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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



No longer a long shot

Three point shootout brings Pollard into basketball

Page 10

inside:

Holiday Gift Guide



special insert

Thursday, December 16, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 215 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

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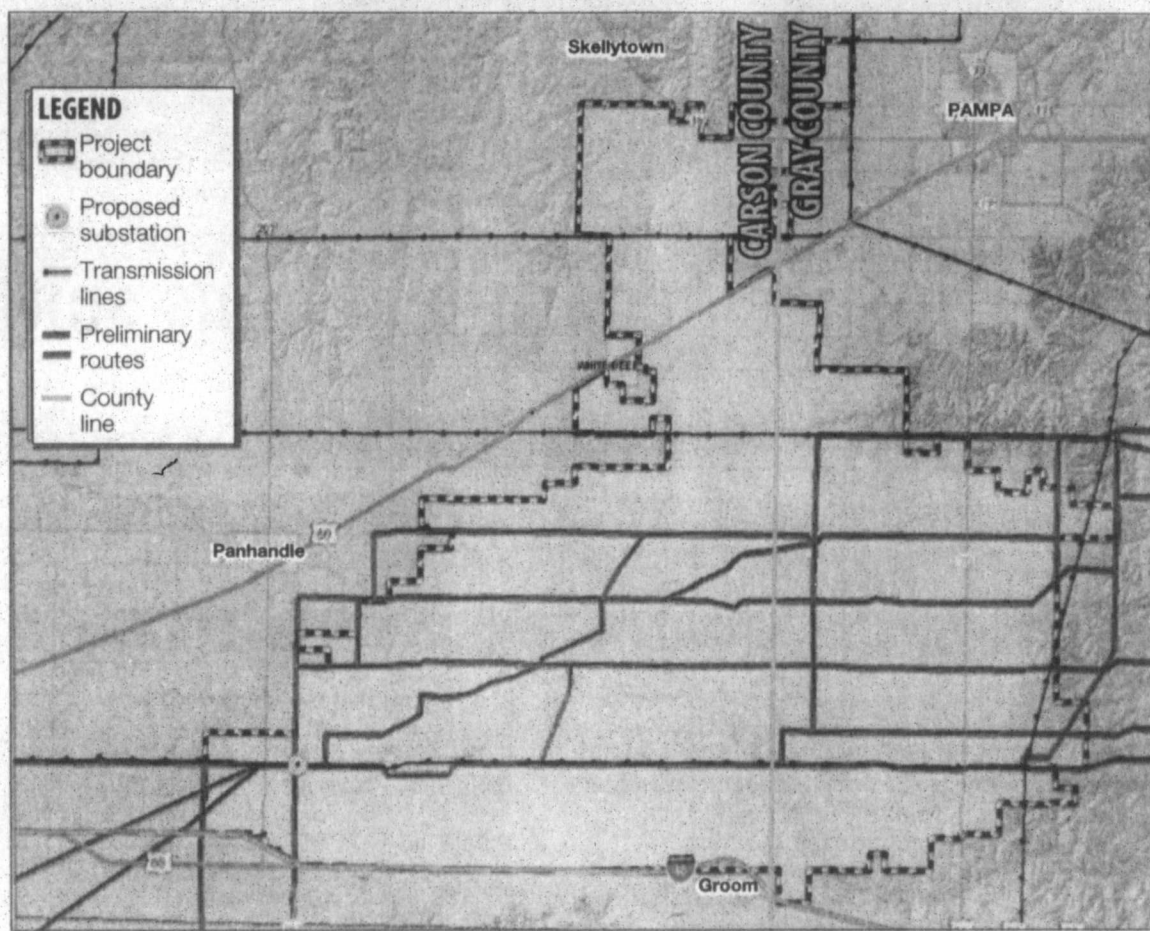
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FULL BREEZE AHEAD



map courtesy of E-on Climate and Renewables

The above map details the boundaries of the planned E-on wind farm project that would straddle the Gray-Carson border.

E-on plans large wind farm project

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

A German company plans to build a large wind farm around Grandview in southwest Gray County and southeast Carson County.

E-on Climate and Renewables, headquartered in Düsseldorf, Germany, is planning at least a 600-megawatt wind farm on more than 165,000 acres that they already have under lease from west of Pampa to south of Interstate 40.

Representatives of E-on spoke to county representatives from both Gray and Carson County during the Gray

County Commission meeting Wednesday.

Dennis Stout, development manager for the Grandview Wind Farm project, told officials how the project was expected to proceed.

"We are the largest investor-owned utility company in the world," Stout said.

They have a market capitalization of \$78 billion.

"Here in the United States," Stout said, "we're the fifth largest wind operator."

He said the company builds and develops wind farms, but their ultimate goal is to operate the wind farms.

"We operate 11 wind farms

here in the United States," Stout said.

Their total output of 1.9 gigawatts makes E-on the largest wind farm operator in the country, he said.

"Here in Texas," Stout said, "we're the second largest wind operator."

He said that the company has nearly 200 employees in the United States.

"E-on will be investing \$10 billion in renewable energy and environmental protection projects through 2012," Stout said.

"Our focus is renewable energy and doing it not only in a timely manner but in a manner that is

E-ON cont. on page 2

Thornberry appointed to security post

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Mac Thornberry of Clarendon was tapped today by Speaker-designate John Boehner for a leadership position important to the security of the nation's confidential intelligence documents, officials announced today.



Thornberry

Thornberry has been nominated to serve as the Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in the 112th Congress. It is a new post created by GOP leadership to take effect when the party takes control of the House in January, making Thornberry the committee's second-in-command.

"I am honored to serve as Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in the 112th Congress and to lead cybersecurity initiatives in the House. I appreciate and welcome the added responsibility and new opportunities both positions bring," Thornberry announced in a press release on Tuesday.

The current chairman of the committee, veteran Missouri Democrat Ike Skelton, lost in November's midterm elections. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the chairman-elect of the HASC, commended Thornberry on his defense record.

"Mac is a strong voice on defense issues, and his appointment as Vice Chairman of the committee will allow him to use his considerable talent to focus on some of the most challenging national security issues facing our country," said McKeon, a California Republican.

THORNBERRY cont. on page 6

No raise for county juries

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Gray County juries won't get a raise next year, a constable won't be replaced, and the District Clerk will get a new employee.

The Gray County Commissioners Court met today in regular session to set jury reimbursement rates for 2011.

People called for jury duty in Gray County now get six dollars for the day they are called, \$15 for the first day of jury duty and \$40 for each additional day of jury duty.

The State of Texas reimburses the county for part of jury expenses beyond the second day of jury duty.

In other business:

- The commission also approved a request by incoming District Clerk Sandra Burkett to change names on the office's bank accounts when she takes off on Jan. 1.
- Since Burkett is already on staff in the District Clerk's office, the

commission approved a request to hire a new employee for the office when Burkett moves up to replace the retiring Gaye Honderich.

- After interviewing two men for Constable for Precincts 1 and 3, the county commission voted today to leave the post open until the job comes up for election in 2012.
- The Gray County Commissioners Court accepted a donation of used concrete rail ties from BNSF Railway.
- County Commissioner Gary Willoughby said he expects to start moving them this week.
- The commissioners court also approved the sale of tax delinquent property in Lefors to Wilbur Kempf for \$200 and five pieces of tax delinquent property to Crystal Kaiser for \$515.
- The commission tabled a request for a 1,200 acre oil and gas lease on Gray County school land in Gaines County pending the appearance of a

COUNTY cont. on page 2

MORE CHRISTMAS KIDS SANTA'S HELPERS



staff photo by Redann Woods

Pre-kindergartners and three-year-olds from First Baptist Church sang carols for customers at Happy State Bank Wednesday afternoon.

Nominations Needed!
 Business of the Year & Citizen of the Year
 To be awarded at the Annual Banquet on March 24, 2011
 Deadline: December 31
 Please email erica@pampachamber.com or call 669-3241 for more information and ticket reservations

IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries	2	Antique or Junque? ..	6
Local Record	2	Comics	7
Weather	2	Classifieds	8
Afternoon Rush	3	Puzzles/Dear Abby... ..	9
Viewpoints	4	Sports	9,10



For the record

Obituaries

There are no obituaries today.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Police reported 33 traffic-related calls.

Animal Control Officers reported 10 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls. The Pampa Fire Department reported two medical calls and four fire calls. The Lefors Volunteer Fire Department reported one medical call.

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Officers had escort duty in the 900 block of East 23rd.

An alarm was reported in the 200 block of West Brown.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 1000 block of Terry.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson.

Water was shut off in the 1000 block of North Wells.

A theft was reported in the 100 block of East 28th.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Water was shut off in the 400 block of North Jupiter.

A suspicious person was reported at 19th and Sumner.

Officers assisted a motor-

ist at Harvester and Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported at Buckler and Hobart.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 100 block of West Albert.

Thursday, Dec. 16
A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Faulkner. A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

The Gray County Sheriff's Officer reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

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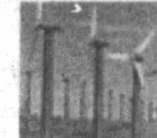

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Frederic.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Sumner.

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 60%		
High 32 Low 21	High 38 Low 23	High 44 Low 33

Tonight: Snow likely, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Friday: Snow likely, mainly before noon. Cloudy, with a high near 32. Wind chill values between 17 and 23. Breezy, with a east southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of around 2 inches.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

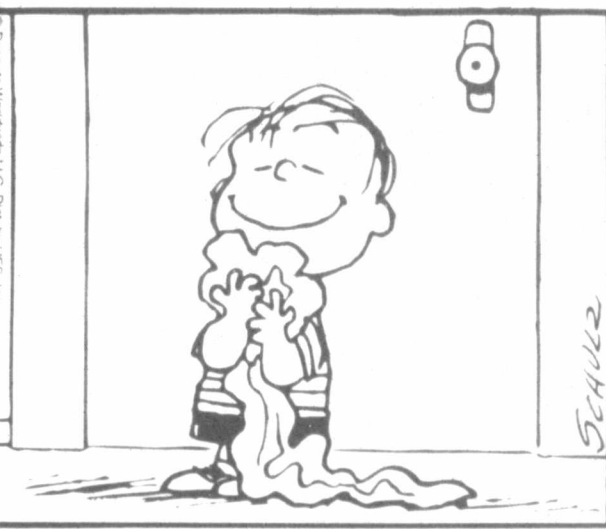
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. Breezy, with a south wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west southwest.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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CHRISTMAS DINNER, Pampa Sr. Citizen's Center, Wed. 22nd, 10:45-12:45, \$6. Members & guests welcome. Carry-out orders, call Mon. & Tues. before 9 a.m. Closed Thurs. & Fri. for the Christmas holiday, see you Mon!

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NO MICROPHONES or Amps, Only Acoustics at Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center, Fri. Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

PACK-N-MAIL WILL be open Saturday Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

COME SEE Santa at Rent-a-Center, Fri. & Sat. noon - 5 p.m.!! 1700 N. Hobart, Pampa, 669-1234.

Justice department joins suit against BP

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A powerful plaintiff has joined the hundreds of people and businesses suing BP and other companies involved in the Gulf oil spill: the Justice Department.

The government, in an opening salvo in its effort to get billions of dollars for untold economic and environmental damage, accuses the companies of disregarding federal safety regulations in drilling the well that blew out April 20 and triggered a deadly explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig. Wednesday's lawsuit is separate from a Justice Department criminal probe that has not resulted in any charges.

"The department's focus on investigating this disaster and preventing future (spills) is not over," Attorney General Eric Holder said during a news conference in Washington. "Both our civil and criminal investigations are ongoing."

The federal lawsuit filed in New Orleans names BP, rig owner Transocean and some other companies involved in the ill-fated drilling project, but not Halliburton — the project's cement contractor — or the maker of a key cutoff valve that failed. Both could be added later.

BP said it would respond to the

claims later but noted that it stands "alone among the parties" in having already stepped up to pay for the cleanup. It said in a statement that it will continue to fulfill its commitments to the Gulf and to cooperate with investigations.

"The filing is solely a statement of the government's allegations and does not in any manner constitute any finding of liability or any judicial finding that the allegations have merit," BP said.

The lawsuit makes it possible for the federal government to seek billions of dollars in penalties for polluting the Gulf of Mexico, beaches and wetlands, and reimbursement for its cleanup costs. More than 300 lawsuits filed previously by individuals and businesses, and now consolidated in the New Orleans federal court, include claims for financial losses and compensation for the families of 11 workers killed in the blast.

The judge overseeing those lawsuits had set Wednesday as the deadline to file certain types of complaints, though it was unclear whether the government was bound by that time frame.

"The Justice Department has left its options open to argue that there

was gross negligence and therefore should be higher penalties," said David Uhlmann, a law professor at the University of Michigan who headed up the Justice Department's environmental crimes section for seven years. "The government has not limited itself in any way with the filing of its civil lawsuit."

The suit asks that the companies be held liable without limitation under the Oil Pollution Act for all removal costs and damages caused by the spill, including damages to natural resources. The lawsuit also seeks civil penalties under the Clean Water Act.

The government did not set a dollar figure in the lawsuit, saying the amount of damages and the extent of injuries sustained by the United States are not yet fully known.

Under the Clean Water Act alone, BP faces fines of up to \$1,100 for each barrel of oil spilled. If BP were found to have committed gross negligence or willful misconduct, the fine could be up to \$4,300 per barrel.

That means that based on the government's estimate of 206 million gallons released by the well, BP could face civil fines of between \$5.4 billion and \$21.1 billion. BP disputes the government's spill estimate.

County

representative from Martin Oil and Gas of Arizona, who had requested the lease.

Martin Oil and Gas had offered a three-year lease for

\$210,000 and 20 percent royalties.

The final meeting of the Gray County Commission will be Friday, Dec. 31, at the Gray County Courthouse.

E-on

safe and environmentally friendly as well."

Of the company's 11 projects in the U.S., one is in New York, one is in Pennsylvania and one is in Illinois. "The rest are in Texas," Stout said.

He said when the project is up and running, it should

employ 10 to 15 people on a permanent basis.

Gray County Commissioner Gary Willoughby said that 10 or 15 jobs for a project of this scope pales in comparison to an oil and gas operation.

Willoughby said that for the same amount of money, it would mean 100 jobs in the oil patch.

Still, Stout said, some 300 to 400 people are expected to be employed during the construction phase of the project. "Many of those jobs will be local," Stout said. "We like using as many local people and local talent as much as we can."

This past fall, he said, E-on completed a 200-megawatt project near Corpus Christi. Stout estimated the total economic impact to the community at almost \$89 million.

Almost half of that is expected to be royalty payments to landowners, he said.

Brad Schwartz, E-on's transmission specialist, said the power lines from the wind farm would be connecting to the Gray to White Deer transmission line.

Those lines constructed by Cross Texas Transmission will run from near Lefors to south of White Deer.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet said the area of the project appears to be east of the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat that has become a point of contention concerning the Cross Texas Transmission lines coming up from near Childress.

The maps used by the E-on representatives in their presentation to county officials, however, appeared to be somewhat dated.

Peet said that Cross Texas Transmission has done assessments of the rights-of-way for their lines, but they haven't done Environmental Impact Studies.

"That's what we're requesting them to do," Peet said of Cross Texas Transmission. "They have not at this point that we're aware of actually done any Environmental Impact Studies."

Carson County Judge Lewis Powell indicated that Cross Texas Transmission has not done any Environmental Impact Studies in Carson County either.

"We're still in that process of trying to get them to do those things," Peet said.

He said, however, that those studies shouldn't impact the west part of the county where the E-on project is planned. Peet said it should only impact the southeastern part of Gray County.



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AFTERNOON RUSH 20 states ask judge to overturn health law

4,000 acres burn in wildfire

LUBBOCK (AP) — Dozens of firefighters battled wildfires in Floyd, Lamb and Hale counties that threatened some homes but left nobody injured.

KCBD-TV reported that as of Thursday more than 4,000 acres of grassland, in the three counties north of Lubbock, have burned. No residences were damaged.

Meteorologist Jody James with the National Weather Service in Lubbock says the federal agency is bracing for "lots of potential for days with grass fires."

The Texas Division of Emergency Management on Thursday noted there is an extreme wildfire danger across the state as winter begins next week.

'Toned-down' inauguration set

AUSTIN (AP) — GOP Gov. Rick Perry's inauguration will be a scaled back version with no parade as Texas lawmakers in 2011 face a projected budget shortfall of at least \$20 billion.

The inaugural theme is "Texas: Where Opportunity Still Looms Large." Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst will take the oath of office Jan. 18 on the steps of the Texas Capitol.

Inaugural committee spokeswoman Sarah Beck said Wednesday that planners are putting together a very responsible way to celebrate and be mindful of expenses. The budget is still being finalized.

Black-tie balls of previous inaugurations will be replaced by a toned-down celebration, with recommended dress of business and cocktail attire.

Airline fares boosted up to \$10

DALLAS (AP) — Several U.S. airlines have raised fares by up to \$10 per round trip.

Rick Seaney, CEO of FareCompare.com, said Wednesday that American Airlines started the increases by boosting prices on flights over 500 miles by \$5 each way or \$10 roundtrip, and by \$3 each way and \$6 roundtrip for shorter trips.

American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith confirmed the fare increases. He said fares are dictated by supply and demand, and were also influenced by recent increases in fuel costs.

The higher fares were matched by United, Continental, Delta, Southwest, US Airways, Alaska, Frontier and Virgin America, making the increase likely to stick, Seaney said.

Competition on price is so intense in the airline business that carriers often abandon fare hikes if rivals refuse to match them.

Several other fare increases failed in 2010, so U.S. airlines have turned to other means of boosting revenue, including imposing surcharges on peak travel days and selling fewer seats at the lowest advertised prices.

Airlines are relying on a range of other fees to raise revenue. This week, the U.S. Transportation Department said that through the first nine months of 2010, domestic airlines had raised more than \$4.3 billion from fees for checking bags or changing flight reservations.

Seaney said that with rising prices for oil and jet fuel, airlines are likely to try to raise prices again heading into 2011.

Religious ads banned on buses

FORT WORTH (AP) — City buses in Fort Worth next year will not carry religious advertisements after atheist group banners on four vehicles drew criticism.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority on Wednesday night voted to no longer accept religious advertisements.

Board member Gary Havener says he thinks the ads create divisiveness.

Paid-for ads with the message "Millions of Americans are Good Without God" will continue until their contracts expire later this month.

The ads were purchased by the Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason.

Some ministers had pushed for a boycott of the transit system to protest the ads.

Mayor makes good on wager

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck had made good on his World Series bet with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that Cluck, whose Texas Rangers lost to the San Francisco Giants earlier this year, posed with Newsom and the World Series trophy on Wednesday at San Francisco City Hall.

He then donned a Giants jersey and coached a youth baseball team in the city's Bayview district against a team coached by Newsom.

Cluck described putting on the Giants jersey as "pretty painful," but said the team deserved to win and he was proud of them.

He also said he was the winner in the end because he got to visit San Francisco and perform community service.

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Attorneys for 20 states fighting the new federal health care law told a judge Thursday it will expand the government's powers in dangerous and unintended ways.

The states want U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson to issue a summary judgment throwing out the health care law without a full trial. They argue it violates people's rights by forcing them to buy health insurance by 2014 or face penalties.

"The act would leave more constitutional damage in its wake than any other statute in our history," David Rivkin, an attorney for the states, told Vinson.

President Barack Obama's administration counters that Americans

should not have a choice of opting out of the overhaul because everyone requires medical care.

In a separate case, U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson earlier this week became the first federal judge to strike down a key portion of the law when he sided with the state of Virginia and ruled the insurance requirement unconstitutional. That case is likely to go to the U.S. Supreme Court. Two other federal judges have upheld the insurance requirement.

In Florida, Vinson questioned how the government could halt the massive changes to the nation's health care system that have already begun. Rivkin told him the constitutional violations are more important.

Attorneys for the Obama administration want Vinson to issue a summary judgment on their behalf, arguing the states don't have standing to challenge the law.

The lawsuits will almost certainly be decided eventually by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Vinson, who was appointed to the bench almost 30 years ago by President Ronald Reagan, has said he won't rule immediately in the Florida case.

The other states involved in the lawsuit are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Committee meets about border violence

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

A joint U.S.-Mexico committee met for the first time Wednesday to address border management issues and border violence.

The committee was created by Presidents Barack Obama and Felipe Calderon in May.

Mexico has expressed concern about the deaths of migrants during recent incidents involving U.S. Border Patrol officers, and the two countries agreed on the need to "minimize the need for United States and Mexican federal law enforcement officers to resort to lethal force."

They also agreed on "patrolling on either side of the border ... to prevent and adequately respond to crime and violence, including incidents of rock-throwing, incursions, port runners, (and) assaults on law enforcement personnel."

U.S. authorities say they sometimes are assaulted by migrant and drug traffickers and must defend themselves.

A joint declaration by the executive steering committee noted that "recent incidents along our common border underscore the urgency with which the United States and Mexico need to take decisive actions to avoid the recurrence of such events."

It said those incidents involved loss of life, but did not say whether they involved the shooting of migrants or drug violence.

Mexico was angered in June, when a Border Patrol agent fatally shot a 15-year-old Mexican youth as officers came under a barrage of big stones while trying to detain illegal immigrants on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande.

In May, Mexican migrant Anastasio Hernandez, 32, died after a Customs and Border Protection officer shocked him with a stun gun at the San Ysidro border crossing that separates San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. The San Diego medical examiner's office ruled that death a homicide.

And on Wednesday, a Border Patrol agent in Arizona was fatally shot near the border amid a shootout with bandits known for targeting illegal immigrants along a violent smuggling corridor in the desert.

The committee endorsed expanding coordinated patrols and "expanding existing exchanges of passenger information to detect and detain possible drug and weapons smugglers, and other criminals that travel between the U.S. and Mexico."

The statement also pledged support for various projects aimed at improving ports-of-entry and border crossings in several states, and "expand trusted traveler and shipment programs by facilitating enrollment and making them more advantageous

and easy to use." It also supported the establishment of pilot projects for cargo pre-clearance in both countries.

The issue of migrants

and how they are treated remains a sensitive subject in Mexico, even as their overall number of migrants moving across the border drops.

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Share favorite Christmas memories with readers

Do you have a favorite Christmas memory? Maybe it's something special your mom baked, or a special present, or a memory of a relative, or a special church service. Maybe it was a special trip, or maybe it was not so special — just a holiday spent with the people you love.

Whatever your special memory, we invite you to share it with our readers.

Email your special Christmas memory to rpribbie@thepampanews.com by Friday, Dec. 17 and it might be included in a special story prior to the holidays.

If you prefer, mail the memory to "Christmas Memories," The Pampa News, 403 West Hutchison, Pampa, TX 79065 or drop it by our office. Just make sure we receive it by Dec. 17.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2010. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1770, composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany.

In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces in Belgium (the Allies were eventually able to beat the Germans back).

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

In 1980, Harland Sanders, founder of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain, died in Shelbyville, Ky. at age 90.

In 1985, organized-crime chief Paul Castellano and bodyguard Thomas Bilotti were shot to death outside a New York City restaurant on orders from John Gotti.

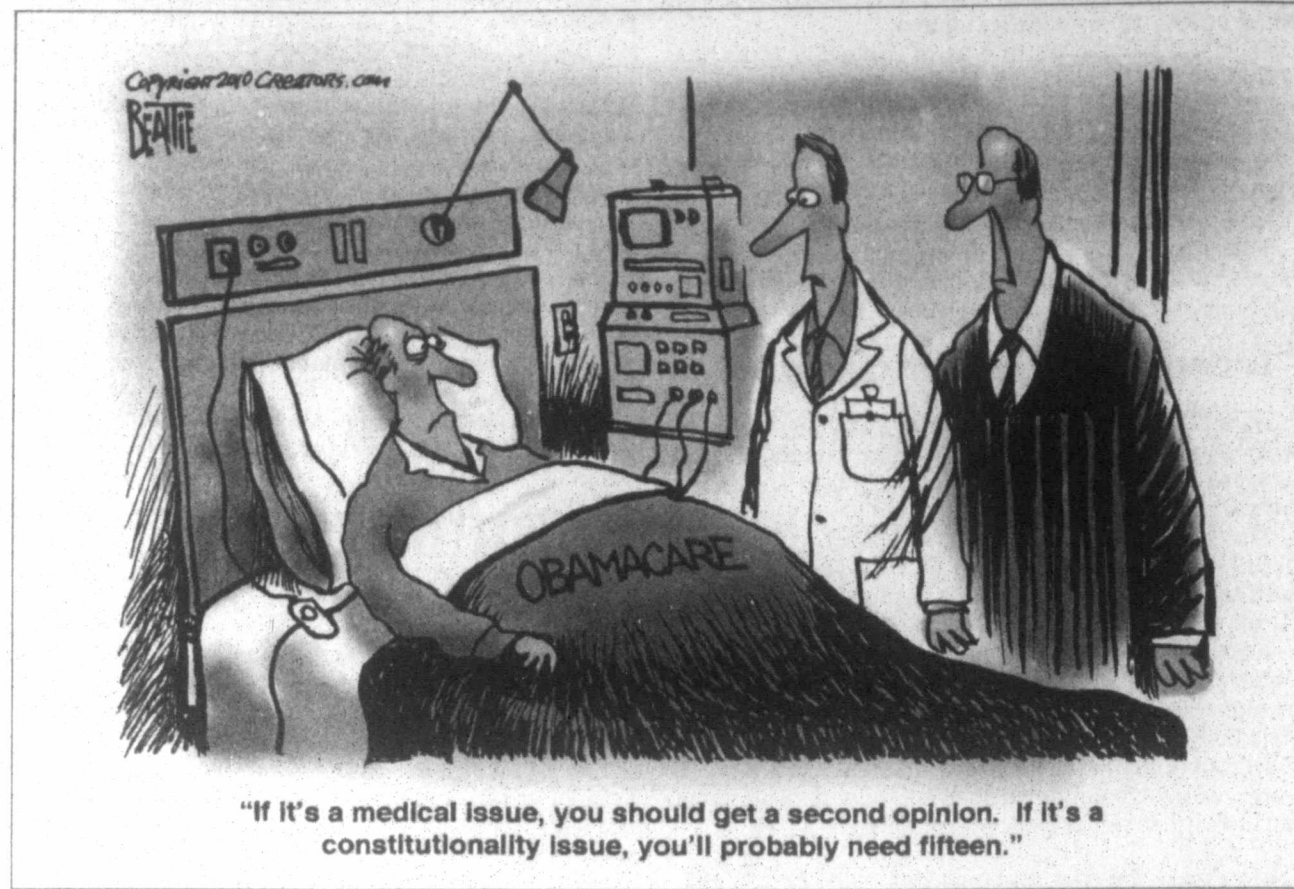
Ten years ago: President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

Five years ago: In a stinging defeat for President George W. Bush, Senate Democrats blocked passage of a new Patriot Act to combat terrorism at home. (The result was a revised Patriot Act signed by Bush in March 2006.)

One year ago: Police fired pepper spray and beat protesters with batons outside the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen. Tiger Woods was voted Athlete of the Decade by members of The Associated Press.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 74. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 73. Actress Liv Ullmann is 72. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 69. TV producer Steven Bochco is 67. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 65. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 64. Actor Ben Cross is 63. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 61. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 59. Actor Xander Berkeley is 55. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 51. Actor Sam Robards is 49. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 47. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 39. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 28. Actress Hallee Hirsh is 23. Actress Anna Popplewell is 22.

Thought for Today: "There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his." - Helen Keller, American author and lecturer (1880-1968).



Compromise does not mean sell-out

President Obama was thrilled after a key Senate vote strongly endorsed the package of tax cuts and unemployment benefits he had negotiated with congressional Republicans. "This proves," he said, "that both parties can in fact work together to grow our economy and look out for the American people."

We certainly hope he's right. The wide support for this bill provides a welcome respite from the blustery partisanship that has lashed the capital for the past two years. When radio host Rush Limbaugh and labor chief Rich Trumka both hate a compromise, it has to be a good one.

But spending money is the easy part — \$858 billion, in this case. The hard part comes next, when Congress and the president must confront a much tougher problem, reining in deficits that threaten to corrode the economy for many years to come. The recovery is too anemic to absorb vigorous deficit-reduction measures right now, but the time for shared sacrifice is coming, and soon.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader, has been a fierce foe of bipartisan cooperation, cynically opposing Obama at every turn. He was right, however, when he said after the Senate action: "Today's vote is a step in the right direction, but it's only a first step. Unless we use it to pivot to the deficit and the debt, we will have only pushed the larger problem down the road ... It's time to come together to cut the debt in the same way we have come together to prevent a tax hike."

That's easy to say. But as McConnell well knows,



COKIE AND STEVE ROBERTS

any conceivable compromise on the debt will require both sides to move away from long-standing positions. Republicans will have to support "tax hikes," and Democrats will have to support benefit reductions. There is no other solution.

For now, however, the outburst of reasonableness that seized the Senate — 45 Democrats and 37 Republicans supported the bill — is a good omen this holiday season. For the first time since bipartisan majorities helped rescue the financial system during the final months of the Bush administration, the two parties actually seemed to negotiate in good faith and "look out for the American people," as the president put it. And that's clearly what the country wants. In an ABC/Washington Post poll, seven out of 10 rejected the extreme views of Rush and Rich and backed the package.

As the only Democrat

since Franklin Roosevelt to win two presidential elections, Bill Clinton knows something about gauging public opinion, and he got it right when he said: "A lot of people are giving a sigh of relief that there's finally been some agreement on something."

A few days after Clinton's comment, a new group called No Labels announced its formation. Backed by moderates from both parties, it aims to revitalize the "radical center" as former Republican Rep. Tom Davis put it.

"What strikes me when I leave Washington is the extent to which there's a huge disconnect between Washington and the rest of the country," GOP consultant Mark McKinnon, one of the group's founders, told the Washington Post. "The rest of the country is not hyperpartisan. They say, 'There's MoveOn on the left, the tea party on the right, and nothing in the middle for me.' We're trying to become a microphone for those voices, to create a system that rewards and gives a shout-out for good behavior."

That's a tall order, because the system now rewards bad behavior. How do moderates find a microphone when TV producers, especially on cable, look for the ud-

est, shrillest voices? How do they restore the word "compromise" to an honorable place in the political lexicon?

The future House speaker, John Boehner, illuminated that precise problem during an interview with Lesley Stahl on "60 Minutes." He would use the phrase "common ground" but not "compromise" and explained: "When you say the word 'compromise'... a lot of Americans look up and go, 'Uh-oh, they're gonna sell me out.'"

First of all, that's not entirely true — as public support for the tax-and-benefit compromise demonstrates. And to the extent that the word has become toxic, blame Republicans like Boehner, joined by plenty of Democrats, who have been telling voters for years that "compromise" means "sell out."

It does not. And as Washington enters a new era of shared power, leaders in both parties have an extra obligation to tell voters the truth. The nation's most serious problems, starting with the deficit, can be solved in only one way: through compromise.

Cokie and Steve Roberts' weekly commentary column offers a no-nonsense analysis of national and international issues.

We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
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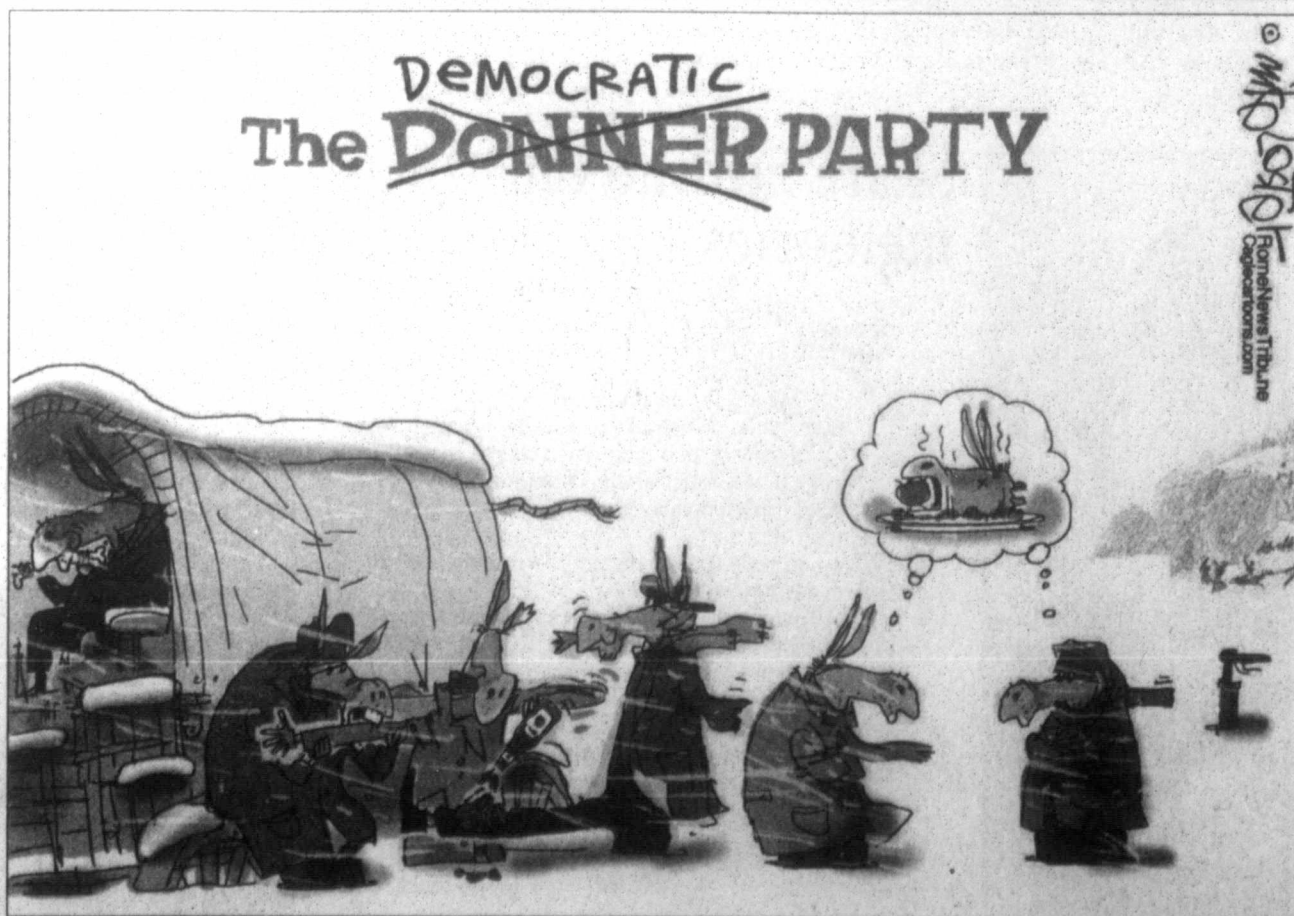
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FREE MIRACLE HEATERS ARE ON THE WAY: Everyone wants to stay warm and save money on their heat bills this winter. These trucks are being loaded full of new Heat Surge Roll-n-Glow® Convecta-red Heat™ fireplaces and will soon be ready to go. The oak mantle is a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars and shipping because the first 14,588 readers who beat the order deadline by calling 1-866-861-7284 to order the fireplace mantles are actually getting the Heat Surge miracle heaters with new Convecta-red Heat technology absolutely free.

Texans have just 48 hours to get free heaters

New Miracle Convecta-red heaters are being given away free to the first 14,588 readers who beat the order deadline for real Amish fireplace mantles handmade for the breakthrough invention that drastically slashes heat bills

Save money: uses about the same electric as a coffee maker, so turn your thermostat way down and never be cold again

By R.K. BERRY
Universal Media Syndicate

UMS - Have you heard about the free heater giveaway that's sweeping across the state?

Well listen up because here it is and we'll even give you the number to call.

Starting at precisely 8:30am this morning, brand new Convecta-red miracle heaters are actually being given away free to the general public for the next 48 hours.

The only thing today's readers need to do is call the Toll Free Hotline before the 48-hour deadline with their order for the handmade Amish Fireplace Mantle. The first 14,588 readers who do will instantly be awarded the Heat Surge miracle heater with new Convecta-red Heat technology absolutely free.

This is all happening to announce the new Heat Surge Roll-n-Glow Convecta-red fireplace which actually rolls from room-to-room so you can turn your thermostat way down and never be cold again. That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately start saving on their heat bills.

Just in time for the bitter cold winter weather, portable Amish encased fireplaces are being delivered directly to the doors of all those who beat the deadline.

These remarkable new Convecta-red heaters are being called a miracle because they have the patent-pending *Fireless Flame*®

technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, ashes or mess. Everyone is getting them because all you do is plug them in.

And here's the best part. Readers who beat the 48-hour order deadline are getting their new Convecta-red miracle heaters free when encased in the Amish built real wood fireplace mantles. The mantles are being handmade in Ohio, right in the heart of Amish country where they are beautifully hand-rubbed, stained and varnished.

You just can't find custom made Amish mantles like this in the national chain stores. That makes the oak mantle a real steal for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars since the entire cost of the new Convecta-red miracle heater is free.

The Amish handmade mantle actually lets the new Convecta-red miracle heater roll from room-to-room. These fireplaces are so compact they go anywhere, yet they throw off an instant heat wave in any room. And they only use about the same electric as a coffee maker, so it's easy to stay warm in any room of the house for just pennies a day.

"You see, with your furnace you are paying to heat areas of your home that you're not using. And since the new Convecta-red miracle heater only uses about 9¢ an hour of electricity on the standard setting, the potential energy savings are absolutely incredible," said

Laura Rich, Operations Director.

"We're trying to make sure no one gets left out, but you better hurry because we only have 14,588 new Convecta-red miracle heaters to hand out to today's readers for free. For now, readers can have two free per household just as long as they call before the deadline," confirms Rich.

Getting the Heat Surge Roll-n-Glow fireplace is the smart way to slash winter heat bills and still stay warm all winter long. And getting the new Convecta-red miracle heater free is like putting three hundred bucks in your pocket and you can save even more on your monthly heat bills.

"We're bracing ourselves for all the calls

because everyone wants to save on their heat bills and stay warm this winter. But those that really want to save a ton will be telling our operators they want two Amish fireplace mantles and they'll get two miracle heaters free," said Rich.

"So when the lines are busy keep trying. We promise to get every call. Then we'll have a delivery truck out to you in no time at all so you can stay warm and start saving on your heat bills right away," Rich said.

"You'll instantly feel the bone soothing heat in any room. You will never have to be cold and miserable again," she said. ■

On the worldwide web:
www.amishfireplaces.com

How to get your free heater

Readers need to call the Toll Free Hotlines beginning at 8:30am this morning. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. However, if you miss the deadline you will be turned away from this free offer and forced to wait for future announcements in this or other U.S. publications, if any.

The first 14,588 readers who beat the 48-hour deadline to order the Amish made fireplace mantle and shipping get the new Heat Surge Convecta-red miracle heater absolutely free.

They have imposed a strict limit of 2 free new Convecta-red heaters per household. So, readers need to hurry and call now because there are only 14,588 Heat Surge miracle heaters to be given away free, when they're gone, they're gone.

Use the map to the right to find the county you live in and call the number for your county.

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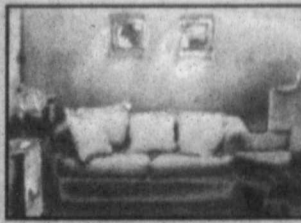
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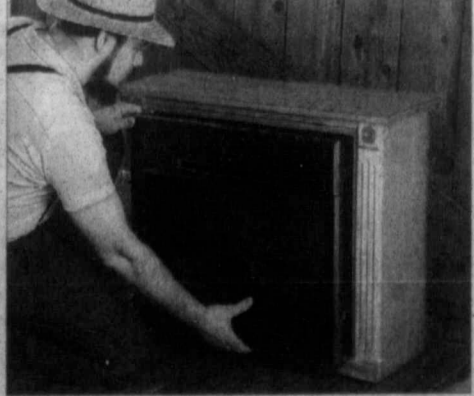
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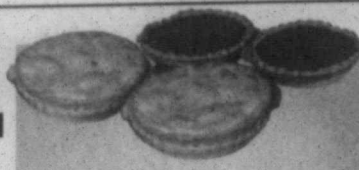
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Side chairs are Rococo Revival

ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: This past July, we went to Maine to do some antiques. We came across a matching pair of Victorian side chairs, which are seen in this photo. I fell in love with them at first sight, and the price was out of this world: only \$25 each! They were in sad shape, so I completely refinished them and had them professionally reupholstered. I do know they were made about 1860.

While we were in Maine, we saw a similar chair that had no carved grapes on the handrail for \$1,000. Could you please tell me their value?

A: Your chairs are excellent examples of Victorian Rococo Revival. You are correct that they were made around 1860. The hand-carved, fruit-crested balloon back, serpentine stay rail and cabriole legs are representative of the Victorian Rococo Revival sub-style.

Many similar chairs are selling in the range of \$400 to \$500 each. Depending on the region and demand, they can go higher.



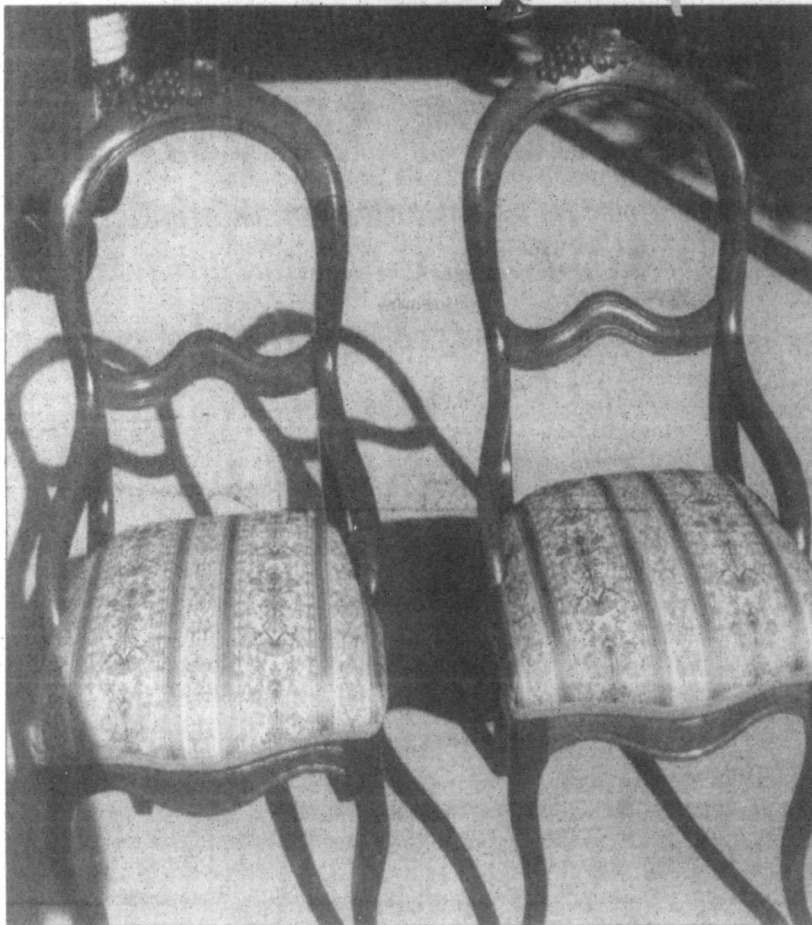
Taylor, Smith and Taylor has made dinnerware and kitchenware since 1901.

Q: The enclosed mark is on my turkey platter. Trimmed in gold, the platter is decorated with a scene of a colonial couple and a male flutist amid trees.

Could you tell me how the age and value of my platter?

A: Taylor, Smith and Taylor made dinnerware and kitchenware in Chester, W.Va., from 1901 to 1981. The pattern is known by several names, including George and Martha, Courting Couple, Chantilly

Antique
OR JUNQUE?



Rococo Revival is a sub-style of the Victorian era.

and Quadrille. This pattern was also used by Homer Laughlin China Co. Your platter is circa 1950 and would probably be worth \$35 to \$45.

Q: Could you please explain the definition of "pressed glass"?

A: Pressed glass is also called pattern glass. It is clear or colored glassware that has been formed by a pressing machine, which has a plunger that pushes molten glass into a mold.

Deming Jarves, owner of the Boston and Sandwich Glass Co., was one of the first to employ

a glass pressing machine in the early 1800s. A myriad of factories produced pressed-glass table services that included pitchers, butter dishes, tumblers, spoon holders, creamers, sugar bowls, cruets and compotes.

Collectors find the variety of patterns and the reasonable values appealing.

If you have any antique inquiries, address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.

Thornberry

cont. from page 1

In addition to the Vice Chairman position, Thornberry will also serve as the Chairman of the Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities subcommittee. The House Republican Steering Committee will vote to ratify the choice this week.

Boehner also asked Thornberry to head a new cybersecurity initiative, which will focus Congress' efforts to fight the growing threat in the national intelligence field. The program will be geared towards preventing such breaches as the ongoing Wikileaks scandal, Boehner said.

In nominating Thornberry for the positions, Boehner echoed McKeon in applauding the Clarendon representative's work in advancing the cause of national security.

"Mac Thornberry is a real leader in our conference on national security," Boehner said. "His record on both the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees has shown him to be both an innovator and strategic thinker."

"I'm pleased he has agreed to play an expand-

ed role on our team," he added.

Before being named to the new post, Thornberry had been pursuing a bid to become chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. Boehner today announced that Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., has been appointed to that position.

While Thornberry said that leading the committee would have offered interesting opportunities in national security, he said that the HASC vice chairmanship brings a similar challenge.

"As long as you're in this job, you try to figure out how to make the most of the chances that you have to make a difference for the country, so that's what we'll be doing," Thornberry said.

Merry Christmas!

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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Intermediate

OH NO! Your car's all flat and junk!



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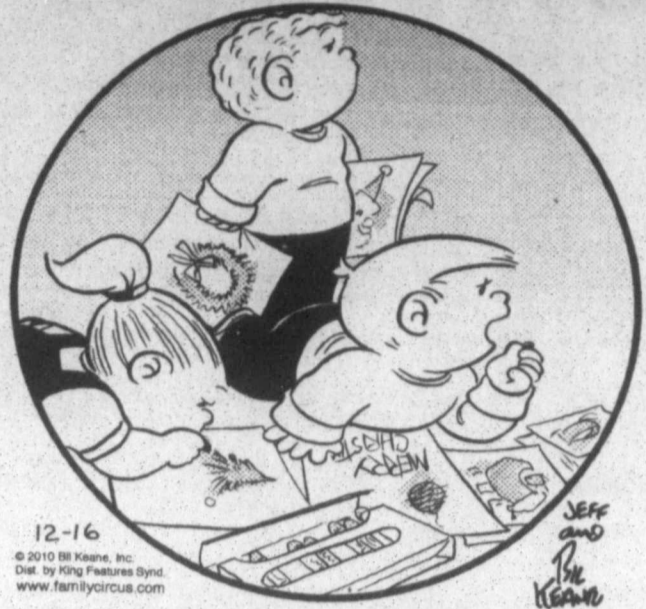
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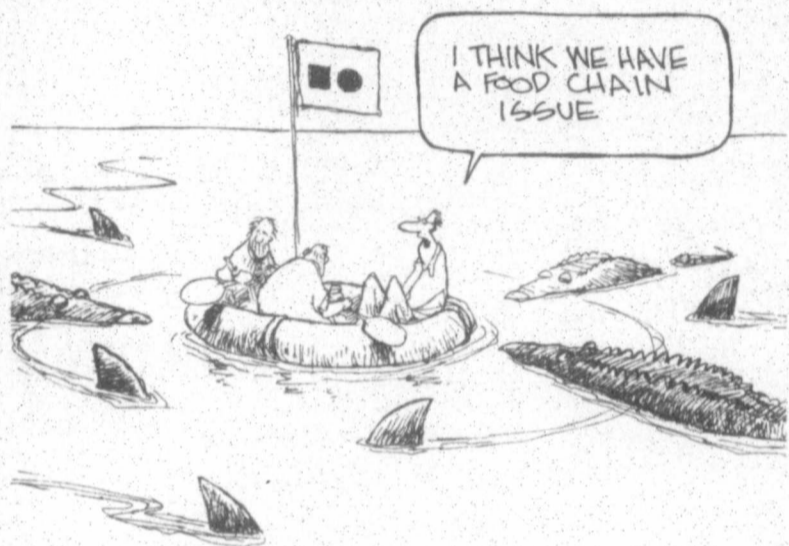
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"Mommy! Our red and green crayons are down to just nubs again!"

Non Sequitur

THE REIGNING KING OF DOWNPLAY...



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. 17, 2010:

This year, you often juggle many different concerns. You have the energy and insight to achieve a lot. What remains key is to take frequent breaks in order to relax, love and be with your friends. Living needs to be your highest priority, thus quickly move past daily problems as often as you can. If you are single, Cupid will be in your neighborhood mid-spring. You could be delighted by what occurs. If you are attached, Cupid's arrow easily could hit you, warming up your relationship. You can count on TAURUS to be practical.

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)

★★★★ Your ability to get past most problems amazes others but remains routine for you. A celebratory feeling marks everyone's mood -- after all, it is Friday. You get past a problem for now by simply staying away or avoiding it. Tonight: Treat and be treated. Have fun!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ News forces you to smile, whether you decide to keep a stern demeanor or not. You'll see events far differently with some perspective and time. Make no general announcements just yet. Slow down if you're tired. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Vanish, if possible -- not that you are trying to avoid any situation. You will simply flourish and accomplish more flying solo. Your efforts involving an associate or daily-life matter will pay off. Tonight: Hang with mystery.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You flourish in crowds and accomplish far more in group discussions. A partner or loved one comes back with conviction about an issue. Know that this is not a fight but rather an animated discussion. Tonight: Where the party is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be more in touch with others' expectations. Let someone know when he or she puts you in a position where you can only fail. Support yourself; honor your limitations and boundaries. You will be happier, and so will those in your immediate circle. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone you care a lot about. This person can stand on ceremony, but through your grounded yet creative approach, you finally get a response. Use care with financial commitments. Tonight: Try something different. You might like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Someone comes toward you with the best of intentions. Give this person time to really express his or her ideas and essence. You could be taken aback. Hang in there and get to know this person better. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others let you know how they feel. You might be far more assertive than you intend to be, thus triggering many strong reactions. Relax and know that this second is not the only second in time. You will have another chance. Tonight: Follow the crowds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Keep your focus on the big picture, and you won't be disappointed. There is a sense on your part that the good times are here. Unfortunately, a key friend doesn't feel the same way. You cannot change this person's mood. Tonight: Join a pal or two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others enjoy your feedback, especially when you are energetic, direct and full of ideas -- like now. Whether dealing with a work issue or scheduling your weekend plans, no one can deny this innate ingenuity. Tonight: Go for something fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Express an innate tension, which demands that you are in more than one place at once in order to alleviate it. Sit down and give yourself a reasonable talk. Though you might be pressured to handle different problems, opt for one issue at a time. Tonight: Mosey on home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You state your case in a manner in which many people will agree. Your ability to detach and understand where others come from separates you from many. However, a close partner could cause you a problem. This person simply doesn't see eye to eye with you. Tonight: Christen the weekend with friends.

BORN TODAY

Musician Mike Mills (1958), political commentator Chris Matthews (1945), conductor Arthur Fiedler (1894)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





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 JACK'S Plumbing. 715 W. Foster 665-7115

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19 Situations
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21 Help Wanted
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69 Misc.
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 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.

12-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

JCYEY XH WDJCXWP MEDWP
 MXJC OBYEXSO JCOJ SOWWDJ
 FY SQEYI FK MCOJ XH
 EXPCJ XW OBYEXSO

— MXGGXOB R. SGXWJDW
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Tuesday Longhorn found the position into the follow games a ment. In pre down by were the final the Lady Longhorn Darrowz

8th

The P grade g Berger l The A recorded and five made C throws, the field Caragi rebound followed had five Madison

MOR W.Va. (State of tor Dan been hi position next s Mounta make hi 2012. In the Wednes will rep as offer and bec in waiti He w coach B 2012 se city said an adr after the The released announc "My national West Vi and I fi coach S a solid i will all with the country, in the st Holgo to join until aft (9-3) fac State (8 Sports 8 Athlet Luck sa also w backs i be paid and th \$1.4 m tives, in ment di years th Holgo \$360,00 State th not hav tract w Stewart \$900,00 West 28-11 under S year co 2014. The As Wednes said he and cou "I thi year fo will be the foot the op from c should timed the st Holgor coaches Ball. W Holgor high-po will be

Sports

Lady Pirates show improvement in Tuesday's game

Tuesday against the Darrouzett Lady Longhorns, the Lefors Lady Pirates found themselves in an all too familiar position, down by double digits going into the fourth. However, Lefors didn't follow a similar path from previous games and showed signs of improvement.

In previous games, if Lefors were down by 10 going into the fourth, odds were that deficit would be at least 20 at the final buzzer. That's what happened the Lady Pirates played this exact Lady Longhorn team in the season opener. Darrouzett led 33-24 after three and



ANDREW GLOVER

won the game by 27. Tuesday night, the Lady Pirates rallied, and in the last minutes of the fourth, they were strategizing to make the tying basket.

Also, in previous games senior guard Taylor Overstreet and junior Story Pairsh would score in double figures and everyone else wouldn't have more than

four points. In Tuesday's game, the Lady Pirates had three in double digits. That's the kind of scoring Lefors needs to win ball games. The thing they still need is more people getting on the scoresheet. Tuesday only four Lady Pirates scored.

The nice advantage for the Lady Pirates is they don't have a dominating team in their district. McLean, who controlled the district last season, is adjusting to their graduation losses and learning a new system. In fact, everyone except Lefors is having to learn a new system. Just about every game on the Lady Pirates schedule is winnable.

What made this improvement possible is the fact that they are coming together as a team. Head coach Tory Peet said they were beat against Miami December 4 before they even played and knew he had to change something. It was after that game, the Lady Pirates hashed out issues they had with each other and won two of their next four games.

Will the Lady Pirates be competing for the playoffs? That answer will probably come in a month. Despite their record, Lefors has shown tremendous improvement and could make some noise in district play.

8th grade girls teams sweep Borger

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Junior High eighth grade girls basketball teams swept Borger Monday at Pampa.

The A team won 34-23. Pampa recorded 18 turnovers, 32 rebounds and five steals. The Lady Reapers made 60 percent of their free throws, and shot 29 percent from the field.

Caragan Niccum led the team in rebounds with 10. Meagan Martinez followed with seven, Allison Noble had five, Taylor Eubank and Madison Brown had four each and

Tyranda Johnson had two.

Brown, Eubank, Johnson, Martinez each had one steal. Niccum led the team in scoring with 10. Brown and Eubank each scored nine. Johnson, Macie Loggins and Martinez each scored two.

The B team won 21-16. Pampa recorded 32 turnovers, 23 rebounds, two assists and 12 steals. The Lady Reapers were one for seven in free throws, shot 24 percent from the field.

Raven Neal led the team in rebounds with seven. Keshia Daniels grabbed five, Kristina Brown and Samara Villanueva

recorded three, Makeia Scoggins recorded two, Genesis Delatorre, Kiana Scoggins and Madelyn Solis each had one.

Daniels and Karen Daurte recorded the only assists. Neal, Solis and Thomas led the team in steals with two. Kiana Scoggins stole two and Villanueva stole one.

Daniels led the team in scoring with eight. Kristina Brown scored six, Daurte scored four, Solis scored two and Diana Scoggins scored one.

That was the Lady Reapers last game before Christmas Break. They resume play January 10 against Hereford.

OSU's Holgorsen hired at West Virginia

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Oklahoma State offensive coordinator Dana Holgorsen has been hired for the same position at West Virginia next season, and the Mountaineers plan to make him head coach in 2012.

In the deal announced Wednesday, Holgorsen will replace Jeff Mullen as offensive coordinator and become "head coach in waiting" in 2011.

He will replace head coach Bill Stewart for the 2012 season. The university said Stewart will take an administrative role after the 2011 season.

The Mountaineers released a statement to announce the hiring.

"My goal is to win a national championship at West Virginia University, and I firmly believe that coach Stewart has built a solid foundation, which will allow us to compete with the very best in the country," Holgorsen said in the statement.

Holgorsen isn't expected to join the Mountaineers until after West Virginia (9-3) faces North Carolina State (8-4) in the Champ Sports Bowl on Dec. 28.

Athletic director Oliver Luck said Holgorsen, who also will coach quarterbacks next season, will be paid \$800,000 in 2011 and that will increase to \$1.4 million, plus incentives, in 2012. The statement didn't say how many years the contract is for.

Holgorsen made \$360,000 at Oklahoma State this season but did not have a signed contract with the university. Stewart, 58, is making \$900,000 this season.

West Virginia has gone 28-11 in three seasons under Stewart, whose six-year contract runs through 2014. When reached by The Associated Press on Wednesday night, Stewart said he was in a meeting and couldn't talk.

"I think the transition year for coach Holgorsen will be very beneficial to the football program, and the opportunity to learn from coach Bill Stewart should not be underestimated," Luck said in the statement. "Coach Holgorsen is one of the top coaches in college football. We know that coach Holgorsen will bring a high-powered offense that will be incredibly enter-

taining to watch at Milan Puskar Stadium."

Waning fan interest may have also contributed to the move. West Virginia sold out just one home game this season and

there were almost 12,000 empty seats for the regular-season finale against Rutgers.

In Holgorsen's only season at Oklahoma State, the Cowboys led the Bowl

Subdivision with 537.6 yards per game while running back Kendall Hunter and wide receiver Justin Blackmon were named first-team all-Americans.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Grill waste
- 6 Winter weather
- 11 Plow pioneer
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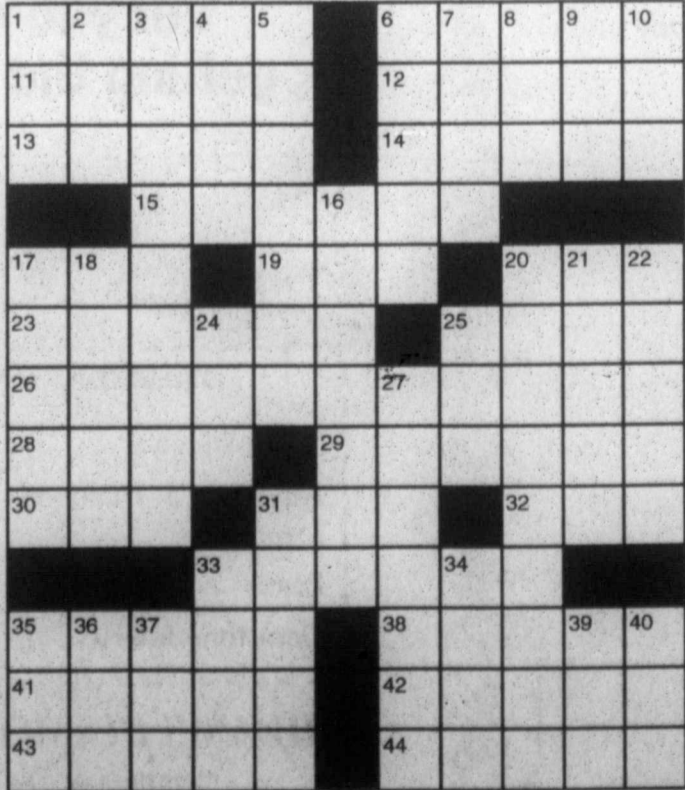
DOWN

- 1 TV plugs
- 2 Filming site
- 3 Temper, as metal
- 4 Therefore
- 5 Overlook, as a fault
- 6 "Beat it!"
- 7 Bank offering
- 8 Terminate
- 9 Big head
- 10 Big weight
- 16 Blunder
- 17 Almanac info
- 18 Masseur's targets
- 20 Confection
- 21 Page of music



Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter that when added to all of the five-letter words below can be used to form new six-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

LEVEL

HOURS VOICE

AVAST FAINT

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: SLASH/BOTCH, TRAIT/BLUNT, PECAN/PLACE



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This is in regard to "Blocked Writer in Oklahoma" (Oct. 29), who has been writing in journals for her son for 22 years and wonders when to give them to him now that he's married and has a son on the way himself. I agree with you that giving them to him now would be unwise because he has too much going on in his life.

She should give him a year's worth of writings when his son turns 1, so he'll know what his mom was going through when he was 1. Then give him another year's worth when his son turns 2, etc. All I can say is, wouldn't it be a great world if all kids had a mom like Blocked! — KATHY IN EDMOND, OKLA.

DEAR KATHY: Thank you for your letter. Blocked may have been unsure of when to present her son with the journals she had been keeping for so many years, but readers experienced no writer's block in expressing their views on the subject. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Any mother who secretly keeps a journal for 22 years has a screw loose. Instead of mothering, she sounds like she is smothering. For her to record every moment of her son's life is an attempt to control him forever. That woman ought to get a grip and get a life of her own. — ANDREW IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: You advised Blocked Writer to wait for a milestone birthday (25th) to give her son the journals. I would implore her not to wait three years. You never know what life brings. NOW is the time for sharing such a wonderful, loving gift. — LINDA IN CALGARY, CANADA

DEAR ABBY: This journal is priceless, not only to her son and his posterity, but eventually to historians. Imagine how it will be to read this journal in 200 years and glimpse what life was like for this family. I beg her to make a

copy of it before she gives the original to her son. I hope she can find some historical society willing to accept this journal as part of its collection. — JO ELLEN IN BOUNTIFUL, UTAH

DEAR ABBY: I smell a narcissist! No new father has the emotional reserves to confront this encyclopedia. If the entries are all proud and glowing, great. But many narcissists time their gifts to steal some spotlight from other momentous occasions. I'd save the journal for a future date. Meanwhile, she should pitch in and help the new parents. This is one time when actions speak louder than words. — ANONYMOUS IN WEST ORANGE, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: Giving the journal now would be a waste. She should continue writing. Her son's life isn't over; he is just beginning.

Continuing the journal on his journey through life as a parent, and memorializing her feelings watching him and her grandchild would be a better gift for the son to "find" once the mother is no longer here. A journal should never replace telling people in person how you feel. If Blocked at any time is unable to continue the writing, the last of the journal could be dictated and transcribed by a friend for her.

I agree she should start a companion journal about her life as well. But I encourage her to continue writing her son's journal. It would be the gift of a lifetime. — CHRISTY IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: Journaling your child's life when he is a child is fine — and he may appreciate having a record to look back on. And once a child becomes a teenager, it would be all right to note special events. But every day? No! Teenagers want some privacy. Frankly, the idea that she has continued this after he became an adult strikes me as creepy and stalker-ish. — SHOCKED IN CALIFORNIA

Sports

Three-point shootout brings Pollard into basketball

ANDREW GLOVER
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Pampa High School sophomore Derrek Pollard was a sixth grader in Lubbock when he was watching kids play basketball. A coach came up to him and asked him why he wasn't playing. It was a three-point shootout that would launch Pollard's interest in hoops.

"I went all the way around and back and didn't miss any shots," Pollard said.

The sophomore started playing when he moved to Pampa in eighth grade and is now on the varsity basketball team. In his second year of high school basketball, Pollard said it took hard work to make varsity which is something that he didn't have his first year.

"My freshman year, I didn't work hard," Pollard said. "I just slacked. Coach (Dustin) Miller said I wasn't going to be on varsity. One day, Coach told me he wanted me to be on varsity. This offseason, I started working hard and was the hardest worker."

Pollard still made the junior varsity his freshman year and was the only one on his team. The now-sophomore said it was cool playing on junior varsity except dealing with certain "freshmen treatment."

"I liked it being the only freshman," Pollard said. "The only thing I didn't like was going out to eat because I had to eat last because I was a freshman."

Pollard said he received advice from his cousin Rayford Young, who played on the 1996 state championship team, during the offseason.

"He told me to keep working hard and that will get me where I need to be," Pollard said.

Miller said Pollard's improvement from last year is off the charts and he has tremendous potential.

"If he continues to develop like he has from year to year, he's going to be an incredibly special basketball player," Miller said. "He will get to play at the next level. There's no doubt. He works his tail off in offseason. This is all he does."

In his first varsity season, Pollard has received significant playing time off the bench. In Pampa's game against River Road junior varsity December 2, Pollard recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Pollard said he idolizes Oklahoma City Thunder star Kevin Durant.

"I want to be just like him," Pollard said. "He does it all and that's what I'm working on."



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Derrek Pollard penetrates in a Nov. 23 game against Caprock. Pollard is the only sophomore on varsity and has received quality playing time.

2010 Fall Sports

If you travel with Pampa, Lefors, Miami, McLean, Wheeler or White Deer events, The Pampa News could use your photos!

Send us your unedited photos via email to: aglover@thepampanews.com
Please be sure to get the photos to us in a timely manner (the night of the game or the morning after) and include player identification. Thank you for your contribution to your local Pampa newspaper!

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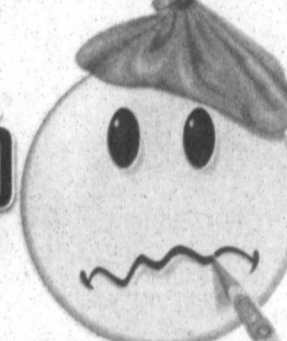
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First- 61
E. Maxwell
J. Cantrell
J. Richardson
J. Gilbert
J. Davis

Second- 64
J. Brashears
N. Lancaster
J. Lee
B. Harwood

Third- 64
T. Lindsey
J. Mabry
L. McReynolds
D. Hinkle
M. Allison

Fourth- 65
A. Boltin
J. Howell
G. Owens
H. Musgrave

Closest to the hole #6 T. Lindsey

Closest to the hole #15 J. Howell

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