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# The PAMPA NEWS

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in only home meet  
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Monday, December 19, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 212 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Busy 2011 for Pampa's local Altrusa Club

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com



Johnson

It's been a busy year as usual for Altrusa, a service organization with about 40 members that helped fund Tralee Crisis Center and the Pampa Senior Citizens Center. Involved with the Boys and Girls Club, the Children's Shopping Tour, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life and the Salvation Army, just to name

a few, this women's organization strives to address unmet needs within the community. While many of their activities have become tradition over the years, the group started several new projects this year. One educational project, called Lunch with Dignitaries, allows fourth graders who have been selected by their teachers to tour places like the hospital and speak with experts in their field that have included District Attorney Lynn Switzer. "They've been to the water treatment plant, and we've taken them to the courtroom and the mayor's office," said Rochelle

Lacy, President of Altrusa. "It's just to help them get an idea of what goes on in the business world," said Pat Johnson, Vice President of Altrusa. For the first time, this year the group supported the Make-A-Wish program, raising about \$8,000 during a concert featuring Mary Jane Johnson in August. They also began working with Pampa Animal Welfare Society **ALTRUSA** cont. on page 10

## HOME IN THE WATER

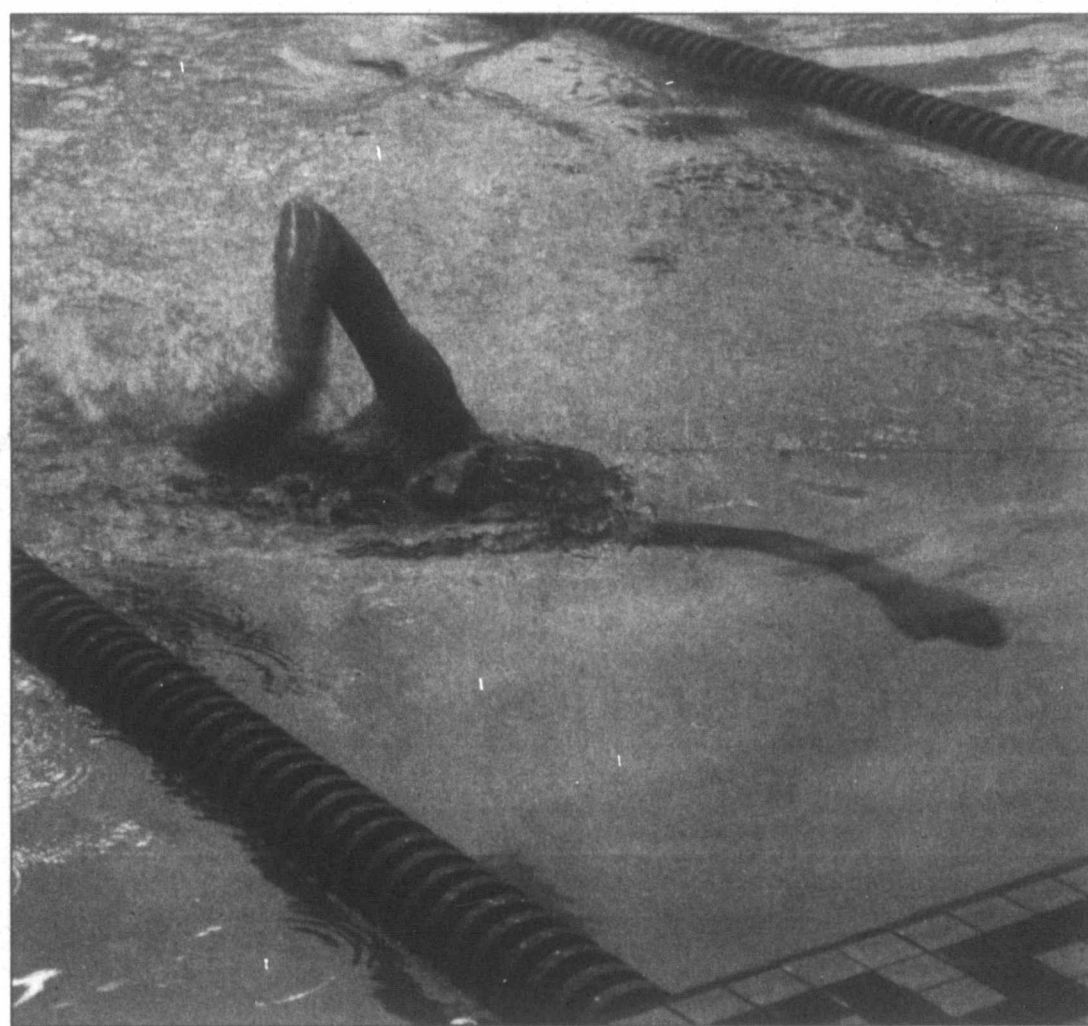


photo courtesy of Lindie Willey

Pampa's Kandle Ramey takes a breath as she guts out the final stretch of the 500-yard freestyle at the Harvesters' only home meet on Saturday. Ramey took first in the event, but the girls fell to Tascosa. Full story in **SPORTS**, page 7.

## Birthday party raises over \$1K for PAWS

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Ruth and Rebekah Andrews, 9 and 10, were having a combined birthday party last September, and their mother, Sharron Andrews, decided to plan a different kind of party. Sharron told her girls that they could invite as many friends as they wanted, but their guests would need to bring donations to an organization rather than traditional birthday gifts. The girls chose to support Pampa Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), raising over \$1,000 to go towards the building of a new animal shelter.

"Kids get too much, and they need to think of someone else instead of themselves," said Sharron. "And to me, this was a great way of showing (that to) their friends, and showing them, and they love the animals."

The family's interest in the shelter was spurred both by their horse being attacked by stray pit bulls, as well as the girls visiting the shelter to search for a missing cat.

"We thought (the shelter) was awesome," said Rebekah. "We love how they help animals find homes."

"(I like it) because you get to see **PARTY** cont. on page 10

## County 4H looks back at year

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
 aglover@thepampanews.com

The Gray County 4-H Club looked back at its accomplishments in 2011 with the county commission at its luncheon Thursday in the Gray County Annex Office.

Brandon McGinty, county extension agent of agriculture and natural resources, talked about his pumping plant efficiencies program. He said he wasn't able to run irrigation tests because of the drought situation.

"Most producers didn't want to shut their irrigation wells done long enough for us to spend three hours to do their tests," McGinty said. "Nick Kenny, the person that has equipment, was caught doing certifications for producers on NRCS. We put our extension programs on the back seat because of that."

McGinty said he visited with producers that they ran test for in 2009-10 and made suggestions, which some of the producers took.

"Potential savings were \$8,000 or reduction of \$1.07 dollars per acre inch of irrigation all the way up to a \$1.70 savings per inch of irrigation."

McGinty said his focus in 2012 will be on drought recovery and management.

"That encompasses crops and livestock," McGinty said. "I'll still do some irrigation tests. If the drought continues those might not occur."

McGinty said he did a lot of deferment letters.

"A lot of people were deferring their irrigation from corn to cotton," McGinty said. "Cotton was the one that had the higher value of irrigation. We've ranged on irrigation anywhere from a bale to three bales of cotton."

Joan Gray-Soria, county extension agent of family and consumer sciences, talked about her work in food protection management. Gray-Soria reviewed the class she taught and the results of tests she had her students take. She said restaurant owners will be required to be **4H** cont. on page 10

**12 kids of Christmas**  
**Owen Tidmore, 3**  
 Parents: Owen and Jeri Tidmore  
 What I want most for Christmas: "A Darth Vader FX Lightsaber and Darth Vader mask."  
 What do your parents want? "I think...some clothes."  
 What does Christmas mean to you? "Jesus being born."

**Merry Christmas!**  
 From all of us at Pampa Chamber of Commerce  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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**PAMPA FORECAST**

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
High 39 Low 19	High 33 Low 20	High 35 Low 19

**Today:** Rain before 3pm, then rain and snow. Areas of blowing snow after 3pm. Temperature falling to around 33 by 5pm. Wind chill values between 21 and 31. Windy, with a north northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of around 3 inches.

**Tonight:** Snow and areas of blowing snow. Low around 19. Wind chill values between 2 and 12. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of around 3 inches.

**Tuesday:** Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow before noon. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 33. Wind chill values between 1 and 11. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Northwest wind around 10 mph becoming southwest.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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**LAST MINUTE ADS**

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**ANGELS, ANGELS,** we have Salvation Army Forgotten Angels for you to choose from on our Christmas tree! These are angels who were not chosen from the Salvation Army Angel tree. Items 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!!

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**COMMUNITYcalendar**

**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 the First Methodist Church.  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
 •Christmas Day  
**Monday, December 26**  
 •The Pampa News office closed.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 28**  
 •Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Cham-

ber office.  
**Thursday, Dec. 29**  
 •Pampa Lions Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.  
 •Good Samaritan Christian Services, Inc. Board of Directors will meet at 5 p.m. at 309 N. Ward Street.  
**Friday, Dec. 30**  
 •Chamber "Citizen of the Year" and "Business of the Year" nomination deadline.  
**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
 •New Year's Day  
**Monday, Jan. 2**

•The Pampa News office closed.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 9**  
 •Diabetic Support Group meets, 7 p.m. at the Pampa Regional Medical Center cafeteria.

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 [rpibble@thepampanews.com](mailto:rpibble@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.

**Tea Partyers not thrilled about GOP field**

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Just a year ago, tea party activists came roaring out of the congressional elections eager to shape the looming race for the White House.

Things have not gone as planned. Turned off by Mitt Romney's style and evolution on several important issues, they have bounced from one candidate to another in hopes of finding a formidable alternative to the former Massachusetts governor to focus their enthusiasm.

After a series of disappointments — Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and businessman Herman Cain among them — the anti-establishment movement has settled, for now, on a favorite: former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, even though he has spent more than three decades in Washington politics.

With the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3 and tea party support fractured at best, some activists worry that the passion that defined the movement 13 months ago may become lost in the selection of the next president.

Infighting among conservative groups, a growing sense of pragmatism, and glaring weaknesses among the candidates have forced some tea party leaders to acknowledge their limits and shift their attention to Congress.

"I wish that we had coalesced behind one candidate earlier on. It's not because of the tea party movement, it's because there hasn't been that candidate out there so far that has stirred the passion — the fire in the belly," said Amy Kremer, president of the Tea Party Express. "Everybody wants to focus on presidential politics. I think we need to be focused on the Senate. That's where we really, really need to be engaged."

Lacking a presidential contender to rally behind, Kremer's organization and others have begun eyeing congressional elections that could shift the balance of power on Capitol Hill next fall regardless of the presidential race winner.

Other tea party groups, despite a desire to play prominently in the White House contest, are left to focus on policy debates in Congress.

They've already helped shape the debate over federal

spending, pushing the House to pass a balanced budget amendment while rejecting Democrats' effort to raise new revenues to help close the federal deficit.

"We've changed the discussion on Capitol Hill and we've let the politicians know we get the game they're playing," said Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots. "We always said last year that after the November election that our work was just beginning."

Despite fractures within the conservative movement, the presidential campaigns are courting tea party leaders, recognizing the potential political muscle of a grassroots movement that helped deliver the House to Republicans in November 2010.

Romney and Gingrich have met privately with Kremer, although the two men generally have followed different strategies in trying to capture the tea party vote.

Romney, Gingrich, Bachmann and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum answered questions from Martin about curbing federal spending and other tea party priorities, and gave their pitch to more than 100,000 supporters, during a national conference call conducted by the Tea Party Express Sunday.

Since his 2008 presidential bid, Romney has invested time and money in building relationships with Republican leaders inside and outside the tea party movement.

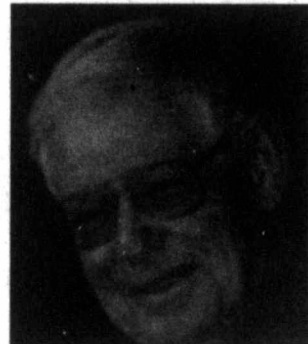
That investment helped produce endorsements from conservative favorites including South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and unsuccessful Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell of Delaware.

Romney had endorsed all three politicians in their most recent elections, donated thousands of dollars, and in the case of Haley and Christie, traveled to their states to campaign by their side.

Gingrich, after such a long Washington career, represents the kind of political insider that many tea party activists generally oppose. But Gingrich had used his now-defunct organization, American Solutions, to support the tea party movement for years. American Solutions was an original sponsor of the movement's original tax day rallies, Kremer notes. Gingrich himself was one of their first speakers.

**Obituaries**

**Frank C. Morrison, 81**



Morrison

Frank C. Morrison, 81, died Friday December 16 in Pampa.

Services will be at 3:00 PM Wednesday, December 21, at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ with Scott Futrell, minister of Kentucky St. Church of Christ, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Morrison was born Sept. 29, 1930 in Floydada. He came to Pampa in 1945 where he graduated from Pampa High School in 1949. Frank married Norma Lister on May 6, 1950 in Clovis, New Mexico. He began his grocery career in Pampa after his marriage and founded Frank's Foods on April 1, 1967. In 1979, Frank opened Frank's Hardware. He was a member of Central Church of Christ for 57 years where he served as an elder for 45 years. Frank's hobbies included work and spending time with his family. He always enjoyed helping others in need.

He is survived by wife: Norma Morrison of the home; two daughters: Marsha Stevens and husband Joe and Kim Price and husband Harold, all of Pampa; a granddaughter: Lilly Price of Canyon; three grandsons: Trent Price and wife Cortnie, Jeff Stevens and wife Tammy, and Greg Stevens and wife Mallory, all of Pampa; eight great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Cora Lucas Morrison, 4 brothers, Ernest, Ted, Albert, and Hubert, and by 3 sisters, Myrtle, Lillian, and Mary. Memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

Sign the online register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

**Juanita Brower, 75**



Brower

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. — Juanita Brower, 75, died Friday, December 16 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Vigil service will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 7:00 PM at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church.

Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church with Father Francisco Perez, pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church in Pampa, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Brower was born September 1, 1936, in Hoisington, Kansas to Arsenius and Mathilda Woydziak. She attended St. Joseph's elementary school in Beaver, Kansas. Her freshman and sophomore years she attended Sacred Heart Academy in Wichita, Kansas, and graduated high

school in Hoisington, Kansas in 1954. She married Bobby Lindsey Brower on January 17, 1955 in Beaver, Kansas. He preceded her in death on September 20, 2002 after 48 years of marriage. She moved to Alex, Oklahoma in 1960, then to Beaver, Oklahoma in 1961 where she resided until 1973 before moving to Moore, Oklahoma. In 1976, she and Bob moved to Pampa. She was an active member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church where she was involved in many ministries such as the Women's Altar Society, Women of the Cloth, her prayer group, and the Elizabeth Ministries. She was active in the Amarillo Diocese ACTS Community, the TDCJ Rufe Jordan Unit Prison Ministry, Kyros and the Queen Bunko group. Over the past 30 years she had held the positions of Youth Director, secretary, and Religious Education Director at St. Vincent's Catholic Church. In addition, she enjoyed connecting with others through selling AVON over the years in the community.

She is survived by two daughters: Linda Trimble and husband Jeff of Oklahoma City, Okla. and Janice Miner and husband Jimmy of Pampa; two sons: Rick Brower and wife Vicki of Missouri City, TX and Roy Brower and wife Patti of Moore, Okla.; 12 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Mrs. Brower was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers: Bernard and James Woydziak, and by a grandson, Roy Leon Brower, Jr.

A woman of many talents that she freely shared with others. A love of God and a faith so deep that it permeated every aspect of her daily life. She opened her heart and home to all. Her table was never too crowded to squeeze in an unexpected guest. An Angel with a kind word, a ready smile, a genuine laugh, and arms wide open to welcome anyone and everyone. Hugs and kisses generously bestowed on all especially her precious grandchildren. She was always willing to try something new and push for all of us to do the same. She was always looking for ways to make people feel good, needed, and loved. She was a role model to all she came in contact with and was a mom and mimi to many. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother and will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice of Pampa, 600 N. Tyler, Amarillo, Texas 79107. ACTS Community, c/o St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1200 S. Washington, Amarillo, Texas 79102. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd Avenue, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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# MORNINGRUSH

## Pantex contractor among bidders

AMARILLO (AP) — The current operator of the Pantex Plant is among bidders for a potential 10-year government contract at the Texas Panhandle nuclear plant and a Tennessee facility.

The National Nuclear Security Administration has begun officially accepting proposal for a single management and operation contract for Pantex and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The proposal includes a five-year base period and three optional extension terms for another five years and includes an option to phase in the Savannah River Site Tritium Operations in South Carolina. Babcock & Wilson, through different subsidiaries, manages the three sites on separate government contracts.

The *Amarillo Globe-News* reported that Babcock & Wilson will be among the bidders for the consolidated contract. Deadline for proposals is March 13.

## Thousands rally for nativity

ATHENS (AP) — Thousands have rallied on an East Texas courthouse lawn in response to an effort to remove a nativity scene.

The Athens Daily Review estimated that about 5,000 people came to Saturday's rally (<http://bit.ly/soVEmc>), which a Baptist pastor told the crowd was prompted by "the beginning of persecution of Christianity in our nation."

Henderson County officials this month received a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation. The group asked that a nativity scene be removed from the courthouse square and seeks to put up its own banner. County Judge Richard Sanders says the county is complying with federal law and the nativity scene will remain.

Four pastors who organized Saturday's rally spoke during the hour-long event.

## Car crashes through roof

HOUSTON (AP) — Police responding to a burglar alarm found a car crashed through the roof of a Santa Fe business.

Investigators say the car was traveling at a high rate of speed about 2 a.m. Saturday when the driver failed to negotiate a turn. KTRK-TV reports that the vehicle left the roadway and traveled up a railroad track embankment, which caused it to go airborne. It flew about 100 feet through the air and crashed through the roof.

The blue sedan landed nose-first inside Gulf Coast Aerobic Services, causing more than \$25,000 in damage.

The driver of the car was gone when police arrived. Detectives say they are confident the driver will be found and arrested.

## FW Humane Society crowded

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The Humane Society doesn't normally encourage holiday pet adoptions without careful consideration but feels it has no choice after many animals were received Friday.

The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reports that the Humane Society of North Texas is filled up after taking custody of 142 small dogs, three pygmy goats, three rabbits, two cats and more than a dozen chickens from what authorities called a puppy mill.

The animals were seized from a kennel in Aubrey on Dec. 6 after being kept in deplorable conditions in a mobile home, two outbuildings and two outdoor enclosures. The owners relinquished the animals in a civil hearing Friday.

The new arrivals have left the Humane Society short on space, but officials say most of the animals are ready for adoption.

## Teen charged in juvenile death

FORT WORTH (AP) — A North Texas teen has been charged in the strangulation death of a boy at the Granbury Juvenile Justice Center where both boys were housed, and an investigation into the death determined that the facility violated several state regulations.

The review, prompted by the October death of 14-year-old Jordan Adams, determined that both boys were kept in virtual isolation and weren't regularly checked on. The for-profit center, which is owned and operated by 4M Granbury Youth Services, was cited for noncompliance after the investigation ended this week, said Lisa Capers, deputy executive director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Adams died six days after being found unconscious in his cell with a sheet wrapped around his neck on Oct. 10. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office has said he died by asphyxiation due to strangulation.

## Senate blocks judge nomination

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma prosecutor's nomination to be a federal court judge has been blocked.

The *Oklahoman* reports the U.S. Senate sent assistant U.S. Attorney Arvo Mikkanen's nomination back to the White House on Saturday. Mikkanen never received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

President Barack Obama nominated him in February to the open district court judgeship in Oklahoma's Northern District in Tulsa. But Republican Sens. Tom Coburn and James Inhofe opposed the nomination, saying they weren't consulted before he was chosen.

Had Mikkanen's nomination been approved, he would be one of only three American Indians ever to serve as a federal district judge.

## Seven airmen come home

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma Air National Guard says seven airmen will be returning home from Afghanistan in time for Christmas.

The Guard says the seven members of the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron will return to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in southwest Oklahoma City on Monday.

The Guard said in a news release that the airmen provided air support, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The airmen were deployed to Afghanistan in July. They're scheduled to reunite with their families about 6:30 p.m. at the base.

# Social Security Part of the global economy

TOM MARGENAU  
Creator's Syndicate

Q: I'll bet you got a lot of hate mail from readers after you printed the column in which you explained that a Canadian citizen could get American Social Security benefits — even if she moves back to Canada. Is it any wonder our Social Security system is in such trouble if we're sending all of our hard-earned money overseas?

A. Actually, I didn't get any responses to that column — and certainly no "hate mail" — other than your curious take on the situation.

In that prior column, I answered a question from a woman who was getting Social Security retirement benefits — based on her many years of work in this country. She was a Canadian citizen who had been living in this country for about 30 years. And now that she was about to retire, she was planning to move back to her original home in Victoria, British Columbia. She asked if she would be able to collect her U.S. Social Security benefits in Canada. And the answer is yes.

And despite your assertions to the contrary, we would not be sending our hard-earned money overseas. We would be sending her hard-earned money overseas. After all, she worked and paid U.S.



recognize this trend, and more and more of them are entering into Social Security treaty agreements with one another. The United States currently has Social Security treaty agreements in place with about 25 countries around the world, with many more in the planning stage. These treaty agreements cover a wide variety of Social Security-related situations that can come up.

Social Security taxes for almost three decades. And now she's getting a retirement benefit based on all those taxes she has paid. She should have every right to expect that her benefits will follow her back to her native land.

I think what you fail to comprehend is that Social Security is a worldwide phenomenon and that we are increasingly living — and working — in a global economy.

Just as there are thousands of foreign-born citizens who have worked in the United States and qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits, there are thousands of Americans who have worked in foreign lands and qualify for Social Security benefits from those countries.

As I've pointed out many times in this column, almost every country on the planet has a Social Security program. And people around the world are moving to other countries and working in other countries. So they are paying taxes into the Social Security programs of those countries where they live.

Governments around the world

Here is just one example: What happens if you spend part of your career working for an American company in the U.S. and part of your career working for a Dutch corporation in Germany? And what if you don't have enough Social Security credits from any one country to qualify for Social Security benefits? These treaty agreements provide solutions to those kinds of problems.

So, stop trying to build walls around this country and worrying about your "hard-earned money" flowing overseas, and learn to embrace the global economy.

Anyone who wants to learn more about these Social Security treaty agreements can find a pamphlet describing them at [SocialSecurity.gov](http://SocialSecurity.gov). At the home page, under "Useful Links," click on "International Issues."

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

# Redistricting creating chaos in primary

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Another attempt to redraw political districts in Texas brings yet another appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of politicians are anxiously waiting to see if the nine judges in Washington will give them a fighting chance to keep or win a seat in the Texas House, Texas Senate or Congress. With dozens of incumbents retiring, the stakes are high and who ends up winning depends largely on what the final district maps look like.

One proposed map guarantees Republican dominance for the next 10 years. The other would likely give Democrats a big boost. And the Supreme Court could order a new, third version.

American politicians face this problem every 10 years when states redraw political maps based on the latest census. The state needs to ensure every political district has roughly the same number of people.

Texas law gives that task to incumbent members of the Legislature, and they seize upon this rare opportunity to choose the voters they want. Since their first priority is to get re-elected, they draw their districts to suit them. Then the party in power usually tries to draw districts that will hurt their opponents.

To keep this process from being too unfair, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act in 1965 to make sure majority whites couldn't draw districts that would hurt minorities. Texas is one of 16 states with a history of racism that can't change any of its election laws or maps without getting preclearance from either the Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington.

Texas Republicans, who controlled the 2011 redistricting process, got to draw a map that adds four congressional seats in Texas because of population growth. The problem for Republicans, though, is that 67 percent of those new Texans are Hispanic or black, two groups that

don't traditionally vote for them. Nevertheless, they produced a map that would help Republicans.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott didn't think the Obama administration would approve the Republican-drawn maps, so he asked the federal court in Washington to approve them. After Justice Department lawyers argued the maps discriminated against minorities, the court scheduled a trial from Jan. 17-26, effectively putting the maps on hold.

Simultaneously, a coalition of minority activists immediately filed a lawsuit at the federal court in San Antonio, also arguing that the maps discriminated against them and should not be used. The San Antonio court also decided the maps should go to trial, but the judges also recognized these trials would not be finished in time for the 2012 election. So they decided to draft temporary maps.

The San Antonio judges used the old maps as a starting point, looked at where people live now according to the new census and considered racial factors. Their new maps ended up radically different from the maps drawn by the Republicans and

gave Democrats hope for winning more seats.

That's when Abbott asked the Supreme Court to throw out those maps. The court decided it wanted to hear more of Abbott's arguments on Jan. 9, and put the San Antonio court's maps on hold, too.

With no maps, there can be no elections, so the political parties have had to delay the primary votes to April 3 from March 6, assuming the federal courts can agree on a temporary map by late January. If the process drags on, the primaries could be pushed back further.

What the Supreme Court decides in January about the Texas maps could change redistricting law across the country. Conservatives have always expressed reservations about the Voting Rights Act, particularly the requirement that changes in election law are subject to pre-clearance by federal bureaucrats or judges.

Abbott argued that barring some clear violation of the law, judges should use the Legislature's maps for the 2012 election pend-

ing the outcome of the court cases.

The Supreme Court could decide that the judges in San Antonio did just fine, or give them new instructions to draw them again in a different way.

The Supreme Court, though, could choose a most radical option and insist the state use the Legislature's maps for the 2012 election while the Washington and San Antonio courts hear the challenges against them. Such a decision would wipe out the preclearance requirement so many conservatives oppose.

Incumbents and candidates on both sides of the aisle will be watching closely. Their prospects, and the future of Texas politics, are on the line.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2011. There are 12 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

### On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1910, the artificial fiber rayon was first commercially produced by the American Viscose Co. of Marcus Hook, Pa.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1971, "A Clockwork Orange," Stanley Kubrick's controversial movie adaptation of the Anthony Burgess novel, had its world premiere in the U.S.

In 1984, a fire at the Wilberg Mine near Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 people. Britain and China signed an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

In 1986, Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was later acquitted by the Senate).

**Ten years ago:** Argentina's president, Fernando de la Rúa, decreed a state of siege as his country's economic crisis triggered violence. The fires that had burned beneath the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City for the previous three months were declared extinguished except for a few scattered hot spots.

**Five years ago:** A Libyan court convicted five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor of deliberately infecting 400 children with HIV and sentenced them to death. (The six later had their death sentences commuted, and were transferred to Bulgaria, where they were pardoned and set free.)

**One year ago:** The body of an American tourist, Kristine Luken, 44, was found near a road outside Jerusalem. (A Palestinian man was later sentenced by an Israeli court to life in prison for stabbing Luken.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Composer-lyricist Robert Sherman ("Mary Poppins") is 86. Actress Cicely Tyson is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 70. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak is 70. Actress Elaine Joyce is 68. Actor Tim Reid is 67. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 67. Rock singer Alvin Lee (Ten Years After) is 67. Musician John McEuen is 66. Singer Janie Fricke is 64. Jazz musician Lenny White is 62. Actor Mike Lookinland is 51. Actress Jennifer Beals is 48. Actor Scott Cohen is 47. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 45. Magician Criss Angel is 44. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 44. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 43. Actress Kristy Swanson is 42. Model Tyson Beckford is 41. Actress Amy Locane is 40. Actress Rosa Blasi is 39. Actress Alyssa Milano is 39. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal is 31. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 31.

**Thought for Today:** "He that jokes confesses." — Italian proverb.



## A Democrat reaches across the aisle

It's highly unusual in a presidential debate for two Republican candidates -- the two leading in current national polls -- to heap praise on a liberal Democratic senator.

But in the Fox News debate in Sioux City, Iowa, Thursday night, both Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney had very good words to say for Oregon's Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden.

The subject was the Medicare reform plan put forward in a Wall Street Journal opinion article that morning by Wyden and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan.

"Today is a big day for the country," Romney said. It was "an enormous achievement" for Ryan and Wyden, people on opposite sides of the aisle, to come together.

Gingrich, harshly criticized last May for calling Ryan's earlier Medicare plan "right-wing social engineering," went out of his way to say that Romney had produced "a very good plan" for Medicare and that it was "brave" for Wyden to join Ryan in their bipartisan plan.

Politicians' praise is sometimes bestowed overlavishly, but in this case it was well merited. Ryan-Wyden represents a major step forward in public policy and gives hope that the Medicare entitlement can be rendered sustainable.

The Ryan-Wyden proposal provides for continuation of the current Medicare program for those now over age 55. For those younger, it would introduce in 2022 a "premium-support" system that would allow Medicare recipients to choose between the current program and a Medicare-approved private plan.

Those plans would be presented in competitive bidding and would have to be as comprehensive as traditional Medicare and would have to accept anyone who



MICHAEL BARONE

applied. There would be subsidies for low-income seniors.

Private insurers would thus have an incentive to design plans that would offer more generous benefits and lower costs than current

Medicare. This kind of market competition has proved effective in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program enacted in 2003. Costs have been lower than government projections, and beneficiary satisfaction has been high.

Ryan-Wyden differs from the Medicare plan Ryan presented last spring by offering the option of keeping the current Medicare system. That is also a feature of the Medicare proposals of candidates Romney and Gingrich.

Wyden, with a solidly liberal voting record, may seem to be an unlikely partner in this enterprise. But he has consistently favored adding elements of market competition to our health care system.

He was one of the relatively few Democrats who provided necessary support for Part D in 2003. And in 2008, he and Republican Sen. Bob Bennett of Utah put forward a health care proposal based on eliminating the current tax preference for employer-provided health insurance.

That preference creates incentives to increase costs, and health policy experts of both left and right have argued for its elimination. But Barack Obama gave Wyden-Bennett the back of his hand and supported a plan that would centralize control in the federal government.

The Obama White House was quick to reject Ryan-Wyden, as

well. While Obama has said on occasion that the current Medicare program is not sustainable in the long term, he is now firmly in campaign mode and uninterested in anything other than bashing Republicans for hurting seniors.

Ryan-Wyden makes this kind of cheap-shot politics more difficult. And it comes when a recent poll showed that only 29 percent of voters -- less than one in three -- support the Obamacare legislation. So it's no surprise that Obama prefers Medicare tactics to defending his administration's largest legislative accomplishment.

The Republican candidates are united in their determination to repeal Obamacare, and repeal is a realistic possibility if Republicans should sweep the 2012 elections as they did in 2010. Ryan-Wyden also renders long-term Medicare reform a realistic possibility.

Ryan-Wyden helps to frame the health care issue in the presidential election as a choice between big government control and market competition. That does not help Obama.

Gallup reports that 64 percent of Americans regard big government, as opposed to big business or big labor, as "the biggest threat to the country in the future." That's just one point under the all-time high since Gallup began asking the question in 1965.

So it's not surprising that Romney and Gingrich saw fit to praise Wyden and that other Democrats are angry with him. But Wyden shows that at least one Democrat, even in campaign season, is more interested in good public policy than in politics.

Michael Barone is a conservative American political analyst, pundit and journalist. He is also a regular commentator on United States elections and political trends for the Fox News Channel.

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# Fort Hood: 300 troops come home from Iraq for holidays

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — Staff Sgt. Elama Palemene held his two young daughters and kissed his wife early Sunday after returning to Fort Hood with about 300 other soldiers, among the last U.S. combat troops returning from Iraq in time for the holidays.

They arrived about 3 a.m. to a cheering, flag-waving crowd of teary wives and bundled-up youngsters on a field at the Texas Army post with temperatures in the high 40s.

"My husband wanted to have (our children) stay behind, but it was a must to have them here," said Annaden Palemene, his wife, who held a large homemade sign that read "Sgt. Palemene, Your Tour Stops Here."

The soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division said they were glad

to be home before the holidays — and relieved to be out of Iraq.

"This was my fourth deployment to Iraq ... so it feels great to be home," said Staff Sgt. James Cantrell, who had just hugged his wife, Brenda, and 7-year-old daughter Janelle.

The group was among many returning to Fort Hood in recent weeks — one nearly every day — because of the troop withdrawal, said Staff Sgt. Jefferson VanWey, a 1st Cavalry spokesman.

Several soldiers said they were happy upon hearing the news that the very last U.S. combat troops rolled out of Iraq across the border into neighboring Kuwait at daybreak Sunday. That convoy's exit marked the end of a bitterly divisive war that raged for nearly nine years and left Iraq shattered, with trou-

bling questions lingering over whether the Arab nation will remain a steadfast U.S. ally.

"I think it's good we're out of Iraq. I think they're ready — the government and the military," said Spc. Keenan McCoy, holding his 13-month-old daughter Kyrie close to him and hugging his wife Rachel.

He declined further comment, and Fort Hood officials then said reporters present were banned from asking questions about how soldiers feel about leaving Iraq or the war.

Palemene said he hopes the country remembers that U.S. troops are still fighting elsewhere in the world.

"It feels good to be home safe and sound, but we should remember that there are still soldiers in Afghanistan,"

he said.

The war in Iraq cost nearly 4,500 American and well more than 100,000 Iraqi lives and \$800 billion from the U.S. Treasury. The quiet weekend withdrawal was a stark contrast to the start of the war, which began with a pre-dawn airstrike in Baghdad on March 20, 2003, before U.S. and allied ground forces then stormed from Kuwait across the deserts of southern Iraq toward that capital.

In late 2003 soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, then based at Fort Hood, captured Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and he was executed in 2006. The division and its headquarters moved to Fort Carson, Colo., in 2009.

Troops also have been returning to other military installations across the country.

## Historic DART building in Dallas gets green makeover

DALLAS (AP) — In a cavernous brick structure in east Oak Cliff, old meets new.

And blue meets green.

The building at the Illinois rail station on DART's Blue Line was once a maintenance shop for the Interurban Railway, which ran between Denison and Waco, along with other routes, until 1948.

Dating to 1914, the shop building has the industrial look of its time and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2006.

Inside, however, it has a new role as the headquarters of DART's police department — the officers who patrol the trains, buses and stations; and their support staff.

The conversion was done with homage to the building's past, seamlessly merging original exposed brick walls and steelwork into the modern workspaces of a police force.

Architects and designers worked with the Texas Historical Commission, the Federal Transit Administration and the city of Dallas to make sure the renovation met preservation standards.

The project has another contemporary touch: It was recently declared among the nation's most environmentally sustainable historical renovations.

And planners were tasked with achieving a LEED silver certification, the third-highest level, from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED — Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design — is a set of international standards for energy-efficient and environmentally friendly methods and materials.

"When the points were added up, the project received not silver, not gold, but platinum," said David Ehrlicher, DART's chief architect. Platinum is the highest level of achievement.

The renovation received credit for its mechanical systems, lighting efficiency, choice of materials and other elements.

Even "Dumpster management," reducing construction waste, counts. The project produced about 95 percent

less scrap than a similar renovation might generate.

Other buildings on the national historical register have received LEED platinum certification, but DART believes its police headquarters is the first public-owned example.

With recent rail system expansions, the agency decided its police needed a home on one of the rail lines. The Interurban building, known as the Monroe Shops, was on the Blue Line, and vacant; previous re-use plans hadn't worked out.

Officers and staff moved into the Monroe Shops in March.

The project kept the original building virtually intact by setting the office walls away from the shop walls, essentially putting a smaller new box inside the old structure.

The technique will make future changes easier and helps integrate the past and present.

Conference rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows that show the original brick walls a few feet away. Offices have original green-painted steel girders running overhead and through walls.

Corridors have brick walls that still bear remnants of their old paint.

Natural sunlight from big windows illuminates the officers' two-story-high workout room, which has the post-industrial look of a converted loft apartment. A massive, gray steel beam suspends a heavy bag for boxing workouts.

DART police Lt. Jim Foster, conducting a building tour, said he visited other new police buildings in other states to get tips for DART. Moving into a completely new headquarters is at most a one-time event in an officer's career, he said.

And it's a first for the DART police, which hasn't had a permanent home since the force was founded in 1989. The officers and staff constantly shifted between temporary locations.

Foster joined the force in 1995.

"Since then, I've worked out of seven places," he said. "Having this place is pretty cool."

## After 60 years, inmate to get parole

TENNESSEE COLONY (AP) — When Harvey Stewart first went to prison 60 years ago, gasoline was 20 cents a gallon, a postage stamp cost three pennies and Harry Truman was president.

Now, as perhaps one of the longest-serving inmates in US history, the convicted killer is looking forward to the perks of freedom when he is released on parole in the coming weeks or months.

An iPod or cell phone perhaps? Not for this 83-year-old. Stewart simply wants a root beer and a good meal.

"Imagine that! Sixty years being down in this damn hole," Stewart recently told The Associated Press from the Beto Unit in East Texas, one of his many stops in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "I wouldn't recommend it. Man's a damn fool to even stick his foot in here."

Stewart, awaiting his release to a halfway house or nursing home after being granted parole earlier this year, recalled his youthful days of robbing brothels in Southeast Texas for quick \$3,000 pay days, of getting shot in the back while holding up a junk yard and murdering a man in what he insists was a self-defense killing.

But the six decades in prison haven't been nearly as eventful. He counts among his highlights his brief escape in 1965 and a recurring headache from a prison van wreck a couple years ago. Besides those short-lived respites from monotony, Stewart has served his time isolated from the outside world. He doesn't recall receiving a single visitor in more than a decade. He's outlived most or all his immediate family.

His parole was approved in April, with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles considering his recent history of good behavior, his age and declining health.

"I'm too damn old to do any robbing," said Stewart, his blond hair now a balding gray brush cut. "I think I am anyway. My old ticker might kick out on me."

Stewart is the longest-serving inmate among the 155,000 prisoners in the Texas system, though it's unclear if he is the nation's longest-serving

inmate now or ever. Prison officials and historians say they're unaware of any agency or organization that keeps track of all inmates' jail time.

Among other states with significant prison populations, convicted murderer James Moore, 78, has been locked up in New York since 1963. In California, 80-year-old Booker Hillery first went to prison in 1955 for rape and was returned in 1962 for a murder earlier that year while on parole. Norman Parker is Florida's longest-serving inmate, arriving in 1967.

Stewart was first sent to prison in spring 1951 after a junk yard heist in Houston got him a 10-year sentence. He was paroled after serving six years but was convicted in 1958 of murdering a man in Beaumont and received a life sentence. Seven years later he broke out of prison for several days, then waited another two decades before being paroled a second time to a halfway house and worked as a dishwasher.

He used his freedom in 1984 to eat a Big Mac for the first time, but by summer 1986 he was back behind bars, busted for a robbery plot.

State corrections officials say he won't be released until a parole plan is completed, and will receive proper supervision in either a halfway house or nursing home. Officials would not estimate how much longer that could take or what kind of restrictions he'd continue to have.

Even under halfway house restrictions or in a nursing home, corrections experts say he could be in for some challenges, noting that even short-time prisoners get indoctrinated to the rigid rules of prison.

"It really is cognitively and emotionally taxing, even though it is simple decisions you and I do every day without thinking," said Gaylene Armstrong, research director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University.

"These folks are not used to making those decisions. ... If you think of just in the last five years what's changed for us: smart phones, not being pay phones, self-checkouts at grocery stores, ATMs, how to do things online. Even folks

who have been off the streets for just a few years, that's all new to them."

Stewart, whose last car was a 1958 Ford, maintains he's unfazed by how the world has changed during his confinement.

"I've functioned in a lot of places," he said. "I know what's there and what ain't there."

Stewart was born in Corpus Christi, one of five children whose father worked in the South Texas oil fields. A search for Stewart's relatives was unsuccessful, with records showing most of them deceased.

Having outlived so many he knew, Stewart says it's been probably a decade since he had a visitor.

"Looks like nobody wants something to do with me," said Stewart, who never married.

His days are spent quietly and simply. Among his joys now is interaction with female corrections officers. He called their presence "the only thing that lightens the whole atmosphere."

Then there's the occasional "pitty-pat" in his head, the result of being inside a prison van that rolled over in a wreck. His knees hurt but he's still able to walk, although "I'm not real fast anymore."

Asked how he spends his days, he responds: "Well, I fart every once in a while."

His cellmate these days is "only 70-something. In fact, I think he's 60-something. There ain't nobody my age down here."

Asked what he hoped to do when he does get out, he gets defensive.

"You think I want to get involved in some sex and get drunk," he said.

Told that many inmates talk about feeling the grass on their bare feet and looking up at the sky without fences topped by razor wire, he said sarcastically: "Well, that's poetic."

Instead, he looks forward to "a good easy-going meal and a root beer. I said a root beer," he emphasized.

And the things he'll miss about prison?

"You ever run into a fence post or light post or something?" he asked. "You miss it?"

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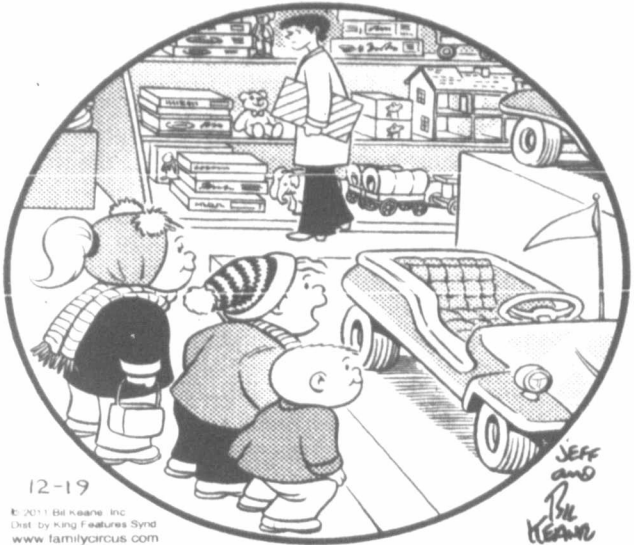
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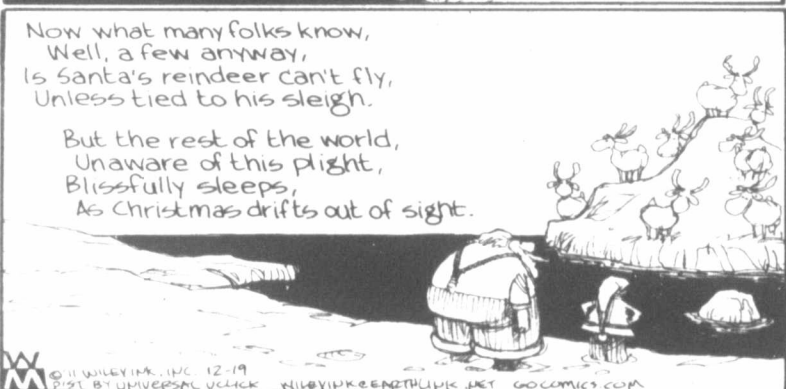
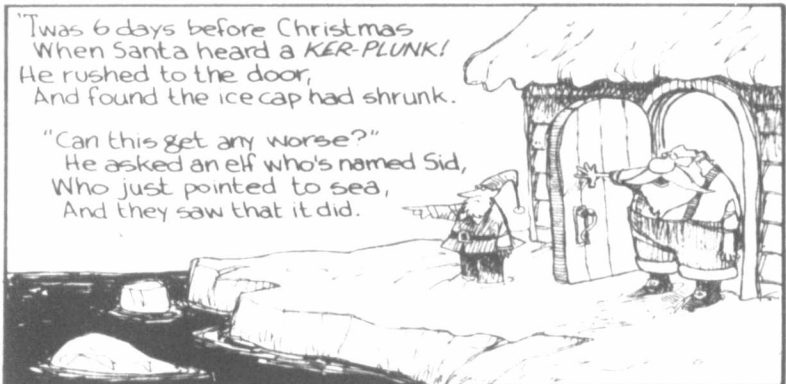
# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



12-19  
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### Non Sequitur



### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Monday, Dec. 19, 2011:

You juggle many different concerns with skill and care. An innate sensitivity plays into the moment, guiding you as to when to be serious and when to be funny. This gift allows you to have a greater impact and more popularity. Network and expand your immediate circle of friends. Professionally, you gain through your social abilities. Remain goal-oriented. If you are single, know what you want. You can make it so this year. If you are attached, emphasize your friendship. Your relationship can only grow. Socialize as a couple more often. LIBRA reflects similar concerns socially.

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)**  
★★★★ You might discover that your hands are full taking care of everything that others drop on your plate. Lighten up about what is going on. Not everything is as serious as it appears. Flow and work with the moment. Your attitude and perspective define what goes on. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★ Stay mellow yet focused on what is important. Stay even but ready to assert yourself, especially if there is a problem. Your ability to please a key person in your life emerges. You are in sync with this person, adding to a more caring tone. Tonight: Easy works.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★★ You are full of fun and have a strong sense of direction. What a bold mix you are capable of presenting. Don't be overly disciplined or hard on others. A better flow speckled with kindness will result. They know you have boundaries, too! Tonight: Fun lies ahead if you open the door.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Stay centered, knowing what is enough. You do need to get past a problem. Your lightness and humor make a big difference when a domestic associate becomes difficult. Remember, many people have difficulty with the holidays. Tonight: Order in.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You have a way of choosing the right words. Your energy allows greater give-and-take. Sometimes your demeanor

moves a situation as much as words. Be willing to be open and put your ideas out there. Tonight: Speak your mind.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★ You can say whatever you want to say. You are able to make a difference. You possess an ability to tell someone you have had enough or he or she has been crossing your boundaries and be heard, if not liked. Invest more in a personal tie. Tonight: Close to home.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★★ Reach out for someone who might have a case of the blues. A conversation or an invitation might be just what the doctor ordered. Return calls quickly. Remember, you could be looking at a short workweek. Tonight: Join a friend or two.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★ Deal with your feelings before spouting answers. You might be having a strong negative reaction to a person involved, or a similar situation. A comment or action could make you quite sad. Detach, knowing you could be overly sensitive. Look within. Tonight: Visit with a family member.

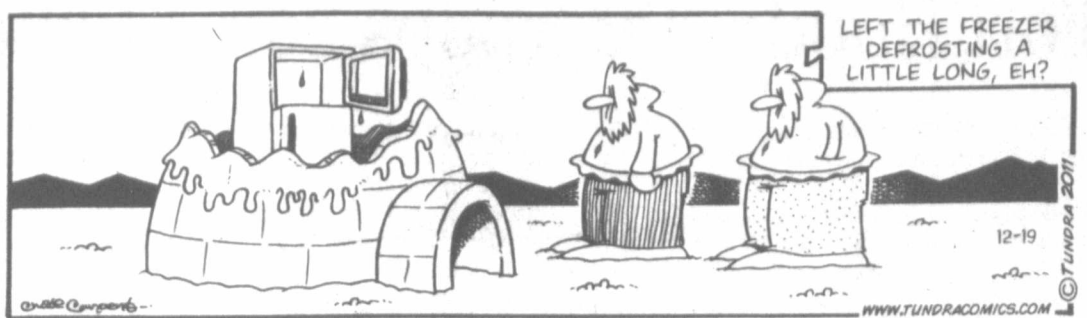
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★ Listen to news that comes forward. Getting together with friends or associates points to a change. Detach, and you will be able to deal with others on a more basic level. You could encounter someone quite stubborn. Tonight: Where people are.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★ Take charge and worry less. Running the show is right up your alley. Don't push someone; don't demand. Be more sensitive to others' potential — not everyone has your skill set. You move through issues quickly. Tonight: Could go to the wee hours.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★ Your ability to see situations from the point of view of others is always a strong suit, but even more so now. Someone might be trying to hide his or her disdain or upset. You sense that. Make an extra effort to reach out to this person. Tonight: Understand where you might be limiting your perspective.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★ You might want to understand what is going on with a close friend. This person could feel a bit tired and worn out by his or her recent schedule. You also might want to hear more from a parent or

### Tundra



### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



### Zits



### Garfield



### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



# Sports

## PHS boys swimming prevails, girls fall to Tascosa

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

When head swimming coach Edward Garvin looked at the seeds for Pampa's dual against Tascosa, he projected his girls team as 30-point underdogs. The Lady Harvesters managed to keep it close throughout, but came up short in a 450-442 loss to the Tascosa Lady Rebels Saturday at the Pampa Youth Center.

"They caught up and did really good," Garvin said. "They made it close."

Senior Kendle Ramey was pleased with how the girls swam.

"I think we did really good," Ramey said.

The Harvesters won their dual 434-371 over the Amarillo Tascosa Rebels. Senior Spencer Estes said it was a good outcome.

"It was pretty good because we got first place," Estes said.

The Lady Harvesters led most of the meet. Pampa won the 200-yard medley relay (2:19.98) with Ramey, sophomore Morgan Graef, senior Samantha Wilson and junior Rachel Andrews participating. Ramey won the 500-yard freestyle (6:51.49) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:15.18). The senior said the 500-freestyle wasn't her best race.

"I could have done a lot better," Ramey said.

The Lady Rebels took the lead in the 200-yard freestyle relay, winning first and finishing second. Pampa finished third and was outscored 74-32 in the event. Graef won the 100-yard breaststroke (1:23.98) Pampa finished the day by winning the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:47.71). Ramey, Graef, Wilson and freshman Samantha VanHouten were the swimmers.

The Harvesters won all three relays. Pampa recorded a time of 2:01.72 in the 200-yard medley relay with Estes, J.T. Brown, junior Ramon Portillo and sophomore Chris Garvin participating. In the 200-freestyle relay, the Harvesters finished in 1:56.54 with Garvin, seniors Karl Pfitzner and Nate Towry and Portillo participating. The team of Brown, freshman Dalton Hudson, Portillo and Estes finished the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:08.43.

Estes recorded victories in the 50-yard freestyle (24.64) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:05.28). Pfitzner won the 200-yard freestyle (2:15.50). Hudson won the 200-yard individual medley (2:34.02). Brown won the 100-yard freestyle (1:01.10) and the 100-yard breaststroke (1:17.44). Towry won the 500-yard freestyle (6:19.76). Portillo won the 100-yard butterfly (1:08.75) beating his best time by six seconds. Edward said that earned him an invite to the Lubbock Invites in January.

"The Lubbock Invite is a really big race just before district," Garvin said. "You have to make qualifying times to go. He was one that was really close and he did it in that race."

The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters that qualified will compete in the Lubbock Invitational January 13-14. Pampa competes in district January 27-28 in Lubbock and will be aiming for their 13th straight championship.

Edward said this is what they have prepared all season for.

"Lubbock Invite is an exciting meet for those that qualify," Garvin said. "It gives us a chance to see some really fast schools that we compete against. It's a two-day meet. Which gets us used to the district and regional two-day meet."



Garvin



Estes

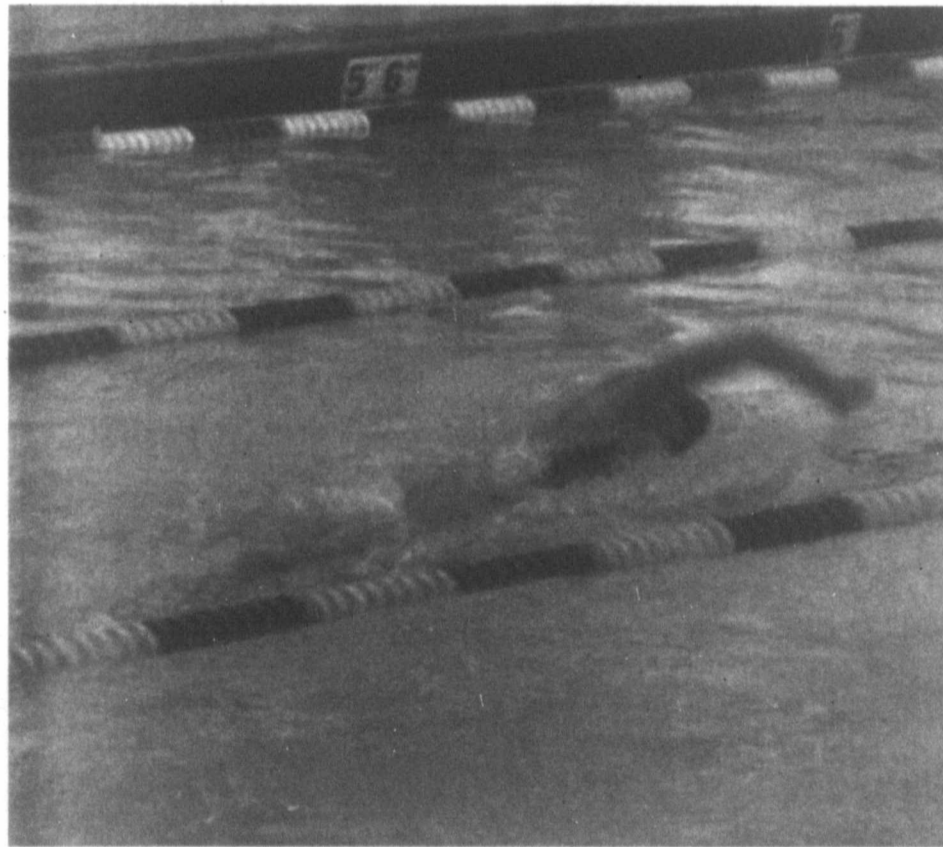


Portillo



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Ramon Portillo comes up for a breath during the 100-yard butterfly Saturday at the Pampa Youth Center. Portillo won the event with a time of 1:08. Portillo's time qualified for the Lubbock Invitational in January.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Kendle Ramey pulls away in the 500-yard freestyle against Amarillo Tascosa Saturday. Ramey won the event with a time of 6:51.

## Durant gets new practice tutor

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two-time NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant has a new part-time tutor and a new defender to challenge him every day at practice.

Durant was introduced Wednesday to Lazar Hayward, who came over in a trade the previous night with Minnesota, then spent time after the workout getting tips from former Timberwolves coach Kurt Rambis.

Hayward got instructions from coach Scott Brooks that he'd be guarding Durant most days in practice and the second-year forward out of Marquette said he embraced the role immediately.

"During practice, I told him I would be going up against him all the time," Hayward said. "I was like, 'I'm going to push you, I'm going to fight you, I'm going to try and make you mad,' but at the end of the day it'll help him because when those guys guard him, they're not going to let him do whatever he wants."

"It wouldn't be fair to him if I didn't bring my best every night in guarding him in practice. At the end of the day, it's good for both of us."

Hayward was part of a Tuesday night trade that sent a 2012 second-round pick, a conditional 2013 second-round pick and guard Robert Vaden to the Timberwolves. He was surprised when he saw Rambis, his former coach, in his hotel Wednesday morning.

"Kurt has a lot of knowledge. He's been around some of the greatest players ever in the history of the game, Magic (Johnson) and Kobe (Bryant)," Brooks said. "I picked his brain for the last five or six days and our coaches have also. With Kevin, I wanted him just to talk a little bit about what Kobe brought and all the great players that he has been around."

Rambis, who is a friend of Brooks, also spent at least 10 minutes after reporters were allowed into the end of practice working with Durant at the high post, demonstrating ways to seal off defenders and get for an open shot. Despite his status as the league's top scorer, Durant has repeatedly said he wants to improve his post-up game and become more than a jump shooter.

"Definitely he came back stronger, he's

added a little bit of muscle to his frame. His post-up game, we're going to continue to build on that," Brooks said. "We've made steps throughout the last three or four years with that. I think this year you'll see another step."

Brooks said he expects Durant, who mostly played shooting guard when he got into the league, to play some at the power forward spot this season. But Brooks believes the superstar can play at just about any position, with the rare combination of his nearly 7-foot frame and solid ball handling.

"I'm just trying to work on my post game. I think that me being more patient down there and being stronger getting the ball has improved a lot," Durant said.

"I've got to keep working, I've got to keep getting stronger and my teammates challenge me every day in practice. I know with them on my back every single day, I can get better."

And now, he'll have someone new to challenge him.

Hayward may have trouble cracking a rotation that featured Durant and recently re-signed 3-point specialist Daequan Cook last season but he'll have opportunities to prove himself worthy while going against an All-Star on a regular basis.

"He's going to have to guard a pretty good player every day in practice, so it's going to get his defense better," Brooks said. "He's going to be guarding Kevin most times. ... He's going to bring another dimension to our team. I don't know how many minutes he's going to get. Like I told him, if he doesn't work hard and doesn't bring the effort every day, he has no shot at playing. He understands that."

Hayward said he worked out some with Durant and James Harden in California during the offseason and chatted then that there could "possibly be a chance for me to come here."

Now, he can get far more familiar with his new teammates.

"I've always been a guy that can do a bunch of different things. That's what I pride myself at," Hayward said. "Really, what you'll get from me is I'll play with my heart, I'm very passionate I'll always play hard and I'm a team-first guy."

PAMPA NEWS

## athletes

### of the week

**Delaney Clendening**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior basketball player **Delaney Clendening** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Clendening was co-leading scorer in Tuesday's victory over Miami with 12. She scored 13 in the Lady Harvesters' victory over Estacado.

**Ramon Portillo**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior swimmer **Ramon Portillo** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Portillo won the 100-yard butterfly Saturday against Amarillo Tascosa. Portillo's time qualified him for the Lubbock Invitational January 13-14. This is Portillo's athlete of the week honor.

# Sports

## Booster group hit hard by Ponzi scheme

DALLAS (AP) — A foundation that endows athletic scholarships at the University of Houston may have lost more than 40 percent of its listed assets because of investments in an alleged Ponzi scheme orchestrated by a financial adviser for college basketball coaches who committed suicide last summer.

The losses incurred by the Houston Athletics Foundation could have financial implications for the university, which has traditionally struggled to raise funds for its sports programs. The investments have also raised ethical issues for the group's board, many of whom had long-standing ties to the scheme's mastermind, David Salinas.

More than \$2.2 million of the nearly \$5.1 million in assets listed by the foundation in its most recent filing with the Internal Revenue Service were invested in bonds that the Securities and Exchange Commission claims never existed. The foundation's losses are among the most notable in a scheme that allegedly defrauded more than 100 investors of \$39 million, including millions of dollars from several high-profile college coaches.

"We were tricked like everybody else," said Matthew Houston, the foundation's current treasurer.

Salinas, 60, shot himself to death in his suburban Houston home last July, just weeks before the SEC filed a lawsuit accusing him and an associate, Brian Bjork, of selling bogus corporate bonds with purported yields of up to 9 percent. The matter remains under criminal investigation by the U.S. Secret Service.

Houston said the foundation has decided to collect dues from board members to ensure the university receives the

roughly \$250,000 the group usually sends annually to fund athletic scholarships.

Houston athletic director Mack Rhoades said he still anticipates a reduction of some sort, but the money is a relatively small percentage of the \$3 million the school raises annually for that purpose.

"It's not a huge impact, but it does have an impact," he said.

Athletic funding has been a challenge through the years for the university, where sports programs are overshadowed by the city's professional teams. The problem was accentuated when the university was among those left out when the Big Eight merged with the Texas schools of the Southwest Conference to form the Big 12 in 1996. The shift forced Houston into the less lucrative Conference USA.

But the school has created a buzz with a run of successful football seasons, and two weeks ago it gained admission to the Big East, a BCS conference. The move could mean an annual revenue increase of \$7 million, according to Rhoades.

The university's athletic department initially relied on the foundation as its fund-raising arm, but it lost that role in 2002 when then-athletic director Dave Maggard replaced it with a group directly under the department's control, Cougar Pride.

Maggard, who retired in 2009, would not comment on the foundation or Salinas, saying only that he made the change to be "more efficient and cost-effective."

Salinas was a money manager for numerous college basketball coaches, including Billy Gillispie of Texas Tech and Scott Drew of Baylor.

Former Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson also invested with Salinas, as

did Baylor football coach Art Briles, who previously coached at Houston.

In addition, Salinas operated a well-known AAU basketball program for high school players, many of whom were recruited by the coaches whose money he managed.

Court and other records examined by The Associated Press show that Salinas was just as closely aligned with the foundation, an organization that annually gives the university a grant equal to 5 percent of its assets to help cover the cost of athletic scholarships.

Salinas was among the foundation's board members when the group was started in 1995, and he remained on the board until his death, records show. Bjork also was on the board and was its treasurer until the SEC filed its lawsuit.

Bjork has agreed not to contest the SEC's civil claims and has informed authorities he will cooperate, but is not admitting guilt, said his attorney, Matt Hennessy. The attorney said neither he nor his client could comment further.

In addition, documents filed in the SEC case show that an investment company started by Salinas and Bjork, Select Asset Management, made a \$1.58 million loan to one of the foundation's board members.

Experts who regularly scrutinize charitable organizations said the loan represents a major conflict of interest that could have compromised board decisions. At the very least, the foundation's board members had an obligation to look closely at the bonds because they comprised such a large percentage of the group's investment portfolio, they said.

"There are all sorts of best practices that it

seems to me were not followed in this case," said Aaron Dorfman, executive director of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, a watchdog group for nonprofits based in Washington, D.C.

Dorfman said the circumstances surrounding the Salinas case are similar to what his organization saw in analyzing the nearly 150 foundations that invested with Bernard Madoff, whose \$65 billion Ponzi scheme is the largest financial fraud in U.S. history.

"Unfortunately, personal relationships often supplant good due diligence, and people just go along with a charismatic personality, which was certainly the case with Bernie Madoff," he said.

Houston, the foundation's treasurer, said the group has reorganized its board and revised its bylaws to prohibit investing with board insiders. It also is considering a lawsuit against its auditors for failing to realize the bonds didn't exist, he said.

Rhoades supports the foundation's policy changes, but he doesn't believe the group should be singled out for criticism because of what it lost.

"The Houston Athletics Foundation is like every other victim out there that invested money with David Salinas, and it's sad," he said.

## BANANAGRAMS!

Add an O to each of the words below and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new six-letter word.

L I N E N

□ □ □ □ □ □

D R A W N

□ □ □ □ □ □

F A T A L

□ □ □ □ □ □

P R I C E

□ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Answer: Possible Solutions: ODOROUS, OUTDOOR, OUTRODE, COURTED, OUTRACE, CENTAUR, CENTRAL, LATENCY

12.19

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Longing

1 Pleased 39 Rare

5 Return to bird

base 40 Wineglass

10 Track parts

event 41 Sunset

11 Kitchen site

come-ons

13 Privy to

14 Small wave

15 Dickens miser

17 Pot brew

18 Lengths of service

19 Have dinner

20 Tennis court divider

21 Proofing mark

22 Blueprint data

25 More rational

26 Walking aid

27 Runner on snow

28 Museum fill

29 Fusilli shapes

33 Bitterly cold

34 Dickens boy

35 Newspaper worker

37 Deep sleep

G	R	O	P	E	S	T	A	P	S		
R	E	V	I	V	E	A	L	I	T		
E	L	I	C	I	T	T	A	C	O		
B	A	N	A	L	C	U	B	A	N		
E	X	E	S	P	O	M	A	D	E		
			S	O	A	R	M	O	D		
			C	O	O	K	I	E	J	A	R
M	A	R	A	L	S	O					
I	N	L	A	Y	S	C	A	S	E		
S	T	E	M	S	S	U	R	E	R		
S	I	A	M	B	I	L	O	X	I		
A	N	N	O	I	N	A	S	E	C		
L	A	S	S	O	G	R	E	S	S		

Saturday's answer

9 Alternative to lager

24 Interweave

25 Tattoo site

27 Church toppers

29 Tempest

30 Make amends

31 Green fruits

32 Bright

36 Make a bow in

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
10					11						12
13					14						
15					16				17		
18									19		
				20				21			
22	23	24					25				
26							27				
28					29				30	31	32
33					34						
35					36				37		
38									39		
	40								41		

12-19



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been living together for nine months. We have decided to host Christmas dinner at our house and invited 20 people — 10 from each of our families. His mother, unfortunately, is having a hard time accepting that her 27-year-old son is growing up.

She says she feels "awkward" and that their family has had its traditions for many years. (My boyfriend has spent every Christmas Eve and Christmas night at his parents' house since birth.)

I come from a family that is adaptable to change. Any suggestions for dealing with this potential future mother-in-law? — FREE SPIRIT IN PHOENIX

DEAR FREE SPIRIT: First of all, don't plan on your boyfriend's parents attending your Christmas dinner, and don't take it personally if they don't. She may be unwilling to change their Christmas tradition.

If and when a wedding date is set, or your boyfriend makes clear to her that your arrangement will be permanent, the three of you can then come to an agreement to alternate these holidays so you and your parents are able to also host these gatherings. This is how new families estab-

lish their own traditions and in-laws aren't made to feel that one side is favored.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my fiancé for two years. Lately he's been having trouble controlling his anger. His outbursts are becoming more frequent, and he feels like they're justified. He says if I didn't "nag" him so much there wouldn't be any arguments.

I love him and want to spend the rest of my life with him, but I'm becoming frightened by the level he allows his anger to reach. Can you help a man like this deal with his anger? — NEEDS HELP IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEEDS HELP: No, and neither can you, as much as you might wish to. Only he can do that, and it would take willingness on his part and counseling. Blaming you for his outbursts indicates he's not ready to do that. The smartest thing you can do is leave before he escalates to hurting you physically. Without professional help, the behavior you have described will only get worse.

DEAR ABBY: I have an elderly neighbor I have been friends with for many years. Over the past several years she has had numerous medical problems. I have done everything I can

to be her friend. I do things around the house, bring her meals, whatever I can. She has no family and only one other friend besides me.

She is depressed and stays in bed most of the day, which contributes to her aches and pains. I keep telling her she needs to get up and walk or her pain will get worse. It has reached the point where she's so nasty about everything that I don't even want to talk to her.

I understand that she's scared and feels beaten up. I try to talk about things that are noncontroversial — happy things. It doesn't work. She turns everything into an argument. I don't know what to do. I hate to ignore her, but it's really taking a toll on me. Am I a fair-weather friend? — TRYING TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR GOOD NEIGHBOR: No, you are a caring friend. Your elderly neighbor is ill, and she may be becoming demented. Because she is no longer able to care for herself or her home, contact the nearest hospital or senior center and ask to speak with a social worker on staff. The woman you describe may need more help than you can give her, from people with the training to do it.





## Altrusa

cont. from page 1

(PAWS), collecting donations of supplies and about \$600 for the organization during their annual Make a Difference Day.

In addition to these new efforts, the group has continuing projects that they work on each year, including raising money to go towards a vocational award and two scholarships for high school students.

"The vocational award is for someone who's either getting back into school or back into the work place, and they can use that award for anything they need," said Lacy. "It doesn't have to be used for tuition or books. It can be used for work uniforms, (and) it can be used for gasoline if they have to commute someplace to attend school. It can be used for child care, (or) whatever they need to help them with their job."

Altrusa continues to have a relationship with Tralee Crisis Center, and this year they held a November pantry drive for the shelter, and donated \$2,000 to Tralee through a grant.

Altrusa also works closely with ASTRA Club, its sister organization made up of about 45 high school students. The group helps Altrusa with some projects, while working on their own as well.

For Johnson, a major highlight of the year was helping with Travis Elementary's annual Veterans Day Celebration.

"We always help with that, help register the veterans that come in and help with the decorations, get the programs ready, and just help in any way we can," she said. "I enjoy seeing all the veterans come in in their different uniforms. I enjoy meeting them, and we pin a poppy and a flag on their uniforms."

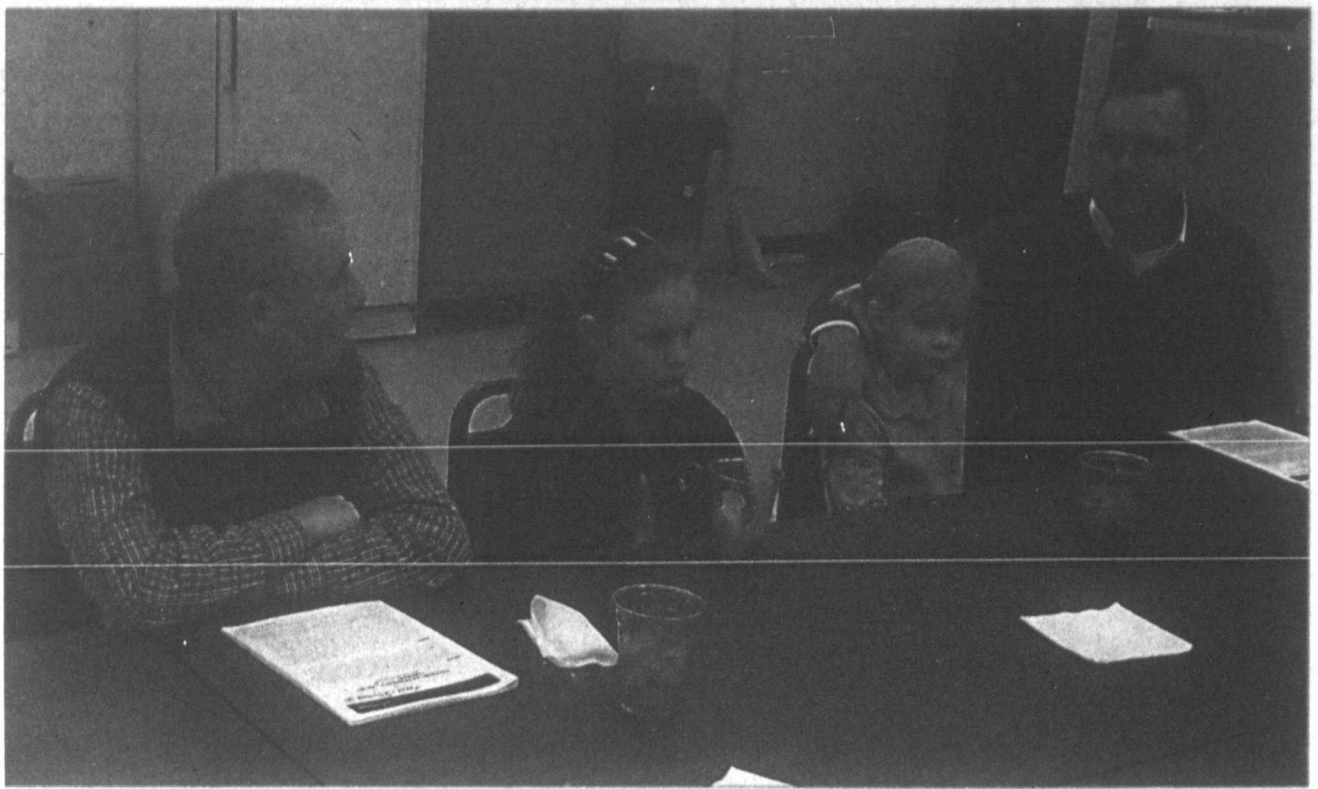
Lacy's favorite activity has been reading to a handful of students from a kindergarten or first grade class once a month at Travis Elementary.

"We take some school supplies or crayons and different things to help out with their classroom, and at the end of the school year in May, we have a big Read-o party where we play something like Bingo, and we take in school supplies and have a party for the kids that have participated," she said. "As the year progresses, it gets to the point where the kids are reading to us, and that's a lot of fun to see the progress that they make from the kindergarten kids that are just wiggling around and want to look at the pictures, and maybe they listen to the stories."

The group hosts two fundraisers each year, including the Style Show.

"The only projects that any member is required to help with is the fundraisers," said Lacy. "Everything else (is based on) your individual interest or how much time you have available. Some of us go deliver Meals on Wheels. Some don't ever do it. It's left up to the individuals."

"Pampa's been very generous and very supportive of all of our projects," she added.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

County Commissioner Jeff Haley (right) listens as Brandon McGinty, Gray County extension agent, delivers a presentation on 4H's various projects in 2011. With Haley are his daughters, Mary Katherine (middle left) and Margaret.

## 4H

cont. from page 1

certified in the ServSafe.

"We are seeing more city people," Gray-Soria said. "We were seeing people outside of the city from Lefors and McLean. In addition to those food protection course we had a food handler course."

One hundred five people from the food bank went through the course and received their food handling certification. Gray-Soria said she has noticed improvements in the restaurants she visited.

"They have made the changes that are required by those set laws," Gray-Soria said.

Gray-Soria concluded her presentation by talking about the "Winning Nutrition" program for athletes. She said they are having the junior high coaches implement it as part of the physical education program.

"We are hitting sixth graders and some seventh and eighth graders with eating habits and eating well for athletics," Gray-Soria said. "Everything we know about carbo-

hydrates, fats, sleeping, eating, the importance of water, smoking, drinking, etc., affects our every day living."

County Commissioner Joe Wheeley said it's important for children to learn about nutrition.

"I think the biggest thing that's hit obesity is lack of exercise," Wheeley said. "Sitting in front of a darn PlayStation."

Gray-Soria agreed and added there's a problem of people getting fast food and not knowing how to prepare a balanced meal.

"We have a generation of adults that didn't go to home-ech classes where they can learn to prepare appropriate meals for their family," Gray-Soria said. "We got a group of single mothers that are working and aren't taking care of the kids, the kids are taking care of themselves."

McGinty closed the meeting with the presentation of the renovation of the 4-H barn.

## PAWS

cont. from page 1

all of the different animals," said Ruth.

About 25 guests attended the party, and the girls said that some friends brought as much as \$50 for PAWS,

raising a total of about \$550 that Sharron had agreed to match.

"We felt good, because we raised over a thousand dollars, so we felt good for helping them," said

Rebekah.

"I like animals, and I thought that it was a good idea to raise all that money," said Ruth.

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Earrings

25% OFF  
Men's  
Diamond  
Rings

25% OFF  
Diamond  
Bracelets

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Blue Diamond  
Necklace  
\$995

25% OFF  
Diamond  
Fashion  
Rings

25% OFF  
Gemstone  
Jewelry

20% to 50%  
OFF  
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Thursday,  
December 22

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- Kameleon Jewelry
- Fossil Watches - UT & Oil
- Bracelets and Charms
- Gold Roses
- Kid's Jewelry
- Seiko Music & Mantel Clocks

Open till 8 PM Mon-Fri till Christmas

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Come downtown and look at the Christmas lights!

# Letters to Santa

PAGE | SECTION

1 | B

NORTH POLE  
2011

## From: The kids of Austin Elementary

I would like some Junie B. Jones books and a stuffed animal. I will leve some milk and cookys for you. And I will leve some feed for the reindeer. Have a safe trip.  
**Lexi Maul, age 8**

I would like an i-pod touch for christmas. Cabela's hunting duck blaster and Legos. I would also like to know how cold it is in the north pole. have a safe trip around the world.  
**Michael, age 8**

I want a new bike for crismis and this tow things the spiye giyear. my brother want's A new bike witch chanuwees. how can you dilver presins in 1 night. And eat all the cookies in 1 night. And how can you get the reindeer to fly. And be caer fuil.  
**Isain, age 7**

Haws the north poll? I wood like a ballereena and puppy costoom for MVa. A octum is dark uve the moon costoom.  
**Paylon, age 8**

I have sum thains for christmas sum gams for my will. How cold northPole? How do the reindeer fly? How do yuo make toys?  
**Giselle Juarez, age 8**

I want A 3DS and a hole set of drums and I want to give A presint to my Mom and Dad and I want a Phone a Comeputre to and A Ipod and A sprint phone.  
**Jade, age 7**

I would like a iPoud touch for Christmas. Where did you git the red coat? How do the reindeer fly? How cold is the north pole? Have a safe trip.  
**Katie Carer, age 7**

Things you want a bed and 30 football PI toys dirt bike and a ipud tuch?  
**Gallyer, age 7**

How do you mack your reindeer fly. These is

want I want for crismis a D.S. Bib Santa have fun.  
**Kimberly, age 8**

How do you mae the reindeer fly? I want a ituch for christmas! I want more close. I want book's. I want a new friwiller.  
**Marlee Quarles, age 7**

I want a vases of flowers for my mommy. How do the reindeer fly? want I know mashic corn! and for my christmas Letter I hope you have a safe trip.  
**Haley Heiskell, age 7**

How long is your berd? How many elves do you have? I like westie puppy's. I want smily to get in my backpack. Dose smily eat and if he dose what dose he eat?  
**Mallory, age 8**

For cristmas I would like a dese and a pupy a Ipod and a book.  
**Hannah Campbell, age 8**

How do you make the reindeer fly? How do you make the toys for the children? What is it like for the children? What is it like in the North Pole? Does it snow in the North Pole?  
**Savannah Valentine, age 7 1/2**

I would like a baby sock monkey. I will leve milk and cookeis for you. And oat for your reindeer.  
**Morgan Joyce, age 7**

How cold is the North Pole? Have been good? And I want is a new bike and I want also some makeup and a eletricit scooter.  
**Londyn McCoy, age 7**

For crestmes I wold like a getar for crestmes a real one for crestmes.  
**Zoe Crutchfield, age 8**

How do you go to Kid's hose in one nigh and

how do you eat cookcese and don't get sick how much efs do you.  
**Talon Clark, age 7**

I want a drefter for cresmes.  
**Diego Juarez, age 8**

How cold is the North pole and I have been good and kids may not beleve n you butt i beleve in you and for crismast I want a WWVe Rumler.  
**Rhett Elliff, age 7**

Wut I wunt is a DSI and a DSI carcharr. And a moachol hot miss erime with his cheler.  
**Mark, age 9**

Hey santa I was wondering how can your reindeer fly. how do you make toys and how cold it it. I hope a safe trip bak to North pole. I want a go cart for crismis.  
**Cayson Steward, age 8**

I want a naw bike for chrismis and a toys and chres for my dog's. stuff that my dog won't make a mes weth.  
**Lizzy Devoll, age 7**

I have been pritty good this year. Can you bring me a wii game and an pet lisard and a toy piningone.  
**Preston Stroud, age 6**

I want a postr. I will leave you some cooies and milk.  
**Emma Carroll, age 6**

I. never see you are you really reall santa I lust wunderd are you reall santa?  
**Gracie G., age 7**

I what to have a bunch of legos.  
**Cayden Cornis, age 6**

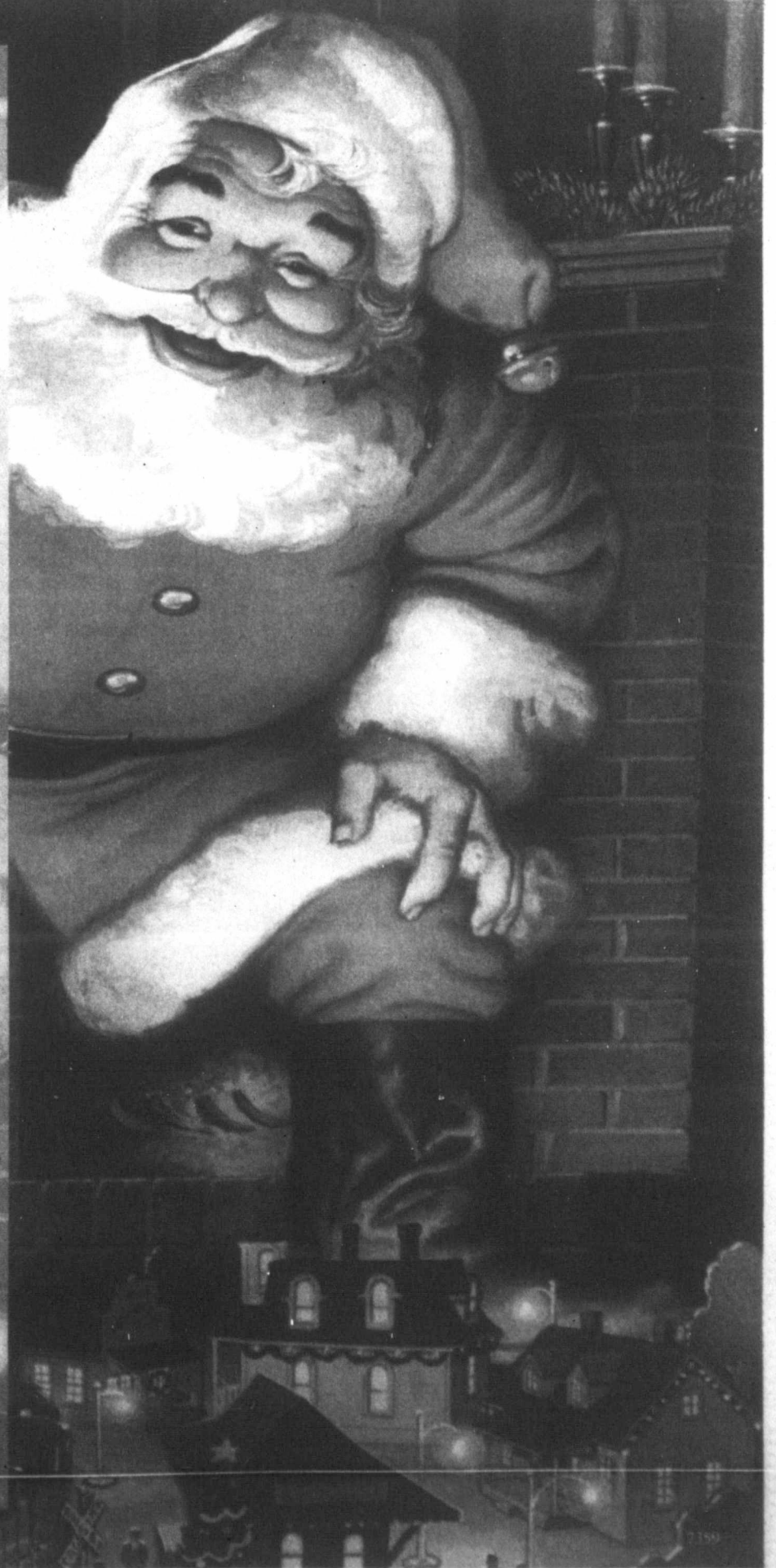
I have some toys that I want for christmas.  
**Garrett Carroll, age 7**

We'd Like To Join Santa  
In Offering Our Greetings  
To All Of You This Most  
Festive Time Of Year

**TRIANGLE WELL  
SERVICE CO.**

From Our Children...  
Hunter, Jessica &  
Faith Hall, Brayden Dyson,  
Carrie and Cadie Waldrip,  
Paisley Dyer, Autumn,  
McKenzie & Kennedey Woods

To Yours ... Merry Christmas  
In the time of  
our Saviour's birth.



I want a xbox 360. I will leve you cookies and milk.  
**Westin Bruce, age 7**

I have been really happy a bawt you are nis your really grafl kud you Deng me a dog adn a cat.  
**Heaven Hernan**

I have been dooing good can you bring me a dertbice  
**Clayton**

I have been really good this year I hope you bring me a new goterop  
**Gauge, age 6**

I have been really good this year. I hope I will get a xbox 360. Dear santa this is the run christmas year!  
**Amanda Rias, age 7**

For crismis I web tike a toy behind roo  
**Josiah M, age 6**

I have been really good thisyear. I hope you bring me a lololoopsy doll and a american doll  
**Brookyn Smith**

I have been really goo this year. I hope that santa will brings me a Barbe for Christmas Love santa  
**Jalley Titis, age 7**

I hope you bring me sum now D.S.I. gams and a now lepstre  
**Reagan, age 6**

I wiat your whll name I wunt a Amaurck doll be- caase someties get lonely  
**Catelyn Hariah, age 6**

I have been really good this year. I hope you bring me skilandrs the wii and DS and a ipod xbox and Bat man for it pleas.  
**Mason Bagwell, age 6**

I have been really good this year I hope that you bring me a Anagreybrd and i picture of my family the peppl I dont know in my family plees bring me one of the  
**Sydney Larkin, age 7**

I have beem really good and I hop that you Bring mw a IPad and I hop that you Bring me a com- puter  
**Yelim Nunez, age 7**

I have been really good this year. I hope you bring you brme a new iphone 4s and the new i pad.  
**Audrey, age 7**

I want a car want runs wif datere's for the can and cood driv put the rigt sisc for me and my drontro  
**Sykora**

Have I been good Santa I hope I been good if I been good want a new Electric scooter and a i-pad foot boll. and a puppy  
**Maja Back, age 8**

How are you? I am fine. for Christmas I would want Exploderzwater-ballgun  
**Daniel Garvin, age 8**

How are you doing Santa? all i want for christmas is a sword so I can fite off bad pepol that triye to ci- dnap pepol Thanks Santa I hope you have a good Christmas  
**Darian Alexander**

How are you? I am fine for Christmas I would like a Go kart, a ipad, fathead Please Santa.  
**Sam Anguiano, age 8**

Are you fine? I have bengood for christmas I would like a Spint HCT smart phone and E-spack scoter and a Go-gart please.  
**Logan Alexander, age 8**

How are you and your reindeer? I am good and I have been a very good girl this year. For Christmas I would like a new bike and a pair of rollerskates please. P.S. How is Mrs. Claus?  
**Haley Fossett, age 8**

How are you? I hope you can make it. can I have a DS, tutu, and puppy?  
**Rhys Shields, age 7**

How are you? I am fine. I rily whant the car air- hogs. and a water-ball gun and a gocart.  
**Michael Campbell, age 8**

I have been a good girl I want for christmas is a amracin girl doll, psp, and phone a smart phone. and that woud be all I want. thank you  
**Sierra Sutherland, age 7**

How ar you dohing good? I am fine. for crismos I wold like nothing exept som love plees and a snowdord pleas tel roodaf ised hi I wil not bea home on christmas eve incede a new PSP minse broke pleas  
**Weston Leecox, age 8**

how are you? This year I have been a very good girl. I would like I pod touch, I pad 2, I phone. that is all thank you. And just one more thing a bell. Thank you again  
**Raylee Jewett, age 8**

How are you Santa? Im doing great. I would like for Christmas is 208 Rifle, Nife, Christmas de- crasheis pleas I have been good boy. P.S> Marry Christmas.  
**Seth Harrison, age 8**

Hope you are dooing good. I am fine. Are you fine. I wood like Electric scooter, a Remote control rattlesnake a new bike,plees Santa Clas. Love Abram Reeves Hope youy congit hear  
**Abram Reeves, age 7**

How are the elf's and the raindeer. I woud like a classicl guitar, dirt bike, and a big star wars ship. Thank you.  
**James Wheeler, age 7**

I have been a good boy and I want for Christmas is a iphone and I want olso a ps3 and Exploders and thats ol Merry Christmas  
**Collin Dean Gonzales, age 8**

How are you and your raindeers? I'm find. I would like a new bike, I pod touch,. How is Mrs. Claus? I will see you on Christmas.  
**Cheyenne Barker, age 8**

How are you? I am fine. for Christmas I wand like a i-pad, and sum close.  
**Gloria Bridwell, age 8**

How are you? I am fine. you can make ti can I wont a ipad. For Christmas. Love Jayden  
**Jayden Perez, age 7**

How are you? I am just fine. I would like bFC doll the hiar styling chair and the cloathing.  
**Freda, age 7**

How are you? I am fine. I wan monster high boll, lololupsly boll and I have bin good girl.  
**Halley Snoenrock, age 7**

How are you? I'm fine. For Christmas I would like a Innotab, la la loopsy silly hair doll, Kinect x-box 360, a puppy lpad2, D-s I will leave u milk and cookies.  
**Jorden Perry, age 7**

How are you doing today? I am been a very good girl fine for Christmas I would like an a l-pad tough 2 and a iphone and a Monster high doll How is Mrs. claus is she doing fine very fine. Oh i missh one thang a I tunes New app.  
**Emilee Lewis, age 8**

How are you? I am fine. For Christmas, I would like a Kindle and a new doll please and a new guitar Thank you but one more thing I will put cookies and milk Thank you again.  
**Karennah McDonough, age 8**

I WOULD LIKE MARIO GHOST, EDWARD the train, IPOD  
**Michael Sims, age 5**

I WOULD LIKE A CANERA A REAL ALL PINK PLEASE.  
**Ella Jay, age 5**

Sii oo I LUVVC spnti  
**Rachel Rollins, age 5**

I would like an l-pad - How many reindeer do you have?  
**Matthew Erickson, age 6**

I have been Good Please bring me Legos.  
**Drew, age 6**

can I get a toy remote centroled boat and a break for my bike and a lago star wars thing and a xbox 300 game plase. Because I will give ckookies.  
**Brandon, age 8**

I would like a noot book. A ool that dances. A baby. A justin beber backpack. A ipod. A teddy bear. A press whith dimdms.  
**Kylie Tuttle, age 8**

I want a pinck rug I want a new prse I a new camra  
**Taylea, age 9**

I want a achenfgr army with thar wepin and thar bombs. and camafloch hat. with bleu and while.  
**Stephen, age 9**

what i want for crismas is a x-box 360, ps3, ipad, ipad2, ipod tuch. a Blue v8 magnam doge tuck with 22 inch rimes.  
**Gaige, age 9**

I want a ipad for chrismas and a ipad2 and I want to tell you thanks for sending my elf. p.s. 1 more thing I want a carma.  
**Gabi, age 8**

I want a new bike, lpad, dangle earings, teddy bear, Dallas cowboy shirt, Dallas cowboy pillow pet, birthstone, color ducttape, neckless with the elf pixie zhu zhu pets.  
**Nataleigh Phillips, age 8**

For chrismas I would like a razor scoter and a game called scrible nots for the ds and skylandrs.  
**Jakes Thomas, age 9**

I love one raindeer his name is Vixen. Please of please look on top of the fireplace and I want a camra for chrismas.  
**Emiley Porter, age 9**

Whenever you come to are house can you show me a picture of your reindeer and you, What I want for Christmas is a 3ds and a internet game chip for a ds and that's all I want for Christmas.  
**Thomas Reagan, age 9**

How can you deliver so many presents in one night? For christmas can you give me a laptop & a phone? Do all your elves help you every christ- mas? How many elves do you have?  
**Denise Gonzalez, age 9**

How are you? How can you diliver that many pres- ent in one night? Can you scolpt me a dirtbike driving?  
**RieleY Carroll, age 8**

All I want for chrimas is a puppy and then and a ipod. I want a xbox 360 and a new dsi. And my Daddy back.  
**Daniela, age 10**

I want all the skylanders fbi sute spy acwintmint something you can hang from the sealing and a cendel fire. I no you have arety gotten this but my teacher tould me to.  
**Jackson, age 8**

I want a drum set it would mena lot I have wanted a drum set for so long.  
**Caden, age 9**

will you bring me a nerf gun for christmas. will you bring me a bick for christmas. will you bring me a xbox 360. will you bring me a dog. will you bring me a lagow nija.  
**Ivan, age 9**

What I want for christmas is the mario and sonic in Londen game and disny univers game also a Nerf ortex gun and new Skylanders Super please.  
**Justice, age 9**

wat I want is a bi,bi Gun and a laptop a now bar- bee. I wunt my mom and my bab to get them to gether a gen thats my wish.  
**Abby Scott, age 9**

Will you bring me a lego play set. One that is Star Wars with a ship that you build. Please bring my brother a DS game and my mom and dad Friend- ship.  
**Tyler Ryan Frazier, age 8**

What I want for christmas is a game of heat bend for Christmas. And a babydoll for Christmas. And a biger bikesikl. plae sir I will put out some ckooies for you  
**Tristen, age 8**

I would like to get a ipad for christmas.  
**Connor Appier, age 6**

I would lick an ipad for christmas.  
**Halie Malanax, age 6**

I would like to get th wast of the Kung Zho pets.  
**Jacob Goach, age 7**

I would like a Baby alive for christmas.  
**Katie Smith, age 7**

I would like an elf on the shelf.  
**Isabella Johnston, age 6**

I would like an l pad for chrismas beacus I get Bond at my house someties pleas pleas  
**Danica A, age 7**

I would Like to get two big hex Bugs and a hex bug track.  
**Bryson Osborn, age 6**

I would like an hotwel rastrack for chistmais.  
**Kennan J.R, age 6**

I would like to get an ipad for christmas.  
**Huston Skinner, age 7**

I would like to get an ipod for Christmas.  
**Jose Boyd, age 7**

I would like a air swimmer shark fo christmas.  
**Moisesl Bahena, age 7**

I wud like an lpod tuch.  
**Riley Coble, age 7**

I would like to get a pink drt bicke.  
**Dean Smith, age 6**

I would like to get an ipad for Christmas.  
**Jaycee Winborne, age 6**

I would like Megel Camino, Shu todarski, and Finn Mcmissle with wepon.  
**Clark Allen, age 7**

I would like to get an monster hige doll.  
**Cassi Stubbfield, age 6**

I would lke to get a red dees.  
**Joshua, age 7**

I would like to get an big Mark Henry toy!  
**Unsigned**

Dear santa I would like a new WWE sMackdown vs Raw Indendo game for christmas and a new WWE action figure and a New WWE belt.  
**Harold Horton, age 8**

I like Penquins. I would like it if I got sum Penquins. I can play and love on them becuase I love pen- quins.  
**Ella, age 9**

What I want for christmas is a Wii with a game called Mario cart wii and a another game called Just Dance 2 for chirstmas. Thank yo so much.  
**Zapryce Johnson, age 8**

I Love your work, and when I grow up I want to be just like you. Thank yor so MUCH!!!  
**Riley Servoll, age 8**

Hi Santa. First I want a lala Lopsy silly hair doll and a lala Lopsy mini tree house. Merry christmas.  
**Emma Doucette, age 8**

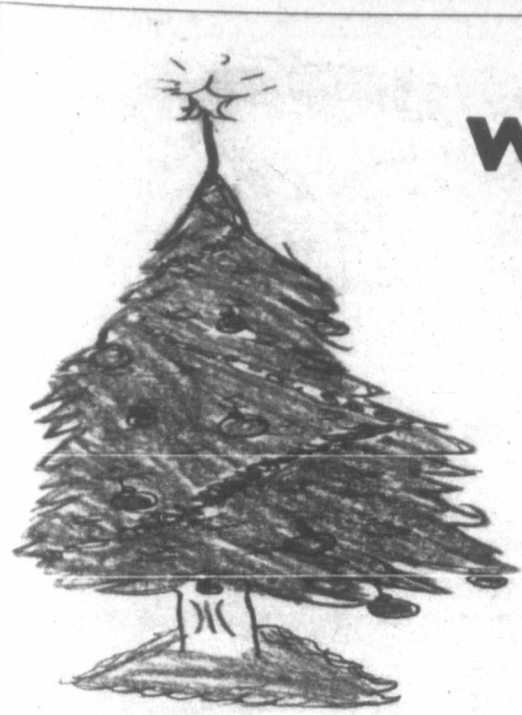
I would like a xbox 360. I would love what you would make me. And would you give me a wll- And some toys. I will love some Barbies.Can I get a xbox 360games. And a Wii games. I hope you get me letter. Tell the elfs I side Holle, And tell Miss. Claus I side holle too.  
**Yesenia Lee Sifuentes, Age 9**

for christmas I would Like A Broncos football Jer- sey and a cowboys hat. I want a tony Hawk Bike. I love Christmas its my fravie type of year.  
**Nolan Groomer, age 9**

for christmas I would like to have a bike because my nike broke also I would realy love to have a new pillow pet because I love to play with them and thats what I would like for christmas.  
**Haley Brock, age 8**

Thak you for the pracent Last ear. Thay whar vary nice. Thank you.  
**Duncan Youree, age 8**

I really want Three boxes of skylanders. Each box has three skylanders in it. But I want a water source ship. Th e other Thing I want is a \*Ninja imagines fo est. Then The game zombie

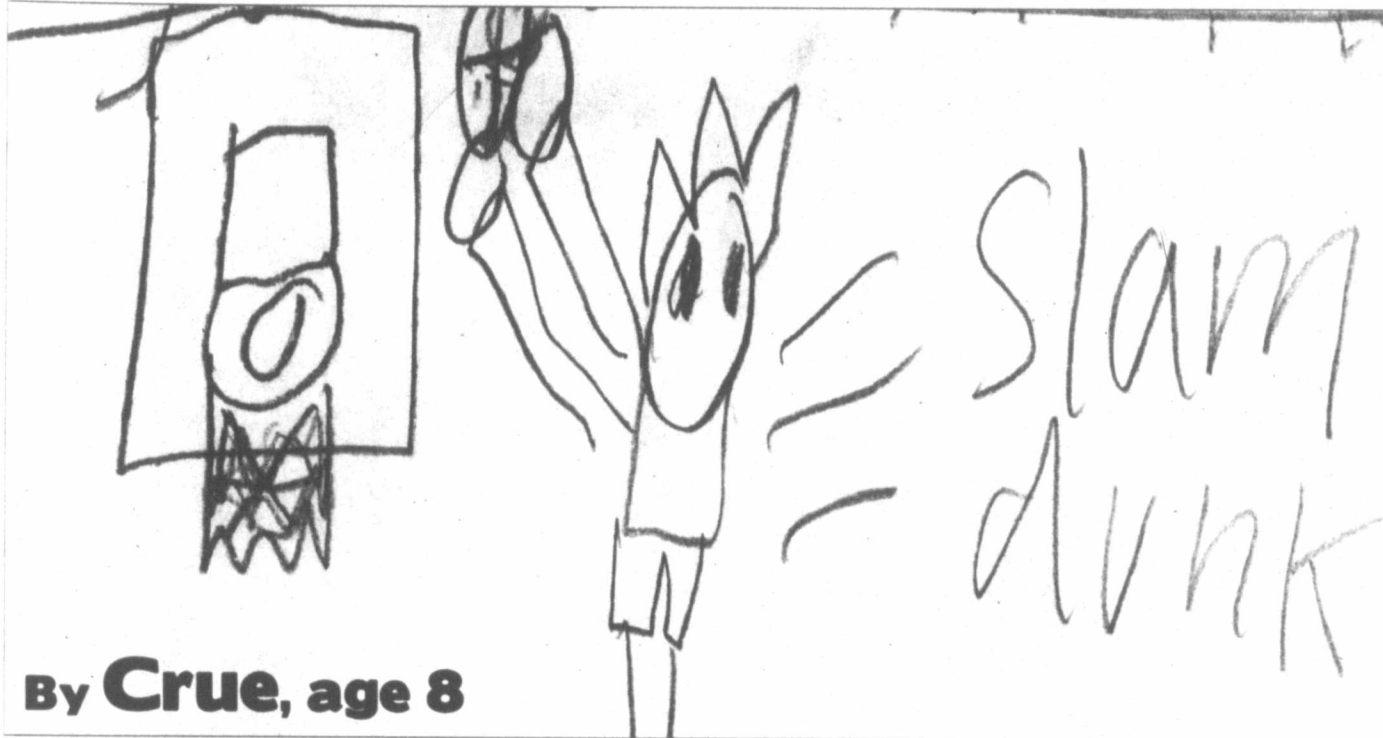


By **Winter Back,** age 10

the scenes to use in the "Letters to Santa" section of the newspaper Happy Holidays!



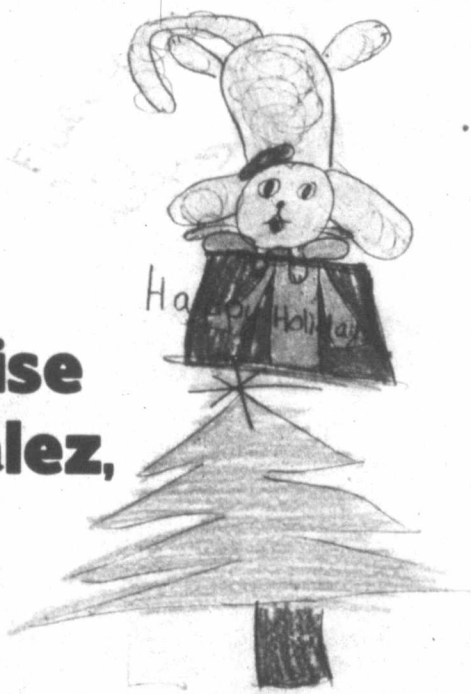
By **Savannah Valentine,** age 9



By **Crue,** age 8



By **Lexi Maul,** age 8

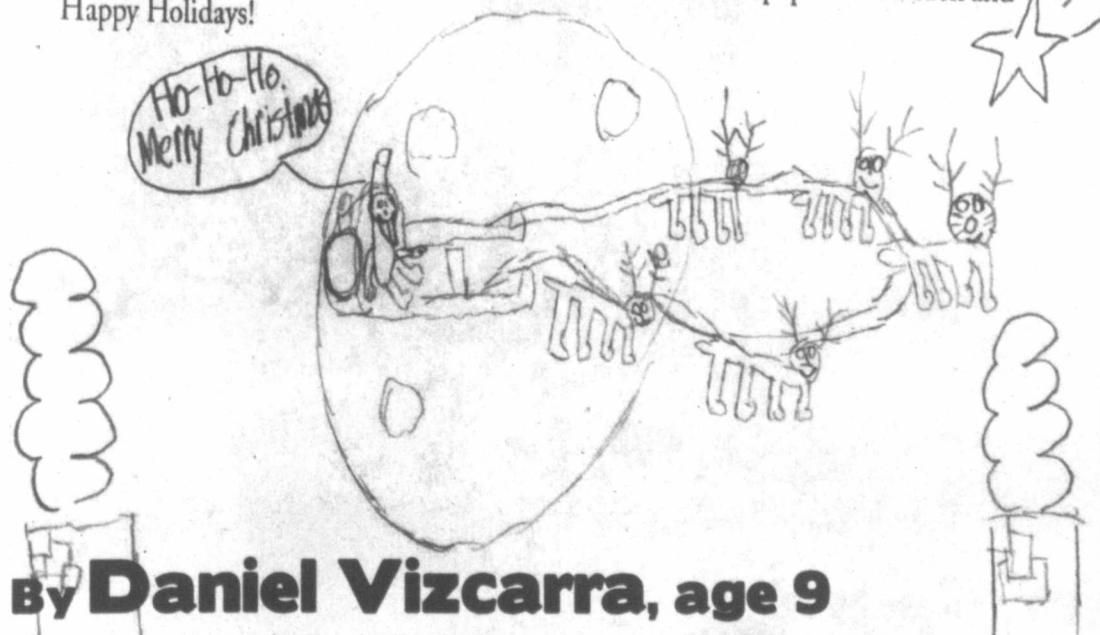


By **Denise Gonzalez,** age 9



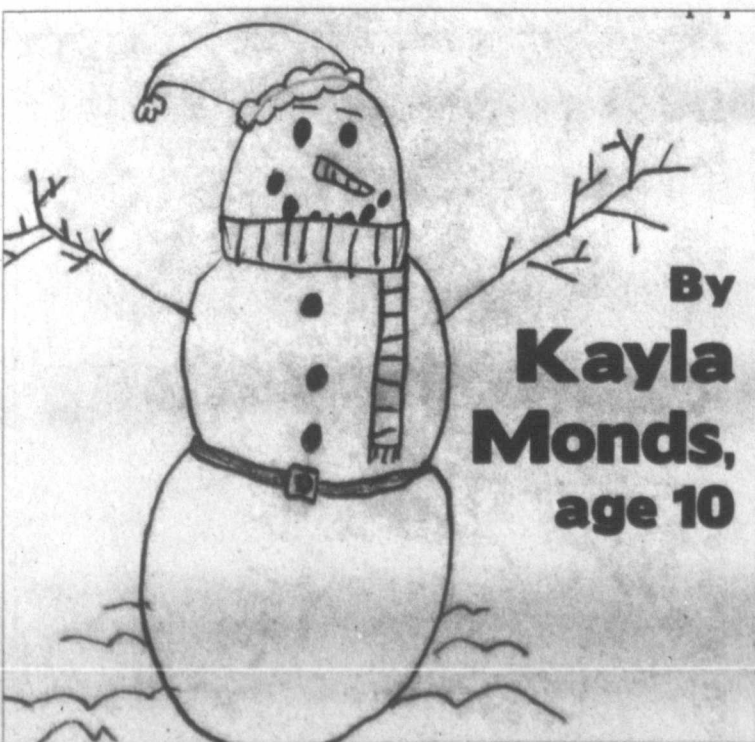
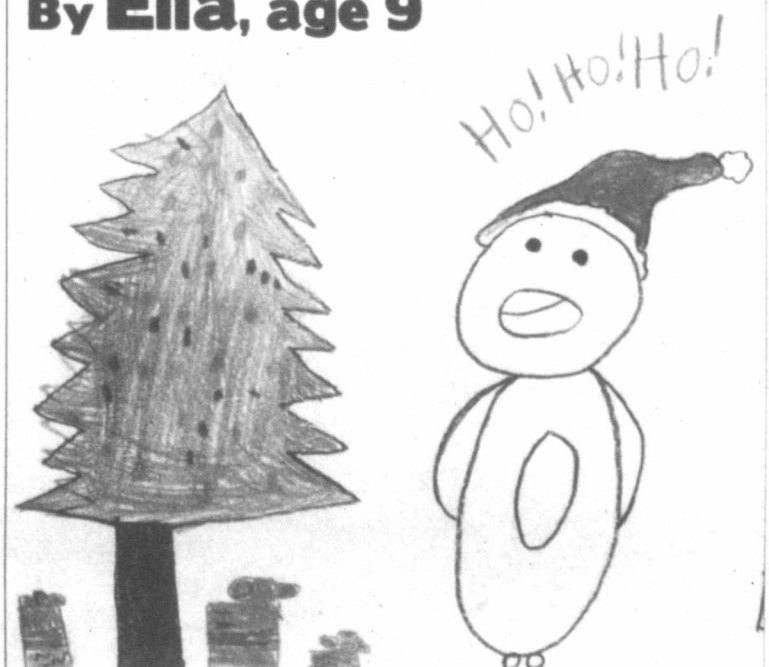
By **Preslee Alvey,** age 9

pencils to draw in the space below or the back of this sheet. We will select some of the scenes to use in the "Letters to Santa" section of the newspaper. Good luck and Happy Holidays!

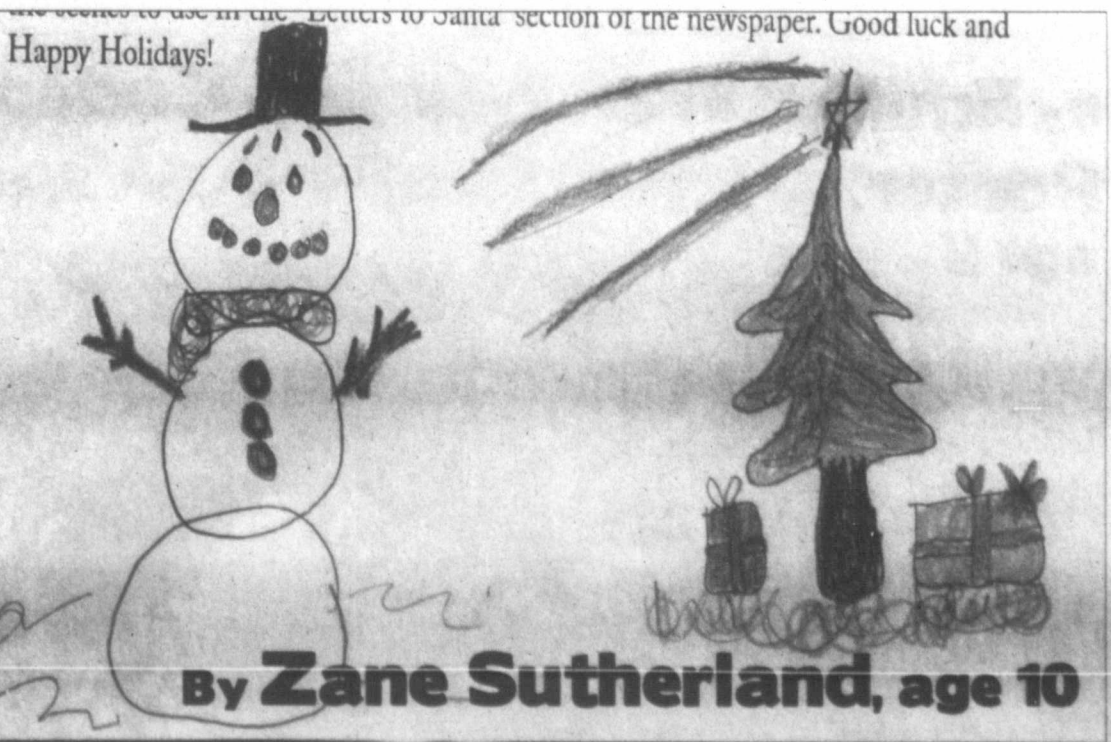


By **Daniel Vizcarra,** age 9

By **Ella,** age 9

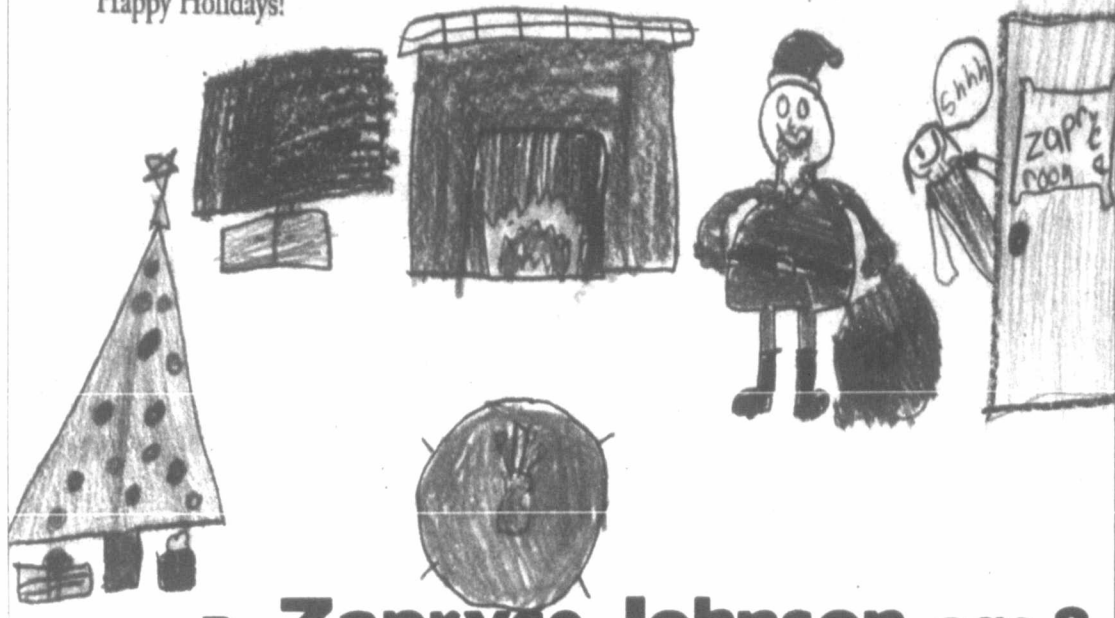


By **Kayla Monds,** age 10



By **Zane Sutherland,** age 10

the scenes to use in the "Letters to Santa" section of the newspaper. Good luck and Happy Holidays!



By Zapryce Johnson, age 8



By Karennah McDonough, age 8

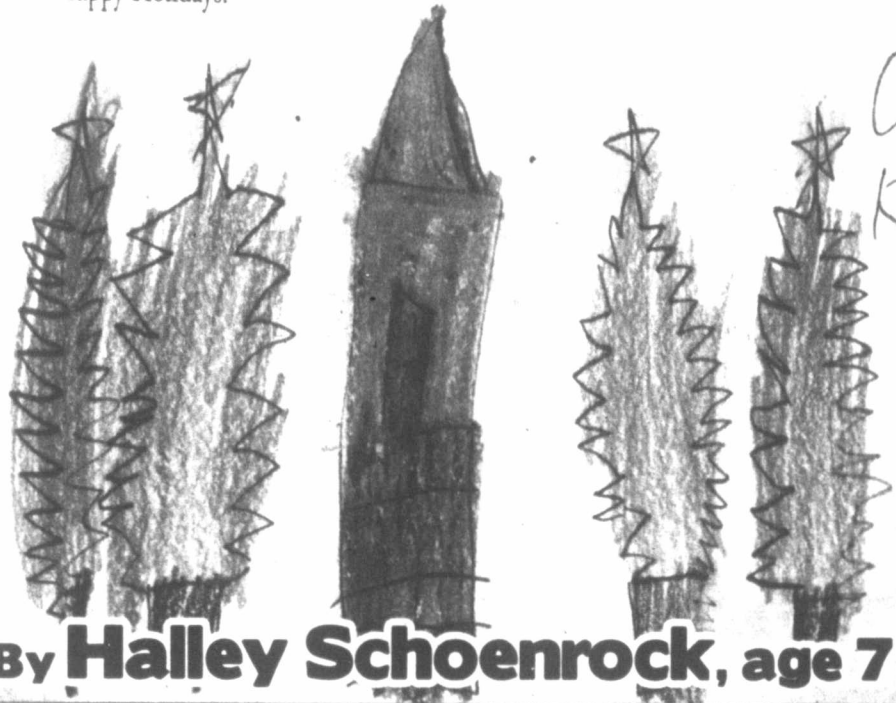


By Sykora

By Giselle Juarez, age 8



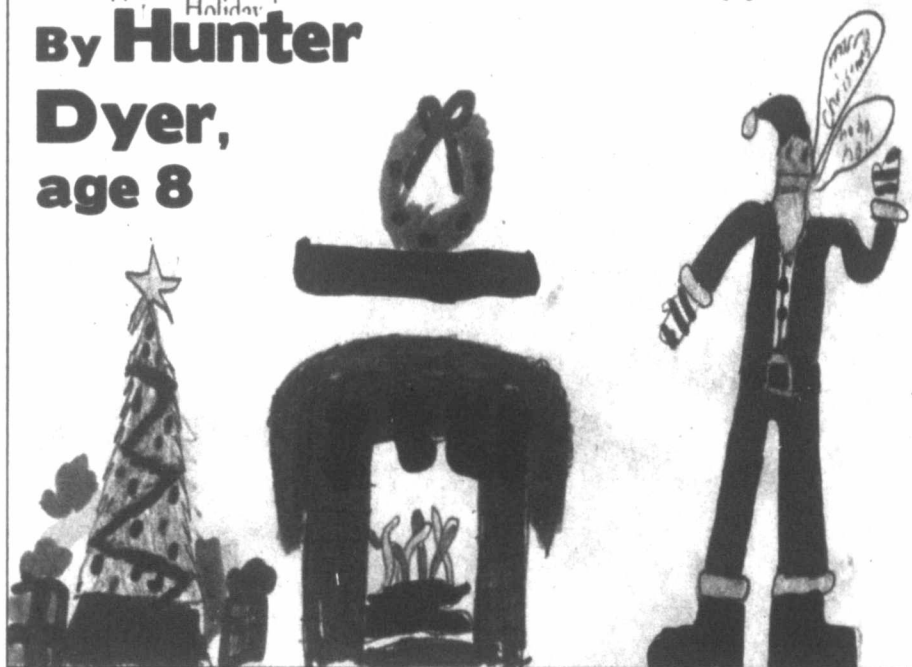
Happy Holidays!



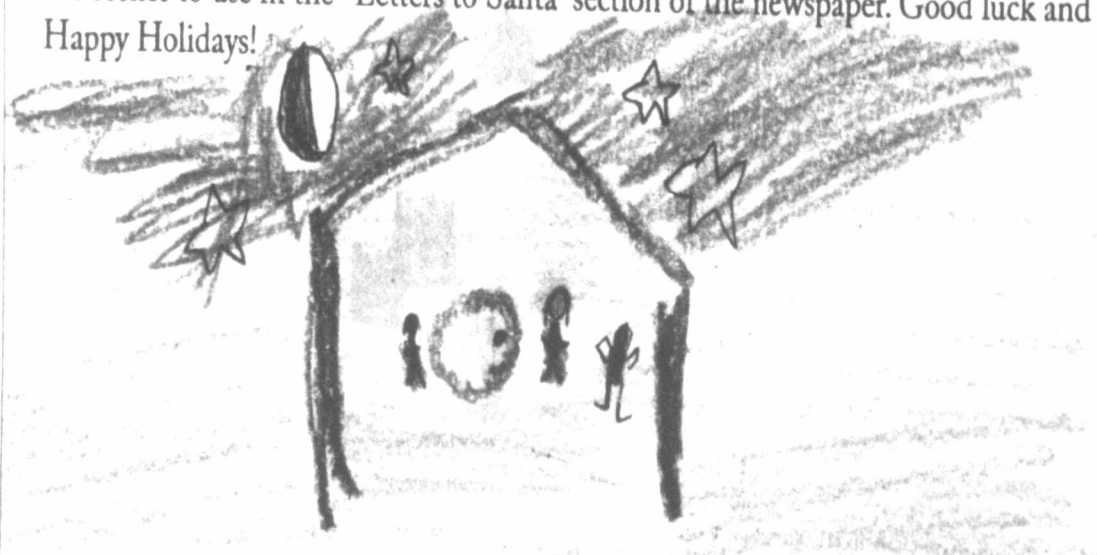
By Halley Schoenrock, age 7

the scenes to use in the "Letters to Santa" section of the newspaper. Good luck and

By Hunter Dyer, age 8



the scenes to use in the "Letters to Santa" section of the newspaper. Good luck and Happy Holidays!

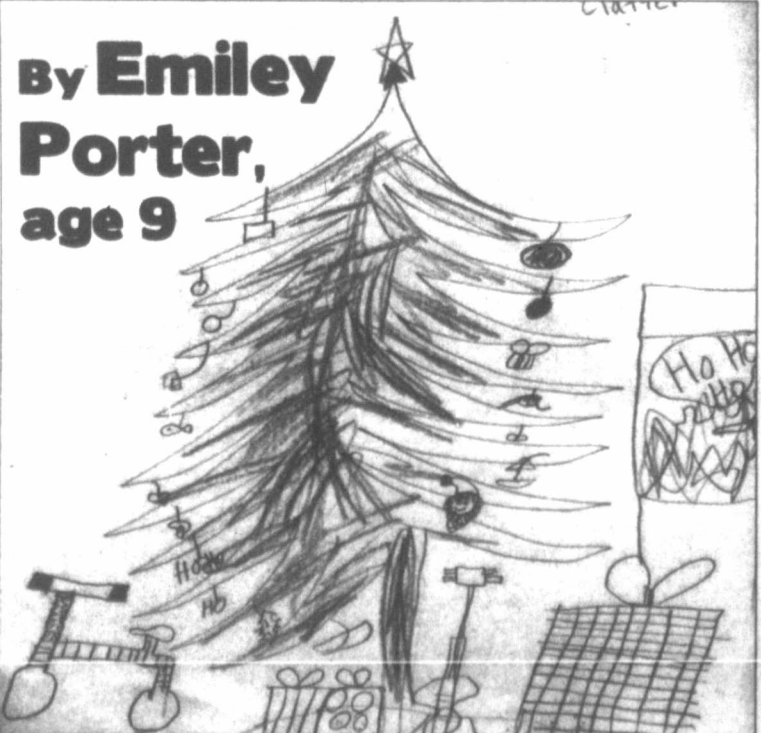


By Tyler Frazier, age 8

Happy Holidays!  
By Evan Boyd, age 10



By Emiley Porter, age 9



By Caden, age 9





How have you and Mrs. Clause been? I would like to have an xbox 360 Kinect, a real 4-wheeler, a nintendo DS 3D, and a laptop. That is all I wanted to tell you so bye.  
**Caitlyne Budd, age 9**

How have you been doing Santa Clause? All I want for Christmas is a iPad. I hope you have a good trip.  
**London Boehmisch, age 10**

How are you? For Christmas I want an x-box 360 and a Nintendo 3DS. All I really want for Christmas is for my sister to be safe and get home for the holiday. I would like to spend time with my whole family. see you next Christmas.  
**Preslee Alvey, age 9**

I would like a xbox 360 connect and I would like itunes that is \$50. I would also like a D.S 3D. Please bring my mom a iphone I just want my mom happy thats all.  
**Jamnee, age 10**

How have you been? I want a Laptop, Cell phone, Video camara, and an electric scooter. I hope you have a great trip.  
**Cooper Ray Trolinger, age 10**

How have you been are you doing good. Please, bey me a Ipod for Christmas. (please) See you soon hope you have fun! Goodbye!!!  
**Kylee McMurrian, age 9**

Hi. How are you doing. This is what I want for christmas... an airsoft gun and Legos and magnetecs.  
**William, age 9**

Marry Christmas Santa how is everyone there in the north pole. I really want a Lap top that is all I want for christmas. goodbye santa I hope you Like your cookies and milk and I'm hoping that you git a present to.  
**Kaesha Miller, age 11**

I think it's really cool how you delefer all those presents. I want a xbox360 two controlers and a video game goodbye have fun on your trips.  
**Darryl Horton, age 9**

You are the best santa for giving people wa they want. What I want for christmas is an Ipad and a computer to play online with my friends. Goodbye santa and marry christmas to you.  
**Roc Doan, age 9**

how is dancer doing? I want a new ps3 games, or PSP. A fox shirt and fox shorts. Is It fun being santa? I want a TV in my room. I want some goldfish and shark fish. I want another dog so my dog, Presley won't be lonely all the time. I want a password thing, so other people won't

get in my room all the time. By Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause.  
**Jarron Giles, age 10**

How are you doing santa? I loved the presents that i got last year. How is Rudolf and all of the other rain deer? So Santa i wont a nitro rc and a bb gun and lagos. All right hope your elves get all of the toys bilt. Well by have a good year.  
**Lasper Chaney, age 9**

i love you and Mrs. Clause. what i want for christmas is spurs, Talor Swift perfume guitar, Bath an Body works stuff, stuff for my hores. Bye give me lot's this christmas Santa.  
**Emily Sutherland**

How are you? Is Mrs. Clause doing good. I want the game Just Dance 3 Are the reindeer and Elves doing good. I loved the presents I got last year. I hope you are doing good. Bye. Have a good Christmas.  
**Halie West, age 10**

I love you & the north pole. what i want for christmas is a bigger tv than i have because my tv is little an i can barely see the words good-bye Santa Clause.  
**Austin Guthrie, age 9**

I love you you are the best! What I wont for Christmas is my family, and PSP that can play movies, music, and games. Tell the reindeer and elves I said hi.  
**Andrew Stevens, age 9**

Joy Family god Peace love hope god are awesome. Fir Christmas I want a American doll and more Ds games. And I want the best christmas ever. And Thats what I want for Chirstmas  
**Rylee G., age 9 1/2**

Joy Family God hope love Peace Hello. I think you are so kind. My freinds and family are kind to. This year I would like you to get me or to please get me something for my family. Good-bye! p.s. I also want a new cage for my dogs.  
**Kailey Sawyer, age 10**

I belive in you, Santa what I want for Christmas is a hamster. Goodbye Mr. Claus.  
**Ashlyn Mulanax, age 9**

Hello!! YOU have been one of my best heroes. You can always be trusted on. Can I have a football shirt for Christmas. This year, make Christmas the best.  
**Daniel Vizcarra, age 9**

please tell all of your elves and reindeer and Mrs. clause I said hi. I want for christmas is a ps3 mabey because my Gabby may get one and for everyone to have a good time and a ipod tuch but I have one but I have to share with my

sister tell everyone i said by. p.s. your the best  
**Garrett Anderson, age 10**

How have you been? This Christmas I want a 20 gauge shotgun. I hope you, Mrs. Clause, you reindeer, Ruldoph, and the eves have a good Christmas.  
**Hunter Nicholas, age 9**

How are you? This Christmas I want a elf, longhorn shirt, a penquin and most of all a happy family! Bye!  
**Riley Elliff, age 10**

**Merry Christmas**  
 From Bob and Nancy Poole and our staff Teresa and Kim

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