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Friday, December 18, 2009

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Time for Toys



staff photo by **David Bowser**

Kelley and Rhonda Randall (left) and Kristi, Kayton, Tre and Corwin Stokes stand in front of their business, Broken Spokes MotoSports, at 536 West Brown, the official distribution point for Toys for Tots in Pampa. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, a not-for-profit public charity, is the fund raising, funding and support organization for the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation was created at the behest of the U. S. Marine Corps and provides support in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, who directs the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The foundation has supported Toys for Tots since 1991. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Toys may be dropped off through Dec. 21.

PD nabs juveniles in alleged burglary

PAMPA—Pampa Police Officers received a call of a possible burglary at about 2 p.m. Thursday and responded to the in the 1100 block of Mary Ellen.

Upon arrival, Officers found no one in the house, but witnesses in the area gave them a description of a possible suspect vehicle, and of two suspects seen running from the area.

Officer Neal Gardner spotted a vehicle in the area of the burglary, which matched the description provided by witnesses.

Officer Gardner stopped the vehicle and the two occupants inside matched the description of the burglary suspects.

Further investigation by Officer Gardner and other officers revealed some of the property reported stolen from the residence was in the vehicle.

The two suspects, who are both juveniles, were taken into custody. As a result of the traffic stop, other property reported stolen from the residence was recovered at another location.

The suspects were turned over to officers with the Gray County Juvenile Probation Office.

PISD board votes for new band uniforms

Enhanced security for school buildings in effect after holidays

BY **DAVID BOWSER**
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa High School Marching Band will get new uniforms next year.

The board of trustees for the Pampa Independent School District voted to spend \$61,699.50 on the 150 uniforms from DeMoulin Bros and Company of Greenville,

Ill., who is expected to deliver the new uniforms in time for the Fall semester next year.

Superintendent Barry Haenisch told the board that the money will come out of next year's budget.

The uniform includes Harvester green coats, broad brimmed hats with black plumes and gaunt-

lets. Band members will wear black trousers and black shoes with the uniform. The students selected the style.

The last time the band got new uniforms was in 1999. Band officials said uniforms last about 10 years and the old uniforms are showing quite a bit of wear.

The school board also approved a \$51,283 bid for wi-fi internet computer access. The wi-fi network with 50 access points should extend access throughout the campus.

The board also approved a \$1,250 installation fee.

"We need it," said PISD President Darrell DeLoach. "No doubt."

Among the other items on the school board's agenda Thursday evening was a report on the check-in security system at each of the district's schools.

Earlier this fall, pilot security programs were put in place at Lamar and Austin Elementary Schools. In January, the system will be extended to every campus.

The security system, Haenisch said, is a safeguard for the students' protection.

He said visitors to schools will need to have their driver's license or state ID card to access the school during the school day, but not for evening

PISD cont. on page 3

Texas jobless rate drops for first time in 16 months

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The state unemployment rate dropped to 8 percent in November, the first decrease in Texas in 16 months.

The Texas Workforce Commission said Friday the jobless rate fell from 8.3 percent in October.

The last monthly decrease came in June 2008, when the rate fell to 4.4 percent from 4.5 percent the previous month.

Texas added 17,300 nonagricultural jobs in November for a total of 70,000 jobs over two months.

The state's jobless rate is still tracking well below the national average of 10 percent.

Workforce commission chairman Tom Pauken says job growth and a dip in the unemployment rate are positive signs for the Texas economy.

Red Cross



staff photo by **David Bowser**

Brenda Vermillion, Carson County Emergency Management Coordinator and Fred Courtney, City of Pampa Emergency Management Coordinator, talk over lunch at the Eastern Texas Panhandle Red Cross meeting Thursday. The meeting was followed by their Christmas open house.

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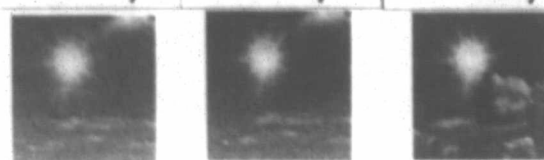
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PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
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High 51 Low 27	High 58 Low 29	High 57 Low 35
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Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. North northwest wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 51. Wind chill values between 18 and 28 early. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 58. North northwest wind around 10 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. South wind around 10 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

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Obituaries

Larry Gilbert Petty, 83



Petty

Pampa— Larry Gilbert Petty, 83, died December 16, 2009, in Pampa, Texas. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 19, 2009, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Jim Powell, pastor of Hobart Baptist Church, officiating. Entombment will be in Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Gilbert was born February 8, 1926 in Russell, Arkansas to Ernest C. and Lou Petty, and moved to Electra, Texas at the age of two. He attended school in Harold and Electra, and

later attended watchmaking school at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls. After college graduation in 1942, he worked at Branigan Jewelry in Memphis until 1952, when he went to work for Natural Gas Pipeline, retiring on January 1, 1983. Gilbert was a veteran of the U. S. Navy. He married Bobbye Jean Bryan on April 25, 1943. He was baptized in 1955 and attended Hobart Baptist Church. Gilbert loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman. Survivors include his wife of 66 years: Bobbye Petty of the home; daughter: Donna Duvall and

husband Ronnie of Pampa; son: Larry Petty and wife Kristi of Pampa; 1 sister: Jo Ann Bentley and husband Charles of Wichita Falls; 3 brothers: John Petty and wife Nancy of Amarillo, Tony Petty and wife Helen of North Richland Hills, and Mickey Petty and wife Sherry of Bowie; 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a large extended family. Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents and a sister. MEMORIALS: Hobart Baptist Church, 1100 W. Crawford, Pampa, Texas 79065, or American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry

Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

Cordie Lorene Gabriel Hopkins Gilstrap, 80



Gilstrap

Cordie Lorene Gabriel Hopkins Gilstrap, 80, of San Angelo, passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at her residence. A funeral service will be held at Johnson's Funeral Home on Friday, December 18, 2009 at 12:00PM with the Reverend Taylor Sandlin officiating. A burial will be Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 3:00PM at Old Mobeetie Cemetery in Mobeetie, TX. She was born to Joseph Guy Gabriel and Emma Lee Godwin Gabriel on March

8, 1929 in Mobeetie, Wheeler County, TX. She has resided in Tom Green County, TX since 1980. She married Ralph Wayne Hopkins in 1947. She then married Granville Wilburn Gilstrap on June 29, 1999 in Las Vegas. She was a member of Southland Baptist Church. Cordie was a retired employee of Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson). She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Granville Gilstrap of San Angelo,

son: Johnny Wayne Hopkins of Arlington, TX, son: Jerry Don Hopkins of Plano, TX, daughter: Donna Kaye Hopkins Starnes of Hillsboro, TX, son: Russell Eugene Hopkins of Kerrville, TX, daughter: Mary Hopkins Pate of Temple, TX. She was a kind and loving wife, mother and friend. Cordie was truly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. A special thanks to the staff of Hospice of San Angelo for all their love, care and hard work.

Gwendolyn Coutts Tabor, 89

Livingston — Gwendolyn Coutts Tabor, 89, died December 15, 2009, in Lufkin, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Tabor was born September 9, 1920 in Pampa to C. P. and Eva Davis Coutts. She was reared on the family farm in Gray County and was an honor student at the

Hopkins School. She was a graduate of Pampa High School. She won state-wide honors and awards in math, and was a member of 4-H. Gwen was a state-ranked tennis player. She graduated from West Texas State College in Canyon with a Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics, with minors in chemistry and biology. She was employed as a home demonstration agent in Paducah, and this is where she met her future husband, Alvis Tabor. They were married on August 12, 1945 in Pampa. She taught science and chemistry at Panhandle High School until retiring to lovingly care for her special needs son, Ronald. In 1972, Gwen and Alvis moved to Richardson. After his death in 2006, she moved to Livingston to reside with her daughter and son-in-law.

Gwen was deeply involved in Panhandle's civic and cultural activities. She was a longtime

member, Sunday School teacher, and choir member at First Baptist Church in Panhandle and Creekside Baptist Church in Richardson, with a special love for foreign missions through the Woman's Missionary Union and Billy Graham Ministries. She enjoyed many hobbies, including oil painting, crafts, quilting and embroidery. She loved birds and collected bird curios. She taught conversational English for foreign students at the University of Texas at Dallas. She was an avid reader and traveled extensively with her husband.

Gwen was a gentle caring woman, who loved her husband and family to the highest degree. She will be greatly missed as a mother, mema (grandmother), great-grandmother and a great friend. She was highly devoted to her family. She demonstrated Christian devotion, love and generosity to others. She will always be remem-

bered for her kindness and steadfast faith. Our memories of Gwen will always be cherished by all who knew her and loved her.

Survivors include three children, Kenneth Tabor and wife Sandra of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Carrol Tabor and wife Cathy of Tomball, and Alvene Galloway and husband Bill of Livingston; 2 grandchildren: Jason Tabor and wife Milgrid of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Daniel

Tabor of Austin; 2 great-grandchildren: Michelle Tabor and Christian Tabor; 2 step-grandchildren: Billy Galloway and family of Livingston, and Donna Merritt and family of Rowlett; numerous nieces and nephews. Gwen was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years: Alvis Tabor; 2 sons: Ronald Tabor and Michael Tabor; and a brother: William Edward Coutts.

The family requests that those wishing to celebrate

the life of Gwen contribute to the Billy Graham International Ministries or a charity of their choice.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whately funeral home from 5:00-8:00 PM on Sunday, December 20, 2009.

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

LAST MINUTE ADS

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Lawsuit over food stamps backlog

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The state's lingering backlog of food stamp applications has led to a lawsuit by a legal aid group in south Texas.

The lawsuit filed Thursday in Austin names the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid seeks

a decision for seven specific families, plus asks for a court order to force the agency to meet required 30-day processing deadlines.

The lawsuit says the backlog is "denying individual Plaintiffs and tens of thousands of other Texans access to food, the most basic of human needs."

A spokeswoman for executive commissioner Tom Suehs, Stephanie Goodman, declined comment on specific cases. Goodman says the agency is "moving as fast as we can" and has hired more than 600 eligibility workers since September.

PISD

programs.

"All these measures reflect the times we live in," said PISD President Parents and visitors should be able to use their driver's licenses to access the buildings.

Supt. Barry Haenisch said anyone with a driver's license from another country will have to be approved by Homeland Security and pay a \$15 fee for a state identity card in

order to gain access to the schools.

"It's not unreasonable," he said.

This is the first phase, Haenisch said. Eventually, there will be a second phase.

The school board also reviewed the proposed 2010-2011 PISD schedule of events for the next school year. They are scheduled to vote on the calendar next month.

The board heard from the architects on Pampa High School and Pampa Junior High School construction.

The Harvester statue in the rotunda is lighted, the architects reported and the high school for all practical purposes is completed.

Construction on the new junior high school is continuing. The architects reported that construction is on schedule.

The ceiling grid is in. The flooring is installed. Several of the roof-mounted heating units are operational to maintain inside temperatures this winter.

The basketball goals have been installed in the gyms although there are no bleachers yet.

The original plan to move part of the kitchen equipment from the old junior high to the new one has been changed. Some \$41,684 in equipment will be installed at the new junior high under construction while the old equipment will remain at the old junior high.

Two proximity readers,

cont. from page 1

part of the school's security system, will be added at the new junior high -- one near the weight room and one at the north end of the building -- bringing the total proximity readers at the school to five.

Items concerning athletic dressing areas at the high school were tabled until the school board gets firm costs. The money for the renovation of the dressing rooms is not to come out of the bond money approved to renovate the high school or build the new junior high.

A discussion of replacing or repairing air-handling units at Pampa High School was also postponed because all the costs were not in yet.

The school board also reviewed the 2008-2009 Academic Excellence Indicator System reports comparing state, district and individual school scores this year to 2008.

Haenisch said the report is on line at the PISD Web site.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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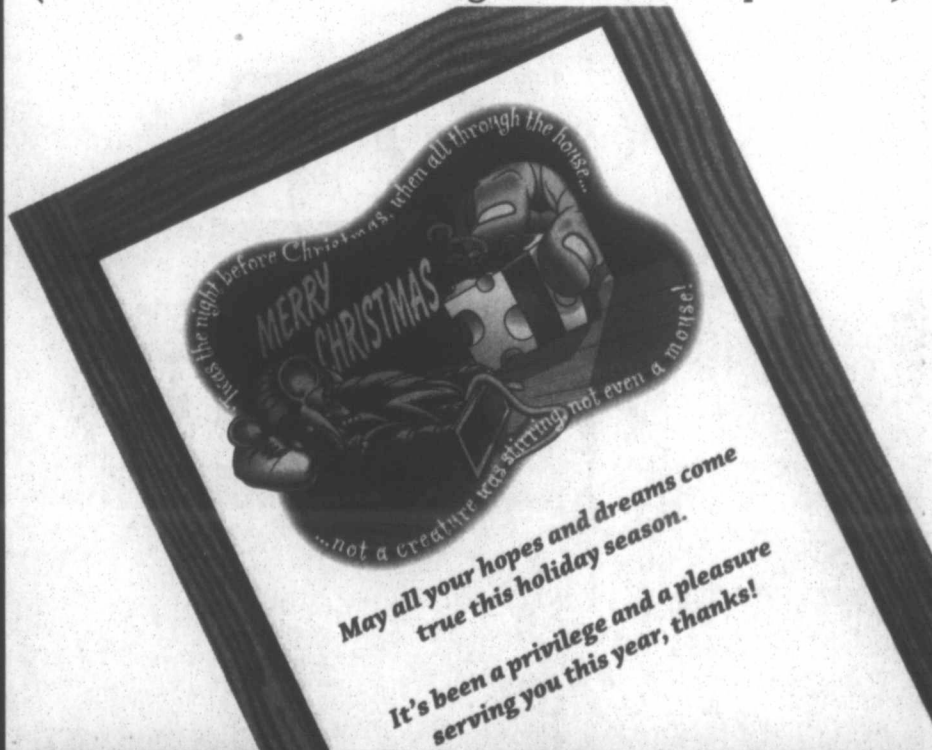
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500 North Summerville Street

Westside Church of Christ
806-665-2572
1612 West Kentucky Avenue

Church of God
Church of God
806-669-6372
1123 Gwendolyn Avenue

Open Door Church of God in Christ
806-665-6132
402 Oklahoma Street

Episcopal
Saint Matthews Episcopal Church
806-665-0701
727 West Browning Avenue

Fellowship Of Christian Assemblies / Non Denominational
Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship
806-669-6915
1733 N. Banks

Fellowship of Christian Ministries
Trinity Fellowship Church
806-665-3255
2225 N. Hobart

Full Gospel
Briarwood Full Gospel Church
806-665-7201
1800 West Harvester Avenue

Independent
Bible Church of Pampa
806-669-2923
200 W. Browning Ave.

The Carpenter's Church
806-663-0732 • 806-669-4711
639 South Barnes St.

International Pentecostal Holiness Church
First Pentecostal Holiness Church
806-665-8192
1700 Alcock

Lutheran
Zion Lutheran Church
806-669-2774
1200 Duncan Street

Methodist
First United Methodist Church
806-669-7411
201 East Foster Avenue

Nazarene
St. Paul United Methodist Church
806-665-8951
511 Hobart

Church of the Nazarene
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Comics

Marmaduke



"Have you seen Marmaduke? He played hooky from school today."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-18

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"If I'm not allowed to touch anything, why am I here?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Crony
 - 1 Planted
 - 6 Yakked it up
 - 11 Jiffy
 - 12 Flared dress
 - 13 Talked at length
 - 14 Pound parts
 - 15 Goal
 - 16 Son-gun connection
 - 18 Monk's title
 - 19 Big head
 - 20 Breath mint holder
 - 21 Smelter's supply
 - 22 Plate metal
 - 24 Had obligations
 - 25 Creator of the Grinch
 - 27 Fearful
 - 29 Country music?
 - 32 Hydro-carbon suffix
 - 33 NBC show since 1975
 - 34 Flamenco call
 - 35 TV spots
 - 36 Pigged out
- DOWN**
- 1 "Silk-wood" star
 - 2 Grove product
 - 3 Store worker
 - 4 Green prefix
 - 5 Signifies
 - 6 Godzilla's home
 - 7 Hearty brew
 - 8 Store passerby
 - 9 Concert bonus
 - 10 Considered
 - 17 Stinging insect
 - 23 Number after due
 - 24 East, in Berlin
 - 26 Set free
 - 27 Shortage
 - 28 Rajiv Gandhi's mother
 - 30 Broadway's Stritch
 - 31 Scuffles
 - 33 Yellow-gray
 - 39 Corn unit
 - 41 Geol. or chem.

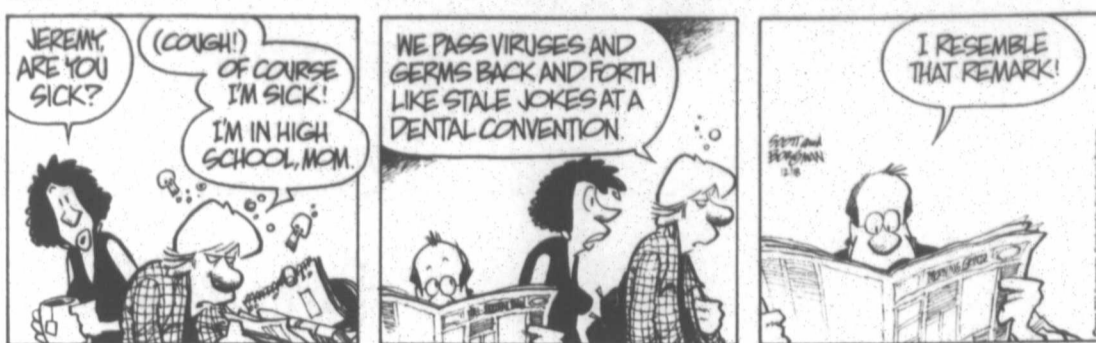
NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19				20				21	
22			23					24	
			25					26	
27	28				29			30	31
32				33				34	
35				36				37	
38				39			40	41	
42							43		
44							45		

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports

The most wonderful time of the year: Bowl Season

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

This Saturday starts one of the most storied sports Christmas time traditions: the college football bowl season. This year's bowl season kicks off with the New Mexico Bowl between the Fresno State Bulldogs and the Wyoming Cowboys at 3:30 p.m.

So, I decided to share my predictions for this year's bowl season or spoil the season finale for 34 teams just kidding. I'm not predicting these games the same way I predicted the Pampa vs. Perryton football game. I used a fool-proof simulation website and simulated each game 100 times. I will do this in two parts. My second part will be published December 28.

Like I said earlier the first bowl game is the New Mexico Bowl. The Bulldogs went 8-4 this season and the Cowboys, my dad's school went 6-6.

The best case scenario for Fresno State is they look like an 8-4 team playing a 6-6 team just happy to be playing in a bowl and win 57-20.

Best case scenario for Wyoming is they play like they did the first half of the season and pull out a squeaker 20-18. But sorry Dad, W-Y-O is not going to win this one Bulldogs take it 35-17.

The next game is the St. Petersburg Bowl which is 7 p.m. Saturday between the Rutgers Scarlet Knights and the University of Central Florida (UCF) Knights.

Not only do both teams

have Knights in their nickname but they are both 8-4.

Rutgers played some tough Big East competition playing Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and West Virginia who have a combined record of 30-6. Their tough season competition propels Rutgers to a 40-23 win.

UCF's competition was no slouch, they faced East Carolina who won Conference USA, Houston who was ranked in the top 25, Miami and No. 2 Texas. UCF is playing close to home so they dominate the Scarlet Knights 32-11. Actually I think it's a close game 23-20 in favor of UCF.

The next game is the New Orleans Bowl which is Saturday between the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders (9-3) and the Southern Miss Golden Eagles (7-5).

Best case scenario for the Blue Raiders is they are two games better than Southern Miss and show it on the field winning 27-10.

Best case scenario for Southern Miss is three words for the Blue Raiders 9-3 record: Sun Belt Conference, Golden Eagles win easy 35-9. Prediction an average Conference USA team edges a solid Sun Belt team 28-24 in favor of Southern Miss.

Tuesday is the Maaco Las Vegas Bowl between the No. 16 Oregon State Beavers (8-4) and the No. 15 Brigham Young (BYU) Cougars (10-2).

This bowl game features two teams that almost made it to the BCS. The Beavers narrowly lost to the Ducks in the season

finale to miss a chance at going to the Rose Bowl. BYU lost to TCU who is playing in the Fiesta Bowl.



Andrew Glover

The Poinsettia Bowl on Wednesday also features a Pac-10 vs. Mountain West matchup with the California Golden Bears (8-4) representing the Pac-10 and the No. 23 Utah Utes (9-3) representing the Mountain West.

Best case scenario for the Golden Bears is they easily beat Utah who lost all three of their toughest games 25-3. This game won't be a blow out and Cal pulls out a one-point victory 23-22.

The Hawaii Bowl which will be played on Christmas Eve features the Nevada Wolfpack (8-4) and the Southern Methodist (SMU) Mustangs.

SMU is back in a bowl game for the first time since 1984. The Wolfpack have been to bowl games before and was one of the few teams that played close with undefeated Boise State.

With that said Nevada beats an inexperienced SMU 59-18.

Best case scenario for SMU is they play fired up being in their first bowl game and with a state champion quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell who went to Katy, hunt down the Wolfpack 44-41.

My actual prediction is Nevada will make plays when it counts and will win 41-22.

December 26 will have three bowl games starting with the Little Caesars Bowl at 1 p.m. between the Ohio Bobcats (9-4) and the Marshall Thundering Herd (6-6).

Best case scenario for Ohio is they play like a 9-4 team and crush Marshall 29-3.

Best case scenario for Marshall is they play inspired football like they did in the movie We are Marshall, and beat a team from the Mediocre Athletic Conference, oh I mean the Mid-American Conference 29-17.

But in all actuality Ohio is the better team and pulls out a close one 24-17.

Next is the Meinke Car Care Bowl at 3:30 p.m. with the North Carolina Tar Heels (8-4) and the No. 17 Pittsburgh Panthers (9-3).

Best case scenario for the Tar Heels is they are not playing far from home and are playing a Pittsburgh team that is still reeling from being an extra point short from a BCS Bowl easily dismantling Pittsburgh 29-10.

Best scenario for the Panthers is they come into the game fired up about their loss to Cincinnati and take it out on the Tar Heels winning 41-17.

But again I don't see this being a blow out, and the snap is good, the hold is good, Pitt wins with a last second field goal 24-22.

The final day after Christmas bowl, is the Emerald bowl between the Boston College Eagles (8-4) and USC Trojans (8-4).

The Trojans aren't in a BCS bowl for the first time since 2001. The USC team that lost to Oregon, and Stanford will come to play leading to a 23-12 win for the Eagles.

Best case scenario for the Trojans is they look like the USC we've seen between 2002-2008 and shoot down the Eagles 46-17.

But Carson Palmer, Matt Leinart and Mark Sanchez aren't playing quarterback for the Trojans and they don't have Reggie Bush in the backfield. However, USC wins a close one 24-17.

On December 27 is the Music City bowl between the Kentucky Wildcats (7-5) and the Clemson Tigers (8-5).

Best case scenario for Kentucky is they are playing a Clemson team that couldn't pull the upset on Georgia Tech and with the tough SEC competition

they played they cage the Tigers 23-13.

Best case scenario for Clemson is they play like a team that almost beat the No. 7 ranked team in the nation and run all over the Wildcats 38-8.

Kentucky will play tough but won't make enough plays to win and will be Clemson's tiger bait losing 28-19.

To close out part one the Georgia Bulldogs (7-5) and the Texas A&M Aggies (6-6) play in the Independence Bowl December 28.

Best case scenario for the Aggies is they play like they unfortunately did when they played my school Texas Tech and end the season with a 35-25 win.

Best case scenario for Georgia is A&M plays like the team that lost to Kansas State (62-14) and Oklahoma (65-10) and the Bulldogs run loose in a 52-21 victory.

To be as accurate as possible Tech was one of the few teams A&M beat with a winning record but this is not the Matthew Stafford led Bulldogs either. Georgia wins 35-25.

So that wraps up part one of my predictions. So some of my predictions you are probably wanting to repeat College Gameday's Lee Corso's famous phrase "not so fast my friend."

So feel free to email me your picks. Enjoy the college football season and best of luck to your teams. Part two will be published December 28.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are involved in a power struggle with my brother. At Christmas we invite him and his family to our home. We try to make our Christmas dinner fun and festive, so a lot of planning goes into the menu.

Every year, a day or two before the event, my brother calls to ask what's on the menu, then offers his unwanted opinion on what we should or shouldn't serve.

Last year he told me he wouldn't be able to enjoy the meal because we weren't serving one of the items he feels is "traditional" in our family. He says he's family so he's entitled to make suggestions. I'm on the verge of not inviting his family in the future. Who is right? -- OFFENDED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR OFFENDED: You are. Your brother may be family, but his behavior is childish and impolite. When he calls this year and starts the drill, if he tells you he doesn't think he will enjoy the meal if he can't dictate the menu, serve him a dose of reality. Tell him that your menu is already set and if he wants something in addition he can prepare it and bring it with him -- or make other plans.

DEAR ABBY: When my in-laws moved to town, we exchanged keys in case of emergencies. The problem is they never call prior to using our key. Although they do nice things, like dropping off gifts or plants, when I see something on the counter that wasn't there before I left home, I feel invaded. They drop off these "presents" specifically when no one is home.

Abby, they are retired and could drop things off when we are home and the children can see them and

visit with them.

I was taught not to use a key unless specifically instructed to do so or for an emergency. My husband thinks my feelings are off base and that family is forgiven for almost everything. I am about to change the locks. -- INVADED IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR INVADED: Before changing the locks, have a chat with your in-laws and explain that coming home and finding things that weren't there when you left makes you uncomfortable. Tell them you would prefer they not come in without giving you prior notice. If your wishes are disregarded, then change the locks.

DEAR ABBY: Please settle a dispute between me and my husband. I became upset when we were discussing an idea having to

do with his job and he immediately began texting it to a co-worker. I find it offensive when someone looks at his (or her) cell phone rather than at me while we're talking.

My husband says if you text someone during a conversation that it's not an interruption and "it only takes a second." I say texting in the middle of any conversation is rude, regardless of its relevance of brevity. Please advise. -- TO TEXT OR NOT TO TEXT IN BOULDER, COLO.

DEAR T.T. OR NOT T.T.: I agree with you. But if your husband doesn't want to hear it from you, I guarantee he'll resist accepting the message from me. Taking "just a sec" to dash off a text -- or read one -- may be convenient, but it's impolite to the person you're with.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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