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Per sq. ft. installed) While supplies last. Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm . Sat 10am - 1pm One Flooring 665-0995 . 1533 N. Hobart Sticking Doors & Window Interior Wall Cracking FREE ESTIMATES 6-665-HELP(4357) Ford Family Chiropractic RAWFORD RESIDENTIAL ROOFING 662-2029 Christmas Trees In Stock! 120 \$ Hobart St - 669-0158 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm - Saturday 9am-4pm 1224 N. Hobart FDIC 806.665.0022 415 N. HOBART • 806 665-1623 Where Your Friends Buy Their Flowers www.robertasflowers.com M & H Leasing



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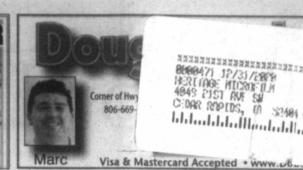
Bank of

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Merry Christmas!

May the star of Bethlehem

lead you home.



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FREE carpet pad with any instock, installed carpet

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New Years Special! Maple Expresso 100% True Hardwood

TODAY IN SPORTS

Moving right along PHS boys

beat Floydada

in Caprock

Page 5



Thursday, December 30, 2010

Volume 106 • No. 226

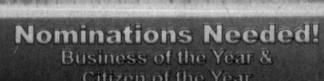
75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

2010:THEYEARINPHOTOS



enjoy a ride at the Band Booster Carnival 12

Bill Maddox, Pat Maddox and Maxine Chase participate in a candlelight vigil for fallen local veterans. 13 Fire Marshal Michael Ryan "arrests" Chamber president Pat Montoya for the MDA Lock-Up. 14 Braden Rushing hangs on tight at the Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show 15 A group of Austin Lions yucks it up during a visit to the Pumpkin Patch.



To be awarded at the Annual Banquet on February 24, 2011 Deadline extended to: January 10 Please email erica@panpachamber.com or call 669-3241 for more information and tick of reservations

IN THIS ISSUE:

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| Weather 2 | Sports 5 |
| Dear Abby 2 | Comics 6 |
| Afternoon Rush 3 | Classifieds 7 |



Citizen of the Year

Fortherecord

PAMPA FORECAST





Saturday



Sunday

High 40

Low 20 Low 7 Low 11 Tonight: A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Wind chill

values between 17 and 27. Windy, with a south

southwest wind between 25 and 30 mph, with

gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation

is 20 percent. Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. Wind chill values between 14 and 20. Windy, with a west wind 25 to 30 mph becoming northwest 15

to 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 7. Wind chill values between -2 and 3. Blustery, with

a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

New Year's Day: Sunny, with a high near 29. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 11. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 40. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15

OThis information brought to you by.

Obituaries

Hansford Ousley, 89

Hansford Ousley, 89, died December 29, 2010, in Pam-

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral

Mr. Ousley was born February 21, 1921, in Dickens County. He grew up in Spur, graduating from Spur High School. Hansford married Billie Powell on April 21, 1940, in Spur. She preceded him in death on April 4, 2006. He was a veteran of the U.S.

Army, serving during World War II. He worked for over 50 years with Ideal Food Stores, Affiliated Foods, and Wright's Packing in Vernon. He was a member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, where in 1996, he received his 50-year pen. He was also a member of the El Paso Scottish Rite Consistory, the Khiva Shrine Temple, and was a longtime member of the Pampa Lions Club. He was a longtime member of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ. Hansford loved the outdoors where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing. He was a blessing to his family and friends.

Ousley

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Ramirez and husband Jamie of Tyrone, NIM.; a son, Bobby Ousley of Pampa; brother, Ray Ousley and wife Wanda of Durnas; brother-inlaw Gordon Anderson of Lubbock; two grandsons, Jeffrey Neuburger and wife Shawn of Dallas, and Chad Howie and wife Nikki of Las Vegas, Nev.; a granddaughter, Jennifer Castaneda and husband Jorge of Benicia, Calif.; four greatgrandchildren, Taylor Howie and Lexie Howie, both of Las Vegas, Nev., Jaden Neuburger of Dallas, Ria Castaneda, Julia Castaneda and Grace Castaneda, all of Benicia, Calif.; a cousin. Hal Ousley and wife Lynette of Cedar Crest, N.M. Hansford was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Neuburger, a brother. Joe Ousley, and a sister, Jean Anderson.

Memorials may be made to Shriners International Headquarters, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Peggy Downs, 73

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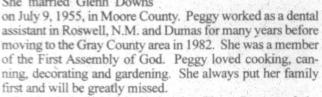
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MCLEAN-Peggy Downs, 73, died December 28, 2010, in Amarillo.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2010, at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, with Ed Dufur, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Downs was born July

12, 1937, in Avery. She attended schools in Dumas. She married Glenn Downs



Downs

Survivors include her husband, Glenn Downs of the home; son, Rick Downs and wife Darlene of Childress; daughter, Starla Williams of Ada, Okla.; two granddaughters, Twila Gallob of Hotchkiss, Colo., and Seresa Wiggins of Ada, Okla.; a grandson, Scott Downs of Amarillo; two great-granddaughters, Aarlayn Gallob of Hotchkiss, Colo., and Kyla Daulton of Ada, Okla.; two great-grandsons, Christian Wiggins of Ada, Okla.; and Ryker Gallob of Hotchkiss, Colo.; two brothers, Sonny Dickey and Jerry Dickey and wife Wazetta, all of Amarillo; and a sister, Audrey Dickey of Amarillo.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, P. O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79150.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

PRESTIGE

AUTOBODY & ACCESSORIES

Thanks for everyone's business! Have a great 2011!

Last Minute Ads

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

PAMPA NEWS Weekend Edition will not be delivered Sat. Jan. 1st. A combined edition of Fri. Dec. 31 and Weekend edition Ian. 1&2 will be delivered on Fri. Dec. 31st. Happy New Year!!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the

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.

Yesterday's Answer: HOTDOG, AUTUMN,

letters that appears in the bottom word, then

LEVEL rearrange the tiles to form a new common word.

MEALS ON Wheels will be closed Fri., Dec. 31st.

BANANAGRAMS!

PAMPA NEWS Office will be closed Fri., Dec. 31st.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour

period ending at 8 a.m. today. Police reported 22 traffic-related calls and two accidents. Animal Control Officers re-

ported 11 animal-related calls. Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls. The Pampa Police Department reported one medical call.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

A theft was reported in the 700 block of North Wells.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2000 block of Williston.

Officers assisted a motorist in the 800 block of South Hobart.

A burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of South Foster. Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of

A grass fire was reported along Texas Highway 152 at Gray County Road 4.

Officers made a welfare check in the 400 block of Hughes.

A gas drive off was reported in the 1000 block of West

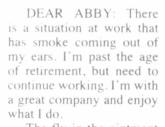
A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather. A fire alarm was reported in

the 1900 block of North Cof-Officials turned off the wa-

ter in the 100 block of South Faulkner.

Disorderly conduct was re-

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



is one of our salespeople. He's a big, strapping guy who comes barreling down the narrow aisles between cubicles. On more than one occasion I have had to execute a quick side step in consequences.

smacking the ignoramus, you should address your concerns to your supervisor, so he or she can tell him to slow down and watch where he's going. If you were injured on company property, the liability would be the company's, and the physical ramifications for you

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago I had one of the greatest days of my life when I married my fianwhile he took the call.

Sheriff's Office ported at Kentucky and Brad-

A gas drive off was report-

Disorderly conduct was re-

A suspicious vehicle was

Criminal mischief was re-

Disorderly conduct was re-

ported in the 1800 block of

Officers assisted a motor-

A suspicious person was re-

An alarm was reported in

A burglary was reported in

the 1100 block of Campanella

A suspicious vehicle was

reported at the intersection of

U.S. Highway 60 and Texas

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Thursday, Dec. 3

The Gray County Sheriff's ed in the 1000 block of West Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Jose Ramon Reendiz, 19, was arrested by deputies on charges of criminal trespass.

Danny Dewayne Dawson, 46, of Amarillo, was arrested ported in the 2300 block of by deputies on charges of theft by check.

Shawn David Sanderson, 32, of Chandler Ariz., was arrested by deputies on charges of forgery of a financial instru-

Thursday, Dec. 30

Angela Christy Moreno, 37, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication.

Bobby Dean Fowler, 21, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication and not wearing a seat belt while driving.

Hoyt Eugene Larue, 45, of Tuttle, Okla., was arrested by deputies on charges of injury to a child and violating a protective order, theft of property



Dear Abby...

DEAR ABBY: There

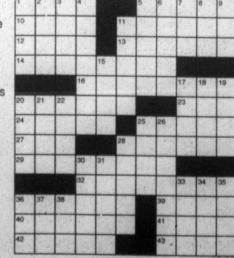
The fly in the ointment

could be serious.



Yesterday's answer 20 Halt 33 Pressing 21 Faithful need 22 Bankrupt 34 - out 25 Judy's (fall daughter asleep) 26 New 35 Lambs' York unidams phrase of 36 Folder versity 28 Saturn part standing 37 Groom's sight

18 Writer 30 Burning answer Grey 38 Smoked 31 Cruise 19 Peepers ship salmon NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



DONKEY, MARKUP, PLURAL, PUTRID cat order not to be run over. cee, "Joy." The ceremony 13 Cuban After the most recent near capital was interrupted when my Answer to yesterday's puzzle: 14 License miss, I told him in no unbrother-in-law's cell phone 16 Pontificertain terms that if it ever rang. I was so annoyed I 7 4 1 6 9 5 3 2 8 11 Top cate happened again, I'd let him turned around and asked 3 8 4 7 6 20 Severe 15 Canal plow into me and take the him if he'd like us to wait 6 8 3 4 7 2 5 23 Calendar 17 Hepcat's box 5 7 8 2 3 9 6 4 My question is, if I The backlash at the re-24 Convoy don't get out of his way 2 7 6 4 1 3 5 ception later was all directcompoand do get knocked down, ed at me! Joy and my side 5 1 9 8 7 nent what recourse do I have? of the family laughed about 25 Singer 9 1 5 3 8 6 7 4 2 Good manners would dicit. But Joy's family was an-Cleo 3 6 2 5 7 8 9 1 tate that the younger man gry and said I should have 27 Arles 8 9 4 1 6 5 3 allow me to pass first, but ignored it. What are your assent are there any legal ramithoughts or advice? Should 28 Corduroy fications? I would love to I apologize even if I'm not feature smack him (like Bette Dasorry? - ON HOLD IN 29 Fine vis would in an old movie), CHANDLER, ARIZ. 32 Complete but with my luck, I'd be 36 Floor DEAR ON HOLD: charged with assault. What work brother-in-law 3 say you, Abby? - ON A 39 Ship's owes both you and Joy front **COLLISION COURSE IN** the apology. He should 8 9 1 40 Cherishes WISCONSIN have turned his cell phone 41 Sharpen DEAR ON A COLLIoff before the ceremony. 6 42 Ring SION COURSE: Good If he's in a field where figure manners would, indeed, he's on call 24/7, then the 6 5 43 Printing dictate that the younger phone should have been supply man allow you to pass set to vibrate rather than first, if the younger man DOWN has been taught basic P.S. Please tell me he 1 Valley manners by his parents. didn't actually answer 2 Falco of Apparently, this salesit. Readers, has this hap-"Nurse man's parents didn't pened to you? Jackie' do that. So rather than

AFTERNOON*RUSH*

Dallas renews graffiti efforts

DALLAS (AP) - Dallas officials are renewing they city's effort against graffiti ahead of the Super Bowl. City Council member Delia Jasso says, "We're not put-

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At a news conference Wednesday, a demonstration was given on how a machine blasting a mixture of air and baking soda can eliminate graffiti. The machine is owned by a Dallas company that has donated its services to the city until the Super Bowl.

Other businesses are pitching in as well, with other donations including buckets of anti-graffiti coating.

The Dallas Morning News reports that Dallas police say they and the district attorney's office are working on a way to combine multiple graffiti cases by one vandal and prosecute the case as a felony.

10 indicted in oil thefts

MONTAGUE, Texas (AP) - A Montague grand jury has returned 23 sealed felony indictments against 10 people in the theft of more than \$1 million worth of oil from North Texas wells, an official said.

Seven people were indicted this month and three others were indicted midyear as part of an ongoing three-year investigation, Capt. Kevin Benton of the Wise County Sheriff's Department told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Wednesday.

Benton said he expects additional indictments as well. The suspects' names aren't being released because the indictments are sealed, he said. Also, he said, some of those indicted haven't been arrested.

Some of those indicted were truck drivers for companies that haul salty wastewater from wells, said Benton, who added that the companies themselves are not suspected of wrongdoing.

The drivers "were going to remote locations in the dead of night and loading oil instead of water," Benton said. Some of those indicted were not drivers for the water haulers, but got keys to the trucks, he said.

"We've had oil stolen from Wise County, from Montague County and from Denton County," Benton said. "That oil was all being sold in Montague County." He said the person buying the oil was selling it to

"legitimate ... small and intermediate-sized companies" that apparently were not aware the oil was stolen. The indictments are for offenses including theft, organized criminal activity and conspiracy, Benton said. Maximum sentences for convictions range from two to

Authorities mull charges in crash

99 years, he said.

DENVER (AP) - Texas authorities are weighing whether to pursue charges in a car crash north of Amarillo that injured a Colorado legislator's family, left a pregnant woman dead and her baby in critical condition.

Texas Trooper Gabriel Medrano said Wednesday that investigators took a blood sample from state Sen. Suzanne Williams of Aurora. Authorities say the SUV Williams was driving veered into oncoming traffic Sunday, colliding with a vehicle carrying 30-year-old Brianna Michelle Gomez of Amarillo and her family.

Gomez' son was delivered by ce remains in critical condition. Gomez died and her husband and two daughters were treated and released.

Northwest Texas Hospital spokeswoman Caytie Martin says Williams' 41-year-old son was in satisfactory condition Wednesday and his two sons have been released.

Home contracts up 3.5 percent

NEW YORK (AP) - The number of people who signed contracts to buy homes rose in November, the fourth increase since contract signings hit a low in June.

The National Association of Realtors says its index of sales agreements for previously occupied homes increased 3.5 percent last month from a downwardly revised reading in October. Contract signings were up in the West and Northeast, but down in the South and Midwest.

Signings are 22.1 percent above June's index reading, which was the lowest level since the private group began tracking the data in 2001. Still, signings are 5 percent lower than November 2009 when buyers were scrambling to close purchases to qualify for the first federal tax credit.

Still, the year is shaping up to be the worst for home Biloxi police say bones sales since 1997.

NM gets \$8 million for Medicaid

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico is receiving a bonus of \$8.5 million from the federal government because of its efforts to provide health care to more children through Medicaid.

The Human Services Department said the federal government provides extra Medicaid money to states that streamline the enrollment system and sign up more children in the health care program.

The agency said the federal money will help the state cope with a budget squeeze this year.

Medicaid provides health care for about one-fourth of New Mexico's population. The program will cost nearly \$4 billion in state and federal money this year.

Child porn charges filed

DETROIT (AP) - A 52-year-old Livingston County man accused of having children pose in sexually explicit positions during web video chat sessions and exchanging pornographic photographs with a Texas man using the Internet has been charged.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said in a statement that Marcus Wilson of Pinckney was arraigned Wednesday on charges including production, transportation and possession of child pornography.

Authorities say Wilson posed children in compromising positions during web chat sessions so others could observe, and took photos. They say Timothy Whitington of Dallas was among those who received the images and faces similar charges in Texas.

Whitington said Wilson aided him in the production of

child pornography. Authorities did not immediately know if Wilson has a lawyer. He remains held pending a Jan. 3 detention hearing.

Storms dump heavy rain, snow on parts of

PHOENIX (AP) Γζο Western states battled nasty winter weather that shut down major roads in Arizona and California, blasted Nevada with frigid winds and left an area of western Washington in a whiteout.

storm systems across parts of the West dumped heavy snows in some mountainous regions Wednesday and soaking rains in lower elevations, cutting power to thousands and causing numerous traffic tie-ups and accidents.

The storms even intruded on the normally pleasant winter weather in the Phoenix desert area, delivering an hours-long chilly rain and leaving residents bracing for a rare belowfreezing dip in temperatures Friday.

Snow and ice forced the closure of parts of Interstates 17 and 40, the two major thoroughfares in northern Arizona, stranding motorists south of Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon.

"As far as I can see, it's tail lights," said Abel Gurrola, who was headed north on I-17 with his wife and three sons.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety said it received more than 100 calls reporting slide-offs in a three-hour period, including semi trucks.

Snow also forced California transportation officials to close Interstate 15 between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, where winds were gusting to more than 40 mph. The freeway was shut down from Halloran Springs to the Nevada state line.

Visibility was down to a half-mile around the Grand Canyon and a quartermile in Flagstaff, National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Breckenridge

A blizzard warning was issued in parts of eastern and southeastern Arizona, and forecasters warned the system would likely move into neighboring Mexico on Thursday.

The latest round of rain to hit waterlogged California moved east, leaving powerful winds in its wake.

Gusts of more than 50 mph hit parts of northern Los Angeles County late Wednesday, with colder air and potentially damaging winds expected overnight.

Remains may be Texas man

BILOXI, Miss. (AP) and the wallet of a missing Texas drywall worker have been found in Biloxi.

Police Sgt. Christopher DeBack tells The Sun-Herald a man operating small tractor found the bones Wednesday.

He says investigators found the wallet of 53-yearold Robert Dale Krider, who was staying at a motel when he was reported missing in July.

Dr. Paul He says McGarry, who performs most autopsies in South Mississippi, will use DNA or dental records to check the identity.

Anyone with information about Krider is asked to call Biloxi police dispatchers at 662-392-0641, the Criminal Investigations Division at 662-435-6112, or Mississippi Coast Crime

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES. ONE-ON-ONE ADVICE.

Duane Harp Financial Advisor 1921 N Hobart

The California Highway Patrol reported downed trees and tumbleweeds on various Los Angelesarea freeways and streets, making it treacherous for motorists.

One person was killed by a falling tree and a snowboarder was missing. The U.S. Coast Guard searched in strong winds and high seas for a 20-foot pleasure boat reported to be in distress with four people aboard.

Winds were even stronger further east.

The storm socked the Sierra Nevada with gusts topping 100 mph and more than a foot of snow, causing flight delays in Reno. Nev., and headaches for motorists.

Utility crews worked to restore power to more than 10,000 homes and businesses around South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Nevada's strongest wind gust was recorded at 105 mph at Mammoth Lakes ski resort.

Heavy snow and icy roads made travel tough in the Spokane area of eastern Washington, which was hit by 9 inches of snow, while knocking out power to 6,000 customers.

Blizzard conditions blew through Palouse, near the Idaho line. Wind gusts of more than 30 mph "will create whiteout conditions over the rural areas of the Palouse. Travel will be dangerous or impossible," the National Weather

Wyoming and Colorado didn't escape the Western blitz.

Storms were expected to dump up to 2 feet of snow in Colorado's mountains before things calm down

Jackson Hole, Wyo., had several inches of snow with higher totals in the mountains. Winter storm warnings were in effect Yellowstone and Teton National Parks.

An American Airlines jet with 181 people on board went past the end of a snowy runway at Jackson Hole Airport. No one was hurt and no cause has yet been officially determined. The pilot blamed brake











6 MONTHS NO INTEREST FINANCING WITH APPROVED CREDI

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2010. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1860, 10 days after South Carolina seceded from the Union, the state militia seized the United States Arsenal in Charleston, completing a takeover of all federal property in the city except Fort Sumter.

On this date:

In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during

the War of 1812.

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago. In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike, at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Mich.

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened by Gov. Culbert L. Olson.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.) In 2006, Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein

had been hanged; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate. Ten years ago: In the Philippines, 22 people were

killed in five bombings in the Manila area that were blamed on terrorists.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, unhappy with Congress for not permanently extending the USA Patriot Act, signed a bill renewing the antiterrorism law for a few weeks.

One year ago: Seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed by a suicide bomber at a U.S. base in Khost, Afghanistan. British contractor Peter Moore was freed more than two years after he was abducted outside Iraq's Finance Ministry

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 76. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 76. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 75. Actor Jack Riley is 75. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 73. TV director James Burrows is 70. Actor Fred Ward is 68. Singermusician Michael Nesmith is 68. Singer Davy Jones is 65. Actress Concetta Tomei is 65. Singer Patti Smith is 64. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 63. TV host Meredith Vieira is 57. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 55. Actress Patricia Kalember is 54. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 54. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 53. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 51. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 50 Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 49. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 49. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 41. Actress Meredith Monroe is 41. Actor Daniel Suniata is 39. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 38. Golfer Tiger Woods is 35. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 33. Singer-actress Tyrese Gibson is 32. Actress Eliza Dushku is 30. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 30. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 28. NBA player LeBron James is 26.

Thought for Today: "I respect faith, but doubt is what gives you an education." - Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).



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Poll: Baby boomers fear outliving Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first baby boomers will be old enough to qualify for Medicare Jan. 1, and many fear the program's obituary will be written before their own.

A new Associated Press-GfK poll finds that baby boomers believe by a ratio of 2-to-1 they won't be able to rely on the giant health insurance plan throughout their retirement.

The boomers took a running dive into adolescence and went on to redefine work and family, but getting old is making them nervous.

Now, forty-three percent say they don't expect to be able to depend on Medicare forever, while only 20 percent think their Medicare is secure. The rest have mixed feelings.

Yet the survey also shows a surprising willingness among adults of all ages to sacrifice to preserve Medicare benefits that most Americans say they deserve after years of paying taxes into the system at work.

Take the contentious issue of Medicare's eligibility age, fixed at 65, while the qualifying age for Social Security is rising gradually to 67.

Initially, 63 percent of boomers in the poll dismissed the idea of raising the eligibility age to keep Medicare afloat financially. But when the survey forced them to choose between raising the age or cutting benefits, 59 percent said raise the age and keep the benefits.

"I don't mind the fact that people may have to work a little longer," said Lynn Barlow, 60, a real estate agent who lives outside Atlanta. Especially if there's time to plan, laboring a few extra years allows people to save more for retirement.

Bring up benefit cuts and Barlow isn't nearly as accommodating. "I started working when I was 16 and I expect a benefit after putting into it for so many years," she said.

As Medicare reaches a historic threshold, the poll also found differences by age, gender and income among baby boomers. For example, baby boom women, who can expect to live longer than both their mothers and their husbands, are much more pessimistic than men about the program's future.

Medicare is a middle-class bulwark against the ravages of illness in old age. It covers 46 million elderly and disabled people at an annual cost of about \$500 billion. But the high price of American-style medicine, stressing intensive treatment and the latest innovations, is already straining program finances. Add the number of baby boomers, more than 70 million born between 1946 and 1964, and Medicare's fiscal foundation starts to

Here's the math: when the last of the

boomers reaches age 65 in about two decades, Medicare will be covering more than 80 million people. At the same time, the ratio of workers paying taxes to support the program will have plunged from 3.5 for each person receiving benefits currently, to 2.3.

"The 800-pound gorilla is eating like mad and growing to 1,200 pounds," said economist Eugene Steuerle of the Urban Institute, warning about the imbalance. "The switch from worker to retiree status has implications for everything."

The government can't balance its books without dealing with health care costs, and Medicare is in the middle. Some leading Republicans and a few Democrats have called for phasing out the program and instead giving each retiree a fixed payment - or voucher —to help them buy private medical insurance of their choice. The poll found doubts about the idea, and a generational debate.

Overall, a narrow majority (51 percent) of Americans opposed the voucher plan. But those born after 1980 favored it by 47 percent to 41 percent, while seniors opposed it 4-to-1. A majority of boomers were also opposed, with 43 percent strongly objecting.

However, younger boomers like RoxAnne Christley of Roanoke, Va., were more likely to be favorable.

"I think that's a possibility if it brings choices and competition," said Christley, 47. "We don't need to stimulate the government; we need to stimulate the economy. A lot of people have different choices when it comes to medical coverage, and I see nothing wrong with that at all." Christley is self-employed, counseling new mothers on breast feeding.

Changes that don't involve a fullscale re-engineering of Medicare tended to draw more support in the poll, especially when the survey forced people to choose between giving up benefits or making some other kind of sacrifice.

For example, 61 percent of Americans overall favored raising Medicare taxes to avoid a cut in benefits. The current

payroll tax is 2.9 percent on wages, evenly divided between workers and their employers. The new health care law added a surcharge of 0.9 percent on earnings over \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples filing Th

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When forced to choose, even a majority of Republicans said they would rather pay higher taxes (53 percent) than cut benefits (38 percent). Among adults in their 20s, who'd face a whole career paying higher taxes, 61 percent said they would be willing to pay more to preserve benefits. Only 29 percent of boomers said keep taxes the same but cut benefits.

"If people are forced to the wall and something has to be done about the financial shape of the program, they would rather take their medicine by raising taxes and moving the eligibility age than having the benefits cut when they retire," said polling analyst Robert Blendon of the Harvard School of Public Health.

A narrower majority of Americans 54 percent — also favored requiring people on Medicare to pay higher copayments and deductibles so that payments to doctors don't have to be

Support was surprisingly strong among seniors, 62 percent of whom said they'd be willing to pay more so that doctors' fees don't have to be cut and more doctors keep accepting Medicare payments.

"In its present form, Medicare will be insolvent before my grandkids get there," said Fred Wemer, 73, a retired dentist from Seattle. He says Medicare's biggest problem is that it rewards inefficiency by not paying doctors enough to keep people healthy and then paying for just about everything - even botched procedures when patients get into trouble.

"We've got a discrepancy in how doctors are paid," said Wemer. "Primary care doctors, the ones who listen to you, they're underpaid. But specialists get paid way over what they're worth.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Nov. 18-22, 2010, by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,000 adults nationwide, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.



Sports

Pampa downs Floydada 71-56

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters started strong in the first half, but had to hold off a third quarter rally to advance to the Fibermax Caprock Classic semifinals. The 71-56 victory over the Floydada Wolves came Wednesday at Lubbock Coronado High School.

Head coach Dustin Miller said they did well in the first half, but relaxed in the third

"I guess we got up by 17 in the first half and thought the game was over," Miller said. "They reminded us really quick that we have to play four quarters. We finished off the game well, but that third quarter was ugly.'

Collins said they gained momentum for their defense

"We got some steals and layups and took it from there," Collins said.

In the first quarter, the Harvesters jumped out to a 10-0 lead. The Wolves made a run to cut the lead to six.

Senior forward Garrett Ericson led the Harvesters offense with six points.

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Wemer.

led the Wolves with 11 of their 12 points. Pampa led 18-12 after the first.

Junior center Reid Miller said they it was challenging guarding Session and had to make adjustments in the second half.

"He just threw me around like I wasn't even there," Miller said. "In the second half we used more help defense and fronted him."

The Wolves started the second quarter strong and outscored the Harvesters 7-4 and cut the lead to three. The Harvesters took over the rest of the quarter and went on a 9-0 run and took a 31-19 lead.

Pampa gained momentum when Session was called for a technical for arguing a foul. Pampa outscored Floydada 24-12 an expanded their lead to 42-24 at halftime. Down by 18, The Wolves

didn't surrender and scored the first four points of the third and prompted a timeout by Miller. The timeout didn't stop Floydada's momentum as they would score the next 11 points of the quarter and cut Pampa's lead to 42-38. The Harvesters

Floydada's post Bryson Session were outscored 16-4 and led 46-40 after three.

> Pampa left no doubt about whether they were going to win game, outscoring Floydada 11-3 to start the fourth. The Wolves didn't get closer than six points in the fourth.

Ericson led the Harvesters in scoring with 32 points and drained nine two-point field goals. Senior guard Zach Murray led the Harvesters in rebounds with seven. Ericson had five, seniors Joe Mechelay and Jonathan Polasek each had

Session led the Wolves in scoring with 25 points with eight field goals and nine free throws. Greg Aleman followed with seven. Haden Lipham and Jordan Woody scored sixpoints each.

The Harvesters (9-5) were scheduled to play the winner of White Deer and Brownfield 10:30 a.m. today at Frenship High School. If they won, they will play for the championship at 6 p.m. at Lubbock Christian University. If they lose, they will play for third place at 3 p.m. at Lubbock Coronado.

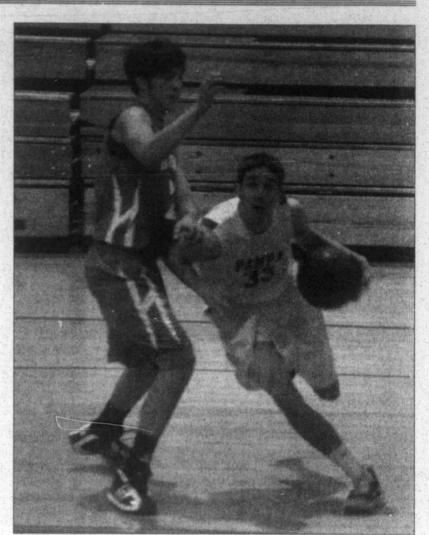


photo by Joe Murray

Zach Murray drives to the basket against Floydada Wednesday in the Caprock Classic. Pampa won 71-56 and advanced to the semifinals.

Fiftieth birthday gift over 100 years old

ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: My mother gave the pictured coffee cup and saucer to my grandfather in Germany for his 50th birthday. Inscribed in gold on the cup, it says: "Robert Rabsahl -- 50." On the saucer, there's this date: "12 Febr 1909." Marked on the bottom of the cup are the letters and numbers: "KPM - 568."

Can you tell me the value of my cup and saucer? It is not for sale, as my oldest granddaughter will

A: Around the turn of the last century, the mark you provided was used by several porcelain factories in Germany. Krister Porcelain Manufactory in Silesia, Germany, and Kranichfeld Porcelain Manufactory in Saxony, Germany, both produced this mark. The number "568" is a design number.

The value of your commemorative cup and saucer would probably be \$50 to \$75



Heinrich piece. The set Porzellan has made porcelain coffeepot, a

1896.

Q: I have a coffee and tea set that my father brought from back Germany in 1948. Enclosed is a photo of the mark that is on each

consists of a in Germany since teapot, a cream pitcher and a sugar bowl. They are all

decorated with white flowers and gold leaves against a royal blue background.



The KPM mark was used by several porcelain factories.

I have not been able to locate anyone to tell me anything about my set. I would be greatly appreciative if you could give me any information on its history and value.

A: Heinrich Porzellan made your set. Since 1896, they have produced porcelain in Selb, Bavaria, Germany. With a cobalt-blue background, the pattern name is "Christina."

Your coffee/tea set would probably be worth \$275 to \$325.

Q: I am interested in learning about the maker and value of my glass vase. Standing 5 inches tall, the cranberry-colored top opening is triangular in shape. The lower portion is clear glass. Etched into

the bottom are the words: "Afors -GK 306 - E. Gordon."

What can you tell me about my vase and its approximate value?

A: You have a nice example of modern Scandinavian art glass. Afors Glass Factory is located in Sweden. Ernest Gordon was the designer, and "306" is a model number. Afors is now part of Orrefors Kosta Boda.

Your vase was made between 1954 and 1961. It would probably be worth \$175 to \$275.

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

Lady Harvesters win second game of season

ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com After their loss to Quanah Tuesday, the Pampa Lady Harvesters had a meeting.

"We talked about everything and it seemed to help," Junior Lindsey Brown said. "We have a symbol for faith on our wrists."

Wednesday at Frenship High School, the Lady Harvesters played like a team and won their second game of the season 56-48 over the Midland Greenwood Lady Rangers in the Fibermax Caprock Classic.

Coach Gene Head Valentine said they hadmore team bonding.

"They talked about things that they were seeing, Valentine said. "You could tell by their excitement on and off the court they were more together. I was proud of them for that.'

Pampa trailed onely once at 3-2 early in the first quarter. The game was within possession until the end of the quarter. Junior guard Kirsten Kuhn led the Lady Harvester offense with seven points in the first. Pampa led 14-10 after

Greenwood started the second quarter strong and took advantage of Pampa fouls and made three free throws to cut the Lady Harvesters lead to one.

Pampa already had seven fouls in the first quarter, but they overcame the foul trouble and responded with a 8-1 run. Pampa led 26-20

at halftime. "Lindsay (Brown) and Caitlin Sieck came off the bench and helped take the pressure off the starters,' Coach Valentine said.

Junior guard Caitlin Sieck scored 12 and Brown scored six.

In the third quarter, the Lady Harvesters didn't allow the Lady Rangers to get closer than four points which was at the beginning of the quarter. Clendening and Sieck scored Pampa's points with six and five respectively. The Lady Harvesters led 37-27 after

Greenwood started the fourth quarter strong and scored the first six points to cut the Lady Harvesters' lead to four. That's as close as the Lady Rangers would get. The Lady Harvesters responded with a 10-0 run and expanded their lead to 47-33. Pampa was in the double bonus early in the quarter and made 13 of 16 free throws.

Clendening led the Lady Harvesters in scoring with Kuhn followed with 13, scoring 10 points from the free throw line.

The Lady Harvesters (2-14) were set to play in the consolation championship today.

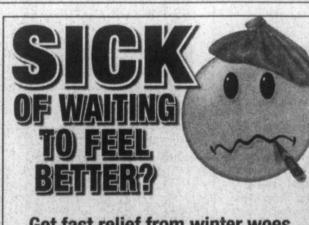


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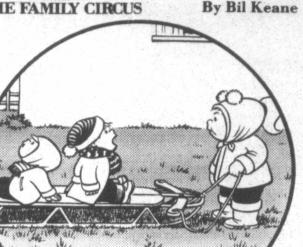
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Nest Heads





HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Dec. to it. 31, 2010:

This year could prove to be very exciting. Many of your most inner hopes and desires become realities. Confusion surrounds finances. This type of chaos could be unfamiliar to you, but you can handle it. Use care with agreements. A closer relationship with a sibling becomes possible. If you are single, make sure the person you choose really is emotionally available. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from long weekends together alone as a couple. Let the love temperature soar.

SAGITTARIUS makes an excellent healer. 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)

**** Spend special time with a loved one. Create your New Year's resolutions together, laughing and enjoy the moment. Do take a moment to think of the past year, its laurels and issues. Tonight:

Feeling bold and adventuresome. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Getting any alone time might be close to impossible. A stream of friends reach out to you -- some on the phone, others in e-mail, many inviting you to join them if not tonight then soon thereafter. Maintain a sense of humor. You might not be reading a parent or authority figure clearly. Tonight: Happiest with your favorite person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Some last-minute errands or work could absorb a large part of your day. Be sensitive to a boss and perhaps an older friend. You might not be getting a clear message from someone at a distance. Don't worry. Relax. Tonight: Put on your dancing

shoes and greet 2011. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** You enjoy the lead-up to 2011. Reach out for those at a distance early on to wish them a great New Year. A loved one could be confusing. How someone greets the New Year differs from one person to the next. Just be there for that person. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Last-minute details could have you hung up. Can you let go and enjoy the New Year? All indications are yes; only complete certain vital matters first. A partner pitches in when it counts. Tonight: No

sign knows how to celebrate like you. Get

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Do as much as possible. Touch base with key people. Once the festivities get started, connecting via telephone could be much harder. If you feel like you would prefer to be home, do that. Tonight: Share resolutions with a key person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Whether you are throwing a party or helping someone else with his or her party, you seem to be out running lastminute errands. Still, be budget-conscious, as there is a tomorrow or another year. Start enjoying the celebration early if possible Tonight: Out and about, celebrating.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Do understand that you make a difference. Visiting with certain people and wishing them a happy New Year could be more important than you might realize. You easily could go overboard late afternoon. Tonight: Remember, there will be a

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Maintain a low profile during the daylight hours. Try to maintain some space. There could be a level of confusion in today's communications. You might need to confirm plans and conversations about tonight. Tonight: You head out in full regalia.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Friends circle the wagons around you. You have no option but to enjoy those close to you and the moment! Be precise with a financial dealing, or else there could be troubled waters ahead. Share resolutions with your pals. Tonight: Not to be found, unless you want to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** You are a force, no matter how someone looks at a situation. You might be more confused than many about your role right now. Be spontaneous and see what lies ahead. Confirm plans. Friends all want to be with you! Tonight: Where the party

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Let your imagination soar. Contact those you care about at a distance early on. Also, you might want to detach from a confusing matter. It will work out if you let go. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

BORN TODAY

Singer Donna Summers (1948), singer John Denver (1943), actor Val Kilmer

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Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



MAKING A LIST OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS IS A WASTE OF TIME WHEN YOU'RE PERFECT

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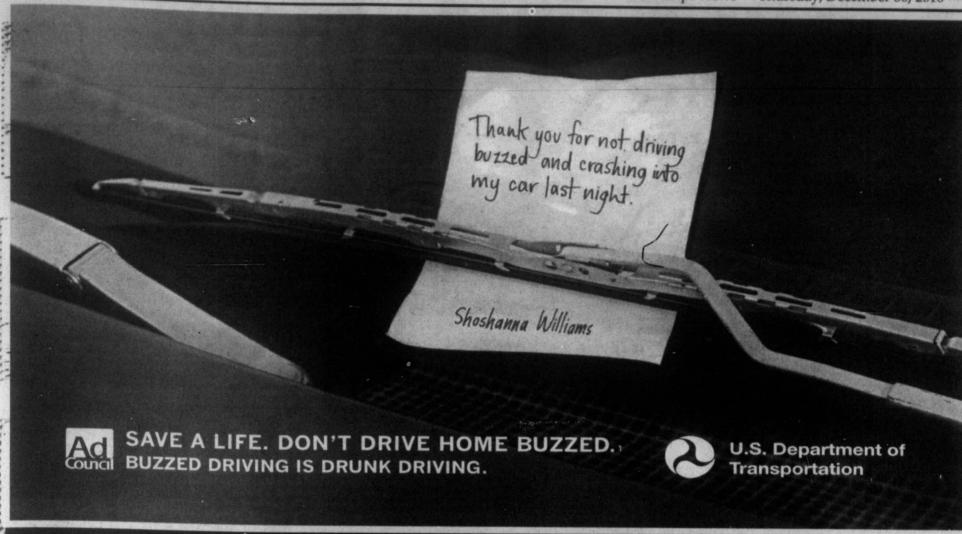
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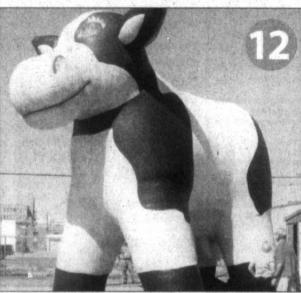




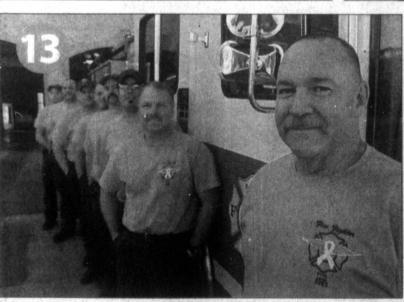








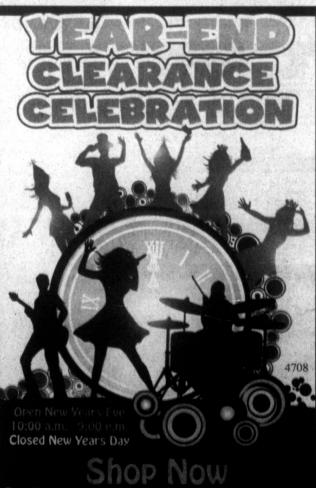






Surrounded by members of various local motorcyclist groups, Mayor Lonny Robbins lets his inner biker out as he signs a proclamation making May "Motorcycle Biker Safety Awareness Month. 2 Austin first grader Paige Allen, disguised as a Dalmatian, sings about her night to howl at "Arf: The Musical." 3 State Rep. Warren Chisum gets his Voter Registration Card for election official Ora Hedrick during early voting at the Gray Count Courthouse. 4 Nathan Ohsfeldt and Adeline Little share a story at the CCS Christmas program. 5 Gray County Judge Richard Peet listens to Commissioner Joe Wheeley during budget discussions at the Gray County Commissioners Court. 6 A lightning storm lights up the Panhandle sky. 7 Election official Ora Mae Hedrick and Election Administrator Linda Lewis stay busy this morning answering calls and checking registration rolls during the 2010 general election. 8 Aren Pepi practices his artwork on the sidewalk of Lovett Memorial Library. 9 Cali Gibson and Samantha Pearson take an order from Jonathan Polasek for a rose at Pampa High School for Valentine's Day. 10 A new Mustang negotiates the water-filled dip on the intersection of Foster and Russell in downtown Pampa. 11 Ornamental koi gleam bright orange in the sunlight as they swim under the surface of Irvine Riphahn's fishpond. 12 Joe Weaver and Shirley Jernigan of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce check out "Moo-tilda" in the chamber's parking lot. 13 The Pampa Fire Department C Shift lines up behind Breast Cancer Awareness. 14 Musician Mike Sink plays his guitar and sings during a weekend jam session at the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center.

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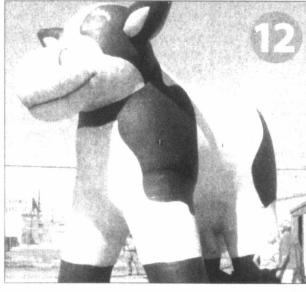




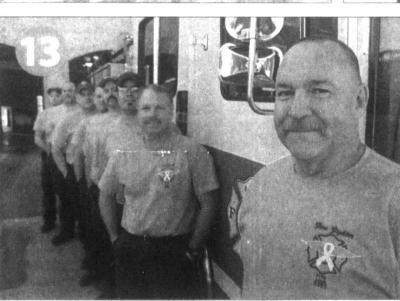


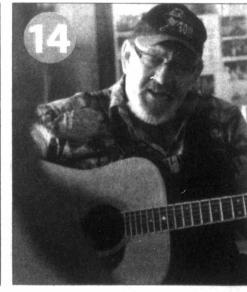












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The owners and employees of Easy's Westside Package would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New year and thank you for allowing us to be your

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