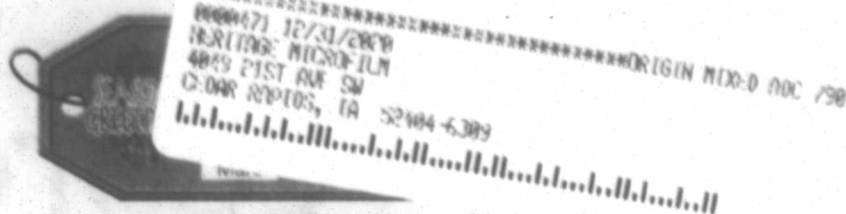


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# The PAMPA NEWS

Volume 105 • No. 192      Weekend Issue      Saturday and Sunday, December 12-13, 2009      50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

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## Reindeer delivered with love

BY DAVID BOWSER  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

On a cold Saturday last week, Pat Stewart stood at the corner of Foster and Cuyler passing out candy canes decorated as reindeer.

Sitting in the back of the Woody Guthrie Music Center Friday afternoon, Stewart was busy making new holiday reindeer from candy canes, pipe cleaners and his imagination for this weekend.

They are to be given away in the Christmas spirit, he said, although some people tried to pay him for them.

Stewart said that with the help of Pampa Girl Scout troops more than 1,500 of the reindeer have been given away.

Joe Weaver with the Pampa Chamber of Commerce helped buy supplies for the project.

While most of Stewart's holiday reindeer have found homes in Pampa, the St. Louis, Mo., native smiled as he recounted his encounter with a young girl in his hometown a few weeks ago.

"I always keep some of them handy," he said, waving a half-finished candy cane reindeer.

He had given a reindeer to a small girl at a McDonald's restaurant in St. Louis.

"When I was leaving," Stewart said, "she came up and pulled on my pants and said, 'Santa, I broke the reindeer's eyes off.'"

Stewart, a rather large man with a white beard and moustache, explained that he was Santa's helper and gave her another one, telling her that he would take the other one to the reindeer hospital to be mended. The little girl took the new

## In the Christmas spirit



Pat Stewart at the Woody Guthrie Music Center making reindeer out of candy canes, pipe cleaners and a little imagination. staff photos by David Bowser

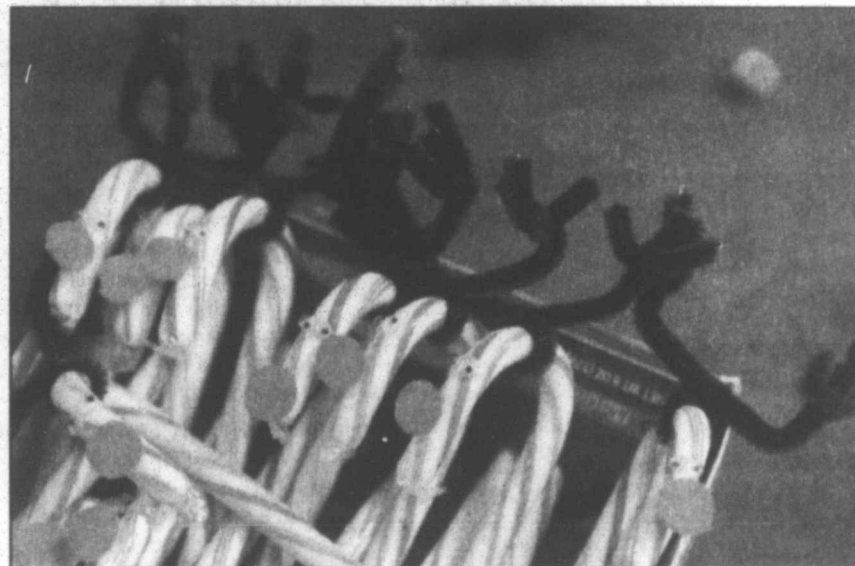
candy cane reindeer and, taking small, careful steps, returned to her family's table at the fast food restaurant.

"She wanted to make sure that nothing happened to that reindeer," Stewart laughed.

Despite the number of candy cane reindeer that he's made, Stewart said it doesn't begin to match the work done by the Girl Scouts in Pampa.

"They did a lot of work," he said.

A herd of candy cane reindeers await delivery to good little boys and girls on the streets of Pampa.



## Novel combo improves breast cancer survival

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some women with very advanced breast cancer may have a new treatment option. A combination of two drugs that more precisely target tumors significantly extended the lives of women who had stopped responding to other medicines, doctors reported Friday.

It was the first big test of combining Herceptin and Tykerb. In a study of 300 patients, women receiving both drugs lived nearly five months longer than those given Tykerb alone.

Doctors hope for an even bigger benefit in women with less advanced disease, and were elated at this much improvement for very sick women who were facing certain death.

"We don't see a lot that works in patients who have seen six prior therapies as they did in this trial,

so that alone is exciting," said Dr. Jennifer Litton, a breast cancer specialist at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The good results are in stark contrast to two other studies that found no survival advantage from Avastin, a drug whose approval for breast cancer patients was very controversial. Two infusions of Avastin a month, as needed for this treatment, cost about \$30,000 with fees for administering the drug.

Considering Avastin's potential side effects — blood clots in the lungs, poor wound healing, kidney problems — a survival benefit "would have made the cost of the drug less painful to take," Litton said.

She had no role in any of the studies, which were reported Friday at the San

Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

Herceptin and Tykerb aim at a protein called HER-2 that is made in abnormally large quantities in about one-fourth of all breast cancers. Herceptin blocks the protein on the cell's surface; Tykerb does it inside the cell.

"It's kind of like having a double brake on your tumor. If the first one fails, the second one does the job," said the Dr. Kimberly Blackwell of Duke University. She led the combo treatment study and has consulted for its sponsor, British-based GlaxoSmithKline PLC, which makes Tykerb, and for Genentech, which makes Herceptin and Avastin.

Women in the study had already received

COMBO cont. on page 3

## PRMC welcomes ER services director

Pampa Regional Medical Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Donald Hubbard to the position of Medical Director of Emergency Room Services.

"Dr. Hubbard brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will benefit Pampa Regional Medical Center and those that seek emergency medical services at our facility," said Todd Lorenz, CEO.

Lorenz added, "With a busy emergency department that averages over 980 visits a month and maintains an average total turn around time, which is the time from registration to discharge or admission to the hospital, of less than two hours it is crucial to have physicians the caliber of Dr. Hubbard"

He graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science in 1989. This is the course study and practice of diagnostic lab medicine. Clinical laboratory professionals provide 70 percent of the critical objective information for diagnosis, treatment and preventative health care. These individuals analyze body tissues and fluids using complex instrumentation, sophisticated techniques and specialized knowledge. He attended Ross University - School of Medicine in New Brunswick, New Jersey, graduating with Honors for

PRMC cont. on page 3

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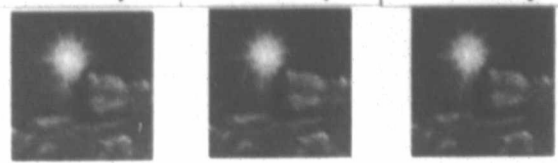
**Chamber Luncheon**  
Tuesday, December 15, 2009 • 11:45 am  
Featuring the PSD Show Choir  
Sponsored by United Texas Transmission  
Peggy's Place will be serving a Christmas Ham Dinner for \$8.50/person  
please RSVP Holly at 669-3241



# For the record

## PAMPA FORECAST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
--------	--------	---------



High 63 Low 33	High 49 Low 23	High 42 Low 24
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**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Wind chill values between 24 and 34 early. West southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. East northeast wind around 10 mph.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 42. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.  
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 24. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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## Obituaries

### Dorothy Sue Simmons, 79

McLean— Dorothy Sue Simmons, 79, died Thursday, December 10, 2009, in McLean, Texas. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2009 in the First Baptist Church in McLean with Rev. Brian Quisenberry, Baptist Minister, and Rev. Thacker Haynes, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in McLean, officiating. Cremation was on Friday, December 11, 2009.

Arrangements are under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors of McLean.

Mrs. Simmons was born October 30, 1930 in Shamrock to Olen and Ida Brock Davis and had lived in McLean most of her life. She married Grover Ted Simmons on March 12, 1949 at McLean. She and her husband were owners of several businesses at various times in McLean, Tulia, and other communi-

ties in the area. She had been very active in school and community events and organizations throughout her life.

She was a long time member of the First Baptist Church in McLean and had been very involved with the church throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband on November 18, 2002 and by a brother, Kenneth Davis.

Survivors include a

daughter, Susan Parsley of Amarillo; two sons, Mark Simmons of Alanreed and Ted D. Simmons of McLean; eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**MEMORIALS** - The family requests that memorials be to MD Anderson

Cancer Center in Houston, the church of your choosing, or a Shriners Childrens Charity.

### Rubye Rogers, 98

Rubye Rogers, 98, of Shawnee, Oklahoma died Wednesday, December 9, 2009 in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Cooper Funeral Chapel with Donnie Knight officiating, under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

Rubye was born October 1, 1911 in Gowen, Oklahoma to Charles A. & America Virginia (Sprinkle) Burk. She was raised in Hartshorne, Oklahoma and moved to Oklahoma City following high school. She lived in

Oklahoma City until moving to Lawton in 1937. In 1947 she moved to Pampa, Texas, returning to Oklahoma City before coming to Tecumseh in 1965.

She graduated from Harthorne High School, and business school in Oklahoma City. On July 3, 1931 she married Jenks Rogers in Guthrie, OK. He preceded her in death on March 1, 1985.

A homemaker, she and her husband owned and operated Lloyds Café in Tecumseh for 15 years.

She was a member of the Garden Club of Tecumseh, and of the Home Extension Club. Her grandchildren were the highlight of her life. She won several blue ribbons at the County Fair for her Creamy Italian Cake.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her

parents, and eight brothers and sisters.

She is survived by two daughters and one son-in-law, Marcia Green of Shawnee and Beverly & Robert "Bob" Klein of LeFors; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby & Nelda Rogers of Pampa, and Ronnie and Pat Rogers of Terrell, 14 Grandchildren, 21 Great-Grandchildren and 13 Great-Great-Grandchildren.

## LAST MINUTE ADS

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

**CERAMIC TILE.** Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.

**CHERRY WOOD** w/ glass in-lay coffee table. 54x40x15, glass is 44x30. 669-1971.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** 1/2 Price! A&T Yard Service, 1305 S. Hobart, 669-9000, open 8-5pm.

**FOSSIL COWBOY** Watches, UT and OU Watches & Christmas Poppers for Kameleon Jewelry just arrived! Rheams Diamond Shop. Open til 8pm. until Christmas! Downtown Pampa.

**GIFT WRAPPING** through the holidays, Small \$1, Medium \$3, Large \$5, 662-2236.

**GOSPEL SINGING.** Sunday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. Everyone welcome.

**LIVE AT Bonaparts** Retreat (Pampa Pool Hall), Kill or be Killed and Tides of Animosity! Sat. Dec. 19. Doors 6pm, Music 7pm.

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

**PAMPA ROTARY** Club is selling tickets for \$100 of groceries a week for a year. Tickets are \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5. You can purchase tickets from NBC Bank, Don Whitney Ins., Albracht Chiro. Clinic, One Stop Flooring, Brown, Graham & Co., Panhandle Plains Land Bank, Richard at Culberson Stowers, Jeff Boyd at N.O.V., and Pampa United Way.

**PAMPA SHRINE** Club We Cater!! 50-200 people. (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!

**PARTY TRAYS** for the holidays Hoagies Deli. 665-0292.

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

**SANTA IS** Still Available For Your Holiday Party. 440-1306.

**SPOILED BY** Right Resale for Children, 109 N. Cuyler. "Prices cut for Christmas!" New items daily. Now Open Mon.-Fri.10:30am-5pm., Sat.-Sun. noon-4

**BACK BY** popular demand, Peggy's Place will be open all night Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

**PACK-N-MAIL** 25% Off gift items & jewelry, excluding candles, 1320 N. Banks.

**OPEN HOUSE,** Sun., 1-5. Refreshments, Trash & Treasure.

**BABY'S FIRST** Christmas! Deadline Dec. 14th, before 4pm. \$25 (paid in advance). Email Photos Will Be Accepted. If emailing photos, please call to verify that we have received your photo, 669-2525. Email to classified@thepampanews.com

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

**50% OFF** regular price all Christmas trees, tree decorations & Christmas lights. Open Sun. noon-4pm., serving Chicken & Dumplings and dessert. Heard-Jones, downtown Pampa.

**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

## Oil below \$70 for first time since October

NEW YORK (AP) — A nine-month rally in oil prices appeared to falter as a gradual sell-off that began in late October gained momentum.

Crude prices declined Friday for the eighth day in a row. The contract for January delivery gave up 67 cents to settle at \$69.87 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It's the first time that oil has closed below \$70 a barrel since early October.

Prices tumbled as the dollar gained strength and investors took a second

look at paltry demand figures in the West.

U.S. consumption of petroleum products including heating oil and diesel, has fallen about 20 percent from a year earlier, Barclays Capital said in a report.

Pump prices fell by less than a penny overnight to a new national average of \$2.623, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.



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Before you begin work near our pipelines, please contact your state One Call center. One Call will inform us of your activity, and we will dispatch a company representative to mark the location of the pipeline in the vicinity at no charge. Your safety is important to El Paso Natural Gas.

**The One Call number for Texas is 1-800-DIG-TESS (1-800-344-8377)**

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## "Little League" Is Back !!!

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 Harry Fisher at 806-665-8405.

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

## Combo

Herceptin alone or with various chemotherapy drugs and still were getting worse. They were randomly assigned to receive only Tykerb or both drugs, to see whether the combo might help Herceptin regain its effectiveness.

Median survival was analyzed after about three-fourths of the women had died — roughly two years after the study began. It was 61 weeks in the combo group versus 41 for those taking only Tykerb.

That likely underestimates the combo's true benefit because women

on Tykerb alone were allowed to add Herceptin partway through the study if they continued to worsen, and many of them did, Blackwell said.

One woman on the combo in the study suffered a fatal blood clot. The only other common, serious side effect was diarrhea, which plagued 7 to 8 percent of each group. Herceptin costs about \$10,000 a month; Tykerb, \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Stephanie Will gets the drugs for free from the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., where her husband

is based. She was only 30 years old and nursing her third child when her cancer was found in 2003. She received the combo treatment as part of the study.

"It's been three years and four months, and it's been stable," Will said of her cancer. The combo has been easy to take com-

*cont. from page 1*  
pared to other treatments, she said. "It's allowed me to live my life pretty normally."

The cancer conference is sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research, Baylor College of Medicine and the UT Health Science Center.

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## PRMC

academic achievement in 2002. His residency was completed at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock. He holds certificates in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and American Board of Family Medicine. He has been associated for the last four years with the Schumacher Group, the third largest and fastest growing emergency room management company in the United States. Dr. Hubbard has experience in area hospitals with Dumas,

*cont. from page 1*  
Lubbock, and Big Spring.

He is a native Texan, growing up in Amarillo and graduating from Palo Duro High School in 1984. Dr. Hubbard and his wife, Kendra, have four children; three of which are currently attending Randall High School in Amarillo and another attending Amarillo College. He enjoys repairing old cars and working with wood. Hubbard said "I got started working on old cars because old cars is all I could afford as a teenager. My granddad was a carpenter so he taught about wood".

Subscribe to The Pampa News 669-2525

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

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# Free Christmas Dinner 2009

Friday, December 25th

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall of Mary Ellen & Harvesters Church of Christ

(Across from the High School)

Come and share with us the blessing of God's grace as we eat on Christmas Day!

For take out meals call the church office at 655-0031 by December 18th at noon to reserve your meals

## Pampa ISD Events for the week of December 14-18

Watch this space every Sunday for a weekly listing of non-athletic events from every campus in our school district

**December 18 • Early Release at 1:15**

### Pampa High School

December 14 • Student Council Meeting • 7:00pm  
December 17 & 18 • Semester Tests

### Pampa Learning Center

December 18 • Awards and Graduation Ceremony • 10:00am

### Pampa Junior High School

December 14 • Booster Club Meeting • 6:00pm  
December 14 • Literature Circle Lovett Memorial Library • 7:00 pm  
December 16 • Holiday Homes Decorating Contest • 8:00pm  
December 17 • Holiday Homes Decorating Contest  
Winners Announced  
December 17 & 18 • Semester Tests

### Austin Elementary

December 15 • Kindergarten Christmas Caroling 12:45pm  
December 16 • 4th Grade Christmas Caroling 9:25am  
December 17 • Christmas Parties

### Lamar Elementary

December 14 • Kindergarten Christmas Caroling • 1:30pm  
December 15 • 3rd & 4th Grade Music Program "Frosty's First Adventure" • 10:00am  
December 15 • 5th Grade Christmas Caroling • 1:30pm  
December 16 • PHS Band Christmas Concert • 8:00am  
December 16 • 1st & 2nd Grade Christmas Caroling • 1:00pm  
December 16 • Kindergarten Field Trip to Cinema 4 • 2:00pm  
December 17 • 1st -5th Grade Parties • 2:30pm  
December 18 • Head Start Christmas Program and Parent Make and Take • 8-11am • PHS Commons  
December 18 • Kindergarten Christmas Party • 12:00pm

### Travis Elementary

December 15 • Christmas PHS Band Concert • 8:00am  
December 16 • 2nd Grade Christmas Caroling • 10:15am  
December 17 • Christmas Parties

### Wilson Elementary

December 14 • Family Pictures & Pictures with Santa • 5:00pm  
December 17 • 2nd Grade Program • 2:00pm  
December 18 • Christmas Parties • 12:15

**December 21-January 1 • Christmas Holiday**

For the most up-to-date Pampa ISD information, Go to the school website at HYPERLINK "http://www.pampaisd.net" From the parent connection drop-down menu, click on the District Event Calendar

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2009. There are 19 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

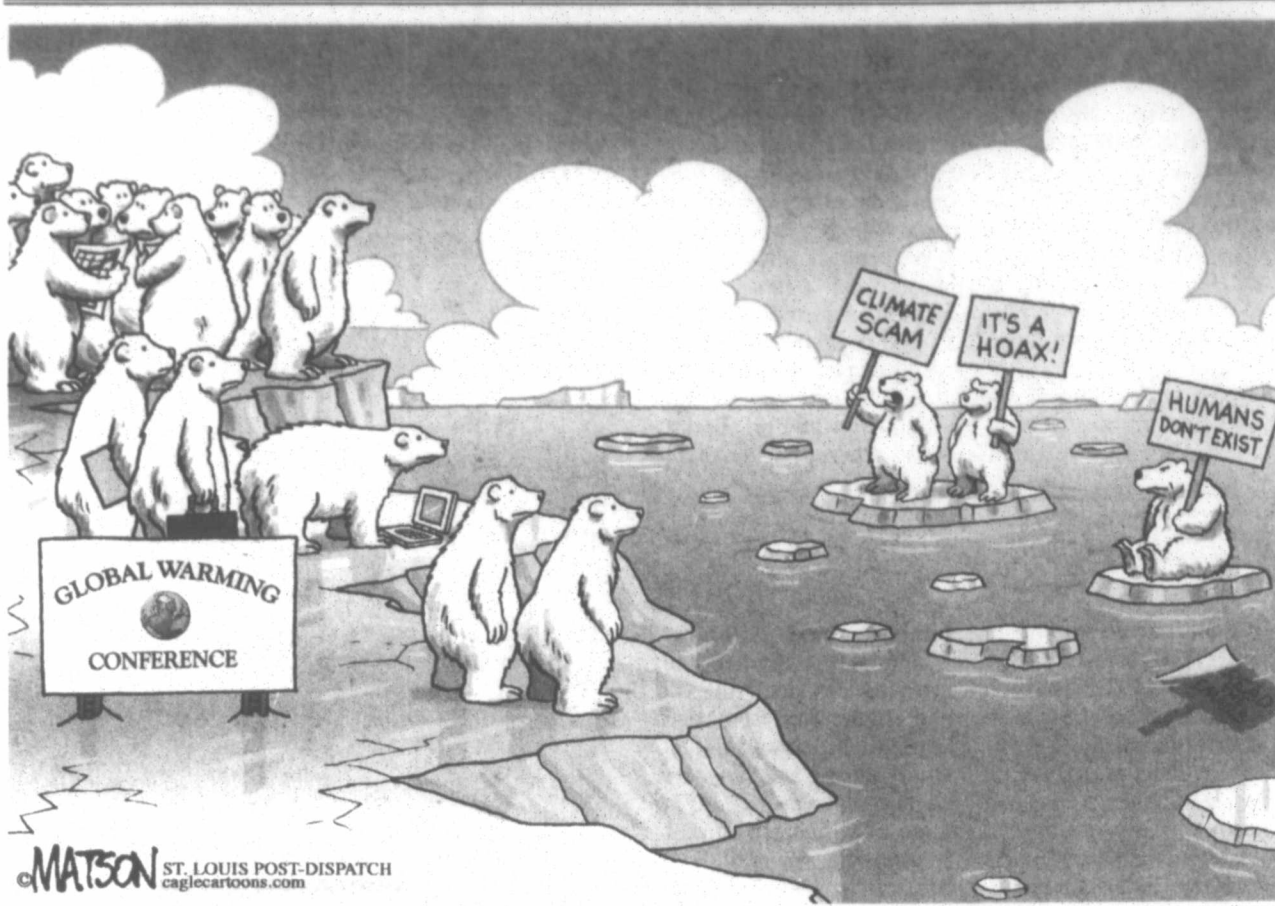
- 1574 - Murad III succeeds as Sultan of Turkey on death of Selim II.
- 1642 - Dutch navigator Abel Tasman discovers New Zealand.
- 1677 - Brandenburg's Frederick William I takes Stettin, Poland; Denmark's King Christian V is defeated by Swedish forces at Cassel, Germany.
- 1742 - French forces evacuate Prague, Czechoslovakia, and return to France.
- 1800 - Washington, D.C. is established as the capital of the United States.
- 1804 - Spain declares war on Britain.
- 1870 - Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina takes his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first black congressman.
- 1875 - Sultan of Turkey promises reforms throughout Ottoman Empire to meet rebel demands.
- 1887 - Turkey appeals to Western powers to mediate its war with Russia.
- 1894 - Japanese troops invade Korea.
- 1899 - African-American George Grant receives the

**'There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: impatience and laziness.'**

— Franz Kafka, Czech author

first patent for a golf tee.

- 1905 - Russia's Czar Nicholas II grants constitution in Montenegro.
  - 1913 - The Mona Lisa is recovered in Italy, two years after it was stolen from the Louvre museum in Paris.
  - 1920 - Martial law is declared in Cork, Ireland.
  - 1935 - Nationalists demand restitution of Egypt's Constitution of 1923.
  - 1937 - Japanese aircraft sinks the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. Japan later apologizes and pays \$2.2 million in reparations.
  - 1946 - A U.N. committee votes to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller Jr. to be the site of U.N. headquarters.
  - 1953 - U.S. test pilot Chuck Yeager reaches Mach 2.3 (2.3 times the speed of sound) in a Bell X-1A rocket plane.
  - 1963 - Kenya becomes independent within British Commonwealth and a republic a year later.
  - 1969 - Greece, under fire on charges of violating human rights, withdraws from the Council of Europe before it can be expelled.
  - 1975 - Sara Jane Moore pleads guilty to trying to kill U.S. President Gerald Ford; a group of generals, led by Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-hwan, stage an army coup in South Korea and seize power.
  - 1985 - An Arrow Air charter flight crashes after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland, killing 248 American soldiers and eight crew members.
  - 1989 - British begin forced repatriation of Vietnamese refugees from camps in Hong Kong.
  - 1990 - Bangladesh's deposed President Hossain Muhammad Ershad is put under house arrest.
  - 1992 - A strong earthquake kills 2,500 people on Flores Island, eastern Indonesia.
  - 1993 - President Boris Yeltsin wins approval of his new constitution, but extreme nationalists and Communists make a strong showing in Russia's first multiparty elections since the 1917 Revolution.
  - 1994 - The Brazilian supreme court acquits former President Fernando Collor de Mello of corruption charges.
  - 1997 - Russia reaches an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for \$1.7 billion in loans, giving the state a chance to pay back wages to millions of public employees.
  - 1999 - A Maltese-registered tanker, the Erika, breaks in two during a violent sea storm off the northwest coast of France, spilling some 3 million gallons (11.36 million liters) of heavy oil.
  - 2000 - The U.S. Supreme Court reverses the Florida Supreme Court's order to begin manual recounts of presidential votes in certain counties and Democrat Al Gore concedes defeat to Republican George W. Bush.
  - 2003 - Germany says it will build a national memorial to homosexuals persecuted or killed under the Nazis, complementing the planned German memorial to the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 gay men were deported to concentration camps, where few survived.
  - 2004 - Mexican authorities request a local warrant for the arrest of former Guatemalan Interior Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, who is wanted in Spain for his alleged role in the 1980 attack against the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala.
  - 2005 - Anti-Syrian journalist Gibran Tuani is killed in a car bomb in Lebanon on the day the United Nations is expected to release a follow-up report implicating Syria in the slaying of a former Lebanese prime minister.
  - 2006 - Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, known as "the butcher of Addis Ababa," is convicted of genocide in a rare case of an African strongman being held to account by his own country.
  - 2007 - A car bomb attack kills one of Lebanon's top generals, Brig. Gen. Francois Haggi, and his driver. The blast was the first such attack against the Lebanese army, which has remained neutral in Lebanon's yearlong political crisis.
- Today's Birthdays:**
- John Jay, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1745-1829); Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880); Edvard Munch, Norwegian artist (1863-1944); John Osborne, English playwright (1929-1994); Frank Sinatra, U.S. singer/actor (1915-1998); Bob Barker, U.S. game show host (1923--); Jennifer Connelly, U.S. actress (1970--).



## A grateful nation must honor veterans for their service

BY U.S. SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

One of the greatest honors I have in my public life is the opportunity to thank our veterans for their service to America. Throughout our history, U.S. servicemen from every corner of our state - from Laredo to Lubbock to Longview - have signed up to defend the free world from tyrannical dictatorships. To those who have stepped forward in war and peace, raised their right hand, and said, "Here I am; send me," no measure of thanks, however bountiful, can ever suffice.

Veterans represent our nation's best. They are our most patriotic, brave and valorous citizens: men and women of character who have determined that the defense of democracy is worth the risk to life and limb. Eleven million Americans served in World War II; 1.8 million participated in the Korean War; another 3 million fought in Vietnam; over 500,000 helped liberate Kuwait in the first Persian Gulf War; and today almost 1.5 million active duty personnel proudly wear the U.S. uniform.

Today, fully one out of ten who serve on active duty call Texas home. With the planned growth at Ft. Sam Houston, Ft. Bliss and Ft. Hood, Texas will soon be home to nearly one out of five active duty soldiers. Many will stay permanently, increasing our state's veteran population, which already stands at 1.7 million.

President Lincoln once said, a grateful nation must "care for him who shall have borne the battle." As your U.S. Senator, I have strived to ensure that America takes positive action to honor and pay our nation's debt to our veterans.

For example, back in 2003, the VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released a draft plan that

called for the closure of the Waco and Big Spring VA hospitals. I fiercely resisted this proposal. I asked the VA, "What will happen to the veterans in those communities?" They answered - with no trace of irony - "They can go to El Paso." When I told them that was the equivalent of asking veterans in Washington, D.C. to travel to New York City for their care, they stared at me with incomprehension. It never occurred to them how large Texas is, and just how irresponsible their proposal was. Thankfully, after a sustained push with the help of local leaders, the VA kept both facilities open and expanded the Waco Veterans Hospital as a "Mental Health Care Center of Excellence," just at the time the military increased its focus on post-traumatic stress.

For years, our heroes in the Rio Grande Valley were having to endure 500 mile, ten-hour roundtrip treks to San Antonio for basic procedures and routine check-ups and then wait hours and many times have to spend the night. After a major effort, we were able to convince the VA to build a state-of-the-art outpatient healthcare center in Harlingen. This facility, once completed, will eliminate travel to San Antonio by 95 percent. Make no mistake: this is only a down payment on a much larger debt that must still be paid - a hospital that serves the needs of South Texas veterans.

Survivability is higher in the type of warfare our military is fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. So the VA is increasing its treatment, provision of artificial limbs and rehabilitation. Veterans in the San Antonio area will also be greatly helped by the construction of a Level One Polytrauma Facility. San Antonio is already known as America's Number One center for military medicine, but the explosive growth of former military

members moving there made it essential that we expand care for veterans. When the polytrauma facility opens, it will be capable of providing first-class service designed specifically for veterans with multiple serious injuries. I was glad to be part of concerted local efforts to convince the VA San Antonio was the right choice for expansion. And once completed, it will be a fitting addition to "Military City USA."

As a grateful nation, America will continue to care those who "have borne the battle." It is because of those who have defended this nation - from the early Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror - that we have the liberties that are necessary for America to become and remain the most vibrant and prosperous nation in the history



Kay Bailey Hutchison

of the world. These moms and dads, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters have made tremendous sacrifices to safeguard liberty at home and abroad. And I pledge to keep doing my part to ensure our government honors our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much on our behalf.

*Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.*

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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## We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

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# WEEKLY MENUS

## Pampa ISD

**Monday**  
MINI CORNDOGS  
OR CHICKEN  
NUGGETS  
GREEN BEANS  
POTATOES, SLICED  
PINEAPPLE TIDBITS

BREAKFAST  
OATMEAL  
TOAST

**Tuesday**  
CHICKEN & NOODLE  
OR CHEESE NACHOS  
ENGLISH PEAS  
CARROT STICKS  
APPLESAUCE  
GELATIN

BREAKFAST  
WAFFLE STICKS  
SYRUP

**Wednesday**  
FISH STRIPS  
OR MINI TWIN  
CHEESEBURGERS  
CORN  
BROCCOLI/CHEESE  
MIXED FRUIT  
CORNBREAD MUFFIN

BREAKFAST  
BREAKFAST PIZZA

**Thursday**  
CRISPY TACO  
OR PIZZA  
REFRIED BEANS

LETTUCE & TOMATO  
FRESH FRUIT  
SPANISH RICE

BREAKFAST  
BISCUIT  
SAUSAGE PATTY

**Friday**  
POPCORN CHICKEN  
OR HAMBURGER  
FRENCH FRIES  
BURGER SALAD  
PEARS

BREAKFAST  
CEREAL  
TOAST

## Pampa Meals on Wheels

**Monday**  
Pizza  
Pasta salad  
Green beans  
Pears

**Tuesday**  
Hamburgers  
Tater tots  
Pineapple

**Wednesday**  
Pot roast  
Carrots/potatoes  
Green beans  
Rolls  
Jell-O

**Thursday**  
Ravioli

Chuck wagon corn  
Broccoli  
Applesauce

**Friday**  
Ham/dressing  
Sweet potatoes  
Green beans  
Cookies

## Pampa Senior Citizens, Inc.

**Monday**  
Chicken fried steak or  
mushroom chicken with  
angel hair pasta  
Mashed potatoes  
Green beans  
Beets  
Northern beans  
Slaw, tossed salad,  
Jell-O salad  
Hot rolls or cornbread  
Pineapple upside-down  
cake or chocolate pie

**Tuesday**  
Chicken leg quarters or  
Swiss steak  
Potatoes O'brien  
spinach  
Carrots  
Pinto beans  
Slaw, tossed salad,

Jell-O salad  
Hot rolls or cornbread

**Wednesday**  
Roast beef brisket/brown  
gravy or cook's choice  
Mashed potatoes  
California blend  
Creamed corn  
Butter beans  
Slaw, tossed salad,  
Jell-O salad  
Hot rolls or cornbread  
Ugly duckling cake or  
butterscotch pudding cups

**Thursday**  
Chicken strips or taco  
salad  
Tator tots  
Cheese hominy  
Turnip greens

Pinto beans  
Slaw, tossed salad,  
Jell-O salad  
Hot rolls or cornbread or  
jalapeno cornbread  
Devil's food cake or rice  
pudding

**Friday**  
Catfish and hushpuppies  
or Swedish meatballs and  
noodles  
Potato wedges  
Broccoli spears/cheese  
sauce  
Beans  
Slaw, tossed salad,  
Jell-O salad  
Garlic bread sticks Hot  
rolls or cornbread  
Walnut brownies or tapi-  
oca cups

## WEEKLY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REPORT

Weekly migratory bird hunting reports are posted from early September through early February.

**High Plains Mallard Management Unit:** The cold front pushed lots of new ducks and geese to the Panhandle. Decoying action has been steady for geese, with some 40-bird hunts reported. Both Canada geese and snow geese have been making up the bag around Dumas and Etter. Duck hunting has been excellent as well, except for shallow ponds that iced over during the weekend. Lots of mallards and gadwalls have worked feed lot ponds and playas. Sandhill cranes are still around and have been steady over decoys. Pheasant hunting has been outstanding as well. Prospects are very good.

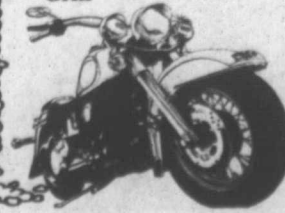
**North Zone Duck:** There is no shortage of water in the North Zone; and, since the recent front, no shortage of ducks. More mallards have shown on lakes, sloughs, rivers and reservoirs. A freeze-up in the northern states sent greenheads south in search of open water. Wood duck numbers are good in backwater timber. Big water areas are holding lots of diver ducks like ringed-necks, scaup and canvasbacks.

The prairies around IH-10 have plenty of water and lots of green-winged teal, shovellers, pintails, gadwalls and wigeons. Prospects for the entire North Zone look solid for the second opener Dec. 12.

**South Zone Duck:** Snow blanketed the coastal prairie over the weekend, but goose hunting did not improve much. Blowing snow filled decoys with ice and made them droopy and stationary in the wind. A small crop of young snow geese have made decoying action very tough; and, specklebellies have wised up as well. Success has been hit-or-miss and mud and water-filled fields have made the effort unjustifiable for many seasoned goose hunters. The good news is duck numbers are incredible across the coastal prairies, and the second opener on Dec. 12 should be a banger. More mallards have shown this week along the coast. Green-winged teal concentrations have improved as well. Many goose hunters have reported tons of decoying pintails over white spreads. Bay hunters saw another influx of divers on saline shorelines. Prospects are excellent for ducks, fair at best for geese.

Thanks from the Ironriders Motorcycle Club to all of the following sponsors of our 20th Annual Poker Run

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| GoodTimes Bar and Grill    | Otasco                 |                           |
|                            | Outfitters             |                           |



If we missed anyone, we all say thanks for your support. Thank you from all of us and the kids we help each year. I.R.M.C.

1492



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** For the first time in eight years, my husband and I will be staying in a hotel when we visit his parents for Christmas. While I love his family, their home is small, and we are relegated to a trundle bed and must share the sole bathroom with the entire family. It's impossible for us to be comfortable with so many people in such close quarters. We assumed that sleeping in a nearby hotel and visiting during the days and evenings would be a fair compromise.

We were shocked at their reaction when we discussed our plans with the family. They are very hurt about our decision and extremely offended. They are begging us to reconsider and stay in their home.

Are our actions selfish and cold-hearted? We mean no harm, and are so surprised at the strong reaction that we're starting to question our judgment. Should we travel and stay in the hotel, or just scrap the trip altogether? — STAYING HOME NEXT YEAR

**DEAR STAYING HOME:** No, you, your husband and his parents should discuss this more fully. You didn't mention how many family members will be spending the holidays in that small house. While I sympathize with family traditions, as children grow into adulthood certain realities come into play.

If you prefer to sleep in a hotel and have a private bathroom and the ability to have a private conversation if you wish, I don't think it's too much to ask. But I'd hate to see you cancel a family visit because of the pressure that is being exerted. That's in no one's best interests.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'd like to offer another example of an act of kindness that might be worthy of your column. My youngest daughter and her little girl were traveling across several states after visiting her two brothers, a sister and me.

My daughter had a CB in her car and while she was driving, was talking on and off with different truckers on the road. A car full of young men began to harass her by tailgating, passing her dangerously close, then pulling sharply in front of her and slowing down. Each time she'd manage to pass them, the harassment would begin again.

She related her problem over the CB to a trucker. As if by magic, three trucks appeared! One got

behind her, and another maneuvered in front -- while a third sort of "nudged" the offending car out of her way, then positioned his rig alongside my daughter's car. Those truckers talked to her the whole time and continued in formation until the men who'd been hassling her gave up and took off.

The truckers continued to maintain contact with my daughter until she reached her exit, and I am deeply grateful to them. Because I never got to thank them personally, I hope they'll read this in your column.

Abby, may God continue to guide you as you strive to assist others, and watch over you always. — MOM MC C. IN OHIO

**DEAR MOM MC C.:** Thank you for the blessing, and for the testimonial that acts of chivalry still occur on our highways. Perhaps your letter will motivate other motorists to watch out for the other guy -- or gal, as the case may be.

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Advanced

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## Scrooge— Jazzed Up Like the Dickens

"Scrooge Jazzed Up Like the Dickens" will be presented by Madeline Graves Dance, Gymnastics and Cheer Center.

Start a new holiday tradition with dinner and a show.

Enjoy a beautiful lyric dance with candles to "Bethlehem Morning" remembering the birth of Jesus.

Watch the story of a "Christmas Carol", how a bitter miser full of greed is visited by ghosts, and wakes up on Christmas morning a changed man, full of the spirit of giving.

Be entertained with original choreography by Madeline Graves, Shauna Munsell and student choreography by Danielle Zuniga and Jenna Munsell.

Also, performing are dance masters' gold medal winners, jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical, tumbling and singing by guest artist Chris Steward.

The evening promises to entertain everyone of all ages.

Dinner will be from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the M.K. Brown community center.

Performers in Scrooge jazzed up like the Dickens include; back row- Caylee Steward, Jenna Munsell and Ashley Williams; second row- Elysa Clements, Edy Brainard, Hector Leal, Jenna Gee and Danielle Zuniga; front row- Ashton Standerfer, Serenity Leal, and Marlee Richardson.

### BASKETBALL

**MONDAY •  
DECEMBER 14**

Lady Harvester JV VS  
Palo Duro • 6:00 pm at  
Pampa

Lady Harvesters VS  
Palo Duro • 7:30 pm at  
Pampa

Harvester JV VS Borger  
• 6:00 pm at Borger  
Harvesters VS Borger •  
7:00 pm at Borger

**FRIDAY •  
DECEMBER 18**

Lady Harvester JV VS  
Estacado • 5:00 pm at  
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Lady Harvesters VS  
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# Think fire safety this holiday season

BY JUDY COMOLETTI

For most of us, the holidays represent a treasured time of year, and we work hard to make it special for the people we care about most. We decorate our homes with great thought and detail, and entertain friends and family by hosting parties and cooking elaborate meals and treats. But as we do these things, fire safety is rarely a thought. It may seem that the holidays and home fires are two completely different topics, but they're not; national statistics show that the holiday season turns sorrowful, and sometimes even fatal for so many households each year as the result of home fires. Cooking, Christmas trees, candles and holiday lights — all key parts of the holiday season — are significant causes of fires that occur this time of year.

While it's quite a somber perspective on the holiday season, the good news is that it doesn't have to be this way. With just one or two minor changes, often taking a few minutes, or even seconds, of time, the holidays can stay festive and safe for everybody. It's important for people to take basic but vital fire safety precautions as they plan and prepare for the upcoming holiday season. These simple steps can greatly reduce the risk of fire and its potentially devastating impact on homes and families:

**Cooking:** NFPA statistics show that unattended cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries. Stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time. If you're simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

**Candles:** Candles are widely used throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. More than half of all candle fires start because the candle was too close to things that could catch fire. Consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when

you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where two of five U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Last, never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.

**Christmas trees:** U.S. fire departments annually respond to 250 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Nearly half of them are caused by electrical problems, and one in four resulted from a heat source that's too close to the tree. Here are some guidelines for picking, placing and lighting a tree:

If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.

If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.

Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.

After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.


Think green. Check to see if your community has a Christmas tree recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

The holidays are a truly special time of year. Following these fire safety precautions and measures will ensure it remains one. For more tips, advice and information about holiday fire safety, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/holiday>.




## Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers Most Wanted (806) 669-2222




**Clifford Barcheers**  
29 years old/ White Male/  
6'01"/210 lb/ Blue Eyes/  
Brown Hair

**WANTED**  
Theft by Check out of six  
Counties




**Joseph Ryan Gross**  
21 years old/ White Male/  
5'08"/ 145lb/ Blue Eyes/  
Blonde Hair

**WANTED**  
Forgery Financial  
Instrument




**Kenneth Loren Cargal**  
32 years old/ White  
Male/6'05"/180lb/Blue Eyes/  
Brown Hair

**WANTED**  
Forgery



**John David Richards**  
47 years old/ White Male/  
5'07"/ 165lb/ Blue Eyes/  
Brown Hair

**WANTED**  
Violation Probation-  
Possession of a Controlled  
Substance and Driving Under  
the Influence DWI 3rd or  
More



**Gaspar Antonio Olivias**  
21 years old/ Hispanic  
Male/5'08"/ 180lb/ Brown  
Eyes/Brown Hair/ Tattoo on  
right calve

**WANTED**  
Injury to a Child Causing  
Serious Bodily Injury  
\$500 reward for the arrest of  
Olivias

**Picture Not Available**

**Oscar Espinoza**  
30 years old/Hispanic Male/  
5'06"/220lb/Brown Eyes/  
Brown Hair

**WANTED**  
Aggravated Sexual Assault/  
Indecency with a child  
\$500.00 reward for the arrest  
of Espinoza

If you have seen any of these people, please contact the Pampa/ Gray County Crime Stoppers at (806) 669-2222. Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1000.00 reward for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of persons that commit felony crimes or drug dealing anywhere in the Pampa Gray County area. Remember, you will remain anonymous. The information contained on these fugitives was correct when published, but may no longer be current by the time it is read.

## Escape prompts outside review of Estelle Unit

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An independent security review will be done at a Texas prison where a gun was smuggled to a convicted sex offender and he escaped.

Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Brad Livingston

on Friday told the prison board, in a meeting in Austin, that the review team should be in place next week. Livingston says any staff who helped 49-year-old Arcade Joseph Comeaux (KOH-moh) Jr. escape "will be prosecuted to the fullest

extent of the law." Guard Michael Price was fired Thursday from the Estelle High Security Unit near Huntsville. Officials say Price should have searched Comeaux before the transfer to a unit in Beaumont on Nov. 30.



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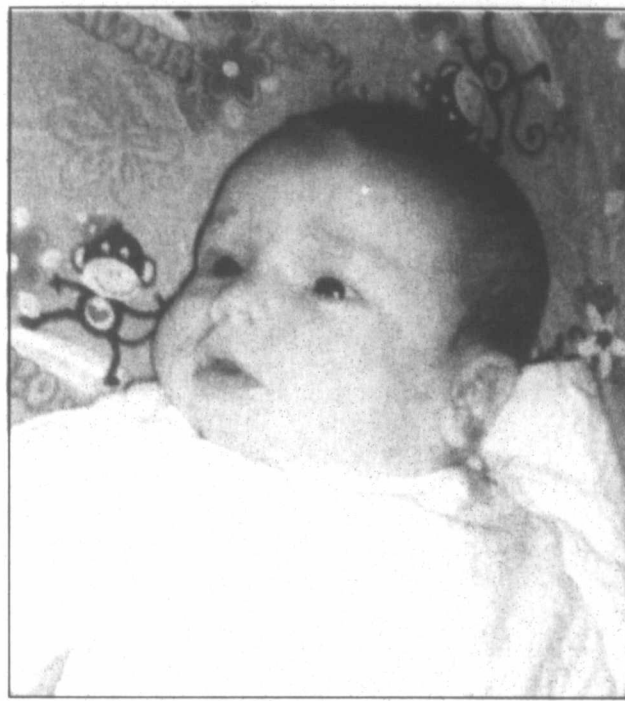
Winner will be drawn for the DBA Bucks at 7:30 in front of Rheams Diamond Shop (See participating store for details)

**WELCOME**

*Gabriela Gonzales*

Liz Limas and Anthony Gonzales of Amarillo welcomed their daughter, Gabriela Gonzales at 4:33 p.m. on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2009. Gabriela weighed 9 pounds 10 3/4 ounces and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

She was also welcomed by her brother, Joshue, grandmother Rosiario Limas and grandparents Johnny and D'Ann Gonzales of Pampa and great grandparents Ramona Marusso and Sonny and Susie Riojas, all of Amarillo and Sherry Begert of Pampa.



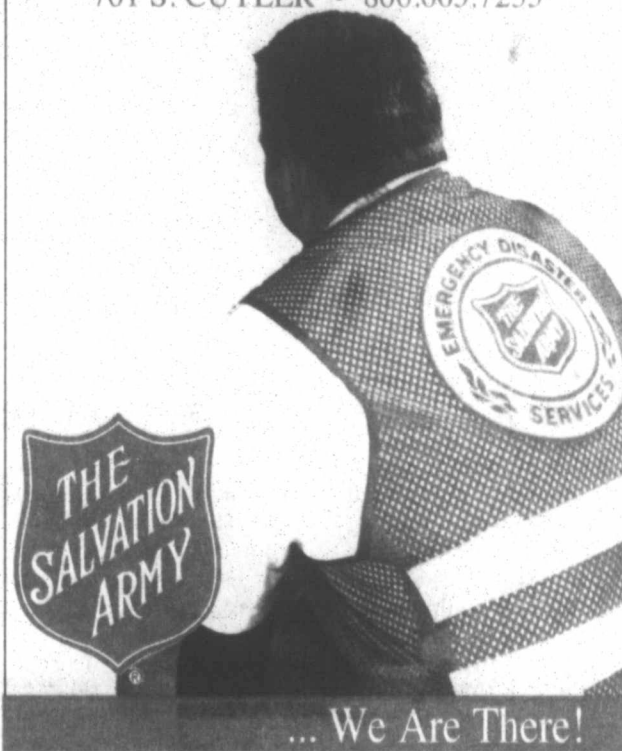
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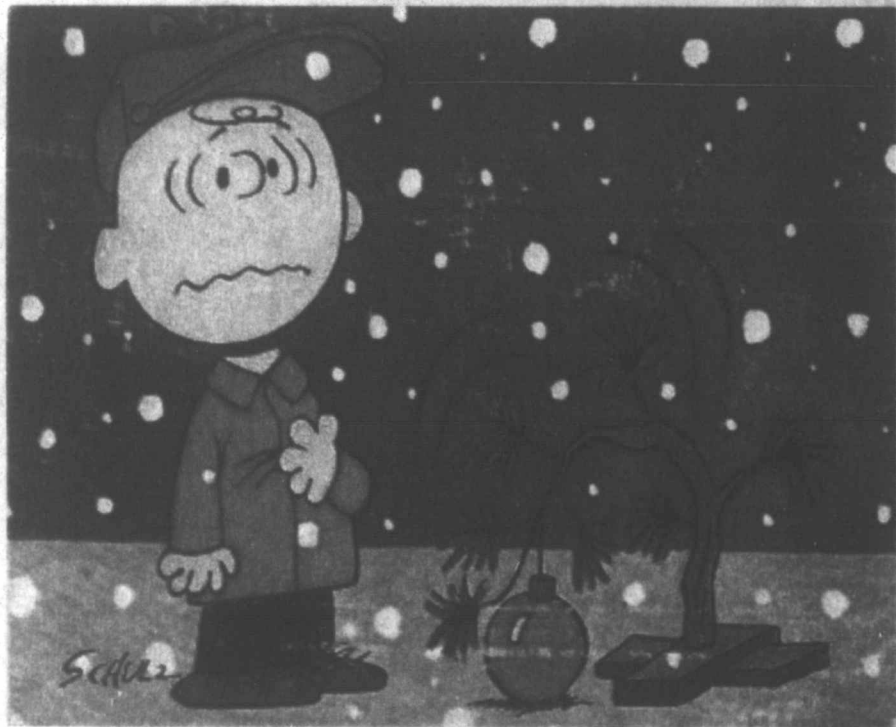
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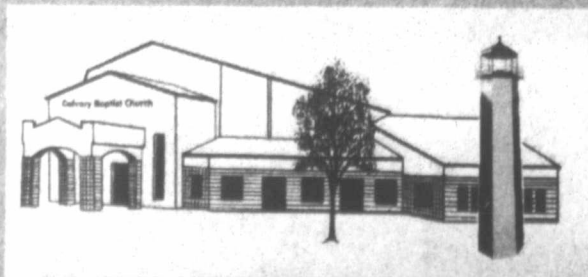


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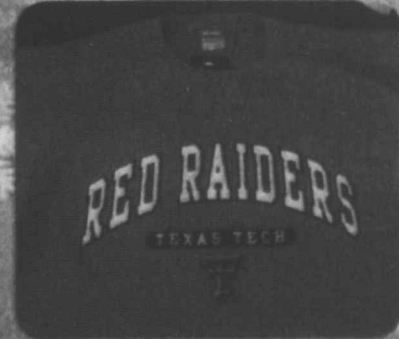
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# Sports

## North Garland runs past Pampa in shootout opener

BY ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters fell behind by double digits early and lost the opening game of the Nichols Shootout 84-73 to the North Garland Raiders Friday at North Garland High School.

Head Coach Dustin Miller said North Garland's athleticism and turnovers cost his team early.

"They were quicker and more athletic," Miller said. "We had several turnovers that put us in a bind and dug ourselves too big of a hole."

In the first quarter, Pampa missed their first four shots of the game and turned it over once allowing the Raiders to take a 4-0 lead. The Harvesters would score the next five points to take a 5-4 lead. North Garland would not allow the Harvesters to take the lead again. The Raiders scored the next five points to retake the lead 9-5 and would lead 24-13 after the first quarter.

The Raiders maintained control in the second quarter not allowing Pampa to get closer than eight. The Harvesters turned the ball over three times and allowed eight offensive rebounds. The Raiders largest lead of the quar-

ter was 16 when they led 29-13. North Garland led 40-29 at halftime.

The Harvesters rallied at the beginning of the third quarter. Pampa outscored North Garland 14-6 to start the quarter to get within three. Pampa had the chance to tie the game but turned it over and the Raiders quickly converted and expanded their lead to 48-43. Pampa turned it over their next three possessions leading to six points by the Raiders. North Garland led 66-50 after the third quarter.

Miller said his team couldn't even things up when they got close.

"That was the problem," Miller said. "Every time we made a run we would allow them to pull back away."

The final quarter was very competitive. North Garland gained their largest lead of the game at 71-52. Latigo Collins would score 11 of Pampa's next 14 points cutting North Garland's lead to 75-65. The Harvesters would outscore North Garland 23-18 in the fourth to reach the final score.

Collins led the team in scoring with 22 points. Alex Clendening had 17 points, Travis Hagerman and Ryan Jimenez had eight points each. Garrett

Ericson had two points but left the game in the second half with an injured ankle. Jonathan Polasek came off the bench and scored nine points and Reid Miller scored seven points. Clendening led the team in rebounds with 14, Collins and Hagerman each had four, Polasek had three, Jimenez had two and Reid Miller had one.

The Harvesters (6-5) will play Dallas Roosevelt 10:30 a.m. today at South Garland High School and will visit Borger Monday.

## 7th grade girls basketball splits with Borger

BY ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Junior High seventh grade girls A team won and the B team lost Monday at Borger Junior High.

The A team won 32-26. Taylor Eubank led the team in scoring with 16. Caragan Niccum had six, Madison Brown and Emilee Frost each had four and Kindle Hunt had two. Niccum led the team in rebounds with nine. Lexi Hernandez had five, Macie Loggins had three, Frost, Meagan Martinez and Brown each had two and Quila Martinez had one. Hernandez led the team in steals with four, Brown and Eubank each had three, Hunt and

Meagan Martinez each had two and Frost and Quila Martinez had one.

The B team lost 21-19. Ty'Randa Johnson led the team in scoring with six. Risa Rodriguez scored five, Allison Noble scored four, Taylor Bolton and Madelyn Solis each had two. Tiah Brown led the team in rebounds with three. Johnson and Noble each had two and Rodriguez, Bolton and Kirsten Hood each had one. Johnson led the team in steals with four. Tori Robles led the team in scoring with two, Elizabeth Gill, Rodriguez and Solis each had one.

The junior high's final game before Christmas break is Monday hosting Canyon.

## Colt McCoy highlights big awards night

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Colt McCoy's near blunder in the final seconds of the Big 12 title game hasn't cost him on the awards circuit so far.

It hasn't hurt the conference, either.

McCoy capped a big Thursday night for the Big 12, winning the Maxwell Award honoring the nation's best all-around player.

It was just the latest in a series of postseason honors for McCoy, who also is a finalist for the Heisman Trophy. He won the Walter Camp Football Foundation's player of the year award for the second consecutive season earlier in the day.

Before he beat out fellow Heisman finalists Mark Ingram of Alabama and Tim Tebow of Florida for the Maxwell, he picked up the Davey O'Brien Award at the annual college football awards at

Disney World, given to the nation's best quarterback.

"To win awards like this shows that you're greatly respected," McCoy said. "It means people see the things that you do, and you're rewarded for them."

Apparently they didn't see his last play. Or maybe they just let it slip.

The Longhorns (13-0) needed a field goal as time expired to beat Nebraska 13-12 in the Big 12 title game Saturday night. But on the second-to-last play, McCoy nearly let the clock strike zero on a rollout that surely had Longhorns fans gasping.

The player chasing him all night made out just fine Thursday night, too.

Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh, also a Heisman finalist, won the Chuck Bednarik Award as the nation's best defensive player, and took home the Outland Trophy for the best interior lineman.

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Map depicts an approximation of outdoor coverage. Map may include areas served by unaffiliated carriers and may depict their licensed area rather than an approximation of their coverage. Actual coverage area may differ substantially from map graphics, and coverage may be affected by such things as terrain, weather, foliage, buildings and other construction, signal strength, customer equipment, and other factors. AT&T does not guarantee coverage. Coverage is not available in all areas. See coverage map at stores for details. Offer available on select phones. **Limited-time offer.** Other conditions and restrictions apply. See contract and rate plan brochure for details. Subscriber must live and have a mailing address within AT&T's owned wireless network coverage area. Up to \$36 activation fee applies. Equipment price and availability may vary by market and may not be available from independent retailers. **Early Termination Fee:** None if cancelled in the first 30 days, but up to \$35 restocking fee may apply to equipment returns; thereafter up to \$175. Some agents impose add'l fees. **Unlimited voice services:** Unlimited voice svcs are provided solely for live dialog between two individuals. No additional discounts are available with unlimited plan. **Offnet Usage:** If your mins of use (including unlt'd svcs) on other carriers' networks ("offnet usage") during any two consecutive months exceed your offnet usage allowance, AT&T may at its option terminate your svcs, deny your cont'd use of other carriers' coverage, or change your plan to one imposing usage charges for offnet usage. Your offnet usage allowance is equal to the lesser of 750 mins or 40% of the Anytime mins incl'd with your plan (data offnet usage allowance is the lesser of 6 MB or 20% of the KB incl'd with your plan). **AT&T Promotion Card:** Blackberry Bold, Bold 9700, 8820, Curve 8900, 8320 & 8310 & Pearl 8110 prices before mail-in rebate are \$199.99, \$199.99, \$174.99, \$174.99, \$174.99, \$149.99 & \$124.99, respectively. After mail-in rebate receive \$100 AT&T Promotion Card. For 8820 receive \$50 AT&T Promotion Card. Allow 60 days. Card may be used to pay for wireless service. Card expires in 120 days, not redeemable for cash. Some restrictions & charges apply. See terms at store or at att.com/wirelessrebate. 2-year service agreement, \$39.99 voice plan and minimum \$30 (mo.) data plan required - cancel data anytime. Offer expires 12/25/2009. Samsung Solstice price before AT&T Promotion Card with minimum \$20/mo data plan required & 2-year wireless service agreement is \$49.99. Allow 60 days for fulfillment. Card may be used only in the U.S. & is valid for 120 days after issuance date but is not redeemable for cash & cannot be used for cash withdrawal at ATMs or automated gasoline pumps. Card request must be postmarked by 2/4/2010 & you must be a customer for 30 consecutive days to receive card. **Sales Tax:** calculated based on price of unactivated equipment. Facebook is a trademark of Facebook, Inc. ©2009 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo and all other marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

# Sports

## MIAMI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**  
Taylor Ray (30) attempts a layup against Wheeler December 3 in the first round of the Miami Tournament. The Lefors Pirates lost to the Mustangs 57-35. The Pirates host Higgins 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

### Lady Pirates drop two in the Groom Tourney

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

The Lefors Lady Pirates' offensive struggles continue as they lost the first two games of the Groom Tournament Thursday and Friday in Groom.

Lefors (1-6) lost to the Sanford Fritch Fighting Lady Eagles 55-16 Thursday.

Head Coach Tory Peet said his team panicked on offense.

"Every time we held the ball they pressured us," Peet said. "We would throw the ball away."

The Lady Pirates played the Boys Ranch Lady Riders Friday. Peet said the team played good defense early in the game.

"We were down 15-14 at halftime," Peet said. "They had a six foot to six foot-two girl that was their main threat. We did a good job of containing her."

The game would turn in the third quarter as Lefors was held scoreless being outscored 13-0. Lefors lost 34-21. Peet said that and free throw shooting decided the game.

### Girls JV falls to Randall

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

The Pampa Lady Harvesters junior varsity team lost their district opener Tuesday 55-41 to the Randall Lady Raiders.

Coach Forrest Harding said his team didn't play well in the third quarter. Caitlin Sieck led the team in scoring with 16 points. The Lady Harvesters continue district play 6 p.m. Monday hosting the Palo Duro Lady Dons.

**Coming up Monday**  
**Pampa Junior High boys basketball at Canyon**  
**Pampa Junior High girls basketball vs. Canyon 5 p.m.**  
**freshmen girls basketball vs. Palo Duro 4:30 p.m.**  
**junior varsity girls basketball vs. Palo Duro 6:00 p.m.**  
**Varsity girls basketball vs. Palo Duro 7:30 p.m.**

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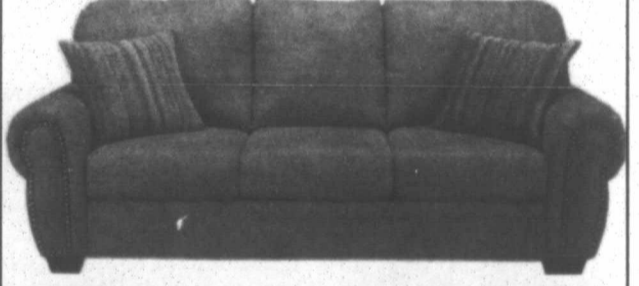
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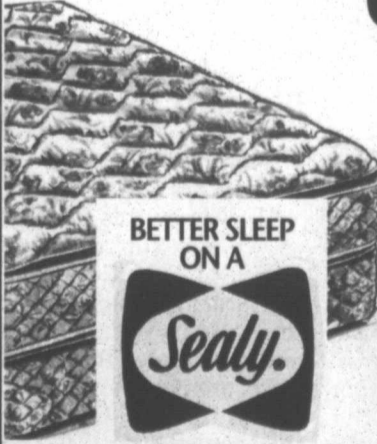
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## CHC Resident of the month



Billie Hooten was elected by the residents of Coronado Health Care as Resident of the Month for December.

She was born in Silverton, and worked at the foundry there as a teenager. She had two children. Her son, Robert who lives in Pampa and a daughter, Alminia Jane, who lost her battle with cancer.

She has five grandchildren and a couple of great grandchildren. She is active in senior fitness, ring or ball toss, horseshoes, bingo, current events, memory lane, resident council and church services.

## Gifts galore for the conservationist on your list

AUSTIN, Texas — If you're fresh out of holiday gift ideas for your eco-minded cousin or that relative who would rather spend his or her spare time in the woods, on the lake or at a state park, or even for yourself, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department invites you to shop the outdoors.

How about customizing your "sled" with one of TPWD's four conservation license plates to show your affinity for wildflowers, horned lizards, largemouth bass or white-tailed deer? A portion of every \$30 license plate goes to support state parks, wildlife diversity, state fishing programs and research, and wildlife management and research. Since their inception, the conservation license plates have generated more than \$4 million in sales for Texas land and water conservation initiatives.

Help support TPWD conservation efforts while adding to your art collection by purchasing the 2008 collector's edition of hunting and fishing stamps. The collection sells for \$21.65 and includes six different stamps designed by noted wildlife artists.

And what self-respecting conservationist would want to be without a subscription to the state's premier outdoors publication for more than 50 years, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine. Go online to see special offers, including two gift subscriptions for \$20 that includes choice of either a "Go Fish Texas" map or "Texas Saltwater & Freshwater Fish Pocket I.D. Guide." Teachers receive a special \$9.95 annual subscription rate to foster outreach to the state's increasingly urbanized school populations.

Other featured products this year on TPWD's "Shop the Outdoors" Web page include bumper stickers, maps, a colorful Hummingbird Wheel and nine different videos of programs produced for the Texas Parks & Wildlife

television show on PBS.

TPWD's online gift shop also offers colorful posters from the past 17 Texas Wildlife Expos held each fall in Austin for only \$10 each. Or for that special saltwater angler on your shopping list, pick up the "Saltwater Fishes of Texas" poster, or one of Sea Center Texas' posters featuring a spotted sea trout or redfish. Freshwater fishing aficionados may prefer the "Freshwater Fishes of Texas" or the

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center's largemouth bass poster. All posters sell for under \$20.

After shopping for everyone else on your holiday list, why not buy something special for yourself. You can purchase a Lifetime Super Combo License for \$1,800 that will allow you to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another license or stamp. Lifetime licenses solely for hunting or fishing also are available for purchase.

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## Daily Horoscope

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

This year, you often will assume a low profile. For you, this type of behavior is most unusual and different. Others might check in more often as they demonstrate concern about this new attitude. You could feel touched but still closed off. Evaluate what is going on with you, and many of you will try to push past a newfound shyness or caution. If you are single, you will meet many people, but more often than not, the person who gives you a case of the butterflies could misrepresent who he or she is. Take your time getting to know someone you are dating. If you are attached, share more of your vulnerabilities, and both of you will come out much better. **SCORPIO** reads you cold.

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

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

★★★★ Strong feelings could motivate you, far more than you realize. Confusion concerning plans could be the direct result of this fact. You have strong boundaries, though you might have a tendency toward excess. Tonight: Quality time with someone you care about. This Week: Take a stand only after you have done adequate research.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ The wise move is to defer, especially if plans don't make much of a difference to you. An older relative cares far more than you realize. Jump to another person's tune, allowing greater give-and-take. Tonight: Say "yes" to a request. You might like the end results more than you know.

This Week: Relate directly with others, discovering what is important.

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

★★★★ Maintain an easy pace, understanding exactly what needs to happen. Your emotional creativity and high energy come out. Stay easy with someone at a distance. Excitement adds a twist to plans. Tonight: Make it an early night. This Week: Others run the show — let them!

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your caring and responsiveness touch many. Even if you want to do something quite differently and far more innovatively than in the past, you'll most likely opt to stay more in the conventional lane. Make that OK and quit judging yourself. Tonight: Respond to another person. Let this person's wishes be your command.

This Week: Get as much done as possible. By midweek, network. Open your door to others.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ No one questions your desire and need to stay close to home. Enjoy yourself in the company of others. Don't lock into judging yourself and what you should do. Complete writing cards and other such activities. Let others relax with you. Tonight: Happy as can be.

This Week: Your creativity flourishes, though you might need to funnel your energy Wednesday or Thursday.

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

★★★★ Meet a friend for brunch and maybe a movie. Some of you could decide to run your holiday errands together. What is most important is visiting together rather than the activity. Consider news rather than react to it. Tonight: Live the moment.

This Week: Stay close to home. Let your imagination concoct a solution when no one else can.

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

★★★★ You are generous by nature, but do remember yourself. There is a tendency to go overboard, and you just might make that perfectly OK. Whether you are living life or off on a shopping spree, know that there are always limits. Tonight: Balance your checkbook first, then decide.

This Week: Make the first move. Let others know where you are coming from. Wednesday on, stay close to home.

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

★★★★ Seize the moment. Though you could be frustrated with a work-related matter or someone you see as in charge, forget it for now. Your job right now is to maximize the moment. Know that there is nothing you won't succeed at. Tonight: As you like.

This Week: Take a hard look at your budget, then determine your holiday budget midweek.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Take your time, and don't move too fast, for your own good. Listen to family members and exchange your point of view. A vagueness surrounds communication, and you might misread what someone else is thinking. Tonight: Do your own thing.

This Week: You are in prime shape. Work with someone directly. Be careful with money commitments.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Listen to feedback. Be willing to allow others to see your vulnerability. The more people around, the happier you will be. You might overspend or overindulge, and you just might not care. Tonight: Where the action is.

This Week: Use Monday and Tuesday to do research. Act later.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might not appreciate all you need to do, but at the same time, events will proceed as you would like. You have enough energy to cover all the bases, handle responsibilities and still have a good time. Tonight: As you like.

This Week: Zero in on what you want at the beginning of the week. Play it low-key Wednesday on.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Reach out for others who might not be in the immediate vicinity. Make plans to get together sooner rather than later. Stay in touch with your inner desires and keep reaching within before you make a decision in a key relationship. Tonight: Read between the lines. This Week: Take a stand early on in the week. Expect only (or mostly) success.

**BORN TODAY**

Actor Dick Van Dyke (1925), prize fighter Archie Moore (1913), singer Amy Lee (1981)

\*\*\*

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at [www.jacquelinebigar.com](http://www.jacquelinebigar.com).

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1 Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Pampa Independent School District will receive **SEALED PROPOSALS** for the following insurance policies until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas.

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Personal Injury  
Liability  
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Proposals, specifications and additional information may be obtained from Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director, 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, phone (806)669-4700, or [betty.meadows@pampaisd.net](mailto:betty.meadows@pampaisd.net)

Proposals may be delivered or mailed to 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065-Attention: Betty Meadows. Sealed envelopes should be plainly marked "INSURANCE PROPOSALS".

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted and to waive informalities and technicalities.

The Board of Education will consider proposals for award at the scheduled meeting in February, 2010.  
E-7 Dec. 11, 13, 2009

1 Public Notice

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Sealed proposals addressed to the City of Pampa, Texas, will be received at the office of the City Secretary, P.O. Box 2499, Pampa, Texas 79066-2499, until January 21, 2010 at 11:00 a.m., for furnishing all necessary materials, equipment, superintendence and labor for construction of "LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY RE-ROOF 2010." Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY RE-ROOF 2010 BID ENCLOSED, BID NO. 09.07.X" and show day and time of bid opening. The City Commission will award the re-roofing project during the January 26, 2010 Commission Meeting. Bids will be opened in City Commission Chamber (third floor City Hall). Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and Plans are on file at the Engineering Department (second floor City Hall, Jildardo Arias 669-5750), 200 West Foster, Pampa, Texas 79065. No charge for plans and specifications to qualified bidders.

**CITY OF PAMPA, TEXAS, OWNER**  
By: [ks/karen.l.rice@cityofpampa.com](mailto:ks/karen.l.rice@cityofpampa.com)  
City Secretary  
E-8 Dec. 13, 20, 2009

**NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**  
The Gray County Appraisal District is requesting proposals for group health insurance coverage. The deadline for receipt of the proposals is 5:00 P.M. on January 15, 2010. Proposals shall be mailed or delivered to W. Pat Bagley, Chief Appraiser, Gray County Appraisal District at 815 N. Sumner, P.O. Box 836, Pampa, Texas, 79066-0836, and marked "sealed proposal for group health insurance". The Chief Appraiser will open the proposals at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, January 18, 2010.

The proposals will be reviewed for presentation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consider proposals for award at their meeting at the Appraisal District offices at 815 North Sumner, Pampa, Texas. Proposers will be notified of the date and time of the meeting. Information for the preparation of this proposal and specifications for the group health, dental and life insurance may be obtained from Kathy Adcock or Pat Bagley at the Appraisal District offices at 815 North Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065. The Gray County Appraisal District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted and to waive any formalities or technicalities.  
E-9 Dec. 13, 15, 2009

**3 Personal**

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## Free Christmas dinner

The Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ will serve a free Christmas dinner, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday, December 25 in the church's fellowship hall.

If you need take-out meals, call the church office, 665-0031 by noon, December 18 to reserve those meals.

The church membership says, "Come and share wit us the blessing and surplus of God's grace as we eat on Christmas Day."

### ADOPT A FRIEND

Once again Meals On Wheels is sponsoring a program for the Holidays that allows individuals to pay for patrons that are presently receiving meals, but do not have the ability to pay, or can only pay the minimum of .25 cents per meal. This is approximately 60% of our patrons. Our patrons have the need of a warm, nutritious meal which has to be addressed daily. The cost of each meal is averaging \$4.00. This leaves us with quite a large deficit for each meal. If you would like to pay for the meals of a patron for one week (\$20.00); one month (\$80.00); or one year (\$960.00), please fill out the form below and return with your check to: Pampa Meals on Wheels, P. O. Box 939, Pampa, Texas 79065, or bring to our office located at 302 E. Foster. Any donation is appreciated.

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Letters to Santa  
 in the  
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 Issue!



1071

## Baby's First Christmas

Deadline Noon, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Published December 24<sup>th</sup>

- Photos need to be of baby only
- Payment in advance

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 Born... September 28, 2008



Parents... Chris & April Lee  
 Brothers... Nathan & Elijah  
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Example

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# Santa letters aren't all about toys — or manners

Parents may be surprised at what is on their kids' wish lists — and what's not

(AP) — A microscope. A new puppy. A mother. And absolutely, positively NO CLOTHES.

From the humorous to the heart-wrenching, children's wish lists to Santa reveal that children aren't as toy-centric as parents think — and that they're not as polite as perhaps they should be.

Carole Slotterback, a psychology professor at the University of Scranton, analyzed nearly 1,200 letters sent between 1998 and 2003 to the central post office in Scranton, a struggling former coal city in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The missives were scrawled or painstakingly handwritten on every type of paper and in every shade of ink. Many were decorated with drawings, stickers or glitter; some children gave Santa not only their addresses but their phone numbers, parents' cell phone numbers and their school pictures — just to make sure the Big Guy knew how to find them on Christmas.

Slotterback, who describes her findings in the book "The Psychology of Santa," said the letters "touched me in so many different ways."

"Some are just absolutely a stitch, and others are some of the saddest things I've ever read," she said.

One kid asked to be an elf. Another made a list that included Pokemon cards, a camera and a microscope. But about every third item, the child wrote: "NO clothes."

And then there was the

one written in careful cursive on bright pink paper, in which Santa was asked for perhaps the greatest gift of all: a mom.

"Not just for me but my daddy, brother and granny ... my daddy works so hard and then he comes home to cook and clean and it should be easier," the letter read.

The child drew a 5-cent "stamp" on the envelope before dropping it in the mailbox.

The U.S. Postal Service receives hundreds of thousands of letters to Santa each year, with increases during tough economic times, said spokeswoman Sue Brennan.

None of them make it to the North Pole. But some do get responses through Operation Santa; about 500,000 letters in New York City alone were answered last year by individuals, companies and postal employees, Brennan said.

Some are funny — one asked Santa to check the appropriate box: Real or not real? — but many more are not, she said.

"I've never gone 5 or 10 minutes without getting teary," said Brennan. "It's very emotional."

Children who sent letters instead of lists were generally more polite and chatty, for instance asking about Mrs. Claus, Slotterback said.

Except for the death threat. One child wrote: "Dear Santa, I am going to kill you and steal the toys from your workshop."

Slotterback reported it to the postmaster, who agreed to contact people at the return address, which she believes was a juvenile facility.

The letters also show kids are sensitive to current events. In 2001, just months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, children's letters were very patriot-



Alexis Massey, 3, of Panama City Beach, Fla., thinks about her Christmas wish list while talking to Santa at the Panama City Mall in Panama City, Fla., on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009. (AP Photo/ The News Herald, Terry Barner)

ic, Slotterback said. Kids drew pictures of Santa's sleigh with American flags hanging off the back, and of St. Nick putting flags in stockings; they also asked for fewer toys that year, she found.

And there was no indication that children feared the terrorists would get Santa, she said.

"Terrorists can do all kinds of things to our world, and they can hurt us in many ways, but one

thing they can't do is touch Santa," said Slotterback.

"And that was nice to see." Overall, between 3 percent and 6 percent of letters had what Slotterback called "family requests," such as for a sick grand-

mother to get better or for Mom and Dad to stop fighting.

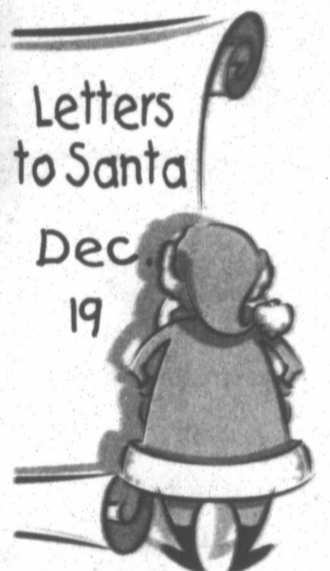
She suggested parents ask to see their kids' wish lists, because they might be surprised at what is — and what's not — on it. Requests are often "simpler kids of things than you might think," Slotterback said.

But she noted a surprising lack of social niceties in the correspondence, unless the child was asking for a pet. A boy who asked for a golden retriever used "please" 16 times, she said. The next-highest use came from a girl who wanted a horse.

Slotterback cited other research that found people who expect their requests to be fulfilled — like a boss asking an employee to do something — are less likely to say please. Perhaps likewise, she said, kids expect Santa to come through.

Still, she said, "you'd think if you were asking for a lot of presents, you would throw in a 'please' or a 'thank you.'"

USPS Operation Santa Claus: [www.operationlettertosanta.com](http://www.operationlettertosanta.com)



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# Do-it-yourself holiday gifts cost less, mean more

If ever there has been a year to give a homemade holiday gift, this is it. The economy's in the dumps and budgets are tight. Gift-givers have to be more creative than ever if they want to delight their friends and family with something unusual.

Meanwhile, business is booming in the world of homemade crafts. Not only has scrapbooking launched an industry of its own, but the notion of do-it-yourself has produced thousands of new products, services, classes, and ideas that now jostle for space on the Web and in stores.

With all these choices, the question remains: What to give? Here are some ideas:

— Aprons are big this year, according to Kathy Rogers of Oak Park, Calif. These kitchen cover-ups are useful and they're easy to sew, even for novices.

"People are having fun with it; I've seen a lot of aprons with retro patterns," said Rogers, a fiber artist and teacher who is president of the California Art Education Association. "That seriously seems to be a very hot item."

Can't sew at all? Order a white cotton twill apron from the Bay Area-based Dharma Trading Company, <http://www.dharmatrading.com/>. They start at around \$7.00 and can be dressed up with tie-dye, buttons, decals, fabric paint and just about anything else.

— If you like to give your gifts early, try a wreath. Jenny Bosben, a Madison, Wis., art teacher, estimates she spends about \$3 per wreath for a metal frame and some craft wire. Then she heads into her backyard to chop off a few pieces of Arbor Vitae, an evergreen shrub. If you don't have access to evergreens, boughs are available to buy at Christmas time.

Just wrap the boughs securely onto the frame with the wire, overlapping so the stems don't show.

"You can add whatever you want: holly berries, dried flowers from the backyard," said Bosben. "It's something people really enjoy because it's real and it smells good."

— Homemade cards are also popular this year, according to craft store buyers. Molly Heyn-DeVinaspre, a sculptor, photographer and art teacher in Boise, Idaho, created the following instructions to create stationary from crayons:

## Crayon Melt Stationary Set

Materials: Electric fry pan, foil, original crayons (not washable), card stock, envelopes, paper towels, hot pad or oven mitts.

Line pan with foil

Turn on pan until hot enough to melt crayons.

Peel paper off crayons. (If working with kids have them use oven mitts to avoid burns.)



This photo shows Jenny Bosben wrapping the arborvitae with green colored wire onto a ring at her home in Madison, Wis. (AP Photo/Andy Manis)

Melt or draw with the crayons on the foil until desired look is achieved; thick pools of melted crayons end up creating interesting shapes.

Place paper on top of melted wax.

Gently blot with paper towel to stick the wax onto the paper.

Lift paper off and allow cooling time.

Fold in half to create card.

Wipe excess wax off foil with paper towel and create another! Package all the cards with envelopes and tie a piece of yarn around everything.

— If you're making gifts with children, try baked goods, said Laurie Nagus, who runs playgroups at the Madison Waldorf School in Madison, Wis.

Nagus likes to give homemade fudge as a gift. She also makes shortbread every year for neighbors and friends. "We give it with a candle and a tiny bottle of wine," she said.

— Bosben also makes ornaments from a salt clay recipe that her mother used. Baked hard, the ornaments can be painted and decorated. Salt clay renders the ornaments both rock-hard and unappetizing to the family dog.

"The ones my mom made, they lasted forever," Bosben said.

## Bosben's holiday ornament recipe:

1 cup flour

¼ cup salt

½ cup water

¼ cup cooking oil

Mix flour, salt and oil with wooden spoon. Add water gradually. Shape, add hook for hanging from tree, and then bake pieces at 300 degrees for 1 to 2 hours, until hard. Paint and decorate.



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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.

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# How to keep holidays happy AND healthy for kids

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Worried your kids are going to pack on the pounds over winter break?

Before you cut out the cookies for Santa, pumpkin pie and doughnuts, take a look at these tips from the experts.

**MODEL HEALTHY EATING BEHAVIOR:** If kids see their parents piling their plates, they will probably do the same, said Dr. Sarah Hampl, medical director of PHIT Kids (Promoting Health in Teens and Kids), a weight management program at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

**ADD, DON'T TAKE AWAY:** If you have a family tradition of decorating cookies, don't take away that fun, said Susan Z. Yanovski, an obesity expert at the National Institutes of Health. "That doesn't mean you need to leave the cookies out for everyone to nibble on," she said. But you can always give them away.

**PLAN PLAN PLAN:** Give kids a small healthy snack, such as string cheese or yogurt before going to a holiday party, so they are not ravenous, said Sarah Krieger, a dietitian at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. She also suggests bringing something healthy to parties like a fruit

salad. "People will eat that if it's there."

**INCREASE ACTIVITY:** Physical activity goes down during the holidays when sports practices and dance and karate lessons are canceled. Fight the temptation to hibernate, said Dr. David Ludwig, director of the Optimal Weight for Life Program, Children's Hospital Boston. "Now is the time to be more rather than less physically active," he said. Children who are busy are also less likely to rummage through the cupboards or the Halloween candy stash.

**GET KIDS INVOLVED:** Work with kids to come up with healthier alternatives to the way food is prepared, said Dr. Thomas Robinson of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Children will feel like they are part of changing the way the family does things. "People's taste and preference are quite malleable."

**DON'T RESTRICT:** Don't restrict foods, said Dr. Goutham Rao, clinical director of the Weight Management and Wellness Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. It makes the food more valuable. "Help children know that this is a time when you can make healthy choices, even though they are out of school. It's not a time to go crazy."



This photo shows cherry-apricot crumb pie. A slice of pie on Thanksgiving is as traditional as a serving of turkey. You can make this tradition healthier by making good choices when choosing the crust. This cherry-apricot crumb pie is topped with a low-fat oat crumble made with whole-wheat flour that helps reduce any dietary regret. (AP Photo/Larry Crowe)

## Black bears are reclaiming lost Texas territory

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Ray Hernandez was checking for oil at a pump jack this summer on a vast stretch of rangeland in Menard County when his cell phone rang.

It was a well worker at a pipe yard on the property, insisting he'd seen a bear.

"I said, No, you didn't, you seen a stump," Hernandez said. "And actually, there's a stump there that looks just like a bear."

In fact, the worker had seen a bear. And the June 23 sighting escalated swiftly into a bear hunt.

It ended with the crack of a rifle, a felled beast and a criminal charge against Hernandez, a self-identified Tonkawa Indian who did not fire the shot but decapitated the state-protected creature with a hacksaw and ferried home its head and paws.

His initial incredulity, however, was justified.

The black bear that wandered onto the Central Texas cattle ranch that day is the first ever confirmed in that part of the state, according to Capt. Alan Teague, a game warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

For Teague and others at the agency, it's further proof that the species is reclaiming lost territory.

Black bears roamed every ecosystem in Texas two centuries ago. Then settlers arrived, altering habitat, hunting bears to protect livestock and killing the creatures for sport.

A Liberty County judge reputedly slaughtered 200 bears in the late 19th century, a pursuit that earned Lewis Hightower the handle "the Bear-Hunting Judge," according to the Handbook of Texas Online.

"I practice law for recreation," Hightower would say, "and hunt bear for a livin'."

By the 1950s, black bears were eradicated from Texas, experts say.

The state made bear hunting illegal in 1983. That

decade, the creatures began crossing from northern Mexico into the southern reaches of West Texas.

For the past 15 years, a small population has bred there, mostly in the region's rugged mountains.

But bears in Texas recently have been on the move, staging an unprecedented return to regions such as the Edwards Plateau, Piney Woods and South Texas Plains, according to Nathan Garner, a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Texas lists the black bear as threatened. The penalty for shooting one is a Class C misdemeanor and a fine of \$500, plus a civil restitution of \$11,907.50.

Reasons for bears forging deep into new territory are more varied.

Teague, the game warden, cites the recent severe drought as a likely motivator.

Garner, the biologist, says bear populations in Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma are expanding into eastern regions of Texas.

And bears in Mexico now are protected, so the population there is spilling into Texas, where many landowners have switched from raising sheep and goats to cattle, said Ruben Cantu, a TPWD regional director in San Angelo.

Game wardens investigate all killings, although there are limitations to the law.

"A landowner does have a right to protect his livestock" and human life, said Clint Graham, a game warden. But the state prefers to trap and relocate animals that are a threat, he said.

Pursuing a false rumor that Hernandez had shot the bear, investigators first went to his home, a rented bungalow in south Menard County.

The self-styled Indian decorates the house with painted animal skulls and collects American Indian accoutrements, including a sheepskin loincloth, elk hide boots and a medicine bag made from a muskrat.

Investigators that day also found a rotting bear's head on a red ant mound and four bear paws in a sack inside an abandoned car.

Hernandez said he hoped

the ants would "carnage on the meat, the hair and all that. They were really getting after it."

He said he planned to pull the bear's teeth from its skull and add them to a choker that already contains the teeth of a wolf and the claws of a mountain lion.

With those bones and five eagle feathers he says his grandmother left him, Hernandez believes the bear would have imbued him with an accumulated vigor.

"That was the completion," he said. "That had been my medicine. The bear would have filled a realm, the spiritual realm."

Instead, investigators confiscated the head and paws as evidence and hauled Hernandez to Menard County Jail.

Hernandez was charged with possession of threatened species parts and fined \$500.

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### Judge Emmert Seeks Re-Election

**JUDGE STEVEN EMMERT**, a Republican, has announced that he is seeking re-election to the office of Judge of the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court. The 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District includes Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts and Wheeler Counties.

Judge Emmert states that he has strived to provide the citizens of the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District with a conscientious, fair and competent court, and will continue to do so. He is committed to providing a common sense approach in applying the laws of the State of Texas. Because he finds his work to be very interesting and challenging, he wants to continue to serve the citizens of the district as their State judge.

Judge Emmert and his family moved to Wheeler in 1986 where he maintained a private law practice until elected 31<sup>st</sup> District Judge in 1998. He also served as Wheeler County Attorney from 1990 until 1998 and served as a member of the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee, Region 13A for two years.

In 2006, Judge Emmert was awarded a Certificate of Special Competence in General Jurisprudence from the Texas College for Judicial Studies. He is a member of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas and the College of the State Bar of Texas.

Judge Emmert was reared in rural Collingsworth County where he continues to be involved in the ranching industry with his parents. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from West Texas State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law. He and his wife, Nancy, are the parents of four daughters and have five grandchildren. They are members of the First United Methodist Church of Wheeler.

(Pol. Adv. pd. for by Steven R. Emmert Campaign, Paul Simmons, Treasurer, P.O. Box 425, Wheeler, Texas 79096)

# 'Avatar' premieres to cheers

LONDON (AP) — A delighted audience clapped and cheered as the lights came on after the premiere of James Cameron's sci-fi extravaganza "Avatar" in London on Thursday.

The 3-D epic about humans taking extraterrestrial form as they explore a distant world is reportedly one of the most expensive movies ever made, with a price tag well in excess of the \$200 million spent to make "Titanic." It uses cutting-edge digital technology to create dizzying special effects, and provoked a breathless response from many in the audience.

"It's brilliant, it's as good as the hype, both the 3-D effects and the story," said 28-year-old Victoria Blasdale.

"This was remarkable. Unlike anything I've ever seen before," added law maker John Whittingdale, who had joined the media, Cameron fans and families at the premiere.

Stars Sigourney Weaver and Zoe Saldana joined the crowds on a specially made blue carpet at London's Leicester Square before the gala screening at two massive side-by-side movie theaters.

The industry is watching closely to see how audiences respond to Cameron's first narrative film since 1997's "Titanic," which won 11 Academy Awards and has taken \$1.8 billion worldwide at the box office.

Cameron said the movie, set in the future on an alien planet being pillaged by

humans for natural resources, deals with how indigenous people are treated by newcomers.

"It's a way of connecting a thread through history. I take that thread further back to the 16th and 17th centuries and to how the Europeans pretty much took over South and Central America and displaced and marginalized the indigenous peoples there," he said.

"There's just this long, wonderful history of the human race written in blood going back as far as we can remember, where

we have this tendency to just take what we want without asking," he said.

Weaver said she didn't consider the film a sci-fi movie. "I consider it an old-fashioned, epic swash-buckling romance," she said.

There's a topical environmental message too. As humans exploit their newfound world the indigenous species of the planet harmonize with nature to fight back.

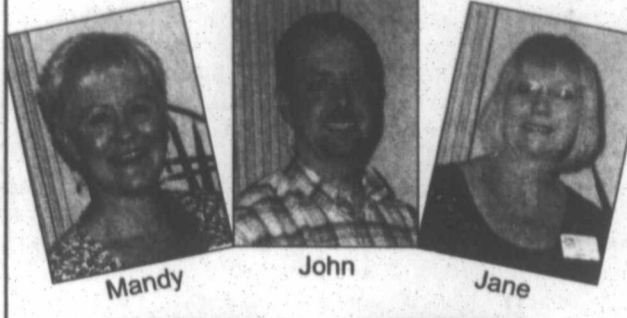
"Avatar" opens around the world next week.



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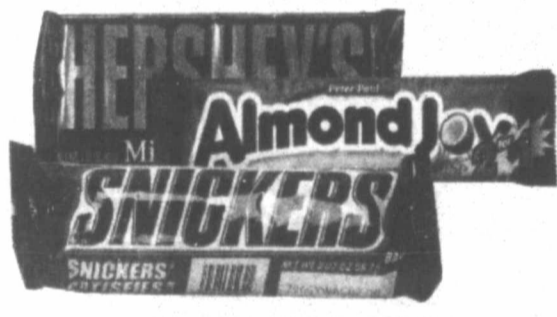


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CHINET PAPER PLATTER	12 CT. PKG.	\$2.99

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1 BACON/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$2.09
2 SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$2.09
3 BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.09
4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79
5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.79
6 3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
9 CHIRICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
10 2 BEF & BEAN BURRITOS	\$2.69

# Comics

Marmaduke



"You don't have to blow out your candles, Dad. Marmaduke already sneezed on them."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-12

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"Why are you crying, Grandma? Didn't you enjoy your visit?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Hourglass fill
- 5 Skated
- 9 Rocker Bob
- 10 Custom
- 12 Analyze sentences
- 13 Last letter
- 14 Former
- 16 Curly-haired cat
- 17 Skating surface
- 18 Loathe
- 20 Reduce
- 22 "Dog-gone!"
- 23 Nearby
- 25 Scotch mixer
- 28 Poem parts
- 32 December festival
- 34 Before, to bards
- 35 Unlucky
- 36 Current rule
- 38 Head, in slang
- 40 Caribou's cousin
- 41 Long look
- 42 Church official
- 43 Fast jets
- 44 Tofu beans

T	A	T	S		T	I	T	O		
O	N	A	I	R		O	H	A	R	A
P	A	Y	N	E		P	A	Y	I	N
I	L	L		F	E	E	D	L	O	T
C	O	O	T	I	E	S		O	L	E
	G	R	I	L		P	R	E	S	
	H	A	L		M	E	L			
A	L	A	S		K	A	R	A	T	
L	A	W		V	E	N	T	U	R	E
I	N	K	L	I	N	G		T	A	N
A	D	I	O	S		O	U	N	C	E
S	A	N	T	O		S	N	E	E	R
U	S	S	R		O	R	S	O		

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Read over
- 24 Hanukkah candle
- 25 Reads over
- 26 Young hooters
- 27 Cowboys' home
- 29 Tune
- 30 Wipes off home
- 31 Rat's areas
- 33 Map
- 37 Go it alone
- 39 Food scrap

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9				10					11	
12				13						
14				15			16			
17				18			19			
20		21					22			
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25	26	27		28			29	30	31	
32			33				34			
35			36				37			
38			39				40			
41							42			
							43			
							44			

12-12

### For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



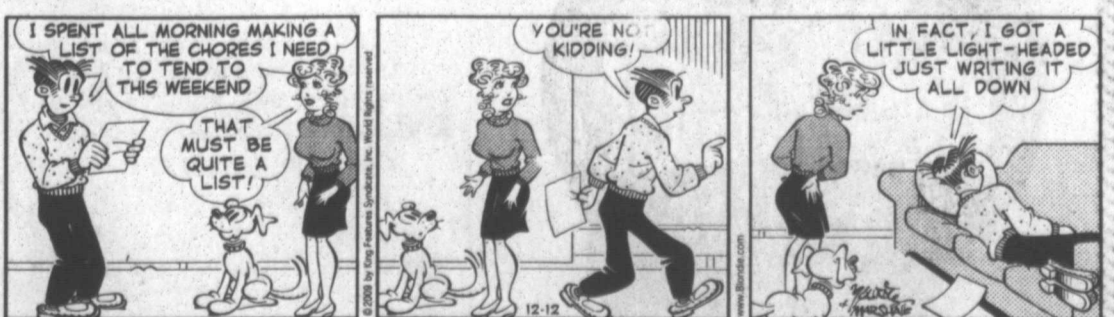
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



# Hollywood hopes an ensemble cast boosts Blu-ray

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although prices for some Blu-ray players dropped below \$100 this holiday season, customers are hesitating to jump into the next-generation video format. Even people who already own Blu-ray players are still buying movies on DVDs.

One big reason: Blu-ray discs won't play on standard DVD players found in cars, computers and bedrooms.

Now Hollywood — which is banking on the pricier Blu-ray discs to help lift sagging home video sales — is stepping up its efforts to win customers. Studios are packaging Blu-ray discs with regular versions on DVDs, and throwing in so-called "digital copies," which can play on computers and iPods.

Over the past month or so, "Up," "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" and many other hit movies were released in such combo packs. Universal is releasing its "Bourne" movies on "flipper" discs with Blu-ray on one side and DVD on the other.

Such combos generally cost about \$20 — sometimes 50 percent to 70 percent less than what it would cost to buy a Blu-ray disc and DVD separately.

Movie studios have been pushing Blu-ray for its crystal-clear sound and images, which can be enjoyed even without the best flat-panel TVs. Yet DVDs remain more convenient because players and computer drives that read DVD discs are ubiquitous. Two-thirds of the 92 million U.S. households that have a DVD player have more than one.

There are now Blu-ray players in nearly 12 million U.S. homes. But you still need to think hard about where you'd want to play a Blu-ray disc before you buy one.

"Blu-ray is landlocked. It's home-locked," said Michael Vitelli, a vice president at Best Buy Co.

At a recent industry conference, Vitelli remarked that it shouldn't matter where consumers plan to watch a movie they buy, just as it shouldn't matter where Starbucks customers are going to drink their lattes. But these days, with an array of video formats and devices, it does matter.

The home video market is crucial for studios because that is where they recoup much of the cost of producing movies.

Yet the market has been sagging as people refrain from adding to their already well-stocked home collections and turn to rentals, which are far less profitable for Hollywood. U.S. home video revenue fell 3.2 percent to \$4 billion in the third quarter, even though the number of home

movie transactions rose 6.6 percent, according to The Digital Entertainment Group, an industry organization.

Because Blu-ray discs are generally priced \$10 or more than DVDs, without costing much more to produce, they could boost profit margins in Hollywood.

Until now, the pace of adoption for Blu-ray has matched what DVD had when it pushed aside video cassettes more than a decade ago. But DVDs didn't face as many competitors as Blu-ray has. Other delivery methods have emerged, including videos and movies over the Internet, sometimes sent straight to your TV.

Shoppers say utility and portability are sometimes more important than the picture and sound quality that Blu-ray enables. That's why studios have resorted over the past year to including computer- and iPod-friendly digital copies in many movie packages.

"With all these gadgets, of course, it is a convenience to have a digital copy," said Ross De La Cuesta, 63, holding his iPod and iPhone in the movie aisle at a Target store in Glendale, Calif.

De La Cuesta recently bought Disney/Pixar's "Up" for \$20 in a combo pack that included a Blu-ray, DVD, digital copy and a disc with special features about the movie. Eventually he'll download the digital copy onto his phone so his 4-year-old granddaughter can watch it on long car rides.

Brett Bonowicz, a 25-year-old Los Angeles screenwriter, would give anything to have Blu-ray capabilities on his iMac computer, which has a 27-inch screen and sits in the living room. For now, he'll have to settle for the digital copy that comes with many Blu-ray discs.

"If there is one with a digital copy and one without, I definitely always get the one with the digital copy," he said.

According to Warner Bros., about 18 percent of buyers end up using the digital copy that comes with a Blu-ray.

Offering a digital copy costs studios just a little bit more per package in discounting and labeling costs. Yet it can have significant benefits for Hollywood.

Not only does it help keep people buying in the Blu-ray format rather than buying or renting DVDs, the combo pack also lets the studio collect contact information from people who choose to register online when they redeem a code that unlocks the digital copy. That information can be used for future sales campaigns, surveys and other forms of direct

marketing.

By using digital copies and other methods of propping up Blu-ray sales, studios may just be getting consumers used to Blu-ray's rivals. But those other formats could still help Hollywood. Studios have been working on technologies to let consumers buy a movie and then access it on any format or device. Disney has a system called "KeyChest"; other studios are behind a "Digital Entertainment Content Ecosystem."

Those technologies could help end the confusion people face with all the options they have for getting movies and TV shows online and offline, through set-top boxes and DVD or Blu-ray players.

"The more we can do to provide clarity for consumers — at an affordable price," Vitelli said, "the better off we're going to be."

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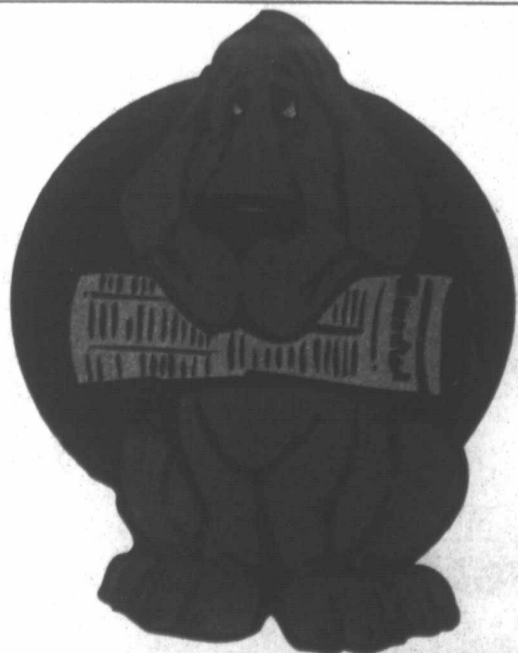
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