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Special Issue

Road conditions were abominable simply Thursday morning as winds gusting over 30 mph causing low to zero visibility conditions beginning in the pre-dawn hours and lasting until after noon.

At press time I-40 eastbound was closed at mile marker 121, near the intersection on SH 70 south due to white-out conditions Thursday morning.

· SH 60 was listed as having low visibility due to blowing snow, travel with caution.

• I-40 Low visibility due to blowing snow, travel

with caution. Patches of ice and snow are present. • SH 70 Low visibility due to blowing snow, travel with

All other roads in the county had the same conditions posted.

Police scanners crackled all morning with crashes and drivers sliding off the road. Several commercial trucks reportedly were turned over or jackknifed throughout the morning.

Emergency personnel traveled from one call to the next and there was an unconfirmed report of a Highway Patrol Trooper

sustaining an injury at an accident scene. The injury was not believed to be seri-

All non-emergency travel is discouraged until after the winds abate.

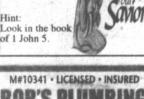




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A few business owners braved the cold and wind early Christmas Eve morning, like at Meija's Bakery on Foster, to salt or sand the walkways in Pampa.

Scrooge, all jazzed up

Massive storm disrupts travel

(AP) - Christmas Eve winter storm travel delays hit Texas and prompted Gov. Rick Perry to activate emergency resources.

Perry on Thursday afternoon activated some military personnel and high profile vehicles, as a precaution, to assist motorists. Perry cited blizzard conditions on stretches of Highway 84.

The National Weather Service Thursday morning issued blizzard warnings for parts of the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, North Dakota and Minnesota.

An advisory Thursday for Houston's Hobby Airport cited weather problems and low visibility affecting traffic bound for the Dallas area, with delays topping two hours.

American Airlines, with its main hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, offered customers the chance to change their weather-affected flights Thursday with no penalty.

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines advised travelers to be aware of possible delays or cancellations, especially in storm-swept areas such as Minneapolis, Kansas City and Omaha, Neb. A city statement said most flights at Wichita

Falls Municipal Airport were canceled Thursday, as temperatures dipped below freezing and snow Slippery roads were blamed for at least 12 deaths

and officials cautioned they would only get worse, particularly after dark.

Winter storm warnings were in effect across the staff photo by Betsy Phillips the Plains and the Midwest, with a foot or two

STORM cont. on page 3



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Olive Bugbee home near Clarendon. Bugbee was a famed, prolific western artist whose family members were early settlers in the region. Olive, his wife, also was an accomplished artist.

Texas will

audit the state's beleaguered food stamp program in an effort to improve accuracy

and efficiency in processing applications.

Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Tom Suehs requested the

audit in an effort to "fix our system so that

State Auditor John Keel on Wednesday said the review will include an examina-

tion of food stamp operations in other parts

of the country in an effort to improve the

Federal law requires that applicants be processed within 30 days. More than 40

it works for everyone."

STAMPS cont. on page 3

There were 1,400

books in boxes and more

being packed to go in Bill Green's office recently, but

he doesn't hesitate to give

an energetic tour through

thousands of artifacts deep

within the Panhandle-

Plains Historical Museum.

women, but I chase his-

After 17 years as the

curator of history at the

museum, Green retired

The first stop on the tour

was a room housing the

contents of the Harold and

tory," he said.

recently.

"Some men chase

Texas system.

"We even found an antique potty chair with antique toilet paper," Green said, raising the seat's wooden lid to show off the paper. "This collection is so fun."

It's also large. There are about 350,000 pieces in the history collection, not counting those from the Bugbee home. It includes

everything from furniture belonging to pioneering cattleman Charles Goodnight to Charlie, the first mascot of what became West Texas A&M University.

The story is, Charlie got loose and the football team chased him. But the run ended with the buffalo felled by a heart attack, Green said. So somebody stuffed him, and students still took him to football games in the back of a truck.

"Everything has a story,"

That's even true for an

museum curator Green retires oversized wooden treadmill.

> "A big dog walked on it to turn the mechanism to wash clothes," Green said. The dog apparently

> learned Monday meant wash day and started disappearing from Sunday to Tuesday, he said. "So they bought a goat to do it."

Green moves at a crisp pace through the two museum basements, darting through forests of shelves filled with yesterday, all of it sorted and tagged. Green, 66, remembers

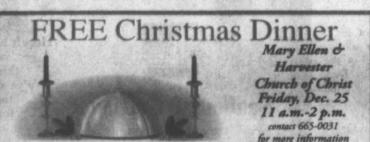
reading mysteries in his youth and thinks that might have been an indicator he would grow to thrive on solving mysteries when documenting artifacts.

"He digs for the details," said Guy C. Vanderpool, executive director of the museum. "He's very methodical and covers all the angles of an exhibit. He also has the ability to tell a story, to weave a good narrative."

He plans to put those skills to work in another venue, starting a consulting business based in Canyon to help other museums bet-

MUSEUM cont. on page 3







# For the record

#### PAMPA FORECAST







Low 16

Low 18

Low 21

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 12. Wind chill values between 3 and 8. North northwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. Wind chill values between 3 and 13. West northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. Wind chill values between 4 and 14. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

around 18. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest. Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39.

Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. North northwest wind around 5

() This information brought to you by...



# Katherine Lyons Jones, 84

Pampa— Katherine Lyons Jones, 84, died December 23, 2009, in

Services will be 10 Saturday, December 26, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Dan Kovaly, associate pastor of First Christian Church, officiat-

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

Mrs. Jones was born March 14, 1925 in Elk City, Oklahoma. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1969. She married Roy Jones on August 16, 1976 in Pampa. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Christian Church.

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THERE WILL not be a Pampa Newspaper delivered on Fri. Dec. 25 or the Weekend edition Dec. 26 / 27, so that Pampa News employees may enjoy the Christmas holiday with family & friends. Merry Christmas

Way.



Survivors include her husband, Roy Jones of the home; a son: Alton Orin Lyons of Atoka, Oklahoma; a daughter, Hersheline Knight of Midland; two sisters, Wanda Jean Salsman of Pampa and Margaret Hunt of Elk City, Oklahoma; three grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild. Mrs. Jones was preceded in death by two grandsons, Mike Lyons on July 1, 1993, and Darrin Knight on September 16, 2000; and 2 brothers: Elmon Music and Abe Music.

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

# **Obituaries**

# Bonnie Wheat, 88

Mifflintown, Bonnie Wheat, 88, died December 18, 2009, in Mifflintown, PA.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, December 28, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, Texas, with Rev. D. D. "Buddy" Wheat, her son, and pastor of Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church of Mifflintown, and East Waterford Presbyterian Church of East Waterford, officiating.

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

Wheat Mrs. was born March 10, 1921 in Hopkins County, Texas to Valentine and Minnie Selina Tabor Wheat. She was a 1939 graduate of Miller Grove High School in Miller Grove, Texas. During World War II, she served her country in the capacity of a quality control inspector of five-inch naval gun ammunition at the Red River Arsenal

PA- Plant in Red River, Texas. She married Dewey D. Wheat, Sr., on October 23, 1948 in Mission, Texas. He preceded her in death on January 18, 1974. She came to Pampa in June of 1960 from the Rio Grande Valley. She and her husband owned and operated Wheat's Jewelry Store in Pampa, Texas, after which she worked at various grocery stores in the Pampa area.

Bonnie enjoyed cut work embroidery, watching Fox TV news, and doing word find puzzles. Since moving to Mifflintown, she found that scenic Pennsylvania gave her great joy, especially the local sights of Juniata County and Gettysburg. Most of all, she loved people, no matter where she met them.

She was currently a member of the Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, Academia, and a former member of the Miller Grove United Methodist Church, Miller Grove, Texas. She also held memberships with the Pampa Chapter #65 Order

Javis, 66, Joanne L

Pampa— Joanne Davis, 66, died in December 23, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas. Services in pending with Carmichael-Whatley

Funeral Directors. Mrs. Davis was born February 16, 1943 in Harrisburg, Arkansas, graduating from high school in Nucla, Colorado. She married Everett Davis on May 25, 1961 in Grand Junction, Colorado. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1965, working for Dr. Juan and later insurance claims clerk. In Davis in 1995. her spare time, she liked to MEMORIALS sew, crochet, and cook, and she loved to read. She was a loving wife and mother and she will be greatly

Survivors include her husband: Everett Davis of the home; a son: Mike Davis of Las Vegas, Nevada; 3 sisters: Maggie

Lemons and husband Bill of Cortez, Colorado, Janet Woods and husband Noel of Riverton, Wyoming, and Finnis Barnes and husband Tom of Nucla, Colorado; 6 brothers: Larry Clark, Bo Clark and wife Lynn of Green River, Wyoming, Ernie Clark, Billy Clark and wife Debbie of Naturita, Colorado, Paul Clark and wife Shannon of Blanding, Utah, and Bob Clark and wife Onie of Grand Junction, Colorado. She was preceded in death Family Medicine Center by a sister: Tiny Burbridge; for over 20 years as an and a son: Mark Wayne

> Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund, c/o Dr. Paul Armes, Wayland Baptist University, 1900 West Seventh Street, CMB 781, Plainview, Texas 79072-6998.

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

of the Eastern Star, Pampa Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, and the VFW Post 1657, Pampa Post Ladies Auxiliary.

Survivors include twosons, Rev. D. D. "Buddy" Wheat, Jr. (Colonel, U. S. Army, retired) and his wife Gayle Miller Wheat of Mifflintown, and Joe Don Wheat of New Orleans, Louisiana; a brother: David Wheat of Mabank, Texas; a sister: Della Lone of Sulphur Springs, Texas; 3 grandchildren: Jason S. Thomas and wife Sharon, Justin S. Fortner and Jeffrey S. Fortner, all of Pampa, Texas; and 5 greatgrandchildren. Bonnie was preceded in death by 4 brothers: Jefferson Wheat, Asberry Wheat, Alvin Wheat, and John Wheat; and 3 sisters: Velma Pippin, Rose Wenglasz and Emily Wheat, in infancy.

MEMORIALS: Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 54 Church Road, Mifflintown, Pennsylvania



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17058, or the Miller Grove United Methodist Church, attn: Mary Lou Akins, 14480 FM 1567, West Cumby, Texas 75433.

NOTICE: SPECIAL Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 9:30 AM until service time on Monday, December 28,

Online condolences may be sent to www.carmichael-whatley.com or www.brownfuneralhomesinc.com

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# Texan gets back wedding ring lost in Wales

happy to have the ring in time for his 35th anniversary on Jan. 4.

The 56-year-old is on overseas assignment for Industrial Scientific Corp. of Pittsburgh, Pa., but was spending Christmas at home in Texas.

Mondy told The Associated Press that he lost the ring in September while he and his wife toured the

#### ODESSA, Texas (AP) — A Texan whose wedding band flew off as he grabbed his wind-blown hat while atop a castle tower in Wales has the ring back. Carl Mondy of Odessa on Thursday said he is

Caernarfon Castle.

Mondy left his contact information at the castle. The couple planned to buy a replacement band when they were contacted in late November to say another castle visitor found the ring.



# THE PAMPA NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas: Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two of more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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# Storm

of snow possible in some areas by Christmas Day.

Scott Blair, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Topeka, Kan., said the wind was becoming a serious issue in central Kansas, with wind speeds opf up to 25 mph and gusts reaching 40 mph.

"The wind is killer, especially when you're empty," trucker Jim Reed said during a stop in Omaha, Neb. "Anything that's boxed, like a refrigerator trailer dike I have ... becomes like a giant sail in the wind."

Reed said he was heading to Lincoln to pick up a load of beef before he could start his long holiday weekend.

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availtions In eastern Kansas, Tony Glaum was traveling with his wife and daughter to his parents' home north of Manhattan. He said they were thinking about staying overnight, rather than making their usual Christmas Eve trip back home.

Glaum, Leavenworth, said he didn't have any delays — until he found himself behind a plow salting the highway. He and his daughter noticed a biting chill in the air.

"You can certainly feel the air. It feels like it's stirred up in a weird way," he said. "It just feels wrong."

Still, he said, he's looking forward to a white Christmas: "I think snow would be pretty nice."

Nearly 100 scheduled flights from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport were canceled Thursday and dozens more were delayed. The Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City shut down one of its three runways and canceled nearly 30

Many travelers took the disruptions in stride.

David Teater, 58, and Aaron Mayfield, 29, both of Minneapolis, were flying to Los Angeles on their way to Australia for a diving vacation. They had given themselves an extra day for travel, expecting they would be delayed somewhere along the way, and arrived at the Minneapolis airport with reading material and extra snacks.

"I'm thinking the runway should be cleared," Teater predicted.

Nick Shogren, 56, and his 17-year-old daughter, Sophie, of Park Rapids, Minn., were flying to Cancun, Mexico, for a 10-day vacation in Isla Mujeres. They drove to Minneapolis on Wednesday, their usual three-hour drive taking an extra hour because of the

cont. from page 1 snowstorm, and stayed at

a hotel. Shogren said they were looking forward to doing nothing but relaxing "if we can just get out of here."

The storm began in the southwest - where blizzard-like conditions shut down roads and caused a pileup involving 20 vehicles in Arizona on Tuesday and spread east and north, causing weather advisories from the Rocky Mountains

to Lake Michigan. Slick, icy roads were blamed for accidents that killed at six people in Nebraska, four in Kansas, one in Minnesota and one near Albuquerque, N.M. South of Phoenix, a dust storm set off a series of collisions that killed at least three people Tuesday.

Strong winds and ice caused power outages in Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa.

The storm forced the closure of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota and led Gov. Mike Rounds to cancel travel plans and stay in Pierre for Christmas. Rounds declared a state of emergency Tuesday before the storm even hit.

On Thursday, the governor warned people not to be deceived by the lull in the storm, promising "it will get here.

# Obituary

# LaDelle Maher, 88

Pampa— LaDelle Maher, 88, died December 24, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2009, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Monty Joiner from Wells Street Church of Christ, officiat-

Entombment will be in Memory Gardens Mausoleum, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Maher was born January 18, 1921 in Wellington to Verna and Effie Fewell. She married Jim Maher on December 5, 1942 in Big Spring. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1945. LaDelle was a legal secretary for the late Judge Don Cain, retiring after 22 years of service. She loved her family very much and she was a member of Wells Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband, James E. Maher, Sr., of the home; three sons, James "Jim" E. Maher, Jr., and wife Linda of Piedmont, Oklahoma, David Charles Maher and wife Pam of Amarillo, and Timothy Howard Maher of Fort Worth; five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 3 brothers: Robert F. Fewell, Herbert L. Fewell and Vernon J. Fewell; and a sister: Norma Jean Mask.

MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

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

# Stamps

cont. from page 1

percent of the Texas applicants are not added 674 employees this fall to help proprocessed within the monthlong period. Keel offered no time frame for the audit. HHS spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman says the department in recent months

cess applications.

Share your blizzard photos! E-mail your storm related photos to editor@thepampanews.com, so we can share them

# Museum

ter document and display their pieces of the past.

There's also a book about the construction of the Texas Capitol to finish, contract work for Panhandle-Plains, and other work to do. Then there's the personal col-

Green doesn't leave his drive at the office. He owns

at least 1,000 Texas-related cookbooks, and many pieces of his collection of promotional and commemorative items for the Alamo contribute to a current exhibit at the Canyon museum. It examines how the battle at the Texas shrine is remembered since there's no reliable history

of the epic clash there.

cont. from page 1 "It's my last exhibit here," he said.

Upon his retirement, the museum created the title of curator emeritus for Green in honor of his career and retirement.

"He's very dedicated and professional in all he does," Vanderpool said. "He's well-respected in the

# with your community!

May the magic of the season make all your dreams come true.



Pampa Realty Inc.

# Census shows Texas population figures up

Texas is the nation's fastest-growing state by the numbers with a population of about 24.8 million.

New Census Bureau figures show California remains the most populous state, with 37 million, followed by Texas, New

York, Florida and Illinois.

Texas gained more people than any other state between July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, adding about 478,000. The Texas increase for the period is comparable to the popula-

tion of Omaha, Neb. Census figures show

the U.S. population, as of Thursday, topped 308 mil-

Director Robert Groves says this week's update is the final set of state population estimates that will be published before the official 2010 count.

Happy Holidays!!!



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HN T. KING & SONS...

# Wishing you the peace of the season

BY RANDY PRIBBLE rpribble@thepampanews.com

"I don't really like the Christmas holiday," said a lady in a conversation in the adjacent room.

I didn't mean to eavesdrop, but it was impossible not to hear.

She was telling someone that her children were grown and that many family members and friends had passed away. The holiday season, she said, brings with it many memories and difficult emo-

I don't know her, but I've thought about her often the past few days.

My wife Sue and I are old enough to have lost friends and loved ones.

And while we are in constant contact with our two grown girls and our granddaughter, circumstances have dictated that this will be the first Christmas that we have been separated from them by distance. That is something new and unpleasant for us.

Still, we count our blessings.

It is easy to find people in our community who struggle to make ends meet.

We all know people who have lost their jobs recently or who work for companies who have cut back hours and benefits.

We all know people whose loved ones in uniform will be spending the holidays in a war zone.

We all know elderly people who are simply

I've always thought Christmas was a melancholy season and I haven't changed my mind as I've grown older.

Christians rejoice in the birth of Christ and what that gift meant for humankind.

But we also know the rest of the story and its human side - the life facing that little child and the pain and sacrifice he will choose to endure to give hope to the world.

As we grow older, we begin to understand the fact that life, good health and family and friends truly are gifts to be enjoyed while we can.

If you have paid attention over the past few weeks, you have seen your neighbors in Pampa

reach out to try to make life a bit happier for others.

This community is filled with people, organizations and churches who donate an incredible amount of time and money to put gifts under the tree for needy children, food on the table for people who need a helping hand, or counseling for families

If you were at the right place at the right time, you could have seen high school students take time to go shopping with young children to help them buy gifts for their families; families who otherwise might have little to share on Christmas morning.

You could have seen people, who obviously could ill afford it, drop money in a Salvation Army bucket with a smile and a Merry Christmas.

You could have seen countless other unreported selfless acts of kindness by your friends and neigh-

Does any of this solve all of our problems? Of course not.

Jesus told us that the poor will be with us always.

Does any of this make a difference? Of course it does.

What is more important to us in our lives - the big events, or the people who have been kind to us, who have shared time with us and shown us love?

Those teen-agers may not realize it now, but that small act of kindness might be embedded in a child's memory.

I've never received a gift that was as valuable to me as the memories of baking cookies with my two young daughters or going fishing with my grandpa, or hearing "I love you" from my wife.

It is one of the ironies of life that sometimes we begin to truly appreciate these things far too late to say "thank you" or to make amends for all the mistakes we make in our relationships.

So yes, I understand how the lady in the next room could find Christmas a difficult time.

I hope she has a friend or pastor to confide in.

I hope she has enough good memories locked away to offset the pain.

I hope she finds the peace that is the promise of the season.

# Commentary

# Better watch out! Don't drink and Drive. Arrive alive.



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With the Holiday's approaching I want to stress to the community if they plan on drinking to please be responsible and don't drive drunk. If caught you can face a minimum of 72 hours in jail and your license suspended for up to 180 days. We will be out in full force and there will be zero tolerance so don't drive drunk or you WILL go to jail. To report a drunk driver call (806) 669-5700 ext 259

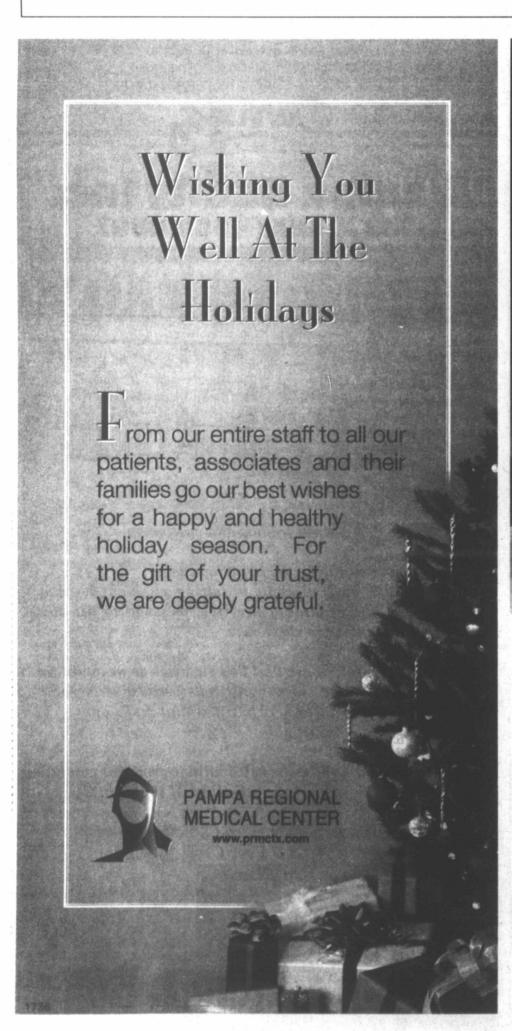
The Pampa News staff wishes you a merry and safe Christmas

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# Old Texas mission ranch buried in funding limbo

FLORESVILLE, Texas (AP) — Ruins that archeologists call one of the last links to the original ranches and cowboys that shaped Texas have been kept behind a gate, literally buried, for more than two decades — awaiting the funding that would allow people to see them.

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The 18th-century Rancho de las Cabras complex, with its stone building remains, was a birthplace of the large commercial ranching operations that would help define the state. Preservationists have long hoped it could be fully excavated and opened to the public, but so far, the site has been unable to attract the money it would need from Congress or the National Park Service's stretched budget.

"It's one of these kind of once-in-a-lifetime sites. You're not going to be able to see something like this anywhere in the world," said National Park Service Archaeologist Susan Snow. "The mission ranches brought what we know today as the modern cattle industry."

The 100-acre site about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio was donated 32 years ago to the state, which handed it to the National Park Service nearly 15 years ago as an addition to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Texas park officials realized in the 1980s that they

couldn't afford to protect the ruins, so they covered the walls with sand in an effort to prevent them from disintegrating before archaeologists could fully document and shore up the site. Until a month ago, no one had seen them since.

Archaeologists from the National Park Service and the University of Texas-San Antonio removed some of the sand to see how the walls were holding up and found them — some several feet high with their mortar disintegrated — still standing.

There is still no money to preserve the site, so the park service reburied the walls to protect them from the elements and the feral hogs that roam the area.

Park Superintendent Scott Bentley estimates it would take \$3 million to \$4 million to preserve and open the site to the public. It would cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually to operate it. Plans were drawn up a decade ago and missions park officials hoped their request would soon be funded.

But the site is in a queue with other proposed projects, and so far Rancho de las Cabras has received funding only for relatively modest road improvements or maintenance. Otherwise, it needs a congressional appropriation—something National Park Service employees are barred from directly lob-



Archaeologists Cody Miller, left, and Lindy Martinez, right, take measurements of a wall at Rancho de las Cabras, a birthplace of Texas' ranching industry dating back roughly 250, in Floresville. Archaeologists say the 100-acre site is the last remaining link to the original ranches and cowboys that shaped Texas, but it remains mostly hidden, waiting for preservation and development that would allow visitors to enjoy it. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

bying for.

Rancho de las Cabras, like other mission ranches in south Texas, was built by the Spaniards as a source of wealth for its mission community, Mission Espada.

The missions were founded to turn indigenous tribes into Spanish citizens, and the communities were built with farms and ranches to offer financial support and protection from the raiding Apache and Comanche Indians. Each mission had a prominent church, since

the native residents had to convert to Catholicism to become Spanish citizens.

The ranches were used to graze cattle, goats and sheep. The Spanish transplants and Indian converts who drove herds to the mission compounds for slaughter every 10 days were Texas' first cowboys, Snow said.

Each of the five missions clustered along the San Antonio River, including the Alamo, had its own ranch. Rancho de las

Cabras, or "goat ranch," had 1,272 head of cattle and 4,000 sheep and goats at its peak in 1762. It supported about 170 people at Mission Espada.

As the ranches became part of larger tracts in Texas' flourishing ranching industry, the remnants of most mission ranch buildings and artifacts vanished to the elements and looters.

But Rancho de las Cabras had more than simple adobe or wooden structures for shelter. It had permanent buildings including a chapel and four adjoining rooms started in the 1750s with sandstone quarried at the site. The chapel, which the archaeologists did not uncover last month, is believed to have been plastered — a mark of a more sophisticated development.

Archaeologists have also found remnants of some unexpected items at the site, including decorated ceramics and rings with gems — "things you wouldn't expect a cowboy to have," Snow said. There is also a packed clay floor in the compound, like a patio, another relative luxury for a ranching outpost, she said.

That has led to suggestions that the ranch, which sits 25 miles from Espada and at the confluence of the San Antonio River and Pecosa Creek, could have served passing travelers or had another use in addition to providing food for its mission community, Snow said.

"This was an extraordinary operation," Bentley said, looking at the remnants of the stone walls that were being covered again. "It's one of those hidden treasures."

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



Your patronage is greatly appreciated and I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

God Bless! Regina Woods SHEAR ELEGANCE

# Sonic will be open Christmas Day 1PM-11PM!

Need a last minute gift idea? Get a My Sonic Gift Card!



# Calvary Assembly of God

The Church Built on Love

Service Times
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Children's Church 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wed. Service 7:00 pm

Pastor Karel & Vanissa Cantrell
P.O. Box 1837 • 1030 Love • Pampa, Tx 79066 • (806) 669-7207

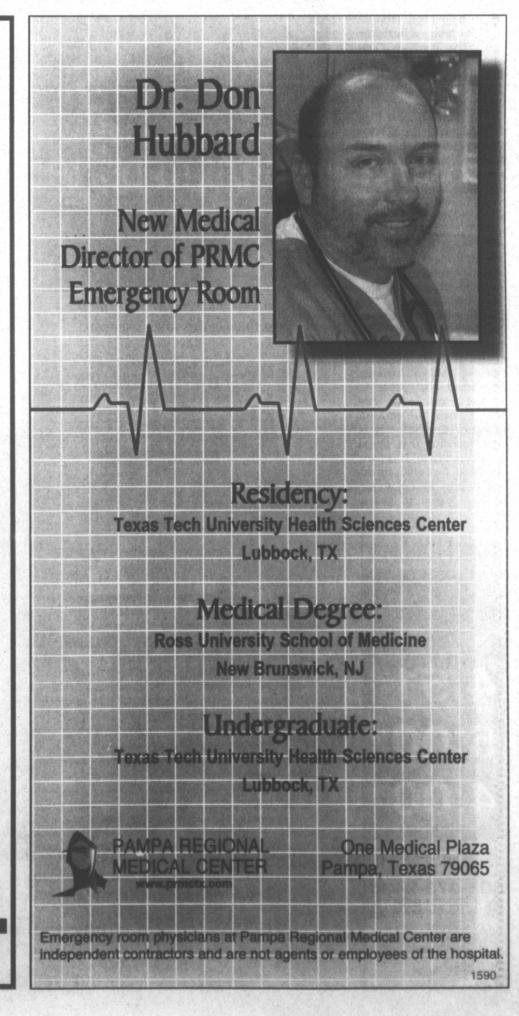
# THINKING & YOU

We're making a list of all the people we'd like to send a big thanks to this year and your name is on it!

With best wishes for a very joyous and merry season from all of us to all of you.

# **Triangle Well Service**





# **Opinion**

# Remembering others this Christmas season

BY U.S. SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

It is fitting that we celebrate this joyous holiday season as the calendar comes to a close. It gives us a chance to reflect on the many blessings we've enjoyed over the past year. The greatest gift nearly all of us experience is the comfort, support, and love of our families. Our moms and dads, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and especially our children, give us so much joy, and the holidays give us a glorious chance to share new memories with them that will last a lifetime.

2009 has been a year filled with many challenges. Nearly every Texan has someone in their family, their neighborhood, or their place of worship who has lost a job and is looking for work. And while the economy began to show some growth in the third quarter, it seems likely that high unemployment and economic uncertainty will continue through most of 2010. During times of hardship like these, we are reminded once again that "no man or woman is an island" and our lives are connected to one another.

We must also be willing to lend a helping hand to strangers. For those of us who have been given much, much is expected. The birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago is a beacon to all of God's children to "love one another, even as I have loved you" and "by this, all men will know that you are My disciples." (John 13:34-35)

There are many excellent Texas charities worthy of a thoughtful donation, including the Houstonbased Collaborative for Children, which is working to help local families rebuild from Hurricane Ike. The Boys & Girls Club, which has scores of branches across our state, is a first-class organization that is inspiring young men and women to achieve their full potential. The USO is also an indispensable organization that provides vital assistance to Texas' heroes and their families. Every day, almost 150 troops arrive at DFW Airport, and the USO is there to welcome them home. They are always looking for volunteers, especially during this time of year.

As we wake up on Christmas morning, unwrap the presents beneath our tree, and take pictures of the special moments that will last a lifetime, we should also pause to remember our brave men and women in uniform and their families. It is their sacrifice that keeps us safe and free. It is their patriotism that gives us the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season in peace.

on our traditions, they stand vigilant thousands of miles away from their loved ones. And since they are serving in active warzones, fighting terrorists and jihadists, there is the always the danger that at any moment they may be forced to make the greatest sacrifice of all.

As 2009 draws to a close, and a new year beckons before us, we should look forward to unexpected opportunities while also bracing for unique challenges. It is essential, however, that we approach the unknown with a spirit of optimism, hope, and resilience. As President Reagan once said, "No weapon in the arsenal of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have." That was true in President Reagan's time, and it is just as true today.

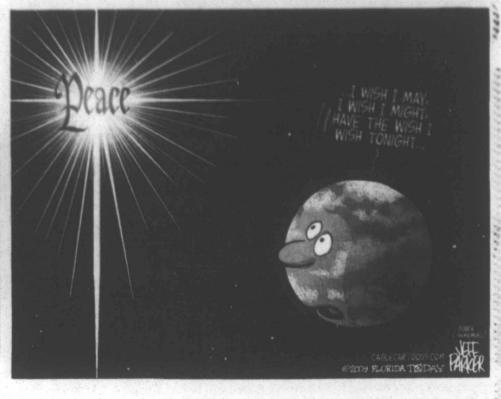
I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas, New Year, and holiday season. This is a time for peo-



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

ple of all faiths in this great nation to come together as one. As long as God affords me the privilege, I pledge to keep working for Texas and America, advocating the ideas and principles that have made our state and country great for two centuries. And I will never forget: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son...not to judge the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:16-17).

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.







We know it gives us a lift to serve you.

Many thanks for your loyal support.



Merry Christmas from Shaun, Edetta, Jeff, Ben, and Monty.



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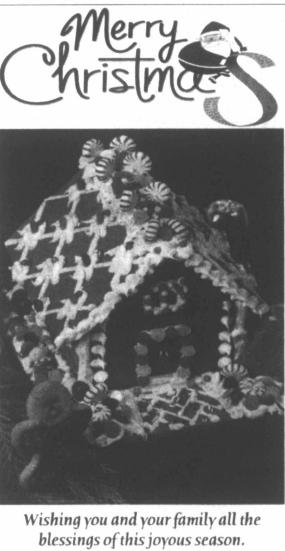
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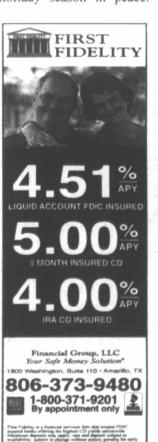
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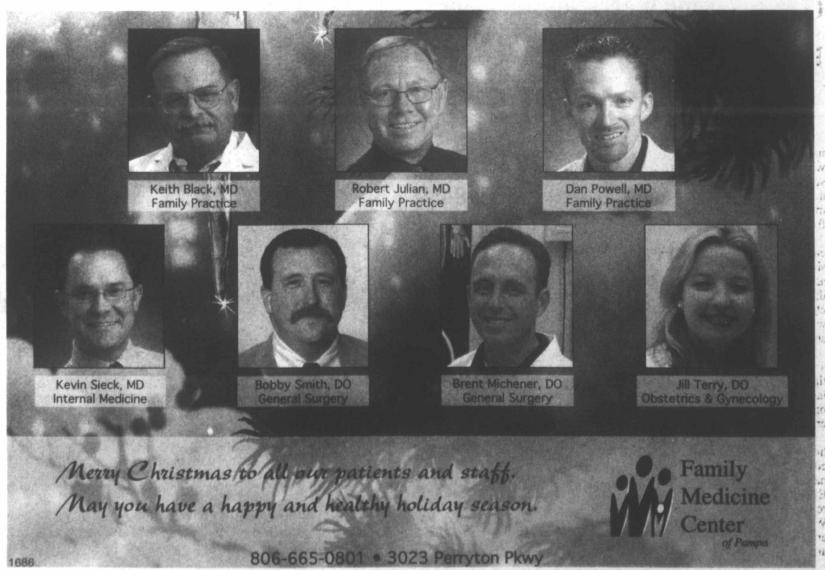
(806) 665-4851 • 217 E. Atchison • Pampa, TX



From your friends at KEYES PHARMACY

(806) 669-1202 928 N. HOBART PAMPA, TX





Gingerbread



Dorothy Vaughn and Joyce Elliot of Meredith house with gingerbread houses they decorated for the holiday.

# Weekly menus

Tator tots

Green beans

Pinto beans

Tossed salad

cherry cheesecake

Boston cream pie or

Hot rolls or Cornbread

Wednesday

Roast beef brisket/

Mashed potatoes

Brown gravy or Cook's

Cole slaw

Jello salad

Creamed corn

#### Pampa Senior Citizens

Monday Chicken Fried Steak or Chicken & Dumplings Mashed potatoes Spinach Beets

Northern beans Cole slaw Tossed salad Jello salad French Vanilla cake or Chocolate pie

Tuesday Tilapia Filets/Garden

Hot Rolls or combread

Pampa Meals

Monday

Tuesday

Chicken Spaghetti

Mixed Vegetables

Garlic Bread

Sausage/Rice

Pineapple

on Wheels

blend rice or Goulash

Casserole

choice

Peas

Carrots

Butter beans

**Tossed Salad** 

Cole slaw

Pears Cornbread Salad

Wednesday Oven-Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Jello

Green beans/ Tomatoes

Jello Salad German upsidedown cake or blackberry cobbler Hot rolls or Cornbread

Thursday Chicken Strips or BBQ beef/onion rings Mashed potatoes Turnip greens Black eyed peas Cole slaw Tossed salad Jello salad Funfetti cake or tapioca

Friday Closed for New Years Day!

**Thursday** Swedish Meatballs Over Noodles Lima Beans Carrots Applesauce

Friday Closed Holiday

# Pampa native becomes master plumber

At the age of 21, William Bridgeman successfully completed his Texas Master Plumbing exam. William and his grandfather, Bill Bridgeman, traveled to Austin last week for testing

William has worked with his grandfather well before the age of 16 when he was old enough to become an Apprentice in 2004. In 2008 he had accumulated the mandatory 8,000 hours to sit for his Journeyman's license test. After working one year as a Journeyman Plumber, he qualified to take the Master Plumbing exam on December 9th.

Bridgeman is the son of Yvonne Bridgeman, and the grandson of Bill, Sandi, and Linda Bridgeman of Pampa. He is the great grandson of Sonny and the late Helen Bridgeman of Vinita, Oklahoma. In July of this year, William

was elected President of the Board of Little Bill's Plumbing, Inc; a family owned business co-owned by Bill Bridgeman, William Bridgeman, and younger grandson Walter Everson who currently holds his Plumbing Apprentice license and is a certified drain cleaner and utilities installer. Grandfather Bill Bridgeman has been a plumber in the Pampa area for over 40 years. He says "It's always been my

dream to have my grandsons grow up in the business and some day take over day to day management when I retire.'

William celebrated with a trip to Breckenridge with his girlfriend, Chyana Shaw and her family.

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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

**Duane Harp** Financial Advisor 1921 N Hobart Pampa, TX 79065

806-665-6753



www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones

# We Invite You to Rejoice in the Season!

#### Please join us on **Christmas Eve** to celebrate the birth of **Jesus Christ**

5 p.m. Family Friendly Service! Children are invited to come dressed as their favorite character from the Christmas Story. Christmas hymns will be sung and the story of Jesus' birth will be told. The children will be recognized as their character is mentioned.

11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
The Christmas Story will be told and we will sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns. We will hear the word proclaimed, celebrate the Lord's Supper and conclude by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

We hope you join us on Christmas Eve. We also hope your holidays are filled with the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ.

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

# Fred G. Brown earns professional certification

level of knowledge and standard of practice within the tree care profession. It is designed to assist the public in identifying those professionals in arboriculture who have demonstrated, through a professionally developed examination and education program, a thorough knowl-

All Certified Arborists carry a wallet identification card for verification. \*Certification is valid for three years. The ISA program tests and certifies an individual's knowledge in the ield of Arboriculture. The International Society of Arboriculture is a scientific and educational organization devoted to the dissemination of information in the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. ISA's Certification Program is designed to promote the professional development of those involved in the field of

arboriculture or tree care.

demonstrated professional competency by successfully completing the certified arborist examination administered through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the local Chapter of the ISA. The purpose of the ISA Certification

# Program is to improve the edge of tree care practices. Energy futures on upswing but retail prices flat

MARK WILLIAMS AP Energy Writer

Energy prices are ending the year on an upswing with large storms, falling supplies, a weak dollar and a slightly better employment picture sending futures higher.

Crude futures erased early declines Thursday in shortened holiday trading as the government reported that unemployment benefit claims from newly laid-off workers fell for the 16th straight week.

Such claims, reported on a four-week basis, reached their lowest levels since last September when the breadth of the economic crisis became clear.

Yet all of those factors haven't seriously dented huge stores of crude, natural gas and gasoline. Even with a 5 million barrel draw on crude reported Wednesday by the government, supplies remain

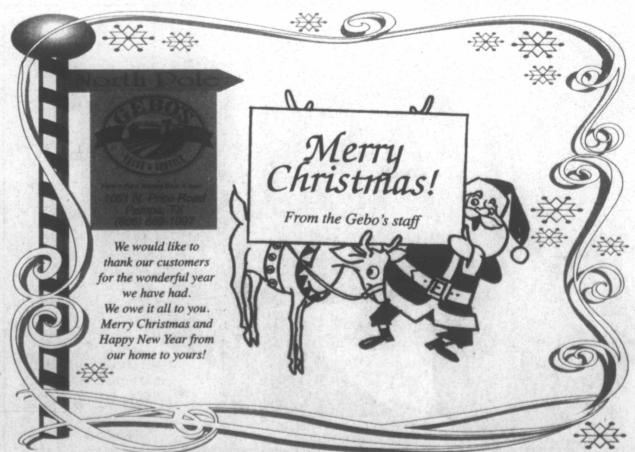
The amount of crude at Cushing, Okla., where crude traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange is stored, is very close record highs.

For consumers, that means that any increase in prices at the retail level may not last.

The economy remains fragile and save for an occasional jump in demand during holidays, people are not buying gasoline and other fuels in large quantities. Even distillates, which include heating oil, remain at historically high levels despite winter storms in the Northeast and Midwest.

Industrial demand for natural gas is extremely weak. The government said Thursday that natural gas in storage fell by a lessthan-expected 166 billion cubic feet to 3.4 trillion cubic feet. Gas in storage is 13 percent above than the five-year average.







Marlee Richardson, Elysa Clements, Jenna Munsell, Jenna Gee, Edy Brainard perform during Bethlehem morning.

# Scrooge jazzea



Kirrah Powell, Ashton Standerfer, Jenna Gee and Marlee Richardson perform Juana Christmas.

Lorrell Luera and Carrie Glaesman as the orphans.



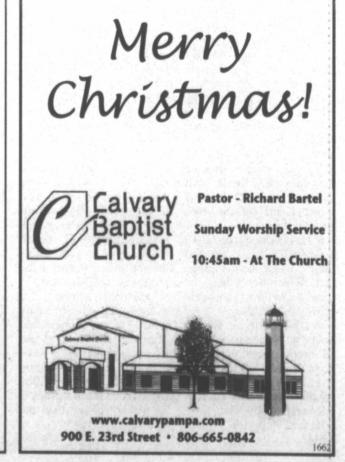
Photos by Della Moyer



Caylee Steward during money dream







The Nonprofit Service Center of the Amarillo Area Foundation has scheduled three workshops in Pampa during 2010 to benefit area nonprofit organizations.

Katharyn Wiegand, Director of the Nonprofit

Service Center and Patricia Ward, CFRE, Nonprofit Consultant, will facilitate the workshops.

The cost for each workshop is only \$25 per person (including lunch) thanks to underwriting

from the David D. and Nona S. Payne Foundation. Nonprofit staff members, board members and volunteers are encouraged to attend. Space is limited to 40 participants for each workshop.

The first workshop, Board Governance, will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Session topics include responsibilities of board members, the board's role in fundraising,

the board/executive director relationship, and strategic planning.

The second work-Introduction to shop, Fundraising, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This session will cover basics of nonprofit fundraising, challenges in rural fundraising, the Donor Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics, and creating a case for support for funding appeals.

The third workshop, Keys to Fundraising Success, will be held on

**SCHEDULE** 

BASKETBALI

**DECEMBER 28-31** 

Tournament at Lubbock

10:30 am at Lubbock

at Lubbock

Perryton

**MONDAY. DECEMBER 28** 

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Harvester Varsity Teams at Caprock

Lady Harvesters at Caprock Tournament .

Harvesters at Caprock Tournament • 6:00 pm

Harvester JV at Perryton Tournament • TBA at

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Areas of discussion include grant research, grant writing, and creating an annual development plan.

All workshop sessions will be held in the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce building at 200 N. Ballard. To register or receive additional information about the workshops, call or e-mail Katharyn Wiegand at 806-376-4521 or katharyn@aaf-hf.org



#### 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



Jacklyn Janette Keener 23 years old/ White Female/5'03"/142lb/Brown Eyes/ Brown Hair

> WANTED Injury to a Child



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

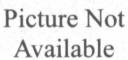
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WANTED Violation Probation-Possession of a Controlled Substance and Driving Under the Influence DWI 3rd or More



Gaspar Antonio Olivas 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 Olivas



Oscar Espinoza

30 years old/Hispanic Male/ 5'06"/220lb/Brown Eyes/

WANTED Aggravated Sexual Assault/ Indecency with a child

\$500.00 reward for the arrest of Espinoza

Brown Hair

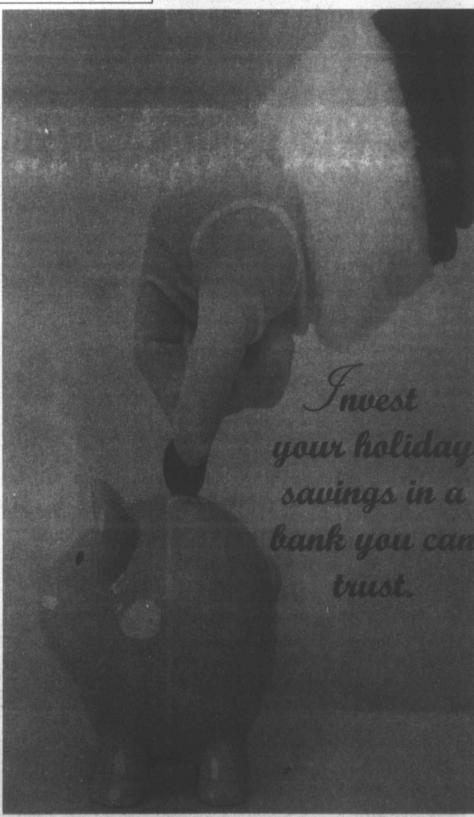
Pampa Harvester Headquarters est. 1962 665-2631

**Merry Christmas!** 

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.



We would like to extend tidings of joy and comfort to you and your loved ones this holiday season. Merry Christmas!



# **First State Bank of Miami**

Miami Bank 806-868-2771 PO Box 8



Pampa Bank 806-665-3669 120 W. Kingsmill



# Fulfill a holiday wish by becoming a host family

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families. The students are anxiously awaiting news of their new families. This is the final push for the chance of these young ambassadors to fulfill their lifelong dreams.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) President, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from one semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local public and private high schools.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in- home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has

students from Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Australia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also participating in two special government-funded programs to bring scholarship students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union as well as predominantly Islamic countries such as Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait, Iraq and

Qatar to the United States. P.I.E. is a on-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. The organization is designated by the United States Department of State and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), certifying that the organization complies with the standards set forth in CSIET's Standards for International Educational Travel Programs.

Doty encourages families to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Gray area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for

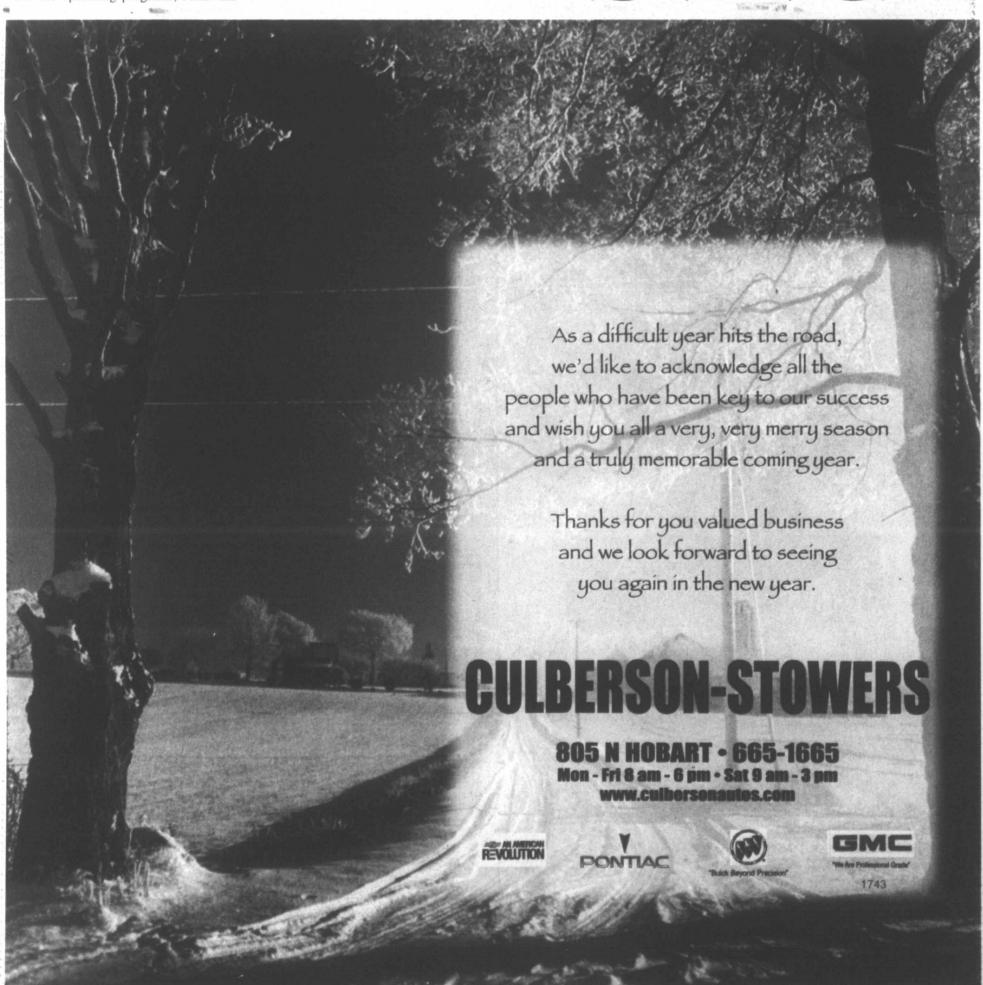
American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

# Scrooge

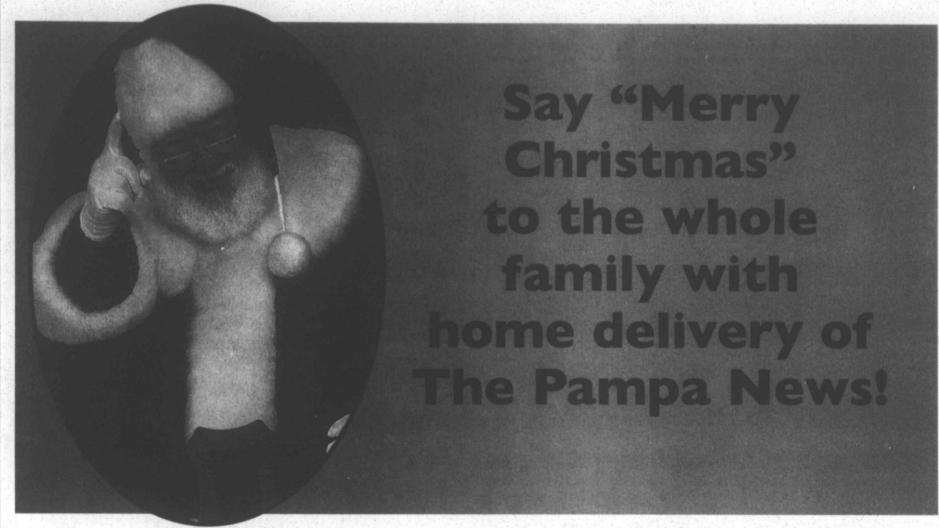


Katelin Stafford and Ashley Williams perform during Scrooge all jazzed up Dec. 18 at MK Brown.





# The One Gift For The Whole Family



This is a very limited Christmastime special, available until noon Thursday, Dec. 31.

So pick up the phone and call Kera at 669-2525

and take advantage of this special deal with your credit or debit card.

Or simply drop by our office and place your order.



12 weeks for the price of 9!

\$19.99

(Pay just 28 cents per issuel)

# Humphrey promoted to CSM

Mark Humphrey was promoted to Command Sergeant Major on May 20th, 2009 in Vilseck, Germany. CSM Humphrey has held every leadership position in Armor and Cavalry units Including Bradley Gunner, Squad Leader, Section Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Firat Sergeant He has also performed duties as Assistant Operations Sergeant, Warrior Leaders Course Instructor, 190 Training Developer, and Drill Sergeant at Fort Knox, KY, home of the U.S. Army's Armor Center.

CSM Humphrey, a native of Oregon, is the son of Judy Humphrey (Jacksonville, OR), grandson of the late J.C. Daniels, Josie Young, and nephew of Jerry & Jo Daniels, (Pampa, TX), and Eddie Largent who resides in Spearman, TX. He entered the Army in April 1989 as a Cavalry Scout and graduated Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Bliss.

On November 24, 2008, he assumed duties as the 412 SCR Command Sergeant Major. CSM Humphrey has served in numerous units throughout his career. 'He has completed overseas tours in Germany, Korea, and Iraq. His previous assignments include: Operations Group (Dragons), National Training Center, CA; Leadhorse Troop, 3rd Armored, 11th Cavalry Regiment, Bad Herafeld, Germany; Anvil Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS; HHC 3rd Brigade, 37th Armor, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS; Bulldog Troop, 4th Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry Squadron, Camp Garry Owen, Korea; USA Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Fort Knox, KY; Echo Troop, 5th Squadron, 15th U.S. Cavalry, Fort Knox, KY;

1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX; HHC 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood TX; Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX; A CO 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. He has two combat tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CSM Humphrey is a graduate of the Warrior Leaders Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course. He also graduated from the Basic Instructor

Course, Master

Fitness Trainer Course, Drill Sergeant School (Honor Graduate), Scout Platoon Leaders Course (Graduated Super Scout), and the Battle Staff Course. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 58 (Honor Graduate).

CSM Humphrey also holds an Associate's degree in Arts & Sciences Elizabethtown from Community College. He is currently attending Saint Josephs College of Maine through E-ARMYU and has five classes to complete in order to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree In Health Care Administration.



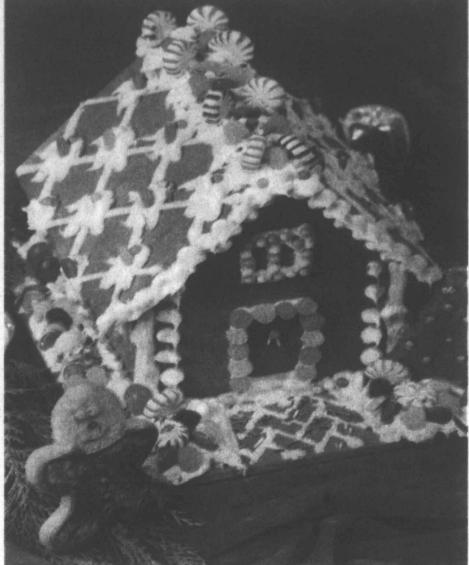
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Childers

# 68th Wedding Anniversary

Mrs. Childers worked as great-grandchildren.

Bob and Aileen Childers of an LVN. They are members Pampa are observing their of the Seventh-Day Adven-68th wedding anniversary tist Church. They have two this month. They were mar- daughters, Bobbye Thomried on December 20, 1941, son (husband, John) of St. and have been residents Maries, Idaho and Sandra of Pampa since that time. Adcox (husband, John) of Mr. Childers worked as a Grand Junction, Colorado, custom home-builder, and five grandchildren and five

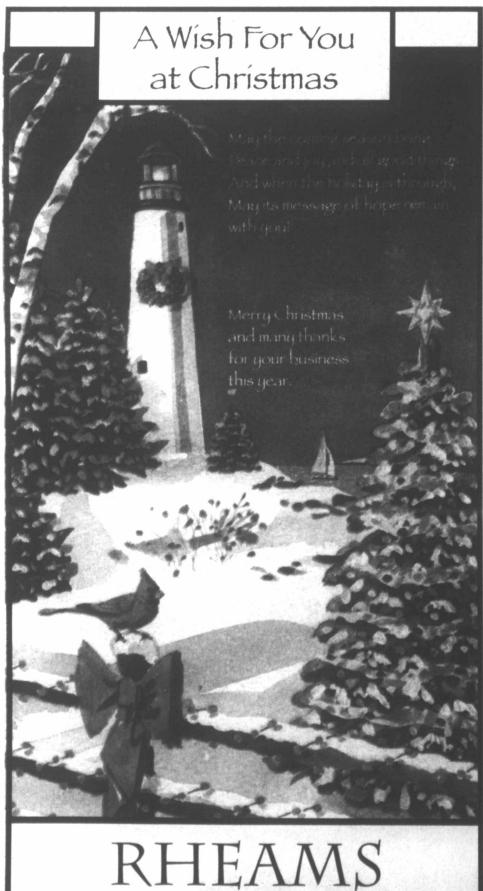




Wishing you and your family all the blessings of this joyous season.

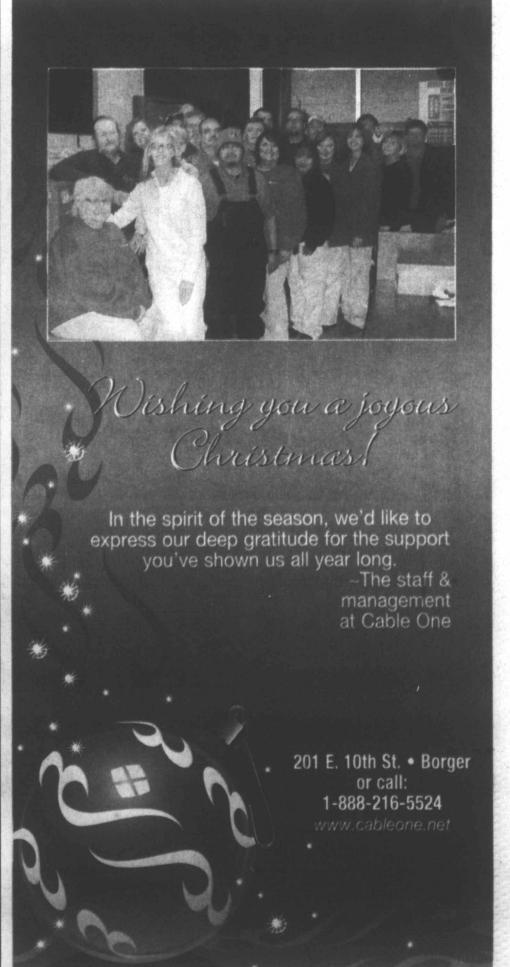


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Menny Christmas



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...to all of you!



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162

#### **Evan Daniel Orand** Born... March 09, 2009



Danny and Ashlee Orand

Brothers.. Cooper and Tyler

Grandparents..

Loyd Bohannan LaDonna Bohannan James & Oveta Orand

#### Kami Kay Albus Born... November 05, 2009



Parents.. Anthony & Amy Albus Brothers. Blake, Rhett,& Rome Sisters. Krista, Lexi, Leiah, Ashley & Avery Grandparents... Kirby & Rita Cochran Mike & Gina Albus

#### Caeleb Aaron Phelps Born... January 22, 2009



Parents.. Jonathon & Starla Phelps Brother. Jacob Honeycutt Sister.. Hannah Phelps Grandparents... Mr. & Mrs Paul Phelps Mr. & Mrs Wendill Honeycutt, Carolyn Miller

#### Riley Brin Brashears Born... July 28, 2009



Parents. Brandon & Corie Brashears

Grandparents... Brunson & Mary Ann Moore Jim & Paula Brashears Betty Wireman

#### Karsen Lanie Buck Born... November 04, 2009



Parents.. Jeremy & Karmen Buck

Grandparents... Mike & Shirley Buck James & Janet Martin Great-Grandparents... Bryan Buck, Rozella Martin, Katie Clements and Frances Clifton

#### Cadie Lynn Waldrip Born...September 01, 2009



Parents. Carrie & Nathan Waldrip Grandparents.. Melissa & Ricky Waldrip

Vickie Hoover-Daley

#### Ava Grace Davis Born... June 19, 2009



Parents... Brandon & Whitney Davis

Grandparents... Frankie & Janet Watts Harold Davis Anna Albus

Great-Grandparents... Joe & Sue Hall Orval Watts

# Zaileigh Autumn Duncan Born... December 09, 2009



Parents. John & Valorie Duncan

Brock Austin Duncan Grandparents.. Tiny & Linda Duncan Betty Werley, Coy Werley Uncle. Zane Werley

#### Jocelyn Ann Henley Born... January 05, 2009



Parents.. Chance & Sarai Henley Grandparents... Alan & Cel Cloud Ronnie & Suzzie Lewis Great-Grandparents... Noel & Emma Dewitt Ed & Millie Henley Francis Sims, Jerry & Susan Sims, Roy & Eddie Mae

#### Brenna Kay Seideman Born... September 09, 2009



Parents... Ashleigh & Jeremy Seideman

Brother... Reese Seideman

Grandparents... Paula & Steve Smith

#### Karter Kidd Born... November 24, 2009



Parents.. Brandon & Katie Kidd

Brothers. Brayden & Tayte Kidd

Grandparents.. Danny & Terry Miller Billy & Rhonda Kidd

#### Lanee McPherson Born... December 27, 2008

Sawyer





Parents.. Bill & Crystal McPherson

Grandparent... Charles Riley

#### Andrew Josiah Van Houten Born... December 29, 2008



Parents... Jess & Chris Van Houten

Grandparents... William & Darla White Don & Cheri Van Houten

# Wakely Rit Ogle Born... May 15, 2009



Parents.. Danny & Christy Ogle Sisters... Mayce & Lilye Ogle Grandparents... Larry & Mattie Norton Chris & Connie Lockridge Dan & Barbara Ogle Great Grandparents... Annie Aufill Bill & Lou Pickering

#### Veronica Eden Ramirez Born... October 11, 2009



Parents... Leo & Leslye Ramirez

Brother ... Thiago Ramirez

Grandparents... Chico & Liz Ramirez Jim & Nora Wheeler

#### Thiago Santo Ramirez Born... October 11, 2009



Parents... Leo & Leslye Ramirez

Sister... Veronica Ramirez

Grandparents... Chico & Liz Ramirez Jim & Nora Wheeler



# Visit the church of your choice this week PAMPA CHURCHES

PAMDA Special Alzheimers Care Nursing Center

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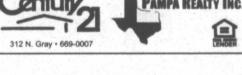


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# CHRISTINAS DECEMBER 25

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below, When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN! On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my hand, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight.

> "HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!"

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-Clement Clarke Moore

For Better Or Worse

# Comics

Marmaduke



"Why did you ever mention the pitter-patter of Santa's reindeers' hooves on the roof?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Listen! I think I heard eight tiny reindeer!

JACK

ALOE

IDLY

LATE

20 "Catalan

Land-

scape"

painter

weather

freshness

23 Old Italian

21 Winter

22 Sign of

coin

28 Barrel

parts

29 Natural

gift

LADSIFT

MISTER

INLOVE

MAIMED

ALLY

LEER

WILCOGIS

REEKAPE

30 Mimic

31 Historic

rider

35 Wallet

36 Gather

37 Tennis

star

Roddick

38 Shop tool

syllable

backer

39 Refrain

40 Yale

fill

SHADY GHOST

AREASIINDEX

GALORE ATOZ

BETRAY ERMA

Yesterday's answer

PERINLAW

ABOARD

Daily Crossword Puzzle

# **CROSSWORD** By THOMAS JOSEPH

**DOWN** 

1 Livens

(up)

2 Opposite

of "sans"

3 Gets back

4 Blouse

part

5 "Be that

— may

6 Mortises'

7 Ad of a

sort

8 Kauai

9 Finish

10 Jargon

suffix

16 Dripping

19 Respites

from pun-

ishment

partners

souvenir

**ACROSS** 1 Course

numbers

5 Churchill's successor

11 Daredevil

Knievel

12 Common

rolls

13 Singer

Seeger

14 Confiden-

tial 15 Jar

feature

17 "- had it!"

18 Usual

values

22 Winter

weather 24 Tankard 25 Tyler of

"Armageddon" **26 NFL** 

player

27 "Give it --!"

30 Pointer

32 Some

elbows 33 Architect

I.M. 34 Burn

soother

38 Father of

25-Across 41 Tied up

42 Francis of

TV 43 Enjoy a

novel

44 Belt spots 45 Spot



Zits



Garfield



**Beetle Bailey** 





Marvin





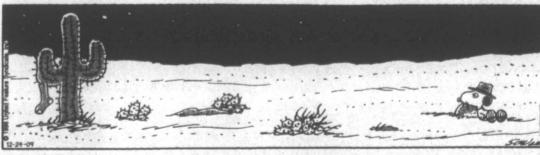
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



**Peanuts** 

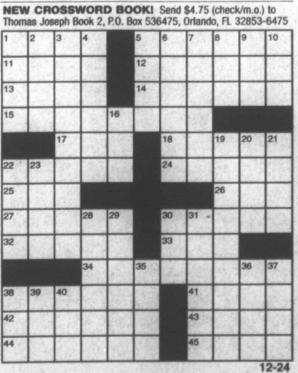


**Blondie** 



Flo & Friends





# Comics

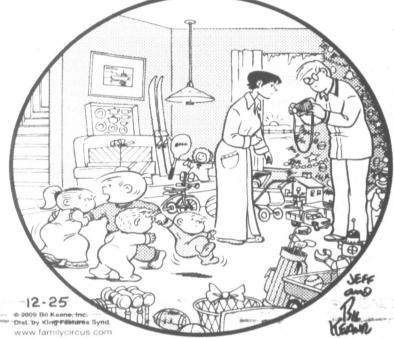
Marmaduke



"Who wrote the letter to Santa for Marmaduke?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"We hafta go back and run in again. Daddy's gotta figure out how to turn on his new camera."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

# **CROSSWORD**

Degas

2 Rocker

Rose

eight

**5** Hearty

dish

6 Slump

7 Before

ten

10 Hardy

8 Group of

9 Map dot

heroine

slopes

4 Toy

3 Group of

builders

DOWN

By THOMAS JOSEPH 46 Painter

**ACROSS** 1 Breaks.

perhaps 6 Bowler's challenge 1 Hot drink

**11** Put on a pedestal

12 Stood 13 Full of verve

14 Some babies

15 Morning glisteners 17 Jonson

works 18 Clutter

20 Designer Michael

22 Nest-egg choice 23 Classic

26 'The Lion 18 Fail to hit

28 Tone 29 School

subject **31** New Haven student

32 Whip 33 Ordered, in olden days

34 Invites

36 Lawman Wyatt 38 Is patient

40 Model's asset 43 Comic

Kovacs 44 Annual visitor

45 Bob of "Full House'



Yesterday's answer

21 In the past 23 Moving

trucks 24 Gift of the

Magi 25 Pennsylvania

16 Enjoy the port **27** Rap's — Boys

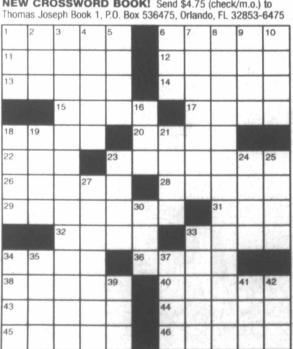
King" hero 19 Hockey's 30 Cohort of 42 Musical Fidel

33 Wide 34 Dazzles 35 Mystery writer

Woods 37 Basilica part 39 Collector's

goal 41 Depot: Abbr.

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



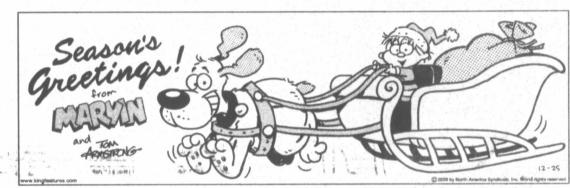
Garfield



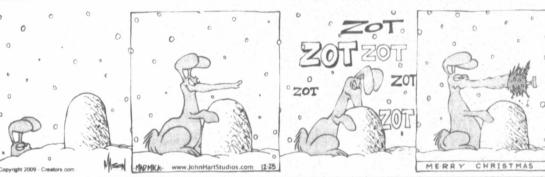
**Beetle Bailey** 



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



**Peanuts** 



**Blondie** 



Flo & Friends

12-25



# Comic

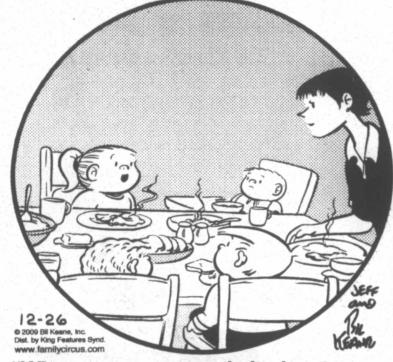
Marmaduke



"It was bad enough he chewed up my new hat - but for you to imply it looked like an old slipper ... "

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"When we say grace, is it okay to pray for what we want for dessert?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

# CROSSWORD

39 City on

40 Oscar

41 Forgo

42 Bakery

buys

**DOWN** 

1 Noisy

shouting

3 To-do list

4 Milk buy

5 Flight

the Po

winner

Wither-

spoon

frugality

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Cowboy

MAS

HAT HE

TING

14

NDS

wear

6 Glades critter

11 Authentic

12 Find cute as a

button 13 Where the action

14 Opera's

Callas 15 Predatory

insect 17 Long

swimmer 18 Hoary

19 Some

December 26 transactions

22 Nutritionlabel abbr.

23 Snack for

Bugs 24 Twangy

25 Logic 27 Chips

buy 30 Dis-

courages 31 Blunder

32 Strike caller 33 Athens

rival 35 III will 38 Trip

> around the world

TAMES AROSE EXALT ALIVE GIRLS DEWSODES MESSKORS IRAVINTAGE SIMBACOLOR SCIENCE ELI LASHBADE ASKSEARP POISE SANTA WAITS ERNIE EDGAR SAGET

Yesterday's answer

type

28 Gallery

star

30 Does

29 Sidewalk

some

work

34 District

house-

openings

9 Fix one's 27 Carpet bearings

10 Noncomplex numbers

2 Announce 16 Year quartet

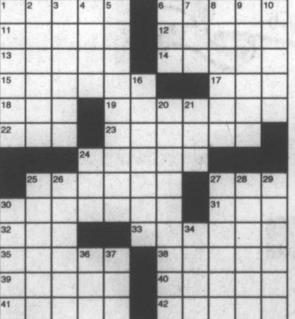
20 Carry **21** Web

6 Whale group address 7 Byron's 24 Forty winks

daughter 8 Bullfight star

36 Breath-25 Increase mints buy 26 Kingdom 37 Goal

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For Better Or Worse







Zits









Garfield







**Beetle Bailey** 





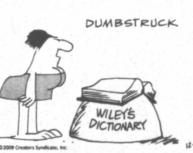
Marvin







B.C.





Haggar The Horrible





**Peanuts** 







Blondie



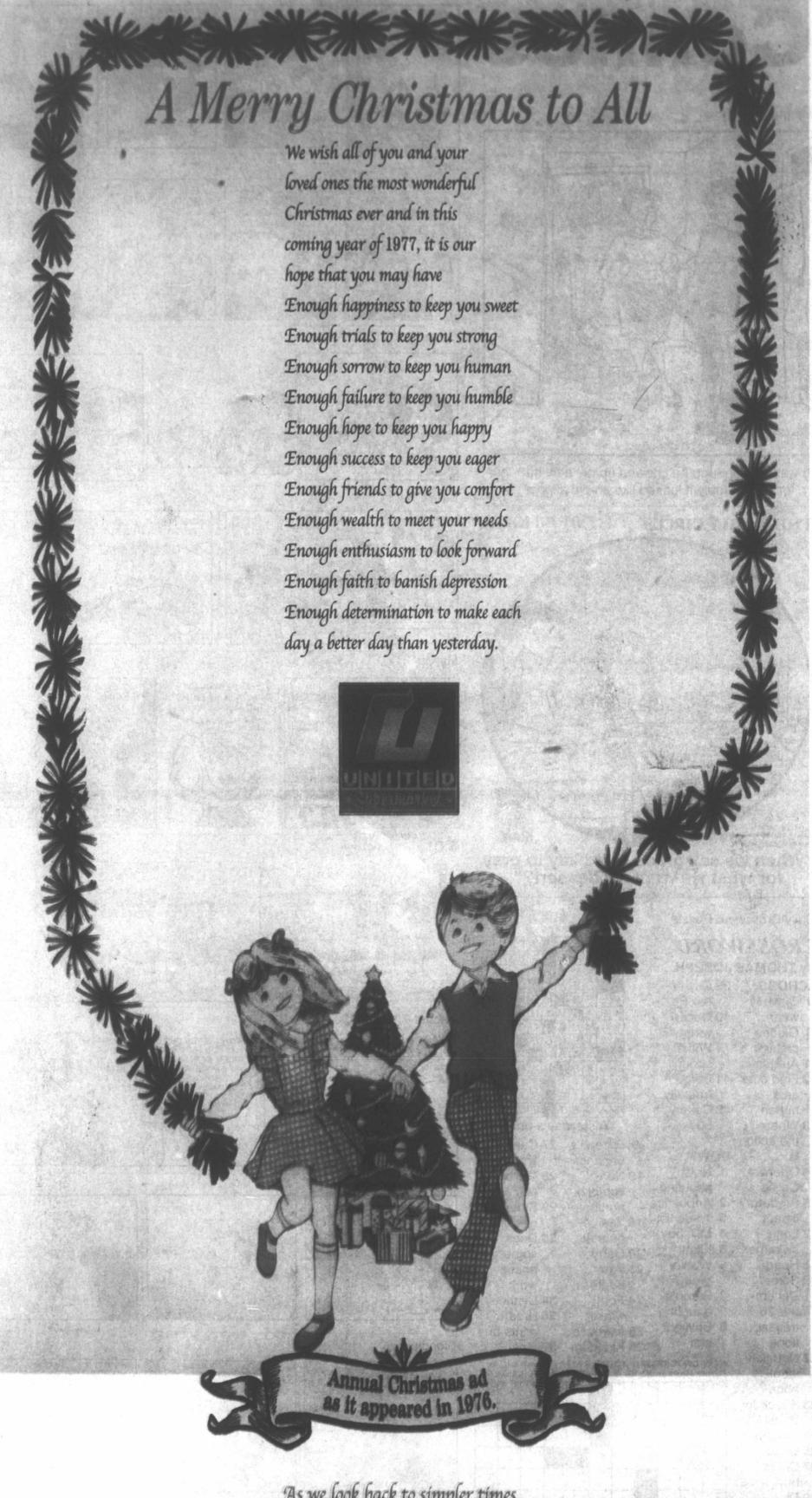




Flo & Friends

12-26





As we look back to simpler times, the message from our family to yours remains the same today.

United



Amigo

match and their first dis-

trict win. This would be

the only time Pampa would

win in the matches I cov-

ered but the tennis boosters

were undefeated in cook-

10. Borger 45 Pampa 43

Some of you might be

wanting to kick me in the

seat of the pants for including

a game that we lost. Let me

explain why I put this one in

here. It was the first Pampa

game I covered at Harvester

Field. Also, the for the first

time I got to experience the

joys of the press box and all

So, those were some of

my favorite games that I

covered. I will write a simi-

lar column after the spring

the great free food.

August 28, 2009 in Pampa

ing burgers.

# Lefors district clincher most memorable in 2009 victory clinching them the

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The fall semester ended last week and I completed my first fall season of covering Pampa and Lefors sports. So, I decided to take a look back at some of my most memorable games that I covered.

1. Lefors 103 Groom 77 October 30, 2009 in Lefors.

In the Pirates final home game of the 2009 football season Lefors accomplished their goal that they set at the beginning of season winning back to back district titles. The Pirates broke their school record for points scored in a game. It was also the first time I've seen a team score 100 points in football and the highest scoring game by both teams combined that I covered.

2. Pampa volleyball defeats Canyon in five games October 3 in

Pampa This win was part of the reason we even had a onegame playoff with Canyon at the end of the season. The Lady Harvesters were down two games to one and had to win the last two. Pampa took game four 25-16 and then won the final game 15-12. Senior Kara Stephens performance would earn her player of the week honors in the Amarillo Globe.

3. Lefors 80 Miami 64 October 16, 2009 in Lefors.

In their biggest district test to date the Pirates defeated a then undefeated Miami Warriors. Lefors pulled away in the fourth quarter to take a 20-point lead after a back-and-forth second and third quarter. This was one of two home me tell you it definitely games that I was not at because I was covering Pampa's home football games.

Lefors 4. Samnorwood 50 October 9, 2009 in Samnorwood.

The Pirates entered the district opener fresh from their loss to Happy in the previous week. Samnorwood jumped out to a 42-18 lead and led 42-34 at halftime. But Lefors made adjustments and dominated the second half, outscoring the Eagles 41-8 and got the first of four district wins.

5. Pampa volleyball sweeps Palo Duro for first district win September 15 in Pampa

After getting dominated by No. 1 Randall in the district opener, the Lady Harvesters dominated their opponent which was the Palo Duro Lady Dons. Palo Duro got the first three points in game one but Pampa outscored them 25-3 from that point to take



Andrew Glover

the first game. After a close game two with the Lady Harvesters winning 25-20, Pampa dominated the third game to complete the sweep. The victory would be their first district win of the 2009 season. Pampa's dominating performance allowed me to catch the end of the ninth game in this column.

6. Pampa 42 Caprock 26 October 31, 2009 in Amarillo.

This was another game that I was not at and I'm not telling where I was either. The Harvesters virtually clinched a spot in the 4A Playoffs with a victory over the Caprock Longhorns. Pampa dominated the game from start to finish jumping out to an early 28-7 lead. This was also one of the best rushing performances of the season with Kendrick Alexander gaining 208 of the Harvesters 295 yards.

7. Lefors 59 Hedley 12 August 27, 2009 in Lefors

Yes, this wasn't one of the most significant victories in the 2009 season for Lefors but it was a significant game for me. It was not only the first football game I covered since joining the paper, but the first time I got to experience six-man football. Let was a sight to see espe cially when most times you wouldn't see a team get to second or third down. The game was significant in that it was Lefors first victory of the 2009 season.

8. Pampa 35 Randall 23 October 8, 2009 in Canyon

I wasn't at this game but after losing their first five games of the 2009 season and their last 13 dating back to last season, the Harvesters returned to the win column. Pampa overcame an early 13-0 deficit and would take a 28-16 lead in the second half. This victory would also be key to Pampa making the playoffs later in the season.

Pampa tennis gets their first district win against Hereford September 15, 2009 in Pampa

I only got to see the beginning and end of this match. It was a great ending to see as Robin Fernuik picked up Pampa's 10th match

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# Sports

# No. 23 Texas Tech beats Stanford Cardinal 100-87

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)

Mike Singletary wanted
to make up for not playing much in the first half
Tuesday night.

So he played all 20 minutes in the second half and scored 24 of his season-high 28 points to lift No. 23 Texas Tech past Stanford 100-87, keeping the Red Raiders unbeaten at home. "He just competes," doach Pat Knight said of the team's second-leading

The entire team struggled the first half, Knight said.

scorer.

"They weren't happy at halftime," he said. "I didn't think we played with good energy. We kind of played lethargic in the first half with no emotion and we didn't play athletic."

Singletary, who got into foul trouble early and played just 7 minutes in the first half, didn't attempt a free throw before halftime, then hit 7 of 11. He was 9 of 12 from the field.

Singletary said sitting for much of the first half was "rough."

"It was good to come back in the second half and just lead my team in every category really and to not have any turnovers, thaet's always a good game especially after a seven-turnover game," he said, referring to the loss to Wichita State on Saturday. "That was a game I wanted to forget really quickly."

The Red Raiders (10-1) took their biggest lead at 85-67 when D'walyn Roberts hit a layup with 4:30 remaining.

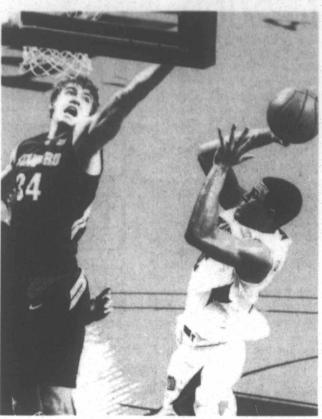
The Cardinal (5-6) cut the led to 95-87 when Elliott Bullock stole the ball from Darko Cohadarevic and Gabriel Harris hit a 3-pointer with 1:01 left. That was as close as Stanford got.

Landry Fields scored 27 points and Jeremy Green added 24 for the Cardinal.

"I thought that my kids played with a lot of heart," Cardinal coach Johnny Dawkins said. "And they played hard for 40 minutes. And so did Texas Tech. I think Pat Knight is doing a very good job with his team. They're getting better."

Brad Reese did a good job guarding Fields, Stanford's leading scorer who was 8 of 20 from the field, Knight said. Fields was 11 of 13 from the free throw line.

"You're just not going to stop a kid like Fields



Texas Tech's Mike Singletary, right, scores over Stanford's Andrew Zimmerman, left, during the second half Tuesday, in Lubbock, Texas Tech defeated Stanford 100-87. (AP Photo/Geoffrey McAllister)

David Tairu scored 17 points and John Roberson added 14 — including going 3 of 4 from beyond the arc. Brad Reese had 13 and Chohadarevic added 10. Nick Okorie separated his shoulder when he hit the base of the basketball standard in the first half. He will have a MRI on Wednesday, Knight said.

Texas Tech was coming off the 85-83 loss at Wichita State, the second of a two games on the road, which dropped them from No. 16 to 23rd nationally this week.

The Red Raiders promoted the game to fans by offering \$3 tickets. About 13,000 took the offer and Knight made a point to thank them after the game.

present you could give this team," he told the crowd. Knight told reporters later he used the turnout to

"It's the best Christmas

"If you want any of these people coming back you better pick it up because

help stir up his team.

I wouldn't want to come back," he said. "It really helped give us something else to motivate our kids with."

Tech went up 57-43 after Roberson hit a 3-pointer to cap a 15-5 run to open the second half. The Red Raiders got four baskets, including Roberson's 3, within a 1:19 span.

The Cardinal used a 9-2 run, including two layups by Fields and a 3-pointer by Drew Shiller, to pull within 61-52 with 11:33 remaining.

ni

ag

Singletary, the team's second-leading scorer, picked up two fouls about 3 minutes into the game. He left for the rest of the half when he fouled Stanford's Andrew Zimmermann for his third with 5:31 remaining.

Tech started the game 1 of 7 from the field but finished the half hitting 15 of 27. The Red Raiders hit 9 of their last 10 shots over the final 8 minutes of the half.

# TCU's Patterson is 2009 AP Coach of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — TCU's Gary Patterson was voted The Associated Press College Football Coach of the Year for leading the Horned Frogs to a perfect regular season and their first BCS appearance.

No. 3 TCU plays No. 6 Boise State (13-0) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4.

In a close vote released Wednesday, Patterson received 21 votes from the AP college football poll panel to edge Brian Kelly. The former Cincinnati coach, now with Notre Dame, received 19 votes and Alabama's Nick Saban got 14 votes.

Chip Kelly of Oregon

received three votes and Boise State's Chris Petersen and Texas' Mack Brown each got one vote.

but you want to make it

hard for him, you want to

make him uncomfortable

and make him work for

Tech had five players

everything," Knight said.

score in double figures.

Patterson is 85-27 in nine seasons at TCU. This season, the Horned Frogs went 12-0 for their first undefeated regular season since 1938.

# Home SWEET Home For The Holidays

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# No. 19 A&M loses top defender Roland

Texas A&M senior Derrick Roland suffered a gruesome leg injury in the 19th-ranked Aggies' 73-64 loss at No. 22 Washington Tuesday night and was in surgery at a Seattle hospital éarly Wednesday morning.

Coach Mark Turgeon said Roland broke his tibia and fibula bones in his lower right leg.

"He's in surgery now," Turgeon said immediately after the game.
Turgeon then rushed out

of the arena to the hospital across town. He referred all other questions to top assistant Scott Spinelli.

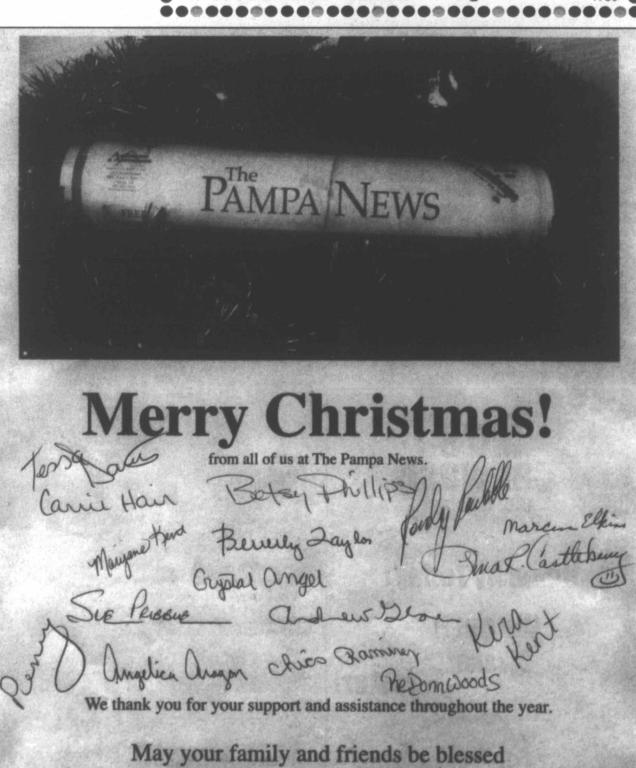
"We expect him to make a full recovery," Spinelli said, though he conceded Roland's college career may be over — barring

some unexpected turn of events such as a medical redshirt for another season.

That will likely be difficult to obtain. NCAA rules include guidance that a medical hardship waiver may be granted for a fifth year of eligibility for a player injured before he has played in 20 percent of his team's games in a season. Roland has played in all 11 of Texas A&M's 29 regular-season games so far.

"God willing, you don't know," Spinelli said.

Turgeon considered leaving the game to join his player at the hospital before



with the peace and joy of Christmas.

Katina Otchley



# Sports

# James leads No. 2 Texas past No. 9 Michigan St.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas coach Rick Barnes told his team last weekend that a victory over one Top 10 team didn't convince everyone that the secondranked Longhorns are for

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Maybe beating two in four days will sway the holdouts.

Damion James had 23 points and 13 rebounds and Texas pulled away from No. 9 Michigan State in a 79-68 victory Tuesday night, giving the Longhorn consecutive wins over Top 10 teams after beating No. 10 North Carolina on Saturday.

James, who followed 25 points and 15 rebounds against the Tar Heels with another monster outing, proclaimed himself the "heart and soul" of the Longhorns (11-0) afterward and warned whoever else might still be doubting

"Like we didn't prove anything against North Carolina," James said. "We took that to our workout, and let's go prove how good we can be.'

The Longhorns hadn't played a ranked opponent before last weekend but now have impressive wins over two of the nation's best. And like the lesser teams to face Texas before them, both the Tar Heels and Spartans couldn't hang within single digits by the final buzzer.

Chris Allen had 12 points for the Spartans (9-3), who couldn't beat Texas for a fourth straight year.

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo lamented his

team's 22 turnovers and the best basketball right now, Spartans lacking concentration and size on defense.

"We looked a little fatigued and not hungry enough," Izzo said. "I didn't feel very good."

For anxious Longhorns fans awaiting the BCS championship game, this big Texas win may tide them over until Jan. 7. Texas football coach Mack Brown looked on as the Longhorns trailed 37-34 at halftime, and quickly started chipping away at the deficit.

J'Covan Brown hit a corner 3-pointer with 12:58 left to tie the game at 52. James gave the Longhorns the lead back seconds later, hitting a floater in the lane to put Texas ahead for the first time since the first half.

From there, Longhorns slowly pulled away — then abruptly put the game out of reach. Gary Johnson stripped the ball from Spartans point guard Korie Lucious at halfcourt on consecutive possessions with under 4 minutes left, both leading to fastbreak dunks and a commanding Texas lead.

It was a record-breaking night for James, who became the school's alltime leading rebounder, surpassing James Thomas. James, who was 10 of 18 from the field, has 1,087 rebounds.

The 6-foot-7 senior forward, who said he was "50/50" after last season about deciding whether to leave for the NBA, said he hasn't peaked yet.

"I'm not even playing my

James said. "And that's what's scary."

Jordan Hamilton had points, including four 3-pointers, for the Longhorns, who now have a week off before a last stretch against Gardner-Webb, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Arkansas takes the Longhorns into their Big 12 schedule.

Before beating North Carolina, the Longhorns feasted on lesser foes. Texas beat the Tar Heels in the vast enormity of Cowboys Stadium, in the first basketball ever played at the home of the Final Four in 2014.

Back home at a raucous Erwin Center, a small cluster of Michigan State backers briefly stole the show: officials stopped the game for several minutes so police could confiscate an airhorn from a Spartans fan who tried shirking away from her seat but was allowed to stay.

But as the second half wore on, the Spartans had less and less to cheer about. Playing consecutive

games against Top 10 opponents for the first time in a decade, the Longhorns hit 7 of 16 from behind the 3-point arc and shot 59 percent from the field in the second half.

Barnes tried tempering the excitement of beating two Top 10 teams.

"I told them it's great. It's December," Barnes said. "I said if this is as good as we're gonna be, we're in trouble. We've got a lot of room for growth."

# Preregistration College has begun!

# Spring 2010 Schedule

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As we count our blessings this holiday season and reflect on the miracle of life, we realize how much ours has been enhanced by knowing and serving all of you.

> May you and your loved ones revel in the joy of the season, and please accept our best wishes and gratitude.



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# ports

# Spin, spin on the coaching carousel

The coaching carousel has begun to spin in the NFL, with seven teams possibly stepping on once the season ends. Those teams certainly know who is out there for the hiring: Bill Cowher, Mike Shanahan, Jon Gruden and Brian Billick for starters.

Mike Holmgren already has landed in Cleveland. although he is not likely to be on the Browns' sideline in 2010. Holmgren was hired as president of the team, even though the coaching bug has never really left him. But don't expect to see him wearing a headset next year.

What might we expect in coaching moves? Here's a look at teams that might be headed for the merry-goround, not including Tampa Bay or Dallas.

Some believe Raheem Morris is a one-year fill-in before the Buccaneers go for a bigger name with more experience, but there's been little evidence ownership is thinking that way. And Jerry Jones wants to find every reason to keep Wade Phillips at the Cowboys' helm, although failing to make the playoffs surely could change Jones' approach.

#### CLEVELAND

Holmgren's coaching genes tell him it's unfair to fire a coach after one season, no matter how disappointing and dysfuncational that season has been. But Holmgren also understands holding on to Eric Mangini for 2010 could mean delaying Holmgren's own program for rebuilding the Browns by another year.

When Bill Parcells took over in Miami, he weighed the same options before firing Cam Cameron and bringing in his own guy — Parcells has a lot of "guys" — in Tony Sparano. That's worked out pretty well, and Holmgren is likely to want a coach of his choosing.

Besides, Mangini hardly has been the most popular, diplomatic or understanding coach in the league, both in Cleveland and New York. All three of those traits defined Holmgren when he led the Packers and Seahawks.

They probably will define whoever he seeks to replace Mangini.

#### OAKLAND

Don't be surprised to see Tom Cable return. Yes, the Raiders remain losers, and JaMarcus Russell has made virtually no progress at quarterback. But remember that Cable had nothing to do with Al Davis selecting Russell at the top of the draft in 2007, and his decision to go with Bruce Gradkowski late this season worked well enough.

Oakland plays hard, if not with consistent efficiency, and the players seem to respond to Cable. One thing that could hurt his future coaching opportunities: off-the-field issues that surfaced this year.

Plus, nobody can predict the whims of Davis, who might just decide a Super Bowl-winning coach needs to be brought to Oakland. Of course, Shanahan and Gruden already have been down that Black Hole.

Three seasons back, Lovie Smith was the toast of Chitown, as secure as any coach or manager in the Windy City. Now, followers of Da Bears are ready to bring out Da Ax.

And not just for Smith, but for general manager Jerry Angelo.

The Bears' frugality was legendary, but Angelo has spent big time on some of his stars, who have not played like stars, and he did get aggressive in acquiring Jay Cutler. Unfortunately for the GM and his coach, Cutler has been the season's biggest individual flop, more a franchise scourge than franchise quarterback thus far.

Chicago has looked inept and disinterested at times this season, about the worst indictment a coaching staff can be handed.

If Smith goes, don't look for a big name to replace him. **CAROLINA** 

John Fox is an excellent coach who has been hamstrung by some poor contract situations (Julius Peppers) and decisions (Jake Delhomme). Fox was part of those choices by the Panthers, of course.

Carolina has been up and down for most of the decade, going 7-9, 11-5 (and a last-second loss in the Super

Bowl), 7-9, 11-5 (and a trip to the NFC title game), 8-8, 7-9 and 12-4 under Fox. That might be too much inconsistency for owner Jerry Richardson and GM Marty Hurney, and if Fox is fired, he easily could wind up with another head coaching position quickly.

The Cowher factor plays heavily here. Does the former Steelers coach and superb TV studio analyst want to leave his comfortable gig? Cowher lives in North Carolina and would be a popular choice.

#### WASHINGTON

Since Daniel Snyder bought the Redskins in 1999, he has had six head coaches, one of them interim. It's clear that Jim Zorn won't be around for 2010, and new GM Bruce Allen had a long working relationship with Gruden in Oakland and Tampa Bay.

Snyder loves big names, doesn't mind spending big bucks, but Gruden has indicated he will stay in the Plus, there's another megacoach out there in Shanahan, who wants back in. This looks like his landing spot, particularly if he's willing to have less say over personnel than he did in Denver.

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One question: Would he have as much say about personnel as the owner?

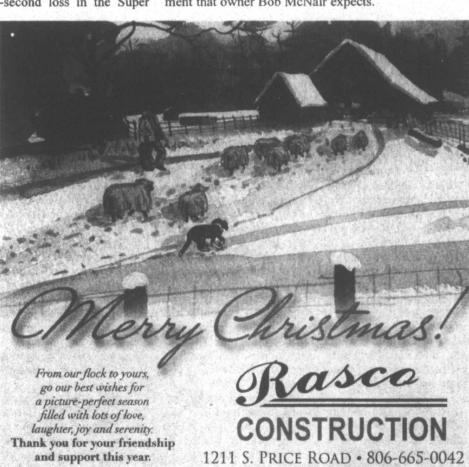
#### BUFFALO

Dick Jauron couldn't stick around long enough to go 7-9 for a fourth successive season. Perry Fewell has to win his last two, including beating the Colts, to get that high as he finishes out Jauron's term.

Owner Ralph Wilson says he will spend to get a quality coach and he had a long meeting with Shanahan after. firing Jauron. This team desperately needs an infusion of offense regardless of who takes over, and Shanahan would be a good choice if he slips out of Snyder's grasp.

This was supposed to be the Texans' year after not making the playoffs or managing a winning record since their 2002 inception. It hasn't happened, although victories over Miami and New England would give them a 9-7 mark and at least slim hope of making the postseason.

Gary Kubiak has built a strong passing offense, but the Texans don't make the big plays in tight spots. He is 29-33 since taking charge, hardly the return on his investment that owner Bob McNair expects.





# No one should have to worry about staying warm this winter.

Call 211 for help with your home heating bills.

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

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "Stuck for an Answer" (Oct. 9), whose wife found a box of letters written by her late mother to her father. She didn't know whether

to read or destroy them. If Mom had wanted the letters destroyed, she would have already done it. As a genealogist and historian, my advice is to keep them in a safe place for future generations. I have correspondence between my great-greatgrandmother, her daughters and their daughters that dates back to the 1870s and extends through the 1940s. I also have her diaries, her daughter's autograph book from high school graduation in 1880, and diaries written by her granddaughter that date from the time she was 16 until her death at the age of 90 in 1998.

I am sure my greatgreat-grandfather never thought I'd be reading the letter he wrote to his brother during the Civil War in 1865, mentioning all the women in the city he was going to spend some time with! Abby, "Stuck's" wife should cherish the letters she found, even if she never reads them. They are precious heirlooms for future generations that will teach them about the impact of World War II on young love. -- HISTORICALLY **SPEAKING** 

E HISTORICALLY: I suggested to "Stuck" that reading the letters would allow his wife new insight into her parents' early life. Many readers agreed and offered personal anecdotes. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend "Zack's" father left him letters he had exchanged with Zack's mother during World War II. In one of them was the information that Zack had a half-sister in Italy! If

ters, he would never have known about this member of his family

'Stuck's" letters have survived 60 years. He can rightfully suppose that his mother-in-law saved them with the intent of passing them on. Those letters have tremendous historical significance. There are few firsthand documents like these remaining. I'm sure the World War II museum in Washington, D.C., would love to have them. Every firsthand story helps us construct our history. Can you imagine what we would have missed if 15-year-old Anne Frank's diary had remained unpublished? -- WELL-READ IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: My mother asked if my sisters and I wanted to read the letters Dad had sent her during the war. We declined because we felt the letters were private. Mom requested that they

be buried with her when she died. When she passed away, we could not immediately locate them. Then, just before interment, my sister found the letters. The funeral director allowed us to seal them in a box to be placed in the ground with Mom's burial urn. They are now, once again, close to her and Dad, and everyone finds that knowledge comforting. -- BEVERLY

IN ALBANY DEAR ABBY: I knew growing up that Mom kept letters from my father in her lingerie drawer. When she died in 1996, I placed them with her in her casket. When my sister-in-law asked if I had read them, I said, "Absolutely not -- they were for Mom's eyes, not mine." My advice to "Stuck" would be to destroy them. -- DONNA IN MARYLAND

# Merry Christmas

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Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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|   | er der eil | 4 |   | 7.5 | 5 | in the second | 2   | Heren) |

Level: Intermediate he had not read those let-

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LSVT.

# Escaped otters delay flight in Houston

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Passengers on a Continental Airlines flight couldn't believe it when they saw an otter scurry from the plane's cargo hold and onto the tarmac at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The daring escape by a pair of otters delayed the Ohio-bound flight for about an hour Tuesday night.

One passenger said that most on board thought the delay was a joke at first. But another said they watched one of the otters scurry across the tarmac.

Airport workers managed to catch the otters and return them to their cages and the flight took off for Columbus.

# 15 Ike-displaced families return home

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) - Home for the holidays means just that for 15 families in the Galveston area whose Hurricane Ikedamaged residences have been rebuilt.

Maria Huerta said "my heart is here" after she entered her restored home Tuesday, which included a Christmas tree in the living

Huerta's residence is among 154 redone Galveston County Restore and Rebuild since Ike slammed the area in September 2008. The effort is a partnership of 35 charity and social service groups.

Joe Higgs with Gulf Coast Interfaith says about \$2 million in private donations funded the work. About \$3.5 million in federal funds will help pay for more rebuilding in 2010, with a goal of restoring about 250 more Ikedamaged homes next year.

The city and Galveston County recently received federal housing assistance totaling about \$232 million.

# 8 SOS Staffing **UNCERTAIN ABOUT YOUR STAFFING OPTIONS?** WE CAN HELP! As the economy shows some signs of recovery, companies are beginning to re-examine their budgets and their staffing needs-but may still be

apprehensive about bringing on needed personnel. Trust our experts to recommend staffing options that will help you maintain a flexible hiring Whether you need a specialized skill, a large number of employees or a temporary fill-in, we can customize a solution to fit your

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short and long-term hiring needs.

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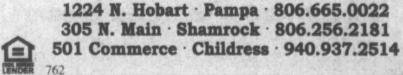
1504 N. Hobart ~ Pampa, TX ~ (806) 665-2925

# **Any Project**



# Call Us!

An Office of First National Bank Waupaca, WI







By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Will you please advise me what to do with a lot of really gorgeous women's apparel? I'm talking about top-of-the-line shoes, handbags -- everything you could imagine.

My mother left all of her things to me. I have already donated some to charity, but selling some would be nice, too. Any suggestions? -- VANESSA IN AUSTIN

VANESSA: DEAR Check around to see if there are any consignment stores in your area that deal in high-end merchandise. I am sure they would be very interested in helping you sell the items. With the economy down, many women are on the prowl looking for the kinds of bargains you have described. You might also consider offering them on eBay.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin "Stacie" and I have sons who are the same age. The boys love playing together and spending the night at each other's house. The problem is that Stacie and her husband fight all the time. They scream and curse at each other at the top of their lungs, and they do it in front of the kids. Her husband also screams at their son, calling him "stupid" and other things that are not fit for a family newspaper.

My husband and I do not want our son exposed to that kind of behavior, but I don't know how to tell Stacie that this is why I can't allow my son to stay at her house anymore. Any suggestions? - STICKY WICKET IN TENNESSEE

STICKY DEAR WICKET: Yes. Host the sleepovers at your house. That way cousin Stacie and her husband can have more

"private time" to continue their battles, and their poor

> son will have some relief from the emotional abuse he is suffering at the hands of both of them. DEAR ABBY: A friend forwarded me an item she had read on the Internet.

I have learned a lot during my 38 years of living, and think these important life lessons might be something you'd like to pass along to your many read-

1. Respect others, even if they don't respect you. Later in life they may remember that respect.

2. Love with your whole heart. It may be broken, but you can't say that you never loved.

3. Treat animals with kindness, and it will be repaid to you a hundredfold.

4. Be honest with the

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people you love. Honesty really IS the best policy.

Admit your mistakes; it shows you are human.

6. Learn from your mistakes, but don't dwell on them. Negative thinking will only make you depressed -- and that's not good for you or those around you.

7. Tell your family often that you love them. You never know when it will be the last time you get to say it.

8. Never tell others that their dreams are stupid or dumb. Each of us is entitled to our dreams. Who are we to say they won't come true?

9. Realize that the only person you can change is yourself.

10. Be ful for everything you have. Knowing you are blessed isn't arrogant or cocky if you're truly thankful for your blessings. - JENNIFER IN COLORADO

DEAR JENNIFER: Thank you for sending this worthwhile item.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

1 5 2 9 8 4 7 6 3

9 4 3 7 1 6 8 5 2

7 6 8 3 5 2 4 9 1

5 2 7 8 9 3 1 4 6

8 1 9 6 4 7 2 3 5

4 3 6 5 2 1 9 7 8

6 7 1 2 3 9 5 8 4

2 9 5 4 6 8 3 1 7

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2 7

Level: Intermedial

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1 7 5 6 2 9

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3 8 4

# Ocelot habitat restoration



The Nature Conservancy bought a 1,300-acre conservation easement on the San Francisco Ranch near Raymondville, Texas on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009, hoping to restore the grasslands to the thick thorn scrub habitat favored by the endangered felines. (AP Photo/The Nature Conservancy, Lynn McBride)



Each year during the holiday season, we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and sending a heartfelt message to all our best friends and customers.

How joyful we are that this has come again to extend to you our sincere gratitude because it is good friends and customers like you that make our business possible.

May your holiday be filled with joy and the coming year be overflowing with all the good things in life.

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JOHN DEERE

1766



Wishing you a season filled with lots of love, laughter and joy. From our families to yours!



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JOY TO T

Many thanks to our friends and neighbors for all the joy you've brought us this past year!



AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - An Austin businessman and two of his companies are accused in an alleged scam using former NFL players to attract investors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday filed securities fraud charges in federal court

crying and said how much

she wanted to be with a

throughout a performance.

never get married. She

said people "always grow

few weeks and has even

people about it, and they

started dating a man you

would consider marriage

material. But I'm holding

back my feelings because

I'm afraid one day he might

propose. Is "happily ever

after" achievable anymore

in a marriage? -- UPSET

parents' marriage appears

to have hit a rough patch.

When your mother started

crying after the concert, I

guarantee she wasn't cry-

ing because your father

couldn't stay awake until

the end. She was crying

because she was disap-

pointed in him for some-

thing else.

DEAR UPSET: Your

IN GRAND RAPIDS

me the same thing.

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in Austin naming Kurt B. Barton, Triton Financial LLC and Triton Insurance.

The SEC alleges \$8.4 million was raised from about 90 investors to purchase an insurance company.

Regulators say the money instead went to pay Triton expenses.

The SEC says Barton and Triton have consented to court orders freezing their assets and appointment of a

Barton attorney Joe Turner says his client will work with the receiver to ensure that investors "do not lose their money.'

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

time in a marriage, cou-DEAR ples do not "always" grow ABBY: apart. The fact that your I have only recently realmother's friends are echoized how unhappy my paring those sentiments makes ents' marriage is. On the me wonder what kind of way home from a concert a crowd she's surroundone night, my mom started

man who could stay awake While I know from Then she told me I should experience that a lasting, loving relationship/marriage is possible, allow me apart." She has been saying to point out that the qualiit repeatedly over the last ties that attract someone at 18 may not be necessarily had some of her friends tell the same ones you'll find important when you're I began asking other older. That is why it's important that before you all act like they're not start thinking about marhappy in their marriages, riage, you first establish yourself as an independent, either. I am now genuinely young self-supporting I am 18 and have just woman and take your time

> DEAR ABBY: A former professor of minc was a good friend and very supportive last year when I was experiencing some personal difficulties. Recently I have heard that he has not been acting like himself. I was told he has developed a bad attitude, curses in class, and uses his degree to demean his students' opinions on topics. One of his current students told me he's surprised the professor hasn't been thrown out of class for his

before committing yourself

to anyone.

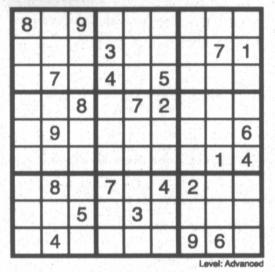
behavior.

While the intensity of This is not the same feelings can fluctuate over professor who helped me

last year. It seems like his evil twin. I suspect he may be having some personal problems. Because of our previous professor/student relationship, I don't think I can get involved. However, ing herself with, because because of the help he gave unhappy people usually me when I needed it, I care attract other negative peoand would like to offer support. Is there anything I can do? I want my friend

> CARES DEAR While it might not be appropriate for you to

reach out to your former professor directly, it still may be possible to get him some help. Tell the student who spoke to you that he and some of the other members of the class should talk to the head of the department or the dean about what has been going on and the fact that the professor may be in need of help. If the man is, indeed, having personal problems, his supervisor would be in a better position to see he gets it than you are.



# Winning Mega Millions ticket bought in NY

ROCKY POINT, N.Y. (AP) — The winning ticket for the Mega Millions jackpot of \$162 million was sold in a seaside hamlet on Long Island.

New York State Lottery officials say the ticket was sold in Suffolk County, at a store in Rocky Point called Cards and Things

No one has yet claimed the prize from Tuesday night's drawing in the multistate lottery.

The winning numbers were 3, 33, 35, 39, 45 and Mega Ball number 13.

Lottery spokeswoman

Jennifer Givner says the ticket shows a lump-sum option, meaning the cash would be paid out right away instead of \$162 mil-

lion over 26 years. But there's a catch: The prize then shrinks to about

\$100 million.

Mega Millions tick-ets are sold in Georgia, Illinois, California, Texas, Washington, Virginia, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Maryland and Massachusetts.



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• BBQ Ribs & Sausage Beef Veggie Soup

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# Christmas Eve Services

6:30 PM Family Service Holy Eucharist with Children's Pageant

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Everyone Is Welcome All Family Members And Friends



May you and the ones you care for enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season.

# Women Caring For Women



#### DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec.

This year, family matters take precedence. Nevertheless, if you're attached, you might suddenly find that you have a new addition to your family. If you are single, you could meet someone very sensuous and alluring. Please note that you are going through an intense personal transformation, and the person you choose this year might not be right for you later. Stay open, but do enjoy this bond. You discover the power of communication, and need to remember to confirm meetings and appointments this year. If you're in an artistic field, you will be unusually creative and actually could create one of your life's masterpieces. Be open to transformation. TAU-RUS is an anchor.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\* The best laid plans can fall apart, especially as an older person could become more demanding. Work could require unanticipated attention. Focus on your long-term goals. A misunderstanding in the near future could be a problem. Tonight: Treat yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might want to reverse gears, as some event, situation or person tosses a boomerang into your path. Plans change rapidly, and a call or visit with someone at a distance could force a change. Tonight: Kick back and make plans you would like better. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Use the beginning of the day for

any matter that is close to your heart. You could be rethinking a personal issue later today and might not be as present in the moment. New beginnings become possible. Tonight: Get some much needed R and R.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\* Others come to you to handle a problem. You might have your share of responsibilities as well. A partner could become strange or angry. Give this person space, as he or she is working through a problem. Tonight: Return calls; visit with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\* Keep reaching out for someone at a distance who you might have missed. Perhaps with less pressure, you will enjoy each other more. A must appearance or visiting with an older friend or family member fits the day's plans well. Tonight: Maintain an agree-

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\* Deal with others directly. In fact, try to avoid groups right now, if possible. Hop in the car in the afternoon for a drive. You'll enjoy yourself as you let your imagination go. Consider options involving work and perhaps a friend. Tonight: A must appearance. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\*\* Others make requests, and you could feel stretched to the max. You might wonder exactly how you can make everyone happy. Have a deep, reflective conversation with a dear friend or loved one. Tonight: Togetherness works. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* You might have some details to clean up from yesterday. Do make time for a special person in your life who keeps knocking on your door. Enjoy

what is happening to the max. Tonight: Out and about, or at least not alone. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\* Catch up on others' Christmas news. To many, you act as if you are the happiest person around. You might be ready to unwind. What is stopping you? You'll gain greater clarity. Tonight: Do

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\* Consider yourself to still be on vacation. You want to spend time with a dear friend, child or loved one. Once more, the kid in you emerges. Use care around a friend and/or associate. Confirm meetings, plans and even what you hear. Tonight: Time to have as much fun as possible.

AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\* Catch up on a neighbor's news. A close relative also wants your attention. On the same hand, you have a lot to do and much ground to cover. Laughter has you more centered than in the past. Tonight: Happily at home. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\* Try to be subtle if you're adding up the costs of Christmas. Certainly, to do so in the privacy of your office or some other spot would be smart. Let go of this issue for now, and enjoy people you normally don't get to see. Tonight: Hang out.

**BORN TODAY** 

Author Henry Miller (1891), baseball player Ozzie Smith (1954), actor, comedian, writer Steve Allen (1921)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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#### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

CRYPTOQUOTE

JVVG SCV RPPL SKLKYRW ZYL XFKVYLWCKG SCV

MVZF NPYR. — SCV GQUUNV

CPNKLZM KY MPQF CVZFS ZNN

VLKSPFW Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WISHING YOU AND YOURS A HOLIDAY FILLED WITH PEACE, LOVE AND CONTENTMENT. — YOUR PUZZLE

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Cont

Aver durin Corp

272 220

183

202

144

700

Ch

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411

213 212

180

181

110

210 231

102

532

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264

614

110

403

412 502

101

#### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

HOKLV BPQV LCBV

OQDTCRD OIPTL HSOL O DPPM

BOR KSPTGM IV. IV PRV.

 BOQNTK OTQVGCTK
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: KEEP THE GOOD
TIDINGS AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE HOLIDAY IN YOUR HEART ALL YEAR LONG. — THE PUZZLE **EDITORS** 

#### DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Dec.

This year, you experience a flow that is very unique and different. On some level you might think "thank goodness." Still, encourage yourself to let go of ways that no longer suit you. Let go of them gracefully, and you could be spared a negative event or happening. If you are single, you'll finally meet someone you can relate to. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to have more romantic dinners, weekends or vacations together. The flames soar once more. TAURUS has depth and caring.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Be aware of your spending and

where you are going with it. Your possessive side emerges if challenged. Just relax and be thankful for all you have been given. Never underestimate what you have to offer to any given situation. Tonight: Let yourself just be. This Week: Listen to feedback,

could impact your plans

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\* Be more in touch with what

you want. Others find you to be radiant and happy. As a result, many people come toward you. Just know who you want to be with. It is possible that you could opt for a movie or a drive in the country. Tonight: Opt for the different This Week: Examine expenses before

making New Year's plans. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Everyone needs to kick back some

and relax. You have been in fifth gear and are about to have the clutch burn out. Stop, and start indulging yourself. Only visit with people who help you recharge your energy. Tonight: A quiet dinner, maybe with a friend.

This Week: Use your high energy to clear out must-dos. Then enjoy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\* Let go of judgments, and simply enjoy your friends. No matter what is going on around you, a surprise or two comes up. Do let go of rigidity, and do enjoy the company you are with. A conversation needs to be talked about. Tonight: Where the action is.

This Week: Get more information before solidifying plans.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Take a stand and be sensitive to

the alternatives surrounding you. You have more authority than you might be aware of. Even if you are tired of always being a leader, today isn't the day to break the pattern. Tempers flare. Tonight: A must appearance.

This Week: Zero in on what is key Monday and Tuesday. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\* You might want to take off or break a pattern today or in the near future. Too much is happening, and rather quickly at that. A change of perspective might be necessary in order to

handle what seems to come in from out of left field. Tonight: Try Chinese. This Week: Understand what is going with a boss or older friend. Try to get the

issue handled before Thursday. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ One-on-one relating warms up the climate in an important relationship. You wonder why you have been living out an old pattern. There could be no better time to discuss this issue and to get help ending it. It will serve both of you. Tonight: If you want romance, it is there. This Week: Take an overall perspective. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\* You are always ready to take the lead. It would be nice to see you back off and let another person live out the fantasy of being a leader or establishing that kind of leadership and respect in his or her life. Tonight: Go with the best sug-

This Week: Much more is accomplished as a team.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\* Take a snooze if you are tired. Start getting more rest before the new year heads in. Others appreciate your efforts, and you need to take care of yourself too. Think positively about someone's suggestion to make the next week easier. Tonight: Start thinking about the work week.

This Week: Defer to others. Make plans with a special friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\* Have a conversation with a

child or loved one. You could bond much more closely, and both of you could be happier. You are transforming rapidly and make a big difference. Share a wild idea and be ready to follow through with it. Tonight: Be naughty and nice. This Week: Get as much done as possible

by Wednesday. Network and socialize from that point on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\* Everyone needs to take a break; make today your time to be lazy and rest up. Share feelings that you don't normally share with someone you care about. Don't stress out. Make this a lazy day. Tonight: At home.

This Week: Your creativity flourishes Monday and Tuesday. Funnel this energy where you want it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* Finally visit with a key friend or two. Take this time, as you might not see each other regularly. Go out for a late brunch, or visit over coffee. You probably have a lot more to catch up on. Tonight: Write any needed thank-you notes. Return calls.

This Week: Stay close to home this week.

**BORN TODAY** 

Actress Marlene Dietrich (1901), journalist Cokie Roberts (1943), professional wrestler Bill Goldberg (1966)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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# DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 28, 2009

This year, you quickly clear new paths and proceed into new areas with ease. Investigate your options while adding in some imagination and dropping the word "no" from your vocabulary. Tap into optimism, knowing that much could happen here. Believe the impossible dream. Learn to incorporate the unexpected and make what you desire a reality. In fact, use the element of surprise to loosen up logjams more often. If you are single, you'll discover just how desirable you are. Picking your sweetie could be very hard with so many possibilities. If you are attached, the two of you see eye to eye on finances and where to take a risk. GEMINI can be provocative and force your hand more often than not.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*★ How you deal with someone over a money matter impacts this relationship. A haze covers some of your communication involving friends and/or a meeting. A great opportunity comes forward with a friend who often is quite jovial. Tonight: Nap and then decide. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\* Beam in more of what you want from others. An optimistic appraisal works far better than a negative one. Your intellect helps you sort fact from fiction. Don't make a situation a bigger issue than it is. Tonight: A must appearance could degenerate into a fun happen-

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\* Take care of what is going on in

your immediate life, which you might choose not to discuss. Perhaps taking some time to put yourself in someone else's shoes will point to a new path. Tonight: A second surge of energy. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Do be careful about someone else's idea of what will work. Though this person appears confident and indeed might be, he or she very well might not have the right answer. Tonight: Where the action

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\* Your gentle ways and strong

personality move situations. Learning to allow others to lead might be very important, but right now, you need to step up to the plate. A creative but unrealistic partner causes a change. Tonight: Easy works. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\* Detach from coveted ideas, come forward and make what you want happen. Your creativity is likely to be enhanced when you pull back and give up rigidity. An associate or partner could be full of ideas. Tonight: Relax to a movie or some other form of mind candy. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\* Clearly a partner causes a problem with a present trend. Your way of handling a key issue could be very different. Work with news rather than fight it. Much happens very quickly. Tonight: Dinner for two. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* Listen to what is occurring. Opt

for a more dynamic idea than perhaps your own. Make it OK to not always be on the same page as someone else. Your imagination bubbles forth from out of nowhere. Tonight: Defer to another perSAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\* You could be exhausted and very

tired. Your attitude could be abrupt in some manner, adding to your tension levels. You have a limited amount of time to get certain work done. Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\* Your imagination can be

tapped into more easily than usual. Use your innate skills to get through a task and complete long-overdue work. Create more fun in your life, knowing without a doubt where you are heading. Tonight: Add that same energy into your work and AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Tap into your energy, knowing

full well what your limits are. If possible, work with others, understanding their concerns on a personal level. This process will be easier if you are sensitive to your needs too. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\* Keep communication flowing

between you and someone else. If you relax more, use your sixth sense and remain sensitive to all involved, the end results could be stupendous. The unexpected occurs out of the blue. Tonight: Hang out with key friends.

**BORN TODAY** 

Actor Denzel Washington (1954), musician Johnny Otis (1921), musician Edgar Winters (1946)

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**5 Special Notices** 

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WTL Sand & Gravel now hiring CDL Truck Drivers for end dumps 669-0158.

AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

HVXQVMS WFN ZMA WFNEX Z

BFOJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I TRY TO BELIEVE

LIKE I BELIEVED WHEN I WAS FIVE ... WHEN

YOUR HEART TELLS YOU EVERYTHING YOU

hints. Each day the code letters are different,

QFBVAZW UVBBJA

DFMGJMGCJMG.

LNTTBJ UEVJMAX

NEED TO KNOW. — LUCY LIU

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

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| A STATE OF THE STA |           |                              |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|
| AUSTIN SCHOOL DIS  |           |                              |
| 3 Cypress Point  | \$519,900 | 4/2.5/3 - 3179 SF/GCAL       |
| 2100 Charles   | \$245,000 | 2/3.5/2 - 3445 SF/GCAL       |
| 2701 Beech Ln  | \$184,900 | 4/3.5/2 - 3710 SF/GCAL       |
|  |           | 4/2.75/2 - 2900 SF/GCAD      |
| 2518 Evergreen   | \$172,900 | 3/2/2 - 2331 SF/GCAL         |
|  |           | 5/2.5/2 - 3087 SF/GCAL       |
|  |           | 3/1.75/2 1895 SF/GCAD        |
|  |           |                              |
|  |           | 4/1,.75,.75/2 - 2315 SF/GCAD |
|  |           | 3/2.5/1 - 2326 SF/GCAD       |
|  |           | 3/2/2 2254 SF/GCAD           |
| 2720 Seminole  | \$133,599 | 3/2/2 1416 SF/GCAD           |
|  |           | 3/1.75/1 - 1950 SF/Measured  |
|  |           | 4/2/2 - 1732 SF/GCAD         |
|  |           | 3/1.75/2 - 1716 SF/GCAD      |
|  |           | 3/1/3 - 1607 SF/GCAD         |
|  |           | 4/2/2 - 2590 SF/GCAD         |
|  |           | 3/2/2 - 1680 SF/GCAD         |
|  |           | 3/1.75/2 - 1504 SF/GCAD      |
|  |           | 3/1.75/0-1650 SF/GCAD        |
|  |           | 2/1/cpt - 762 SF/GCAD        |
| Chaumont   | \$35,000  | Lots 1 & 2 Block 2           |

| 1048 Neel          | \$40,000  | 3/1.75/1 - 1277 SF/GCAD  |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 411 Ward           | \$25,000  | 2/1/0 - 723 SF/GCAD      |
| TRAVIS SCHOOL DIST | RICT      | West and North           |
| 2132 Lynn          | \$159,000 | 3/1.75/2 - 2484 SF/GCAE  |
| 2120 Lynn          | \$112,000 | 3/1.75/2 - 1872 SF/GCAD  |
|                    |           | 3/1.75/2 - 1426 SF/GCAD  |
| 1818 N Nelson      | \$85,000  | 3/2/1 - 2941 SF/GCAL     |
| 1100 Willow        | \$72,000  | 3/1.50/3 - 1146 SF/GCAD  |
| 2101 N Wells       | \$69,900  | 3/1.75/2 - 1435 SF/GCAI  |
| 2109 Zimmers       | \$68,950  | 3/1.75/2 - 1128 SF/GCAI  |
| 2312 N Rosewood    | \$65,000  | 3/1/1 - 1325 SF/GCAI     |
| 1024 Terry         | \$65,000  | 4/2/0 - 1483 SF/GCAI     |
| WILSON SCHOOL DIS  | TRICT     | South East               |
| 532 N Red Deer     | \$92,000  | 3/1.75/2 - 1846 SF/GCAI  |
|                    |           | 3/2/1 - 1400 SF/GCAI     |
|                    |           | 2/1/1- 892SF/GCAI        |
| OTHER AREAS        |           | Outside Pampa City Limit |
|                    |           | Ranch West of Lefo       |

| 530 Acres Near Lefors  | \$530,000 | Ranch West of Lefors              |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 220 N Ballard          | \$395,000 | Lt. Commer. 4 bth/27,797 SF/GCAD  |
| 2642 Co Rd 17, WD      | \$189,000 | 3/1.75/2 1640 SF/CCAD w/6 acres   |
| 14140 I-40 McLean      | \$89,500  | 35.8 Acres 2 Miles East of McLean |
| 614 Gardner, Borger    | \$70,500  | 3/2/2 1350 SF/HCAD                |
| 14140 I-40 McLean      |           | 3/2/0 - 2176 SF/GCAD              |
| 1023 Hedgecoke, Borger | \$59,900  | 3/2/2 1580 SF/HCAD                |
| 1108 Elmore, Borger    | \$44,900  | 3/2/0 1769 SF/HCAD                |
| 403 Danube, Borger     |           | 1/2.5/2 1342 SF/HCAD              |
| 801 S Grimes WD        | \$34,900  | 3/2/2 - 1400 SF/CCAD              |
| 412 \$ Grimes, WD      |           | 4/1/2 - 1333 SF/CCAD              |
| 502 E 4th, Clarendon   | \$33,900  | 3/1.75/2 1845 SF/DCAD             |
| 1011 Keith, Borger     | \$20,900  | 3/1/0 1215 SF/ HCAD               |

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 25, 2009:

This year, you alternate between serious and levelheaded and sometimes taking risks that could surprise even you. If you can combine the wisdom of stability and the creativity of risking, you will be soaring way past all other possibilities and probabilities. People see you as a winner when you integrate these two seemingly opposite attitudes. If you are single, you will meet people with ease. In January 2010, you develop a newfound flair for communication. You simply appear more upbeat. If you are attached, the two of you revitalize your bond. If you're at the appropriate age, you could have a new addition to your family. TAURUS knows how to lure you in.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) \*\*\* Someone's gift might be far too

serious for your taste. Remain gracious, even though on some level you might feel that you need to respond. Rather than land in a stew, give yourself space. Tonight: Let a child express the full ound of feelings!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\* You might wonder what is necessary to draw someone in. Try to detach from the issue as much as you can and just walk in this person's shoes. Many people, including you, could be tired after the recent celebration. Tonight: You don't need to say everything. Diplomacy

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\* Every year someone is happi-

Daily Horoscope er than someone else on this all important holiday. This year, you radiate, whether it is the company, events or someone's reaction to a gift. Squeeze in a nap if possible. Tonight: Where your

friends are. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\* Make it a point to check in on a relative or someone who might not be with you. This extra caring could make all the difference to this person. If you can extend a last-minute invitation to dinner, do. Tonight: A must appearance. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\* As soon as you can, make calls

to someone at a distance who might be alone. Smile and relax with another person. Are you tired or dragging unnecessarily? Put on some music, smile and know that soon enough this holiday will be over. Tonight: Let your mind wander. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\* Relate closely to those around you. Do a better job of listening and sharing. Understanding will evolve to another level. Don't worry about financial matters right now; let go and be with those around you. Tonight: Express your true feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\* You might discover you are not where you want to be. Listen to news with a more open perspective. A family member is unusually gracious and caring. A friend might push very hard to have his or her way. Tonight: Defer to

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\* Maintain stability in the face of some uncomfortable realizations. Remember, you still are only seeing your slant or perspective. A family member, predictably so, pushes your buttons

another person. It couldn't be easier.

Choose not to react. Tonight: Easy works

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\* Stay positive, even if someone gives you a present that is a dud. Remember, it is the thought that counts. The meaning around this holiday is spiritual, not materialistic. Tonight: Pitch in

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\* Do what comes naturally this morning. Staying close to home and/or family could prove to be delightful. You might want to visit and share with others later in the day. You might hop from Christmas dinner to Christmas dinner. Tonight: Squeeze every single drop out of the next few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\* Make sure to convey your Christmas wishes early on in the day. You might be surprised by someone's thoughtfulness. Later today, make it cozy and easy. Don't keep pushing as you have been. Tonight: Watching a game or

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\* You still might find yourself out running around at the last minute. The hectic pace and spending that comes along with it could be overwhelming. Just stop. Tonight: Visit with friends

**BORN TODAY** 

Singer Jimmy Buffett (1946), screenwriter, director Rod Serling (1924), singer, songwriter Annie Lennox (1954)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc

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> 3 bedroom 2 bath 662-9775

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103 Homes For Sale

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'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind. For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly. The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed? I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here. I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my Country, my Corps." The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still and we both shivered from the cold night's chill. I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

-Anonymou

This was brought to our office by Don Hendricks, and it was too important not to sha

Merry Christmas! From your friends at

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