





ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com MOLLIE BRYANT mbrvant@thepampanews.com

Preparing for a busy holiday season, Robert Schrock, Postmaster of the Pampa Post Office, reported that its package deliveries are up by 80 percent from last month.

It's a fairly predictable statis-tic, but significant nonetheless for Pampa locals who might be relying on the mail to get packages and presents out to their loved ones in time to be unwrapped under the tree on Dec. 25.

According to its website, the U.S. Postal Service processes an average of 589 million pieces of mail daily during the holiday season, up from 551 million during the rest of the year. With the USPS facing such a daunting volume of mail, Shrock advised post office customers to use the proper delivery method to ensure prompt Christmas arrival.

"Up through this week, priority is the best way to mail packages," Shrock said. "Next week, I recommend express mail for mailing packages. If you mail your packages no later than December 23, they

should arrive on time for Christmas."

The USPS projects Friday to be the busiest mailing day for holiday packages, with Monday to be the busiest delivery day. The busiest mailing day on the whole is expected to be Dec. 20, during which the USPS is looking at processing 801 million pieces of mail.

In terms of total volume, the Postal Service forecasts that 16.5 billion cards, letters and packages will be delivered between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve in 2011 -MAIL cont. on page 8

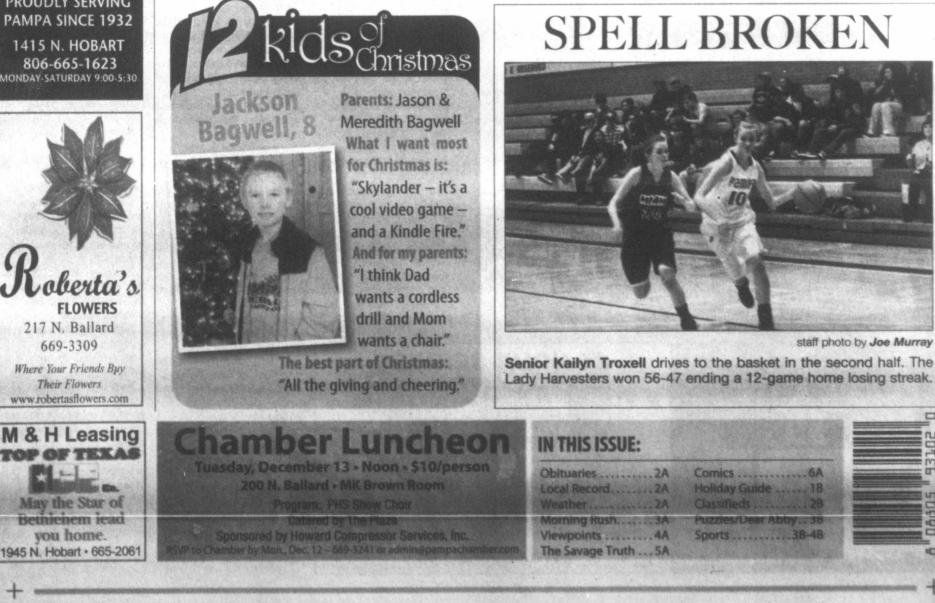
ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

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The McLean Tax Office is temporarily not open for business, as repairs are being made following a burglary that occurred over the past few days.

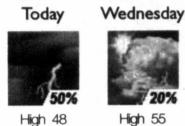
According to the Gray County Sheriff's Office, the McLean City Hall was burglarized during the weekend. After gaining entry by forcing a door open, a 'suspect took an undetermined amount of cash from the building.

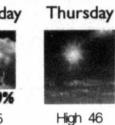
During the break-in, the thieves gained entry to the tax office, which is within the City Hall TAX cont. on page 7



Fuesday, December 13, 2011 - The Pampa News

PAMPA FORECAST





Low 28

Low 28 Low 46

Today: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Areas of fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 48. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west southwest between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 inph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 46. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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ANGELS, ANGELS, we ten Angels for you to choose (paid in advance) and will be tion Army Angel tree. Items Beverly to verify that we should be returned unwrapped with angel tag attached before Dec. 20th to the Pampa News or the Salvation Army 701 S. Cuyler, (if you have questions please call 665-7233). Come by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, pick an angel & make someone's Christmas brighter this year! We are open Mon.-Fri., 8am-3pm. Merry Christmas from The Pampa News!!

BABY'S FIRST Christmas! have Salvation Army Forgot- Deadline Dec. 15th, 2pm. \$25 Pa. These are angels who were not chosen from the Salva-tion Army Angel tree Items have received your photo, 669-2525. Please Email photo and information to classified@thepampanews.com or bring by Pampa News Office 8am-3pm. You may include baby's name, birth date, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, (great-grandparents-if there is enough room).

COMMUNITY calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 13

 Diabetic Support Group meets, 7 p.m. at the Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

· Chamber luncheon, noon at Chamber building.

 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office

Thursday, Dec. 15

 Pampa Lions Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

Friday, Dec. 16

 Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

 Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

Thursday, Dec. 22

 Pampa Lions Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

Friday, Dec. 23

Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon

in the basement of First Methodist.

If your nonprofit or community organization has an upcoming meeting or event, submit it to The Pampa News Community Calendar at least one week in advance by e-mailing to rpribble@ thepampanews.com. Submissions should include only the date, time, location and contact number for the event. The Pampa News reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Items will be considered for the calendar solely at the discretion of the newspaper.

Obituaries

Barbara Louise Flannery, 58

Funeral services for Barbara Louise Flannery, 58 yearold Weatherford, Okla. resident, were held Monday, December 12, 2011, at 2 p.m. in "The Chapel" of Lockstone Funeral Home with Ric Freeman officiating. Burial followed in Antioch Cemetery, in Butler, Okla., under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

Barbara was born January 20, 1953, in Oklahoma City, to Robert and Norma (Wilson) Parsons and passed away on Thursday, December 8, 2011, in Weatherford Regional Hospital. Barbara was raised in numerous communities being in a military family. She attended school in Panama Canal, Washington and Custer City, Okla., where she graduated from Custer City High School in 1971. After graduating, she married and made her home in Weatherford where she worked for 3-M from 1979 to 2004 in photo processing. Barbara enjoyed crocheting, cross stitching, reading, and her grandchildren and family.

Barbara is survived by two sons, Jaromie Theis and wife, Crystal of Weatherford, Okla. and David Theis and wife, Misty of Lawton, Okla.; two sisters, Patricia "Patti" Smith and husband, James of Pampa, and Gloria Young of Mabank; four grandchildren, Brittaney and Austin Theis of Weatherford, Okla., and Jennifer and Aeryn Theis of Lawton, Okla.; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Robert Lawrence.

Betty Ann Pannell, 82

Betty Ann Pannell, 82, died December 12, 2011, in Panhandle

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at Memory Gardens Cemetery, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Miss Pannell was born April 11, 1929, in Sapulpa, Okla. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1934 and she was an artist. Betty was a member of Hi-Land Christian Church. She was preceded in death by her parents: O. C. and Ella Nora Mae Sutton Pannell.

Survivors include a special friend, Odessa East of Pam-

Memorials may be made to St. Ann's Nursing Home, 125 St. Ann's Drive, Panhandle, TX 79068. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley. com

James W. "Rusty" Taylor, 71

James W. "Rusty" Taylor, 71, died December 9, 2011, in Pampa.

A memorial graveside service will be held at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Taylor was born September 24, 1940 in Terrell. He moved to Pampa in 1945, graduating from Pampa High School in 1958. James married Bea

Powell on April 28, 1984, in Pampa. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Vietnam War. He was employed by Phillips Petroleum, Kerr-McGee, K & K Construction, and was in charge of maintenance for the Pampa Chamber of Commerce Building. James was a member of St. Mark CME Church. He enjoyed shooting pool and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan.

Survivors include his wife, Bea Taylor of the home; four daughters, Lerissa Taylor Reeves of Renton, Wash., Rachel Adkism of Waco, Cynthia Ellis of Arlington, and Rotounda Lockett of Cedar Hills; three sons, James W. Taylor of Borger, Calvin Minefield of Missouri, and James Allen of Colorado; three brothers, Clyde Steele of Colorado, Bobby Bryant of San Antonio, and Danny Harris of Pampa; a sister, Synora Kendrick of Houston; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. James was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Aleric Taylor; and a daughter, Rosalind Meadows.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark CME Church, 406 Elm, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



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4-H PECANS for sale-lots of extras! New Specialty items: praline pecans, choc. covered pecans, Hunter's mix & more. Good stocking stuffers! Call 4-H Office 669-8033.

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John Goddard (BKR) 595-1234 Sandra Schuneman (BKR). . 662-7291

Real Estate For The Real World

www.pamparealtor.com

The Pampa News is now on facebook!

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72 hour period ending Monday, December 12 at 7 a.m. Pampa PD reported 45

traffic related incidents. Pampa EMS, the Pampa Fire Department and Pampa PD reported 16 medical calls

Animal Control officers and Pampa PD responded to 14 animal related inci-

dents Friday, December 9 An offense against family PARTY TRAYS For The and children was reported.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1300 block of North Coffee. handicapped park-Α

ing violation occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

100 block of North Somerville.

occurred at the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Endangerment of a child or elderly person occurred at the 1000 block of North Duncan.

A runaway was reported at the 1000 block of East

Fraud occurred at the 1000 block of West Wilks. A suspicious person was

reported at the 800 block of East Francis.

www.cripump.com

Suspicious vehicles were North Crane. reported at the 1300 block Disorderly conduct oc-

of North Hobart and the curred at the 300 block of 2700 block of Comanche. Sunset. A suspicious person was

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 700 block of reported at the 1000 block of West Alcock. North Banks. A suspicious vehicle was Endangerment of a child or elderly person occurred reported at the 1200 block

of North Hobart. at the 2800 block of North A suspicious person was Charles. reported at the 300 block of

North Faulkner. of South Starkweather. Saturday, December 10 A suspicious person was reported at the 100 block of East Randy Matson. North West.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 600 block of North Frost.

the 1700 block of North Beech.

hicle occurred at the 1700 block of North Holly.

A suspicious vehicle was A theft occurred at the reported at the 1400 block of North Sumner.

An accident occurred at A domestic disturbance 23rd and Perryton.

> 2100 block of North Perryton and the 400 block of North Ballard.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 700 block of

A suspicious person was reported at the 2800 block

block of North Dwight. An accident occurred at Criminal mischief oc-Hobart and Randy Matson. Criminal mischief oc-

A suspicious person was reported at Kingsmill and Starkweather. A burglary occurred at A burglary occurred at the 2200 block of North

Mary Ellen. A threat occurred at the A burglary of a motor ve-

1100 block of Huff. Sunday, December 11 A gas drive off was re-

ported at the 300 block of North Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was

reported at the 1400 block of North Charles. Thefts occurred at the

reported at the 900 block of North Christine.

East Browning. homa hicle occurred at the 1900

of North Charles.

curred at the 2300 block of North Navajo. curred at the 900 block of

An accident occurred at the 200 block of North Faulkner.

A suspicious person was

1200 block of West Okla-

A burglary of a motor ve-

A theft occurred at the 900 block of East Twiford. A gas drive off occurred

400 block of Carr.

reported at Texas and Rus-

A theft occurred at the 800 block of North West. A suspicious vehicle was reported at the ^ 00 block

of North Mary Ellen.

Fraud was reported at the 2800 block of North Perryton.

A burglary occurred at the 00 block of North Wells. Monday, December 12

Endangerment of a child or elderly person occurred at the 2200 block of Lea.

A suspicious vehicle was A domestic disturbance reported at the 100 block of occurred at the 100 block North Dwight.

Disorderly conduct oc-Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of curred at the 800 block of North Dwight.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 72 hour period ending Monday, December 12 at 7 a.m. Friday, December 9

Brandon Shane Yates, 17, was arrested by deputies for capias pro fines times two.

Juan Miguel Salas, 27, was arrested by police for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Courtney Honeycutt, 19, was arrested by police for possession of marijuana.

A threat occurred at the Johnny Lynn Downs, 59, was arrested by deputies for driving while intoxicated and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

Zachery Wade Skinner, 26, was arrested by deputies for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Saturday, December 10 James David Riggall, 57, was arrested by police for theft by check

Sunday, December 11 Jessie Lee Jones, 47, was arrested by police for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Juan Phelps Bell, 48, was arrested by police for possession of marijuana in an amount less than two ounces and possession of drug paraphernalia.

at the 1000 block of West A threat occurred at the A theft was reported. A suspicious vehicle was





Kingsmill.

The Pampa News — Tuesday, December 13, 2011 — 3A

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HOUSTON (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence of a convicted triple murderer who won a new punishment trial after coming within a day of execution eight years ago.

Mark Robertson now has been on death row for more than 20 years for the 1989 slaying of 81-year-old Edna Brau at her Dallas home. He also has two life terms for

killing Brau's grandson and a convenience store clerk. In 2003, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals halted his scheduled execution after lawyers argued jurors should have been allowed to consider his troubled childhood when they decided in 1991 on the death penalty.

Another jury in 2009 again voted to condemn him. The Monday ruling caps the 43-year-old Robertson's direct appeal from that trial, but other appeals are likely.

Infamous TX 7 leader loses appeal

HOUSTON (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court has refused an appeal from George Rivas, the mastermind of the notorious "Texas 7" gang that engineered the biggest prison escape in the state's history.

The 41-year-old Rivas is set for execution Feb. 29 for gunning down a suburban Dallas police officer during a sporting goods store robbery on Christmas Eve 11 years ago. It occurred two weeks after he and six other convicts fled a South Texas prison.

Evidence showed Rivas planned the escape from the Connally Unit south of San Antonio while serving a life sentence for kidnapping, robbery and burglary.

Rivas asked the high court to consider a lower court's rejection of claims that included his legal help was ineffective and the judge made errors at his trial. The justices Monday refused.

Coal plant cuts deal

HOUSTON (AP) - A coal-fired power plant set to open next year in Texas has agreed to cut mercury and smog-causing emissions and invest in clean energy projects as part of a legal settlement with environmental groups.

Sierra Club, Public Citizen and the Sandy Creek Energy Station in Riesel filed a consent decree Monday in federal court. The environmental groups say the deal ends any outstanding legal matters between the parties. According to the agreement, Sandy Creek will slash

its emissions and invest \$400,000 in clean energy projects, including the installation of solar panels on a local school.

The Sandy Creek facility near Waco is one of nine in various stages of development. Texas already has 19 coal-fired plants

Comptroller says recession over

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas Comptroller said Monday that the economic recovery is taking hold, producing higher than expected tax revenues and possibly resulting in a budget surplus in 2013.

In a letter to the Legislature, state Comptroller Susan Combs said tax collections were on pace to produce a \$1.6 billion budget surplus for the fiscal biennium ending in 2013. That means the state could earn \$82.7 billion over the next two years, while the 2012-2013 budget is only \$81.1 billion. In the last two budget cycles, lawmakers were forced to slash government spending to make up for budget deficits and tap the Rainy Day Fund. They cut \$4 billion in funding for public schools and shorted \$4.8 billion for Medicaid, the health program for the poor and disabled. But Combs said the Texas economy was in recovery, but still faced some hurdles. "The recent national recession is over and the economy is once again expanding," Combs said. "Through October 2011, Texas has recovered 94 percent of the jobs lost during the recession; the U.S. just 27 percent." She warned that while there was the threat of another recession, "the most likely scenario continues to be one of slow, steady recovery from the worst recession since World War II." The state's Republican leadership will likely feel justified in slashing the budget over Democratic objections and refusing to raise taxes. But many lawmakers, both Republican and Democratic, expect the Legislature to still face tough choices in 2013.

More debate about state redistricting Advocates: Two primaries would hurt minority voters

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposal to split Texas' 2012 primaries into two elections — with some races decided in March and others in May — would have a devastating effect on minority voter strength, particularly if maps drawn by the Legislature are used, attorneys argued Monday.

Attorney General Greg Abbott has suggested a separate primary be held for legislative and congressional races to allow time for court fights over redistricting to be resolved.

Lawmakers redraw districts every 10 years to reflect changes in population reported by the census. Minority groups have sued in federal court in San Antonio, claiming the plan approved this year by the Republican-controlled Legislature didn't reflect the growth in the state's Hispanic and black populations.

With two unresolved court cases, the San Antonio judges issued temporary maps for the Legislature and U.S. House that could be used in the 2012 primary elections.

But last week the U.S. Supreme Court granted Abbott's request that it block their use. Abbott insisted the Legislature's maps rather than maps drawn by federal judges in San Antonio should be in place until the lawsuits are resolved. He suggested Texas delay legislative and congressional primaries until May, arguing that "legal, delayed elections are preferable to legally flawed, timely elections."

The Supreme Court said it will hear oral arguments on the matter Jan. 9.

Maintaining minority voting strength, as required by the 1965 Voting Rights Act, is at the center of the two lawsuits.

"When you move elections to unusual dates, everyone agrees it has a negative impact on minority turnout," said Nina Perales, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Even the state's expert agrees, when you have an unusual election day, minority voters are less likely to turn out.

"We are very, very concerned that the election process has been thrown into chaos."

Although Abbott proposed separate primaries, his spokeswoman said Monday his office doesn't have a position on the timing of elections.

Minorities make up most of the population in 10 of Texas' 32 congressional districts. The court-drawn map would have increased that to 13 out of 36 districts, as Texas gains four seats because of population growth.

In the Texas House, 33 out of 150 districts are considered predominantly Latino districts. The legislative plan would have reduced that number to 31, while the court plan would have increased it to 35, Perales said.

In the second of the court cases, a federal court in Washington has refused to approve the Legislature's redistricting plan without a trial, agreeing with the Justice Department that there was sufficient evidence to question whether it hurt minority representation.

Like other states with a history of racial discrimi-

nation, Texas can't implement new maps or other changes to voting practices without federal approval under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The state asked a panel of federal judges in Washington to sign off on the maps, but they refused. That case is continuing.

Perales said minority voters could be further discouraged by a new law requiring Texas voters to show photo identification before casting a ballot. Texas is awaiting federal approval before the new law can be implemented.

"Certainly, anything layered on to an irregular election day, such as implementation of more restrictive voter identification, is only likely to make things worse," she said.

Democrats contend blacks, Hispanics, senior citizens and the poor are less likely to have required photo IDs and a series of new laws could lead to some voters being disenfranchised if they fail to carry an ID with them.

The redistricting case so far does not appear to raise the broader issue of whether Texas and other states should still be subject to the voting rights law.

Still, Matt Angle, a Democratic consultant who has been working with the plaintiffs in the litigation, said the Republican maps are a "shameful" attempt to erode the intent of the Voting Rights Act.

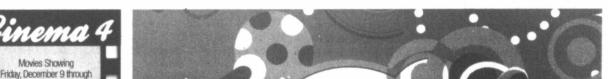
"The state of Texas can take great pride that LBJ passed the Voting Rights Act and you've got leaders a generation later in Texas, Republicans, who want to erase it," he said.

Abbott's office has argued the Legislature's original map accounts for minority growth and ensures they get adequate representation. But others say it doesn't.

"The whole atmosphere in Texas over the past few months has been a hostile environment for minority voters and minority participation," said Jose Garza, an attorney for the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "The situation we find ourselves in now is harmful to all voters, not just minority voters. It may have particular obstacle for minority voters, but this kind of chaos is not good for any voter, regardless of race and ethnicity."



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Mexican navy nabs founding Zeta

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican navy says it has caught a founding member of the brutal Zetas drug cartel.

It says marines detained Raul Lucio Hernandez Lechuga on Monday in the city of Cordoba. The city is in the state of Veracruz, where the Zetas are battling for control against a gang allied with the Sinaloa drug cartel. A navy statement says Hernandez has been the Zetas

leader for the states of Veracruz, Puebla and Oaxaca.

The federal government has offered a 15 million peso reward for information leading to his arrest. That is about \$1.2 million.

The Zetas formed from a small group of elite soldiers based in Tamaulipas who deserted to work for the Gulf drug cartel in the 1990s. They later split with the Gulf cartel and formed their own gang.

Cockfighters draw citations

FORT WORTH (AP) - Police say more than a dozen people have been cited during an alleged cockfight in a North Texas neighborhood.

Fort Worth police early Sunday shut down a rooster fight in the back yard of a residence.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram (http://bit.ly/rJ3pRg) reports police confiscated razors, syringes and steroids, which authorities have described as fighting tools.

Two roosters were found dead. Animal control officers seized several roosters from kennels.

The homeowner has been arrested on a charge of cruelty to animals. Police say 13 spectators received citations.

Gov. Rick Perry in June signed a bill that strengthens Texas laws again cockfighting, including making it illegal to possess birds meant for cockfighting and to attend a cockfight.



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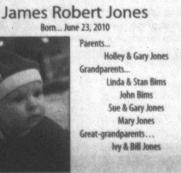
Beverly Taylor — 669-2525 Classified Ads

FIRST CHRISTMAS

Deadline December 15th, 2 pm Published December 24th

Photos need to be of baby only. Payment in advance.

Bring your photo to The Pampa News office at. 403 W. Atchison or Email it to classified@thepampanews.com Please call Beverly at 669-2525, to verify that your photo has been received.



Example

4A — Tuesday, December 13, 2011 — The Pampa News



Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2011. There are 19 days left in the year. **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 12, 1911, Britain's King George V, who also held the title Emperor of India, announced during a visit that the Indian capital would be transferred from Calcutta to Delhi.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member

In 1917, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Neb.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain

In 1971, broadcasting pioneer David Sarnoff died in New York at age 80.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 2000, George W. Bush was transformed into the president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Ten years ago: A bus ambush killed ten Jewish settlers, prompting Israeli warplanes to strike back; Yasser Arafat bowed to longstanding Israeli demands by closing the offices of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Gerardo Hernandez, the leader of a Cuban spy ring

Five years ago: A suicide bomber struck a crowd of mostly poor Shiites in Baghdad, killing some five dozen people and wounding more than 200

One year ago: An explosives-packed minibus blew up at the entrance of a joint NATO-Afghan base in southern Afghanistan, killing six NATO troops and two Afghan soldiers as they prepared to head out on patrol.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 88. Singer Connie Francis is 74. Singer Dionne Warwick is 71. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 68. Actor Wings Hauser is 64. Actor Bill Nighy is 62. Actor Duane Chase is 61. Country singer LaCosta is 61. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 59. Author Lorna Landvik is 57. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 54. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 53. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 50. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 48. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 44. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 42. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 41. Actress Madchen Amick is 41. Country singer Hank Williams III is 39. Actress Mayim Bialik is 36. Model Bridget Hall is 34. Thought for Today: "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." - Franz Kafka, author (1883-1924).

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble



The death penalty: Quit undermining the process

Imagine a democracy in which key players are committed to making sure that duly enacted laws don't work. These players slow things down. They hire confederates who also want to sabotage the system. Then they shrug and claim that though they want to enforce the law, success is impossible and, besides, prohibitively expensive.

Maureen Faulkner has had to deal with forces opposed to the death penalty since her police officer husband, Daniel, was murdered Dec. 9, 1981. Philadelphia police found Faulkner fatally wounded and Mumia Abu-Jamal with a bullet wound in his chest, his own handgun and five spent shell casings. Four eyewitnesses testified against Abu-Jamal.

Yet some famous people, including Mike Farrell and Ed Asner, claimed he was innocent. Supporters charged he was a "political prisoner." Because Faulkner was white and Abu-Jamal was black, they branded the guilty verdict as the fruit of racism -- even though two jurors were African-American.

You may have seen the photo of the officer's widow hugging

a statement. Federal judges, she added, "are the fixers.

In 2001, a federal judge upheld Abu-Jamal's conviction but threw out the death sentence because the 1982 jury did not adhere to a 1997 interpretation of a 1988 appellate ruling.

In 2008, the 3rd-U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling. The U.S. Supreme Court told the 3rd Circuit to reconsider. Upon

reconsideration, in April the 3rd Circuit stuck with its original outcome. Williams and Faulkner agreed that there was little point in pushing for a second death penalty hearing.

In California, it's the same story. In February 2006, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel stayed the execution of Michael Morales because the judge believed there was less than a 0.001 percent chance that the man convicted of bludgeoning, knifing, strangling, raping and killing 17-year-old Terri Winchell would feel pain under California's three-drug lethal injection protocol.

In April 2008, the U.S. Supreme



DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

U.S. Supreme Court and the 9th Circuit," Kent Scheidegger of the prodeath penalty Criminal Justice Legal Foundation noted last month. "There is no legitimate basis for further delay."

ed these cases to go forward, they could go forward.'

The worst of it is that it doesn't matter if juries found defendants guilty of capital murder. It doesn't matter if voters approved their state's death penalty law. It doesn't matter if the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld states' capital punishment protocols.

As long as there are judges and politicians willing to undermine the appellate process, capital punishment opponents don't have to win at. the ballot or in front of the nation's top court to beat the death penalty.

And as long as the media don't challenge dubious claims of a convicted killer's innocence, the delay tactics may even seem benign But Maureen Faulkner knows otherwise. Her family lived through a threedecade ordeal as the "free Mumia" crowd lionized a cop killer. Now she's had enough.

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the police commissioner after Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams announced that he would drop efforts to carry out the jury's death sentence. You may have read that Williams did so with the blessing of Maureen Faulkner.

What you may not know is that Faulkner agreed with Williams because she lost faith in the criminal justice system.

"The disgusting reality with the death penalty in Pennsylvania is that the fix is in before the hearings even begin," Faulkner explained in Court upheld Kentucky's three-drug protocol. In February, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Arizona's lethal injection process. Arizona resumed executions. Yet in California, there is only delay. A different federal judge wants a review of new procedures designed to make California's lethal injection even more humane. The new timetable would delay California's death penalty until at least September. And then, who knows?

"California's execution protocol is equal to or better than those

As she wrote last week, "should the jury decide on a death sentence again as they should, we would then start the whole decades-long appeals process over again, and we will be forced to repeat the past 30 years as if they never happened."

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



We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines: • Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity. • All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verifica-tion. Only your name and city will be published. ts will not be published

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The Pampa News — Tuesday, December 13, 2011 — 5A

with harassment suit

DALLAS (AP) - A female agent with Texas' liquor control board has filed a federal lawsuit claiming she was repeatedly harassed by male colleagues, including behavior that was physically demeaning and verbally abusive, in a case that raises more questions about the culture at the agency.

Leigh Sosebee's lawsuit against the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, which regulates alcohol sales, • is the latest development in a case agency records show has already resulted in disciplinary action against six officers and agents, four of whom lost their jobs.

The lawsuit, filed in September in Dallas, follows a series of episodes that cast an unfavorable light on the agency, including a raid at a gay bar that left a patron severely injured and the sexual assault of 16-year-old girl who was participating in a commission sting operation.

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Sosebee, 28, seeks unspecified damages from the agency where she has worked since 2007 for sexual harassment and retaliation she claims started in the Dallas office and continued even after she aired her complaints and was allowed to work elsewhere.

"If I really thought things had changed, it wouldn't have come to this," she said in an interview.

The complaint claims male co-workers called Sosebee offensive and derogatory names and vandalized her desk and computer. One refused to help her subdue a combative suspect, according to the lawsuit

The lawsuit also says a male sergeant sent an inappropriate text about Sosebee and made her do pushups and sit ups as punishment for mistakes, a form of discipline that amount of joking she'd have to deal with. It's just that, once it got beyond that point, it wasn't tolerable."

One of the agents allowed to resign after initially being fired for his treatment of Sosebee, Victor Bulos, confirmed he used a derogatory term to describe her in a conversation with another male agent.

But he said he didn't believe the matter merited his dismissal and cited other cases where agents were punished far less severely for more serious infractions.

"We were shocked when we were terminated," Bulos said. "I think they were just trying to appease (Sosebee) because she's a female agent."

Bulos blamed the Rainbow Lounge incident for creating an environment at the agency that's "way too political" and said he'd decided to leave before Sosebee's allegations came to light.

Sosebee said the harassment began after she complained to a supervisor about a particularly malicious and offensive comment from a male co-worker. She said she didn't want to do the pushups and sit ups, performed in an isolated part of the Dallas office at the end of her shifts, but didn't believe she had any choice.

"By that point, I just wanted to do whatever I could to keep my job," she said.

Sosebee contends that, even after she was allowed to move to other offices, she was subjected to continued abuse, including increased scrutiny and unfair punishment for minor transgressions. She's now working as an agent in the Arlington office but only recently was allowed to move into that dents were wounded by role after months on desk duty, she said.

Liquor board slapped | Watch out for new bank fees, and safeguard your accounts and cash

TERRY SAVAGE Creator's Syndicate

It's the holiday shopping season, a time when banks and pickpockets hope you're concentrating more on spending than on safeguarding your. money

Bank fees are on the rise again, account! especially since consumers won the protest against monthly charges for access to their own money in the form of debit-card fees. Now, banks are still trying to figure out how to make up for the money they no longer are getting on each debit card transaction, ever since Congress cut and capped transaction fees.

Banks must give 30-day advance notice of changes to your checking account terms (less than the 46-day advance warning required of creditcard changes). They're trying to another bank. start the new year with new fees and terms. So if you get one of those "fine print" form letters from your bank, here are some of the things you should be looking for:

 Monthly checking account fees, higher minimums. Say goodbye to free checking. Banks are instituting monthly fees, especially if you don't keep a substantial balance in your checking account - in some cases at least \$5,000.

• Online bill payment fees. Online all, it saves banks the trouble of processing paper checks. But more and more banks are requiring minimum balances, or a combination of other assets, such as CDs and IRAs. Otherwise, you'll pay a monthly fee for online bill payment.

• Fees for wire transfers, certified checks. Some services, such as wire transfers or certified checks, used to be provided free. Now banks are even charging fees for wire trans-



• Higher ATM fees. Many banks have increased the fees they charge if you use another bank's ATM.

So pay close attention to the fine print when you get your statement, line, it indicates a higher level of or the little brochure describing "changes to your account terms." Look around for a community bank or credit union that might have far lower fees. The only problem is that they probably have fewer and less convenient ATMs. So make misused if your friend opens the sure they will reimburse any fees charged if you use an ATM from

GUARD YOUR WALLET

The first line of defense is your own wallet or purse. After all, the holiday season is also pickpocket season

Take a look at all the stuff you're carrying around in your wallet. Do you need all of it? Sort out what you do need, and leave other things like your Social Security card, safely at home

bill payment used to be free. After your wallet, including the account best tip is to shop with restraint. number, plus the toll-free numbers And that's The Savage Truth. to call if your wallet is stolen.

Here's what should be on the list

- and it's more than credit cards:
- Credit cards
- · Health insurance
- Auto insurance
- · Membership cards
- · Bus or transit pass
- Office key card for entry

If you have a list at home of what's at risk in your wallet – and fers that bring money INTO your whom to call if it is stolen - you can avoid some panicky moments.

SHOP SAFELY ONLINE First, never shop – or do any financial transaction - on an unsecure wi-fi site, at a coffee shop or on a college campus. It's

far too easy for others to track your moves and then sign in later using your ID

Use only secure corporate websites to shop. If the site uses "https' - not just "http" in the web browser security for your transaction information.

Never send credit-card information by e-mail. Even if you're sending that kind of information to a friend, it can be intercepted and e-mail on a smart phone e-mail program'that is not secure.

Check your credit-card balances online every day during the shopping season - and be alert to any unauthorized charges.

Use your credit card, not your debit card, for shopping online. Any fraudulent use of your Visa or MasterCard is 100 percent protected, as is debit card fraud. But fraud on your debit card could drain your bank account – and it could take a while to get your money back.

These tips should help you have Then make a list of what's in a financially safe holiday. But the

> Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book. "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?

Edinburg students wounded by gunfire

EDINBURG (AP) — Two middle school stugunfire Monday afternoon while trying out for a bas-"I still deal with this ketball team, and authorievery day," she said. "I ties suspect hunters may to

not a result of a drive-by, he said

Harwell Middle School had opened just this year on the rural property northeast of Edinburg, which is about 50 miles northwest

tennis courts, said Oziel Garzia, a 14-year-old eighth-grader.

Annette Vargas Ugalde, a 15-year-old eighth grader, said she was about to board her bus near the gym said investigators do not believe the shooting was gang related.



wasn't imposed on others in his command.

TABC spokeswoman Carolyn Beck said the agency's administrator, Alan Steen, couldn't comment on Sosebee's claims because they are part of a pending lawsuit.

Agency records recently obtained by The Associated Press show most of the claims in the lawsuit were supported by internal affairs investigations last year. The disciplinary action immediately followed, the records show.

The sergeant who allegedly required Sosebee to do pushups and sit ups was fired. Three agents also were terminated, but they later won appeals that allowed them to resign instead. Two others, a sergeant and an agent, received suspensions.

Just two years ago, the TABC fired two agents and an officer and changed numerous policies after a raid at a Fort Worth gay bar, the Rainbow Lounge, resulted in a patron being hospitalized for head trauma and stirred a national controversy.

The commission that year also revised how it conducts sting operations aimed at catching businesses serving alcohol to minors when an agent based in Bastrop was arrested for sexually assaulting a teen working with him. The agent, who was fired immediately after his arrest, has since pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Sosebee's attorney, Andrea Loveless, said she believes her client's case is yet another example of the attitudes that guide the agency's agents and officers.

"The TABC is still very much a good 'ol boys club,' Loveless said. "Leigh knew there would be a certain

and the second second

have a huge black 'X' on be blame.

my back because I'm 'that girl, the one who caused all and 14 — were shot, said those problems,' when all I Hidalgo County Sheriff did was stand up for myself Lupe Trevino. Classes and tell the truth.

and officers working for when the shooting hapthe TABC are women. pened around 4:45 p.m., That ratio is typical for but the school complex police agencies, said Penny was immediately placed Harrington, the former on lockdown. police chief in Portland, Ore., and co-author of a boys was in critical condibook on sexual harassment tion Monday night with in law enforcement.

gation that Sosebee was ble and awaiting X-rays, forced to do pushups and Trevino said. sit ups to atone for her mistakes is "absolutely ing, one of the boys was outrageous." She called it going for a layup. The a prime example of how other was waiting his turn women in law enforcement to try out, Trevino said. are harassed.

forced to do things they or if the shooting was accishouldn't have to do," Harrington said. "If they trouble for being insubordinate. If they do them, they win."

Two boys — ages 13

were not in session at Only 33 of the 253 agents Harwell Middle School

One of the wounded a bullet embedded in an Harrington said the alle- organ. The other was sta-

At the time of the shoot-

The sheriff said it was "They are singled out for too early to say whether all kinds of behavior and the students were targeted dental.

Investigators believe the don't do them, they get in shots may have come from hunters on adjacent farm property, Trevino said. are demeaned. They can't The shots did not come from the campus and were

of Brownsville. Homes line the road approaching the school, but open fields stretch out behind it and to the north.

Investigators have spoken with owners of surrounding farms and the land was being leased to deer hunters, Trevino said. One hunter who was found on one of the adjoining properties was being interviewed by investigators, and two others were questioned but released.

The outdoor court where the shooting took place was north of the school complex at an athletic facility that includes a football field, track and

leg and thigh

1 freshly prepared biscuit

chicken fried steak with white gravy

Individual mashed potatoes with gravy

individual cole slaw | 1 freshly prepared biscuit

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after school when school officials started rushing students indoors.

"They told us to, 'Get inside, get inside," she said.

She said she heard no shots but saw a group of people on the outdoor court standing near one boy on the ground. A school nurse tended to him while another boy was sitting up.

Annett said she boarded her bus and it left.

Samuel Cepeda, a 15-year-old eighth-grader, said gangs have been a problem at the school, and he has worried about security. However, Trevino

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individual mashed potatoes with brown gravy



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6A — Tuesday, December 13, 2011 — The Pampa News



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You could be torn between adventure of your energy. Invite your sweetie to join you on some adventures. Both of you will smile more. If you are single, the people you attract could vary a great deal. Find out with whom you are more comfortable. You'll gain financially through others. You could hit the lottery or win at the right bin- the same vision and cannot identify with go game. Communication could be chal- what you see. Walk in their shoes and help can. LEO paves the way to adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** A personal matter could weigh flourishes once more. Kick back and enexpress your creativity in a new way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You could be tired in the morning and dragging in the afternoon. If you able to accomplish a lot on a one-on-one can, take a catnap. Your energy will soar. Insights or a dream could give you greater clarity about a situation. Use care with finances. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Handle finances in the moming, which also might include going shopping. If you are fortunate enough to use the a.m. for holiday purchases, you could be most effective. A problem quickly eliminates itself. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Let your creativity flourish. Accept what is no longer workable, and let go. Someone could be negative without the ability or the intention of lightening up. Schedule some time for errands and other key activities in the afternoon. Tonight: Treat yourself well, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You might feel a little sluggish when you start the day, but by the afternoon, your tune changes. Your ability to move forward and get to the bottom of a problem is enhanced. Think twice about what is going on around you. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You have a tendency to read what you want.

more and judge less. Understand that what and the status quo this year. If you are at- a person says might be 100 percent real for tached, a relationship could consume a lot him or her, and he or she doesn't see beyond it. Tonight: Do something nurturing just for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 \star \star \star \star You see past the obvious and want more from the people you work or hang with. However, they might not have lenging at times. Confirm as much as you them walk in yours. Tonight: Follow the fun.

SCORPI O (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Remain in touch with your feelon you. During the afternoon, you feel as ings. Sometimes it is difficult to not trigger if a veil has been lifted and your creativity or detach. In the morning, do whatever you need to do in order to get the appropriate joy yourself, even if you are at work. That distance. In the afternoon, others seem far touch of fun is always a plus. Tonight: You more responsive. Tonight: Touch base with an older friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

******** Your energy is high. You're level. Check out a new idea, and you'll get past a problem with ease. You could be taken aback by the dynamics of another way of thinking. Suddenly new paths open up. Tonight: Put on a great piece of music. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Don't fight the current trend. Others seem to dominate and cannot back off. Your ability to understand where another person is coming from could help. Discussions on a deeper level naturally evolve in the afternoon. Be bold and open. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Stick with your to-do list until you can't anymore, or you choose not to. Open up to an associate or friend who has much to offer. You don't need to be in sync with every idea. You simply need to listen and weigh the pros and cons. Tonight: Lots of choices

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** You have many ways of looking at a situation. You might not be comfortable with the status quo. Stop -you have the imagination and savoir-faire to end a problem and expand from that point. If you are single, a small flirtation starts up out of nowhere. Tonight: Beam in

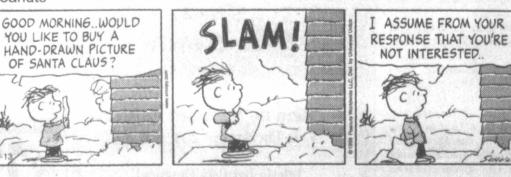
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Perry ad goes viral in the wrong way, sparks Web parodies

NEW YORK (AP) - Maybe Rick Perry should have worn a different jacket.

The Republican presidential hopeful's new campaign ad, "Strong," has become a viral video sensation since being released last week - but not necessarily for the reasons the campaign might hope for.

By Monday afternoon, the ad had registered nearly 650,000 "dislikes" on YouTube, compared to just over 20,000 likes. And it has sparked nearly 700 reply videos, including some mercilessly funny parodies that feature people wearing the same kind of jacket Perry wears, and lots of chatter about how Perry looks like a gay cowboy from the movie "Brokeback Mountain."

In the ad, Perry suggests that President Barack Obama is waging a "war on religion" after signing legislation allowing gays to serve in the military. It's drawn some 6 million views on YouTube, more than any other campaign video this year, company officials said.

As he struggles for traction three weeks before the GOP nominating contest opens in Iowa, Perry is using the ad to appeal to the kind of Christian conservatives who typically dominate the state's precinct caucuses. In it, he makes some eyebrow-raising claims.

Perry is seen walking up a grassy hillside, dressed in a brown barn jacket and blue shirt.

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm Christian," Perry says. "But you don't need to be in the pew every Sunday to know that there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military but our kids can't openly celebrate Christmas or pray in schools."

He continues, "As president, I'll end Obama's war on religion and I'll fight against liberal attacks on our religious heritage.

In fact, Obama has had nothing to do with banning school prayer - the Supreme Court ruled in 1962 that prayer in public school was an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment. Perry's suggestion that gays serving in the military represent an assault on religious faith has drawn scorn from Democrats and gay rights activists, many of whom are expressing themselves in video.

First, there's the jacket. Many videos have noted that it's the same type worn by actor Heath Ledger in the 2005 movie "Brokeback Mountain," which centers on a long love affair between two cowboys.

Many of the video parodies feature actors wearing the shirt and jacket combo, including video satirist Andy Cobb.

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm an atheist," Cobb says, "but you know there's something wrong with this country when politicians think it's OK to hate on gays and nonbelievers in ads.

Another video shows a brown-jacketed rabbi, Jason Miller.

"I'm not ashamed to admit I'm a Jew," Miller says. "There's something wrong in our country when gays can serve openly in the military but still can't marry each other in most U.S. states."

Some videos include a message from Jesus.

"I'm ashamed to admit that you are (a Christian)," a cartoon Jesus says to Perry in one.

In another, an actor playing Jesus says, "Rick Perry using my name to promote his agenda against gays in the military is just pathetic.

Stephen Farnsworth, an associate professor of communications at George Mason University, said the ad may well help Perry in Iowa, where polls are starting to show him inch up a bit. But Farnsworth said the ad's message --- and the parodies it has spawned — won't help in the long run, particularly when it comes to connecting with moderate and swing voters

"The worst thing to be in American politics is a joke," Farnsworth said.

The Perry campaign did not responde to a request for comment.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court stepped into the fight Monday over a tcugh Arizona law that requires local police to help enforce federal immigration laws - pushing the court deeper into hot, partisan issues of the 2012 election campaign.

The court's election-year docket now contains three politically charged disputes, including President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and Texas redistricting

The debate over immigration already is shaping

presidential politics, and now the court is undertaking a review of an Arizona law that has spawned a host of copycat state laws targeting illegal immigrants.

The court will review a federal appeals court ruling that blocked several provisions in the Arizona law. One of those requires that police, while enforcing other laws, question a person's immigration status if officers suspect he is in the country illegally.

The case is the court's biggest foray into immigration law in decades, said Temple University law professor Peter Spiro, an expert in that area.

The Obama administration challenged the Arizona law by arguing that regulating immigration is the job of the federal government, not states. Similar laws in Alabama, South Carolina and Utah also are facing administration lawsuits. Private groups are suing over immigration measures adopted in Georgia and Indiana.

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Now in its fifth year, the on Wheels at 806-669-Adopt a Friend Program is set up to help such people by allowing donors to cover their costs.

Adopt

"The Adopt a Friend Program pays for a nutritious meal for a homebound person," said Autry. "People can fill out a form to sponsor a patron that can't afford to pay for a meal. We have people who have adopted someone, and continue to pay a monthly fee for a person to eat. Some pay each month, or more than one month at a time, and some people pay for a week (of meals). Any amount will help."

Donations are tax deductible and can be made to 1007.

cont. from page 1

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cover a Meals on Wheels patron for a week (\$20), a month (\$80) or a year (\$960). For more information, contact Pampa Meals

Тах

cont. from page 1

building and rented by the county, said Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead. The office housed a safe, which, according to Whitehead, the burglars unsuccessfully attempted to open.

Whitehead said that she performed a full inventory of the tax office on Monday and everything - money and equipment - was accounted for. Still, with the office stocked with state-provided computer equipment through a contract with the Department of Motor Vehicles, the county could have been held liable for the equipment if it had been stolen or damaged.

Whitehead said that she did not feel fully satisfied that the office would be a safe place to store the equipment until further repairs were made, and state employees took the equipment from the tax office to a secure location after closing time.

The county, Whitehead said, does plan to restore operation to the tax office, although a timetable for its reopening has yet to be decided.

"We have full intentions of opening that office back up," Whitehead said. "The bad news is we're not sure when. ... We want to provide that service to the city of McLean. We have every intention of bringing that service back."

The break-in is currently under investigation by McLean deputies.

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Study: Gingrich plan would add to deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tax plan by GOP presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich would provide big tax breaks to the rich and blow a huge hole in the federal budget deficit, according to an independent study released Monday.

The analysis by the Tax Policy Center says households making more than \$1 million a year would see their taxes drop by an average of 62 percent. Overall, federal tax revenues would drop by an estimated \$850 billion in 2015, a figure that would dramatically worsen the budget deficit unless it is offset by unprecedented spending cuts, the study said.

"The revenue losses are enormous," said Roberton Williams, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Gingrich proposes an optional 15 percent flat tax on income. Under the plan, taxpayers could stay in the current system, which has a top tax rate of 35 percent on taxable income above \$379,150, or switch to the new 15 percent tax. The new tax would apply to income at all levels, but there would be a variety of tax deductions and credits.

Gingrich would eliminate taxes on capital gains, dividends and interest, and reduce the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 12.5 percent. The plan would provide a personal deduction of \$12,000 for every American, while maintaining the \$1,000 per-child tax credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, which benefits low-income people. Deductions for mortgage interest and charitable donations would also be maintained.

Gingrich campaign spokesman R.C. Hammond disputed the projections on the budget deficit, saying the study doesn't account for the economic and job. growth that such a tax system would generate.

The campaign's website says a new flat tax would make it easy for families to file their returns while eliminating taxes that discourage investment.

"An optional flat tax reform will be simple: Tax returns can be done on one sheet of paper," the website says. "Subtract from income a standard deduction and deductions for charity and home ownership, multiply the result by the fixed, single rate of taxation of at most 15 percent, and the process is over."

The analysis comes as the former House speaker has surged to the top of the polls in the race for the Republican nomination for president. Several other candidates have offered variations of the flat tax, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Gingrich's chief rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, has proposed changes to the tax system that are less sweeping

Gingrich's plan, however, would make it even more difficult for Congress to reduce the federal budget deficit, which was \$1.3 trillion in the budget year that ended in September, according to the study. The issue consumed Capitol Hill for several months in the summer and fall, leading to a deficit reduction

Mail

cont. from page 1

down 1.7 percent from last year.

Still, with such a hefty workload ahead of the Pampa Post Office and the postal system as a whole, Shrock reiterated the most basic piece of holiday advice: Send early

"I encourage customers to mail as early as they can,"

plan that both Democrats and Republicans dislike. No one would get a tax increase under Gingrich's plan because households could stay in the current system or switch to the new one, Williams said. Many lower- and middle-income families would probably stay in the current system because they would save money compared to Gingrich's flat tax, he said.

But for the wealthy, lowering the top tax rate and eliminating taxes on investments would provide a huge windfall, according to the study.

For example, a household making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would get an average tax cut of 12.1 percent, while a family making between \$200,000 and \$500,000 would get a tax cut of 27.3 percent, according to the study.

Households making more than \$1 million would see their federal income taxes reduced by an average of \$607,000 the study said.

The Tax Policy Center compared taxes on U.S. households under current tax policy, with those imposed under the Gingrich plan. In using current tax policy, the analysis assumes that tax cuts enacted under President George W. Bush — and extended through 2012 by Obama — would be extended.

The Tax Policy Center is a research group formed by two Washington think tanks: the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution. Its researchers regularly testify before Congress on tax policy and its analyses during the 2008 presidential campaign were widely circulated.





During the holidays, we want you to hear all the sounds of the season. You are invited to try our new hearing technology and see what a difference it makes.

"As part of our product study, the leading manufacturers of hearing aids are looking for 20 people who will qualify as product testers to try these new innovative hearing solutions," said Richard Davila, II of Livingston Hearing Aid Center. "We are proud to participate in this study and will pay each qualified participant \$50 to complete the study. The On-The-Ear product markets itself with very little effort because it solves a really big problem in an innovatively cool way: namely, it corrects high-frequency hearing loss without plugging-up the ear canal. It lets natural sounds just pass through the ear canal unamplified and gives a hi-fidelity boost only to soft speech sounds. Another of the industry's most advanced hearing aids offers clarity, convenience, style and superior performance on every level. It offers a more natural hearing than ever before. It's guaranteed not to whistle or squeal and gives you the ability to hear on the telephone like never before.

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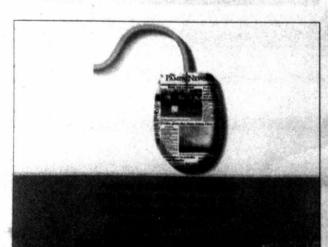
he said, "and to take advantage of our flat rate boxes. Schrock also reminded customers that any packages

over 12 ounces can't be picked up, and must be mailed through a retail Post Office window.

Holiday mail by the numbers

16.5 billion	Number of cards, letters and packages to be delivered between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.
2.7 billion	Number of letters mailed over the holidays.
801 million	Number of pieces of mail processed on Dec. 20, the busiest mailing day of the year.
551 million	Average number of pieces of mail processed daily.
589 million	Average number of pieces of mail processed daily during the holidays.
30 million	In pounds, the amount of mail the Postal Service will process for overseas military installations, including war zones in Afghanistan, as well as Iraq.
155,000	Number of vehicles used to transport holiday mail
3.3 billion	Number of holiday stamps the Postal Service has available this year.
97 million	Number of customers who visit the Post Office during the holidays.
47.2 million	Number of customer visits to usps.com during the holidays.

Source: United States Postal Service



Call Livingston Hearing Aid Center to see if you qualify to participate in this study and hear better for the holidays.



Happy Holidays



brought to you by The Christmas Shop and Victorian Rose

Ready To GoRetro?

Old stuff is cool again. Gifting old stuff is even cooler

Retro style is in, and kids can't get enough of it, from cutting-edge clothing and accessories that recall the classics to thrift-shop home goods straight from grandma's attic.

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A quest for individuality in a homogenized world is behind the vintage juggernaut, say trend watchers. So is a treacherous economy.

"I think the resurgence started with kids rummaging through thrift stores,' says Bonnie VanKeersblick of Blue Flower Vintage, an online shop run through Etsy that specializes in vintage items. "Old movies help fuel the trend, and then the economic downturn and people wanting to be green justified it."

Stephanie Press, who runs the online store Hold Vintage, says the same.

"I believe there is a desire to escape from mass manufacturing to things that are unique," she says. "The fashion industry has caught on to this and are making efforts to include vintage in their styling and editorials."

Whether you're shopping for a curious teen or a nostalgic grown-up, having an eye for the old this season will come in handy Retrothemed products make for great gifts and fun shopping.

made them notable, including stars like Gregory Peck and classic characters like James Bond.

Another way to bring a retro edge to men's formalwear is with pocket squares.

"[Pocket squares] are understated but stylish and not too far out of a guy's comfort zone," says Press. "You can go utilitarian with cotton or bold and bright in silk." Club Room, a Macy's clothing brand, sells pocket squares in everything from paisley to polka dot, and in colors like red, blue and black (\$15, Macy's).

No man who carries a smart phone needs a watch - but many of them want

one anyway. The Timex

Digital watch (\$40, depart-

ment and specialty stores),

boasts an INDIGLO night-

light feature and digital

number display, but a shiny

stainless steel expansion

band and water-resistance

gives it contemporary util-

For her

find-

interior design as framed art or for custom pillows."

Look for scarf designs with blocky shapes and heavy colors with a sharp contrast (like black, lime green and red) to achieve a polished Art Deco look. Vintage

glass, tableware and cookware have great legs in the gift-giving world. VanKeersblick, a lifelong fan of vintage style, showcases a 1950s line of striped and lotus-patterned bowls designed by Grete Prytz Kittelsen for the Cathrineholm factory in Norway. Fresh contemporary takes on Scandinavian tableware abound, from Marimekko's bright classics to the retro retakes from Sagaform, created by a platoon of young Swedish designers. Typewriters have seized the imagination of the Facebook generation. Search local antique stores and thrift shops for antique brands and restored classics. Women with a penchant for the sound of keystroke may enjoy a 1950s Royal portable typewriter in bright pink (\$595, mytypewriter. com) or typewriter-inspired jewelry like a key bracelet (\$85) or custom key earrings (\$58).



Holiday PJs all the rage

Ever since she can remember, 26-year-old Lauren Cowart has received the same gift every year on Christmas Eve: a new pair of pajamas.

"Each year after our traditional Christmas Eve dinner, we go under the tree and pick up on box that says 'Open Christmas Eve.' It's always the pajamas," Cowart says. "We put them on immediately, then eat our dessert and open some presents. Then on Christmas morning, we gather on the front stairs in our Christmas pajamas and make a video of us reading Santa's letter about how we've grown and changed that year as a family.

Legions of families purchase matching pajamas as a special gift to every family member on or before Christmas. Some distribute them in early December so they can enjoy them all month long; others, like Cowart's family, open the expected package on Christmas Eve to wear for present-opening and picturetaking. Families often take an annual holiday group picture in matching PJs to capture the memory and share the fun with friends and extended family.

It's easy to understand the popularity of the fuzzy novelty items. Pajamas are relatively inexpensive, fit all shapes and sizes and can be easily constructed by hand. They're practical yet fun and cater to many personalities and tastes. Amber Lipson, co-founder of Footsteps Clothing, Morrisville, N.C., specializes in selling matching clothing to families. Holiday and Christmas PJ sets are the top seller.

"Everyone wants to bring their families close together during the holiday season," Lipson says. "I've talked to customers who tell me their grandparents bought matching PJs seventy-some years ago. It's an easy way for families to enjoy each other and be together.

Lipson's bestselling "A Very Merry Snowman" set consisting of red plaid flannel bottoms and a longsleeved red shirt emblazoned with the cheerful face of a snowman in a stovepipe hat. The whole collection includes A Very Merry Me, A Very Merry Mommy, A Very Merry Daddy and a Very Merry Baby matching pajamas.

Many families call Footsteps each year to continue a tradition, but others call because they're ready to start one. The occasions vary. Some occasions are happy, like when one family bought 40 pairs to wear for a polar express ride. Others are difficult, such as when one customer's family member was sick and the rest bought pajamas as a show of love and support. "We really want families to feel close and celebrate their unique relationships during the holidays," Lipson says. "We're glad matching pajamas helps them do so."

For him

Thank Don Draper from AMC's popular series "Mad Men" for the resurgence in dapper formal wear for men. Draper's

crisp suits and affinity for good whiskey ignited craving for both. Men looking for fashion inspiration will enjoy "Icons of Men's Style" by Josh Sims (Laurence King Publishers, 2011), a guide to iconic mens-The wear.



ity.

scarf," says British fashion writer chron-Press. "Not only can you icles prominent garments of wear it in a myriad of ways, the past and the men who but they are being used in

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1 Public Notice THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF COLFAX **EIGHTH JUDICIAL** DISTRICT D-809-CV-2010-00326

AURORA LOAN SERVICES LLC, Plaintiff.

separate property; REALTY GAGE CORPORA-STARLIGHT filed by Linda Twichell TION CONDOMINIUM AS- and Donald B. Morse a SOCIATION; LINDA default may be entered TWICHELL, an unmar- against the Defendants. ried woman and DON- 5. The real property ALD B. MORSE, an which is the subject unmarried man; ABC matter of this action is Corporation I-X, XYZ Partnerships I-X, John lows: Does I-X and Jane Does Condominium Unit O1 THE UNKNOWN (Letter O not Zero), HEIRS AND DEVI- Starlight Condominium, SEES OF ANY OF according to the Floor THE ABOVE, IF DE- Plan filed for record in CEASED.

Defendant NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

Aurora Loan and Amendment to Plaintiff, Services, LLC, pursuant Declaration set out in to Rule 1-004 J New Miscellaneous Mexico Rules of Civil 108 page 1; and Second Procedures-District Courts, publishes the tion set out in Real Esfollowing as its Notice tate Records Book 3 of Pendency of Action. page 6274, which Plan Plaintiff has filed a and Declaration are in-Judicial Foreclosure corporated herein by

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gel Fire, NM 87710. B-33 Dec 13, 20, 27,2011

1 Public Notice 1 Public Notice Notice #1 Complaint against the above named Defend-Cable One will be dropping the Cable One ka ants 2. Plaintiff is seeking Bulletin board on Chan- DATED this 29th day nel 99 effective Decem- of November, 2011. service of Linda Twichell and Donald B. ber 27, 2011. This will Morse of the Complaint allow for the addition of in No. CV2010-326. 6 new channels that we 3. The name address are contractually obliand telephone number gated to add begining of Plaintiff's attorney is January 1, 2012. The Matthew Silverman, new channels added STEPHEN CECCO, a 8502 E. Via de Ventura, will be Nick Jr., Nick married man as his sole Suite 200, Scottsdale, Toons, Teen 85258, MTV Hits, MTV2 and Arizona VH-1 Classic MORT- (480)302-4100. 4. If a Response is not B-35 Dec 13, 2011

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY NEBRASKA The real property IN THE MATTER OF

THE GUARDIANSHIP OF legally described as fol-SAMANTHA

Nick.

D. TURNER A Minor

CASE NO. PR11-1635 NOTICE OF HEARING ON **PETITION FOR** the office of the Colfax APPOINTMENT OF

County Clerk and Con-**GUARDIAN AND** dominium .Declaration CONSERVATOR recorded in Miscellane-OF A MINOR ous Book 105 page 119; TO THE MINOR

NAMED ABOVE AND ALL OTHER IN-Book TERESTED PER-SONS

Amendment to Declara-Notice is hereby given that a Petition for the appointment of Guardian and Conservator for tric for your electric Samantha D. Turner needs! Comm., was filed in this Court reference, together with by Kimberly Marie Eian undivided 1/17th insel. A copy of the Petiterest in the common tion is attached to this COX Fence Company area and facilities which Notice Unit shall be used for

The hearing on the Peti- build new. Free residential purposes ontion for Appointment of mates. Call 669-7769. ly and subject to other Guardian and Conser- CERAMIC tile work, restrictive covenants set forth in the Declaration. The real property is also at 10:00 o'clock A.M., kitchen. Texture, paintdescribed as 11 Squaw Valley Lane Unit 1, An-Douglas County, in 665-3453 leave mes-Courtroom No. 32, Hall sage, Jesus Barraza.

of Justice, 1701 Farnam HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Child-Street, Omaha, Nebrasers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563. 9563 Kimberly Marie Eisel by Mark J. Milone Floors, Showers,

1 Public Notice

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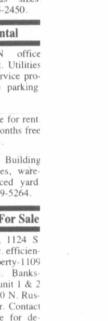
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Sports

Lady Harvesters end home losing streak with victory over Warriors



Junior Taylor Morgan looks for a teammate to pass to in the first half against Miami Tuesday at Mc-Neely Fieldhouse. Morgan hit a big three in the first quarter of Pampa's 56-47 victory.

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aglover@thepampanews.com

The last time the Pampa Lady Harvesters won at home, most of the current team was on either the junior varsity or freshman teams. Pampa wrapped up a 4A playoff berth with a victory over Hereford in February 2010. After suffering 12 ago-

nizing defeats, the Lady Harvesters played a solid game and knocked off the No. 14 Miami Lady Warriors 56-47 in the front of the home crowd at McNeely Fieldhouse Monday.

"I was proud of them for that," Valentine said. "It took all of us tonight to get it."

Pampa had some strong play off the bench with juniors Hannah Baker and Allison Ceyanes. Baker was co-leading scorer with 12 points. Ceyanes scored four points and grabbed five rebounds.

"Tonight, (Baker) came in and caught the ball on the wing two or three times, and bam there she went and hit a three and some free throws," Valentine said. "Allison got in there and banged around. She was crashing the boards and played hard inside." Unlike their recent games the Lady Harvesters didn't fall into a big deficit in the first quarter. The most Pampa was down was two points early in the quarter. Senior guard Kirsten Kuhn put Pampa ahead with a basket and free throw. The Lady Harvesters led

11-8 after the first. Senior Delaney Clendening said it was a refreshing change.

"Usually I'm thinking we got to get out of this hole," Clendening said. "It felt good to not dig us out of a hole."

Both teams struggled holding the ball in the first as Miami had nine turnovers and the Lady Harvesters had seven. Clendening said Valentine told them to slow things down after the first.

"He told us to go at our pace and not their pace," Clendening said. "We were successful once we slowed things down."

with a 12-3 run. Pampa held Miami to eight points and led 41-31 after three.

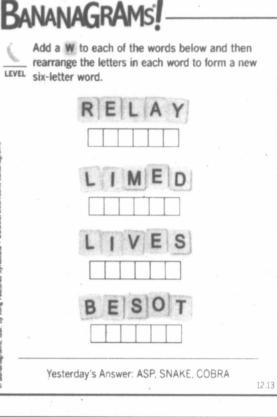
Morgan said the team was more in control in the third.

"We held the ball under pressure," Morgan said. 'Our offense played really well.

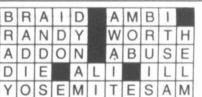
The Lady Harvesters (5-9) maintained their

PAMPA cont. on page 4B

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 42 Rock's



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staff photo by Joe Murray

ieels amazing junior Taylor Morgan said after Pampa's victory. "It just feels great.'

It was Pampa's first win at home since February 5, 2010. The victory also ended a four-game losing streak. Head coach Gene Valentine said it was the most consistent game his team played all season.

The second quarter start ed close but a field goal by junior Hannah Baker started a run for the Lady Harvesters. Pampa held a 23-16 lead in the second half of the quarter but the Lady Warriors stormed back and cut it to 24-23. The Lady Harvesters got the distance they needed in the third quarter, starting



By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am 35 the weight?

and my husband is 45. When we met, he weighed 375 him being on a strict, sen- BEST I CAN IN BOSTON pounds. He has now hit the sible nutrition regimen. Be-600-pound mark. I have five cause he has no insurance, BEST YOU CAN: You are kids, a full-time job and go to a self-help group could be a a smart young woman with school two nights a week. He lifesaver. Overeaters Anon- excellent instincts. Trust talks about losing weight, but ymous may be able to give them. You feel pressured it's easier to talk about than you some guidance and of- because you ARE being actually do. He was in a car fer him emotional support. accident that left him with There are chapters nationback problems, and on top wide, as near as your phone press. of that he has bad knees from book, or contact them onsports.

The future doesn't look promising. I know that one friend, "Frank," and I have of an abuser. Ask yourself, day he'll be confined to bed been together for four months. What's the rush? Find out future - and I will have to married before. This is my riage failed. Stand your drop everything to take care first serious relationship. of him. He is already depenhe's in pain all the time and future" while I just want to can't physically do anything. go with the flow. He thinks I relationship. He doesn't have insurance.

to take care of, it might not be to move in with him, get ety, and it bothers me that as big of an issue. This is very married or start a family yet. he yawns throughout each depressing. I am thinking of When I explain that I would consultation. He sometimes seeing a counselor. He has love for all of that to happen apologizes for it, though. Is already told me that he won't go. Your input would be it seems more like a friend- for a therapist? - MIFFED greatly appreciated. - WIFE ship than a relationship. That IN NEW JERSEY OF A BIG MAN

DEAR WIFE: Talk to a trying counselor right away. Unband and five dependent I feel pressured. If the pres- sessions, tell him if it doesn't helpless husband to gain all like we may not be able to another counselor.

His life depends upon line at www.oa.org.

- I predict in the very near I'm 21 and he's 31. He was the reasons why his mar-

dent on me and the older kids heated arguments because anything you are not comto take care of him because he's ready to "plan for the don't take our relationship se-If I didn't have a family riously because I'm not ready ing a counselor for my anxi-- eventually - Frank says really hurts me, because I'm

less you do something now, my lack of "seriousness" are candle at both ends, yes, you will be unemployed and killing me. They started two it is. And because it is dishomebound with a sick hus- months into the relationship. tracting to you during your children. Who enabled your sure continues, I'm feeling stop, you will have to find

be together. I need your advice, please. - DOING THE DEAR DOING THE pressured. In fact, you're being given the full-court

Pushing for a quick involvement/commitment is DEAR ABBY: My boy- one of the warning signs ground and don't allow Sometimes we get into yourself to be pushed into pletely comfortable with. And if it persists, end the

DEAR ABBY: I'm seethis inappropriate behavior

DEAR MIFFED: Unless your counselor is starved These arguments over for oxygen or burning the

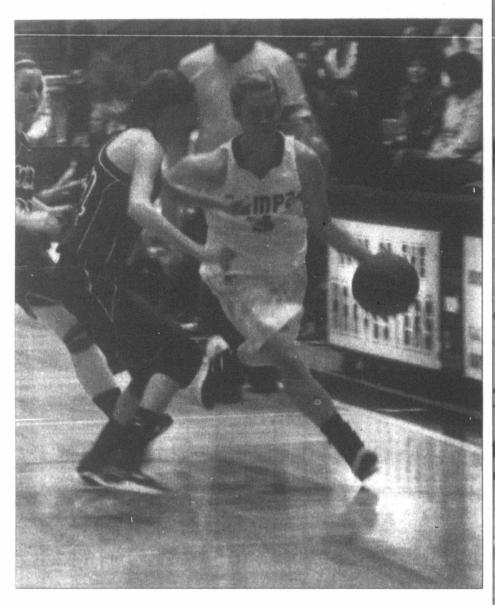
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Pampa

lead early in the fourth but the Lady Warriors rallied. Miami went on an 11-5 run cutting Pampa's lead to five. The Lady Harvesters didn't allow Miami to get closer converting four of their last five free throws. Clendening was Pampa's other leading scorer. Sadie Watkins led Miami in scoring with 17. Jessie Smith followed with 14.

The Lady Harvesters play their final game before Christmas break against the Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors at home. Clendening said it will be a challenging matchup but is confident.

"I think we can beat them," Clendening said.



staff photo by Joe Murray

LEFT: Senior Kirsten Kuhn dribbles past a Miami defender Tuesday at Mc-Neely Fieldhouse. **RIGHT:** Senior Caitlin Sieck drives to the basket in the first half. Sieck led the Lady Harvesters' attack in the first half. The Lady Harvesters won 56-47 over the Lady Warriors of Miami.



cont. from page 3B

Sunday | December 18th | 6:30PM

CERSINASECLAY A night of song. stories. giving.

Mark your calendars for a night of Christmas fun with performances by Clay Britton and special guests. Clay is a 2001 Pampa High School graduate and is currently pursuing music in Nashville, TN. He has worked for CMT, GAC, Lorianne Crook's Celebrity Kitchen, Country Countdown Radio and is currently with ASCAP. He has regularly performed at Pampa's Chautauqua, local churches and the Top o' Texas Rodeo.

The evening is sponsored by Tommy and Pam Bowers who have offered to match a portion of the donations raised to benefit The Good Samaritan, an organization that provides assistance to families who are in need of food or utilities. Prize tickets will be passed out at the door. For every non-perishable food item brought, you will receive another ticket to increase your chances of winning exciting Christmas give-a-ways like an Apple TV or a Wii, all while helping a good cause.

Seating starts at 6:30PM and the performance begins promptly at 7PM. The event is for "kids from 1 to 92."

For more info search "Christmas With Clay" on facebook.com.

