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TODAY IN SPORTS no newspaper due to the *******AUTO**MIXED ADC 750 0000471 12/31/2020 HERITAGE ARCHIVES 2195 BRITANNIA BLVD STE 102 SAN DIEGO, CA 92154-6290 Page 1 *PAMPANEWS

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 192

75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

(It) makes a big difference. It

reduces our number of cases dra-

matically. It also lets everybody know

that we are actively looking for the

people cooking meth, as well as the

Chief Deputy of the Gray County Sheriff's Office on

ones who are using.

Methamphetamine use on downward trend

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

While methamphetamine use remains an epidemic throughout the country, at the moment, it's on a downward trend in Gray County. During 2010, the Gray County Sheriff's Office reported 50 meth related incidents, which include lab busts and arrests for possession. This year, from January to mid November, there were just 20 incidents.

Both the Sheriff's Office and the Pampa Police Department are

noticing several trends in current meth use. Meth in the area tends to be brought in from other places, rather than produced here, and crystal meth, or "ice," is the most common form of the drug. Law enforcement in the area note that meth use and production tends to comes in waves, with usage going down as dealers or producers go to jail. It tends to go up later, as they get out of prison or are replaced by others in the

Cary Rushing, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Office, attri-



Rushing

butes the current

downward trend in meth use to the busting of a when about 20 people, mostly 'smurfing" operation last year, METH cont. on page 8

the department's work in corralling the transport of pseudoephedrine

-- Cary Rushing

STANDARDIZED TESTS

New program implemented for PHS athletes

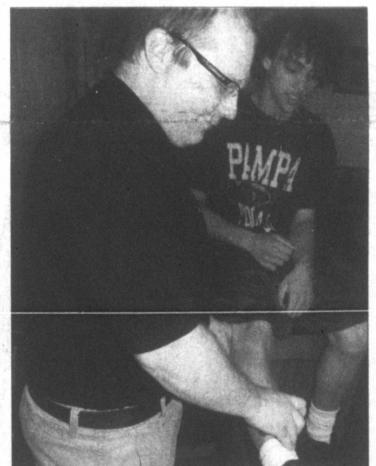
ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

It's something virtually unheard of at the high school level, and it all started with the Olympics.

That's the caliber of athlete that Pampa chiropractor Dr. Mark Ford was working with seven years ago when he came up with the idea. The concept was simple enough: Ford, who was working with Olympiclevel decathletes in Sacramento before they departed for the Athens Olympics, saw all the pre-conditioning testing that the athletes underwent before prepping their bodies for the

big event. "I started seeing all the testing being done on these guys prior to any type of workout, et cetera, to help improve their performance, but also to prevent injury," Ford said. "They do that on college level sports, they do that on pro sports, they do that on the Olympics. Well, I thought, how cool would it be if we could do something like that at a local level to help our local athletes?"

It's a process that schools already go through on an academic level: Test the students at the beginning and again at the end, then compare the results. The same logic could apply to Pampa High School's



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Josh Godwin performs a muscle resistance test on Pampa freshman football player Anthony Lymburner.

athletes, and with the training and technology Ford had available, why not give it a shot?

"We have a great athletic department here and they do TESTING cont. on page 7

Quilt given to Freedom Museum

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

Veterans Day may have come and gone, but the Pampa community continues to show support for its men and women who fight the good fight.

The latest local tribute comes courtesy of local quilting shop Lily's Thimble, which donated a quilt commemorating the nation's armed forces to the Museum on Monday

The quilt, crafted by Elaine Johnson, is adorned with an eagle and is splashed with fabric patches of red, white and blue. Rose Shank, co-owner of Lily's Thimble, said that the ladies at the store came up with the idea last spring.

"There's a program out there called Ouilts of Valor," explained Shank. "It's a program where different fabric companies have developed specific fabrics for Quilts of Valor. Some of the quilts are being made and sent to wounded warriors, and we chose just to donate it to the museum on behalf of all the servicemen here in town.

"We started reading about the program and thought it was great, and we wanted to do something like it. That was some of the best fabric that we'd seen, and we saw it at markets when we heard about the program. This was the fabric that we liked the best." QUILT cont. on page 8

For Pampa's Lister and family, making violins a labor of love

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Jerry Lister plays a slew of stringed instruments, but he also makes them himself, with the help of his wife, Jill, and his son, David, 17. Jerry builds violins and mandolins, which he sometimes donates to students who can't afford the expensive instruments.

Jerry became interested in building instruments in a roundabout way: two way radios and a love for sci-

"I grew up north of Miami on

a ranch. I liked two-way radios, because I could talk into town, so I learned about antennas. My uncle had a certain kind of antenna, so I built one like it. When you build an antenna, it has to be a resonant length of the frequency," he said. "Resonance is throughout the universe, not just antennas. Resonance is a secondary reaction to vibration."

Studying resonance and vibration progressed into an interest in how sound works, and Lister has made many instruments since.

LISTER cont. on page 2



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

The process begins with quarter Jerry Lister measures the thickness of the wood on a freshly made mandolin.

Classified 5C,6C

Gift Guide 1D-4D

Country Christmas" Parade December 3rd

Entry forms can be picked up at the Chamber office Deadline for entry is Nov. 30

IN THIS ISSUE: Comics 4B,5B Obituaries2A Local Record......2A Sports1C-3C Weather 2A Puzzles/Dear Abby. . 40

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Church Page6A



PAMPA FORECAST



High 64



Thursday

Low 43



Friday

Low 40 Today: Sunny, with a high near 64. Wind chill values between 27 and 37 early. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 40. Wind chill values between 32 and 37. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25

Thanksgiving Day: Sunny, with a high near 67. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Breezy, with a north northwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

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EARLY DEADLINES for Classified & Last Minute care? First Baptist Church Ads. For Mon. Nov 21 deadline is Fri Nov 18 noon. For 669-3529 accepting 6wks-5th Tues. Nov 22 deadline is Fri Nov 18 2pm. For Wed. Nov 23 deadline is Mon. Nov 21 breaks & Summer. Meals 10am. For Fri. Nov 25 dead- Provided. line is Wed Nov 23 noon. No weekend edition. Thanks & Happy Thanksgiving! Jewelry, Home De Pampa News

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PAMPA NEWS Office will close at noon Wed. Nov. 23 and be closed all day Fri. Nov. 25. Happy Thanksgiving.

www.thepampanews.com





Lister

sawn pieces of wood, which are basically pie shaped wedges of wood. Jerry splits the wood, then puts the wide ends together. Then he places a template over the wood and carves out the shape of the instrument.

The thickness of the front of a violin is what allows the sound to resonate, and Jerry takes caution as he measures and tunes the wood.

"It's thicker in the middle, and it's thinner around the edges. We sand the wood down, and we tune the (front and) back. Once we get it tuned where we want it, we glue the pieces together and tune the whole thing together," he said.

Jerry uses a strobe tuner to tune the instrument. "It gives all the harmonics of the sound, not just

the tuning of the string," he said.

To make the sides of the instrument, Lister soaks wood strips, then uses a heated steel post to bend the wood. He uses frames and clamps to set the wood in its shape. After putting the pieces together, he creates a sandwich of the three pieces of wood called perfling, a decorative border.

From there, the team add sizing to protect the

"(Jill) makes my sizing for me. It's a formula that we use (with) egg whites and salt. That seals it," said Jerry

"It's like a meringue," said Jill. "You brush it on the wood, and the wood soaks it up, so it's like a primer, but it sets, so that it doesn't grab the varnish or stain. The salt helps preserve (the wood).

From there, Jerry will decorate the wood with carving and add color to the wood.

"(The personality of the instrument) is rooted in what it's made out of," said Jerry, who uses spruce, curly maple and mahogany woods.

"Each piece of wood is different," added Jill. "It can come from the same tree, but it's still different" Jerry says that each instrument takes about 200 hours to complete.

"When you go buy a violin at a store, you don't realize the work it takes to make one," said Lister. "When you get into how (instruments are) built, how they work and all the engineering that's in each acoustic instrument, it's amazing how much science

staff photo by Mollie Bryant

cont. from page 1

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Jerry Lister adjusts his strobe tuner, which he uses to tune the wood on violins and mandolins.

is in each instrument."

Lister says he would like to continue to donate the instruments to kids who want to play them.

"If students are capable and want to learn really bad, but can't afford one, music is so essential in a person's life (that) they need to have it," said Jill.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the ported at the 100 block block of Chestnut. following incidents for of North Gillespie. the 72 hour period ending Monday, November

Pampa PD reported 50 len. traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents reported 18 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa Fire Department reported. responded to 13 medical calls.

Friday, November 18 A threat was reported at the 4000 block of North

Bad Cattle Company. Police investigated an alarm at the 200 block of

North Cuyler. Harassment was re-

ported.

Phone harassment occurred at the 1900 block of North Banks.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 2100 block of North Dwight. A theft was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1100 block of South Prairie.

Police investigated an alarm at the 1900 block of North Nelson.

Kidnapping ported.

Harassment occurred at the 1500 block of North Faulkner.

Found property was reported at the 1700 block of North Coffee.

A suspicious person

was reported at the 200 ed. block of North West. Lost property was re-

was reported at the 2100 block of North Mary El-A runaway was report-

ed at the 900 block of Sierra. offense against

family and children was A domestic disturbance

occurred at the 200 block curred at the 2500 block of North Wells. suspicious person

was reported at the 2800 block of North Charles.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 2800 block of North Perryton.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 400 block of North Christy.

A missing person was reported at the 1800 block of North Russell.

A suspicious person was reported at the 300 block of East Brown. A domestic disturbance

occurred at the 2200 block of Mary Ellen.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of East Craven.

Saturday, November Chestnut.

occurred at the 2200 block of Mary Ellen.

A burglary occurred at the 1100 block of North Garland.

Criminal trespassing

occurred at the 1700 Sexual assault occurred

A suspicious vehicle at the 200 block of North Sumner. A suspicious person

was reported at the 200 block of North Nelson. Sexual assault was reported. A suspicious person

was reported at the 1000 block of Cinderella. Criminal mischief oc-

of Perryton. The Pampa Fire De-

partment responded to a grass fire on East Highway 60.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 400 block

of North Ballard. Criminal mischief occurred at the 600 block

of North Sumner. A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 700 block of North Faulkner. Disorderly conduct oc-

curred at the 400 block of East Short. A suspicious person was reported at the 400 block of North Ballard.

An accident occurred at the 2100 block of North

A suspicious vehicle A domestic disturbance was reported at the 700 block of South Barnes.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 300 block of North Hobart.

Harassment occurred at A runaway was report- the 1000 block of Huff.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 200 block of South Anne. Sunday, November 20

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 400 block of West Brown.

Harassment was reported at the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

Runaways were reported at the 200 block of North Sumner and the 100 block of South Sum-

A theft was reported. A suspicious person was reported at Kentucky

and Sumner. Criminal mischief occurred at the 1100 block

of North Seneca. Police investigated an

alarm at the 700 block of West Wilks. A violation of city or-

dinance occurred at the 1600 block of East Highway 60. An accident occurred at

the 1700 block of North Hobart. A suspicious person

was reported at the 1500 block of North Christy. A domestic disturbance

occurred at the 900 block of East Campbell. A suspicious person

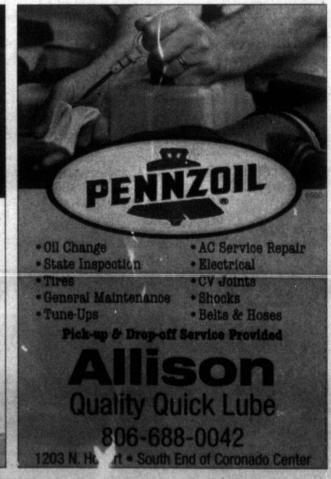
block of West Alcock. An accident occurred at Hobart and Wilks.

was reported at the 1100

A threat was reported.



State Farm



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LEDs to light up Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (AP) — A new state-of-the-art LED lighting system is set to illuminate downtown Fort Worth.

The lights are expected to be switched on Friday in Sundance Square, a 35-block commercial, residential, cancer, an effort he calls entertainment and retail district in downtown Fort Worth.

The lighting system replaces the white bulbs that have outlined many Sundance Square buildings for years. Installers have used more than 7,600 feet of LED cable to outline about 18 buildings, mostly along Main Street.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports that the system is computer-operated and has 16 million color options with unlimited program combinations, such as lighting sequences that jump the streets from block to block.

Sundance's marketing director Tracy Gilmour says it has taken workers about 5,000 hours to install the lights and 100 hours to program them.

Abdo speaks of attack plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A soldier accused of plotting to kill troops at Fort Hood in Texas told a Tennessee television station he was originally planning an attack on his home base of Fort Campbell.

Pfc. Naser Abdo told WSMV-TV in Nashville his target at the base on the Kentucky-Tennessee line was a high-ranking official he did not name.

Abdo's interview with the station was his first since his arrest in July at a Killeen, Texas, motel near Fort Hood. He was absent without leave from Fort Campbell, and authorities allege he planned to detonate two bombs in a restaurant full of Fort Hood soldiers and then shoot anyone who survived.

He pleaded not guilty Thursday to six new charges for a total of nine federal charges.

The military cannot comment due to a gag order in the

Four charged in fatal shooting

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman and three men have been arrested on murder charges in the shooting death of a 29-year-old man outside a southeast Houston grocery

Houston police revealed the charges Monday in Warren Keith White's death Wednesday. A police statement says White was at work Wednesday when he was told a group of men were tampering with his vehicle. When he went outside to confront them, he was shot several times and died at the scene.

The suspects fled.

On Friday, police arrested 20-year-old Angelica Lee Serrano, while 23-year-old Ralph Ernest Alonso surrendered. On Saturday, police arrested 21-year-old Daniel Allen Porter and 19-year-old Jessie Lurue Nelson Jr. in

They're in the Harris County Jail with bonds set at \$50,000 each. Electronic jail records didn't list any

Suicide threat causes mistrial

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A mistrial was called in the case of a woman accused in the death of her 2-year-old daughter after a juror said in a note that he'd kill himself

if he was forced to change his vote to guilty The San Antonio Express-News reports the Monday message was in the last of three notes the jury sent at the murder trial of 24-year-old Andrisela Ng, accused of severely beating her daughter.

Defense attorney Stephanie Boyd says, "This juror decided what his vote was and he was not going to bend."

All three notes told the judge that they were hung at 11-1 for guilty — though it was unclear if it was for murder, or a lesser included charge of injury to a child.

Gas prices drop across Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — As Thanksgiving approaches, the average price for gas in Texas has declined.

AAA Texas on Tuesday said the current statewide average is \$3.17, down 5 cents from last week.

The national average for gasoline is \$3.35, four cents

less than last week. The association says the most expensive gas average in Texas can be found in Texarkana at \$3.22 a gallon. The

least expensive average can be found in Corpus Christi AAA Texas says the average distance Texans travel for

the holiday is expected to be 959 miles roundtrip. The group says nearly 3.3 million Texans will travel 50 miles or more from home for the holiday, a 5 percent increase in total Thanksgiving travel compared to last

Couple tried to bribe agents

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) - A Texas couple has been jailed on charges they tried to bribe a Border Patrol agent into letting them smuggle a family member and cocaine into the country.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says FBI agents arrested 25-year-old Debbie Ayala of San Elizario, Texas, and 27-year-old David Rogelio Leyva of Socorro, Texas. Both were booked into the Dona Ana County Detention

Federal prosecutors allege the couple tried to offer \$700 to \$800 to the agent so they could smuggle Ayala's cousin from Mexico into New Mexico possibly through Deming last January. Ayala also allegedly offered to pay \$1,000 to \$2,000 if she could be allowed to smuggle in a quantity of cocaine, but the agent refused the offer.

Prosecutors say a conviction on conspiracy and bribery could lead to a 20 years in prison and \$500,000.



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Bush to raise cancer awareness in Africa

JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) - Former. President George W. Bush will travel to Africa next month to raise awareness about cervical and breast a "natural extension" of a program launched during his presidency that helps fight AIDS on the conti-

Bush, former first lady Laura Bush and officials with the George W. Bush Institute are heading to Tanzania, Zambia and Ethiopia from Dec. 1 through Dec. 5, where they'll visit clinics and meet with governmental and health care leaders.

"We believe it's in our

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PAMPA

nation's interest to deal with disease and set priorities and save lives," Bush told The Associated Press.

In 2003, Bush launched the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, to expand AIDS prevention, treatment and support programs in countries hit hard by the epidemic.

The new program, called the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon initiative, seeks to expand the availability of cervical cancer screening and treatment and breast care education in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

Bush said existing AIDS clinics will be used to screen and treat cervical cancer, which is four

Sonic Drive-In will be

OPEN Thanksgiving

Day from 10AM-10PM

SONIC

to five times more common among those living with HIV than those who don't have the virus. Last year, 3.2 million people received antiretroviral treatments as a result of

PEPFAR.

The initiative is a partnership that includes the Bush Institute, PEPFAR, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the United Nations' program on HIV

BUSH cont. on page 5





Closed Thanksgiving Day

Doors Open at 9 am • Wednesday, November 23

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iewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2011. There are 38 days left in the year

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 23, 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce, was first published.

On this date:

In 1765, Frederick County in Maryland became the first colonial entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce, was born in Hillsboro, N.H. In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San

Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon.

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1910, American-born physician Hawley Harvey Crippen was hanged at Pentonville Prison in London for murdering his wife, Cora. (Crippen's mistress, Ethel Le Neve, was acquitted in a separate trial of being an accessory.)

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces seized control of Tarawa and Makin atolls from the

In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!," starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy. In 1996, a commandeered Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the water off the Comoros

Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

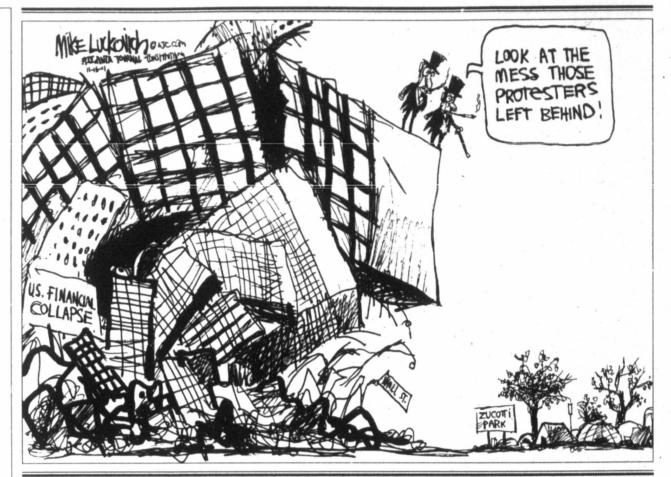
Ten years ago: The U.N. war crimes tribunal said it would try former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for genocide in Bosnia, linking him for the first time in court to the murders of thousands of non-Serbs and the displacement of a quarter million people. (Milosevic died in March 2006 while his trial was in progress.) An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at a van in the West Bank, killing Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a leading member of the Islamic militant Hamas group.

Five years ago: Former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One year ago: North Korea bombarded South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island with artillery fire, killing four people and raising tensions between the two countries. Texas outfielder Josh Hamilton was a runaway winner of the American League's Most Valuable Player award.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elmarie Wendel is 79. Actor Franco Nero is 70. Actress Susan Anspach is 69. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 67. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 64. Singer Bruce Hornshy is 57 Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 52. Actor John Henton is 51. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 51. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 45. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 45. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 44. Actor Oded Fehr is 41. Actor Page Kennedy is 35. Actress Kelly Brook is 32. Actor Lucas Grabeel is 27. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 19. Actor Austin Majors is 16.

Thought for Today: "It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it." - Anonymous.



Thanksgiving, the holiday you have to love

Thanksgiving remains the most American of all our holidays. Thanksgiving belongs to everyone. It is truly an ecumenical day without sectarian divide. To fully celebrate Thanksgiving, you do not have to belong to any particular religious group or tradition, or for that matter, to belong to any religious group or tradition.

No costumes or expensive purchases required. No loud music or forced late-night gaiety or painful next-morning hangover. Happy Thanksgiving.

Even in this fourth consecutive winter of economic discontent and dislocation, I believe there are many reasons to be thankful on Nov. 24, 2011. Here are just a few reasons I am grateful.

I am thankful that no cable news channel has yet come up with the most self-absorbed program imaginable: A Show All About the Media -- Where Members of the Media Discuss the Role of the Media in the Continuing Media Coverage of the Media.

Recalling that Thomas Jefferson, the man who gave this nation our citizenship papers, once wrote: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." I am personally appreciative that we have never been forced to make that choice. And I continue to believe that the next, new chapter to be written in American journalism will not be Chapter Nine.

I am happy that I have yet to be 'bitten' by the vampire craze.

I am encouraged that so many countries of the world - from Eastern

Europe to the Pacific -- have been inspired by U.S. democracy and chosen to emulate our model in some form in their own constitutions. But I am happy that, in all those newer democracies, not a single one of them has decided to copy our disastrous Electoral College.

SHIELDS

I am thankful that Paul Edward Valentine Giamatti and Philip Seymour Hoffman, two remarkable actors, continue to make great movies.

I am grateful that on this Thanksgiving Day, to cover those awkward conversational dead-spots occasionally encountered, we have a terrific football game with the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers, undefeated this season, traveling to Detroit to take on the improving Lions. After that, the Dallas Cowboys against the Miami Dolphins, followed, if you're up to it, by the University of Texas against Texas A&M.

I appreciate American ingenuity and know that it is only a matter of time before some marketing genius comes up with the one fragrance that would make every woman irresistible to most men -- a perfume that smells like a brand-new car!

While I continue to miss him keenly, I am happy that I had as a friend a man as witty and wise as the late John Reilly, who so brilliantly deflated the self-important personal assistant/ palace guard-type who, often with a faux-British accent, officiously asks, "Can I tell him the subject of your call?" Reilly's answer(s): "You can tell him I'm calling with the judge's ruling on his alimony payments," or, "Certainly, I'm calling with the confidential results of his blood and drug

I appreciate that not all the audiences at the Republican presidential debates were so mean that they would loudly heckle the Special Olympics.

I am grateful that nobody knows that I was such a rube when I first came to Washington that I thought the Majority Whip was a leather bar in the Bay area. We all ought to be grateful for this

piece of wisdom: If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mark Shields is a nationally syndicated

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For supercommittee, failure was an option

A few months ago, Washington's big bad wolf was Republicans' refusal to compromise by supporting any deficit reduction plan that included tax increases. Republicans were unreasonable, editorial pages fulminated, obstructionist and standing in the way of meaningful reform.

On Monday, the supercommittee admitted it had failed to cut \$1.2 trillion from the deficit over 10 years. Citizens Against Government Waste spokeswoman Leslie K. Paige called it "the unpardonable turkey." At least this turkey cannot be laid on the GOP's doorstep.

Last week, a Republican on the supercommittee did try to compromise. As Politico reported, Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., offered a 10-year, \$1.5 trillion debt reduction plan that would raise about \$500 billion in new revenue while cutting spending by \$750 billion.

Toomey is about the last Republican you would expect to support an increase in taxes. When the freshman senator was president of the Club for Growth, the organization was a champion of supply-side economics and thought Republicans who were willing to compromise on

taxes were a scourge. Toomey's very

placement on the 12-member bipar-

tisan supercommittee reinforced the

Beltway view that Republicans would not try to cut a deal.

Toomey comes from the school that contends that Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Democrats advocate raising tax rates on the rich

to address the deficit; Republicans believe that such increases could topple the shaky U.S. economy. The middle-ground position holds that flatter federal taxes -- with lower rates but fewer deductions -- could yield more revenue and spark economic growth,

DEBRA J.

SAUNDERS

"If I were king, I wouldn't do it this way," Toomey told Politico. "I'd do it differently, but I'm not king."

But Democrats didn't bite. They have been content to watch the cookie crumble -- as long as they can complain that Republicans should have agreed to raise not just taxes on

the rich but also their tax rates. Here's an about-face. The right laments the lack of a deal. Club for Growth President Chris Chocola said in a statement: "It is disappointing that the supercommittee was unable

to achieve pro-growth tax reform and meaningful spending cuts. By avoidg doing the responsible thing now, Congress is embracing devastating consequences later."

But some Republicans are gleeful. Even before the supercommittee announced that it had failed, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said failure would be "good for America."

Nonsense. The supercommittee's failure is bad for America. It sends the message that Washington wants to put off all reform until after the 2012 elections.

Or later, much later.

With no package, a trigger mechanism will cut \$1.2 trillion from spending, half from the military. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has warned that the new cuts, on top of \$350 billion in previous cuts, will "totally hollow out the force."

Congress might find a way to undermine the trigger cuts, but that simply would put off the inevitable reform of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

It's like continuing to charge things on your credit card when you barely can meet the minimum payments. The later the fix the deeper the bite.

Debra J. Saunders writes for the San Fransisco Chronicle and is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for vetion. Only your name and city will be published.

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Bush

and AIDS. Its goal is to said reduce deaths by 25 percent in five years among women screened and treated through the initiative.

"We want to show what works and hopefully others across the continent of Africa will join us," Bush

Dr. Eric G. Bing, director of global health at the Bush Institute, said it's often more difficult for African women to reveal they have cancer of the reproductive organs than to reveal they have HIV.

There are more support groups and treatment available for HIV than cancer, he said.

"There's silence around cancer for many of these communities and in many of these nations. And that's one of the things

that we hope to change," Bing said.

Bush moved to Dallas after leaving office in 2009. The George W. Bush Presidential Center, which is set to be completed in 2013 on the campus of Southern Methodist

University, will include his presidential library and the already-operating policy institute. Besides global health, the institute focuses on education reform, human freedom and economic growth.

Bush said he and the

former first lady will be 'pouring our hearts" into the Bush presidential center as it grows.

cont. from page 3

"This is where we will spend the rest of our lives in the sense of being involved with public policy," Bush said.

omorrow in History

Tomorrow is Thursday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2011. There are 37 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

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Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 somewhere over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 dollars in ransom - his fate remains unknown.

On this date:

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1863, the Civil War Battle of Lookout began Mountain in Tennessee; Union forces succeeded in taking the mountain from the Confederates.

In 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

Ten years ago: A Swiss Crossair airliner carrying 33 people crashed near Zurich, killing 24, including American pop singer Melanie Thornton.

Five years ago: Shiite militiamen in Iraq doused six Sunni Arabs with kerosene and burned them alive and killed 19 other Sunnis, taking revenge for the slaughter of 215

Shiites in Baghdad's Sadr City the day before. One year ago: A jury in Austin convicted former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, on charges he'd illegally funneled corporate money to Texas candidates in 2002. (DeLay, who was later sentenced

Today's Birthdays: Rock-and-roll drummer Pete Best is 70. Rock musician Donald "Duck" Dunn (Booker T. & the MG's) is 70. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 69. Motion Picture Association of

to three years in prison, is

free on bond as his legal

team appeals.)

America Chairman Dan Glickman is 67. Actor Dwight Schultz is 64. Actor Stanley Livingston is 61. Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie; The Romantics) is 57. Actor Ruben Santiago-Hudson is 55. Actress Denise Crosby is 54. Actress Shae D'Lyn is 49. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 49. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 49. Actor Garret Dillahunt is 47. Actor-comedian Scott Krinsky is 43. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 41. Actress Lola Glaudini is 40. Actress Danielle Nicolet is 38. Actor Colin Hanks is 34.

Actress Katherine Heigl is 33. Actress Sarah Hyland is 21

Thought for Today: "There is a great deal of difference in believing something still, and believing it again." - W.H. Auden, British poet (1907-1973).

Face time and think time make a difference



1921 N Hobart

Edward Jones

Vijay K. Mohan, MD, FACS 104 E. 30th Suite 2 Pampa, TX 79065



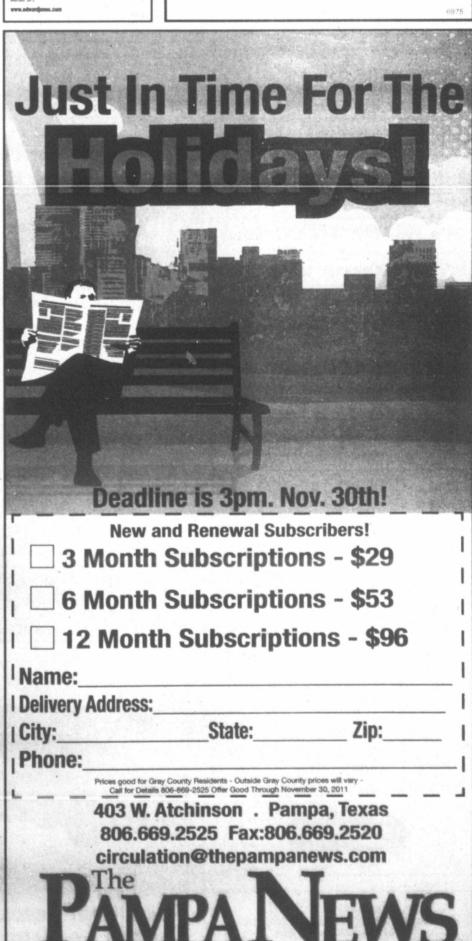
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Why does God perform miracles?

Miracles are big business today. If you have any doubt, type the word "miracle" into your favorite online search engine.

My personal favorite is "The Cat Miracle Diet" website. This diet promises the same lean, svelte figure as most cats. By dining on lizard tails, blades of grass and moths, "you'll find that you not only look and feel better, but you will have a whole new outlook on what constitutes food."

Do you ever feel like there are some miracles you can live without? We don't need phony miracles concocted by faith healers with batteries in their pockets to ensure that the unsuspecting receive a jolt when touched.

It is no surprise that seekers of God want to experience the power and presence of God in a miracle. "God performed miracles so He can show people He is God," says Wesley, age unknown. "God can bring people from death to life. He can do anything.

Jerusalem's religious leaders plotted the death of another person in addition to Jesus. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many Jews believed in Jesus as their messiah. Lazarus became a walking billboard proclaiming Jesus' power over death.

"God performed miracles because he did not want anyone to be sad," says Hunter, age

One of my favorite responses to a miracle is the lame man healed by God through the Apostle Peter. After receiving strength in his feet and ankles, he entered the temple "walking, leaping and praising God" (Acts 3:8).

He didn't try to be cool. The healed man wanted everyone to know what God had

"I think God performs miracles because more people might believe in him," says Valerie, 8.

You might think that the more miracles God performs, the more people would believe. It isn't necessarily so.

Jesus said, "Woe," and he wasn't riding a horse. He denounced the people in several cities where few believed though he had done many miracles there. Speaking of Capernaum, Jesus said, "For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this

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KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

day" (Matthew 11:23). Sodom's infamous reputation and its fiery destruction live until this day, yet God will judge Capernaum's .inhabitants more harshly than Sodom's. What can we learn from this?

God holds us accountable for the spiritual light available to us. Think of miracles as laser light impulses that momentarily penetrate the spiritual darkness of this world. Certainly, those who saw Jesus perform miracles enjoyed light in a way that the inhabitants of Sodom never had.

We live in a time of unparalleled revelation. The spiritual light available to us in many ways exceeds that of even Jesus' apostles. We have the complete Bible, which was still being written in their day and a history of almost 2,000 years of the gospel transforming lives and entire nations.

Think about this: Many of us may be waiting for the laser-light-in-the-sky kind of miracle, when the greatest miracle of all is staring us in the face. God's love for us as revealed in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate miracle that defies explanation. We don't fully understand why he loves us, but he does.

Memorize this truth: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Ask this question: Have you experienced God's greatest miracle, the new birth that God has promised to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Carey Kinsolving is an experienced public speaker, syndicated newspaper columnist, author, and producer. Many of Kinsolving's feature articles have appeared in The Washington Post and other major



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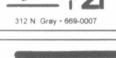


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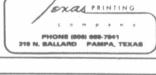
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CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Highland Baptist prepares for coming Yuletide season

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

It may only be Thanksgiving

tomorrow, but Highland Baptist Church is preparing for Christmas. Pastor Paul Nachtigall said the choir has started practice for the

Bethlehem.' "It's a musical," Nachtigall said. "They will present that December

Christmas cantata called "Star of

Nachtigall said he is working on to think outside of the box some."

sermon series titled "The Miracles of Christmas," which will cover different aspects of the Christmas story. "It's going to look at things that

happened surrounding the birth of Christ," Nachtigall said. "It's going to show that when he was born it was the perfect time."

Nachtigall said he has encouraged his congregation to participate in outreach.

"We have done some community. work," Nachtigall said. "I wanted us

GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Thanksgiving, a special holiday

Thanksgiving has always been a very special holiday in my life and family over the years and generations. In 1621, the Plymouth Colonists and the Wampanoag Indians shared a Thanksgiving feast that is acknowledged as the first Thanksgiving Celebration in the colonies.

Several things make this a special holiday: First, it is a time of real thanksgiving to God and a time of reflection upon His goodness to us. Psalm 95:2 says, "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms." Let's not forget how faithful God has been to us. Second, it focuses upon family

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711 E. Harvester

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110 W. Kingsmill

1936 N. Wells

622 E. Francis

500 S. Cuyler

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203 N. West Pampa TX 79065

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First Baptist Church

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Faith Bible Church

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669-3144

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665-2747

Church

665-5976

665-5941

669-1155

669-3225

Crosspointe

500 N. West

God Church

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BOULER

all manner of wonderful foods, children and grandchildren together, a special thanksgiving passage read (Psalm 103 at our house), prayers of thanksgiving, then turkey and dressing and then

and home. The

busy kitchen with

David Bouler is a pastor at Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Pampa Church Directory

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Kentucky Ave. Church Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship 1733 N. Banks St. Pampa TX 79065 669-6915 **Macedonia Baptist** Church 441 Elm Pampa TX 79065 665-4926 **New Hope Baptist** Church

Cowboys football. 404 Harlem Pampa TX 79065 665-4044 **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church** 912 S. Gray St Pampa TX 79065 665-4044 New Life Assembly of God 1435 N. Sumner Pampa TX 79065 665-0804 **Open Door Church of** God in Christ 402 Oklahoma Pampa TX 79065 665-6132 Pampa Chapel of the **Apostolic Faith** 711 E. Harvester Pampa TX 79065 669-9635 **Priest Park Church of**

God 731 N. Faulkner Pampa TX 79065 688-0174 Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana 541 Hamilton Pampa TX 79065 665-8347 **Salvation Army** 701 S. Cuyler Pampa TX 79065 665-7233 Seventh Day Adventist Church 421 N. Ward Pampa TX 79065 665-4492 Southside Church of Christ 11927 McCullough Pampa TX 79065 665-2183 St. Paul United Methodist Church 511 N. Hobart Pampa TX 79065 665-8951 St. Mark CME Church 406 Elm Ave Pampa TX 79065 St. Matthews Episcopal Church 727 W. Browning Pampa TX 79065 665-0703 St. Vincent de Paul **Catholic Church** 810 W. 23rd Ave.

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Testing

everything they can, but they don't have the personnel and the resources to test everybody and do that," Ford said. "Fortunately, this past year, getting together with Ashley Ellis, the trainer at the high school, she presented that idea to them that, hey, why don't we take a test group of the high school students, identify what their weaknesses are so that she'll know what to work on throughout the year to prevent injury and increase performance, and then test them again at the end of the year.

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Ellis, whose background includes an education at Kansas and prior work at a Division 2 school, has seen firsthand how similar testing has reaped benefits for Big XII and other college athletic programs. With Ford offering the testing regimen to the athletic department free of charge, Ellis said the high school's participation was a nobrainer.

"It's really a great opportunity for us to get something at the high school level that a lot of people don't have access to," Ellis said. "It's something that we do very routinely at the college level, so to be able to use the technology that they have available and make it available to us, it's kind of a neat thing.'

The tests themselves are fairly straightforward. Ford and Josh Godwin, a physical therapist at Ford Family Chiropractic, worked with the freshman football team as guinea pigs of sorts, measuring the strength of the kids' joints and muscles through each of their major motions

A computerized handheld muscle tester was used to measure the amount of the resistance the kids could provide with each muscle group. In essence, the muscle tester worked sort of like the games that test your punch strength at boardwalk arcades; the athlete exerts pressure against a spring-based pad on the wireless muscle tester as Godwin pushes back, and the tester sends the resistance data wirelessly to a

computer. "It charts (the resistance data) on a graph, and we can use that as comparison," Godwin sad. "We were able to take that data and do a holistic average across all the athletes, and then compare those averages to what the appropriate strength ratios should be for an athlete compared to other athletes in a normal group. Basically, what we did is we looked at what the athletes' flexion and extension ratios were of their different joints throughout their body and then correlated that to the strength ratios in a normal population. There were some deficiencies there, so we sent those to Coach Ellis.

"We were able to come up with some muscular imbalances, which means that the muscle on one side of the joint is stronger than the opposing muscle on the other side of the joint," continued Godwin. "If that persists for a long time, it can cause deficiencies within the joint complex itself, creating pain and poor performance. If you can address that early on, then the athlete will be less likely to have injuries and also be able to perform better, because that joint is

more stabilized." "Plus, if you have a muscle imbalance and you keep working it, you're still going to have a weakness," Ford added. "A stronger weakness, but one side's still going to be stronger than the other. If you can identify and balance, that's the key. If you have a student athlete who has a neck weakness but the rest of him is fine, then you know to put the emphasis on the weak spot. You can have more efficient workouts."

In the hands of Ellis and the conditioning team at the high school, the data that Ford and Godwin collected is being used to tailor the kids' workouts to do just that.

"I'm a certified strength and conditioning coach, so what it allows us to do is look at the programs we're using. Are they set up the right way? Are we working the right things? By having this data, we can look at these freshmen and say this is where their problem areas are. Then we can design our programs spe-cifically to fit those areas."

With the freshman football team currently getting ready to embark on an offseason conditioning program, Ellis said, this is when the information gleaned from the testing program will really be put to use. After the school year, each athlete will undergo a follow-up test, and the results from that test will be compared to the data from the fall to see how the kids are coming along.

"So far, we didn't honestly see a lot that we didn't expect to see with these youngsters that hadn't come through our program before," Ellis said, "so what will be interesting to see is how much benefit we will be making with them. We can look and see that we need to work a little bit more on the back of the legs, the back of the shoulders and general core stability, which are things that have really not been hit with those younger kids coming up. What that allows us to do then is look at the workouts we've designed and make sure we have enough of those types of exercises. We can look to see if the things we're doing are really working.

If they're not, how can we change them, and if they are, how can we improve them?

One of the main areas where Ford and Godwin found that deficiencies were concentrated was in the neck area, a part of the body where muscle groups are rarely developed in younger athletes, Ellis said. With the kinds of impact that high school football players endure on a game-by-game basis, the finding wasn't altogether surprising, but nonetheless significant.

When you think about a football injury, what's the most devastating injury you can think about?" Ford said. "Concussion, neck trauma, that kind of thing. With us finding some deficiency in those areas, it's something that our training team at the high school can hopefully focus on some."

"With Ashley's experience in strengthening those areas, she knows what areas to target," Godwin added. "She can develop really good exercises to help stabilize those areas better. It allows Ashley and the other trainers to better strengthen up the freshman football team in a way that's able to meet each athlete's personal need."

"If you can prevent injuries to key players, that's only going to help benefit your team," Ford said. "But if you look at the big picture, these athletes are all going to have a long, productive life, hopefully. If you can prevent that injury in ninth grade that'll make them have to get a knee replacement at 42, that's great. We have a lot of people come in needing surgery and we ask them, 'When did you first hurt your neck?' Well, they say, 'I had a stinger playing football in high school.' If you could've prevented that stinger, we might have been able to prevent that neck surgery. We're not just looking at the short-

term benefit Ford and Godwin said that working with the football players was an enjoyable experience.

"All the kids were cooperative and they were giving their best effort," Godwin said. "We really worked well with them."

"What I found really fun was that while we were working with one athlete, the other athletes were looking over their shoulder like, 'What's he doing?" chimed Ford with a smile. "You could see the competitive spirit there, like 'I'm going to blow that one out of the water.

"More importantly, they found out, 'Whoa, I'm weak in this spot here or that spot.' It helped them focus on, 'Well, gee, I need to work on something as

If all goes well, the two are hopeful that Ellis and the high school will look to develop their testing pro-

"That will be up to Ashley and the rest of the coaches to see how much expansion they want, but they wanted the freshmen to be the test pool," Godwin said.

"My vision would be to implement this throughout the athletic department, if they let us," Ford said.

""As far as I know, there isn't anybody else in the state doing this at the high school level.

You could become very sport specific. Each sport can have their own program that would key on those muscle groups key to that sport. Going beyond Pampa, if this was seen as a good model, you could create a situation that could be carried out throughout the state or the country.'

For now though, Ford is just grateful for the chance to make the program available to Pampa High School's athletes.

"We just thought it was great that they opened the doors to us," Ford said. "It showed their commitment to the kids to say, 'Yeah, how can you give us some information to help benefit them?' As a parent with a daughter who grew up in the sports program there, that's great for me to know that they look after our kids that way and have that care and concern. I know the weight people and the coaches we have there are really dedicated to the kids. They were willing to let us into their inner sanctum to

provide that information.'

cont. from page 1



First Baptist Church

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Sunday **Activities**

Wednesday

Worship Service

Evening Worship

Children's Choirs 11:00 a.m. Prayer Service

4:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

Youth Activities:

Jr. High Bible Study 6:15 p.m. High School Bible Study

Children's & Preschool Discipleship 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Morning Service Only 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Johnny Funderburg Invites You To **Come Join Us In God's Blessings!**





Meth

cont. from page 1

from Pampa, were arrested. Smurfing refers to a system where multiple people visit different pharmacies to obtain cold medicines that contain pseudoephedrine, an ingredient in meth, then sell the drug to manufacturers of meth or use it themselves to produce the drug. Many of the people arrested last year had been driving to Amarillo to obtain the cold medicine.

Between the cases we had against them and those cases (in Amarillo), it makes a big (difference). It reduces our number of cases dramatically," said Rushing. "It also lets everybody know that we are actively looking for the people cooking meth, as well as the ones that are

With changes in funding from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), keeping meth labs to a minimum is a new priority. Last year, the DEA cut funding to law enforcement for the purpose of cleaning up the labs and removing hazardous materials from crime scenes. Now law enforcement agencies must fit the bill themselves, which can cost thousands of dollars.

And after hazardous materials are removed, homeowners are still responsible for cleaning up the mess. Remnants of the drug can make residents ill, or even kill

The chemicals can stay in the air or attach to the walls. If there's heavy meth use in a house, you'll find meth residue on the walls and carpets," said Rushing.

Brandon Barber, owner of Bio-Klenz in Amarillo, says that he charges between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to clean up buildings where meth labs have operated. Companies like his test the area first, and workers wear full body suits and respirators to protect themselves from the chemicals in the area.

"(The chemicals) absorb into everything, so a building basically has to be gutted. We look for any remains, and turn them over to the police department," he said. "Drywall, especially in warm areas, can be exposed, so we may have to gut it to make the structure safe again. The extent of the tear up depends on how long they were cooking in the house. We don't have to (gut the structure) on every job.

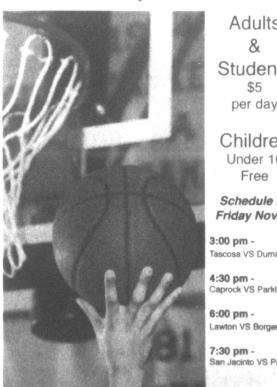
Barber says cost of cleanup depends on size of the structure and how many hours the job may take.



Pampa Lions

Basketball Tournament

Nov. 25th and 26th at McNeely Fieldhouse



Adults & Students per day

Children Under 10 Free

Schedule for Friday Nov. 25

3:00 pm -Tascosa VS Dumas

4:30 pm -Caprock VS Parkland

7:30 pm -San Jacinto VS Pampa

Proceeds to benefit Texas Lions Camp



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Quilt

cont. from page 1

"We just appreciate the work that our servicemen do," Shank said. "We just know how much they mean. We're all very patriotic. Myself and Marilyn Shelton and Beth Watson are all owners of the store, and our servicemen are just very important to us. We all felt that we wanted to show our support."

Andy Epps, executive director of the Freedom Museum, accepted the quilt in front of the museum's board of directors. The ladies at Lily's Thimble gave the museum the option to keep it or use it as a fundraiser, but no formal decision has yet been made on what to do with it.

"(Shank) said we can auc-



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Rose Shank of Lily's Thimble and Andy Epps of the Freedom Museum present a new quilt to the museum's board of directors. The quilt was donated by Shank and the ladies of Lily's Thimble.

tion it for money for the museum or keep it," Epps said. "The board wants to keep it.'

The decision will likely be made at the next board

meeting, slated for the first Tuesday of December.

"All the members so far are pretty much in agreement that they want it to stay in the museum," Epps said.

"We'll have to find a place to display it," he added with a laugh. "That's the tough part. We're going to make some room to dis-

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The PAMPANEWS





Texas families give thanks for new sons

LONGVIEW (AP) — Two Longview families have an extra reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving season: They each have a new son.

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Neither family made a recent trip to the maternity ward, however. The Thomas family adopted their 11-year-old son, Nikita, from Russia; while the Vaca family adopted their 9-year-old son, Brian, through Child Protective Services.

Nikita is the son of Elizabeth and Stoney Thomas. He joins siblings Destinee, 14; James Henry, 7; and Joy, 3. Destinee also is an adopted child; the two younger ones are biological children.

Brian is the first child of Amber and Erik Vaca. She is a teacher at Spring Hill Intermediate School, and he is a juvenile probation officer with Gregg County.

"For the past year or so, I'd just really been feeling that the Lord was moving us to add to our family, and to do so through adoption rather than

pregnancy," Elizabeth Thomas.

"We had some friends who'd served as host parents for children visiting from a Russian orphanage who were in need of permanent adoptive families and that appealed to me."

When she broached the subject with her husband, he told her that he'd been having similar feelings. They began researching Russian adoptions and made a trip to that country in August to bring home Nikita, whom **SONS** cont. on page 8

Abilene donation drive nets \$200K

ABILENE (AP) — More than 1,000 people dropped off items Friday for the 13th annual Mission: Thanksgiving donation drive, filling 14 trailers with donated goods.

Mission: Thanksgiving is an annual donation event that provides food, clothing and other supplies to the Love and Care Ministries.

The donation day kicked off at 7 a.m., but people were dropping off carloads as early as 4:30 a.m., said Tracie Willyard, director of the event.

Abilene residents have donated more goods each year than the last in the 13 years of the collection drive, Willyard said, and this year was no exception.

Last year Mission: Thanksgiving brought in \$140,000 and filled 11 trailers with food, clothing and other items. By 7 p.m. Friday, \$206,000 had been donated and at least 14 trailers were filled with goods.

Willyard said the donations usually provide four months' worth of food and almost a year's worth of clothing for Love **DRIVE** cont. on page 8

Sharing is caring for one Corsicana family

CORSICANA (AP) — One family, which chooses to remain anonymous, gave away 300 Thanksgiving dinners this year.

"This is where they spend their Black Friday money," explained Jackie Williams, social service worker with the Salvation Army. "Everyone (in the family) saves their money all year long and this is where they spend it. This year, they're bringing 200 turkeys and 100 hams."

This is the family's third year to do the Thanksgiving feasts. The first year, about 20 members came to the Salvation Army to put together the grocery sacks full of cornbread mix, vegetables, fruit, milk and everything that might be needed to make a traditional **SHARING** cont. on page 8

Careful in the kitchen: State tops in cooking fires

WACO (AP) — Texans enjoy preparing meals on Thanksgiving Day, but, unfortunately, they lead the nation in cooking fires severe enough to prompt an insurance claim, according to State Farm Insurance.

The insurance company contends the numbers are rising because of the growing popularity of turkey frying.

Between 2005 and 2010, State Farm

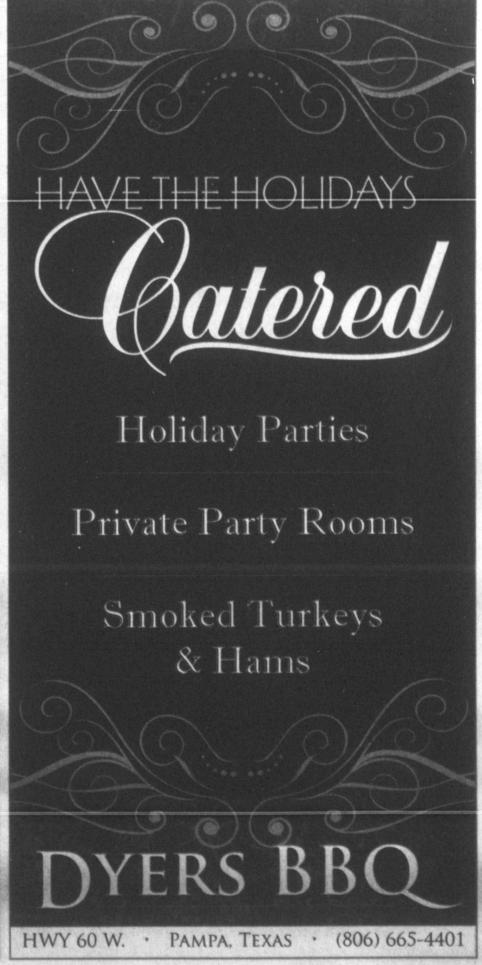
Between 2005 and 2010, State Farm received 36 homeowners' claims from Texans for Thanksgiving Day fires. Illinois was second with 24 and Louisiana rounded out the top 10 with 12 claims

Those numbers may not sound sig-

nificant. But State Farm Texas spokeswoman Patti Kelly said more grease and cooking-related fires occur on the holiday than on any other day of the

The National Fire Protection Association said deep-fryer fires cause **CAREFUL** cont. on page 8





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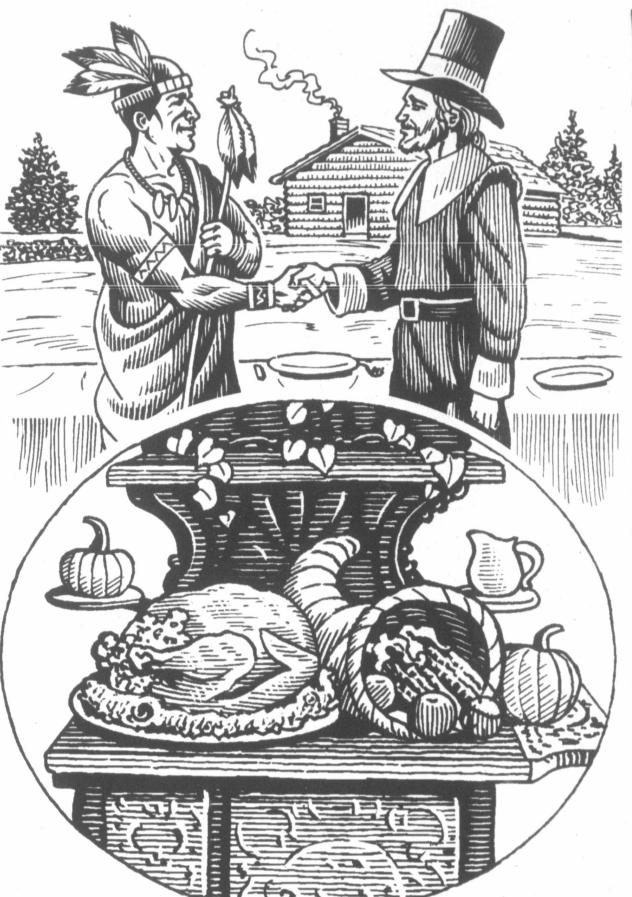
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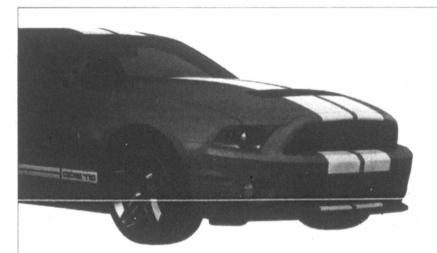
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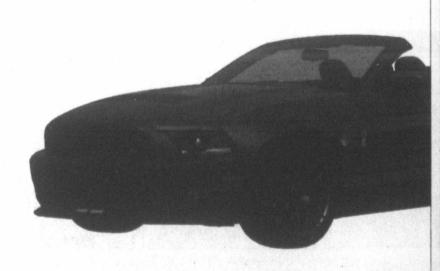
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS





"I'm glad this is a short week of school. I'm not very good at drawing turkeys.

Non Sequitur

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Nest Heads





to clear, discuss or handle it. Others might

look on, wondering. At present, though

you're tempted to take a risk, you might

be well advised to say "no." The damages

★★★ One can juggle one's finances

only so much. Fatigue and disruption mark

a situation. Be careful how you vent frustra-

tion or anger. Sometimes the force of these

passionate feelings can put off others who

night. Consider a change on the home front.

just that. Someone could cause you a lot

of hassles, taken aback by your drive and

assertiveness. Allow more feedback; brain-

storm with others. Stay open to other styles.

Tonight: Hang out, but let go of today's de-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

you wonder exactly why you are follow-

ing a certain course. Rethink your plans

and judgments. A boss, parent or higher-up

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

pushes you to produce. Tonight: Know that

*** Just when you are 90 percent

sure you are on cruise control, a situation

will occur that encourages you to stop and

think again. Focus on meetings, getting to-

gether and seeking out experts. More ideas

only provide you with greater choices. To-

★ Know when to cut back and say less. Sometimes life gets so confusing,

termination. Relax.

you need personal time.

*** You know what you want and

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, your mind, you can be relentless as you try Nov. 23, 2011:

This year a change is in the offing -- neither good nor bad. The real issue will be how you handle it. Demonstrate flexibility. Often, authority figures demand a lot and could be unpredictable. Tonight: Midweek get angry if you don't respond at a snap of break the finger. Recognize your priorities. If you are single, you could meet someone in an odd way. Take your time getting to know this person. If you are attached, the two of you may struggle over how much to do together. A mutual goal could be involved. SCORPIO makes a great healer, therapist don't handle their frustrations like you. To-

or doctor for you. ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your natural inclination toward innovation emerges. You wonder what to will drive a hard bargain to accomplish do to make a situation more copasetic. Not sure, you go with spontaneity. Much will change, but not necessarily all that easily. Stay centered, knowing you have little control. Tonight: Go with a request.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Sometimes you might need to say no, whether you want to or not. You could be overwhelmed. You gain a sudden insight, which forces you to regroup. Note your intuition and second sense, but don't act on it just yet. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You might want to rethink a work or health issue. The problem might be that you have no more time for the dull and repetitive. You want to network and spread your wings. That desire might be a reason for re-evaluating. Change can be good. Tonight: Do your thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Others really enjoy your creativity and easiness in moving situations forward. You seem to have an idea when others have none. A key person values you. This person simply has an odd style. Tonight: Just go with the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You might like to work from home or deal with some fundamental personal and domestic issues. To do this, changing your schedule might be necessary. Only you can judge the implications here. Certain moments can and will never happen again. Tonight: At home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

night: Certainly, where the action is. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ** Take a stand and expect a little controversy. You enjoy making other people think -- why not let them make you

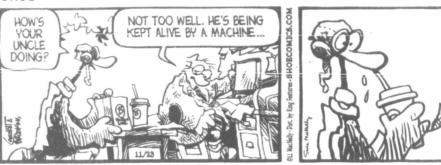
think? A judgment might be off. Observe more at this point than judge. See where you might be causing yourself a problem. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Your ability to detach and understand that there are other ways to the same goal must come through if you want to succeed. If you hit a blockage or problem in a meeting, know that the jig is not up. You simply need to unleash some resource-**** When you have an issue on fulness. Tonight: Be a dreamer.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield







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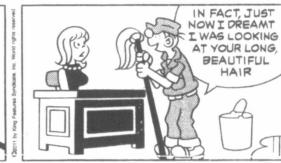
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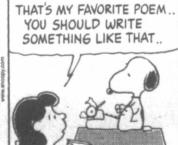


Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts







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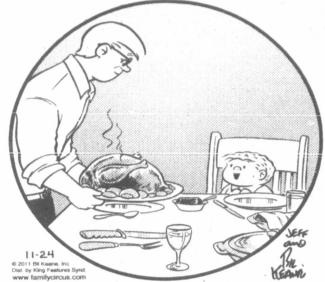






THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Oh boy! My tummy's 'bout to be very thankful!"

Non Sequitur

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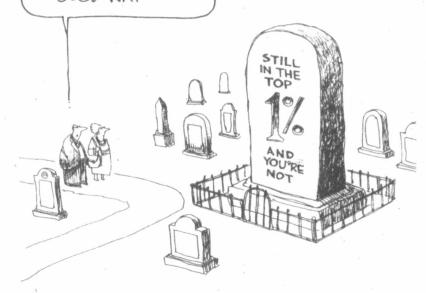
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SIVING

HE WAS A GRATEFUL MAN... JUST NOT IN A GOOD WAY



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Nest Heads



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011:

This could be a very special year. A New You attract people with ease and are full of ideas. Curb a tendency to be a little too me-oriented. Take time out for some alone the mood. Tonight: Stay home. time. Use these periods to recharge your battery. If you are single, sort through the

mate. 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)

**★ Rethink a personal decision on this holiday. Someone from a distance surprises you. A new beginning becomes possible. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Your ability to make a difference, to touch base with others and to feel play a bigger role. Tonight: An important

conversation. **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

distracted by phone calls or remembering phone calls you didn't make. Get into the Forget the judgment - enjoy. Tonight: Re- private time. viving your energy by socializing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Your ability to move past issues and make loved ones relax emerges. You simply cannot get enough of people

Tonight: Helping out. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Stay close to home, and share taken aback by recent events and activities. Be an observer until late afternoon, when you feel like plunging into the happening. Tonight: Loving the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for those you cannot be with this Thanksgiving. Exchange well Moon christens this day, indicating an in- wishes and news. As a result of the intercrease in your creativity and charisma. change, you will feel much more abundant and flowing. Try to make the social rounds before dinner; otherwise, you won't be in

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Have you considered the fact many potential suitors. If you are attached, that you might be spoiling a partner or a allow greater give-and-take. Your part- trusted pal? Such is the case if you aren't ner needs extra time, as you are so strong careful. A child or loved one creates so this year. SAGITTARIUS could be a soul much cheer, you can scarcely see anything else. Do you really care? Tonight: Visit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your smiling manner takes you far. Realize what is happening with others. Let it be said that not everyone is as upbeat as you. You also might not be able to with a partner. Whether it is about the tur- change anyone's mood. Put on an invigokey or excess, you are likely to be focused. rating piece of music. Curb indulgence, if possible. There is a tomorrow. Tonight:

Slow down. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You could feel out of sorts and in a bah-humbug mood. You cannot change what is going on; you can be more sensideeply emerges. Someone seeks advice or tive to your needs for a few hours. You direction. The unexpected action promotes might be surprised by how rapidly your insight about this person. Allow others to mood changes with a favorite pastime or some fresh air. Tonight: In your element.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Make calls, if not visit with ** Your pace is erratic, as you are some friends. Someone could be lonely, and you might want to ask this person to join you in this Thanksgiving Day. Recelebration and relax. You could be quite member, some people cannot be forced no surprised by a friend or what a group does. matter what. Let them be. Tonight: Some

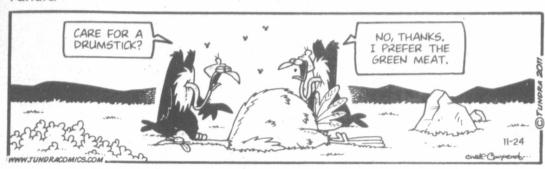
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Somehow you might be more instrumental in another person's day than you realize. Allow greater give-and-take. You might not always be right, you know! today. Honor today's rituals. Catch up on After the festivities, visit with a loved one news, share some happy events and relax. or friend you don't see all that often. To-

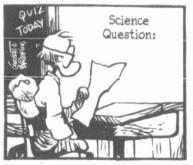
night: All smiles. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A thought, a call or someone's an easy morning. Though you might want sharing inspires not only you but also othto toss yourself into the festivities, you are ers. Remember the true meaning of the holiday. Touch base with a loner before you partake in your turkey. An invitation just might be appropriate. Tonight: Others definitely notice you!

Tundra



Shoe



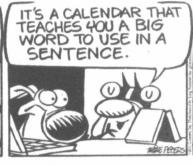
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PAMPA NEWS

Sharing

cont. from page 1

Thanksgiving feast. This year, about 45 members of the family came for the annual fun, Williams said.

"They play ball and have a good time," she said. "It's exciting."

Sons

they sometimes call Nicky.
"He's fit into our family amazingly well," Stoney Thomas said.

"The main challenge has been the language barrier but, luckily, there are a lot of translator programs available. He's an easygoing kid who likes to be helpful and enjoys sports, which fits in with our family as we're all pretty athletic."

In addition to sports, especially swimming and soccer, Nikita enjoys art. He does a lot of drawing and also makes origami shapes. He's in sixth grade at St. Mary's Catholic School.

"I really like it here," Nikita said. "I like having a brother and sisters to play with and going places with our family. My birthday is next week, and I'm going to have a dinosaur cake."

Brian Vaca joined his parents this summer, as well, as part of a foster-toadopt program. His adoption was made official this past week.

"We were ready to be parents, but didn't want to start off with an infant when there are so many kids out there in need of good homes," Amber Vaca said.

"It's something we see at both our jobs. I work with elementary school-aged children. We both felt that we could be good parents

to a child of that age."

After being certified to foster or adopt children through the Texas Department of Protective and Family Services, the Vacas went to a website listing elementary schoolaged children available for adoption in the state. Brian appealed to them because of his interest in things they enjoyed, such as church and outdoor activities.

"As soon as we met him, we just fell in love," she said. "There was no question in our minds that he belonged with us."

Brian is a third-grader at the same school where his mother teaches fifth grade. He enjoys all his classes, especially math, he said.

"A common misunderstanding we've had to deal with is that many people assume we adopted because we're unable to have biological children," Amber Vaca said.

"However, as far as we know, that won't be a problem for us, and it's something we intend to do at some point in our marriage. We just wanted to start our family this way."

Brian said his favorite activities with his parents are going out to eat, especially for Mexican food, and going camping.

"We're going skiing at Christmastime," Brian said. "I'm really excited about that." cont. from page 1

Both families said the community — especially their churches and extended family — have been extremely supportive of their decision to adopt. The Thomases attend Fellowship Bible Church, and the Vacas attend New Beginnings Baptist Church.

"This seems to be a very pro-adoption community," Elizabeth Thomas said. "We've had nothing but positive comments about adding Nikita to our family."

Erik Vaca said his family's experience has been similar.

"We've received all kinds of presents for Brian, cards of congratulations and things we just weren't expecting," he said.

Thanksgiving dinner to cost over two dollars more in '11

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — The Texas Farm Bureau annual survey says Texas chefs preparing for Thanksgiving should be able to feed 10 hungry Texans a traditional holiday meal for about \$48.69.

The 2011 Thanksgiving Meal Report of Texas Farm Bureau's Grocery Price Watch survey shows an increase of \$2.17, or 4.66 percent, from the 2010 TFB Thanksgiving Meal Report. The survey records the cost of 10 holiday staples — including turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce — to feed a family of 10.

"The price of a traditional Thanksgiving meal has gone up over the years, but it's still remarkable that you can feed a family of 10 for less than \$5 per person," said TFB President Kenneth Dierschke. "Especially this time of year, we give

thanks for the farmers and ranchers who work hard to grow healthy, affordable food for our families."

Pecans posted the highest price increase this year, rising nearly 18 percent from \$8.30 per pound in 2010 to \$9.78 per pound in 2011. Higher pecan prices mean a more expensive pecan pie, a Texas tradition, to round out Thanksgiving dinner.

"The pecan crop in Texas is projected to be about 40 percent smaller this year, from the usual annual average of 50 million pounds to just 30 million pounds. The extreme drought conditions across the state have really taken a toll on this crop, and shoppers will pay more for pecans this year," Dierschke said. In addition to pecans, six of the Thanksgiving staples increased in price from 2010: young tom turkey, frozen (up 2.42 percent); sweet potatoes, fresh (up 2.2 percent); cranberry sauce, canned (up 6.56 percent); cubed stuffing, herb seasoning (up 8.37 percent); 9-inch pie shells, frozen (up 8.22 percent); and whipping cream (up 4.58 percent).

Texas shoppers may pay less for three survey items this year, as brownand-serve rolls decreased 1.22 percent, frozen green beans decreased 7.79 percent and whole milk decreased 6.13 percent.

TFB's fourth quarter Grocery Price Watch survey was taken in conjunction with the 2011 Meal Thanksgiving Report and also shows a slight increase in grocery prices for household staples: Results from the quarterly survey of 16 common food products show a less than 1 percent increase from \$45.43 in the third quarter to \$45.62 in the fourth quarter of

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Careful

cont. from page 1

more than \$15 million in property damage each year and hot oil splatter can cause serious, even life-threatening, burns.

State Farm has created a video dramatizing actor William Shatner's real brush with a fryer fire. Viewers are urged to fry carefully and to support "Shatner's Fryers Club."

Drive

cont. from page 1

and Care Ministries, an Abilene nonprofit that meets between 100 and 120 people in need every day.

About 500 volunteers helped with event, Willyard said. An additional 125 volunteers are scheduled to help unload the donations today.

One of the most seasoned Mission: Thanksgiving volunteers also is one of the youngest. Mariah Long, 15, attended the first ever Mission: Thanksgiving donation drive at age 2.

Her mom, Kimberly Long, explained that when Mariah was 2, she emptied her piggy bank after heading about Mission: Thanksgiving on the radio.

"She put it all in her daddy's sock," Long said, "I think

it was 83 cents in pennies, but that's quite a lot for a 2-year-old."

Mark Hewitt founder of Love and Care Ministries

Mark Hewitt, founder of Love and Care Ministries, graciously accepted the sock full of change, Long said, and Mariah set her mind to help with the event every year since.

"There are a lot of people who don't have what we have," Mariah said. "I want to help them. Every year it gets bigger. It's amazing. Even in hard times, people find things to donate."

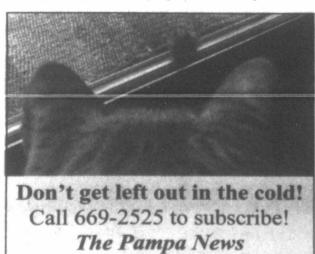
Long said it's been a joy to help out each year and see the entire community pitch in, especially her daughter, who is visually impaired.

"Even though she can't see, she knows there's a lot of people here supporting the needy and the homeless," Long said. "That's something I know is pretty special to her."

Mariah's main volunteer role is making a call to the public on the radio each year for donations.

She said it's really special that the number of donations grows each year, and she was crossing her fingers for a successful donation drive Friday morning.

"There's a lot of goodness in the air," Mariah said, smiling. "Or goodness in people's hearts, maybe."

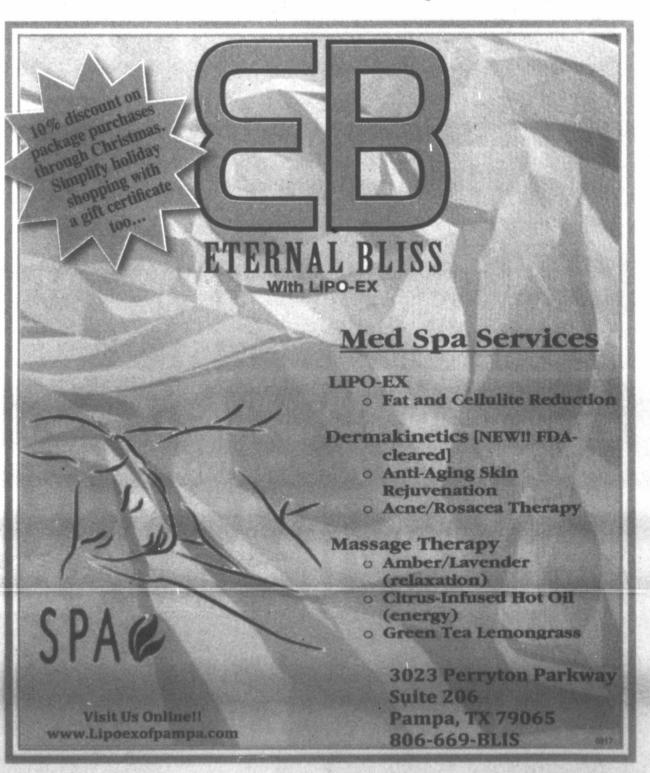




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PHS looks ahead to Lions tourney

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photo courtesy of Joe Murray

Senior Reid Miller drives to the basket in the second half against Dumas Tuesday.

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

In the last two Lions Club Tournaments, the Pampa Harvesters played against teams that were bigger than them and less familiar with. This season the tournament will have a more local flavor as five of the Harvesters' potential opponents are from the Panhandle area.

The Borger Bulldogs, Caprock Longhorns and Amarillo San Jacinto Patriots join this season's field, replacing Richland, San Angelo Central and South Garland. Borger is in Pampa's district. Caprock and returning tournament team Dumas was in Pampa's former 4A district. Senior Cole Engle said it helps playing teams they are more familiar

"We know what we are going against," Engle said. "We don't have to watch too much tape because we know how to play them."

Dumas finished eighth last season. Also returning to the tournament are Amarillo Tascosa who finished third,

El Paso Parkland who finished seventh and Lawton who finished fourth.

The Harvesters went 1-2 last year and finished sixth.

Engle

Senior Latigo Collins said the tournament will still be tough despite the departures.

"It's probably not as strong as it has been in the past

Collins said. "It's still one of the toughest tournaments we go to."

Head coach Dustin Miller thinks the local teams could generate a

larger turnout.

"I'm excited about the locals,"
Miller said. "It should help the attendance, which will help raise more money for the cause. I really would like to see huge community support this year."

Proceeds from the tournament will help send kids to the Lions Collins Club camp for disabled children in Kerrville. Collins said the tournament will show where

the team ranks in the Panhandle.

"We've played most of the teams around here," Collins said. "It's going to be good to play away from aournd here. It will let us know where we stand around here."

The Harvesters open with San Jacinto 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Patriots beat Plainview Christian and lost to Dumas. Miller said the team doesn't know much about San Jacinto.

"They are always very competitive in that private school district," Miller said. "I think they were the district champions last year."

Pampa will either continue in the winner's bracket or start play in the consolation bracket on Saturday against Caprock or El Paso Parkland.

Junior Ty Hutto said he is looking forward to playing. "We have to work hard, but we can beat them," Hutto said.



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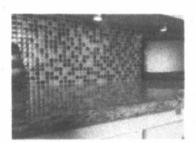
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Sports

Setter Fatheree, running back Smith have solid first year

to burst through holes and gain big yards. In district,

This year's football ball All-District teams two first-year varsity in juniors Maddie and Samuel Smith. quite an impressive both players can build cess next season as

For some playfirst year on varsity spent learning the ropes used to the level of play. and Smith made an immediately. Fatheree

GLOVER

starting setter position and hardly left the floor the

whole season. Throughout the season, Fatheree set up

her teammates with good balls to hit. Fatheree's signa-

ture move was faking a set and hitting the ball between

two defenders. Smith made his mark at running back.

Though he had a slow start due to injury, Smith was able

featured players Fatheree This feat seniors.

and volley-

ers, their and getting Fatheree impact earned the

on that sucis usally

Smith had two touchdowns runs of 50 or more yards. To be recognized by the district means you are the

best at your position. For Smith and Fatheree to earn their respective honors, it means they were better than some players that have had multiple years on varsity. There's a good chance these two will receive a selection

If Pampa remains in 3A, Fatheree has a good chance at gaining District MVP, especially if the Lady Harvesters can continue to be successful. Smith would be the top returning running back as Borger's, Perryton's and Dalhart's rushers graduate this year. If Smith can stay healthy, he should surpass his numbers from this season. Both Fatheree and Smith will have to be leaders on next year's squad, as both teams will graduate most of their playmakers.

The Lady Harvesters have several players that received limited action last year, that could earn spots on next year's All-District teams. Sophomore Madison Joyce received some playing time at the end of last season and will probably be one of the outside hitters next year. Junior Calli Brewer received playing time in the front row and scored key kills in the Dalhart game. Brewer will probably take over the middle block position next season. Sophomore Taylor Giles and junior Diamond Marrufo should make more of an impact next season.

The Harvesters saw most of their offensive line gain second team selections. Junior Kyler Allen and sophomore Andrew Jimenez should have a chance at making first team next season. Junior Chris Rivera should be one of the starting linebackers next season and could be a first teamer. Junior Ryan Smith, who will be the starting quarterback next season could also receive district recognition.

Congrats to Maddie and Samuel. Hopefully, next year's squads will reap several district selections.

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News sports reporter. He can be reached online at aglover@thepampanews.com

HANDS ON DECK



photo courtesy of Roy Lott

806-665-3500

Story Pairsh ties up a Darrouzett ball handler Tuesday in Darrouzett. The Lady Pirates lost 60-31 and fell to 0-2 on the season. Lefors plays in the Miami Tournament starting Thursday.

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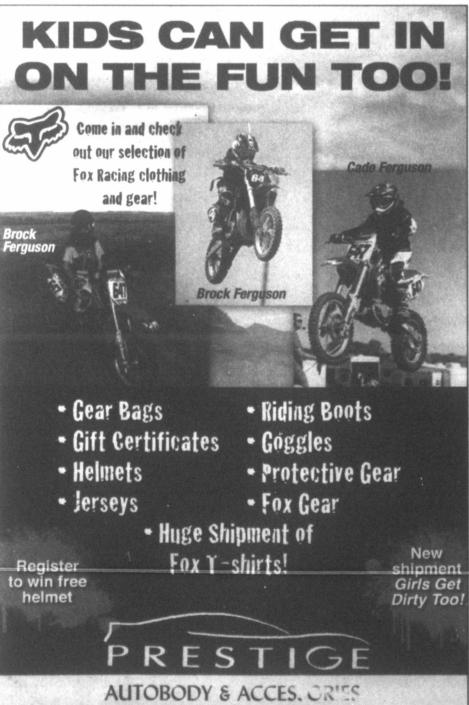
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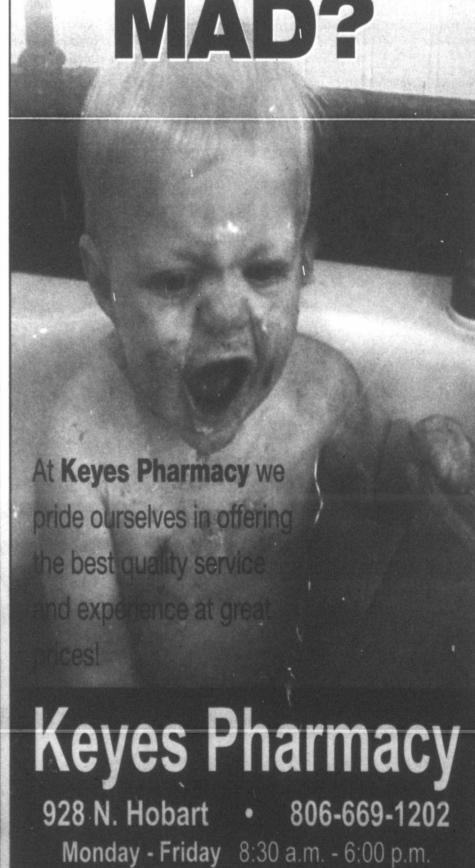
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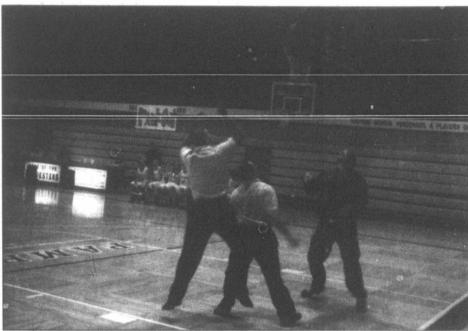
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Sports

Images from the week in Gray County sports: Nov. 14-18, 2011



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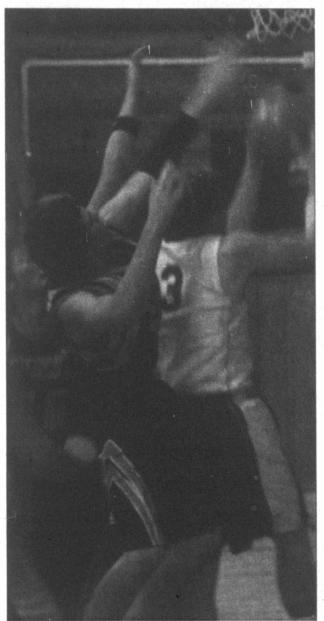
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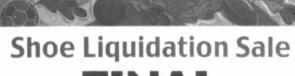
next





staff photos by **Andrew Glover** / photo courtesy of **Roy Lott**

TOP LEFT: PHS coaches Alan Segura (from left), Gene Valentine and Matt Embry compete in basketball musical chairs during Meet the Harvesters Nov. 14. TOP RIGHT: Pampa senior Kirsten Kuhn shoots a three against Bushland November 15. BOTTOM: Lefors sophomore Tjaeden Swires blocks a Darrouzett shot Friday. The game was the Pirates' season opener, which they lost 52-40 in Darrouzett.



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Sports

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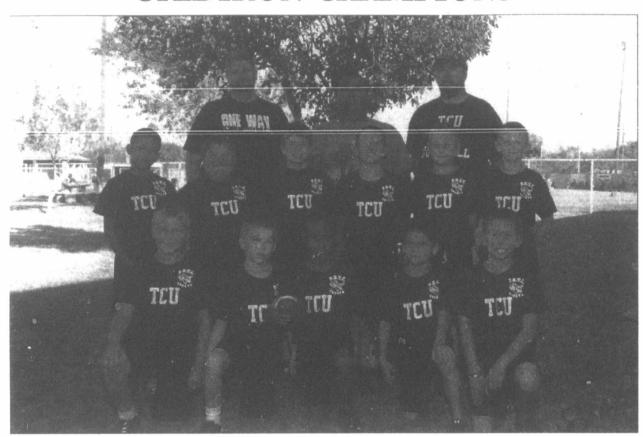


photo courtesy of Karl Parks

The third and fourth grade Horned Frogs pose after winning the flag football tournament and regular season championships. Team members include (back row, from left) coaches David Gerhardt, Karl Parks, Aaron Allen; (second row, from left) Chase Landers, Caleb Snapp, Gage Gerhardt, Kameron Parks, Cash Manhart, Logan Wood; (front row, from left) Mathew Hardy, Austin Allen, Isaiah Velasquez, Jacobi Carroll and Jake Thomas.

A&M president explains Big 12 departure

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — In a cordial but firm tone, Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin reiterates that he did not cause this divorce.

True, he sensed a crumbling marriage, noted broken vows, found A&M a new soul mate and gladly filed for this divorce. But no, he did not cause it.

The decree reads that the Aggies are leaving the Big 12, not the University of Texas, but bruised feelings have turned Thanksgiving night's UT-A&M game at Kyle Field into a tense, awkward, nationally televised double-annulment.

It will be the Southeastern Conference-bound Aggies' final Big 12 football game.

Of greater shock to generations of Texans, Thursday's 118th Aggies-Longhorns clash will be the last for the foreseeable

"I'm a little saddened by that," Loftin says. "I can't help but be. It's something I look forward to every year. When we won that game, it was a big deal to us. When they won that game, it was a big deal to them.

If they aren't already, multitudes of Texans might wonder about this Loftin fellow while observing this way-of-life Thanksgiving football tradition for perhaps the last

Who is this 5-foot-8, bespectacled, bowtiewearing physicist who has been Texas A&M's president for a mere 21 months? And who does he think he is?

What compelled this professorial 62-year-old to set A&M on this bold athletic path that he called a "100-year decision" for the university? And is

Loftin arrived on June 15, 2009, as a little-known interim president after four years of overseeing A&M's 2,000-student, marine-oriented Galveston branch. But he's an Aggie to his core, Class of '71. He grew up just 20 miles southeast of College Station, in Navasota.

He says he was "a very bad third-string right guard" in Navasota, but his Aggies football passion is profound. As an 18-year-old freshman, he got sunburned while sitting on the top row of Kyle Field's new upper deck as A&M lost its 1967 season opener to SMU.

He glumly watched A&M lose that season's first four games under coach Gene Stallings. But the Aggies won their final six, including a 10-7 upset of Texas at Kyle Field.

"I lost my voice that

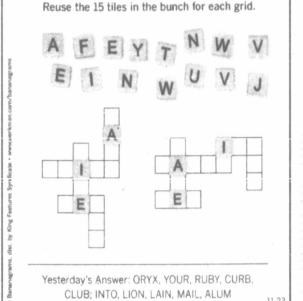
Aggies did, too." A&M adheres to tradition like no other school, but when the Big 12

appeared on the verge of collapse during the spring A&M cont. on page 8C

particular game," Loftin recalls. "Many other

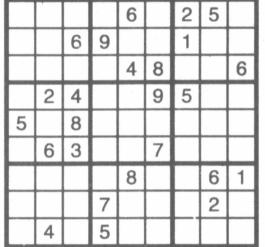
BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, LEVEL a few tiles from the bunch have been placed.



Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby...

freshman in college and have the sweetest boyfriend in the innocent and safe

things got a little heavy between us. We stopped before feelings in a relationship. anything happened, but I felt dirty afterward. As I thought lationship was starting to take a more intimate turn.

him without seeming desper-What should I do? - NEEDS on her chest. TO KNOW IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: You and your boyyoung adults. If this is the first time you and a young man have gotten "a little heavy," then it's not surprisdepending upon how you were raised to think about premarital relations.

However, because you TEXAS have now progressed to the it is important that you and last weekend and what may to determine if your wife is Love, ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm a happen in the future. Share telling the truth, you may your feelings and ask how HE feels about what hapworld. We've always been pened and what he would close and trusted each other, like to happen going fornever pushing the other too ward. That's not desperate far. I always thought it was or rushing things — that is communication. True inti-Last weekend, though, macy involves the mutual sharing of thoughts and

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, my wife returned about it, I realized that, to me, from a business meeting out it had seemed OK that our re- of town. After unpacking, she took a bath. I happened into the bathroom just as she Is it wrong for me to think finished drying off. When she this way? I don't know how saw me, she grabbed a towel to bring up the "sex talk" with and held it over her shoulder and breast, but not before I ate or like I'm rushing things. spotted a hickey and bruise

When I asked her about the hickey, she said she had no idea what had caused it. friend are normal, healthy After that, she refused to discuss the matter. The hickey faded and disappeared after two or three weeks.

Yesterday she agreed to ing that you felt conflicted, take a polygraph test, but how do we go about arranging one? Your thoughts? -TROUBLED HUSBAND IN

DEAR TROUBLED point of physical intimacy, HUSBAND: If your marriage is on such thin ice that your boyfriend talk about you need a lie detector test Thanksgiving, everyone! --

need the services of a family law specialist.

You asked my opinion, and here it is: From my perspective, you and your wife could benefit more from some truth sessions with a marriage counselor than with a polygraph examiner. However, one way to find a polygraph examiner would be to Google "polygraph examiners in Texas." Another would be to consult an attorney about a referral.

And now, Dear Readers, allow me to again share the traditional Thanksgiving Prayer that was penned by my dear mother, Pauline Phillips. No Thanksgiving would be complete for me

Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry. We thank Thee for

health and remember the sick. We thank Thee for freedom and remember the en-

May these remembrances stir us to service,

That Thy gifts to us may used for others. Amen. Have a safe and happy

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44 Reduces **45** Distort

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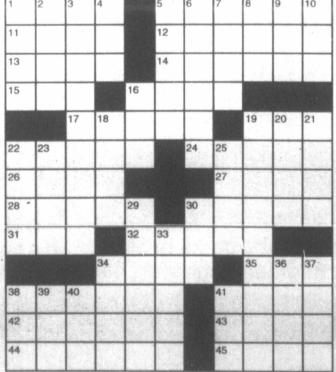
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A&M

cont. from page C4

of 2010, Loftin felt he had. no choice but to analyze the school's options.

Old-guard Aggies fans in particular viewed a potential move to the SEC last summer as rash and illadvised. But this August, most of Aggieland practically demanded Loftin's 100-year decision.

What changed? A collective vitriol rose among Aggies between the summers of 2010 and '11, especially when Texas and ESPN unveiled the \$300 million Longhorn Network. It seemed like another haughty Texas power play to Aggies, who for more than a century have been perceived as being in the other state university's shadow.

Meanwhile, Loftin's popularity seemed to rise exponentially. Faculty and students say he had a calming effect on the campus, after taking over as interim president following the forced June 2009 ouster of Elsa Murano.

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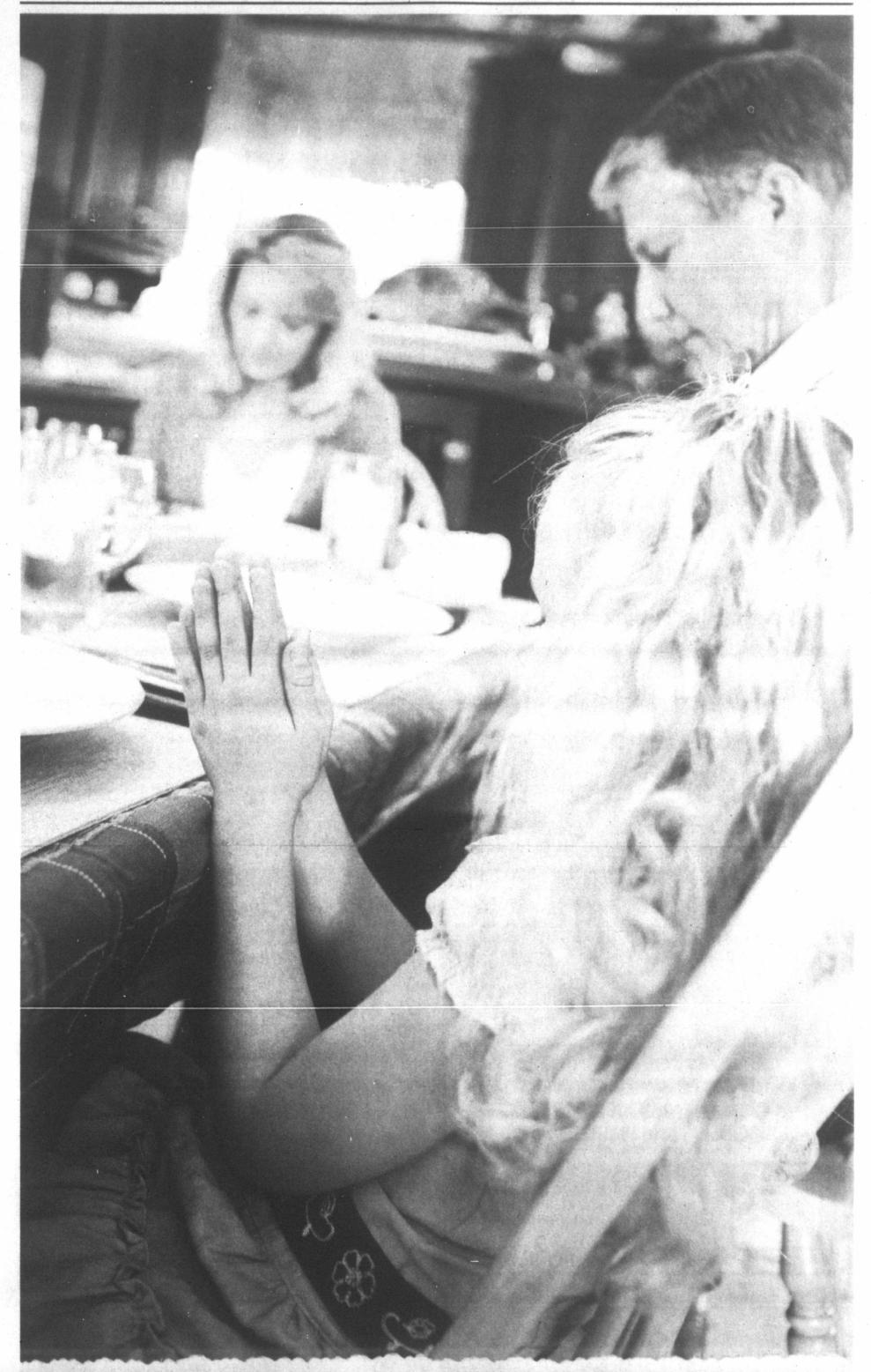
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From our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving.

HOLIDAY (61ft

Easy ways to extend your holiday shopping budget

The holiday season can prove an exercise in financial flexibility for many families. While the spirit of the season centers around faith and family, it's easy for families to overdo it when it comes to holiday shopping. Parents can easily find themselves expanding their budgets to ensure their kids get everything on their wish list, while fellow shoppers may easily get lost in finding the perfect gift for family and friends.

While overspending might be a holiday tradition in many families, it's no doubt the most costly as well. It's always best to avoid overspending, but there are ways shoppers can extend their budget during the holiday seasons.

· Look for "no interest" deals. "No

interest" deals are not necessarily hard to find, but they might be a bit of a misnomer. Larger retailers sometimes offer no interest financing for 12 or 18 months on items that cost above a certain dollar amount. But these deals are only "interest free" for the designated timeframe. This means no interest will be charged if the balance is paid in full (there's often a minimum monthly payment) before the 12 or 18 months is up. However, if the balance is not paid in full, shoppers will be responsible for all interest that accrued over that 12- or 18-month period. These "no interest" deals are a great way to extend a holiday budget, but shoppers should make certain they pay the balance off before

the grace period is up.

· Comparison shop. As sensible as it seems, many holiday shoppers find little time to comparison shop. Shoppers looking to extend their budgets should find the time to comparison shop. Significant savings could be had simply by scanning the different flyers in the Sunday newspaper. Such efforts only take minutes but could save shoppers hundreds of dollars during the holiday season.

• Shop early. Shopping early not only gives shoppers access to more and sometimes better deals, but it also allows shoppers to spread out their spending over a period of several months instead of a few weeks. For example, instead of

spending \$500 in the weeks leading up to Christmas, holiday shoppers who start early might be able to afford a holiday budget of \$600 to 700. Shopping early gives shoppers the opportunity to spread out their spending, which can also allow for a little more budgetary leeway as a

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· Go in on gifts with a friend or relative. When holiday shopping, it's perfectly reasonable to share the cost of a gift with a friend or relative. The recipient won't mind if the gift is from one, two, three, or four people, and each gifter will come away satisfied that their loved one got a gift he or she loves and no one's budget was busted.

Gift wrapping tips and tricks

Once the shopping rush is over, the time to wrap all of those great finds and treasures has come. And although some people are gift-wrap gurus, there are many others who feel that their wrapping skills are lacking.

Regardless, anyone can create delightful wrapped gifts with a little know-how.

Prepare

The first step to wrapping is to have all of the supplies in one place. There are some people who have actually dedicated small rooms as gift-wrap stations. Find a large table and keep your tape, tags, paper, ribbon, scissor, pen, and other accessories

Also, sort out the gifts according to recipient and have any gift receipts handy to wrap up with the gift.

Paper or Bags?

When purchasing wrapping paper, it may be tempting to skimp on the quality of the paper to save money. However, a thicker, higher quality paper will make wrapping go more smoothly. That's because it will be less likely to tear on boxes or when you're rolling out and cutting it.

Thicker paper means you'll also be able to achieve more intricate folds and better creasing around boxes. It also may be more forgivable around oddly shaped items.

Gift bags are the go-to wrapping medium when you're short on time or have items that are not easily wrapped with paper. Because they come in a variety of sizes, they are often more convenient.

Other Tips

There are different tips that can help with

• Buy neutral-patterned wrapping paper that coordinates with other papers. This way if you run out of one type of paper you can stagger other pieces and make a collage of papers so there's no waste.

· Use ribbon to dress up a gift and direct the eye away from any imperfections.

· Keep a stack of paper scraps and use it instead of tissue paper to fill in gift bags. Keep scissors sharp for clean cuts.

· Pack smaller items or oddly shaped things into a different container that is easier

· Roll up clothing and place into a paper towel tube to turn the wrapping into a candy cane shaped gift.

Practice often makes perfect when it comes to wrapping gifts. Having the right paper, a few decorative supplies and some patience can ensure that gifts look festive this year.

Keep your gift receipts organized

A relatively recent component of holiday shopping - or any shopping for that matter — is the gift receipt. Keeping gift receipts organized can take a little effort on the part of the shopper to ensure each gift recipient is in possession of their respective

Gift receipts are advantageous to people who are receiving presents. Should the item not fit or be a duplicate of something they already have, a gift receipt enables them to return the item effortlessly. It also clearly indicates where the gift was purchased so one is not driving around trying to find the store for a return. Plus, should the item have been recently reduced in price, a gift receipt will allow the full value of the gift to be received.

Returning an item without a receipt could result in lost value and the sale price being rescinded. Although having a gift receipt will not entitle one to a cash refund, it will equate to a store credit in the amount of the original price purchased.

Keeping gift receipts organized may

take a little trial and error. One idea is to keep two envelopes and a pen handy when shopping. Write the names of the gift recipients on the master receipt or put their initials beside their purchased items. Place those receipts in one envelope where you'll keep your copies of the receipts. On the gift receipts, write the names for whom the gifts are intended. Place those receipts in the other envelope that will hold all gift

When it comes time to wrap gifts, refer to your gift receipt envelope and match up the receipts to the correct gift. Remember, the gift receipt will not display the price or sometimes even a product description. It will usually only have a bar code that will refer to a UPC, or product number. You may be able to match the receipt to the number on the product tag. But again, this is why writing the name of the person on the receipt at the time of purchase can make the process easier. Attach the receipt to the gift in some way and



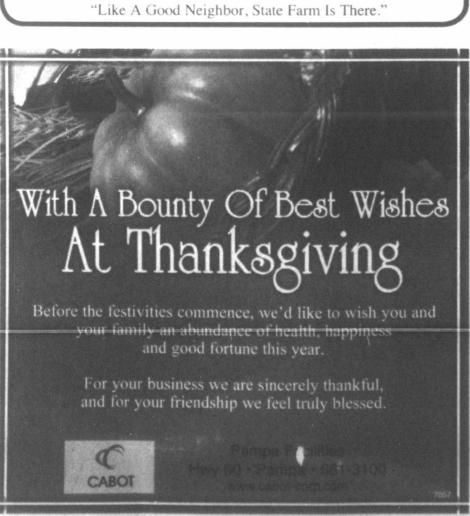
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We will be closed Thanksgiving Day and resume normal business hours on Friday, November 25.





Guide'11

Gifts for car afficionados

Few passions are as strong as the passion a car lover has for automobiles. Auto afficionados are often walking encyclopedias about all things automotive. When it comes to the holiday season, buying a gift for the car guy or gal in your family might seem easy. After all, any gift related to cars is sure to leave your loved one head over heels.

However, for those holiday shoppers who don't know the difference between an air filter and an air conditioner, perhaps the following suggestions might fare better under the tree this holiday season.

Driving lessons

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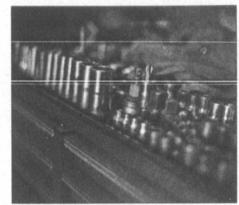
Auto racing is one of North America's most popular sports, and many car guys and gals would love to know what it feels like to get behind the wheel of a race car and put the pedal to the metal. That dream can become a reality, and holiday shoppers can help make that happen for a loved one. Racing schools exist for all sorts of racing, be it stock car racing, Formula 1 racing, Indy Cars, and even Kart racing. (Note: Kart racing does not refer to amusement park style go-karts.) Be it novice car afficionados or veterans who spend weekends at work in their garages, racing lessons can make an ideal gift for auto lovers.

Gift certificate for a wash and a detailing

As much as car guys and gals care about what's under the hood, they also care about how their cars' exteriors looks. Winter weather can wreak havoc on a vehicle's exterior, so help your favorite auto lover take care of his or her baby this winter with a gift certificate to a nearby car wash and/or auto detailing center. This will ensure the car remains a sight for sore eyes through the winter. Just be sure to include multiple trips to the car wash and detailing center, as a car often needs a few trips each winter to keep up appearances.

Magazine subscription

Like most industries, the auto industry is constantly changing. What's popular today might be obsolete tomorrow. Help your favorite auto enthusiast stay abreast



Some new tools might make the perfect holiday gift for the auto afficionado in your family.

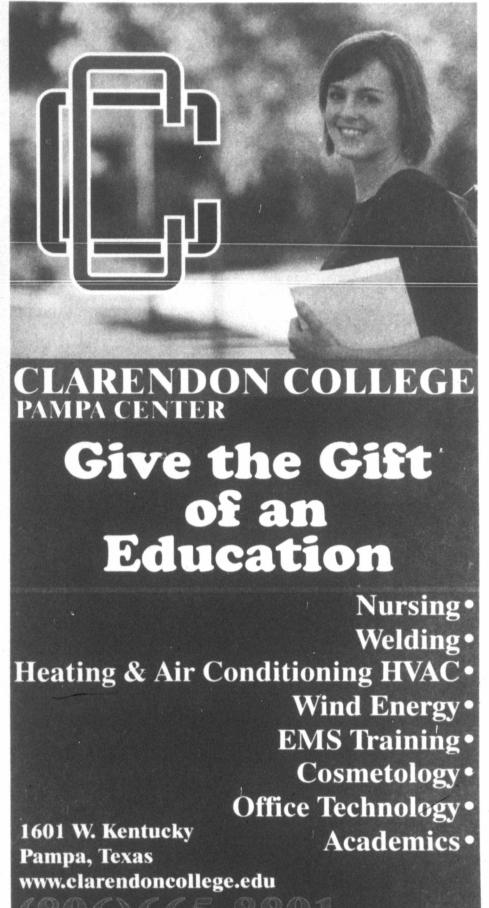
of the auto industry's many innovations and updates with a subscription to a favorite auto magazine. Such magazines inspire car lovers to improve their own vehicles while letting them know the latest trends in the auto industry.

Accessories

No car lover can do without his or her accessories, which can range from practical gifts like a new GPS unit to more specialized items like a paint gun accessory kit. Shoppers who aren't very familiar with cars might not know which accessories to buy. In such instances, a gift certificate to a nearby auto parts store should suffice. This guarantees your loved one will get something for his or her car and eliminate the need to return the gift if he or she already has it.

Tools

Auto afficionados love working on their vehicles, and that work can't be done without the right tools. If possible, visit his or her garage or shop and peruse the tool collection. If anything looks especially aged or ragged, replace it with a newer version. Auto lovers are often particular about their tools, so if you're reticent about buying new ones, take your gift recipient to the store and let him or her choose a gift or buy a gift certificate that covers the cost of the tools that look like they need replacing









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