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The PAMPA NEWS



TODAY IN SPORTS
'Tis the season
 Andrew Glover goes through the NCAA bowl slate
 Page 6

inside:
 Listing of Christmas Eve Services in Pampa
 Page 5

Friday, December 17, 2010 Volume 106 • No. 216 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Pampa earns 'retirement community' status

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Nancy Cordero of the Rural Economic Development Division of the Texas Department of Agriculture was in Pampa this week to present the city with its Certified Retirement Community certification.
 Cordero presented the certificate to Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins during the Pampa Economic Development Corporation meeting Thursday. The certification signifies that the City of Pampa has gone through the application process

to be a Certified Retirement Community.
 Pampa will be listed by both the State of Texas and the federal government as a "retirement destination," Cordero said.
 She said that the certification means that Pampa has taken steps to improve the quality of **RETIREMENT** cont. on page 10
Nancy Cordero with the Texas Department of Agriculture presents Mayor Lonny Robbins with a certificate designating Pampa a Certified Retirement Community. ▶



staff photo by David Bowser

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 May the star of Bethlehem lead you home.
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GETTING THE DRIFT



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Brad Hoover of the Pampa ISD plows the sidewalks at Travis Elementary School on Friday morning as snow continues to fall. Snow flurries fell over the entire Panhandle all through the early part of the day; Pampa temperatures hovered around 32 degrees with a slight wind to the southeast.

PEDC leaders to keep posts through 2011

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

With only one change, the current board of the Pampa Economic Development board of directors will continue to serve through another year.
 Bill Bridges will step down as treasurer. He will be replaced by Glennette Goode.



Sutherland
 Gary Sutherland will continue as president of the board. Ken May will continue as vice president, James Bradley will continue as secretary.
 The PEDC board met at their offices at 106 N. Cuyler Thursday.
 Clay Rice, executive director of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, reported on his trip to Austin last week with the Texas Panhandle and South Plains' High Ground organization.
 "We were there Wednesday and Thursday," Rice said.
 He said they met with different state agencies concerning **PEDC** cont. on page 10

PISD considers parking options for new junior high

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 The new Pampa Junior High School and proposed new school administration building continued to be topics of discussion as the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees held their final meeting of 2010.
 Representatives of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper offered the school board four options for additional parking at the new junior high during the board's regularly scheduled meeting Thursday night. The four options were variations on two plans.
 The first two, both with a cost of \$935,000, would expand the parking lot in front of the school from 40 spaces to 152.
 The first plan would result in a total of 513 parking places to ease the congestion around the new school. The second plan would

result in 521 parking places.
 The third plan would offer 515 parking places and leave the front parking lot at 40. The fourth plan would offer 521 parking places and also leave the front parking lot with 40 parking spaces.
 Plans three and four would increase parking on the northeast end of the build and in back.
 Plan three would cost \$625,000. Plan four would cost \$650,000.
 There were accusations that the architects of the new junior high had failed to recognize the shortcomings of the traffic patterns at the school, and board members David Teichmann, Matt Brock and Lance DeFever said they thought the architectural firm should pay for part of the solution to fix the parking and traffic problems that have developed at the school.
 Derrell DeLoach, president of the school

Parking options for junior high
 Proposed by Parkhill, Smith and Cooper

Plan 1: 513 total spaces (Front lot up to 152) \$935,000	Plan 2: 521 total spaces (Front lot up to 152) \$935,000
Plan 3: 515 total spaces (Front lot stays at 40) \$625,000	Plan 4: 521 total spaces (Front lot stays at 40) \$650,000

board, said adding parking at the school will not address the basic problem: The fact that there is only one way in and one way out from the school.
PISD cont. on page 10

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

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For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High 40 Low 25	High 51 Low 37	High 63 Low 29

Tonight: Patchy fog after 9 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. Wind chill values between 11 and 16. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Wind chill values between 9 and 19. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 17 and 22. Breezy, with a south wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Windy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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

1/2 OFF many items at Carousel Expressions!

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

D&L BOWS has Christmas t-shirts & hairbows 10% off. Selection of hairbows \$4 set-buy 3 sets get 1 free. Now til Dec. 24. Cottage Collection Booth 905.

DRAG RACE, Sat. Dec. 18, start time 7pm., dail-in 6pm. Pampa Slot Car Speedway. Visit our Hobby Center!

EARLY CLASSIFIED & Last Minute Ad (on pg 2) Deadlines due to Christmas Holiday! For Fri. 12-24-10/Weekend combined edition deadline is Wed. Dec. 22 at noon. Merry Christmas from the Pampa News to all of you!!

CHARITY BINGO, every Fri. at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6pm. Moose Lodge, 401 E. Brown. Public Welcome.

LOST! RING and Guards. Sentimental value. Call 665-2556

MASSAGE THERAPY Special Christmas Gift Certificates. NBC Plaza Ste. #9. 669-0013 Cathy Potter.

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

PACK-N-MAIL NOW 25% off all gift items except Lakeshore Candles & Mische Bags.

PACK-N-MAIL WILL be open Saturday Dec. 18 from 10 am-3 pm.

SPIRIT SLEEVES, Plaid Boxer Shorts & Zebra Hoodies- They're Hot!! T-Shirts & More

WINTER ITEMS in stock! Shovels, Heaters, Ice Melt, Heating Tape!!! Frank's Hardware, 401 N. Ballard, 665-4995

Jane Cox, 84

FALLS CHURCH, VA.—Jane Cox, 84, died November 26, 2010, surrounded by her family at her home in Falls Church, Virginia, after a year-long battle with cancer.

Married sixty-five years to William Joe Cox, Lt. USN and Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.). Jane was a Navy wife during the Korean War and Air Force wife during the Viet Nam War.

Jane Cox gave freely of her time to others. She volunteered 25 years as a guide and educator at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., beginning in 1976 when the Museum opened.

Jane organized the first Neighborhood Watch in the Sleepy Hollow section of Falls Church, Va.; for 15 years she served as community liaison for crime prevention to Fairfax County law enforcement.

Jane was born Dora Jane Phillips, in 1926 near Bristow, Okla. She graduated from Pampa High School in Pampa, in 1943 and attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, from 1943 to 1945.

Survivors include her husband, William Joe Cox, of Falls Church, Va., her daughter, Janie Suzanne Cox and



Cox

three granddaughters, Lara, Sophia and Anais Iglesias Cox, all of McLean, Va.

Service will be Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at 3 p.m. in the Old Post Chapel, Ft. Meyer, Arlington, Va., interment Arlington National Cemetery.

Glenn Tibbets, 68

LEFORS—Glenn Tibbets, 68, died December 16, 2010, in Lefors.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, December 18, 2010, at Memorial Heights Cemetery in Lefors, with Steve Cox, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Tibbets was born on April 21, 1942, in Gray County. Glenn lived in Gray County all of his life, where he was a lifelong resident of Pampa and Lefors. He worked as a commercial truck driver for many years, and later he worked for the Cabot Corporation and finally worked for the United States Postal Service as mail carrier. He was an avid gun collector and animal lover.

Survivors include his sister, Tommie Jordan of College Station; two nephews, Joe Jordan and wife Lana of Monte Vista, Colo., and Mike Tibbets and wife Karen of Oklahoma City; two nieces, Robin Newby and husband Tom of Norman, Okla., and Cindy Miller of Jamestown, Ohio; sister-in-law, Anita Quark of Dumas.

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents over the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

There were 14 traffic-related incidents and two accidents.

Animal control officers reported 12 incidents.

The Pampa Fire Department reported one investigation. The Lefors Volunteer Fire Department responded to one medical call.

Pampa EMS responded to three ambulance calls.

Thursday, Dec. 16

An open door was reported in the 1000 block of S. Faulkner.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of E. 27th.

An open door was reported at Dogwood and Harvester.

Identity theft was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Officers provided a motorist assist at Hobart and Somerville.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the 800 block of S. Gray.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the

400 block of N. Carr.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of N. Duncan.

A welfare check was conducted in the 400 block of N. Ballard.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 100 block of S. Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of E. Brown.

A fingerprinting was performed in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Harassment was reported in the 400 block of S. Pitts.

A welfare check was conducted in the 2200 block of N. Dwight.

A motor assist was provided in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of N. Hill Ave.

A narcotics violation was reported at Crawford and Barnes.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of N. Warren.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the 2100 block of N. Williston.

An information call was received in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 1000 block of W. Wilks.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2200 block of N. Nelson.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of N. Zimmers.

A suicide attempt was reported in the 600 block of N. West.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of N. Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Beech and 26th.

Friday, Dec. 17

Disorderly conduct was reported at Montagu and Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at Brown and Huff.

An open door was reported in the 500 block of N. Magnolia.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Dec. 16

Heather Lynette Edinger, 31, was arrested by deputies on insufficient bond on charges of aggravated robbery and bond surrender on charges of possession of

a controlled substance.

Michael Lane Hall, 17, was arrested by officers on charges of theft of a firearm and minor in possession of alcohol.

Estavan Calvillo, 37, was arrested by officers on charges of driving with an invalid license with a previous conviction of driving with license suspended, no driver's license and failure to appear.

Misty Dawn Fortner, 36, of Lefors, was arrested by officers on charges of possession of marijuana in a drug free zone.

Cyde Eugene Rice, 36, was arrested by officers on charges of theft by check.

John Samuel Rogers, 25, was arrested by officers on charges of speeding and failure to appear.

Joshua John Romero, 24, was arrested by deputies on charges of violation of parole and failure to identify.

Friday, Dec. 17

Keonti Lachelle Nickelberry, 19, was arrested by officers on charges of minor in possession of alcohol and failure to appear.

Lourdes Rodriguez Perez, 32, was arrested by officers on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Easy's

Westside Package

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Sweet Potatoes with a Cinnamon Sugar and Honey Butter!

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LOST

December 10 in the vicinity of 18th and Hamilton

Blonde, 12 pound female named Ginger

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I'M DONE, I'M DONE, I'M DONE... WITH MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

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Dec. 17
8 shopping days 'til Christmas

AFTERNOON RUSH

Abducted woman not harmed

DOUBLE OAK (AP) — A Double Oak woman abducted by three men who staged a car accident has been found unharmed hundreds of miles away in Vega after being forced to drive to New Mexico.

Double Oak Police Chief Derrick Watson says Eileen Loskot was doing well Friday and one suspect was in custody.

Watson says two others who forced Loskot to drive to New Mexico, then let her go, were sought over the abduction early Thursday near her home as she returned from work in Dallas, 30 miles away.

She left a voicemail for her husband about the accident. In the background, voices are heard demanding her debit and credit cards.

Matthew Aaron Casaus was jailed without bond Friday on an aggravated kidnapping charge. Electronic jail records did not list an attorney for Casaus, who was arrested in Dallas.

Coast Guard: Not much seafloor oil

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Coast Guard admiral overseeing cleanup of the BP oil spill says extensive sampling of the Gulf of Mexico seafloor has found oil in quantities too small to merit collection.

The Coast Guard's findings — to be released in a report today — are in contrast to reports from independent scientists who say oil has extensively damaged the seafloor.

"We are not finding any recoverable amounts of oil," Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft told The Associated Press. "We are finding traces of oil."

He says the concentrations fall far short of harmful levels under federal pollution laws.

One site about a mile from the capped BP PLC well a mile under the Gulf has a higher concentration. Zukunft says no technology exists to collect it at that depth though it will be monitored.

Laura Bush speaks to Suu Kyi

DALLAS (AP) — Former U.S. first lady Laura Bush says she has spoken by phone with Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and that Suu Kyi sounds strong after her release last month after more than seven years of house arrest.

Bush tells The Associated Press that she spoke with Suu Kyi on Friday and that the Nobel Peace Prize winner says she knew she had worldwide support during her time in detention.

Suu Kyi has spoken to several world leaders since her release.

Myanmar's military junta has kept her locked away for 15 of the past 21 years.

Bush, the wife of former President George W. Bush, has advocated for free elections in Myanmar and has spoken out many times about Suu Kyi's plight.

Senate drops spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — After wrestling with and finally abandoning a 1,900-page catchall spending bill stuffed with more than \$8 billion in home-state projects known as earmarks in Washington and pork in the rest of the country, Senate leaders turned Friday to devising a measure to keep the federal government running into early next year.

Nearly \$1.3 trillion in unfinished budget work needed to keep the government running was packed into the spending measure, including \$158 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid gave up on the bill Thursday after several Republicans who had been thinking of voting for it pulled back their support.

Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky had thrown his weight against the bill in recent days, saying it was "unbelievable" that Democrats would try to muscle through in the days before Christmas legislation that usually takes months to debate.

"Just a few weeks after the voters told us they don't want us rushing major pieces of complicated, costly, far-reaching legislation through Congress, we get this," McConnell said. "This is no way to legislate."

The most likely course forward was a stopgap funding bill that would keep the government running at current levels into February. That would set up a huge challenge for President Barack Obama, Republicans taking over the House, and a more narrowly divided Senate that will still be under Democratic control.

The White House belatedly weighed in Friday behind a yearlong funding bill that's mostly frozen at current levels. It passed the House last week but it has already been soundly rejected by Senate Republicans, who are insisting on a short-term stopgap bill.

Mexican drone crashes in El Paso

EL PASO (AP) — Federal authorities are investigating why a Mexican drone was in Texas airspace and what caused the unmanned surveillance aircraft to crash into a backyard in El Paso.

The crash occurred after sunset Tuesday behind a house in a former agricultural area, the El Paso Times reported Friday. Police Detective Mike Baranyay said no one was injured.

U.S. officials did not release the exact location of the crash. The neighborhood is separated from Mexico by the Rio Grande, floodlights, the 15- to 18-foot tall border fence, a chain-link fence, a line of poles with surveillance cameras and a highway, according to the newspaper.

John Concha, a spokesman for the El Paso Fire Department, said emergency units were not sent to the crash site because no one was injured.

Salazar signs water agreement

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is preparing to sign a new Navajo water agreement that quantifies the tribe's water rights in the lower Colorado River basin.

Salazar and Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley are slated to sign the agreement Friday during the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference in Las Vegas.

Interior Department spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff says the agreement was reached in 2009, amended by Congress, and signed this year by President Obama.

Roughly 800 attendees are expected at the conference that focuses on the water-use agreement covering California, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. The plan affects more than 30 million people living in the West.

Drywall or plaster for new addition?



Dear Pat: I am getting ready to add a room on to my home. I am not sure which direction to go when it comes to the types of walls. Which is ideal — drywall or plaster? — Torie H.

Dear Torie: The answer to your question is pretty simple: plaster. Lucky for you, real plaster walls are making a strong, and even better-looking, comeback. In almost every aspect, plaster is superior to drywall.

If you are not under budgetary restraints, this is the way to go. Plaster usually costs somewhat more than drywall, but it is well worth the money. New plastering systems, such as plaster veneers, make plaster walls a little more affordable.

The mixing of plaster is similar to the mixing of cement. When you mix plaster with water, a chemical reaction causes it to set and form a hard surface. Drywall is made of relatively soft gypsum with a paper covering on each side.

The biggest advantage of plaster is its superior hardness and strength. Drywall nicks much easier than plaster walls do. If you have children, this should be a large detractor away from drywall. Plaster can also be washed thoroughly without any possibility of water damage. Once the plaster has cured, it is resistant to short-term water exposure.

Besides durability, plaster offers a nicer appearance than drywall does. You will find plaster walls take paint more uniformly. This is an important aspect if you decide to use a semi-gloss paint, which tends to accentuate surface imperfections.

Plaster also makes more sense if you ever plan to install wallpaper in your additional room and perhaps change it in the future. It is easy to strip old wallpaper off plaster without damaging the wall surface. Plaster's durability allows you to use a stronger enzyme solution and scrape more vigorously to remove the old wallpaper adhesive.

Installation may be the only reason to not choose plaster walls. To install drywall, you nail or screw it in place and finish the joints so they are hidden.

Even with the newer veneer systems, plaster is not a typically do-it-yourself project. An average do-it-

yourself can perform some of the installation job, but an experienced plasterer will have to actually apply the plaster. Even most experienced builders will not do the plastering themselves.

If you are using a plaster veneer, it is basically a one-step process, unlike older wall-plastering methods that required wood lath. Large gypsum-based lath panels are nailed to the wall studs to create a plaster base. Next, a thin layer of plaster is applied over the panels to make a smooth, hard finished surface.

The panels for plaster walls have a water-resistant paper coating that has a bluish color. If the boards don't have this coating, any moisture that penetrates the inner gypsum core could cause damage to the wall.

If your children do damage plaster walls with any nicks or cracks, don't worry about the repair job. Today there are several types of new plaster compounds available that have quick set times. A premixed vinyl drywall joint compound will not adhere to the plaster wall as well as the new plaster compounds will.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Plaster Walls

Veneer plaster systems were developed as an alternative to conventional plaster systems. Veneer plaster installation requires the skill of a qualified plastering professional.

MATERIAL

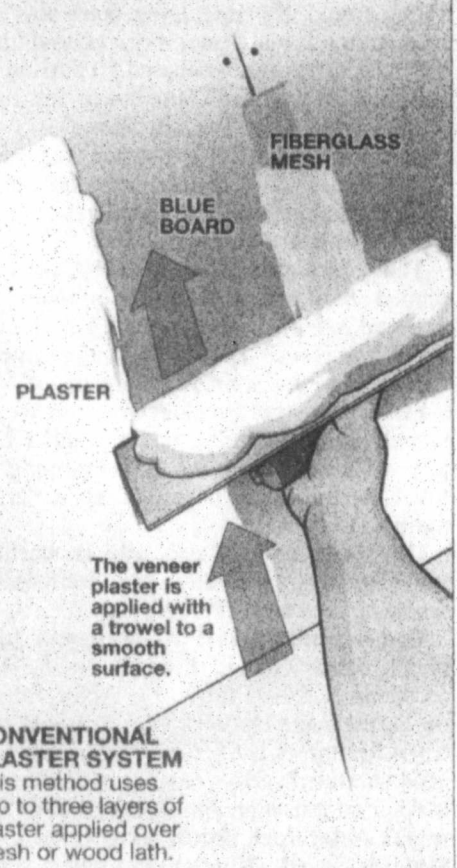
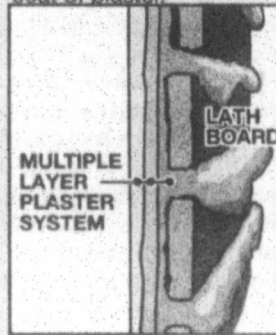
Veneer plaster systems use a gypsum-core panel as the base for the plaster coat. The panels, often referred to as "blue board," are covered with a special paper compatible with veneer plaster.

INSTALLATION

Plaster can be installed over multiple types of construction. Joints between the panels are taped with fiberglass mesh, which is bedded in the veneer plaster.

PLASTER COAT

After the tape is bedded, the entire wall surface is covered with a thin (1/8-inch thick) coat of plaster.



Source: www.nationalgypsum.com

Creators.com/Bob Kast

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 rpibble@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 Atchison, Pampa, TX 79065 or drop it by our office. Just make sure we receive it by Dec. 17.

Free Ariat Gear Bag

with \$150 (or more) purchase of Ariat boots while supplies last.

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Buy 1 Men's Shirt Get 2nd one

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Sonic Drive-In will be **OPEN** Christmas Day from 10AM-11PM

\$3.99 Coney & Tots

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RAC Rent-A-Center

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Candlelight and Advent Service

Wednesday December 22 6:30 p.m.

A special service of Candles and Carols

Calvary Baptist Church

900 E. 23rd • 806-665-0842 www.calvarypampa.com

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2010. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights, near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:
In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1830, South American patriot Simon Bolivar died in Colombia.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted at his court-martial in Washington, D.C. of insubordination for accusing senior military officials of incompetence and criminal negligence; he was suspended from active duty.

In 1939, the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled by its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the River Plate off Uruguay.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1969, the U.S. Air Force closed its Project "Blue Book" by concluding there was no evidence of extraterrestrial spaceships behind thousands of UFO sightings. An estimated 50 million TV viewers watched singer Tiny Tim marry his fiancée, Miss Vicky, on NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)

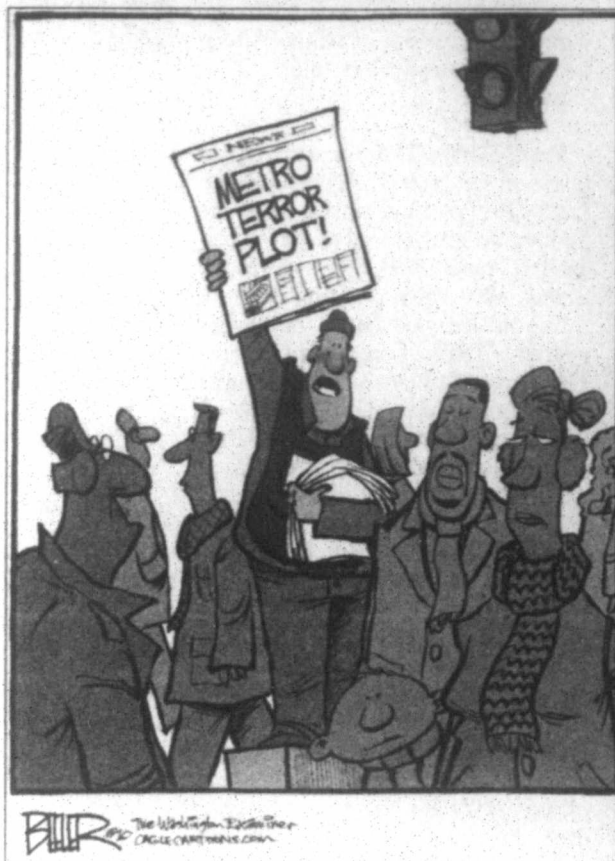
Ten years ago: President-elect George W. Bush named Stanford professor Condoleezza Rice his national security adviser and Alberto Gonzales to the White House counsel's job, the same day he was named Time magazine's Person of the Year.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, in his weekly radio address, acknowledged he'd personally authorized a secret eavesdropping program in the U.S. following 9/11, calling it "crucial to our national security."

One year ago: World leaders starting flooding into Copenhagen, where a U.N. conference on global warming was already under way.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 80. Actor George Lindsey is 75. Rock singer-musician Art Neville is 73. Actor Bernard Hill is 66. Actor Ernie Hudson is 65. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 65. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 64. Actress Marilyn Hassett is 63. Actor Wes Studi is 63. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 62. Actor Joel Brooks is 61. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 59. Actor Bill Pullman is 57. Actor Barry Livingston is 57. Country singer Sharon White is 57. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 54. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 52. Country musician Tim Cheurning is 48. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 44. Country musician Duane Propes is 44. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 40. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 40. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 37. Actress Sarah Paulson is 36. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 36. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 36. Actress Milla Jovovich is 35. Singer Bree Sharp is 35. Actress Jennifer Carpenter is 31. Actress Shannon Woodward is 26. Actress Vanessa Zima is 24. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 16.

Thought for Today: "You have no idea how big the other fellow's troubles are." - B.C. Forbes, Scottish journalist (1880-1954)



Common sense: Sell bonds, buy stocks

For once, top Obama economic advisor Larry Summers got it right. Warning opponents of the big tax-cut deal, Summers told reporters, "Failure to pass this bill in the next couple weeks would materially increase the risk that the economy would stall out and we would have a double-dip recession."

Too bad Summers didn't advise the president to cut taxes across-the-board two years ago, rather than push for the misbegotten \$800 billion government-spending package. That policy dismally failed to ignite a real economic recovery or to lower the unemployment rate.

But it's never too late to promote good policy. And echoing Summers, in recent months any number of demand- and supply-side economists warned of a double-dip (or nearly so) unless the Bush 2003 tax cuts were extended. The economy would be demoralized from a rollback of incentives to work, invest and take risks. Plus, roughly \$600 billion of cash (including the alternative minimum tax) would be drained from the private sector.

Whether Obama is really changing his stripes and abandoning class-warfare, big-government spending remains to be seen. But at least he is out there defending the huge tax-cut package, which is pro-growth, along with a South Korean free-trade deal, which also is pro-growth. Certainly it's a turn for the better for the White House.

In the wake of the tax-cut announcement, a number of Wall Street forecasters are upping their growth estimates for 2011

and beyond. The consensus seems to have lifted real gross domestic product by nearly a full percentage point. And if the economy can grow by 3.5 to 4 percent, the likelihood of a sizable decline in unemployment literally grows stronger.

Recent polling data show overwhelming public support for the turn toward pro-growth tax cuts. The most recent Gallup poll reveals that 66 percent of voters support the deal. That includes 67 percent of independents, 52 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of Republicans. Surveying likely voters, Scott Rasmussen finds that 56 percent favor the tax-cut deal, while only 29 percent oppose it. Even political liberals are split on the issue: 43 percent favor the tax-cut extension, and 41 percent are opposed.

However, there is a rump revolt going on in the bond market, where tax-cut naysayers say rising Treasury yields indicate that the biggest fear is a hike in the deficit. Since the Obama tax-cut announcement, 10-year Treasury rates have jumped over 30 basis points to about 3.25 percent. However, three-fourths of that market-rate increase comes from a jump in real interest rates, according to the Treasury inflation-protected securities (TIPS) market.

That's exactly what should happen. Keeping marginal tax rates down for successful earners, investors and small-business entrepreneurs will increase economic growth. Therefore, the economic-growth component of bond rates reflects that by normalizing up-ward.

It's a positive sign, not a negative one. It has little or nothing to do with the deficit, which actually will shrink as the economy grows faster. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 1 percent faster growth reduces the 10-year deficit outlook by nearly \$3 trillion. Low-tax growth must be part of the deficit solution.

The rise in real interest rates from growth-oriented tax cuts is also helping support the dollar. And all that, in turn, continues to boost the stock market. It wouldn't be surprising if the tax-cut push for stronger growth moves Treasury rates to 3.5 or even 4 percent, as the economy gathers steam from refreshed incentives.

So sell your Treasury bonds. But stronger growth amidst record profits will drive stocks higher.

The Obama/GOP tax-cut package is really a bit of pro-growth shock therapy. The vast majority of folks

worried that the Bush tax rates would expire and the economy would face a debilitating tax hike. In this sense, freezing the tax rates provides an incentive effect, and at the very least instills more confidence.

At least for the next couple of years, before real flat-tax reform is possible, tax rates will be held at historically low levels. Thus, a major uncertainty factor has been removed.

Of course, the tax-cut deal is far from perfect. But a price has to be paid for a compromise that will enhance economic growth. And yes, the budget deficit is an ongoing problem. But as we listen to people like Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan, the new House Budget chairman, it is clear that deep spending cuts are on the way in the new year.

So common sense suggests selling bonds, buying stocks and holding onto the dollar. This new investment strategy builds on a long-overdue tax-cut-extension package that surely will lift the economic spirits.



LAWRENCE KUDLOW

Lawrence Kudlow is a nationally syndicated columnist and also hosts his own blog. He is a contributing editor of National Review magazine and he anchors CNBC's "The Kudlow Report."

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.
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The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525

Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager

rwoods@thepampanews.com

Arnie Aurellano

Editor

editor@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Advertising Representative

spribble@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising

classified@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter

aglover@thepampanews.com

Kera Kent

Subscriptions

circulation@thepampanews.com

Marijane Kent

Composing

composing@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting

bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor

press@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager

circulation2@thepampanews.com

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"...UH, OH ...NOT GOOD...NOT GOOD AT ALL..."

Worship

What gift would you bring baby Jesus?

"I would give baby Jesus some food, because they probably didn't have a lot of money. They might have been poor, and they weren't near a place with food," says Megan, 9.

It's easy to look at poor people as if something were wrong with them. Yet, God sent his son into this world through humble circumstances. The greatest became the least, not by accident, but by choice. In a world driven by lust for power, money and glory, Jesus put off heaven's power and glory and clothed himself with humility.

"I would bring Jesus a baby bed, because he had to sleep on wood covered with hay," says Jillian, 9.

There's no palace or royal entourage here. The Son of God was laid in a manger, which was probably a feeding trough for animals. The Scripture simply states, "because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

"I would bring baby Jesus a blanket made out of sheep's wool. Then I would wrap it around him so it would keep him warm," says Katelyn, 9.

If anyone had given Jesus a wool blanket, it would have been prophetic. When John the Baptist saw Jesus at the beginning of his ministry, he declared, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Levite priests slaughtered thousands of lambs in the temple as a covering for people's sins. All the lambs ever slain on the temple altar could never permanently take away sin. Christmas is all about God invading this world on a mission from birth to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

"I would bring baby Jesus a cross necklace, because he died on a cross for our sins," says Riley, 8.

Without the cross, the birth of Jesus becomes little more than a sweet story that we celebrate with holiday festivities and the exchange of gifts. The cross transforms the birth of a baby into the coming of a kingdom where individuals receive eternal life by believing in the Lord Jesus as their savior.



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

Like his humble birth, this simple act of faith in Christ alone can be brushed aside as something seemingly insignificant. Yet, it's the difference between entering God's kingdom and being forever

banished from it.

Our separation from God has made us skeptical of salvation that is free. We want to earn what God has provided. We can't imagine a love so lavish and an offer so generous. Without ever considering the cross as the meaning of Jesus' birth, people wonder at the meaning of his dying words, "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

"If I were a wise man, I would first consult with God and ask Him what to give Him," says Megan, 11.

This is a wise answer from a wise person. Often, we think we know what God wants from us. We don't take time to consult him.

Some of the people whom Jesus had miraculously fed did consult with him when they asked the following question: "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent." (John 6:28-29)

Think about this: Jesus was born to finish the work of our salvation on the cross.

Ask this question: Have you received the greatest Christmas gift by believing in the Lord Jesus as your savior?

Memorize this truth: John 6:29 quoted above.

Cary Kinsolving is a syndicated newspaper columnist and seasoned religion reporter. Many of Kinsolving's feature articles have appeared in The Washington Post and other major newspapers via news services such as The New York Times News Service, Cox, Hearst and Donrey.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Local Christmas Services and Times

- December 22**
 - First Assembly of God, 7 p.m.
- December 23**
 - Calvary Baptist, 6:30 p.m.
- December 24**
 - First Presbyterian Family Service, 5 p.m.
 - Saint Matthews Episcopal Church Family Service, 5 p.m.
 - First Baptist Church, 6 p.m.
 - Briarwood Full Gospel Church, 6 p.m.
 - First United Methodist Church, 6 p.m.
- Harvest Bible Church 7:30, p.m.
- Zion Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
- Saint Matthews Episcopal Church Full Eucharist, 8 p.m.
- First Presbyterian Carols and Lessons Service, 11 p.m.
- December 25**
 - Zion Lutheran communion 9:00 a.m.
 - First United Methodist communion 10 a.m.
 - Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

• If your church is having a Christmas Eve service not listed here, e-mail Andrew Glover at aglover@thepampanews.com, and we'll be sure to update our listing in a later edition of *The Pampa News*.

Pampa Church Directory

- Assemblies Of God**
 - **Calvary Assembly of God Church** 806-669-7207 1030 Love Street
 - **First Assembly of God** 806-665-5941 500 South Cuyler
 - **New Life Assembly of God** 806-665-0804 1435 N. Sumner
- Baptist**
 - **Bible Baptist Church** 806-669-7830 500 East Kingsmill Avenue
 - **Calvary Baptist Church** 806-665-0842 900 East 23rd
 - **Central Baptist Church** 806-665-1631 513 East Francis Avenue
 - **Cornerstone Baptist Church** (806) 669-6509 2410 W. 23rd Ave.
 - **Crosspointe** 665-2480 711 E. Harvester
 - **Fellowship Baptist Church** 806-665-5976 622 East Francis Avenue
 - **First Baptist Church** 806-669-1155 203 North West Street
 - **First Free Will Baptist Church** 806-665-2545 731 Sloan Street
 - **Grace Baptist Church** 806-669-7967 824 South Barnes
 - **Harvest Fellowship Church** 806-665-4922 2100 W. Kentucky
 - **Highland Baptist Church** 806-665-3300 1301 North Banks Street
 - **Hobart Baptist Church** 806-669-3212 1100 Crawford Street
 - **Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel** 806-665-4330 1021 S. Barnes
 - **Lighthouse Baptist Church** 806-665-0262 725 West Brown
 - **Macedonia Baptist Church** 806-665-4926 441 Elm Avenue
 - **New Hope Baptist Church** 806-665-4044 404 Harlem Street
- Catholic**
 - **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church** 806-665-8933 810 West 23rd Ave
- Christian**
 - **First Christian Church** 806-669-3225 1633 North Nelson Street
 - **Hi-Land Christian Church** 806-669-6700 1615 North Banks Street
- Church of Christ**
 - **Church of Christ** 806-665-0031 1342 Mary Ellen Street
 - **Church of Christ** 806-665-0004 500 N. Somerville
 - **Southside Church of Christ** 806-669-3912 11927 McCullough Street
 - **Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ** 806-665-2572 1612 W. Kentucky
- Church of God**
 - **Church of God** 806-669-6372 1123 Gwendolyn Avenue
 - **Open Door Church of God in Christ** 806-665-6132 402 Oklahoma Street
- Episcopal**
 - **Saint Matthews Episcopal Church** 806-665-0701 727 West Browning Avenue
- Fellowship of Christian Ministries**
 - **Trinity Fellowship Church** 806-665-3255 2225 N. Hobart
- Full Gospel**
 - **Briarwood Full Gospel Church** 806-665-7201 1800 West Harvester Avenue
- Independent**
 - **Harvest Bible Church** 806-669-2923 300 W. Browning Ave.
 - **Body of Christ Church** 806-669-9599 210 N. Ward St.
 - **Frost Street Missions** 806-669-9000 600 North Frost Street
 - **Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero** 806-665-5898 500 N. Duncan
 - **Iglesia Cristiana Canaan** 806-669-3330 905 E. Beryl St.
 - **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church** 806-665-4044 912 S. Gray St.
 - **The Carpenter's Church** 806-663-0732 • 806-669-4711 639 South Barnes St.
- Jehovah's Witnesses**
 - **Jehovah's Witnesses** 806-669-9355 1701 Coffee
- Latter-Day Saints**
 - **Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints** 806-669-2967 411 East 29th Ave.
- Lutheran**
 - **Zion Lutheran Church** 806-669-2774 1200 Duncan Street
- Methodist**
 - **First United Methodist Church** 806-669-7411 201 East Foster Avenue
 - **St. Paul United Methodist Church** 806-665-8951 511 N. Hobart
- Nazarene**
 - **Church of the Nazarene** 806-669-3144 500 North West Street
- Pentecostal**
 - **First Pentecostal Holiness Church** 806-665-8192 1700 Alcock
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- Presbyterian**
 - **First Presbyterian Church** 806-665-1031 525 North Gray Street
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Attend the church of your choice

Sports

NM Goal: 'A Sea of UTEP Orange'

Margie Brickey is on a mission. For the next 48 hours, Brickey's goal is to transform Albuquerque into Minerville as thousands of UTEP Miner fans make the trek north for the fifth annual New Mexico Bowl. "We're going to turn Albuquerque orange," said Brickey, the UTEP Alumni Association's chapter development coordinator. "Our alumni come out in droves. It's really exciting to see all our alumni and our die-hard fans that come from Dallas, Houston and even California. There's going to be a sea of orange at the game."

UTEP will play former Western Athletic Conference rival Brigham Young University at noon Saturday at University Stadium in Albuquerque.

The New Mexico Bowl is the first game of the 2010 bowl season, and it will be televised by ESPN.

As of Thursday night 4,200 of the 5,000 tickets allotted to UTEP had been sold, according to the UTEP athletic department.

The UTEP Alumni Association will have two major events today and Saturday.

The organization will have an alumni reception from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. today at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel and then a tailgate party at 9 a.m. Saturday at the north side of University Stadium.

"A lot of fans are going out Saturday

morning, but many of them are going up early," Brickey said. "We have a lot of alumni making a whole weekend out of it, staying Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

The alumni reception will include UTEP's Goldiggers, cheerleaders and the band, and UTEP coach Mike Price also will make an appearance.

"At the tailgate, we'll have a breakfast theme," Brickey said. "Since we're starting at 9 a.m., we'll have coffee, eggs, bacon, potatoes, danish and muffins but no hamburgers and hot dogs."

It will be first-come, first-served for fans who pre-purchased their tailgate tickets. A limited number of walk-up tickets will be available.

Larry Rodriguez and a group of about 50 Miner fans have chartered a bus that will leave El Paso at 6 a.m. Saturday to watch the Miners' first bowl appearance since the 2005 GMAC Bowl against Toledo.

"Everybody is excited," said Rodriguez, the president of the Miner Fan Club. "It's been five years since the Miners have been to a bowl game, plus it's against BYU so a lot of people are really looking forward to it."

Jeff Siembieda, executive director of the New Mexico Bowl, said Albuquerque is ready and waiting for the UTEP Miner traveling contingent.

"This city is going to roll out the red carpet for Miner fans," Siembieda said. "This town has really gotten behind the bowl game. People are really excited about it."

The New Mexico Bowl has plenty of fan-friendly events, including a kickoff luncheon at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino at 11:30 a.m. today and a pep rally and battle of the bands at University Stadium's north parking lot at 4:45 p.m. today.

On Saturday, there will be a Fan Fest at University Stadium's north parking lot at 9 a.m.

"We have two fired-up, good-sized fan bases that are going to make this a great event," Siembieda said. "We're a five-year-old bowl in a 100-year system, but we are well on our way. I am convinced everyone is going to have a great time."

Siembieda hopes El Pasoans bring that fun-loving Sun Bowl spirit with them to Albuquerque.

"If anybody knows what bowl week should be like, it's the Sun Bowl and the people of El Paso," Siembieda said.

"I so respect what the city of El Paso has done with the Sun Bowl and how that community has taken ownership over it. I have the utmost respect for the Sun Bowl and the city of El Paso; they know how to do it right."

Cowboys Brooking aims to play longer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Keith Brooking is one of those warrior-type linebackers, from his intense pre-game speeches to the smeared eye black running down his cheeks.

He's also 35 and nearing the end of his 13th season in the NFL. The Dallas Cowboys relied on him more than usual at the start of this season and his constant presence on the injury report indicates he's wearing down.

Brooking disagrees. He figures he's got at least two good years left, insisting that anyone who watches film of him this season will see that he can still play.

"The eye in the sky doesn't lie," he said, offering one of his favorite phrases. "If you watch it, if you know football, I think the opinions on the outside would be the same way. We'll see where it goes."

First things first, though. On Sunday, Brooking will play in his 158th straight game, second among active linebackers. The only person ahead of him is London Fletcher, who will be appearing in No. 206 in a row on the very same field when Brooking and the Cowboys face the Washington Redskins.

"My streak? Come on now," said Brooking, who last missed a game in 2000. "If it ends this week, it'll be forgotten on Monday. We're not talking 290-something, 300 games like Brett Favre."

Brooking laughed and acknowledged he's proud of having lasted as long as he has. Knowing how hard it's been makes Fletcher's feat even more impressive to him. They both entered the league in 1998, Brooking as a first-round pick by Atlanta and Fletcher a rookie free agent who made St. Louis. That made them division rivals, so they got to admire each other's work and monitor their progress for years. Brooking still keeps up with Fletcher; after all, that eye in the sky doesn't lie.

"He hasn't gotten the respect he deserves for what he's done in this league," Brooking said. "I talk about consistency a lot and he defines that every week. Turn on the film — you watch that guy, he's all over the place. You admire guys like that, you

pull for guys like that. You want them to be successful except when you play them."

Brooking is easy to root for, too, because of his passion. However, No. 51 doesn't appear in as many highlights as he did last

season, his first in Dallas, when he became an instant fan favorite and his pregame frenzy became must-see TV.

The Cowboys knew he wasn't a long-term answer at inside linebacker, so they drafted Sean Lee in

the second round this year. Injuries slowed Lee at first, and he had trouble winning a big enough role in coach Wade Phillips' scheme.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My father died this year. My husband and I were his primary caregivers. I was with him until his dying breath. After his passing, Mom asked us to move in so she wouldn't be alone. She has post-polio syndrome, but her biggest problem is her "princess syndrome."

She has trouble getting around, but is able to do some things while I'm at work all day. As soon as I walk in the door, she's all over me to do simple tasks that she could have done during the day. She complains the house isn't clean enough, or that this and that aren't done up to her standards.

Abby, it was easier to take care of all my dad's needs than it is to take care of hers! Her day consists of getting up at 10 a.m., watching soap operas and eating herself to more than 300 pounds. How do I deal with a mother with a major princess complex? — NOT CINDERELLA

DEAR NOT CINDERELLA: Do it by having a frank conversation with your mother and telling her exactly what you have told me, WITHOUT labeling her a princess. You should also insist that she be screened by her doctor for depression.

If her demands are more than you and your husband can deliver, then consider moving into a place of your own. However, if your mother realizes that the alternative is living alone, she may be inclined to compromise.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of one year (at the time) was considered by everyone to be the most caring, good husband. But he never wanted to have relations with me. After several months of investigation, I learned he had been seeing prostitutes. He even admitted to me that when

he did have sex with me he was thinking of them. Fast-forward: I forgave him; we went to counseling.

Abby, he still never wants to have sex with me! When we do, it's because I initiate it. My self-confidence is shot. He says he "doesn't have a sex drive," so I can either accept him for all the positives — of which there are many — and not have a sex life, or not.

I have considered fulfilling my needs outside the marriage, and giving him the green light to do the same, but he's against it. I'm at a loss as to what to do. Should I just settle and be happy with what I have? — WANTING MORE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WANTING MORE: You are obviously not happy with "what you have." And a man who engages the services of a prostitute DOES have a sex drive. You both need to be completely truthful with each other. Once you have reached that point, you will know what to do, and you won't have to ask me to make the decision for you.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have reached an impasse. He says that breakfast, brunch or lunch is an acceptable time to spend with my girlfriends, but dinner is "family time" and should be spent at home with him.

He also says that girlfriends who spend a weekend away together are "up to no good." I see no problem with it. What are your thoughts? — UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR UNSURE: Your boyfriend appears to be insecure, controlling and have a dim view of women. If you're smart, you will find someone who is less easily threatened by female bonding and let this one go.

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

QUAVER

□ □ □ □ □ □
□ □ □ □ □ □
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LOSING

Yesterday's Answer: Common: N;
ONRUSH, NOVICE, SAVANT, INFANT

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big hit
 - 6 Owed amounts
 - 11 Verboten
 - 12 Three-time Wimbledon champ
 - 13 Next to
 - 14 Contradict
 - 15 Tyler of "The Lord of the Rings"
 - 16 Sea dog
 - 18 Fertility-clinic topic
 - 19 Tennis feat
 - 20 — bind
 - 21 Unite
 - 22 Prepare
 - 24 Lawyer: Abbr.
 - 25 Cannabis extract
 - 27 Dance move
 - 29 Starts
 - 32 Siamese or Burmese
 - 33 Crumb carrier
 - 34 Hogwash
 - 35 French friend
 - 36 Deli choice
 - 37 Commotion
 - 38 Turning tool

- DOWN**
- 40 Flying reptile of movies
 - 42 TV's DeGeneres
 - 43 Steaming
 - 44 "Bye!"
 - 45 Stable mothers
 - 1 Prison camp
 - 2 Spite
 - 3 Place for a star's credit
 - 4 Chip off the old block
 - 5 Hampers
 - 6 Winger of films
 - 7 Christmas forerunner
 - 8 Undetected
 - 9 Hot dish holder
 - 10 Unwavering
 - 17 Writer Trollope
 - 23 Easy mark
 - 24 Cart puller

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TOPMAN		
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TEAR	TUNETO	
SST	BENTIN	
SEPTUM		
PERON	FREAK	
ELUDE	OSAGE	
PLEAT	RATON	

Yesterday's answer

- 7 Christmas forerunner
- 8 Undetected
- 9 Hot dish holder
- 10 Unwavering
- 17 Writer Trollope
- 23 Easy mark
- 24 Cart puller
- 26 Meantime
- 27 Justice symbol
- 28 Tex-Mex treat
- 30 So far
- 31 Gems
- 33 Sports spot
- 39 "You there!"
- 41 Man-mouse link

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12-17

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Later on we'll perspire, as we dream in the fire! ..."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010:

You swing like a pendulum between being a pragmatist and an adventurer this year. If others act confused at times, be understanding. Focus on the quality of your daily life, and be open to new technology and sometimes seemingly revolutionary ideas. Relationships star for both those single and attached. Spring 2011 holds great potential to meet the right person or to infuse an existing relationship with old-fashioned romance. GEMINI can be challenging. Don't discredit him or her.

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)

★★★★ A last-minute invitation is simply too alluring to say "no" to. Take off, flip plans anyway you want to. If you plan on a spontaneous trip, expect some last-minute disruption. Intentions count in a situation like this. Tonight: Catching up on a friend's or loved one's news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A partner or friend has an idea that you don't want to say "no" to. Be spontaneous; enjoy those you come into contact with. Let go of having firm plans that have to evolve in a certain manner. Tonight: Treat yourself as well as you treat others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might have a case of the "bah humbugs." Once more, you feel as if you need to turn down an opportunity that would mean a lot to you. Relax. Play some great Christmas music, and know that this, too, will pass. Tonight: Finally, you perk up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Bring others together, especially some friends who don't live as close as you might like. Whether you are chairman of this plot to bring far-flung friends together or just busy socializing, you enjoy the moment. Tonight: Suddenly you get so tired. Wonder why?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Recognize once more the demands you have accepted and made yours. Perhaps a little carefree fun is in order. Whether off playing Santa, one of his elves or going to see a concert, you still attract many people's attention. It is tough being a role model. Tonight: Your time -- let your hair down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Hop into the car for a day drive or go off to a favorite Christmas event. Getting away from your routine -- whether it is just calling a friend you never see or speak to -- revives you, giving you yet another perspective. Tonight: Follow the music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ A partner might be a touch too dominant for your taste. Still, if experience is your teacher, know that this person can pull a project, party or whatever together. Try being a yes man or woman just for a day. Yes, it might not be comfortable, but it's worthwhile. Tonight: A special place for dinner and music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ The smart Scorp will just go along with others. Really, is there any reason to make a big deal of anything if you are with the one you love or would like to love? A child adds confusion to the mix. Tonight: What starts out as a party becomes an intimate conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Get as many of your holiday errands done as possible. You might hit some interference, but a roommate, friend or loved one works right along with you. Together you gain a great sense of accomplishment. Tonight: Start the holiday partying. Go caroling!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Even if you have plans, someone might entice you to kiss them goodbye. In any case, you could experience a strange reaction from others. Let it go. It really makes no difference. Confirm a meeting place and time, as confusion lurks. Tonight: Have a luscious dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might opt to stay close to home, whether you are decorating, baking cookies, addressing cards or doing just plain nothing. A surprise could occur financially, but still take no big risks. Tonight: Nap, then revel in the moment and fun.

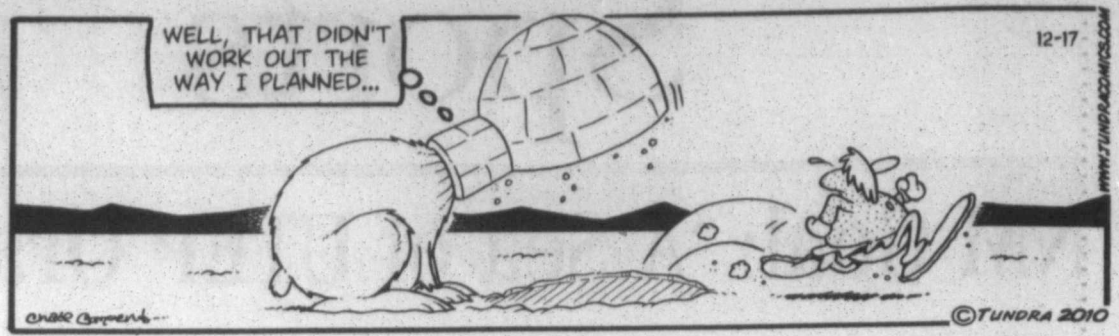
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Return all calls, as there could be a surprise on the way. Adjust plans accordingly without making a judgment. Clearly you are lucky right now. Knowing when not to go overboard does make a difference. Tonight: Hanging out, but if you're tired, make it an early night.

BORN TODAY

Guitarist Keith Richards (1943), filmmaker Steven Spielberg (1946), actor Brad Pitt (1963)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

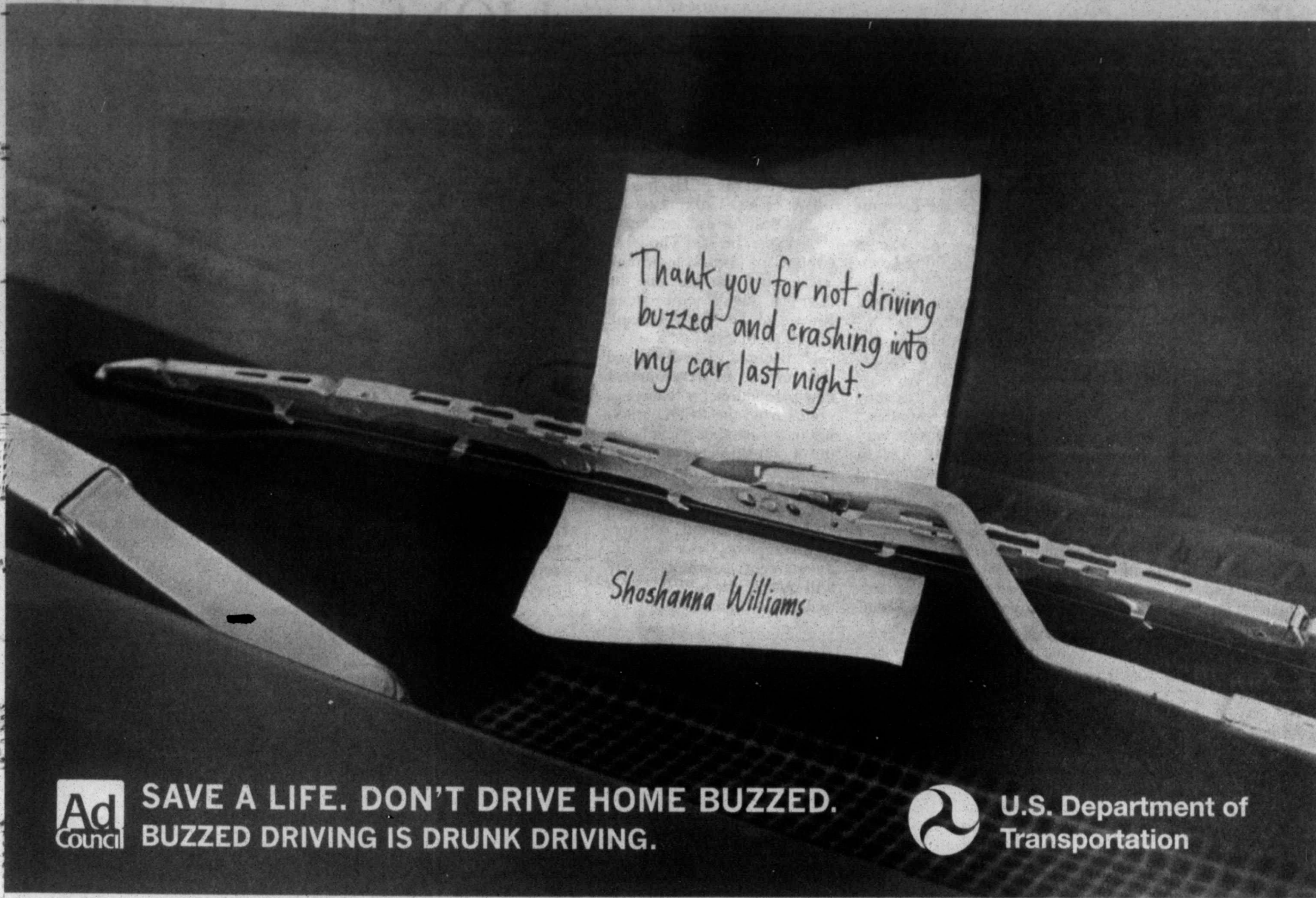


Peanuts



Blondie





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Local News Anytime, Anywhere

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 Maxine Hawkins G-29 Dec. 17, 2010

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14h Gen. Serv.
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14w Air Cond/Heat
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 MAINTENANCE Man needed. Must have current dr. lic., own tools & pass drug test. Apply at Gwendolyn Plaza Apts, 800 N. N Nelson.

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 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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 PICK up rental list, in the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

12-17 CRYPTOQUOTE

U J X N Z F R Q M X M N M X Q
 O W H X W I X Q L A Z W Q X N X M
 O W P R Q C N Z W E R A W V R U
 V W J M R Q N R O W H X W I W

— I R H N J X V W
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH AMERICA THAT CANNOT BE CURED BY WHAT IS RIGHT IN AMERICA.
 — WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE Pampa Youth and Community Center is seeking a mature, friendly, energetic desk attendant. Varied schedule including some weekend hours. Would consider part time. CPR certification will be necessary if not already attained. Please pick up a job application at the Pampa Youth and Community Center, during business hours.

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80 Pets & Suppl.
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PEDC

economic development.

"We met with the Texas Department of Agriculture," Rice said. "We met with the comptroller's office. We also met with the governor's office economic development."

On Thursday morning, they had a breakfast with legislative staffs, then they called on legislators before flying back.

"It's something that's done every year by The High Ground," Rice said.

He said it's something he thinks Pampa EDC ought to continue to do each year.

"It is a quick trip," Rice said. "We get a lot done in a short period of time. It's a very efficient trip."

Rice also reported on the TIPS kickoff meeting in Pampa on Dec. 7.

He said the TIPS staff wants to come back to Pampa toward the end of January and meet with members of

the business community and educators.

"That's going to be Jan. 25 and 26 at this point," Rice said.

He said they were impressed with the size of the community.

"They can see that Pampa has a lot of room for redevelopment," Rice said.

They're interested in wind energy and other renewable energy possibilities and Clarendon College's Pampa Center.

"We'll know more as they get further in their studies," Rice said, "but they were very impressed with the size of the hospital and the shopping areas."

He said they hadn't known what to expect when they came to Pampa, but they had been pleasantly surprised.

Rice said that he and representatives with the PEDC

would be in Anaheim, Calif., in May for a wind energy trade show and they are considering renting a booth at the show rather than try to take the one that the PEDC has.

"We're just working to see what's best for us," he said.

Last year, he said The High Ground of Texas took and trailer and carried all the member city's equipment. Rice said he doesn't think they'll do that this year.

They board also discussed their efforts to development new procedures for loans and grants from the PEDC, making new customer packets for the organization and developing focus maps for marketing.

Rice reported that Hampton Village was about 60 percent complete. Once they are 80 percent complete, they will qualify for a PEDC loan under prior agreement.

LIONS IN WINTER

cont. from page 1



submitted photo

The Pampa Lions Club rang bells and sang Carols at Walmart for the Salvation Army. Pictured are Byron Nelson, Autumn Woods, ReDonn Woods, Ethan DeFever, Spencer DeFever and Lance DeFever (Mark Martin, not pictured, took the photo).

Retirement

cont. from page 1

life for its citizens.

Cordero said that retired citizens moving to communities like Pampa will volunteer, serve on boards and improve the quality of life.

Kathy Cota, the administrative assistant at the PEDC, put in many long hours in pursuing this certification, Cordero said.

She said that Texas is a pioneer in the Certified Retirement Community program. It's a designation that guides people to unique cities and towns that fit their lifestyle, Cordero said.

"All this goes back to improving the quality of life in the City of Pampa," Cordero said.

She said that her office is getting more interest in the program for cities in this part of the state.

"The more communities like this in an area," Cordero said, "the more likely people are to come to the area."

The Rural Economic Development Office of the Texas Department of Agriculture sends out postcards listing retirement communities for those who contact the office, Cordero said.

Pampa is the 37th city in the state to receive such certification.

"This is a fantastic marketing tool for the city to use," she said.

Cordero said that the good life isn't a dream — it's a lifestyle, a lifestyle that can be found in towns in Texas like Pampa.

PISD

cont. from page 1

He said there needs to be another entrance and exit, but School Supt. Barry Haensch said negotiations with adjoining landowners have failed to yield any results.

"It's beyond our ability to control," DeLoach said.

Board member Lee Porter said that the additional parking would alleviate some of the problem and take the vehicles of parents off Texas Highway 70 as they wait to drop off or pick up their children from school.

A decision on the options — or a combination of some of the options — presented to the board was postponed until the January board meeting so that Pampa Junior High School Principal Paul Nies could be consulted.

In other business:

- The architect also provided the board with cost comparisons of using the old junior high school or building a new building next to Horace Mann for use as a school administration building.

Each plan proposed about 30,000 square feet of working space. The basic cost of using the old junior high school was about \$3.6 million. The basic cost of building a new building at Horace Mann was about \$4.8 million.

Haensch indicated that there was about \$3.3 million left from the school bonds issued to finance the new junior high, renovate the high school and renovate the old junior high as an administration building.

Asbestos problems with the old junior high have led to proposals for a new administration building, but with additional cost of dealing with the asbestos in other parts of the old junior high so it could be used for storage, the total cost of renovating the building would be an estimated \$5,169,814.

The relocation of a water main and other costs if a new building was built at Horace Mann would bring the total price of that project to \$5,173,924, including the demolition of the old junior high, according to the architects.

Again, a decision on the new administration building was postponed to the January meeting of the school board.

- The board discussed the concrete fence in front of the high school.

Porter said it would cost \$100,000 to repair the fence that had initially been built by the WPA (Works Progress Administration). He called for donations to repair the fence from those wanting to save it. The deadline is June 1, 2011.

It would cost \$5,000 to demolish the fence, he said.

- The board voted to buy two 2012 International buses for activity buses at a cost of \$151,000 each.

- The district's transportation chief, Sam Haynes, said the district had one activity bus they could still use.

- The school board also approved the district's Campus Improvement Plans and the District Improvement Plan.

- They approved the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Plan for high school athletic facilities and the high school library.

- The board also approved language for a bid to go out for property casualty insurance and for the possibility for the district to enter into an inter-local agreement for property casualty insurance.

- They also approved entering into a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Fort Worth to continue using a JP Morgan credit card rather than switching to a CitiBank card. CitiBank had won the state contract, but it would cost too much, according to Danny Seaborn, the district's business manager, for a small district like Pampa to make the change.

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