embry said his team got complacent in the second and third quarters.

"We thought the effort



Jesus Cabrales attempts a layup against Arbor Christian Friday. Pampa lost 57-41.

that we were giving was going to be enough," Embry said. "When you turn the ball over 29 times you're probably not going to beat anyone.

In the final quarter the Harvesters regrouped a little and outscored the Lions 21-15. Embry said he was pleased with his team effort in the fourth.

"They actually came out and showed some pride," Embry said. "They took some pride in that Pampa uniform and didn't get blown out by 40 points."

Killgo led the team in scoring with 18 points, making three three-pointers in the fourth quarter. Trace Carter had 10 points. Killgo and Brandon Chairez led the team in rebounds with eight each. Carter had seven.

The Harvesters will play in the fifth place game 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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staff photo by Andrew Glover

### Announcement for patients of Caleb Kim, D.O.

I will be relocating my practice to Family Medicine Center in Amarillo, 1500 S. Coulter, effective January 1, 2010. This clinic is very easy to locate as it is directly across the street from Northwest Texas Hospital. You will be able to schedule upcoming appointments by calling (806) 467-9777. Please call Family Medicine Center of Pampa and request to pick up your medical records prior to your first visit in Amarillo. I certainly hope that you will continue to see me for your future medical needs, but if you should desire to establish a relationship with another physician at Family Medicine Center of Pampa, please call (806) 665-0801 and discuss it with Sharon Rose, Clinic Administrator.



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### Tuesday Perryton

#### BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters junior varsity team lost their jourth game of the season 68-49 to the Perryton Rangers Tuesday in Perryton.

Coach Matt Embry said the team got into foul trouble and fell behind.

"We were tied at 30 at halftime but couldn't overcome our players with foul trouble being on the bench," Embry said.

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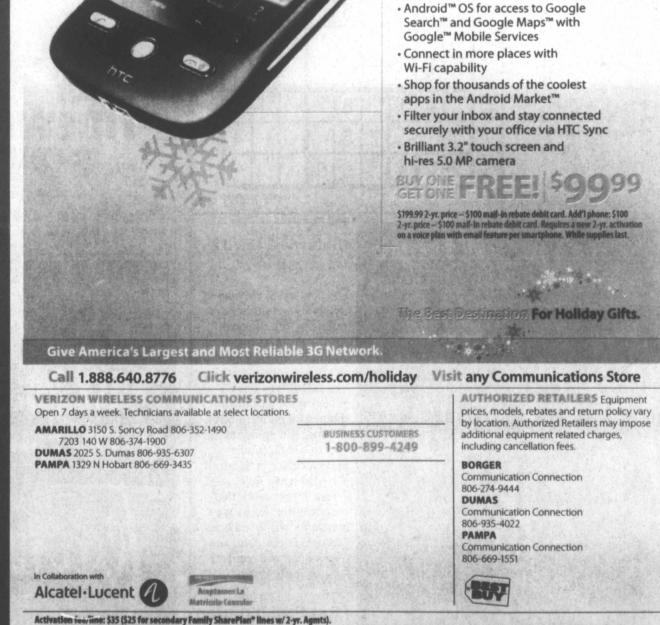
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## Sports

### No. 13 Lady Lions end Pampa JV's winning streak

#### BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa The Lady Harvesters junior varsity basketball team's five game winning streak came to an end Friday in a 48-45 loss to the TAPPS No.

13 Arbor Christian Lady Lions in the second round of the Miami tournament. Coach Forrest Harding said the key to their loss was not blocking out for

"We played good man-

to-man defense but that got nullified because we didn't block out," Harding said. "Any kind of rebounding killed us."

Harding said the team was in the game from beginning to end and like how they fought back. "We just missed a three to tie it," Harding said. "They fought back that's

the number one thing they did well." The Lady Harvesters (6-6) finish play at the

Miami Tournament 7 p.m. Saturday in the fifth place game.



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#### BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Junior High boys basketball teams are still looking for their first wins of the season as they lost to Hereford Monday in Hereford

The eighth grade A team lost 59-36. Ryan Powell led the team in scoring with 10. The B team lost 59-19. Trey Dildy led the B team in scoring

rebounds and

The seventh grade A team lost 52-28. Calven Webb led the team in scoring with six points. Brayden Trimble and Aaron Allen had five points, and Josh Miner had eight points. The B team lost 50-3. Dante Jordan led the team in scoring with two points. Earlier this season the eighth grade A team lost

November 19 and lost 78-29 to Westover Park November 23. The eighth grade B team lost 63-6 to Plainview November 19 and lost 34-9 to Westover Park November 23.

The seventh grade teams will have a tournament in Pampa Thursday and Saturday. The eighth grade teams will play Borger at home Monday.

### PJH girls go 1-3 vs Hereford

51-20 against Plainview

#### BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The eighth grade girls basketball teams spilt and the seventh grade teams lose to Hereford Monday at Pampa Junior High.

The eighth grade B team lost to Hereford 29-13. The team had 24 turnovers. Mattie Eldridge, Emily Terry and Katy Velasquez led the team in rebounds with three each. Eldridge led the team in steals with four and Lacey Dodson had 2. The team shot 33 percent from the free-throw line and three for 12 from the field. Eldridge led the team in scoring with four. Jazmyn Hair had three,

The eighth grade A team won 42-23 against Hereford. The team had seven turnovers, shot 47 percent from the free throw line and 30 percent from the field. Jessie Dixon led the team in rebounds with 10 Alexa O'Brien had six. Kylee

Brown led the team in rebounds with five. Macie Loggins had four. Brown, Lexi Hernandez, Taylor Eubank and Brittney Green led the team in steals with two each. Eubank led the team in scoring with 14 points. Brown had 12. The seventh grade B team lost 22-11. Elizabeth Gill, Ty'Randa Johnson and Tiah Brown led the team in rebounds with

Meets and Krysten Miller led the team in

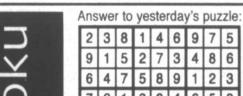
steals with three. Miller led the team in

scoring with 11, Cummings had nine. The

seventh grade A team lost 48-36. Madison

two each. Johnson led the team in streals with eight, Gill, Johnson, Noble, Brown and Villenuava led the team in scoring with two points each. Williams had one.

The seventh grade teams will be playing in a tournament at Perryton Thursday and Saturday. The eighth grade teams host Borger on Monday.





fall to

Fr. boys

#### BY ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters freshmen basketball team lost their fourth game of the season 45-34 at Borger Monday

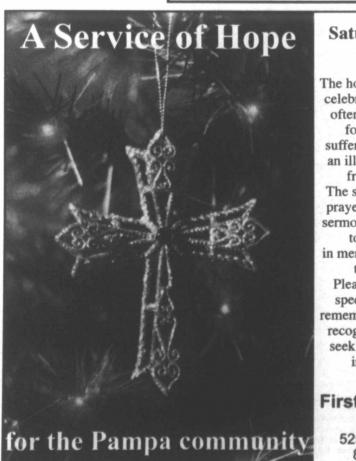
Coach Del Smith thought the team played good but turnovers cost them the game.

"We lead after the end of the first quarter," Smith said. "But kept turning the ball over.'

Drew Facio led the team in scoring with 10 points. Trey Teel scored six and Ryan Smith had five. Del Smith said the team will work on fundamentals and try to eliminate mistakes.

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### Saturday, Dec.12 4 p.m.

The holidays are a time of celebration, but they can often be full of sorrow

for those who are suffering through a loss, an illness, or separation from loved ones.

The service will include prayer, scripture, a brief sermon, and an invitation

to light a candle in memory or in honor of those we love. Please join us for this special service as we remember our loved ones, recognize our pain, and seek hope and comfort in Jesus Christ.

**First Presbyterian** Church 525 N. Gray Street 806-665-1031 1438



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### Meredith House makes the grade with the state

Every year the Department of Aging and Disability performs

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An inspection of every type of facility that is licensed to provide a residential setting for seniors.

On November 18, such an evaluation took place at Meredith House located at 812 W. 25th. The state looks at everything from the care of the residents to employee files.

Meredith House under the direction of Cathy Moore received a "Deficiency Free" report this year. "We are so happy for this outcome," said Moore who has been the Residence Director at Meredith House since May. "This was my first\_experience with the state coming in and I was so glad we accomplished this good report. It has certainly been a team effort." Meredith House is a

Senior Living Community which has been in Pampa for 13 years, specializes in providing a safe, fun, and relaxing environment with

The following components being key in its make-up: independence, dignity,

Choice, privacy, and individuality in a homelike setting. Meredith House offers tours for the community or prospective Valentine or Cathy Moore residents any time. at 665-5668 Please contact Lori

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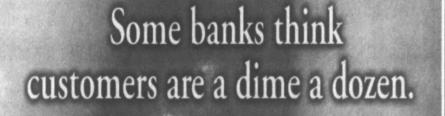
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#### The Pampa News — Weekend Edition, Saturday and Sunday, December 5-6, 2009 -



DEAR ABBY: I will be 50 next year. My daughter is determined to throw me a party, but I'm not interested in acknowledging my age. In fact, thinking about it throws me into a panic.

I realize this is my problem, but how can I make her understand that this is something I truly do not want and I won't attend? She thinks I'm joking. -- 49 AND HOLDING

DEAR HOLDING: Your daughter is wellmeaning but insensitive. Because you can't make her comprehend that birthdays have different connotations for different people, and that you prefer to "forget" about this one, plan an enjoyable getaway for yourself the week that yours rolls around and leave town. And every time you feel yourself

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips going into a panic, practice this mantra: 50 is the new 30. Once you make up your mind to accept it, then you -- like so many others g my about down. Aging is normal. It's stress that's the killer.

Dear Abby...

DEAR ABBY: I recently inherited some money. The amount is enough to allow me to leave a job I find stifling and set up my own business without having to worry about money for the first year.

I am excited about it, but I'm getting nothing but doom and disapproval from my family. My husband says he supports me, but has confided that he's afraid I'm going to plunge us into poverty. My parents and siblings tell me I'm being irresponsible and wasting money I could be investing for retirement. They remind me of how many small businesses fail and tell me I'm "crazy" to leave a secure job.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity, but my family's attitude is starting to make me doubt myself. Am I naive and irresponsible? -- AMBITIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR AMBITIOUS: No, you're a woman with a dream. And that's OK. Until a century ago, nobody thought man could fly, and now we've struck water on the moon.

HOWEVER, just to cover your bases and see if your dream is practical, write a business plan and take it to a bank to see if they would be willing to lend you money to start your business. If the answer is yes, I see no reason why you shouldn't invest in yourself (at zero interest).

DEAR ABBY: I am 30 and have been dating my girlfriend, "Megan," for a few months. She's 22. I'm

blend--pinto beans

slaw-tossed salad--jello

salad

cherry chocolate cake or

tapioca cups

garlic bread sticks--hot

rolls--combread

in love with her, but I can't seem to get something out of my head.

Megan told me she is bisexual. She says she has never been with a woman, but she's attracted to them. I was in this situation before. My last girlfriend left me for another woman, and I'm afraid it'll happen again. I love Megan and would like to spend the rest of my life with her,

but I'm afraid she may one day decide she missed out on something and want to pursue other options.

Megan swears she wouldn't cheat on me with anyone -- man or woman. Should I end this now, before we go any further, or am I being paranoid and worrying for nothing? --CONFUSED IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR CONFUSED:

Megan has been honest with you. She's also 22, and she may not be sure of exactly who she is. Until she's certain about what she wants, it is premature of you to be considering a permanent relationship. At 30, you are ready to settle down. Megan may need time and the freedom to do some exploring before she will be.



### PAMPA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC. MENU

#### Monday

Chicken fried steak or chicken a la king/ cornbread mashed potatoes spinach beets northern beans slaw—tossed salad-- jello salad lemon bundt cake or chocolate sundae cups hot rolls or cornbread

#### Tuesday

Salmon patties or chicken spaghetti scalloped potatoes green peas fried squash pinto beans slaw--tossed salad-- jello salad strawberry cake or cherry cream pie hot rolls or combread

#### Wednesday

Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice mashed potatoes brussels sprouts carrots butter beans slaw—tossed salad--iello salad carrot cake or bread pudding hot rolls or cornbread

Friday

Catfish & hushpuppies or spaghetti & meatballs potato wedges--california





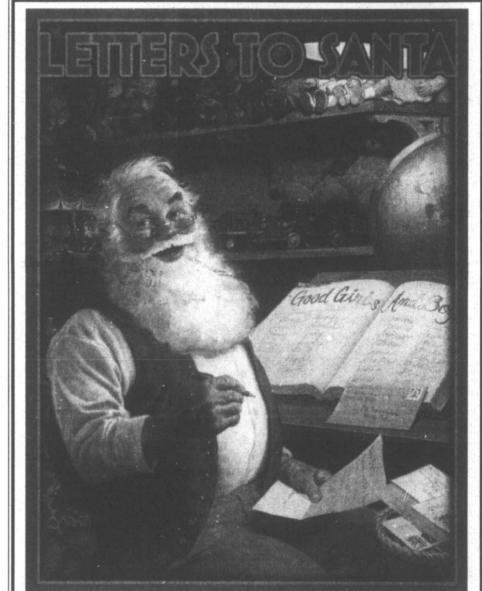
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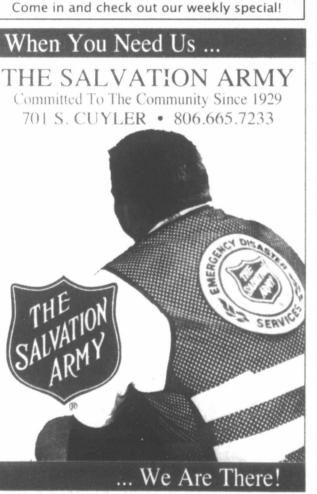
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salad black forest cake or lemon icebox pie hot rolls or cornbread

Thursday Chicken strips or meatloaf cheese potatoes cabbage creamed corn pinto beans slaw—tossed salad--jello





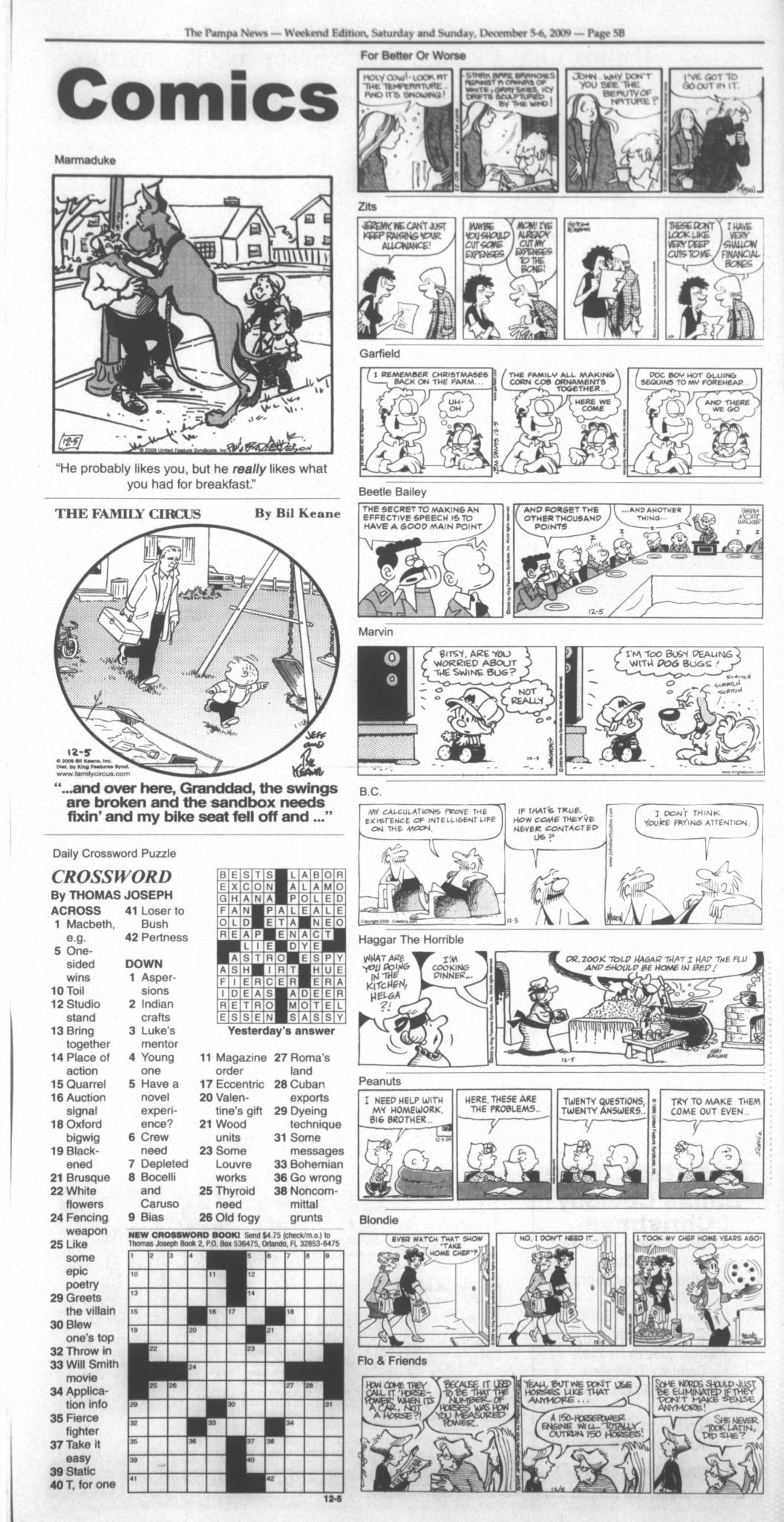
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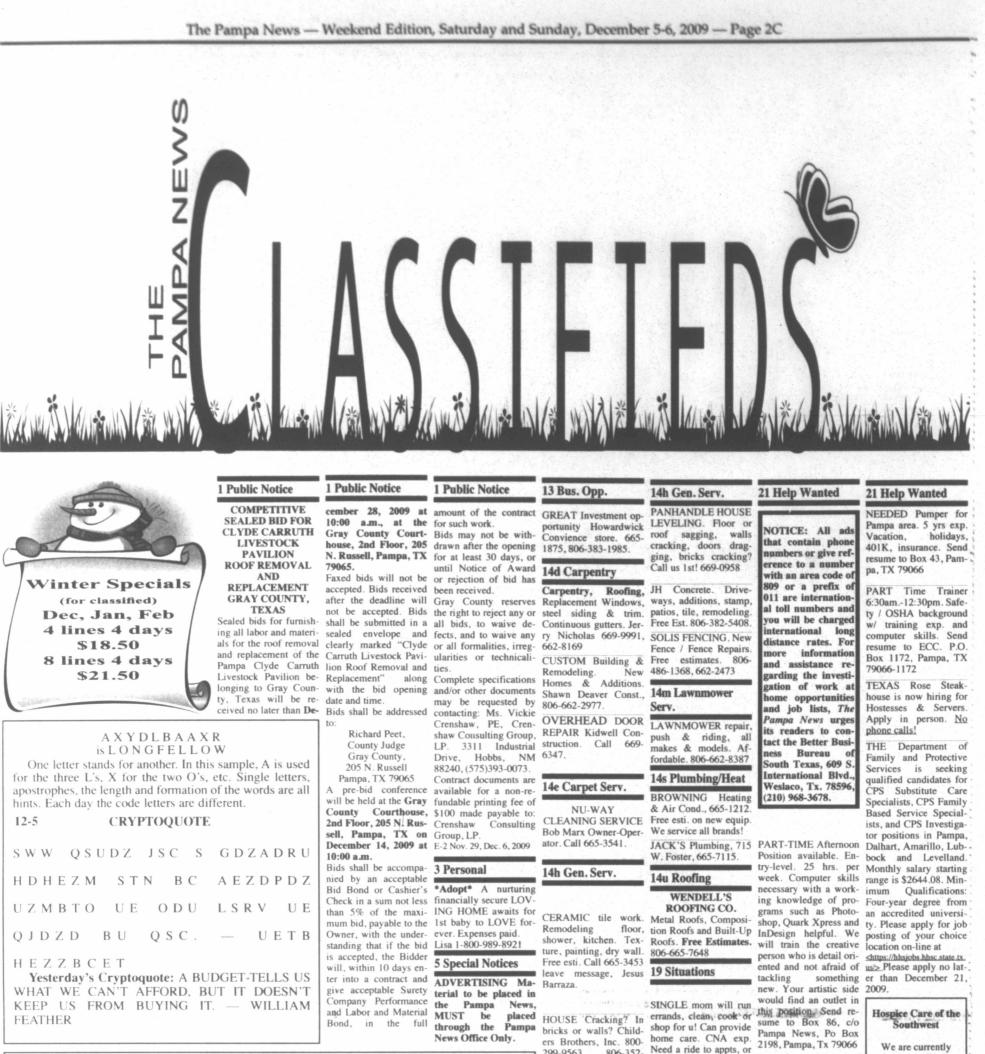
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 7.2009

This year, make an effort to complete projects, as distractions often surround you. Others find you to be very interesting, but socializing could demand a lot of your thought and time. You will tend to be a natural leader. Listen to your inner voice and decide what needs to happen between you and others. At the same time, honor past obligations. If you are single, others surround you, but a foreigner or someone very different could come into your life. If you are attached, you will open up to a different mode of thinking, establishing a new level to relate on. Be open to different thought processes. VIRGO pushes you hard.

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

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\*\* Go back to square one. Your ability to go with the flow defines you and many other people. Let your imagination be the source of unusual solutions Focus on integrating your ideas with your work. Tonight: Could be a late one. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\* Do consider a home office, but don't allow yourself to be distracted. You will be happier ultimately. Wherever you are this afternoon, do focus on key issues. Give up wishful thinking, and think positively. Tonight: Ever playful. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\* You sparkle with energy and drive, no matter where you are or what is going on. Allow greater fluidity and understanding between you and others.

What starts as an irrelevant conversation could have a lot of important information if you listen. Tonight: Head home early. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\* Curb your possessive side. Evaluate and understand what is happening. You could feel that nothing will be accomplished until you handle a problem, for better or for worse. Make calls and ask questions. Tonight: Hang out with a friend

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\* The Lion roars this morning, but be ready, because by the afternoon, you will face your share of issues and problems. You might need to shut your door in order to clear out and get what you need done. Relax with a certain situation. Understanding evolves with patience toward another person. Tonight: Your treat

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Though you might be out of sync in the a.m., by late afternoon you could be taking a second look at a certain matter. Your energy surges. Your humor and caring define a situation more clearly. Tonight: Make plans that make you smile

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$  Everyone knows when you have had enough. Try to postpone getting to this phase as long as you can right now. A meeting could prove to be more important than you initially thought. Look toward change. Tonight: Vanish while vou can

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* You might be inclined to do some thing very differently. How you deal with someone and the choices you make vary as to what time of day the request is put

in. You are more businesslike in the a.m. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\* You might want to find an expert or two before committing to any specific course of action. Realize what is going on with a boss. Try walking in his or her footsteps. Tonight: A late night. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\* Listen to news that is forthcom ing. You could see a situation far differently because of a partner's ongoing verbalization. Reach out for more expertise if you are still wavering. Tonight: Surf the Net, or go to the movies. AQUARIUS

\*\*\*\* Continue to defer to others. You actually might not have a choice. You could be in the midst of rethinking a situation. Open yourself up to new possibilities that surround you, and relate on a one-on-one level. You might need to work directly with a partner. Tonight: Work with an associate or a partner. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* You need to do more on a daily basis. Stay on top of your work this morning, because by the afternoon, someone wants your attention. One person would be OK, but trust that it could be several. Tonight: Defer to others.

#### BORN TODAY

Hall of Fame baseball player Johnny Bench (1947), actress Ellen Burstyn (1932), singer Louis Prima (1910)

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### Houston-area high school counselor lives dual life

HOUSTON (AP) -Varion Howard has tried keeping his double life under wraps since joining the counseling staff at Westfield High last school vear

The 34-year-old worries what his Spring students will think when they learn he moonlights as one of the highest-paid spoken word artists in Texas. Maybe they'll question his priorities when they find out he spends weekends performing poetry under the stage name "Se7en" at bars and cafes across the country.

Come Monday morning, Howard always returns to his fluorescent-lit office at Westfield, where tidy piles of paperwork mainly student records and trannearly cover scripts his desk. He juggles class schedules, college applications, teenage heartbreak and distraught parents on the verge of eviction.

"At first it was fun to be Superman and Clark Kent. Now it's very difficult," he said. "I still haven't figured out what to say."

Howard spent the first decade of his academic career teaching at Houston's Bonham Attucks Elementary, Middle and Madison High. It was easier, he said, to keep his careers separate when his students were younger.

High-schoolers, however, sometimes show up at his performances. They've found his artist pages on Facebook and MySpace. Howard makes sure his poems' messages are positive centering around manhood and social awareness

"It's not anything I have to defend or hide its always written to enlight-

en, to inspire, to encour- borhood, we stuck together age," he said. "It's not rap. I don't need chains or gold teeth. I don't need a posse." Still, Howard doesn't

want his passion for poetry which pays more than twice his counselor's salary --- to be a distraction to the 460 teens he shepherds. When Se7en crosses paths with a student or parent at a performance, he sometimes pretends they have his identity confused.

"I play a Jedi mind trick on them. I'm like: 'You're not looking at me. Who's Mr. Howard?" he laughed. "This could all be my own paranoia, but I don't want them to lose respect for what I have to do here."

Jerrica Henderson, 17, was impressed when she heard Howard perform.

"The way he acts (at school) and the way he performs is totally different," the Westfield senior said. "He has two different personalities."

admires Henderson Howard for coming to school every day when he could make ends meet on his poetry alone. "You can tell he cares," she said.

Life's daily drama helps inspire the Sugar Land poet. "You really get to see how fragile people's lives are, all of our lives," he said. "Everybody's got something they're dealing with.

He also has plenty of his own adversity to draw from

The Sunnyside neighborhood native grew up in a house of cocaine addicts. He started selling drugs at 12 to pay his family's bills and buy food. He stole cars as a student at Worthing High, where he was drum major and on the step team. "The kids in the neigh-

like Peter Pan and the Lost Boys," he said. "We would go to sleep at night, and we were just thankful we made it through the day

Despite his past, Howard attests to being somewhat of a nerd, rarely missing class and earning good grades. He found religion just weeks before enrolling at Prairie View A&M University, where he studied psychology and social work

Just as he started teaching in the Houston Independent School District, he began performing poetry.

Now Howard, who is married with two sons of his own, is trying to figure out how to merge his passions. He plans, among other things, to write a piece that will acknowledge educators' hard work.

"One of the things (educators) don't get is gratitude — from the students, from the community, from anyone," Howard said. "Teachers are under the gun. Who's supporting them? I'm going to address it. I found out I have a lot of power with that microphone.'

Principal Frederick Walker said he appreciates his counselor's double duty. By coincidence, he had heard Se7en perform at a downtown church before Howard applied for the job at Westfield.

"I was kind of shocked that he was also in the counseling field," said Walker, who was thrilled to add a young male to his all-female counseling staff. There's no limit to what

he could offer just by being himself," the principal said.

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