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# The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, December 6, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 206 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

**TODAY IN SPORTS**



**Just a bit short**

Lady Harvesters rally in fourth, but still fall to the Demonettes

Page 8

**inside:**

Social Security and you by Tom Margenau



Page 5

## MAIN ATTRACTION



staff photos by **David Bowser**  
**TOP: Pampa turned out** en masse to enjoy the Christmas on Main festivities throughout Saturday. Elizabeth Harris on clarinet and Summer Anderson on trombone were two of the Pampa High School Harvester Band that led the parade up Cuyler Street Saturday morning. **RIGHT: Santa Claus**, with his sleigh parked atop a Pampa Fire Department fire engine, brought up the end of the Boomtown Parade by throwing out candy to the delight of the kids lining Cuyler.



More **PHOTOS** on page 3

## City officials to discuss strategy plan

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
 City officials will meet with community leaders Tuesday to discuss a strategic plan for Pampa. Officials with the City of Pampa and the Pampa Economic Development Corporation will meet with community leaders and representatives of the Theory into Practice (TIP) organization at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building to discuss a strategic plan for the city. Since this is a work session, no action will be taken.

## PISD board session set for tonight

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
 The trustees of the Pampa Independent School District will meet in special session tonight to consider an antenna at Harvester Field. Clear Wireless LLC wants to build and lease a light pole at the stadium in order to mount an antenna for their wireless communication system in Pampa. The school board will meet in special session beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Carver Center Administration Office at 321 West Albert.



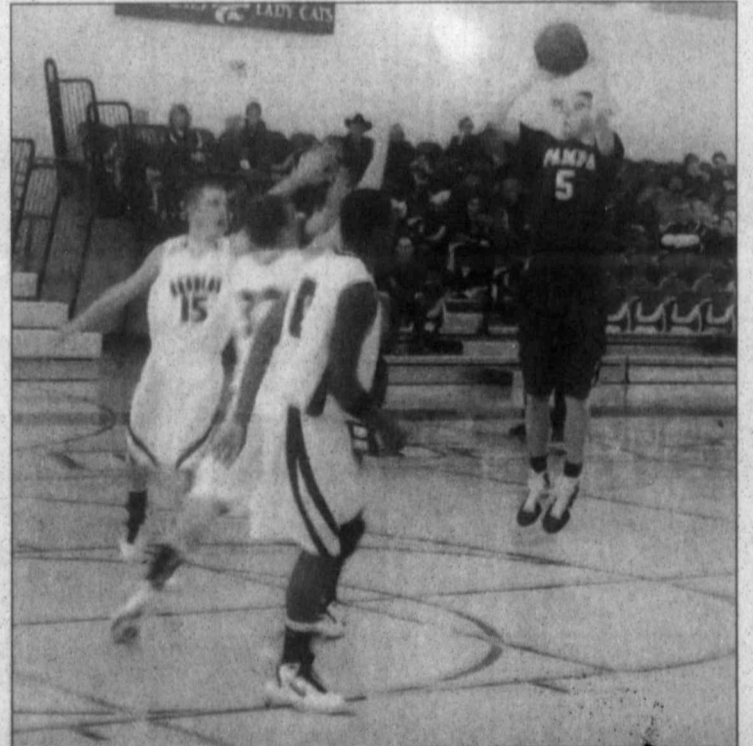
staff photo by **David Bowser**  
**Chad Ewing** of the Pampa Fire Department is a 10-year veteran.

## Ewing a pit row firefighter

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com  
 If the firefighter jumping over the wall at the NASCAR race at Texas Motor Speedway in the Metroplex looks familiar, it's because he's a Pampa fireman. Chad Ewing, 32, has been a Pampa firefighter for 10 years now. He first became interested in firefighting as a career while a teenager in Dimmitt where he grew up. It was there that he joined the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Department and began considering his future. After two years as a volunteer, Ewing moved to Amarillo to go through the firefighting academy at Amarillo College, then he worked for the Potter **EWING** cont. on page 5



## BOYS TAKE RIVER ROAD TOURNEY SHOOTING GALLERY



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**  
**Latigo Collins** attempts a jumper at the start of the second half on Saturday. The Harvesters made seven three-pointers en route to a 56-44 to win over Clarendon, taking their second straight River Road Tournament title. Full coverage on **SPORTS**, page 8.

**Chamber Luncheon**  
 Dec. 14 • 11:45 am • \$8.50/person • 200 N. Ballard  
 Program by Pampa High School Show Choir  
 Sponsored by Happy State Bank • Catered by Red River Steakhouse  
 Menu to include: Smoked Ham, Sweet or Baked Potato, Salad, Dinner Roll, Plum Cobbler and Tea  
 RSVP to Erica at 669-3241 or erica@pampachamber.com

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# AFTERNOON RUSH downtown christmas parade

downtown pampa • saturday, dec. 4

## Prof to warn before screaming

COLLEGE STATION (AP) - A Texas A&M professor says he'll let colleagues know in advance before he screams about killing people after an incident that led students in a neighboring classroom to take cover under their desks.

The Bryan-College Station Eagle reported Monday that philosophy teacher Richard Stadelmann's Nov. 23 educational outburst led a worried teacher in a nearby room to call police.

Stadelmann was leading a religious studies class when he loudly slammed a door and began yelling about Jonah's rage at God for not smiting the Assyrians.

Stadelmann says he was into character and "genuinely angry."

Police were called off when it became clear that nobody was in danger.

An Oct. 28 report of a gunman on campus led to a lockdown. School officials later determined the person's replica weapon was a Halloween prop.

## 'Dandy Don' dies at 72

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Don Meredith, one of the most recognizable figures of the early Dallas Cowboys and an original member of ABC's "Monday Night Football" broadcast team, died Sunday. He was 72.

Meredith's wife, Susan, told The Associated Press on Monday her husband died in Santa Fe after suffering a brain hemorrhage and lapsing into a coma. She and her daughter were at Meredith's side when he died.

She said a private graveside service was being planned and that family members were traveling to Santa Fe.

"Don Meredith was one of the most colorful characters in NFL history. He was star on the field who became an even bigger star on television," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "He brought joy to football fans, from his play in historic NFL games like the Ice Bowl to his great personality that helped launch the success of Monday Night Football."

## Arkansas gun theft charge added

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) - A Texarkana man serving life in prison for murder in Texas has pleaded guilty in Arkansas to stealing a gun from the victim.

The Texarkana Gazette reports that 23-year-old Austin Kyle Davis pleaded guilty to the gun theft charge last week in Miller County Circuit Court and was sentenced to six years in prison after he finishes his life sentence in Texas. Davis will be eligible for parole in Texas in about 34 years.

Davis was convicted last year of the September 2008 shooting death of Beau Gibson at Gibson's apartment in Texarkana, Texas.

Prosecutors said Davis was mad because he'd been arrested in Texarkana, Ark., about two weeks before the shooting for stealing the gun from Gibson.

## Dallas expands rail

DALLAS (AP) - Dallas Area Rapid Transit has expanded its \$1.8 billion Green Line.

Service began Monday on the newly completed 28-mile, 20-station line.

DART says the update, four years in the making, includes 24 more miles and 15 additional stations creating light rail connections from southeast Dallas to the northwest cities of Farmers Branch and Carrollton.

DART in September 2009 began operating the initial phase of the Green Line, with service to the Deep Ellum (EL-'um) entertainment district, Baylor University Medical Center and Fair Park, home of the State Fair of Texas.

DART, which also operates a Red Line and a Blue Line, provides transportation for Dallas and a dozen surrounding cities in a 700-square-mile service area.

## Concorde verdict to be appealed

HOUSTON (AP) - Continental Airlines will appeal a French court's verdict that found the carrier and a mechanic guilty of manslaughter in the 2000 crash of an Air France Concorde outside Paris that killed 113 people.

Continental says the carrier strongly disagreed with the "absurd finding."

The court Monday ruled that Continental must pay a \$265,000 fine and Houston-based mechanic John Taylor must pay \$2,650. Taylor was also handed a 15-month suspended prison sentence. All other defendants, including Taylor's now-retired supervisor Stanley Ford, were acquitted.

Taylor, who also plans to appeal, told The Associated Press that "I've been nothing but wronged since this started."

The presiding judge confirmed the long-held belief of investigators that debris dropped by a Continental DC-10 onto the runway at Charles de Gaulle Airport damaged the Air France jet on takeoff.

## Outage takes down Tumblr

NEW YORK (AP) The popular blogging site Tumblr is working to recover from an outage that's left it out of service for at least 15 hours.

Tumblr says the problem is in one of its database clusters, or collection of databases.

New York-based Tumblr lets users post photos, text, videos and other content in short updates. It bills itself "the easiest way to blog," though on Monday morning this wasn't the case. While both Facebook and Twitter have suffered big outages in recent years, the length of Tumblr's problem is unusual.

Twitter users are complaining about the outage in English, Spanish and Japanese among other languages.

## Oklahoma sets power line meeting

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — Proposals for power-line installation paths in eastern Oklahoma will be the subject of a meeting on Tuesday in Muskogee.

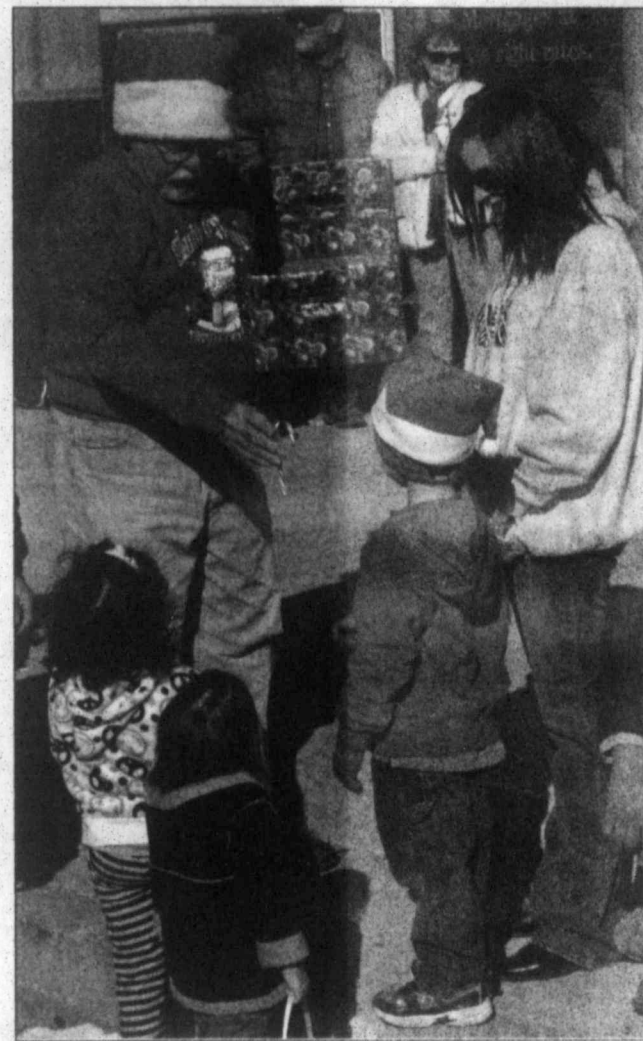
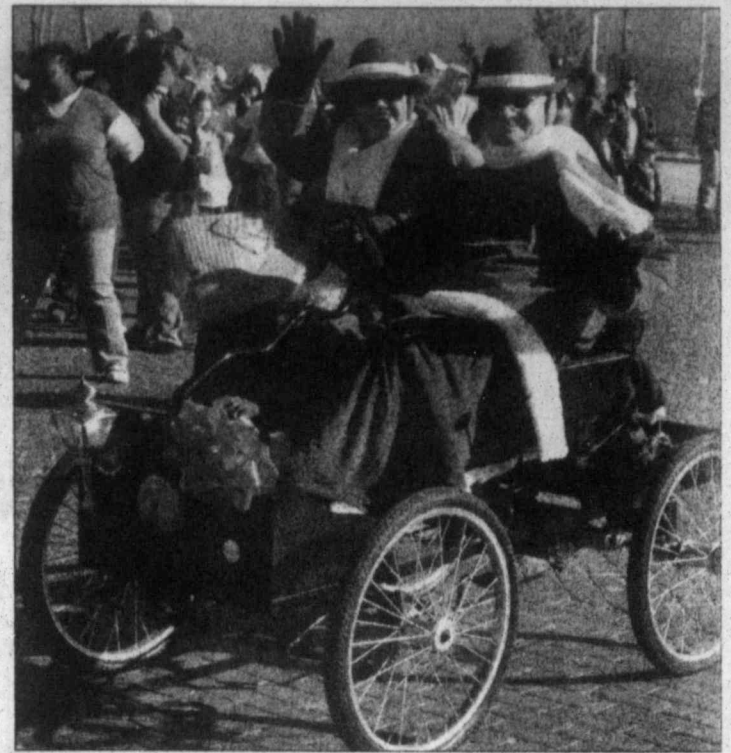
The Muskogee Phoenix reports that Oklahoma Gas and Electric sent out about 3,000 letters to eastern Oklahoma residents who could be affected by the construction of the high-voltage lines along the 125-mile route from a power plant near Konawa in Seminole County to a generating station east of Muskogee.

OG&E spokesman Brian Alford says the power-line construction is not strictly that company's project. He says projects like the one proposed are coordinated by the Southwest Power Pool, a nonprofit company that manages a nine-state electricity grid that carries power from 56 utilities.



staff photos by David Bowser

**TOP:** Gray County Deputy Joe Montgomery helped lead the parade Saturday afternoon in his patrol car. **RIGHT:** Nancy and Raymond Swaney roll up Cuyler in an antique automobile and their finest Christmas livery.



staff photos by David Bowser

**LEFT:** Pat Stewart hands out candy canes to eager kids. **TOP:** Faustina and John Curry escort a furry friend on the PAWS float in the Christmas parade.



**Merry Christmas!**

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BARRING LEVELS OF INVESTING

## Death penalty hearing starts

HOUSTON (AP) — Experts on eyewitness identification, confessions and forensic evidence are among those expected to testify at an unusual hearing on the constitutionality of the death penalty that starts Monday in the Texas county that has sent more convicts to death row than any other.

Harris County Judge Kevin Fine ordered the hearing last spring in response to a routine defense motion that judges typically reject. Fine, who stands out as a Democratic judge in deeply Republican Texas, declined to be interviewed but has indicated he's aware of recent exonerations of death row inmates and his decision in the case will "boil down to whether or not an innocent person has actually been executed."

Defense attorneys who filed the motions said they plan to call legal and academic experts who will detail how flaws in such things as eyewitness identification and confessions have led to wrongful convictions and sent innocent people to death row. The attorneys represent John Edward Green Jr., who is awaiting trial on charges he fatally shot a Houston woman and wounded her sister during a June 2008 robbery. The hearing could last up to two weeks.

Fine originally responded to the motion by declaring the death penalty unconstitutional. The decision surprised many Texans and generated a storm of criticism from Republican Gov. Rick Perry and others. The judge then clarified his ruling, saying the procedures the state follows in getting a death sentence are unconstitutional. Then he rescinded his ruling and ordered the hearing, saying he needed more information before making a final decision.

**What's on your wish list?**

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 2010. There are 25 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 6, 1960, nearly 9 million acres of Alaska was set aside as an Arctic National Wildlife Range by order of Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton. (In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed an act doubling the size of the range and renaming it the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.)

### On this date:

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1884, Army engineers completed construction of the Washington Monument by setting an aluminum capstone atop the obelisk.

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, W.Va.

In 1917, some 2,000 people died when an explosives-laden French cargo ship collided with a Norwegian vessel at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the city.

In 1922, the Irish Free State came into being under terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry S. Truman.

In 1969, a free concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Alameda County, Calif., was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was stabbed by a Hell's Angel.

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life.

**Ten years ago:** Florida Republican leaders announced the Legislature would convene in special session to appoint its own slate of electors in the state's contested presidential race; Democrats denounced the idea.

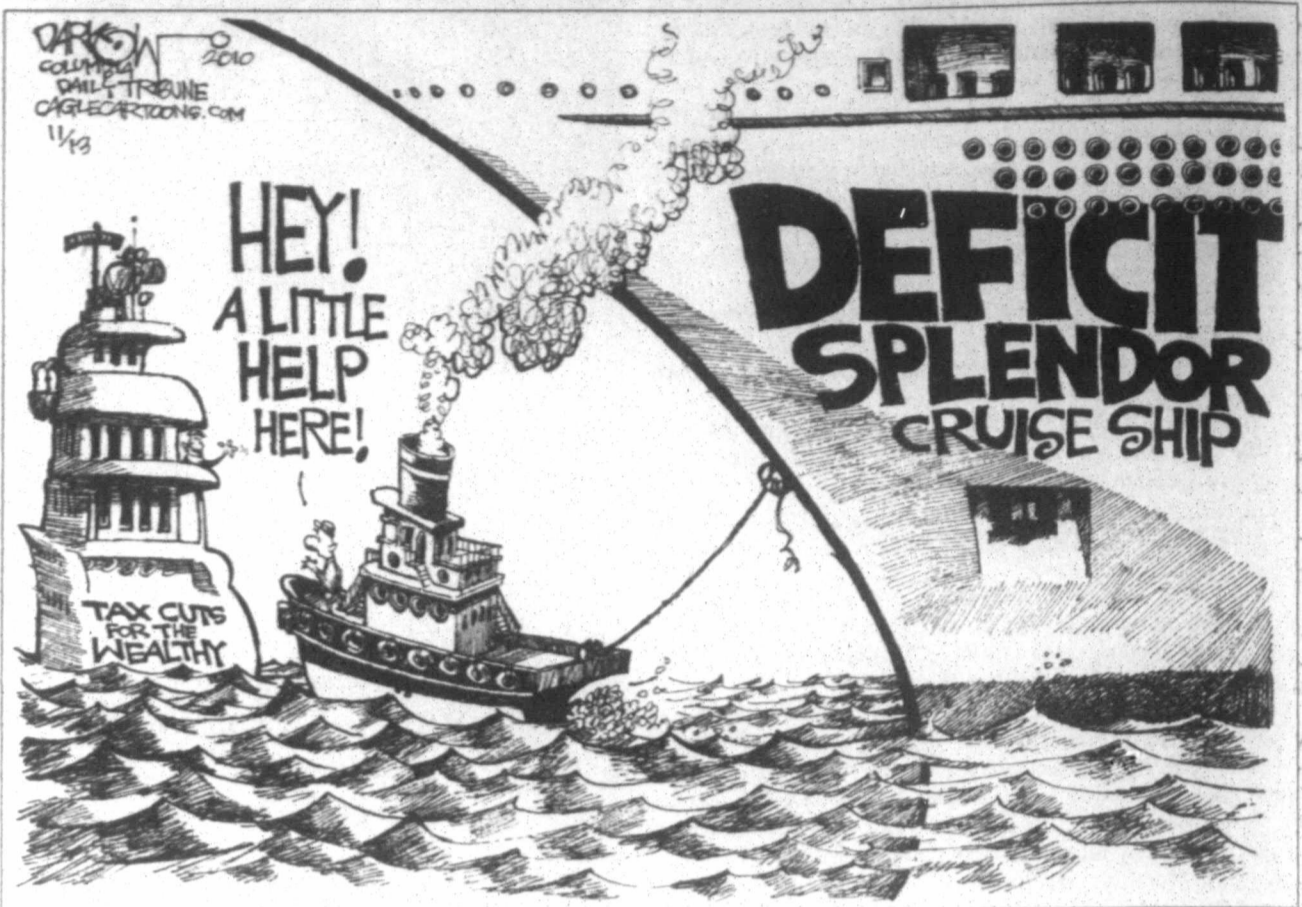
**Five years ago:** Two women detonated explosives in a classroom filled with students at Baghdad's police academy, killing 27 people. An Iranian military transport plane crashed in a Tehran suburb as it was trying to make an emergency landing, killing at least 115 people, including 21 on the ground.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama visited the U.S. Senate during a rare Sunday session to rally Democrats behind closed doors on a health care overhaul.

**Today's Birthdays:** Jazz musician Dave Brubeck is 90. Pro Football Hall of Famer Andy Robustelli is 85. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 72. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 69. Actor James Naughton is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Frankie Beverly (Maze) is 64. Former Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) is 62. Actress JoBeth Williams is 62. Actor Tom Hulce is 57. Actor Kin Shriner is 57. Actor Wil Shriner is 57. Actor Miles Chapin is 56. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 55. Comedian Steven Wright is 55. Country singer Bill Lloyd is 55. Singer Tish Hinojosa is 55. Rock musician Peter Buck (R.E.M.) is 54. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 49. Actress Janine Turner is 48. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 43. Rock musician Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg (Ace of Base) is 40. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 39. Actress Colleen Haskell is 34. Actress Lindsay Price is 34.

**Thought for Today:** "Each and every one of us has one obligation, during the bewildered days of our pilgrimage here, the saving of his own soul, and secondarily and incidentally thereby affecting for good such other souls as come under our influence."

Kathleen Norris, American author (1880-1960)



## America makes its voice heard on economy

**CALVIN WOODWARD**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It seems Washington is all ears these days.

President Barack Obama says he'll take a great idea to fix the economy anywhere he hears it. The Republican leaders in Congress can't say enough how determined they are to "listen to the American people."

OK. Here goes. We want less debt, lower taxes, more trade, less trade, "less talk and more walk," a brand new New Deal, a private sector renaissance, money for trains and roads, easier credit, a clampdown on CEO pay, more immigration, less immigration, government off our backs, a safer safety net, cheaper health care, the dismantling of Obamacare I Çð and how about some energy derived from burning algae?

Plus a new tone in Washington.

All in a New York minute.

The Associated Press asked people across the country to serve up their ideas to set the economy straight, a challenge underscored Friday when the jobless rate climbed to 9.8 percent, topping 9 percent for a record 19 straight months. They answered in a cacophony of voices, from the corporate office to the cafe.

America is not just a tea party. It's a coffee shop in Texas, too. It's a union hall in New York and it's Silicon Valley in California.

**TALENT MAGNET**

In Menlo Park, Calif., venture capitalist Marc Andreessen, an online pioneer who co-founded Netscape Communications, said the "single biggest thing we could do to accelerate the economy by far is to increase immigration."

"We have this bizarre paradox," he says, "where we have the world's best research universities, we have the smartest people who come from all over the world to come to study. They end up getting degrees in computer science, electrical engineering and chemical engineering and then we kick them out of the country. It's just absolutely crazy."

"If they were able to stay here to work for other companies and start other companies, we would have so much more economic growth. It would be just amazing. What we are doing now is just completely self-destructive."

The U.S. offers 65,000 visas a year for foreigners with advanced skills sought by U.S. companies, plus 20,000 visas for people who graduate from U.S. schools with a master's or higher in certain fields. Some companies complain the visas are not granted quickly enough.

**COFFEE PARTIER**

If the U.S. goes begging for geniuses, that means plenty of opportunity for people such as Ulises Aranda, 24, of the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch. He graduated with a master's in mechanical engineering in May and had no shortage of job offers. He chose to work for his father's engineering construction firm. To him, the economy will grow if students pick the right fields and buckle down.

"There's plenty of jobs out there for engineering and science majors," he said from the patio of Dunn Bros Coffee. "But people aren't really graduating with those degrees. I spent my six years in college, working hard. I busted my butt and had no social life. Now I have a job."

**CREDIT CRUNCH**

Larry Karel, 71, of Aventura, Fla., owns a company that produces furniture shows around the country. He says the small businesses that exhibit at his shows are starved for loans.

"I never heard of so many companies that are putting their exhibit fee on a credit card," he said. Without loans, businesses can't create jobs and people can't buy - and furnish - new homes. "It's a vicious circle."

**DOWN WITH FREE TRADE**

"I'm not a die-hard Democrat, I'm a 'what-are-you-going-to-do?' die-hard," said Michael Walker, 54, of Corning, N.Y. He has taken a temporary leave as a production worker at Corning Inc., the world's biggest maker of glass for flat-screen televisions, to work for the union.

He says free-trade practices and outsourcing have devastated manufacturing, and the ripple effects now are touching the public sector. Both political parties, he said, "acknowledge they understand what's wrong but none of them want to do anything with it."

**UP WITH TRADE**

Trade works for both sides, Cote said. "The thing I can point to is that since the Phoenicians, 3,000 or 4,000 years ago, it works."

"As you grow everywhere," he said, "you start to add jobs. In the U.S., for example, we've been adding employment over these last few months. Things have turned and we've actually started adding at the same time that we're growing globally."

"So this is not a zero-sum game, and it's a tougher concept to get across, but, God, it's the truth."

Yet Cote sees something even more important for the government to do than to encourage the free flow of commerce. It relates to his work on Obama's bipartisan deficit commission, which produced a report Friday recommending \$4 trillion in budget savings over a decade by curbing Social Security, raising taxes and deeply cutting spending.

"That debt problem needs to be solved or the seeds of the next recession have already been planted," he told AP. "If that doesn't get sorted out, then almost nothing else we do is going to matter."

He said: "People want to point to stimulus spending, Bush tax cuts, or Obamacare and blame that - and those are all sideshows."

**INNOVATION NATION**

In Durham, N.C., Bill Brown co-founded 8 Rivers Capital, a private equity firm supporting a lab that is designing and testing systems to make renewable energy from the burning of algae. The government has put money into the project.

"The private sector has some things that would truly change the economy," he says. "Yet it needs government support right now."

Brown says that when President Ronald Reagan successfully pushed for a higher investment tax credit and hefty upfront depreciation allowances in the early 1980s, leading-edge businesses took off.

"Without fostering this sort of innovation, we don't have a hope of using the productivity engine to get out of our current economic rut."

**CALL A MEETING**

Indra Nooyi is chairman and CEO of PepsiCo., the New York-based multinational beverage and food company employing 110,000 in the U.S. The Indian-born executive is one of the most powerful women in business.

"My dream would be that the president convenes existing or retired CEOs and says, 'Go to work and figure out how we prepare a long-term plan for the country so we can grow the country's manufacturing base,'" she said.

"I think as a country we have to sit down and talk about the sectors that we want to create in the United States over the next 20-30 years - I mean, almost a business plan for the country - and then figure out how we're going to plan, fully invest behind these sectors, so that we can actually get manufacturing jobs back to the United States and keep a base of employment going well into the future."

**MORE WALK**

Bearded, blue-eyed and lean, Dallas barista Adam Gaynier, 24, says it will take more than meetings to make people believe in their economic future again. "Less talk and more walk," is what he wants from government.

"You've got to back up what you're saying with physical change that we can see. American people don't care about what we don't see. We care about the stuff we deal with on a day to day basis, buying groceries, having enough money to put gas in the car, the price of gas going up."

But words and meetings matter to Mark Peters, 53, who founded Piedmont Carolina Nursery in Colfax, N.C., in 1982, right after college. He employs 28 people. A registered independent, Peters says the economy would get a real lift if people were convinced that Obama and congressional Republicans were committed to working together.

From that, he says, a real plan to grow the economy could be found.

"More than anything right now, it's just having that confidence that everything's OK, and I'm not going to lose my job, and I'm going to be able to pay my bills."

**UP WITH TRADE**

Honeywell is a \$34 billion company with 130,000 workers, half outside the U.S. It makes jet engines, the cockpit on the space shuttle, home thermostats, equipment for refineries and much more. The AP asked Dave Cote, chairman and chief executive, for ideas to expand the U.S. economy when he was traveling with Obama in India, where the New Jersey-based company employs 11,000.

Trade works for both sides, Cote said. "The thing I can point to is that since the Phoenicians, 3,000 or 4,000 years ago, it works."

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**TPA MEMBER 2010 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

# Court to consider Walmart bias suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday it will consider whether to keep alive the largest employment discrimination lawsuit in U.S. history, a case that claims Wal-Mart pays women less than men and promotes women less frequently.

The justices stepped into a dispute that could involve billions of dollars in back pay for 500,000 to 1.5 million women who work or once worked at Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest private employer. But the case also could affect other class-action lawsuits, in which people with similar interests increase their leverage by joining together in a single claim.

Wal-Mart, backed by many business interests, praised the court's intervention.

"The current confusion in class action law is harmful for everyone — employers, employees, businesses of all types and sizes, and the civil justice system," the company said in a statement. "These are exceedingly important issues that reach far beyond this particular case."

Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Ark., is appealing a ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco that the class-action lawsuit could go to trial.

The company says that allowing the large number of claims to go forward would set off an avalanche of similar class-action lawsuits in California and the other Western states overseen by the 9th Circuit.

But the lawyers representing the women who are suing Wal-Mart say there have been only eight such suits nationwide — and none within the 9th Circuit — since the first appeals court ruling in favor of the women nearly four years ago. "This threatened landslide of class-action litigation has not materialized," the lawyers said in legal papers filed with the Supreme Court.

Wal-Mart employs 1.4 million people in the United States and 2.1 million workers in 8,000 stores worldwide. The company said the women should not be allowed to join together in the lawsuit because each outlet operates as an independent business. Since it doesn't have a companywide policy of discrimination, Wal-Mart argued that women alleging gender bias should file individual lawsuits against individual stores.

The plaintiffs contend that the company was aware that it lagged behind other employers in terms of opportunities for women and that Wal-Mart imposes uniform rules and tight controls over its stores.

The lawsuit was first filed by six women in federal court in 2001. The 9th Circuit has three times ruled that the case could proceed as a class action.

In its latest decision, in April, the appeals court voted 6-5 in favor of the plaintiffs. Judge Michael Daly Hawkins said that the number of women involved is large, but "mere size does not render a case unmanageable."

Judge Sandra Ikuta's blistering dissent said the women employees failed to present proof of widespread discrimination. Without such evidence, Ikuta said, "there is nothing to bind these purported 1.5 million claims together in a single action."

The case will be argued in the spring. The case is Wal-Mart Stores v. Dukes, 10-277.

# Seniors have great expectations

TOM MARGENAU  
Creator's Syndicate

A few weeks ago, I wrote a column featuring a letter from a 29-year-old woman who voiced concerns about older folks demanding higher benefits from Social Security — benefits that would be paid by her generation of taxpayers. That column generated many responses — almost all of them from senior citizens. Some were sympathetic to her concerns. But most were critical of her complaints.

I'm going to declare a cease-fire in the generational warfare I started. But one of the e-mails I received brought back an old memory that I'd like to share with my readers. It has to do with our expectations from government.

The e-mail came from an older guy who echoed the concerns of the young woman. He noted that people seem to want smaller government — except when it comes to what they want for themselves. Then it's just "more, more, more." He went on to say, "Americans are just too dependent on their government. As an old Nebraska farm boy, I know what it's like to be self-reliant. Sure, I get a Social Security check and Medicare, but I was smart enough to plan for our future so my wife and I have other income and investments. That way, we don't have to depend on the government to do everything for us." He suggested that the young woman and her husband should make the same kind of plans, while expecting Social Security to provide a bedrock of support.

His mention of the Nebraska farm reminded me of a story that I haven't thought about in a long while. It's a true story from my early years with the Social Security Administration.

When I first started working for SSA in the early 1970s, one of my jobs was to go out and talk to groups about Social Security and Medicare. As part of that effort, I would lug around a big projector and portable movie screen and show public relations films that promoted these two programs. It was quite a difference from the end of my career when I'd show

## Social Security and you



up for a speech carrying just a little thumb drive in my pocket, which I would plug into the organization's laptop to do a snappy PowerPoint presentation.

Anyway, one time I was cleaning out a storage room and found some old government PR movies from the 1960s. One of them came out in 1965 and was intended to introduce the (at the time) brand-new Medicare program. The movie was really corny and amateurish by today's standards. The "plot" involved a woman whose husband, an old farmer, was in a hospital in Omaha, Neb. She was talking to a couple of doctors and the hospital's social worker. They were saying that her husband required extensive heart surgery and other medical procedures, and the bills would be very expensive. She told them that they should do whatever they needed to do because she would sell the farm in order to pay the bills. And that's where the PR pitch came in — the social worker told her the government had this new program called "Medicare," which would pay almost all of her husband's hospital and doctor bills.

Of course, the woman was relieved and said something like, "Thank God for our government and its wonderful programs for the elderly." (As I said, this was a PR film produced by the government. I — and the co-workers I was watching the movie with — got a good chuckle out of the hackneyed effort by Medicare's flacks.)

Later that day, I was at home watching TV with my wife. A commercial came on that was promoting a Medicare supplement plan. (Forty years later, we still see a lot of Medicare supplement ads!) Anyway, the commercial featured a group of obviously well-to-do older men on a golf course. One guy mentioned that he was scheduled to go to the hospital for some minor surgery. And he said something

like, "I'm sure glad I have Medicare to pay for that procedure."

Then one of his golfing buddies laughed and said, "Medicare is only going to pay part of your bill. You'll have to cough up about 20 percent of the cost out of your own pocket." So the first guy said, "You mean the government is forcing me to pay for part of my surgery myself? That's an outrage!" And then the commercial began its pitch for the Medicare supplement designed to pay for that non-covered 20 percent.

Even though I knew the Medicare movie and the commercial were both "make believe," I still thought it reflected the tenor of the times. And I was amazed at how much our expectations of government had changed in just a decade or so. In the 1960-era movie, a woman was willing to sell the family farm in order to pay for her husband's hospital bill; she was surprised to learn the government would help her. In the 1970s commercial, a rich guy on a golf course was ticked off because the government wasn't paying his entire medical bill.

That was all about 30 or 40 years ago. Today, the pendulum seems to be swinging in the opposite direction. We've just elected a conservative majority in Congress, with a sprinkling of "get the government off my back" tea party advocates thrown in for good measure. Assuming they hold true to their convictions and begin to push for smaller government with no tax increases (and possibly even tax cuts), we'll find out if the inevitable reduction in government benefits is what the American people really wanted: when Social Security benefits are cut; when Medicare premiums are increased; when military budgets are slashed and defense contractors start laying off workers; when national parks are closed; when subsidies to farmers are curtailed and food prices go up. We'll see what happens, but my prediction is the pendulum will start swinging once again!

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

## Ewing

cont. from page 1

County Firefighting Department for a year before joining the Pampa Fire Department.

With a grin, he said he's planning on spending another 10 years working at the Pampa Fire Department.

Drawn to firefighting by the camaraderie and brotherhood of the culture, Ewing said that the people with whom he works are the best part of the job.

He used to think working nights was the worst part of the job, but it's not bad once he got used to it, he said.

The real drawback is having to work a fire in which someone is injured, especially children, he said.

Ewing's schedule has changed recently. He's now training officer at the Pampa Fire Department and spends much of his day working on the training schedule.

He said he followed his brother, Shawn, into firefighting.

"He's been a firefighter for about 20 years," Ewing said. "He got me started."

Shawn is part of the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department. He's also a firefighter for Pit Row Firefighter at Texas Motor Speedway.

Chad Ewing said he's also followed his brother to the NASCAR track as a Pit Row Firefighter. Chad's been doing it for about three years now.

The most spectacular fire he faced at the race track was last April, he said.

The car he was working blew an engine right in front of the pits and the engine compartment caught on fire.

Chad Ewing was one of the ones that jumped over the pit wall to extinguish the blaze.



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law is taking his 8-year-old son on a hunting trip. I strongly disapprove, but cannot say anything. I am shocked that my daughter is allowing it.

As a small child, I had a little playmate who blew his fingers off with a hunting gun. I fail to see any reason a child this young needs to learn how to kill animals — and, of course, I am terrified he will get hurt.

My grandson is worried about going, and I am deeply upset. What do you think about a child this age going hunting? He is a sweet, intelligent child, and I am a ...

**VERY DISTURBED GRANDMA IN FLORIDA**  
**DEAR DISTURBED GRANDMA: Your son-in-law may hope the hunting trip will be a bonding experience with the boy. However, if the child is worried about going into the woods and killing something, the experience may not bring the desired result. While I am not a fan of killing for sport, if your daughter does not object, there is nothing you or I can do to prevent it. (If they were hunting for food, I might feel differently.)**

DEAR ABBY: I just received a holiday card from some relatives. Included with it was a printed one-page newsletter describing their past year's activities. I have received similar essays from them in previous years.

Why do these writings always inflate the deeds of the writer, almost to the point of laughability? It's as if they're saying, "After dashing back from our private audiences with Queen Elizabeth and the pope, we jetted off to Rio to help our dear friends, the Buffetts, launch their new yacht, which is 6 inches longer than the QEII. And our children are doing well. The oldest is a CEO and the younger was just awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry."

To me, the holidays are a time for reflection and reaching out to those less fortunate. The last thing we need to see is an exaggerated (or fictional) account of an ego-trip from somebody who just doesn't get the meaning of the holidays. — **ORDINARY GAL IN ROCHESTER**

**DEAR ORDINARY GAL: Many individuals -- but not all -- feel as you do about holiday newsletters. It may help you to remember that they are not being written to you personally. The communication you received is a form of self-promotion. So with that in mind, no law says you have to read them. Because you find them upsetting, toss them as you would any other unwanted piece of advertising.**

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a tendency to "almost" complete things, but seldom actually does. The discards make it as far as the counter above the trash container where they belong. The hose carrier gets put back two feet from where it's supposed to go. He'll leave his jacket on the chair right next to the coat closet. Get the picture?

My husband is a great guy and he does a lot around the house. It's just that these "alms" are so consistent that I'm curious about whether they're symptomatic of a kind of disorder. — **MAINE OBSERVER**

**DEAR OBSERVER: With the understanding that I am not licensed in any state of the Union to make a definitive diagnosis, it appears that your husband is either easily distracted or a wee bit ... lazy.**

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 41 Soothsayer
- 1 Ship's canvas
- 5 Deep voice
- 9 Greene of "Bonanza"
- 10 Upper echelon
- 12 Eat away
- 13 Out of style
- 14 Platitude
- 16 Decline
- 17 Heredity unit
- 18 Take for granted
- 21 Ancient
- 22 Curtly sharp
- 23 Three-score
- 24 Torch holder
- 26 Cow call
- 29 Denali setting
- 30 Sudden shock
- 31 "Tiny" Dickens boy
- 32 Cheap
- 34 Sung drama
- 37 Full of energy
- 38 Wall painting
- 39 Form 1040 user
- 40 News-paper part

- DOWN 1 Chestnut horse
- 2 In the area
- 3 Small movie
- 4 Sediment site
- 5 Sleep
- 6 In the style of
- 7 Shows interest
- 8 Like a Turkish bath
- 9 Release
- 11 Border
- 15 Tailless pet

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### Saturday's answer

- 19 Location
- 20 Secret agent
- 22 Kitchen fixture
- 23 Sinking signal
- 24 Goof
- 25 Shutter-bug's need
- 26 Dangling art
- 27 Director Stone
- 28 Playful mammal
- 29 Proton's place
- 30 "Salt" star
- 33 Female fliers
- 35 Cloth scrap
- 36 Tavern quaff

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

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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



### Non Sequitur



### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010:

This year, you'll be exposed to many new opportunities. Some of your choices might test your value of the status quo and traditional thought. You must make a decision. Can you walk down the untrodden path? Honor who you are, and let go of what doesn't work. If you are single, new doors open, especially after the new year. Realize that no commitment is appropriate until you get to know each other. A second person could enter your life out of the blue. If you are attached, a new aspect to your bond arises, adding Super Glue and excitement. Flow with changes. CAPRICORN's opinions on finance might not be right for you.

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

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
 ★★★★★ Get a grip on a situation before you need to make a major change. By catching this problem at the seedling stage, you'll prevent a big headache, for you and for others. If you're feeling limited, don't blame others. It is the value you put on their opinions. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Challenges can be interesting, as long as you use them to exercise your creativity and intelligence. The only limitation you could experience is from yourself. Fatigue marks the late day. Tonight: Let your body relax to a good movie or music.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Dealing with a partner, associate or loved one takes all the energy you have. You not only think this is no fun, but you are concerned with the long-term ramifications. You are clearly off and cannot change the immediate situation. Tonight: Forget today; rest.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Others are determined to have their way. Listen to what is being shared. If you want a high peace factor, you will go along with the request. Otherwise, be ready for a battle of wills, where no one really wins. Tonight: Take suggestions, but do what you want.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Keep your intent clear, but others still might react. Understand that what triggers one person might not even bother another. Don't wonder so much about the situation.

Recognize your frustration and fatigue. Tonight: Take care of yourself first.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ The unexpected carries a kick, which isn't surprising. In some ways, a key partner or associate has the ability to debilitate you. Understanding evolves, but you might have to look past a feeling of insecurity and/or financial tightness. Tonight: Let go of your worries.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Is it possible that you are making a situation a lot harder than necessary? If this is the case, loosen up and see what happens. Sometimes you only get wound tighter and tighter, causing yourself an abundance of problems. Tonight: Head home.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Communication makes a difference. What seems like it's too good to be true probably is. Understanding evolves to a new dimension. A child or new friend could be full of surprises. Tonight: Out and about.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Examine any offers or risks with care. An unforeseen element lies within. Frustration builds in a meeting, which could involve an older person or someone you consider a stick in the mud. Tonight: In the thick of things.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ You could be more in touch with the goals of a project than someone who has a more vested interest. You cannot change this person, so do as much as you can on your own. A surprise communication heads your way. Tonight: Only what you want.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★★★★ Moaning and groaning won't change the state of affairs, but it might be necessary for you. Listen to a wild scheme that involves an innate gift or finances. Decide if you really can walk this path. Tonight: Go where you feel good. Talk to a responsive pal.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★★★ You might want to venture forward and try another approach. Your unexpected actions could send many into a tizzy, especially a boss or associate. Understanding evolves as a discussion occurs. Tonight: Leave a grumpy person alone.

**BORN TODAY**  
 Political activist Noam Chomsky (1928), actress Ellen Burstyn (1932), basketball player Larry Bird (1956)

### Tundra



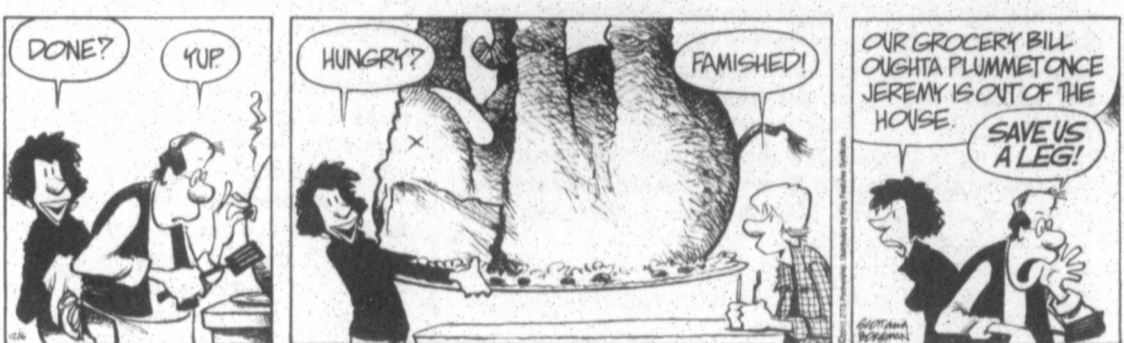
### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



### Zits



### Garfield



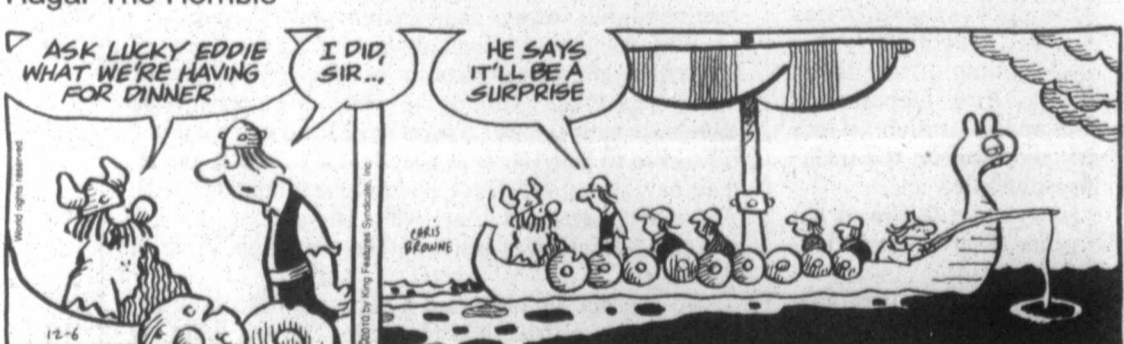
### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



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1999 Chevrolet S10 1gecs194xs8201905 \$2357.50  
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1991 Lincoln Town Car 1LNCM81W7MY618079 \$2660.50  
1978 Chevrolet Impala 1L69U8J244728 \$2331.25  
All veh will be sold for charges assessed against the veh OBO Bob Douthitt Autos Wrecker Service, Inc. 1432 S. Barnes, Pampa, TX VSF0573044 806.669.3481 G-23 Dec. 6, 2010

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ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.  
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FOUND Male Schnauzer in the 1800 bl. of Evergreen. Please call 688-9275.  
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JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115  
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**19 Situations**  
RANCH RELIEF-do you need to leave town on vacation, medical or business? We will feed & care for all livestock, pets or home. Referrals given. 806-826-3306 for more info.

**19 Situations**  
WILL sit with & care for your loved ones. Have references. 669-7732 or 595-0219  
PICARE Home, Private 24 hr., in my home. Short-long term. Been in business 12 yrs. Have references. 669-2271  
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ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.  
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2700 Duncan	\$300,000	4/2 50/2	3830 SF/GCAD
2100 Charles	\$199,900	2/3 5/2	3445 SF/GCAD
2540 Chestnut	\$199,000	4/2 5/2	2544 SF/GCAD
2421 Duncan	\$184,900	5/2 75/2	2895 SF/GCAD
1218 Charles	\$167,900	3/2 5/2	2726 SF/GCAD
12042 White Acres	\$161,800	3/2/2	2098 SF/GCAD 1.4 acres
2600 Evergreen	\$159,900	4/2/2	2216 SF/GCAD
1901 Fir	\$146,500	3/2/2	2102 SF/GCAD
2528 Charles	\$138,500	3/1 75/2	2132 SF/GCAD
1206 Mary Ellen	\$136,350	5/3 5/2	3381 SF/GCAD
2720 Seminole	\$133,500	3/2/2	2216 SF/GCAD
2207 Chestnut	\$125,000	3/1 75/1	1950 SF/Measured
2405 Navajo	\$89,900	3/1 75/2	1472 SF/GCAD
2239 Duncan	\$85,900	4/1 75/1	1780 SF/GCAD
1301 Mary Ellen	\$81,507	4/2 75/2	2900 SG/GCAD
2236 Dogwood	\$79,900	3/1 5/1	1264 SF/GCAD
2132 Hamilton	\$79,000	4/1 75/1	1536 SF/GCAD
716 E 15th	\$70,000	4/1/1	1196 SF/GCAD
1445 Russell	\$62,000	3/1 75/2	1504 SF/GCAD
700 Somerville	\$42,500	3/1 75/0	1650 SF/GCAD
1316 Duncan	\$35,000	3/1/0	1006 SF/GCAD
Chaufmont	\$35,000	Lots 1 & 2 Block 2	
1911 Coffee	\$27,500	2/1/0	780 SF/GCAD

**LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT** Southwest

945 S Faulkner	\$35,000	2/1/0	746 SF/GCAD
1133 S Banks	\$35,000	2/2/2	1008 SF/GCAD Mobile Home Bdrms/Bath/Garage - 5qH/County Appraisal District

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**The PAMPA NEWS**  
Thursday, January 14, 2010 Volume 138 - No. 211 New Daily - Weekdays 8:00 AM

**City raises green, cart fees at Hidden Hills**  
By Beth Phillips  
During the first city meeting of the year Pampa commissioners adopted two resolutions regarding city operations, and raised the fees at the golf course.  
The new green fee will cost \$12 at Hidden Hills Country Club and is expected to bring in an additional \$23,000 to \$26,000 per year from the 18-hole course at the club.  
Green fees for adults ranged from \$1 to \$15. Reduced and children, the course will charge \$10 per round. Senior citizens 62 and over are charged only \$5. \$10 on week days and junior golfers 18 years of age and under will cost \$10 on week days and \$12 on weekends and holidays.  
The new fee structure will be implemented Monday-Friday, will go into effect on Monday, Jan. 18. The new fee structure will be \$15 on week days and \$20 on weekends and holidays. For those who do not have a membership, the fee will be \$25 for the first round and \$10 for subsequent rounds. The fee will be \$10 for the first round and \$10 for subsequent rounds. Family \$350, Senior \$425, and youth \$275.  
Commissioners gave their approval to a grant application to Texas Parks and Wildlife, that would bring the city \$100,000 for the proposed project. City website page 2.

**POYC sign-ups begin today**  
The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is recruiting new members by signing up today at the Pampa Civic Center. The club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides a safe and fun environment for children and youth in the Pampa area. The club is currently accepting sign-ups for the 2011 season. The sign-up fee is \$10 and includes a membership card and a t-shirt. The club meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 PM at the Pampa Civic Center. For more information, call 669-9991 or visit [www.poyc.org](http://www.poyc.org).

**Oops**  
Pampa firefighters Tim Pickens and John Taylor work to stop a gas leak in the 400 block of Broadway. City water crews were repairing a water line when they noticed the gas leak. The gas leak was caused by a broken water pipe. The firefighters worked to stop the gas leak and the water crews finished the repairs.

**VFW hoists flag**  
The Stars and Stripes flew proudly today from the flagpole in front of the VFW Post 1197. The VFW Post is a proud member of the VFW National Council. The VFW Post is a proud member of the VFW National Council. The VFW Post is a proud member of the VFW National Council.

**ATMOS offers help with home heating bills**  
Lambert - With recently cold temperatures covering much of Central Texas, Atmos Energy is offering assistance to its customers. Atmos Energy is offering assistance to its customers. Atmos Energy is offering assistance to its customers.

**County Livestock Show**  
January 15-17  
A live auction at the Rodeo Grounds for more information contact: Brockman Auctioneers at 669-8013

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# Sports

## Harvesters ride Broncos to tourney championship

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

After the White Deer game on Friday, Pampa head coach Dustin Miller said he wanted his team to get off to a fast start against the IA No. 15 Clarendon Broncos in Saturday's tournament championship. Miller got the start he wanted, and Pampa held off a couple rallies by Clarendon to repeat as River Road Tournament champions in a 56-44 victory.

Miller said he's glad they won but there is still room for improvement.

"We got the start we wanted, but we let them creep back into it," Miller said. "Then we got a good start in the second half. We just let them hang around to long. We won, but the good news is we can still get better."

The Harvesters jumped out to a 17-2 lead in the first quarter. Pampa made four three pointers on eight attempts. Clarendon only made two baskets and two free throws and trailed 18-6 after one. Junior center Reid Miller said they finally got off to a good start but have to maintain it through the whole game.

"That's really the first game this season that we got off to a good start and hit all those shots," Miller said. "The defense lacked at some points but we held them off and won the game."

In the second quarter, the Broncos got back in the game. After both teams exchanged baskets, Clarendon went on a 10-2 run and cut Pampa's lead to three. The Harvesters were outscored 18-12 in

the second but led 30-24 at halftime.

Pampa opened up their lead in the third. The Harvesters outscored Clarendon 16-4 and only allowed two baskets. Senior forward Garrett Ericson and senior guard Jonathan Polasek hit back-to-back three pointers that expanded Pampa's lead from 12 to 18. Pampa led 46-28 after three.

Polasek said the team is not shy about shooting the ball.

"We have 10 capable guys of shooting from anywhere within half court," Polasek said. "Offense isn't a problem for us."

In the fourth quarter, The Broncos made another run at the Harvesters. Clarendon outscored Pampa 12-2 in the first half of the quarter and cut the lead to eight. However the Harvesters regained control and outscored them 8-4 the rest of the quarter.

Polasek said they have to be more consistent on defense.

"Second quarter, we kind of lost pace," Polasek said. "We let them back in the game. We let them get some offensive rebounds and easy layups. Overall it was pretty good day if we can take the good points and the 18 point quarter and the 16 point quarter away."

Ericson led the team in scoring with 15 points. Polasek followed with 10 and Latigo Collins and Miller each scored eight. Brayden Phillips led the Broncos in scoring with 10. Collins, Miller and Ericson earned all-tournament team selections.

The Harvesters (6-2) play in the Nichols Shootout Friday and Saturday in Dallas.



Reid Miller attempts a three pointer in the second half against Clarendon Saturday in the River Road Championship. Miller scored eight points and the Harvesters won 56-44 to claim their second straight River Road championship.

staff photo by Andrew Glover

## Lady Harvesters rally in fourth, fall to Demonettes

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters rallied in the fourth quarter, but couldn't overcome a 14-point halftime deficit in a 49-40 loss to the Dumas Demonettes in the River Road Tournament's third place game Saturday.

Head coach Gene Valentine said they played well but didn't have some shots go in.

"We executed today as well as we have all year," Valentine said. "We had the shots it's just a matter of knocking them down."

The Lady Harvesters never had the lead in the game. The Demonettes scored the first seven points of the game and maintained that advantage till the end of the quarter. Pampa went on a 7-2 run, trailing 9-2 to cut the lead to two. Dumas, however scored the last three points of the quarter and led 14-9 after one.

In the second quarter, Pampa's offense struggled as they weren't able to make a field goal. The Lady Harvesters only scored four points on two free throws by junior Kirsten Kuhn and senior forward Kayla Hughes and sophomore forward Taylor Morgan each hit one. Dumas outscored Pampa 13-4 and expanded their advantage to 27-13.

Kuhn said they have to get off to faster

starts in games.

"We've had a lot of trouble with that this year getting started," Kuhn said. "If we were faster in starting off it would be a lot better. We just got to get more aggressive at the beginning."

Pampa hardly cut into the deficit in the third quarter. The closest they got was within nine. Dumas led by as much as 14 points, though they were outscored they still led 38-26 after three. The Lady Harvesters started the fourth quarter strong, scoring the first nine points and cutting the lead to three. Pampa got as close as two twice but was unable to tie the game or take the lead.

Valentine said they improved significantly from the first time they played Dumas, when they lost 51-31.

"I thought we did some really good things," Valentine said. "First half we only turned the ball over five times. We just weren't making shots."

Kuhn led the team in scoring with 12 and was awarded a spot on the all tournament team. Junior post Kailyn Troxell followed with eight and Hughes followed with seven. Alexi Davis led the Demonettes in scoring with 17. Payton Frische followed with 13.

The Lady Harvesters (1-10) host Amarillo High 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.



**Kirsten Kuhn**  
Pampa High School

**Reid Miller**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Kirsten Kuhn** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Kuhn led the Lady Harvesters in scoring all week. In Tuesday's game against Gruver, Kuhn scored 20. In the River Road Tournament, Kuhn averaged 12.7 points per game to help lead Pampa to a fourth place finish out of 10 teams. The junior also earned an all-tournament team spot.

Pampa High School junior basketball player **Reid Miller** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Miller scored 10 points and five rebounds in Pampa's victory over White Deer Friday at the River Road Tournament. In the championship Saturday Miller scored eight points and grabbed four rebounds. Miller was one of three Harvesters to earn an all-tournament selection.

Head coach Dustin Miller said Miller does the little things to win games.

"A lot of stuff goes unnoticed," Coach Miller said. "He knows his role and does a good job."

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