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that would show a tear-

split screen with the typed

words of her statement.

The sound of Bolin's

words are often difficult to

Buzzard said that the

gist of the case revolves

Succeeding siblings

Harvester athletes talk about following family footsteps

Page 5



Monday, December 20, 2010

Volume 106 • No. 218

75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Judge hears last minute motions in Bolin case

understand.

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Judge Steven Emmert of the 31st District Court heard last minute motions in the case of Mary Lee Bolin today

Bolin, 30, is accused of killing her six-week-

old baby daughter, Kenzee Renae Bolin, by shaking the baby in May, 2007. Defense attorneys Harold Comer and Mark

Buzzard moved to restrict the use of a doll by District Attorney Lynn Switzer during the trial and demonstrated an enhanced video system



Bolin

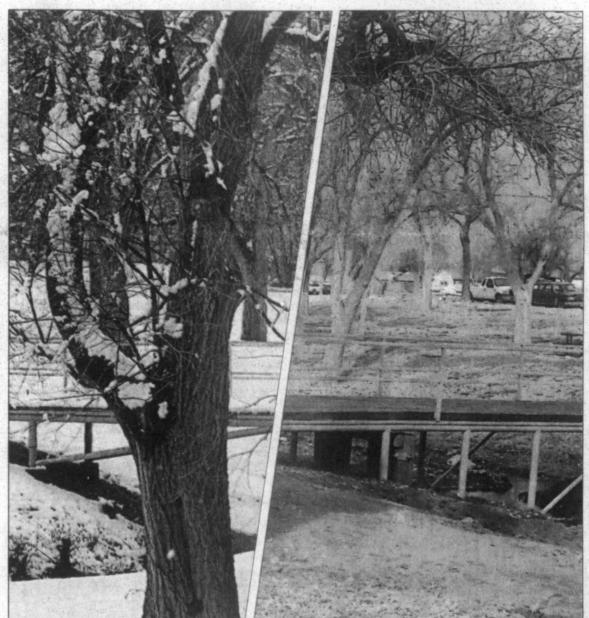
around the amount of force that would have caused the injuries to the brain of the child. Since the doll

does not display organs that might have been ful Bolin being questioned damaged, Buzzard questioned the use of the after the baby's death on a

"I don't see a relevant purpose," Buzzard told Judge Emmert during today's hearing.

Emmert said he would not force Switzer to expose her strategy in the case. He said he would wait until the time during the trial that Switzer planned to introduce the doll into evidence to rule on the use of the doll. He did order that the doll not be shown in the courtroom until such time. The doll will be held BOLIN cont. on page 3

SPOT THE DIFFER



staff photos by David Bowser and Andrew Glover

A frosty Friday gave way to cozy climes on Monday morning, with the temperature hovering around the low 60s. A few packets of unmelted snow still remained around Pampa early Monday, but you'd be hard pressed to find any stray drifts by the afternoon.

Police still seek info on bar fight

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Police Department is asking for help in connection with a barroom brawl that injured several people in late October, including one man who was stabbed.

Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar of the Pampa Police Department said officers are continuing to investigate the case, but that if anyone has any information concerning the incident, they can contact the police department at 669-5700 or, if they wish to remain anonymous, they can call Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers at 669-

She said that the investigation stems from a bar fight that happened on the night of Oct. 30, at a club in the 600 block of West

Police officers were called to Pampa Medical Center early on the morning of Oct. 31, in connection with several people that were being treated for injuries after the fight.

One man was airlifted to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo with stab wounds, she said.

"The police department got called in the early morning hours of Oct. 31, to the Pampa hospital," McCullar said. "There were several injuries."

The most serious injury, she FIGHT cont. on page 3

Lefors product Kidd loves to help keep county safe

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

Rhonda Kay Kidd, 52, commutes daily from Lefors, but she said that coming to work is something she looks forward to.

Part of it is the people she works with, Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland and the people in his office, but part of it is the sense of accomplishment and keeping the county safe.

Born and bred in Lefors, Kidd went to elementary, junior high and high school in the central Gray County town. On New Year's Day, she will begin her



18th year at the Gray County Sheriff's Office as dispatcher.

"I started Jan. 1, 1993," she There have been good days and bad, but she's always been part of the team. was a girl that dispatched up here," Kidd said, "and she told me one day that they would be hiring some dispatchers and for me to put my application in."

KIDD cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Rhonda Kay Kidd is approaching her 18th year of working for the Gray County Sheriff's Department.

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:

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Fortherecord

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday

High 61 Low 29



High 50 Low 34



High 57 Low 24

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61, Wind chill values between 30 and 40 early. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50,

Breezy, with a southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low

around 34. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57

Windy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west southwest between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph

OThis information brought to you by...



Now till Christmas, buy a helmet and get free pair of goggles!



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have two small grandsons. They asked me why Santa Claus begs for money in front of the shopping mall. I was shocked by the question and didn't know what to tell them. So I said it was to get toys for all the other boys and girls

My grandsons also asked me if Santa goes to bingo. I gave them the same answer. My daughter (their mom) was also surprised by their questions. I'm a bingo enthusiast, so I guess that's why they asked. Did I answer properly? what would you have said? -GRANDMA GLORIA IN OHIO

GRANDMA DEAR GLORIA: You handled the questions masterfully. Had I been asked, my response would have differed only slightly. I might have said Santa was asking for donations so he could buy toys for the little boys and girls whose families couldn't afford them this Christmas - and then handed Santa something from me and the grandkids.

DEAR ABBY: Please help California's public hospitals and firefighters by spreading a winter safety message that can help your readers prevent serious injury, disfigurement and death. Every winter we see house fires and burns caused by candles, fireplaces and space heaters, which are often used to heat or light homes during the cold, dark days of win-

Children are at particular risk. Our hospitals' burn centers say that at least one-third of their patients are under the age of 4. We all know children are curious and will touch just about anything that catches their eye, but very young children don't have the reflexes to remove their hand quickly when they touch something hot. That's why we urge parents of young children to be especially

vigilant throughout the winter months.

Christmas trees also become increasingly hazardous after the holidays, when people wait too long to dispose of trees that have dried out and become more flammable. SA STAFFORD JONES, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIA-TION OF PUBLIC HOS-PITALS, AND KEVIN **CALIFORNIA** STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

DEAR **MELISSA** KEVIN: I'm AND pleased to help remind my readers about the danger of burns in winter, and your warning that the longer Christmas trees are kept, the more easily they ignite.

After reading your letter I spoke with Capt. Steve Ruda, public information officer for the Los Angeles Fire Department, who pointed out that putting up a Christmas tree early increases the chances of a fire hazard. (Trees that are sold "freshly cut" are actually cut down in October.) He suggests that a good time to consider taking the tree down is when you touch it and the needles fall off easily.

Readers, search online for more safety tips, in both English and Spanish, at www.caph.org or www.csfa.net. They're offered as public service messages from both of the above associations.

DEAR ABBY: Our mother embarrasses the heck out of us in restaurants. She makes lavish requests and is constantly complaining. How do we tell her she's embarrassing us? - WE GOT A LEM-

DEAR GOT A LEM-ON: How about saying it in plain English when you're in private? And if she persists, don't take her to restaurants you visit often.

Obituaries

Nancy Jane Boden, 60

Nancy Jane Boden, 60, died Thursday, December 16, 2010, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010, at Trinity Fellowship Church with Rev. Ronnie Goode, associate pastor, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Boden was born April 19, 1950, in Brighton, Colo. Nancy gradu-



Boden

ated from Burlington High School in Burlington, Colo., and she received her Master's degree in psychology from Denver University. She married Bill Boden on December 21, 2001, in Burlington, Colo. Nancy was a Special Edu-

cation teacher for over 20 years teaching in Colorado and Texas schools and she also was a girl's volleyball coach in the Burlington High School. She was a Boy Scout Master of 20 years and was very supportive of her kids and their friends in FFA. Nancy attended Trinity Fellowship. Church where she helped with the Wednesday evening program for children. She was very active in Worth While Club in Vona, Colo. One of Nancy's passions was the outdoors where she loved to fish.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Boden of the home; three sons, Marc Megel and wife Robin and granddaughter, Elizabeth Jane of La Vernia, Mike Megel and wife Laura of Craig, Colo. and Anthony Megel and wife Shianne of Stillwater, Okla.; two brothers and four sisters. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Margaret Erker and a brother.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101.

Please sign the online register at www.carmichael-

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents over the weekend

Officers responded to 38 traffic calls and one acci-

Animal control officers reported 19 calls.

Pampa EMS reported 11 ambulance calls. Lefors EMS reported one call. Lefors VFD reported two

calls Friday, Dec. 17

Water was shut off in the 1300 block of N. Hamilton. Harassment was reported in the 600 block of N. Sum-

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of N. Coffee. An information call was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Endangering a child or elderly person was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A threat was reported in the 600 block of N. West.

A handicapped parking violation was reported in the 2300 block of N. Primrose Ln. *

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Crane Rd.

Endangering a child or elderly person was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart. Criminal mischief was

reported at Francis and Warren.

Theft was reported in the

400 block of Crest.

A domestic disturbance was reported twice in the 800 block of N. Bradley

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of S. Graham.

An information call was reported in the 1000 block

of N. Wells. An alarm was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon

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

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Farley.

A prowler was reported in the 1200 block of N.

Saturday, Dec. 18.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of Carr.

An information call was reported in the 1800 block of N. Sumner. Found property was re-

ported in the 1000 block of Officers conducted a fol-

low-up investigation in the 1000 block of Huff Rd. A stolen vehicle was reported in the 2200 block of

Perryton Pkwy. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 700 block of E. Frederic. Officers conducted a

follow-up investigation in the 400 block of N. Stark-

reported in the 800 block of E. Craven.

of E. Brunow.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of E. Harvester. A welfare check was con-

ducted in the 2900 block of N. Rosewood Ln. A gas drive-off was re-

ported in the 1000 block of W. Wilks.

Officers conducted a follow-up investigation in the 100 block of W. 30th.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of N. Christine. Found property was re-

ported in the 1300 block of N. Hobart. Disorderly conduct was reported at Barnes and

Crawford. Theft was reported in the 1200 block of Oklahoma.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Barnes and Crawford. An information call was

reported in the 1000 block of S. Love. Water was shut off in the 1900 block of N. Christy.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Hughes.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of S. Wilcox.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of S. Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block

of E Frederic Sunday, Dec. 19

A building check was Disorderly conduct was conducted in the 100 block

A building check was conducted in the 400 block of W. Foster.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of S. Hughes.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 200 block of N. Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of N. Everygreen. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 900 block of E. Frederic. Officers conducted a fol-

low-up investigation in the

B

A

1600 block of N. Christine. An agency assist was provided at 23rd and Nel-

A welfare check was conducted in the 700 block of E. 15th.

A building check was conducted in the 2800 block of N. Charles.

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

Theft was reported in the 900 block of S. Wells.

An escort was provided in the 100 block of W.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of E. 17th. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Dr. A burglary was reported

in the 1100 block of E. Kingsmill. An information call was

reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

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



Dec. 20 5 shopping days 'til Christmas

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

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!!

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

25% off all gift items except

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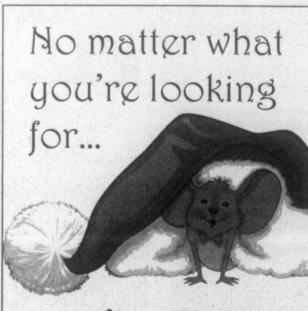
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cont. from page 1

Kidd was in charge of day care at St. Matthew's School at the time. "I just love kids," she said. Kidd put her application in as Randy Stubblefield was taking office as sheriff. Kidd interviewed for the job and when Stubblefield called her back a couple of days later to tell her she had the job, Kidd said she cried.

"I was torn," she said, "because I wanted to stay with those kids."

She was an integral part of St. Matthews at the time. She even got calls at home from parents of sick students.

"The parents would call me at home," Kidd says, "because their kids would not take their medicine. That's pretty bad."

Some kids would cry to go home with Kidd. The last 17 years have been interesting, but she admitted

that she still misses the students of St. Matthews.

After coming to work at the Gray County Sheriff's Office, Kidd discovered it was an adventure and no two

days are alike.

Some days, she said, are chaotic. Other days are calm

and peaceful.

"You can be sitting in there," Kidd said of the dispatcher's office, "and it's just as calm as can be, and then

it cuts loose."

Every day is a new day, she said.

"You never know what to expect," Kidd said.

There have been wrecks, burglaries and murders.

The worst was the morning Kidd got a call from a

10-year-old girl saying that her family had been murdered. Robin Doan called the Gray County Sheriff's Office to report that a man had broken into their home south of Pampa on Texas Highway 70 and killed her mother, stepfather and brother.

Kidd took the call. She dispatched deputies to the location and kept talking to the girl while officers raced to the scene that morning in September, 2005.

Four years later, Kidd would tearfully recall that morning from a witness stand in a Lubbock courtroom for the sentencing phase of Levi King, who had confessed to the murders.

"It took all I had," Kidd said of her testimony. "I tried my hardest not to cry."

The first time she faced such a situation was New Year's Eve, 1993.

Kidd had been a dispatcher at the sheriff's office for only a year when Twila Busby and her two sons, Randy Busby and Elwin Caler, were killed in their Campbell Avenue home in Pampa.

Henry Watkins "Hank" Skinner was convicted of the murders. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, but when the murders were first called in, then Sheriff Stubblefield told Kidd to keep the doors to the sheriff's office and the dispatch room locked while deputies and Pampa police officers investigated the murders.

Kidd said it was a tense time.

She said the deputies used to tease her when she first came to the sheriff's office from the Episcopal school that

she had gone from Saints to Sinners.

Fortunately, not all days are as violent as the calls on the murder cases that she's gotten.

Kidd said she even had one woman send her flowers and thank her for being so nice on the phone and helping with a problem

"It's nice when people tell you 'Thank you' for things that you've done," Kidd said. "A lot of people get mad at you."

Kidd said she thinks she made the right decision going to work at the sheriff's office almost two decades ago, but the kids at St. Matthews still have a place in her heart.

Looking around the front office of the sheriff's office, Kidd smiled and said that during the 17 years that she's been here, she's helped raise of lot of the younger depu-

One of them is her youngest son, Zack Kidd, now a Gray County deputy beginning his law enforcement career in Gray County.

With a smile, Kidd admitted that she's really proud of him.

Increased retirement age won't have impact on soon-to-be retirees

Tom Margenau Creator's Syndicate

Q: I am about to turn 62. I can't decide if I should file for my Social Security now or wait until I am 66. My friends say I should take it now because Congress will probably increase the retirement age to 68. So if I don't take it now, I'll have to wait six more years to get it. What do you think I should do?

What do you think I should do?

A: I think it's almost a sure bet that once Congress gets around to reforming Social Security, they will raise the retirement age. It might go up to 68. It might even be increased to 70. But there is no way that increased eligibility age will impact you or anyone currently nearing retirement age. Such major changes to Social Security are always phased in over a long period of time, primarily to give people a chance to adapt to and plan for the changes.

Consider our currently slow transition to age 67 as the "full retirement age." The law increasing the retirement age from 65 to 67 was passed in 1983. Over the past several decades, we have inched our way up to where we are now — age 66 as the retirement age. Not until 2020 will the age start slowly going up again, until it reaches 67 in the year 2027.

In other words, it is taking us 45 years to bump up the retirement age from 65 to 67. So, there is zero chance that it will be increased to 68 or 70 in the next several years. To put it another way, I've got a couple of cute grandkids under the age of 3. They might have to wait until age 68 to get Social Security, although they don't seem at all concerned about that issue! And you shouldn't be concerned, either.

You should make a decision about retiring at 62 or 66 based on your retirement plans and your life expectancy — not on your friends' wayward advice

Social Security and you

to jump on the Social Security bandwagon before it speeds off into the future.

Q: I am a stay-at-home dad and a house-husband. And I have been doing that for about 20 years. You recently offered a Social Security guide for women that explains the benefits they are due as a wife or widow on their husband's Social Security record. But do you have a guide for men like me?

A: It's the same guide. All you have to do is change "wife" to "husband" and "widow" to "widower" (and maybe a few "she" to "he" and "her" to "him") as you read the publication, and it will work for you. Almost every Social Security rule that I can think of is gender-neutral. In other words, the same rules apply to men as to women. And the same rules apply to husbands as to wives.

I suppose I could have called my fact sheet, "A Spouse's Guide to Social Security" (as opposed to "A Woman's Guide to Social Security"), and filled it with a lot of awkward references to "wife's or husband's benefits" and "widow's or widower's benefits" and "she/he" or "her/ him" pronouns. But I didn't do that because societal history just hasn't been on your side.

I guess I don't need to tell you that you're in the minority. It might be a growing minority, but it's a very small class of people for now. For example, the last time I checked, there were something like 3 million women collecting benefits as a wife and more than 5 million women getting widow's benefits on their husband's Social Security record. But there were

only about 35,000 husbands and 40,000 widowers getting benefits on a wife's Social Security account.

Q: I have been getting Social Security for several years. My wife will soon be applying for her Social Security. Will we have to combine her Social Security with mine and pay taxes on both benefits?

A: I think I have said about a thousand times in this column that I am a retired employee of the Social Security Administration. And as such, I am a Social Security benefit expert, not a Social Security tax expert. The Internal Revenue Service handles all tax matters, including the payment of Social Security taxes and issues involving the taxation of Social Security benefits.

I know enough to tell you that assuming you and your wife file a joint tax return, you may have to pay taxes on both your own and your wife's Social Security benefits if your combined taxable income exceeds \$32,000 per year. But that's pretty much all I know about the subject. For further information, you'll need to contact the IRS or a tax adviser.

Q: When my ex-husband died, I was getting divorced wife's benefits that were converted to divorced widow's benefits. So that part went OK. But I have never received the \$255 burial benefit. He never remarried and we never had children. Shouldn't I be due the \$255?

A: No. The law says the onetime \$255 Social Security death benefit can be paid only to a widow who was living with the deceased at the time of death.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

Missing out on community events? Catch up with The Pampa News! Call 669-2525 to subscribe.

Bolin

cont. from page 1

Bolin remains free on

\$100,000 bond.

outside the courtroom or placed in a box so the jury can't see it.

Concerning Bolin's statement, Switzer opposed the use of a split screen video showing Bolin and the typed transcript of her statement, claiming there are errors in the transcript.

Switzer told the judge that what the jury will be seeing is what a court reporter heard on the video since he was not at the interview.

Jury selection in the case is set to begin in 31st District Court in the Gray County Courthouse on Jan. 10.

Fight

cont. from page 1

said, was the stabbing vic-

"We need the community and people to step up and call us if they have any information on that," McCullar said. "If they want to stay anonymous or if they want a reward, they can call Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers."

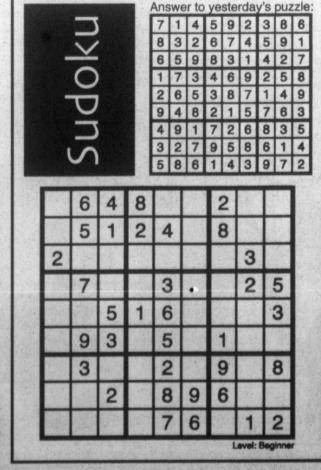




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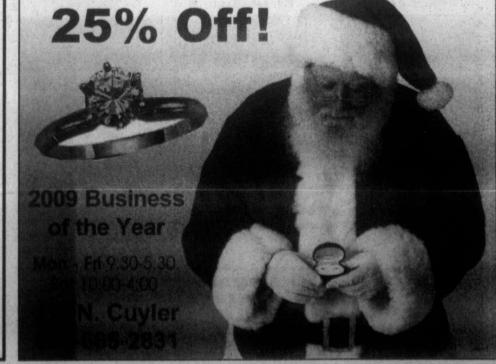


Seiko Watches 20% - 50% Off!

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Seiko Sports Baseball Clock Was \$330.00 Now \$99.99!

Ladies' Diamond Fashion Rings



Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2010. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

On this date:

In 1790, the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, R.I.

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holi-

In 1976, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died at

In 1978, former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was released from prison after serving 18 months for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the oppo-

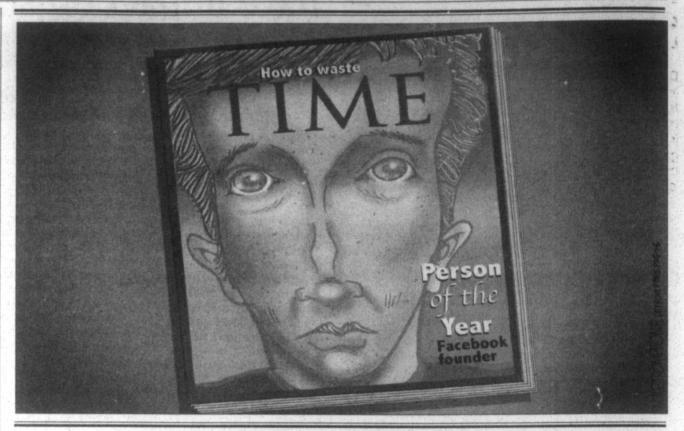
Ten years ago: President-elect George W. Bush named businessman Paul O'Neill to be his Treasury Secretary; Ann Veneman to be the first female Secretary of Agriculture; Mel Martinez to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Don Evans, Secretary of Commerce.

Five years ago: New York City transit workers began a strike that shut down subways and buses for three days. A federal judge ruled that "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district.

One year ago: Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, 87, the spiritual father of Iran's reform movement, died. Actress Brittany Murphy, who'd starred in "Clueless" and "8 Mile," died at age 32.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Audrey Totter is 93. Comedian Charlie Callas is 83. Actor John Hillerman is 78. Actress Kathryn Joosten is 71. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 66. Rock musician Peter Criss is 65. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 64. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 64. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 62. Actress Jenny Agutter is 58. Actor Michael Badalucco is 56. Actress Blanche Baker is 54. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 53. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, fIREHOSE) is 53. Actor Joel Gretsch is 47. Country singer Kris Tyler is 46. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 44. Actress Nicole deBoer is 40. Movie director Todd Phillips is 40. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 28. Actor Jonah Hill is 27. Singer JoJo is 20.

Thought for Today: "We are all citizens of history." - Clifton Fadiman, American author, editor and radio personality (1904-1999).



Remember important things like faith, family, honor

Each summer the elementary principals attend a conference together. We look forward to learning new strategies and methods to help teachers and students. We also enjoy the time together to learn from each other. This past summer we discovered a new program called "Just Do the Right Thing'

All four of the principals really liked the program and we all decided to implement it on our campuses. While we all use it in unique ways, the elementary students in Pampa have all reaped the benefits from this program which encourages doing the right thing

During the Christmas season, most of us seem more thoughtful of others, and tend to try to focus on the real reason for gift giving and good will to others.

There are many Christmas stories which exemplify these attributes as well as warm our hearts and possibly even bring a tear to our eye.

I think of Bob May, the author of



Nosed Reindeer,

who wrote the

rybook for his

daughter because

he had no money

to buy her a gift.

The story of the

Christmas Shoes,

where a little boy

worked hard and

original



JAN CLEEK

saved money to buy shoes for his mother, who was very sick, so she would look pretty when she met Jesus in heaven.

The song, "The Little Drummer Boy", which refers to a little boy who played his drum for Jesus because he had no other gift.

My family has a tradition of a fam-

ily gathering where we have a gift exchange and all of the gifts must be homemade. Family members of all ages par(righ

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ticipate and the gifts are as unique as the people who made them. It is the highlight of my holiday season. Each morning at Lamar Elementary

we say the "Just Do the Right Thing". cheer before we go to class. I listen to the students respond

when I ask, "What are the three most important things in life?" They shout, "Faith, Family, and

This "warms my heart" and has

been known to bring a tear to my eye as well. May your Christmas season be

filled with the gifts that matter most good health, time spent with loved ones, kind words, and of course faith, family and honor.

Jan Cleek is the Principal at Pampa's Lamar Elementary School.

The public sector and my grandchildren

MARK SHIELDS

Jack is 6 1/2, and Frances Anne just turned 4. I will not burden you with tiresome anecdotes about how funny, quick and special they are. Just take my word for it: They are.

Like all grandparents, I want them to grow up safe and healthy, which got me to thinking about a few of the things we collectively, as communities and as a country, do to make that possible.

The air they breathe and the water they drink are cleaner, safer and healthier because of federal laws than they were when their grandparents grew up. The cars they ride in, because of government regulations and public law, which mandates seat belts and child safety seats, are a lot less dangerous.

They will get an excellent education at superior public schools in a county where 45 percent of the residents are African-American, Latino or Asian. The schools are integrated because their federal

government ended racial segregation and guaranteed civil rights, including the right of all to public accommodations, to vote and to buy property.

Jack and Frances Anne have fun playing on the public playground. They expand their imaginations at the public library. Someday they will visit the national parks and swim on a national seashore. They are fascinated by the Internet, the original version of which was designed in the 1960s (no, not by Al Gore) at the Department of Defense.

If either child falls sick and the family doctor prescribes a medicine, we know -- because of the Food and Drug Administration -- that the prescribed drug will be safe. Thanks to the Family and Medical Leave law, a parent, if necessary, can take time off to nurse a

sick child/ When they come to visit us, we know -- because of the labels required by law -- the exact nutritional value and calorie count of the food we feed them. We also know, because of legal requirements, that the food we buy for them at the market is safe and has been federally inspected.

Because public law

insists, we know that the buildings and the workplace conditions where their parents earn a living are neither unsafe nor unhealthy -- and that any creative product either of them authors will be protected by public law, copyright and the courts We are confident that in the place they and th workers, because or icderal law, will never endure discrimination based on gender, religion, national

origin or disability. Any airplane the family flies in will have to first meet federally imposed safety standards and will be guided from its takeoff through its flight and to its landing by professional air traffic controllers who are federal employees. Relying upon more than 140 million weather readings from satellites, ships, aircraft, land sources and balloons, the National Weather Bureau is able to alert us to sudden storms or worse.

Our public safety is maintained by local police, prosecutors and court system, as well as by state and federal officers. Our national safety is protected by the men and women of the United States armed forces.

The preceding is just a terribly abbreviated sampling of what government at all levels does every day to help make the lives of our children and grandchildren, of all of us, healthier, happier, safer and more prosperous. Everyone seems to know firsthand the shortcomings of government -- the too frequent indifference, even incompetence or arrogance -- but, especially at this special time of the year, we would do well to remember, even to appreciate, what government does do for those whom we love.

Mark Shields is a national politi-



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The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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MEMBER 2010

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Caitlin Sieck (left) is

the second Sieck sib-

ling to see time on the

Harvester hardwood,

after her big

brother,

(bottom).

Blake

Sports

Succeeding siblings: A joy and challenge for PHS juniors

Delaney Clendening is (right) is running with the family torch passed her by her brother, Alex (bottom), who graduated top of his class last year.

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ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Sometimes, following in someone else's footsteps can be challenging. It can be even more difficult when the person you are following is an older

Juniors Delaney Clendening, Caitlin Sieck and Kailyn Troxell can easily relate, as they are succeeding their siblings in the Harvester

sports program. Clendening played her second season of varsity volleyball this year and is in her first full season of varsity basketball. She earned a second team all-district selection in volleyball this season.

Her brother Alex graduated last year as the class valedictorian. He was also the Harvesters' starting quarterback for two seasons and was one of the leading scorers and rebounders on the basketball team.

He won Rebounding, Assist, Offensive Player of the Year and MVP awards at K. Troxell the basketball banquet.

No slouch in her own right, Delaney was a first team all-district selection in both football and basketball. She said it was both helpful and challenging playing after her brother. 'It was hard to live up to," Clendening said.

"It made me better. I played against him all the time, tried to beat him but never did. I looked up to him a lot and still do." Delaney said it was difficult for her accom-

plishments to be recognized over her brother's. "It was always about football," Delaney said. "I got used to it."

Caitlin completed her first season of varsity volleyball and is in her first full season

of varsity basketball. This year, she earned a second team all-district selection in volleyball and won the Hustling Lady Harvester award. Her brother Blake graduated in 2009 and

was on the varsity boys basketball team. Blake Sieck won the team defensive player of the year award and the assist award in his senior season. Caitlin Sieck said it was nice having an

Clendening, she said that it was also a challenge in that it pushed her to become a better athlete. "He would help you out but it would be frustrating," Caitlin said. "You would work with him and he would be better than you. I think

older brother that played sports before. Like

it helped push me a lot." Sieck and her older brother both wear the same number, 12. The junior said it is a fam-

ily thing. "We've done that in our family a lot," Caitlin said. "It used to be 22. Now it's 12. My little brother wears No. 12, too."

Kailyn Troxell is playing in her second season of varsity volleyball and is in her first full season of varsity basketball. Troxell earned a first-team all-district selection in volleyball this season.

Her sister Emilie graduated last year and played with her younger sister on the volleyball team, as well as in the last few games of basketball in 2009-2010. The older Troxell was also an honorable mention All-District selection for girls basketball last season and earned an academic all-state selection. She also won the Fighting Heart Award for

girls basketball. Kailyn said it was fun playing with her sister last season, as she was a good mentor.

"We never really played together till high school," Kailyn said. "We worked off each other. She knew how to encourage me and make me a better player. Kailyn said she does try to live

ments. "I always want to be as good as she was," Kailyn said.

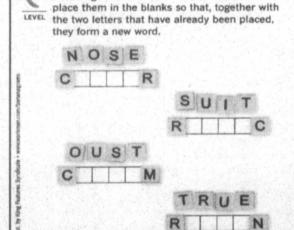
up to her sister's accomplish-

The Troxells will have a couple more coming up in the Harvester athletic program. Kailyn's brother, Blayne, is currently on the freshman basketball team, and she has another brother in junior

"It's really good," Kailyn said. "It keeps us busy. I don't know what we would do if we didn't (play sports)."

staff photos by David Bowser and Andrew Glover





Yesterday's Answer: HARDCORE,

COLLAGEN, TIMECARD

NOTICE: Pampa Boys Basketball at Panhandle JV starts at 5 p.m. Varsity starts at 6:30 p.m.



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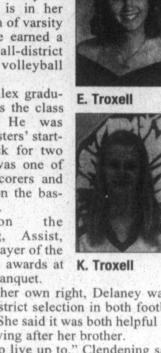
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Guess what, Mommy? Daddy's in the bedroom copying down your sizes!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads







horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2010:

This year, the theme of the unexpected surrounds you. Don't fight the course of events, and you'll see the light at the end of the tunnel, if not the end itself. The only error you can make is to hold on to what isn't working. If you are single, even if you are sure this person is "it," take at least a year to commit. Someone better for you could be around the corner. If you are attached, the two of you need to reestablish some basics, resulting from your inner reflection. Trust in the process. CANCER often challenges you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

** Even if you feel frenetic and act frenetic, understand that you are not the only one. Greet the Winter Solstice with a smile, knowing that you cannot be all things to all people. Then breathe. Doesn't that feel better? Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Pressure builds, especially with last-minute gifts and details. If you can, take off or go to a concert, like the "Messiah." You will be able to deal with today's pressure better after a timeout. Don't stand on ceremony if someone doesn't call back. Call again. Tonight: Let your imagination lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Defer all you want. Understand that you cannot do everything, even if others want you to. Be aware of spending and perhaps not only a last-minute need to spend but also an inner demand to be less extravagant. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Your energy feeds off the Moon. Don't worry if your energy fades; today's Lunar Eclipse could drain you. Don't put too many demands on yourself. No one can be on all the time! Tonight: Whatever makes you smile. Refuse to be triggered by a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

** Take your time. Don't react to pressure from friends or loved ones. You know where you are going. Sometimes it is best not to explain everything, even if someone demands just that. A little mystery proves to be extremely alluring. Tonight: No one can find you because ...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Understand that people can and will reverse themselves. Don't get too stuck in letting them know you are right. That type of rigidity does nothing but distance people. Knowing you don't want that coolness, focus on empathizing. Tonight: Unpredictable at

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ News from those at a distance could be quite startling, forcing you to regroup. Your intuition about a loved one or child could be more right-on than you realize. Don't stand on ceremony over a misunderstanding. Tonight: Could be late

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Seek out an activity that allows some sense of detachment. You easily could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. The faster you let go of what is triggering you, the happier you will be. A child or loved one continues to be irascible. Tonight: Put on Christmas music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Extremes mark your moods and those you deal with. Try lying low and not pushing any issue; otherwise, the end result could be a problem. Let a partner express his or her ideas and dominate. Tonight: Go for

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** You might feel as if you are on a seesaw, and in a sense you are! As you juggle other people's needs with your own, give up either/or thinking. Why can't everyone have what he or she wants? Try to encompass more open thinking. Tonight: Sort through invita-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Understand that you might not be able to accomplish what you want. Too much is happening around you over which you have little to no control. Maintain a strong hand with your personal finances. Don't allow any impulse buying. Tonight: Early to bed.

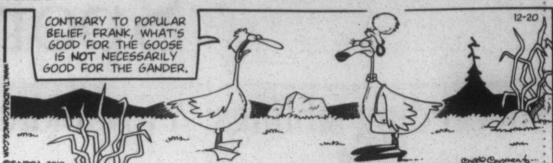
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Your playfulness, though well-intended, could upset someone. Your creativity bubbles forth in nearly all situations, whether decorating a tree or handling a problem at work. A meeting or strong friend pushes hard to have you do what he or she wants. Tonight: Where is the mistletoe?

BORN TODAY

Talk-show host Phil Donahue (1935), actor Samuel L. Jackson (1948), tennis champ Chris Evert (1954)

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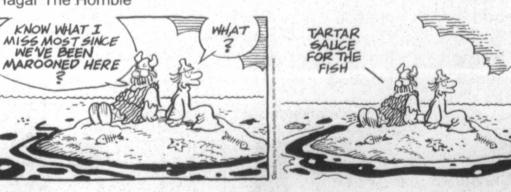
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LIQUIDATION TO CREDITORS OF PHIL-PET FEDERAL **CREDIT UNION**

National Credit Administration Board placed the Phil-Pet Federal Credit Un-Jion, Charter No. 3686. 220 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065, involuntary liquidation pursuant to its authority under Section 207 (a) (1) (A) of the Federal Credit

Union Act. -All creditors having any claim or demand against Phil-Pet Federal Credit Union must sub--mit their claim or demand in writing, together with proof, by January 26, 2011. All such claims or demands must be sent to the following

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the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

available on an equal CHARMING cute newly painted w/ new flooring & carpet. 2 bdr., 1 I bdrm's avail. starting ba., I car gar. Stove/re-\$429 / mo. \$150 off 1st frig. C h/a. Must have mo. rent w/ 7 mo. lease. ref. \$600 dep, \$600 mo. Corp. units: utilities, Cash Only 532 Lefors linens, basic cable Cap 580-765-7647 ly msg.

> Hampton Villages Pampa Now Open & Leasing 2, 3 or 4 Bdrms. (806) 440-0054

bath, \$500mo, \$400 dep. Call 688-9215 or

3 bdr., lrg. den., hardw floors, new carpet, stor

DUPLEX 2/2/2. \$750 lease. W/d hookups in mo., water paid. C h/a, w/d hookups, cov. patio, elec. stove. 1 vr lease, \$600 dep. Lawn serv. provided, pet dep. Call Mon-Fri 8-5pm

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1122 or 663-1073

99 Stor, Bldgs

The Pampa News

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Acres, Storm Shelters fenced, stor. bldg. avail

121 Trucks

wh. dr. pickup: Re FOR Rent 4/1 \$350, built motor-under 6000 2/1 \$400. \$400 Deposit mi, new: tires, rims, paint: \$12,500 665-2119 or 662-8259

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.

CRYPTOOUOTE

TNYUXKWOYV YW

PQU CUNR WYZQP

YX VNYXP DLJUW PQU QULNP

BLND. - LOZOWPYXU IYNNUEE Saturday's Cryptoquote: CIVILIZATION IS A MOVEMENT AND NOT A CONDITION, A VOYAGE AND NOT A HARBOR. — ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE

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Who's Behind Santa's Beard?

Match the Santas in the pictures below to their respective business.

HOU

Mon-Fri

One

665-

HOU

WIN \$250 IN PAMPA NEWS **BUCKS!**

RULES

- · Must be 18 or older to win
- Only official entries from *The Pampa News* accepted
- Entries due Wednesday, December 22, at noon
- Entry with the most correct answers will win in case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.



Businesses:

Thomas **Automotive**

(Randy)

Prestige (Casey)

Sonic

(Jose)

Rheams

(Ken)

Holmes

(Ronnie)

Brandon's

(Misty)

Culberson-Stowers

(George)

Franks

(Miguel)

___ Keyes (Merlin)

Roberta's

(Crystal)

Name:

Phone Number:







